

Findings From the Initial Child and Family Service Reviews

2001 - 2004

Number of Cases Reviewed in 52 Reviews

In-Home: 1092

Foster Care: 1477

TOTAL 2569

Identification of Outcomes

Safety Outcomes

1. Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
2. Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate

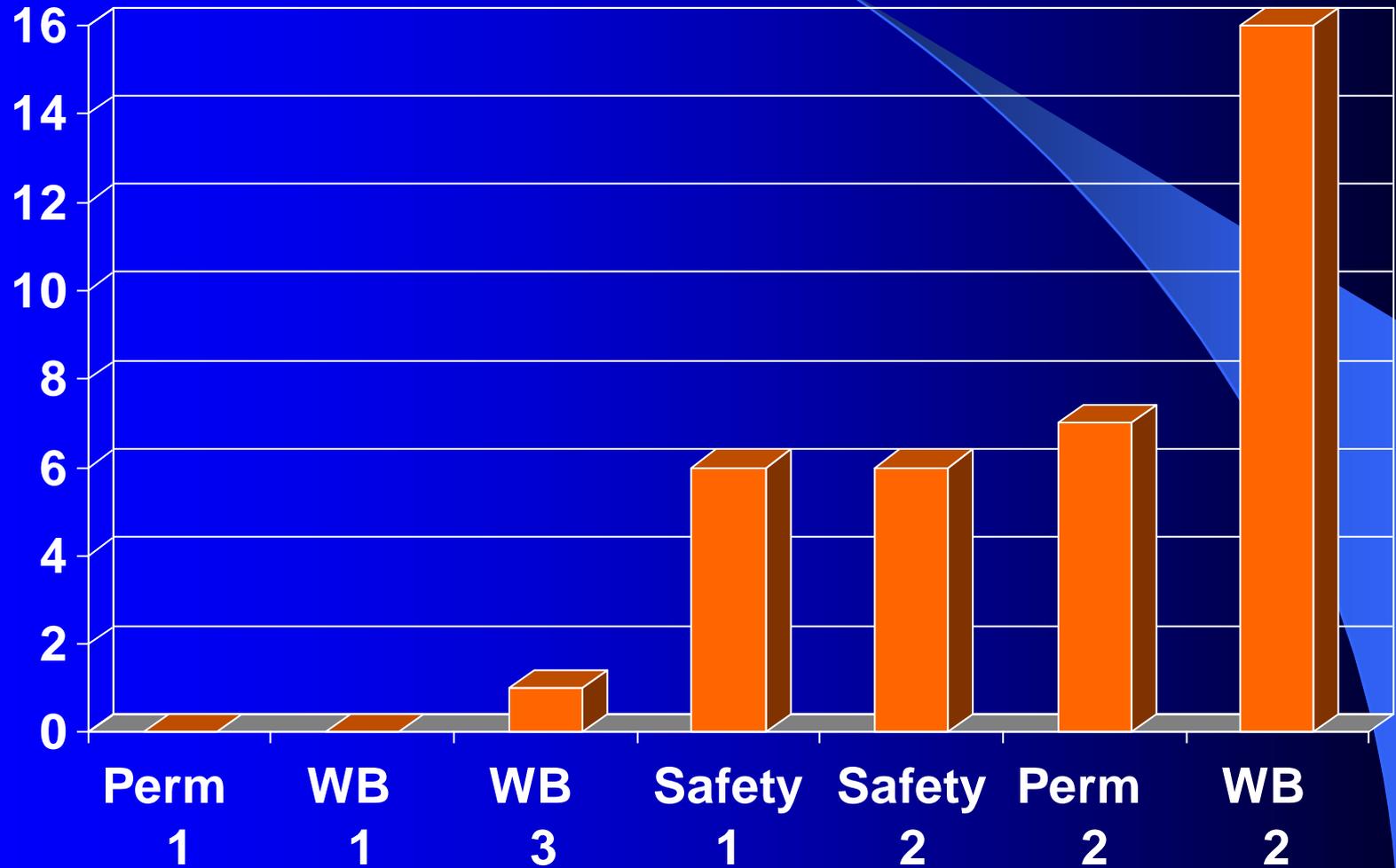
Permanency Outcomes

1. Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements
2. The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

Child and Family Well Being Outcomes

1. Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
2. Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
3. Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

States in Substantial Conformity on Outcomes



Range and Median of State Performance with regard to Substantial Conformity with the Seven Outcomes

	<u>Low</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>High</u>
Permanency 1	7.1%	50.9%	92%
Well Being 1	18%	60%	86%
Well Being 3	51.2%	69.9%	92.1%
Permanency 2	37.9%	77.3%	94.3
Safety 2	48%	80.8%	93.5%
Well Being 2	64.7%	83%	100%
Safety 1	62%	85.8%	100%

Strongest and Weakest Outcome Performance Indicators

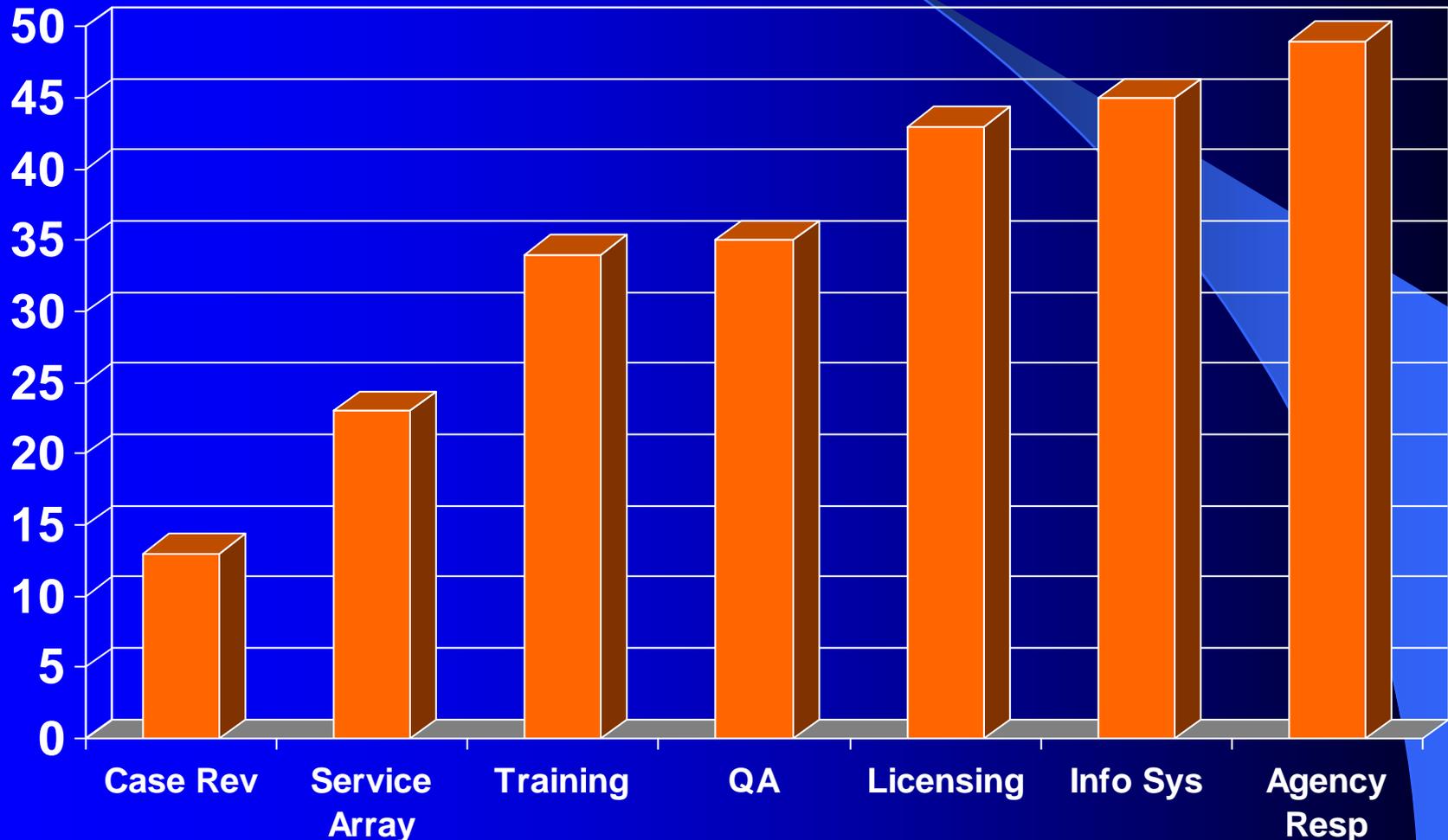
Strongest Indicators

1. Proximity of placement (49 States)
2. Placement with siblings (36 States)
3. Foster care re-entry (26 States)

Weakest Indicators

1. Needs & Services (1 State)
2. Mental health of child (4 States)
3. Tie at 5 States each:
 - Child & family involvement
 - Placement stability
 - Permanency goal for child

States in Substantial Conformity on Systemic Factors



Strongest and Weakest Systemic Performance Indicators

Strongest Indicators

1. Licensing standards (51 States)
2. Criminal background checks (50 States)
3. Cross-jurisdictional placements (47 States)

Weakest Indicators

1. Developing case plans jointly with parents (6 States)
2. Accessibility of services (9 States)
3. Diligent recruitment of foster/adoptive homes (21 States)

Findings Regarding Safety

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Common Concerns Regarding Safety Indicators (2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

Number of States

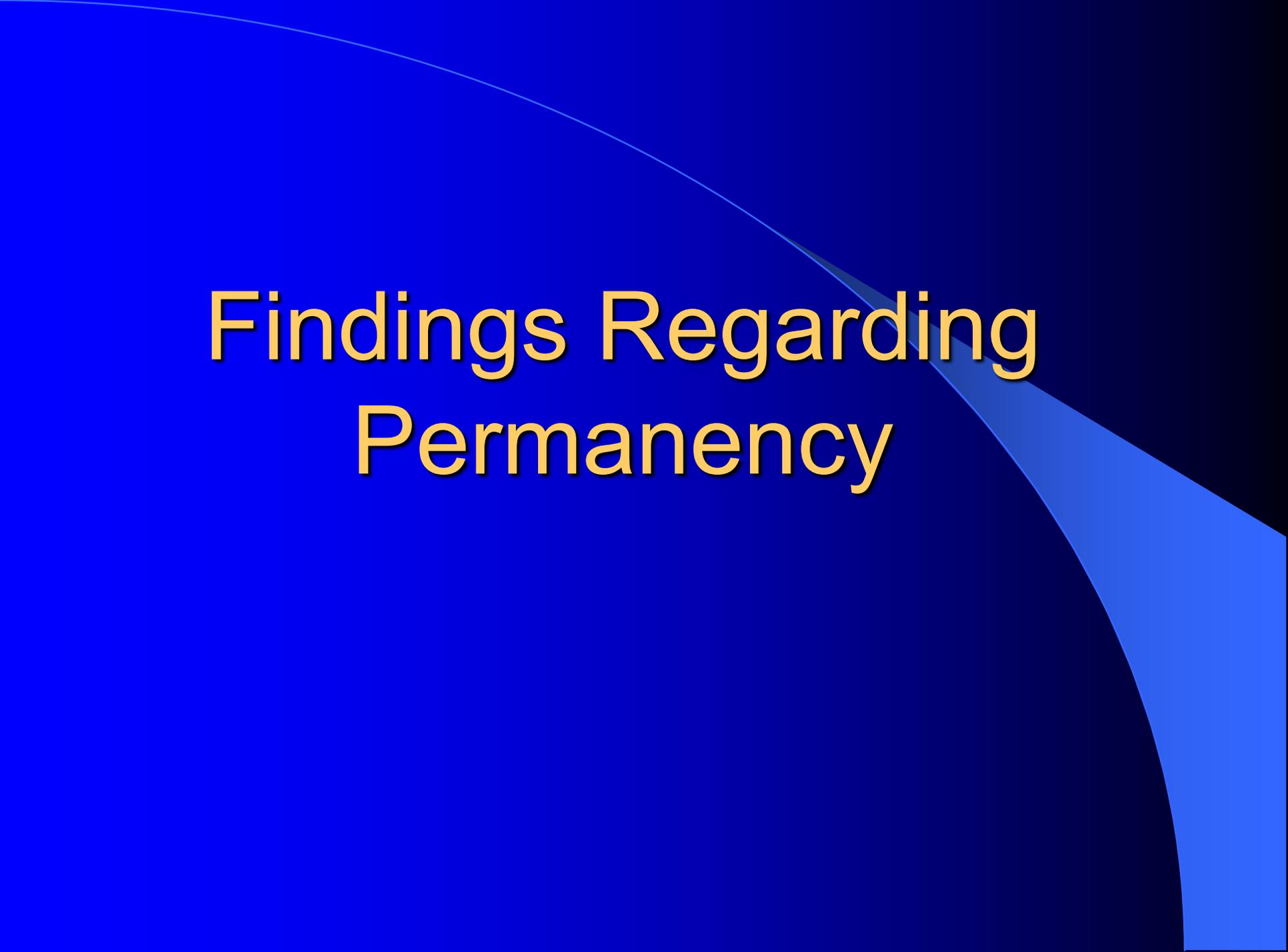
- Lower risk reports not investigated timely 12
- Reports on open cases not investigated 16
- Insufficient risk or safety assessments 22
- Inconsistent services to protect children at home 18
- Inconsistent services to address risk, especially in in-home cases 22
- Inconsistent monitoring of families 20

Associations Between Safety Outcome 2 and other Indicators

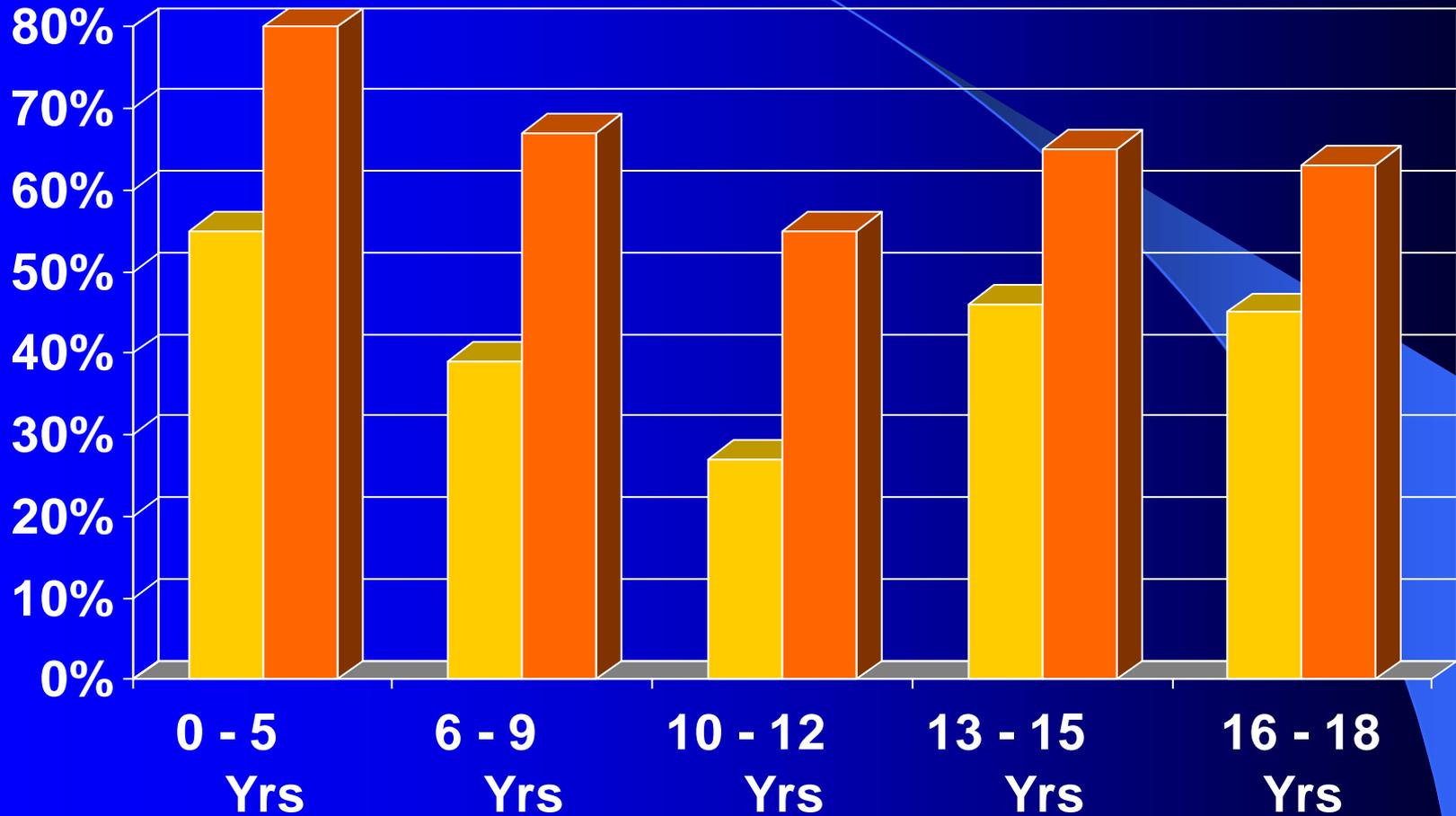
Significant associations exist between Safety Outcome 2 and these indicators:

- ➔ Needs & Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents
- ➔ Parents' Involvement in Case Planning
- ➔ Caseworker Visits with Child
- ➔ Caseworker Visits with Parents
- ➔ Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

Findings Regarding Permanency



Permanency Achievement by Age (Permanency Outcome 1)



- Percentage of cases substantially achieved on Permanency Outcome 1
- Percentage of cases with timely goals established

Common Concerns Regarding Establishing Permanency Goals

(2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

Number of States

- Case goal of LTFC established without considering adoption or guardianship
- Inconsistent concurrent planning efforts
- Maintaining goal of reunification for long time periods without re-evaluating
- Not filing for termination of parental rights timely (from Item 7)

15

26

24

12

Relationship of Well-Being to Permanency

Positive ratings on



Substantial achievement on



- Services to children, parents, foster parents
- Involvement of parents in case planning
- Caseworker visits with children
- Caseworker visits with parents

- Timely achievement of permanency (Outcome P1)
- Preserving children's connections while in foster care (Outcome P2)

Factors Associated with Timely Reunification, Guardianship, and Permanent Relative Placement

The strongest associations with timely reunification, guardianship, and permanent relative placement include:

- ➔ Caseworker Visits with Parents
- ➔ Child's Visits with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care
- ➔ Services to Children, Parents, & Foster Parents
- ➔ Family/Child Involvement in Case Planning
- ➔ ASFA Requirements Regarding Termination of Parental Rights
- ➔ Placement Stability

Factors Associated with Timely Adoption

The strongest associations with timely adoption include:

→ Needs & Services for Children, Parents, & Foster Parents

→ Holding timely permanency hearings

→ Holding timely six-month case reviews

→ ASFA requirements regarding termination of parental rights

Common Concerns Regarding Achieving Adoption

(2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

Number of States

- Adoption studies and paperwork not completed timely 17
- Lengthy TPR appeals process 12
- Not seeking termination of parental rights timely (from Case Review System) 26
- Reluctance of courts to terminate parental rights 19
- Overcrowded court dockets 20

Factors Associated with Placement Stability

The strongest associations with placement stability include:

- ➔ Placement with relatives
- ➔ Services to children, parents, and foster parents
- ➔ Involvement of children and parents in case planning
- ➔ Caseworker contacts with parents (not children)
- ➔ Age of child – most stable are ages 0 - 6 and 16 - 18 – least stable are ages 13 - 15

Common Concerns Regarding Placement Stability

(2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

Number of States

- Frequent use of shelters for initial placements and disruptions
- Few placements for children with disabilities or behavior problems
- Inconsistent support services to foster parents
- Mismatching placements to children's needs

18

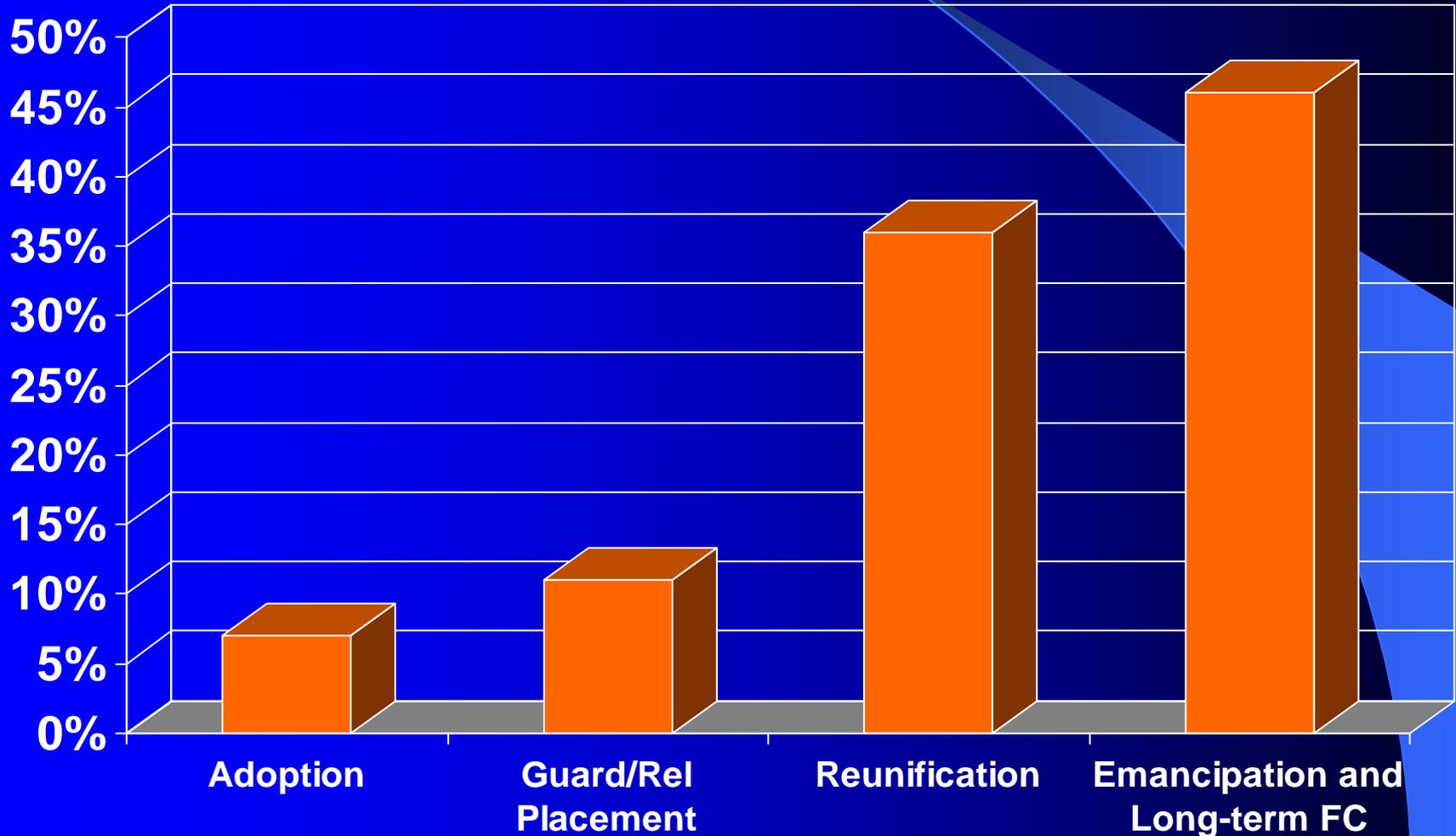
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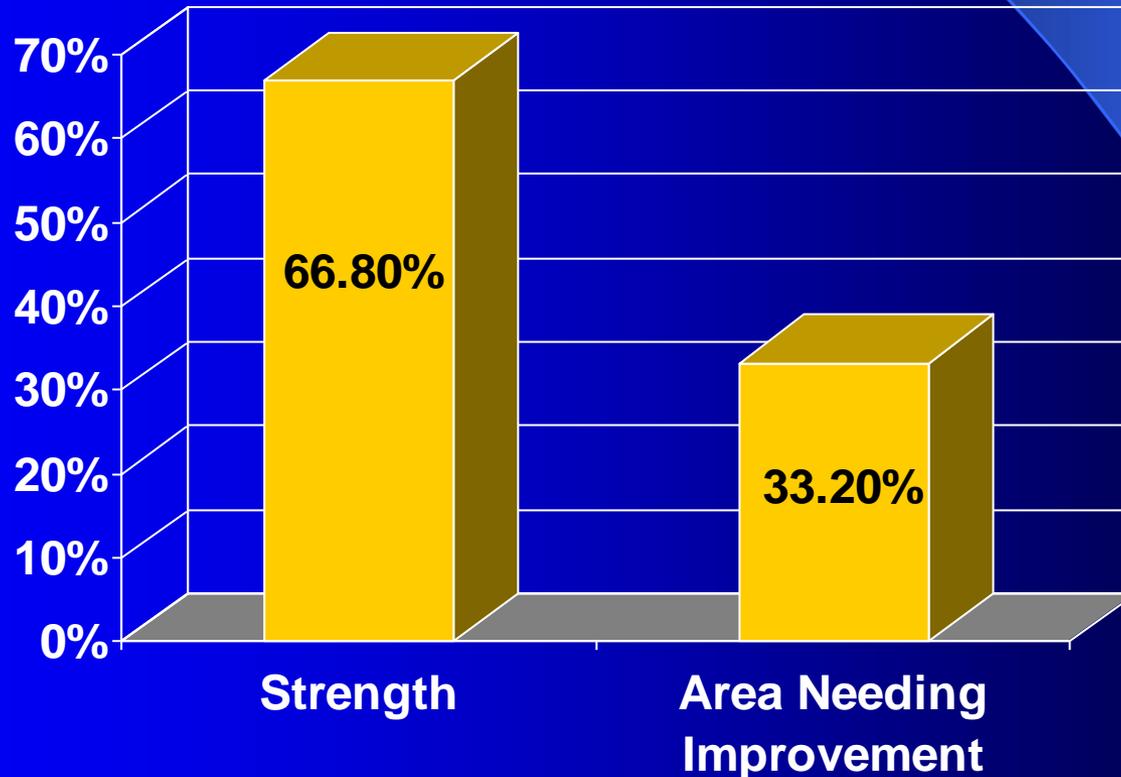
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Findings Regarding Youth in Foster Care

Permanency Goals for Children Age 13 and Older

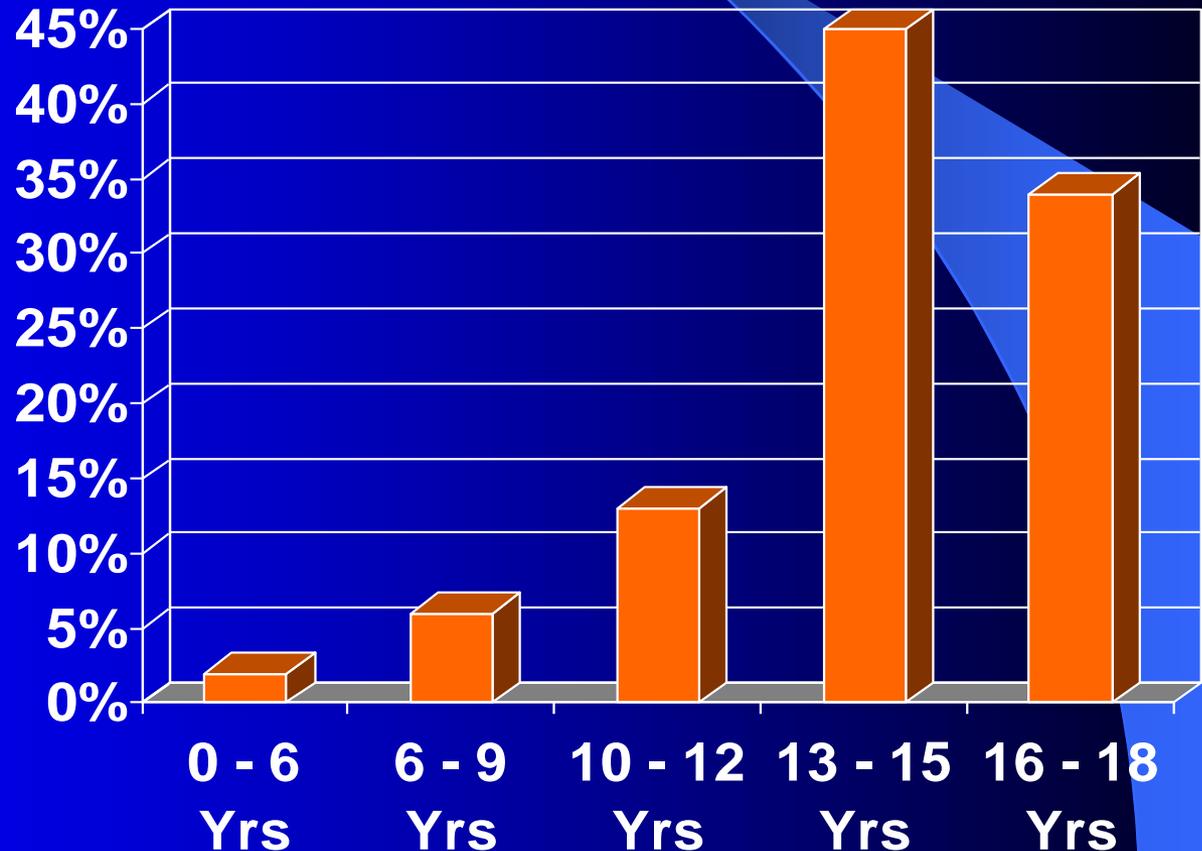


Percentage of Strength Ratings for “Other Permanent Planned Living Arrangement” (Item 10)

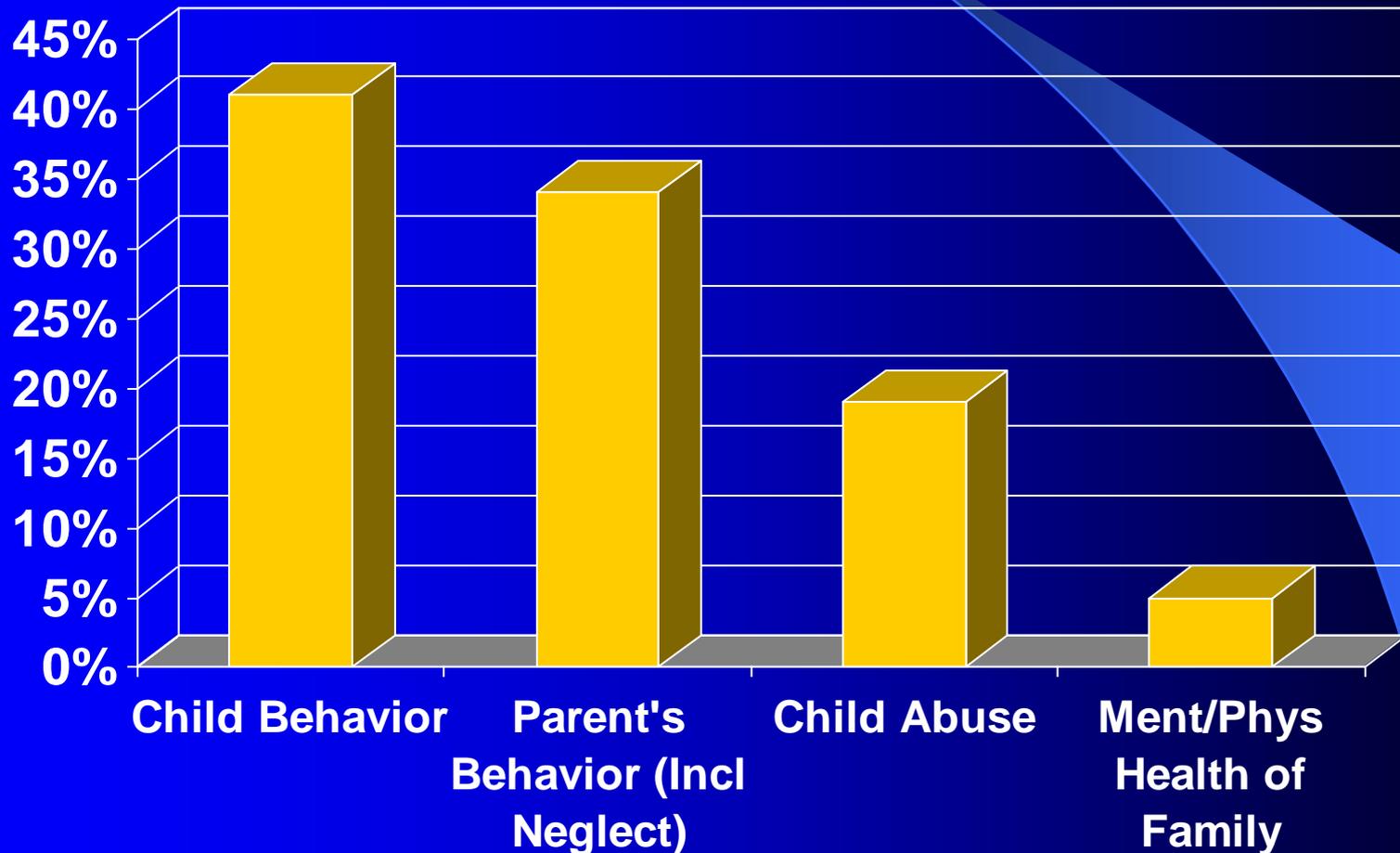


Ages of Children with Goal of “Other Permanent Planned Living Arrangement” (Item 10)

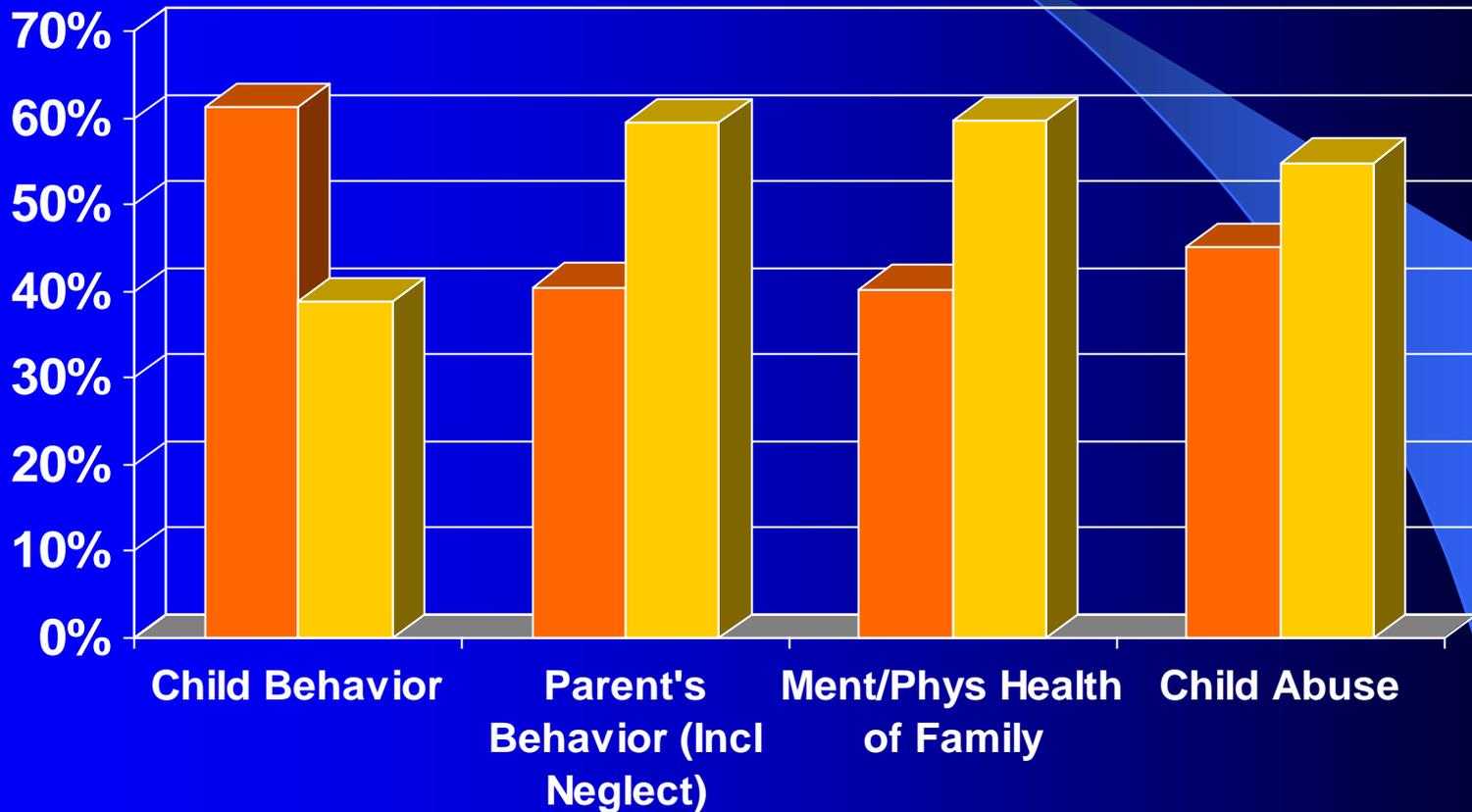
The ages of the
Children with a
goal of “Other
Permanent
Planned Living
Arrangement”
who were rated
for Item 10
include:



Reasons for Entering Foster Care for Children Age 13 & Older

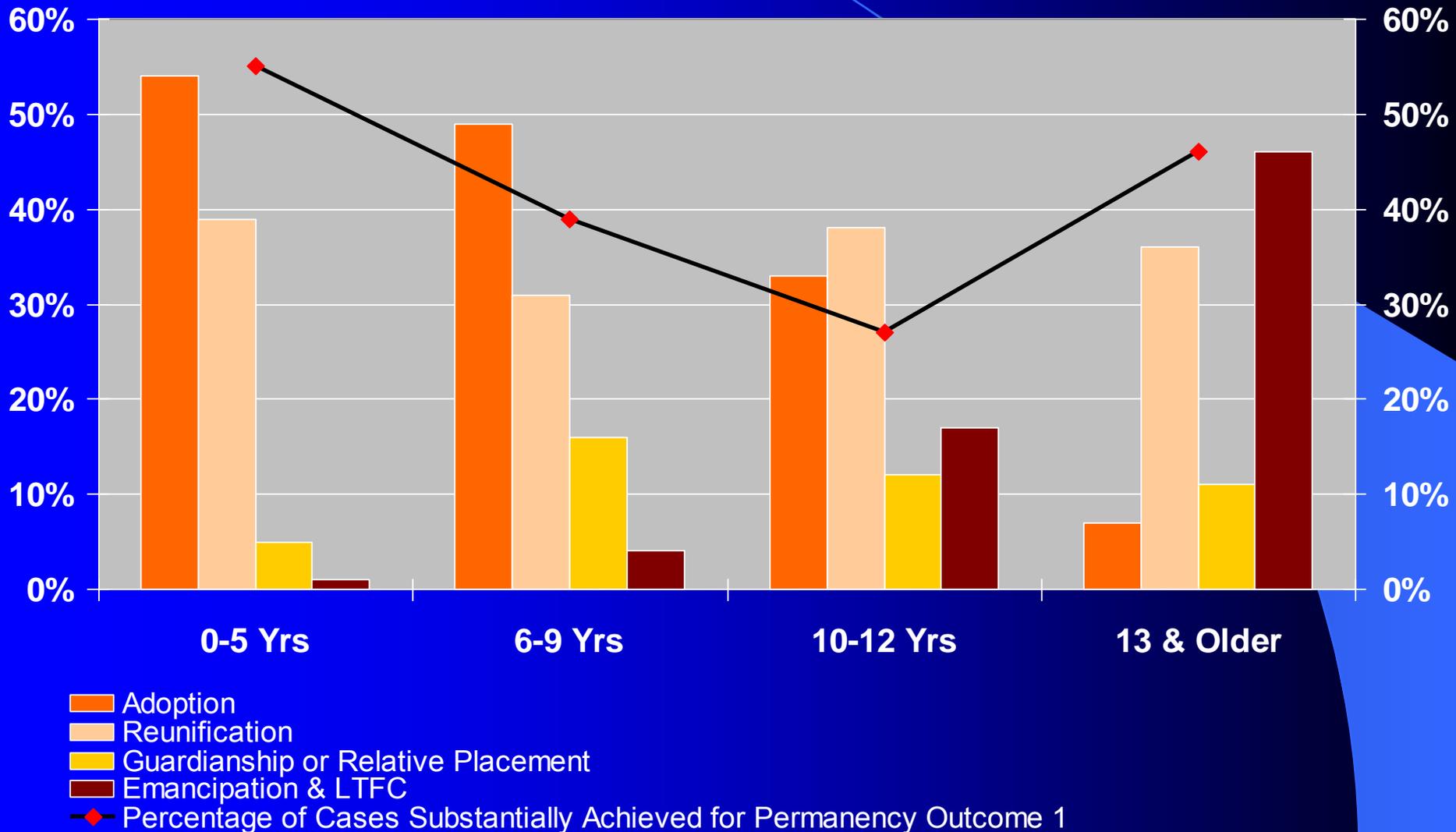


Achieving Permanency by Reason for Case Opening (Permanency Outcome 1)



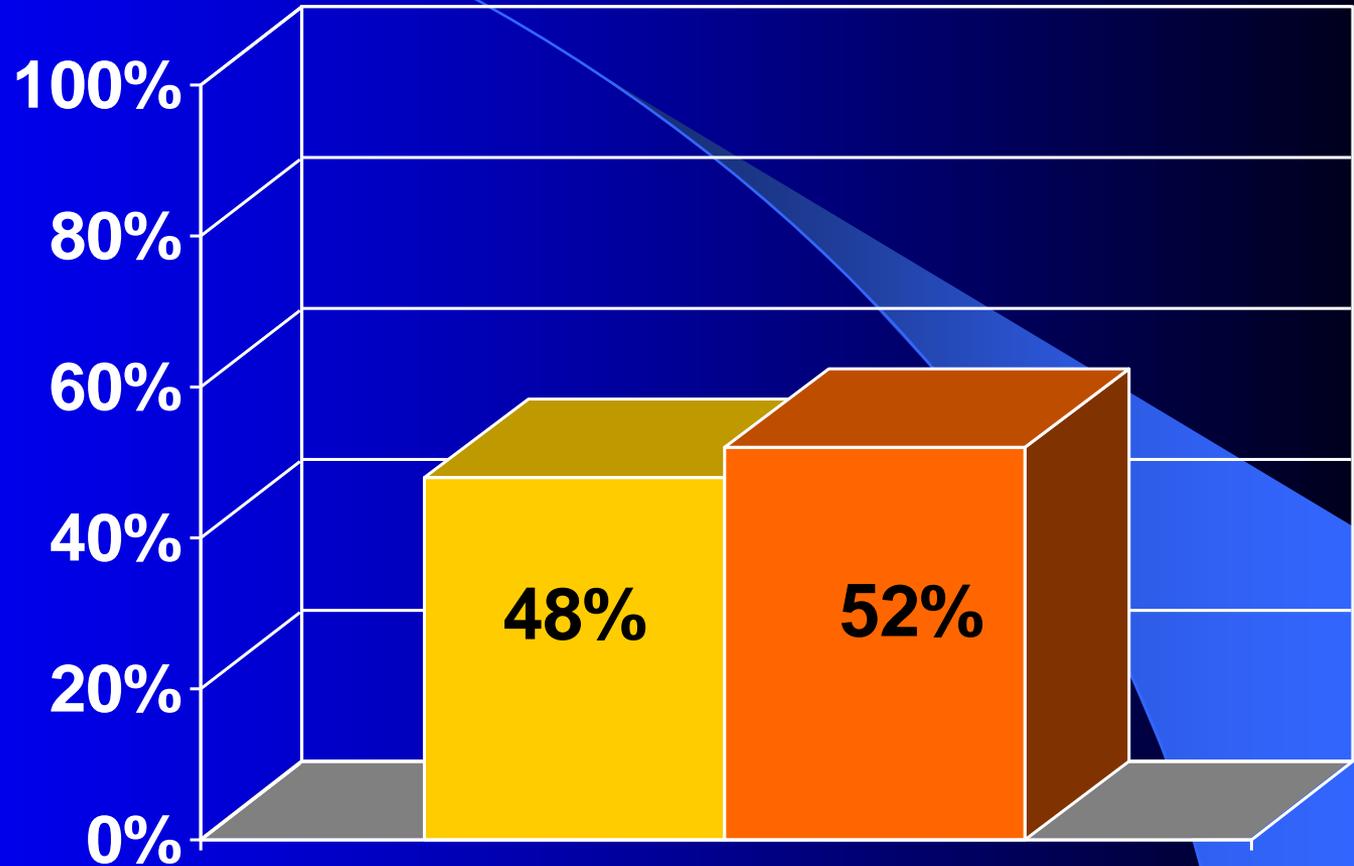
- Percentage of Cases Substantially Achieved for Permanency Outcome 1
- Percentage of Cases Not Substantially Achieved for Permanency Outcome 1

Comparison of Permanency Goals to Permanency Achievement by Age



Long-Term Foster Care

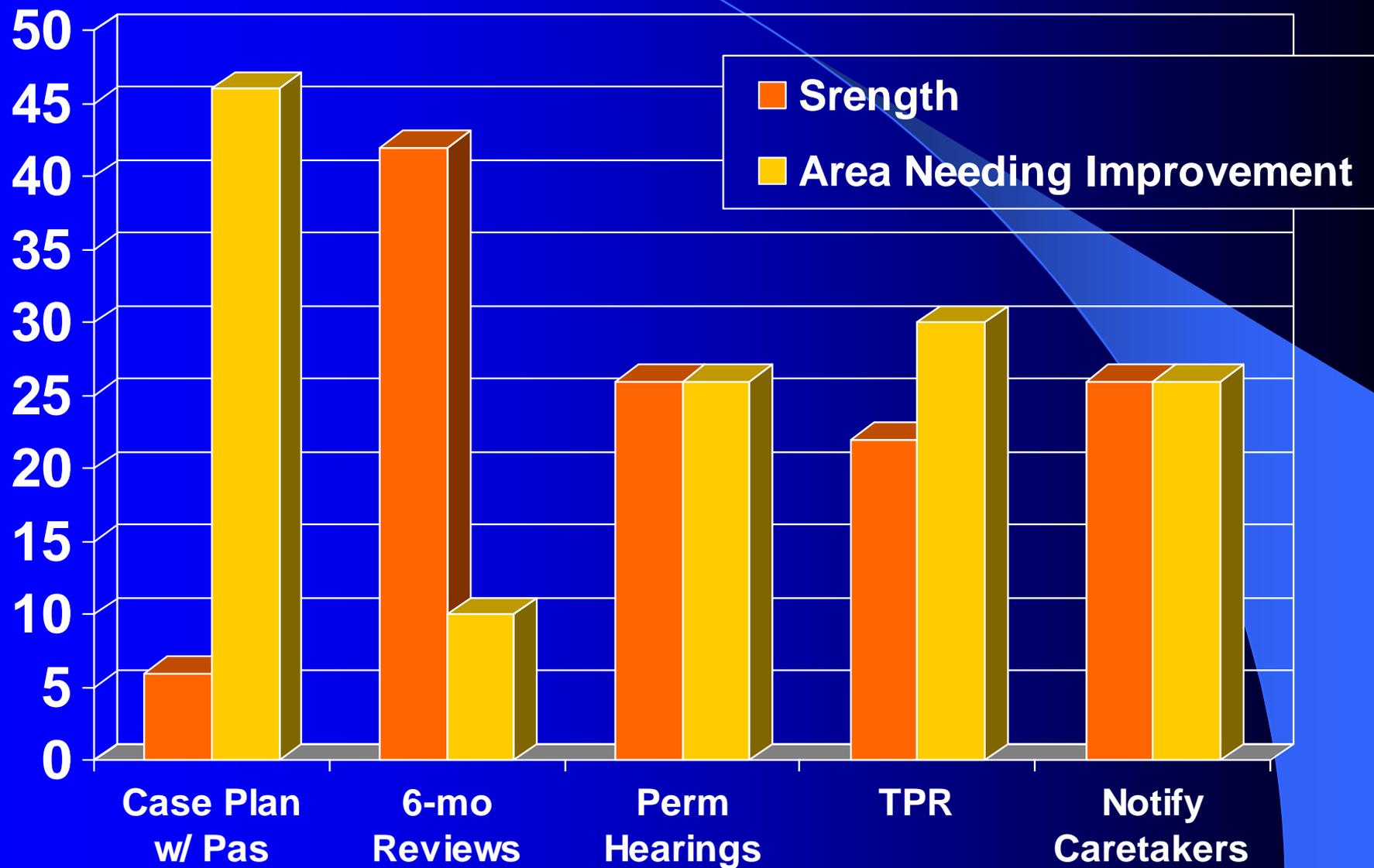
Other permanency goals had not been ruled out for more than half of the 113 children with a goal of Long-Term Foster Care



- Other Permanency Goals Ruled Out Before LTFC
- Other Permanency Goals NOT Ruled Out Before LTFC

Findings Regarding Case Review System

States With Positive Ratings for Case Review Indicators



Item and Outcome Ratings that were Significantly Associated with Case Review

Indicators

Six-Month Case
Reviews



Adoption

**Well Being
Outcome 1**

Permanency
Hearings



Adoption

Termination of
Parental Rights



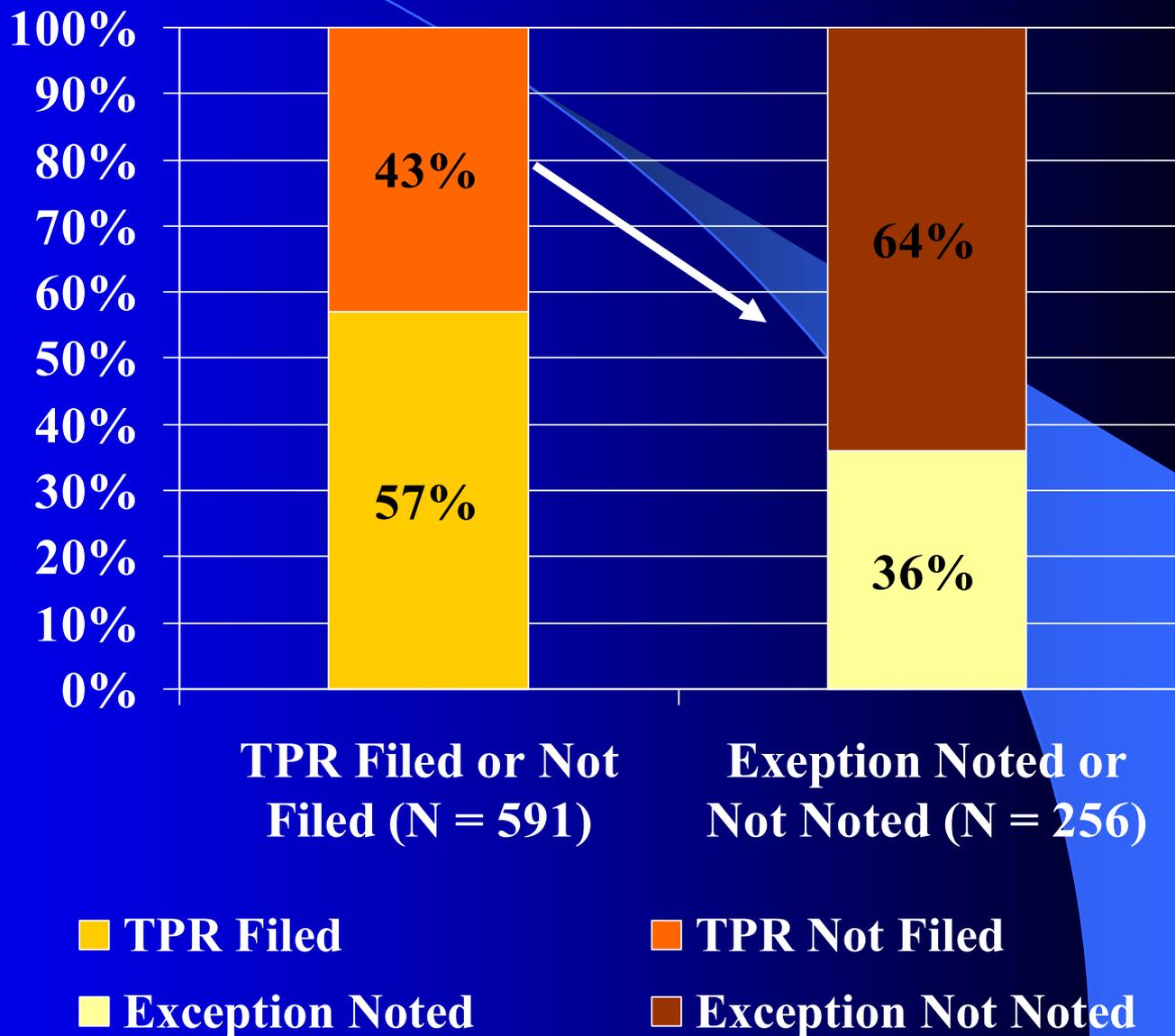
Adoption

**Permanency
Outcome 1**

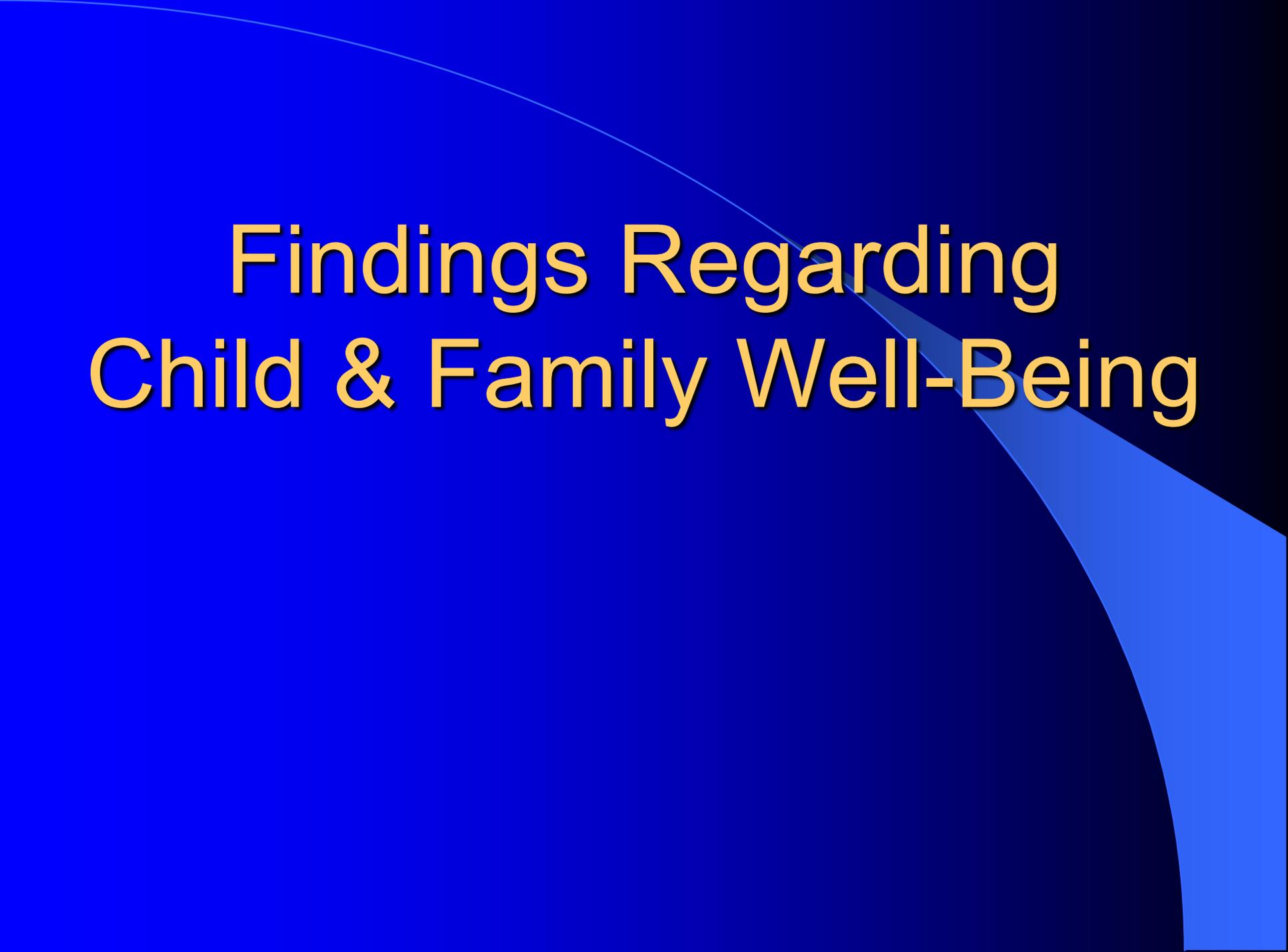
Reunification

Termination of Parental Rights

Of the 965 children in the foster care sample for 2002-2004, 591 had been in foster care for 15 of 22 months.



Findings Regarding Child & Family Well-Being

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Association with Systemic Factors

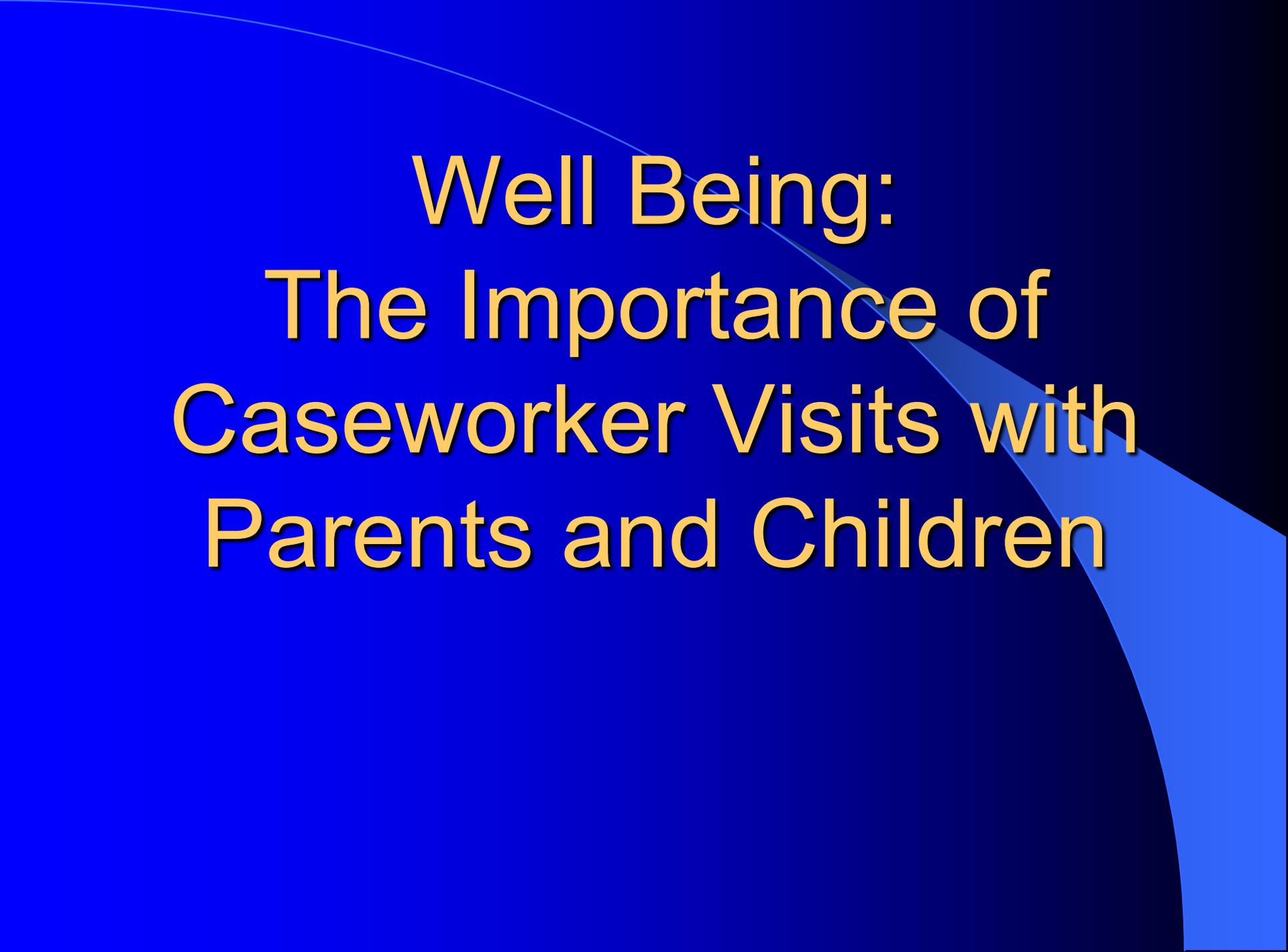
Service Array



Quality Assurance



States in substantial conformity with these 2 systemic factors had significantly higher percentages of cases rated substantially achieved for **Well Being Outcome 1** than States that were not in substantial conformity with these systemic factors.



**Well Being:
The Importance of
Caseworker Visits with
Parents and Children**

Caseworker Visits

**with
Children**



Caseworker Visits

**with
Parents**

91% of the cases rated as a strength for Caseworker Visits with Parents were also rated as a strength for Caseworker Visits with Children.

Strongest Associations Between Visits and Other Indicators

Both Caseworker Visits with Parents and Caseworker Visits with Children were strongly associated with:

→ Risk of harm to children (Item 4)

→ Needs & Services for children, parents, foster parents (Item 17)

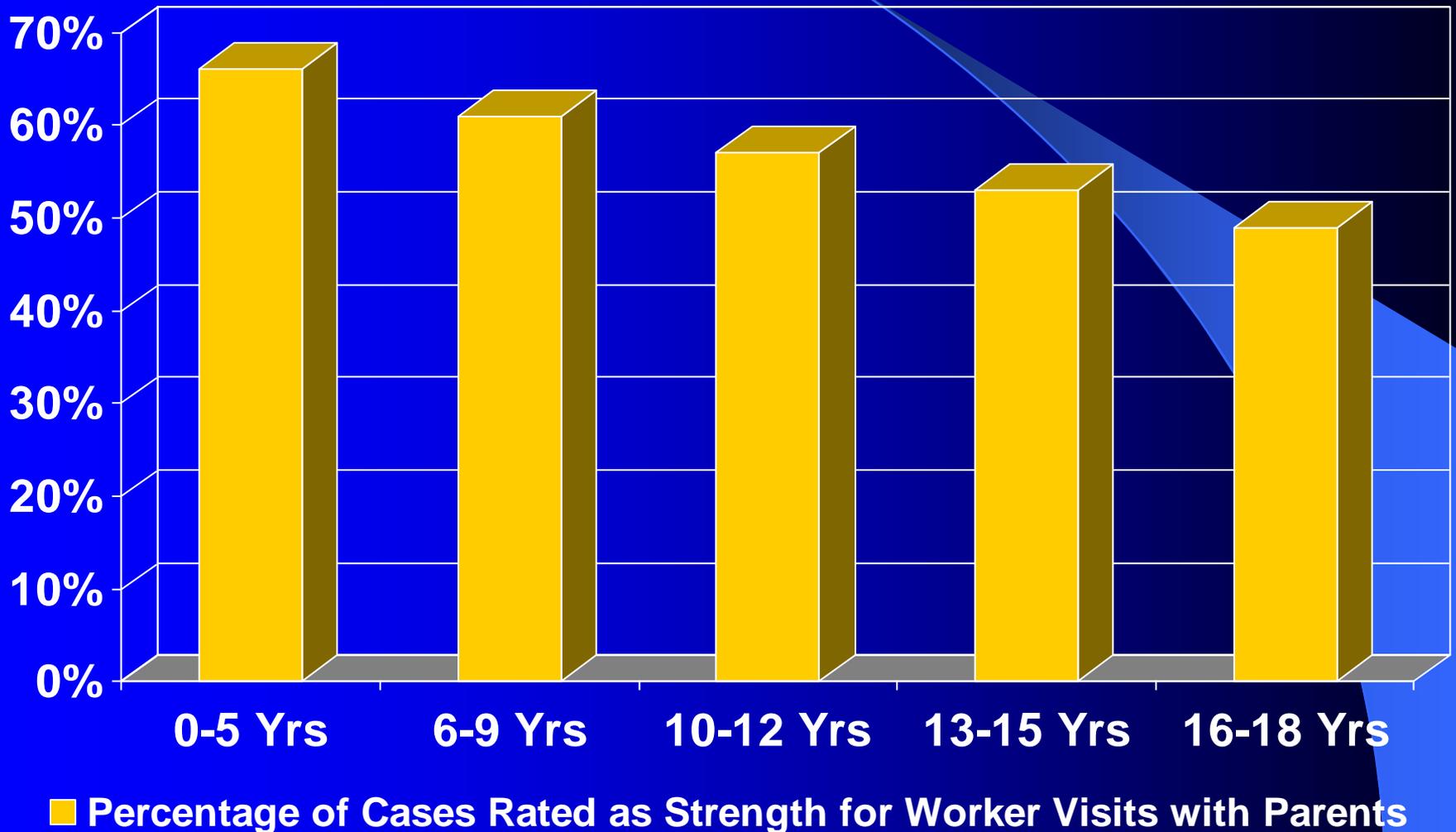
→ Child and parent involvement in case planning (Item 18)

Other Significant Associations Between Visits and Indicators

**Caseworker
Visits with
Parents and
Caseworker
Visits with
Children were
also strongly
associated
with:**

- Services to protect children at home
- Safety Outcome 1
- Safety Outcome 2
- Timely permanency goals
- Timely reunification
- Child's visits with parents and siblings
- Relative placements
- Meeting educational needs
- Meeting physical health needs
- Meeting mental health needs

Caseworker Visits with Parents by Age of Child



Common Concerns Regarding Caseworker Visits with Children (2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

Number of States

- Insufficient frequency of face-to-face contacts with children to address children's safety and well-being
- Inconsistent focus on issues regarding case plans and goals during contacts with children

27

14

Common Concerns Regarding Caseworker Visits with Parents

(2002-2004 States – N= 35)

Concern

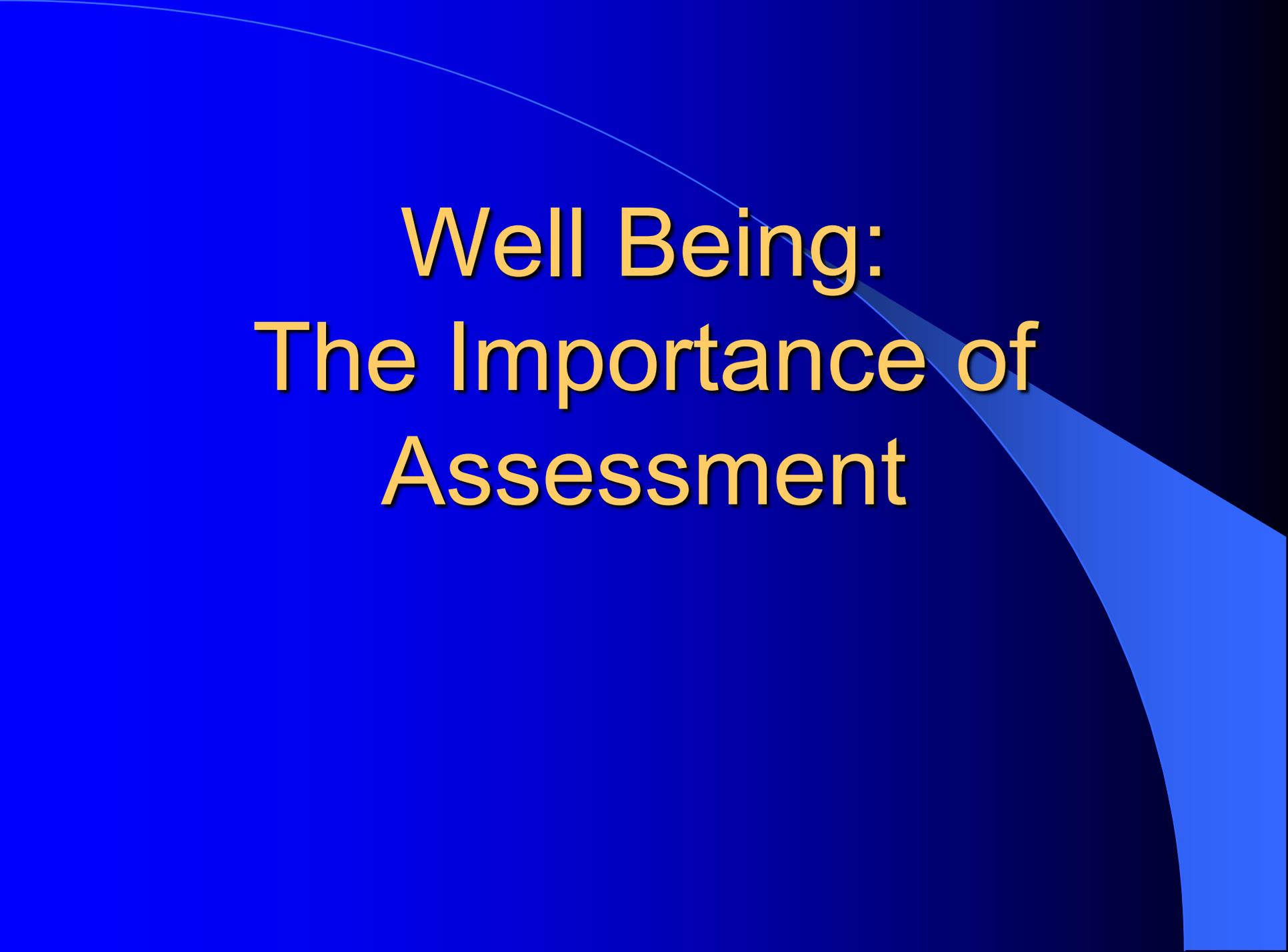
Number of States

- Insufficient frequency of face-to-face contacts with parents to address children's safety and goal attainment
- Lack of contact with fathers, even when fathers are involved with the family
- Inconsistent focus on case plans and goals during contacts with parents

34

13

14



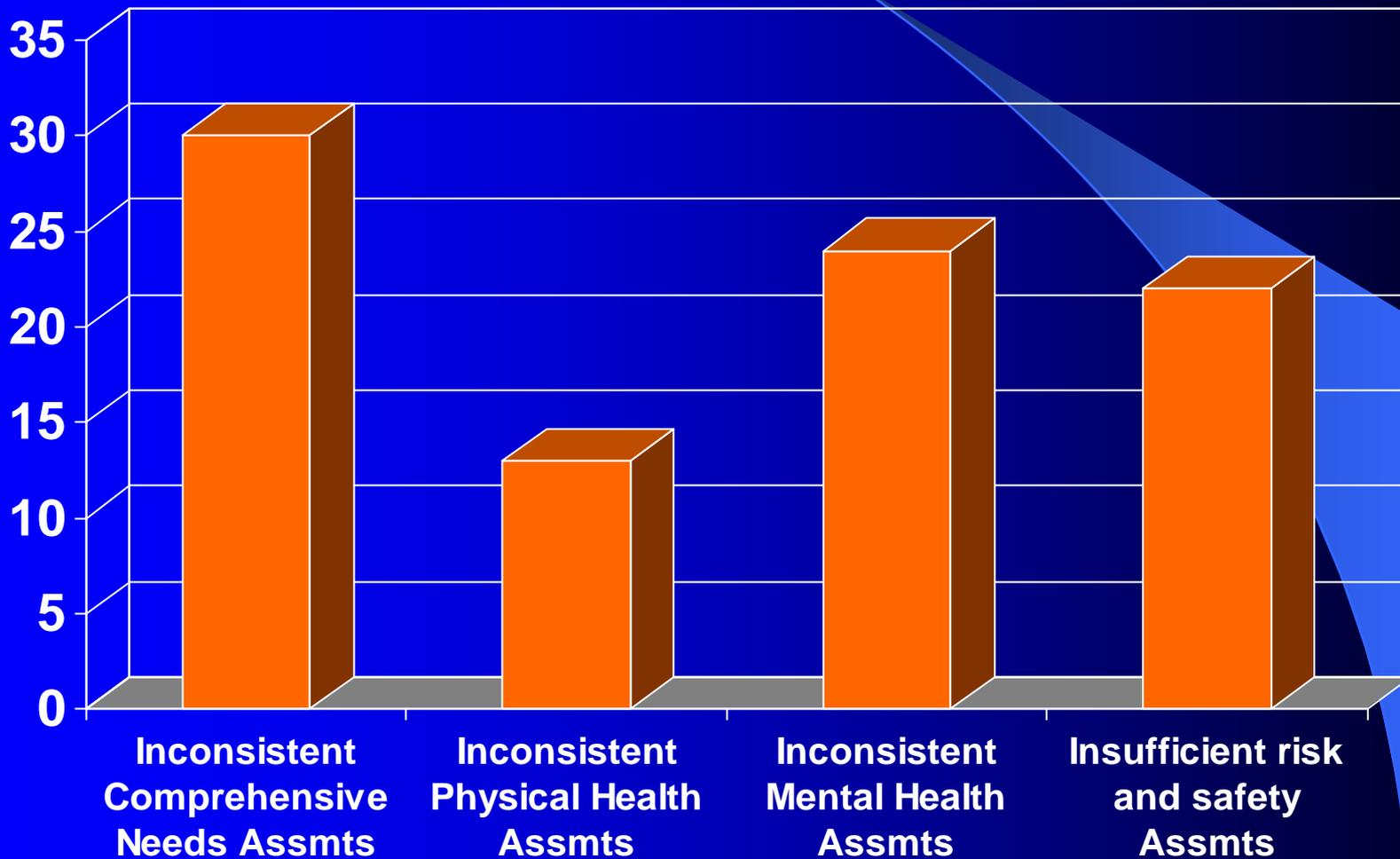
Well Being: The Importance of Assessment

Reviewing for Assessment

Item 17: Needs and Services of Children, Parents, and Foster Parents

- ✓ Assessing Needs
- ✓ Providing Services

Common Assessment Concerns in the 2002-2004 States



Associations Between Case Ratings for Assessment & Service Provision (Item 17) and Other Measures

Case ratings on Assessment of Needs and Provision of Services were found to be associated with the following:

- Permanency Outcome 1
- Permanency Outcome 2
- Safety Outcome 1
- Safety Outcome 2
- Placement stability
- Meeting educational needs
- Meeting physical health needs
- Meeting mental health needs

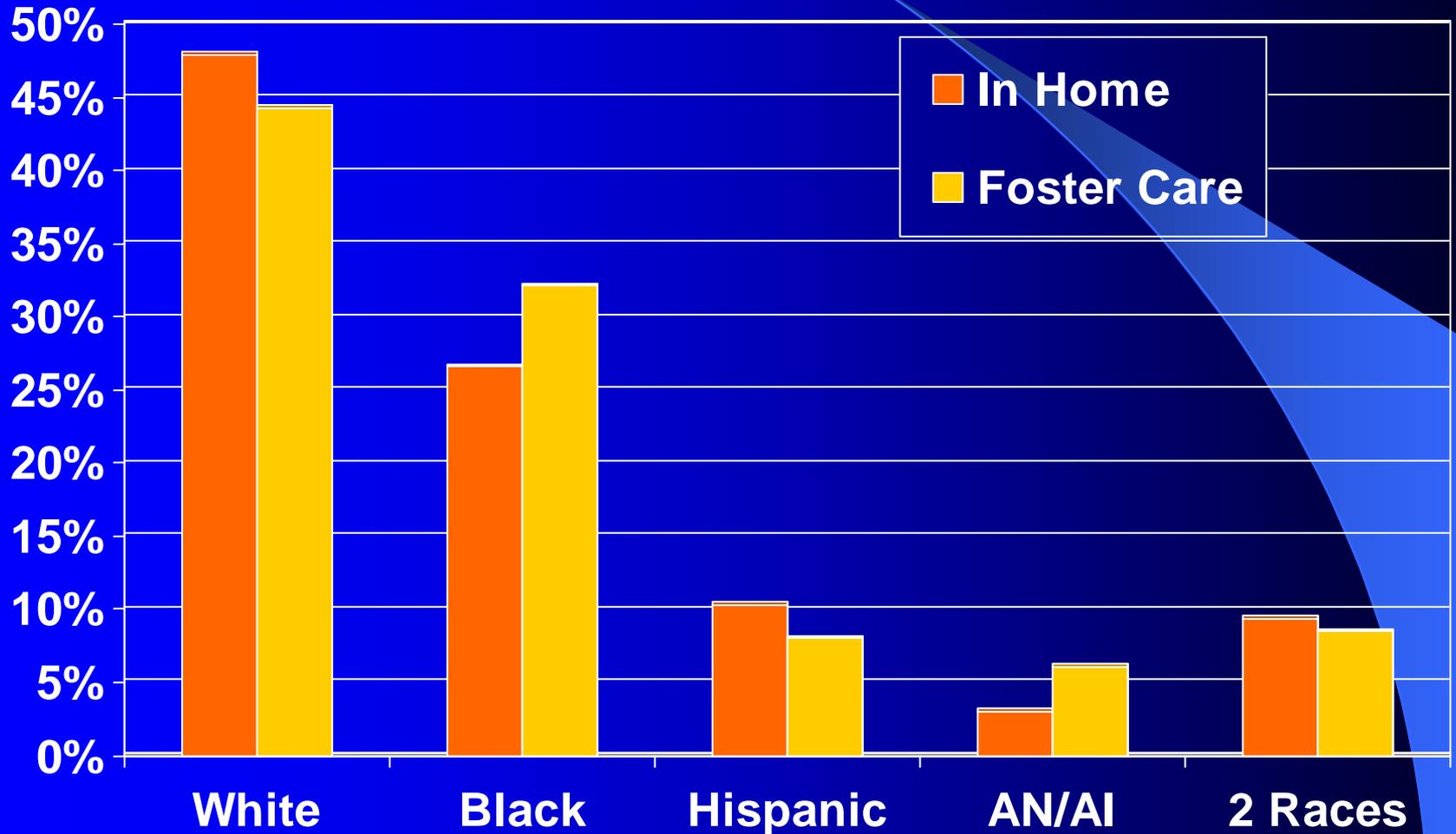
Findings By Race and Ethnicity



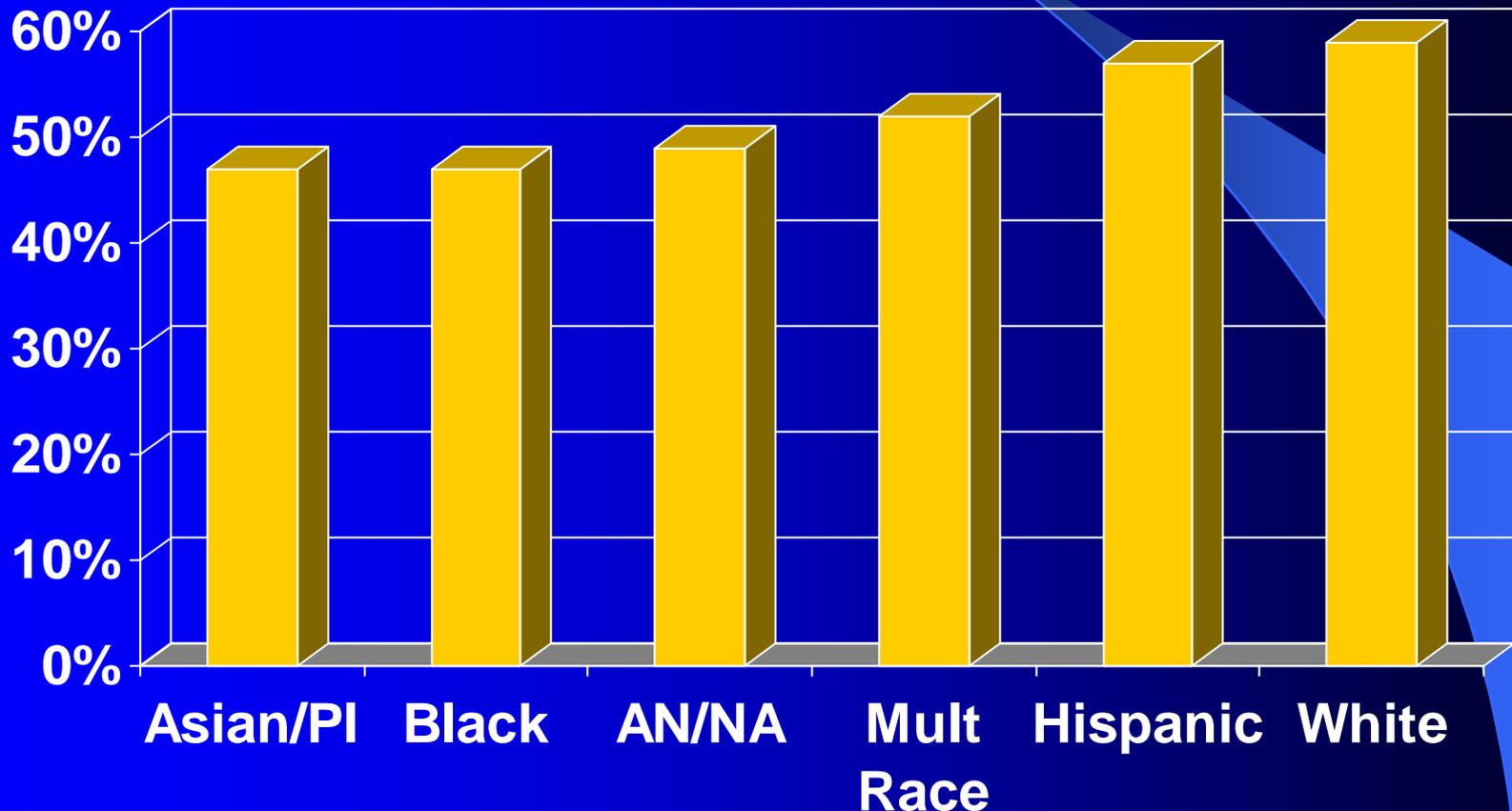
Race/Ethnicity of Children and Families Reviewed

	Number	Percent
White (non-Hispanic)	1121	43.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	729	28.4
Hispanic	219	8.5
Two or more races	217	8.4
Alaska Native/American Indian	118	4.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	44	1.7
Missing Information	121	4.7

Race/Ethnicity by Type of Case

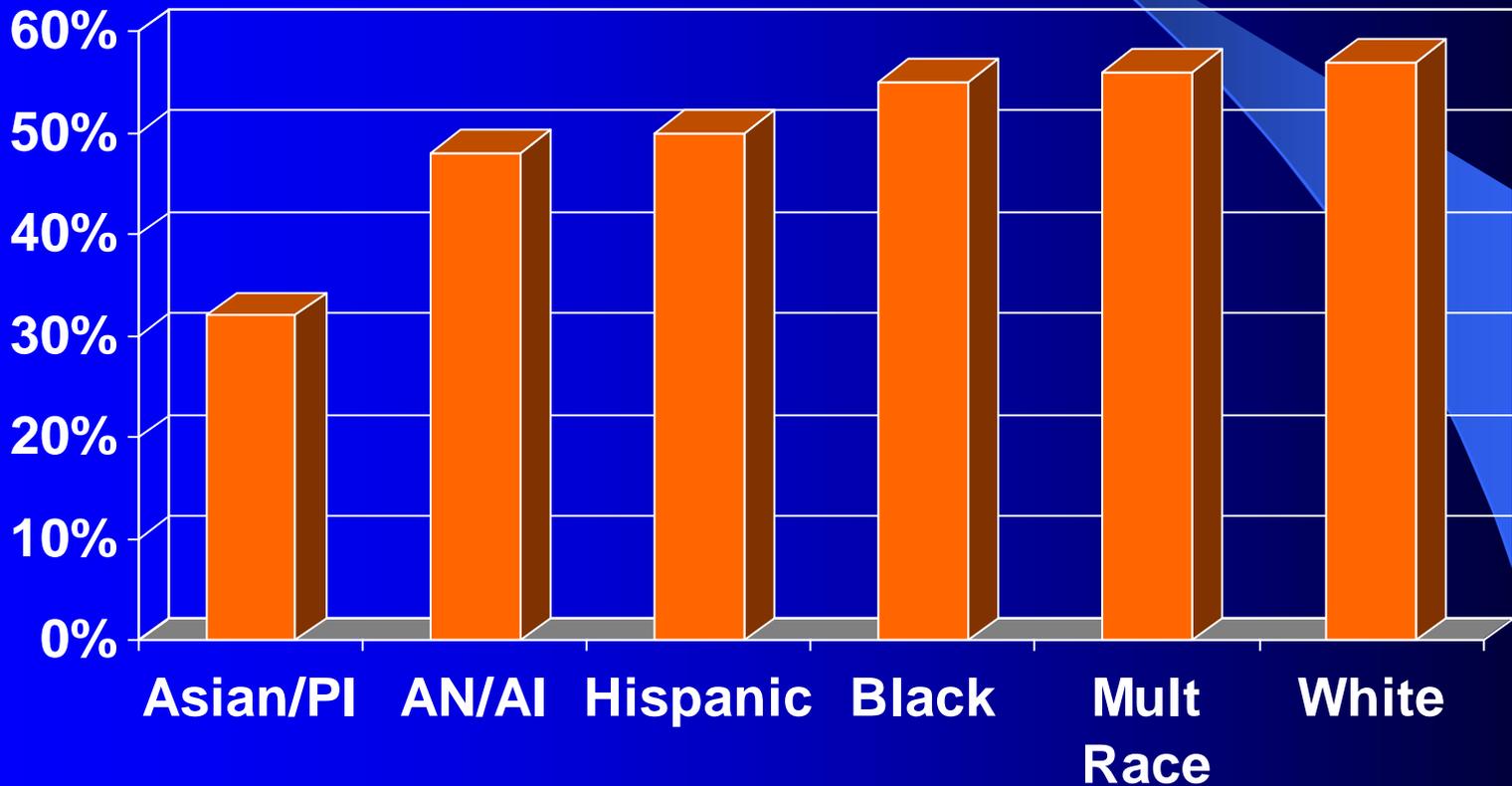


Permanency Achievement by Race/Ethnicity (Permanency Outcome 1)



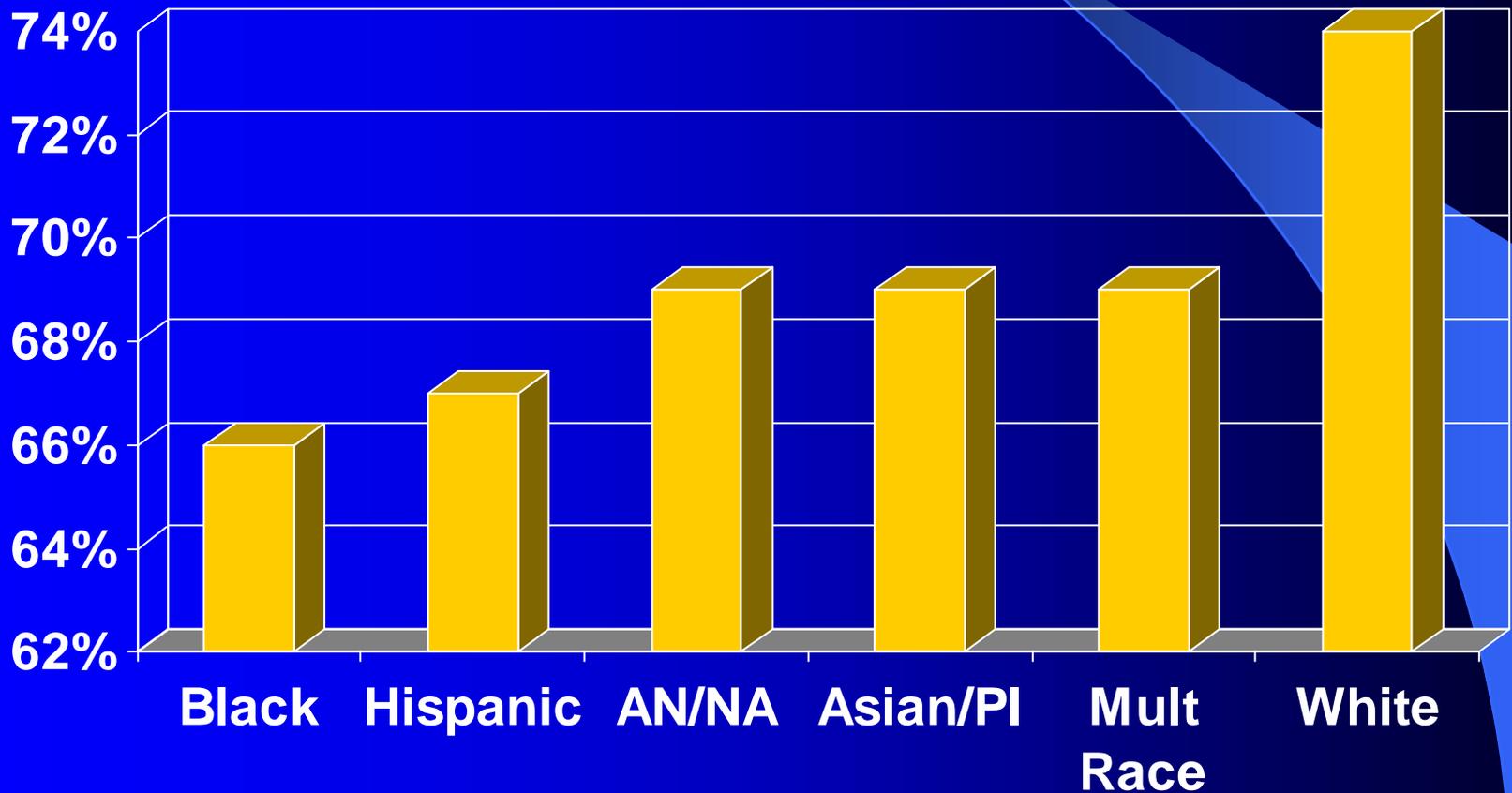
■ Percentage of Cases Substantially Achieved on Permanency Outcome 1

Enhancing Parental Capacity by Race/Ethnicity (Well Being Outcome 1)



■ Percentage of Cases Substantially Achieved on Well Being Outcome 1

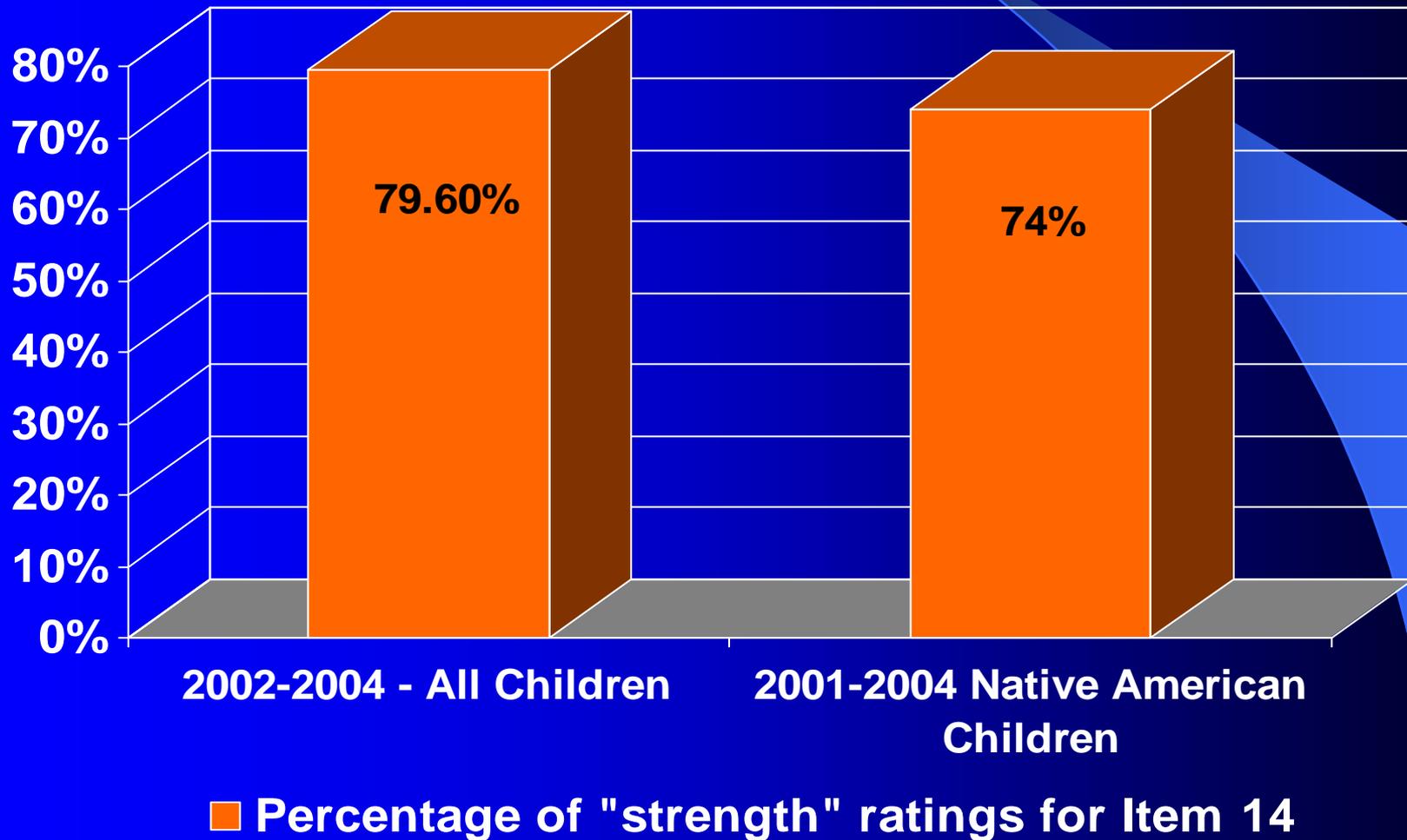
Meeting Physical & Mental Health Needs by Race/Ethnicity (Well Being Outcome 3)



■ Percentage of Cases Substantially Achieved on Well Being Outcome 3

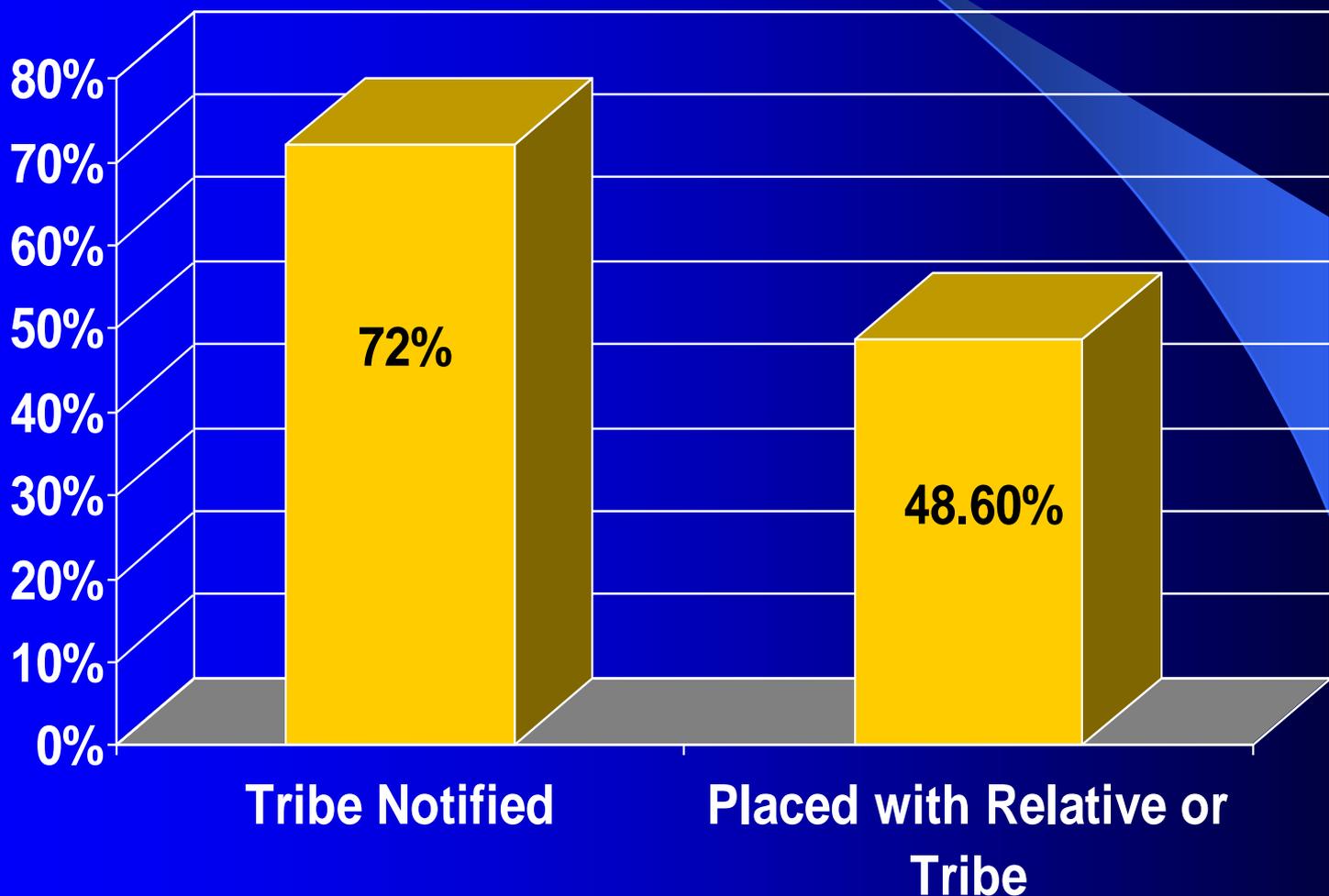
Preserving Connections for Native American Children

(Item 14)



Tribal Notification and Placement for Native American Children

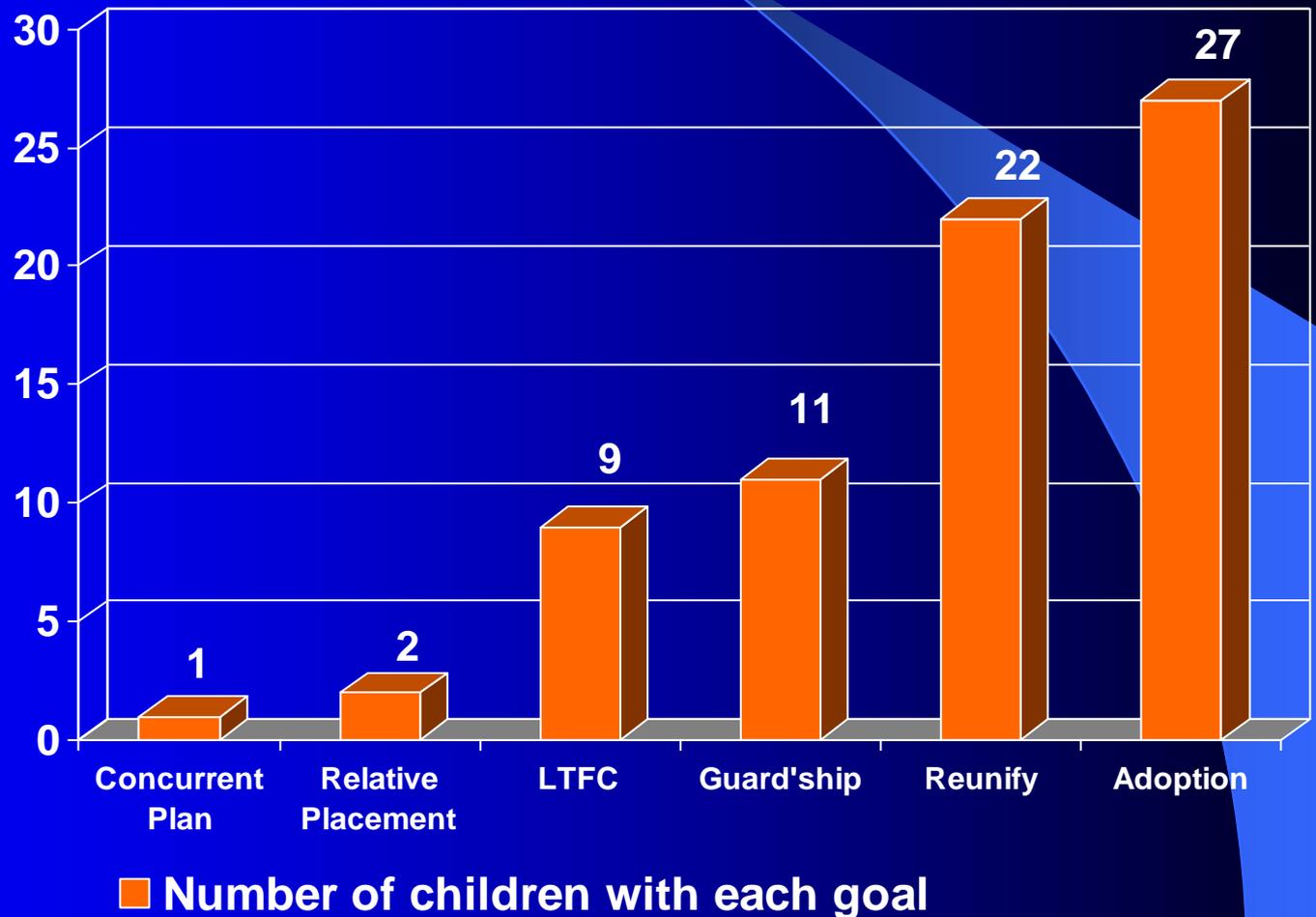
(N = 72 Children for 2002-2004 Cases)



Permanency Goals for Native American Children

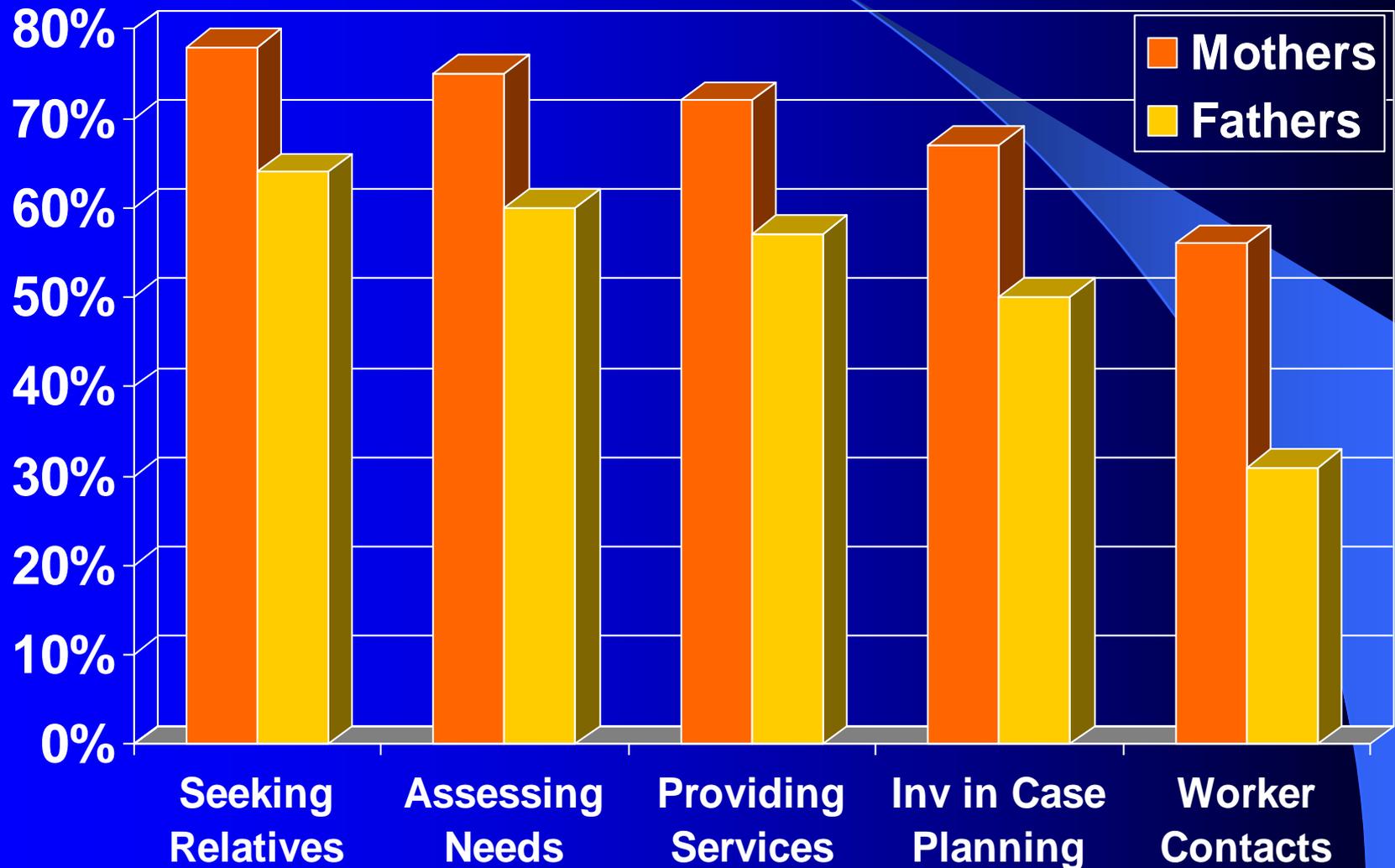
(N = 72 Children for 2002-2004 Cases)

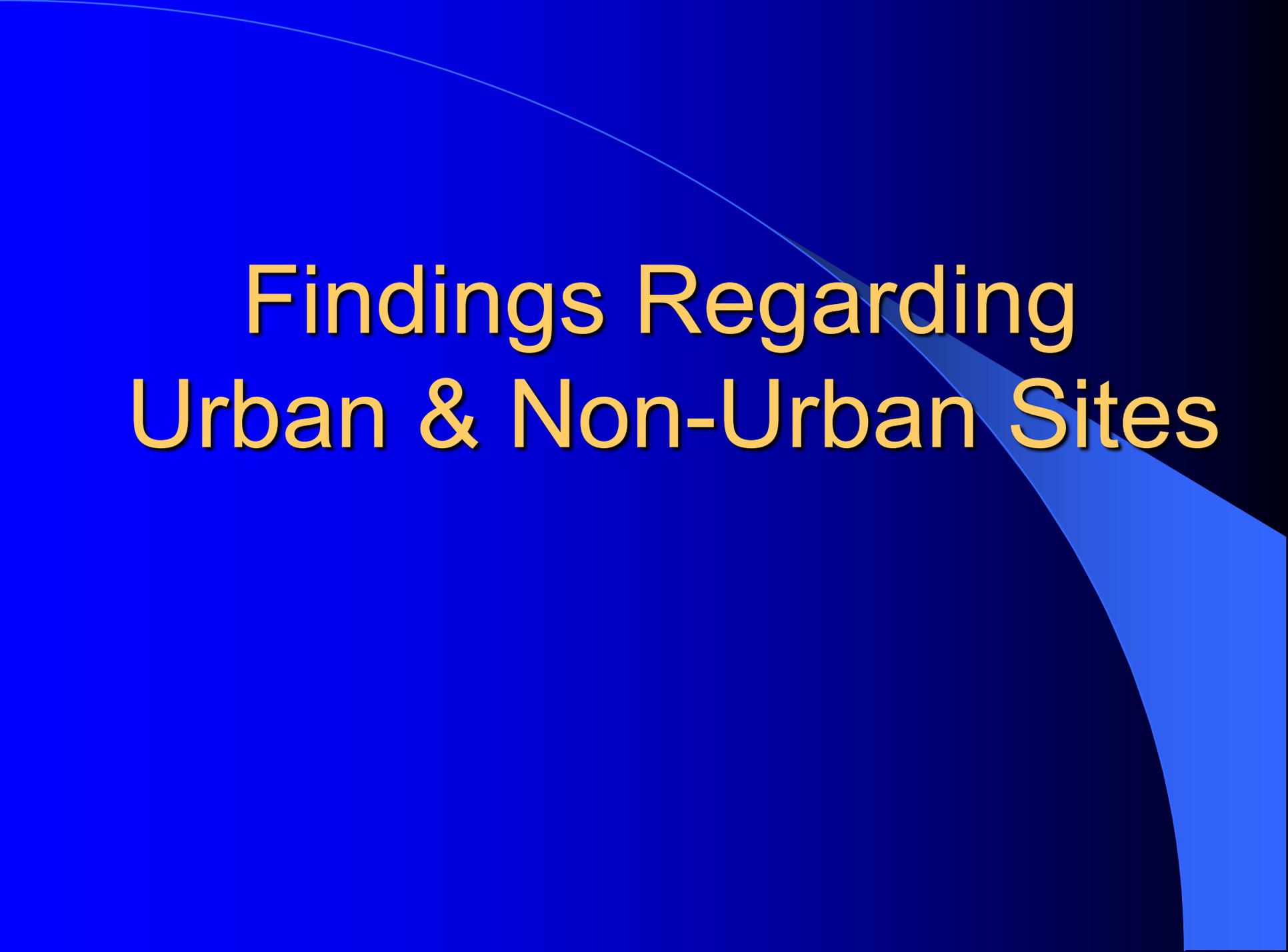
For the 72 Native American children reviewed in 2002-2004, the most common permanency goal was adoption.



Findings Regarding Fathers & Mothers

Significant Differences in Serving Fathers & Mothers





Findings Regarding Urban & Non-Urban Sites

Comparison of Largest Metropolitan Areas to Other State Review Sites

No Significant Differences

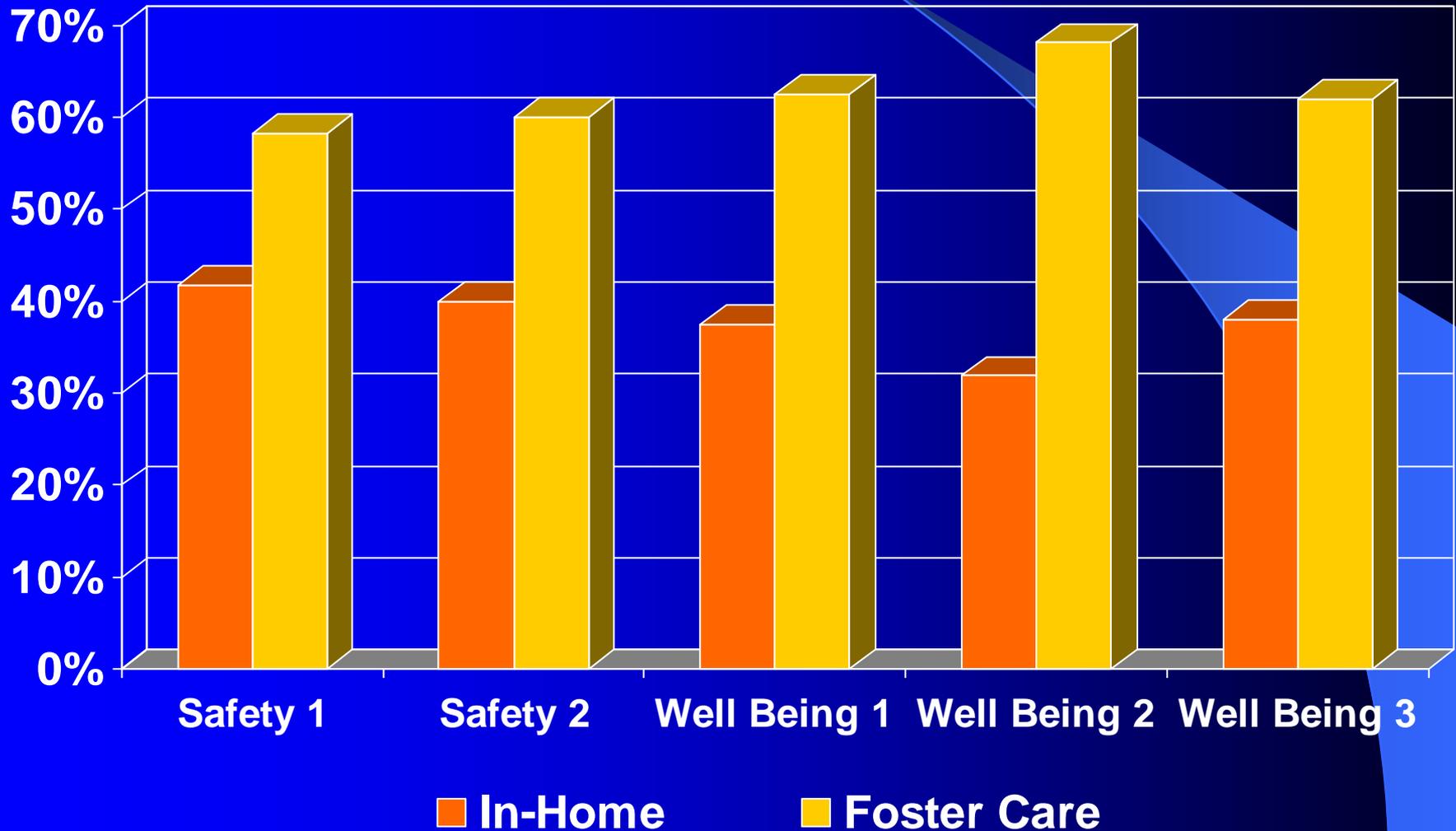
- Safety Outcome 1
- Safety Outcome 2
- Permanency Outcome 1
- Permanency Outcome 2
- Well Being Outcome 2

Significant Differences

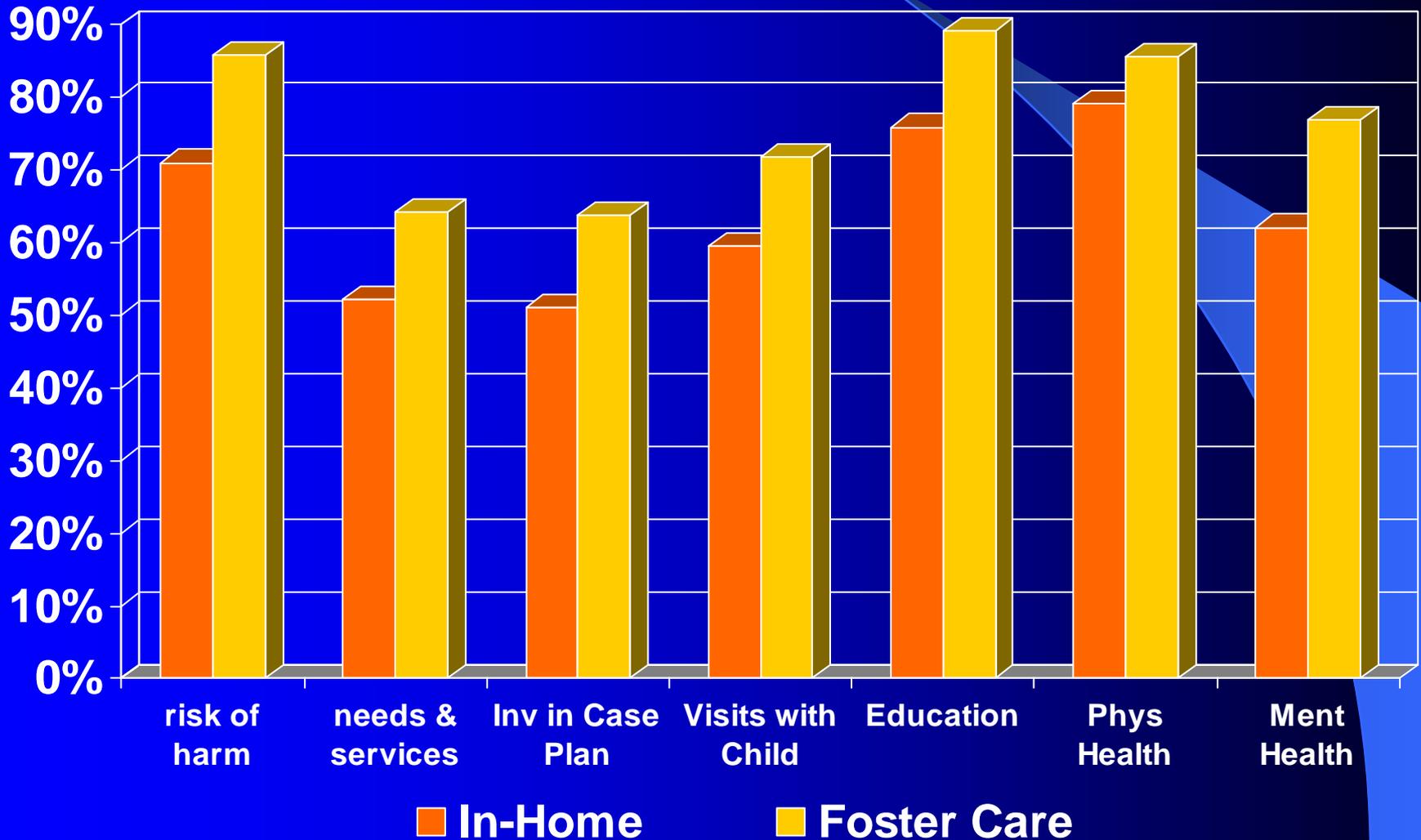
- Well Being Outcome 1
- Well Being Outcome 3

Findings Regarding In-Home and Foster Care Cases

In-Home and Foster Care Differences on the Outcomes



In-Home and Foster Care Differences on the Indicators



Summary of Findings

Summary of Major Findings

New Information

- Importance of caseworker visits with parents
- Refinement of relationships between individual Case Review items and outcomes
- Racial/ethnic differences in goal achievement
- Differences in urban vs. non-urban sites
- Insights into stability of foster care placements
- Insights into the importance of assessment
- Permanency achievement by youth in foster care
- Needs & Services of Children, Parents, Foster Parents is weakest indicator (not adoption)

Summary of Major Findings

Affirmed Information

- Importance of caseworker visits with children
- Differences in services to in-home cases and foster care cases
- Differences in services to fathers and services to mothers
- Permanency 1 and Well Being 1 are still the weakest performing outcomes
- Overrepresentation of children of color in foster care cases vs. in-home cases
- Implications for improved casework practice

Children's Bureau Website

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb