
The Children and Families of Head Start: National Data from FACES 2006

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on Head Start Research and Evaluation

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FACES Study Design

- **Descriptive study of Head Start children, families and programs**
- **Regular periodicity: new cohort every 3 years (1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009)**
- **Nationally representative samples of 3- and 4-year-old children entering Head Start for the first time***
- **Longitudinal design: interviews, child assessments, and teacher-child reports at fall program entry, spring of 1 or 2 program years, spring kindergarten follow-up**

***Note: The FACES sample does not include children served in Migrant/Seasonal or American Indian/Alaska Native programs, or programs in Puerto Rico or U.S. Territories**

FACES is a Periodic Source of Data on:

- **Child & Family Demographics, Parenting, and the Home Environment**
 - Child age, gender, race/ethnicity
 - Home language
 - Parent education, employment, household income
 - Parenting approaches, learning activities with children
 - Health, mental health, health care, and nutrition
 - Involvement w/ Head Start, satisfaction w/ Head Start
- **Child Outcomes**
 - Cognitive development
 - Social-emotional development
 - Height and weight (new in FACES 2006)
- **Teachers & Classrooms**
 - Teacher demographics, education, experience
 - Classroom environment (activities, curricula)
 - Observations of classroom quality

FACES 2006 Provides a National Picture

Nationally representative sample of:

- **60 programs**
- **135 centers**
- **410 classrooms**
- **3,315 children (in fall 2006) and their parents and classroom teachers**

Key Questions and Topics for Today

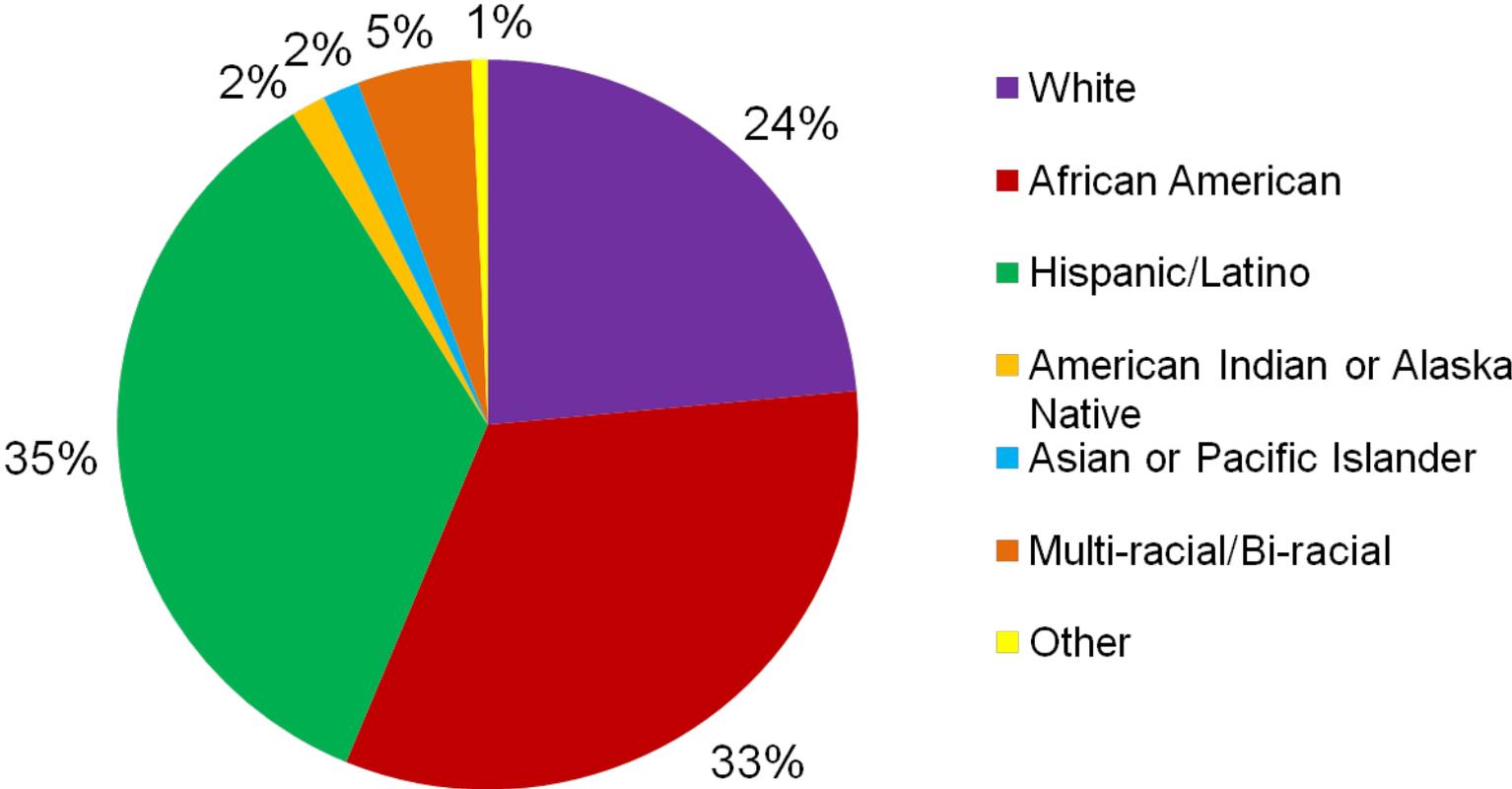
- **Who is Head Start serving?**
- **What are children's school readiness skills at entry and what progress do they make in Head Start and beyond?**
- **What is their physical health and disability status?**
- **How engaged and satisfied are parents?**
- **How well-credentialed and supported are Head Start teachers?**
- **What is the quality of the classroom environment?**

Who is Head Start Serving Now?

- **Head Start is serving more Latino children and Dual Language Learners (DLLs)**
 - **FACES 2000: 28% Latino, 18% DLLs**
 - **FACES 2003 (31% and 20%)**
 - **FACES 2006 (35% and 27%)**
- **Head Start is serving a larger proportion of 3-year-olds**
 - **In fall 2006, 63% of new entrants in Head Start were 3-year-olds (According to PIR, 3-year-olds account for 40% of the total population served by Head Start)**
 - **Among 3-year-olds newly entering in fall 2006, 88% completed at least 1 year of Head Start, but only 58% completed 2 years of Head Start**

Head Start Serves A Diverse Group of Children

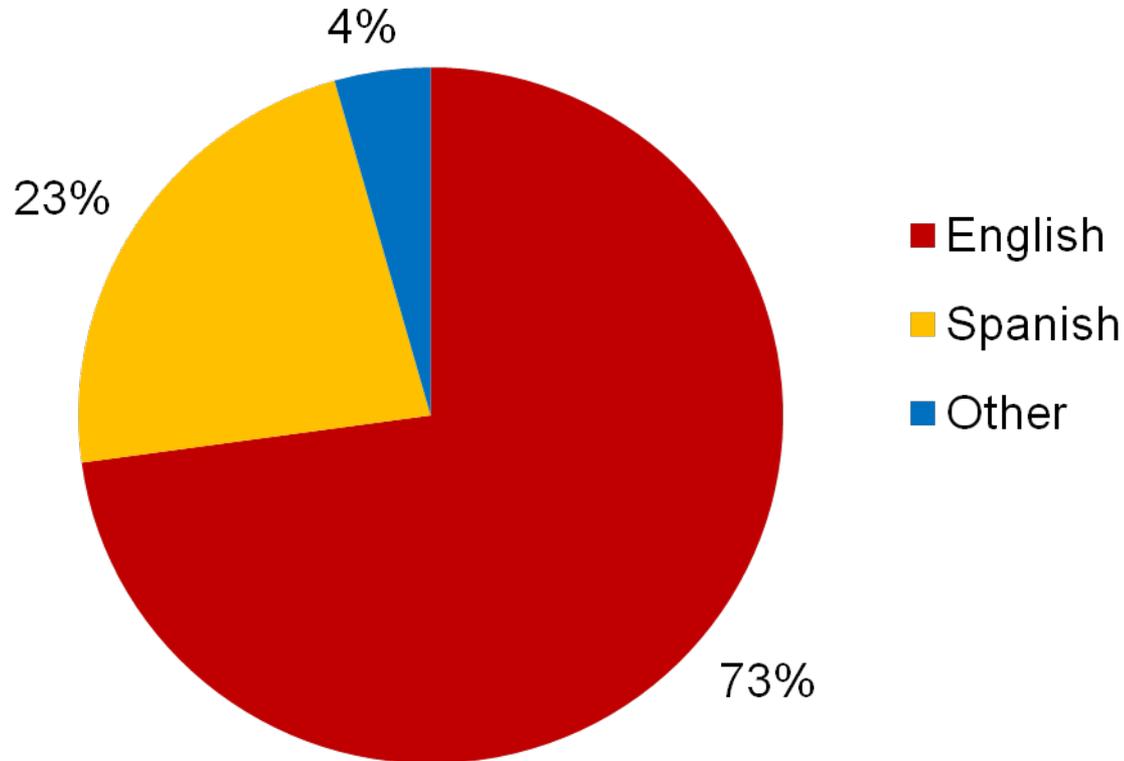
Percentage of Children



Source: FACES Fall 2006 Parent Interview

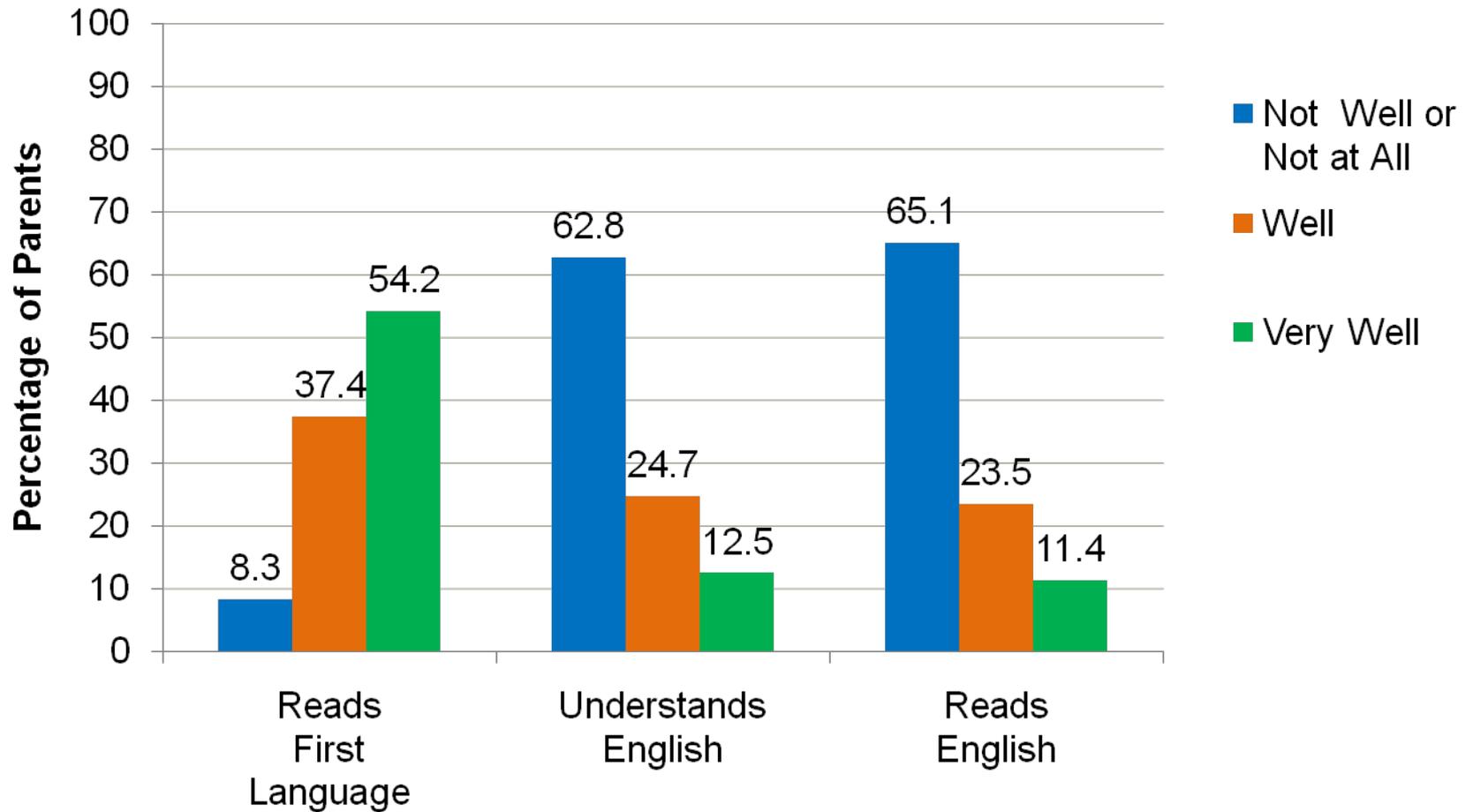
Spanish is the Primary Non-English Language

Percentage of Children



Source: FACES Fall 2006 Parent Interview

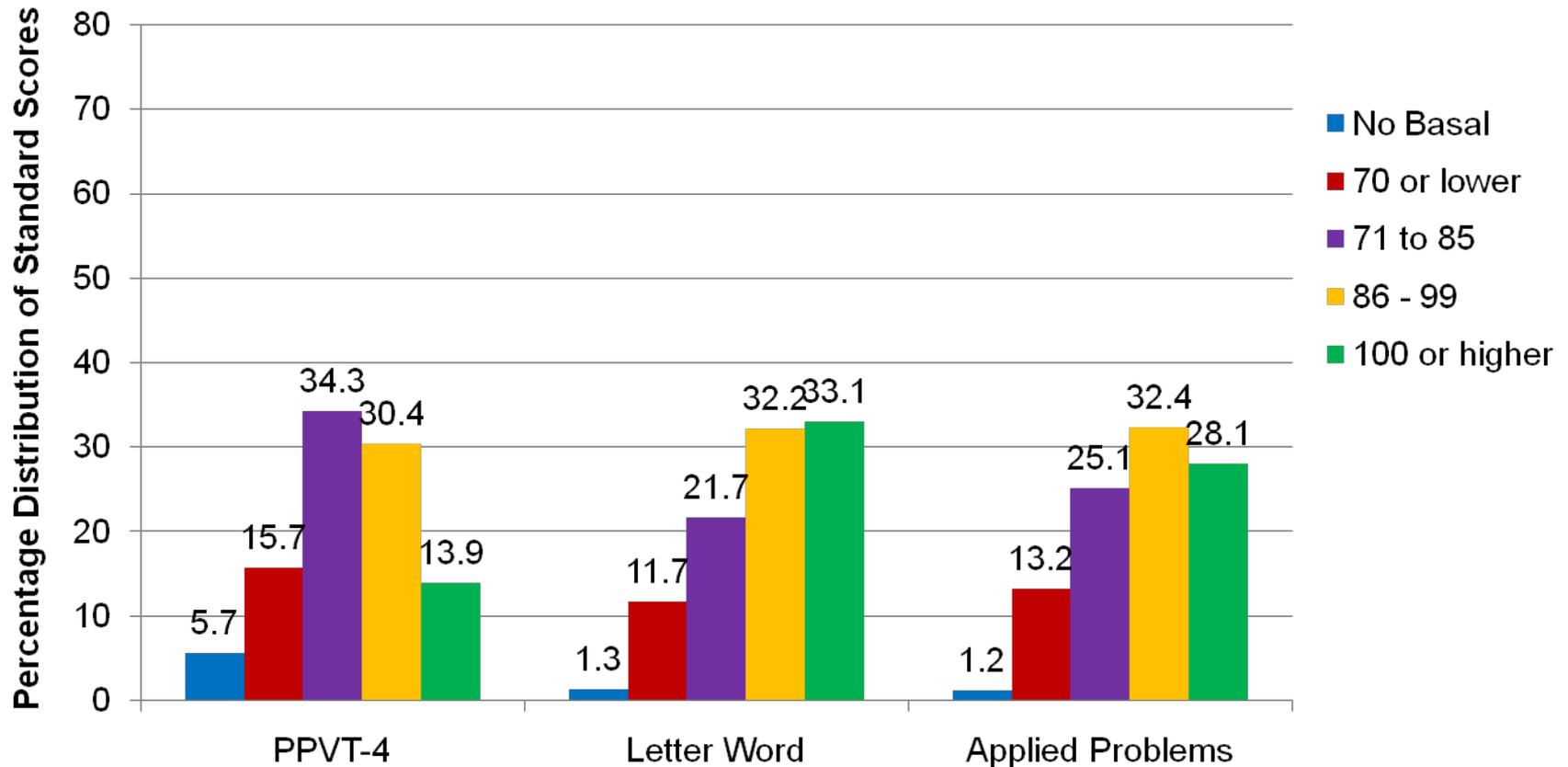
Parents of Dual Language Learners Have Varied Language Abilities



Source: FACES Fall 2006 Parent Interview

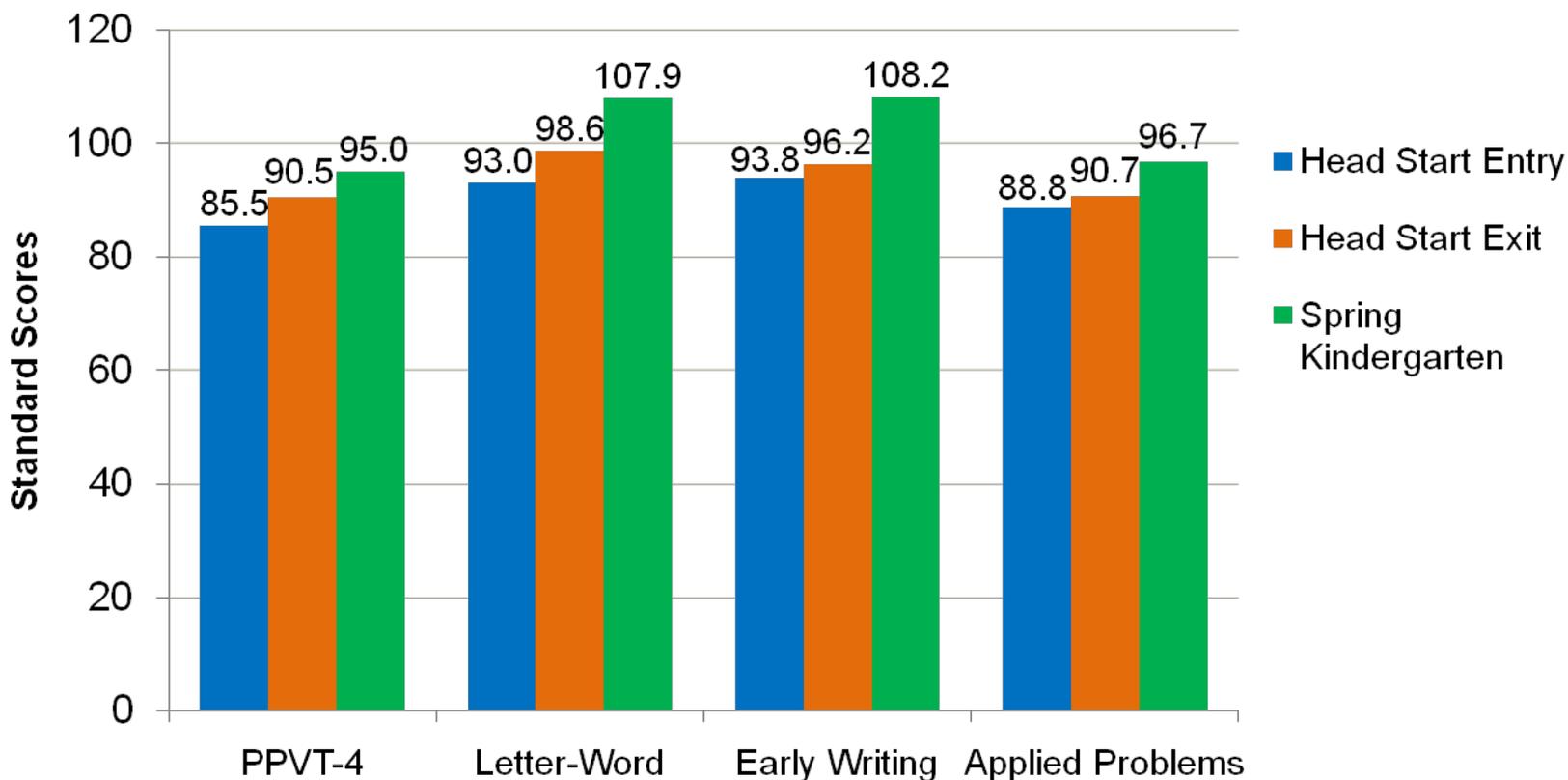
Children's School Readiness Skills and Developmental Status

Children Show Diverse Skills at Program Entry



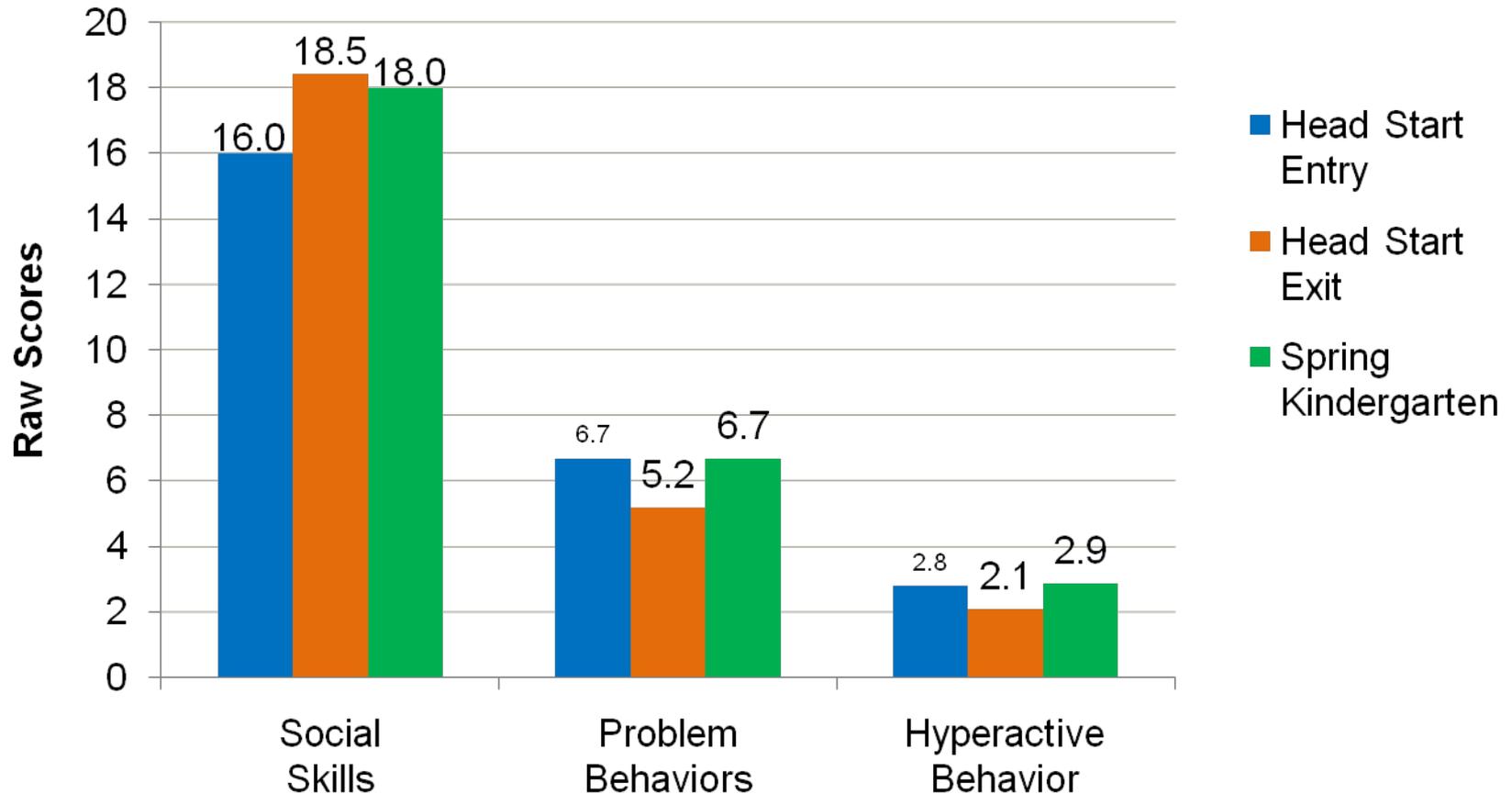
Source: FACES Fall 2006 Direct Child Assessment

Children Show Growth in School Readiness Skills



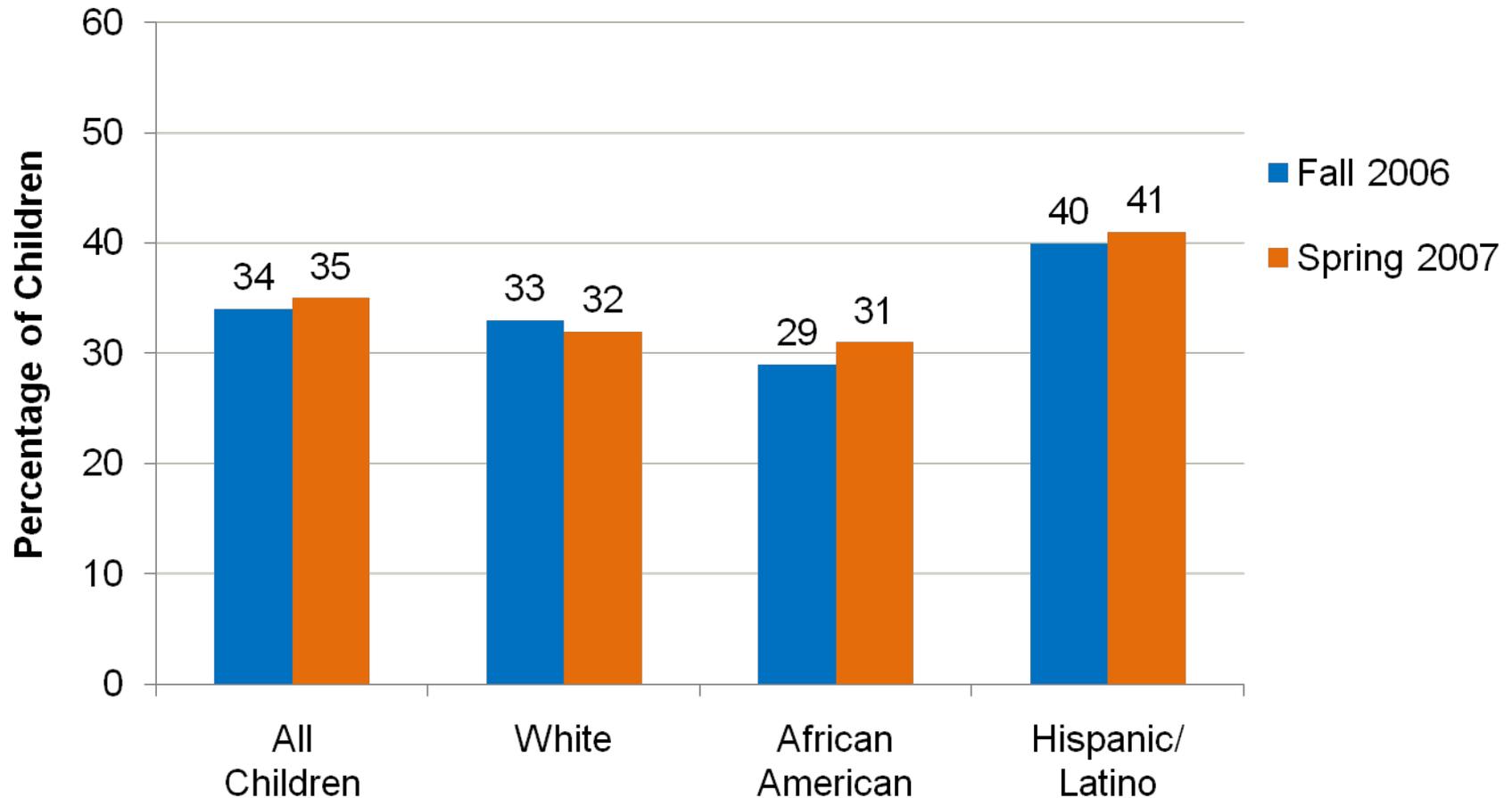
Source: FACES Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008 and Spring 2009 Direct Child Assessment

Children Show Growth in Social Skills



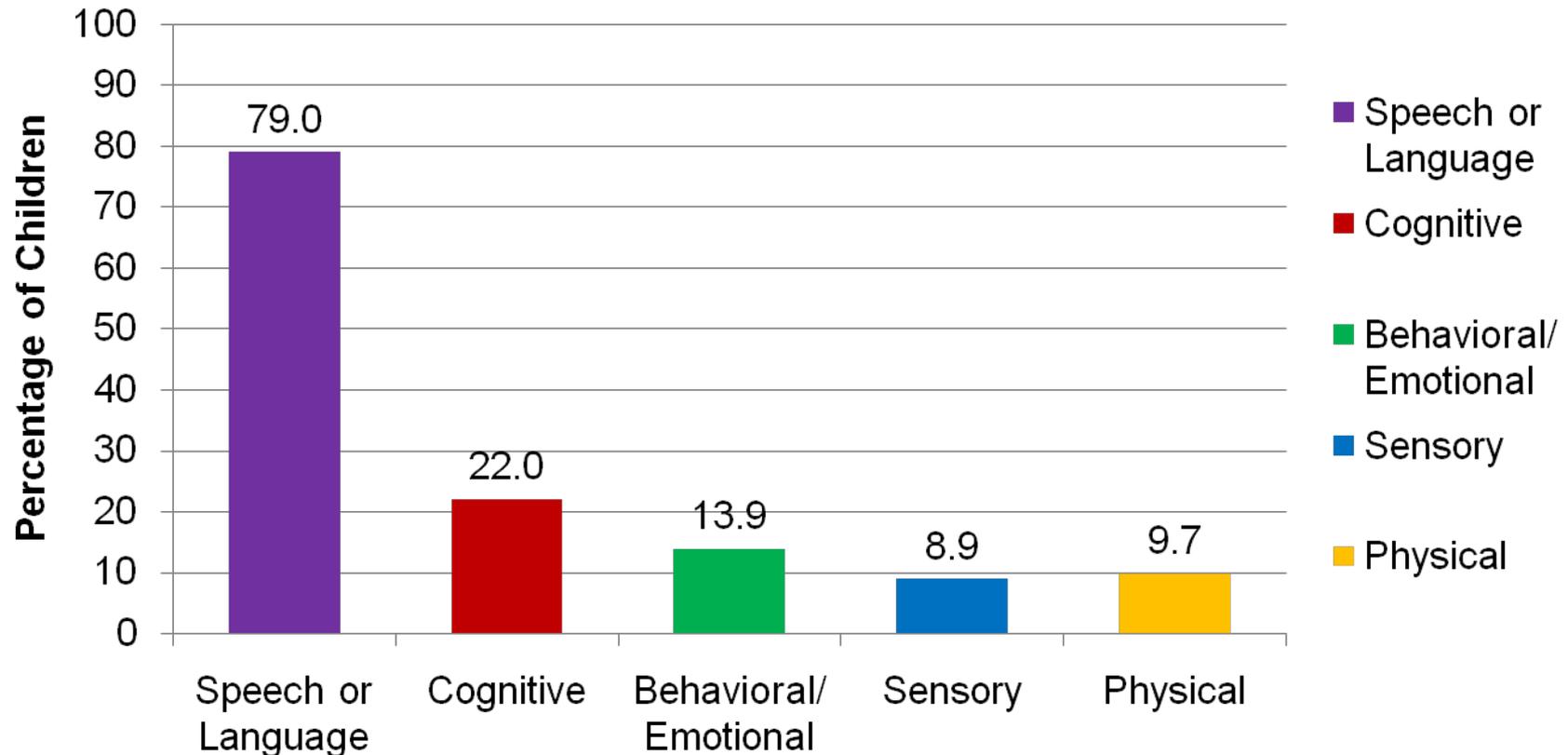
Source: FACES Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008 and Spring 2009 Teacher-Child Report

Hispanic/Latino Children are More Likely to be Overweight/Obese



Source: FACES Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Direct Child Assessment (Height and Weight)

Most Children with a Disability Have a Speech or Language Impairment

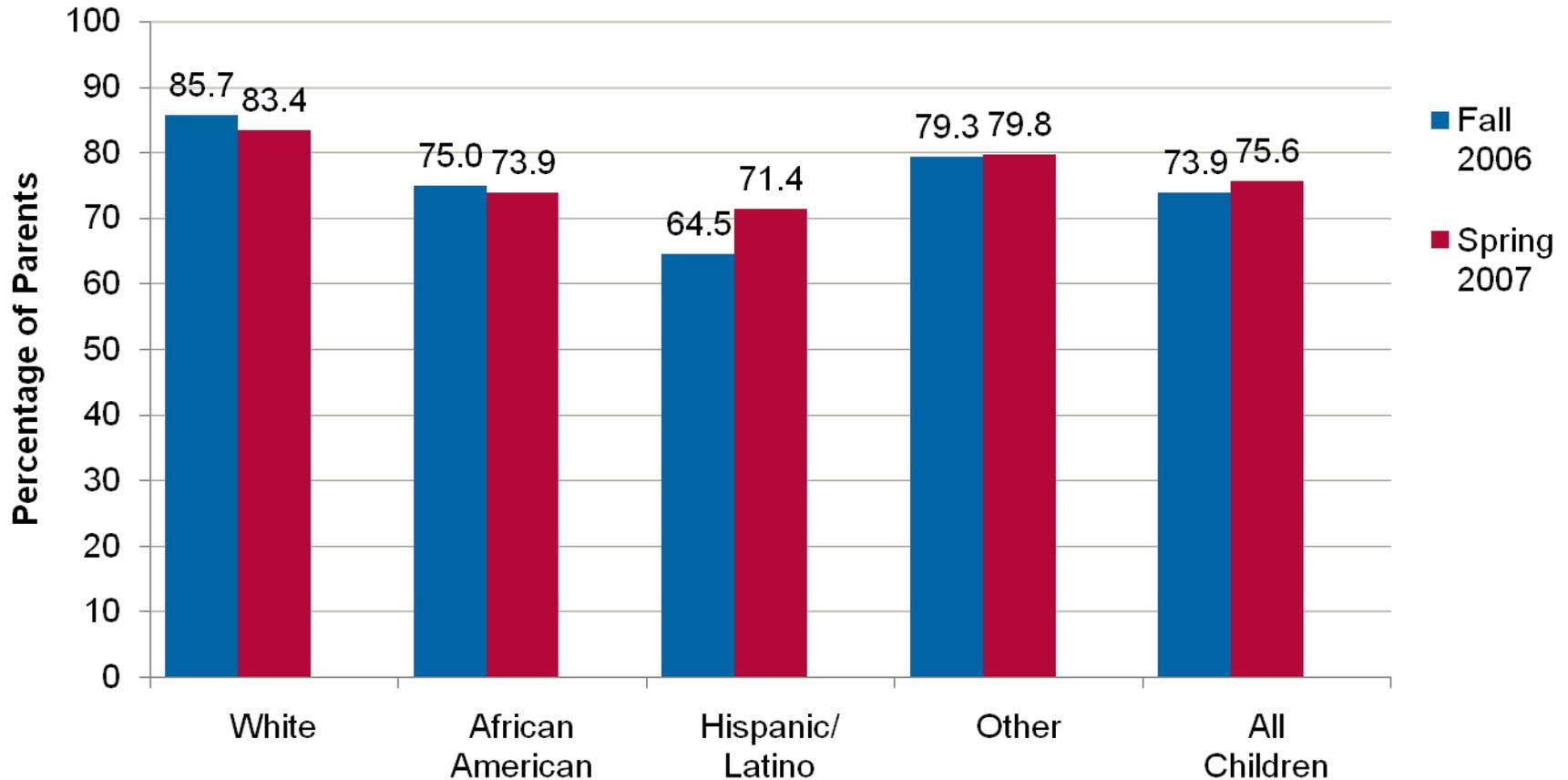


Source: FACES Spring 2007 Teacher-Child Report

Family Engagement and Satisfaction

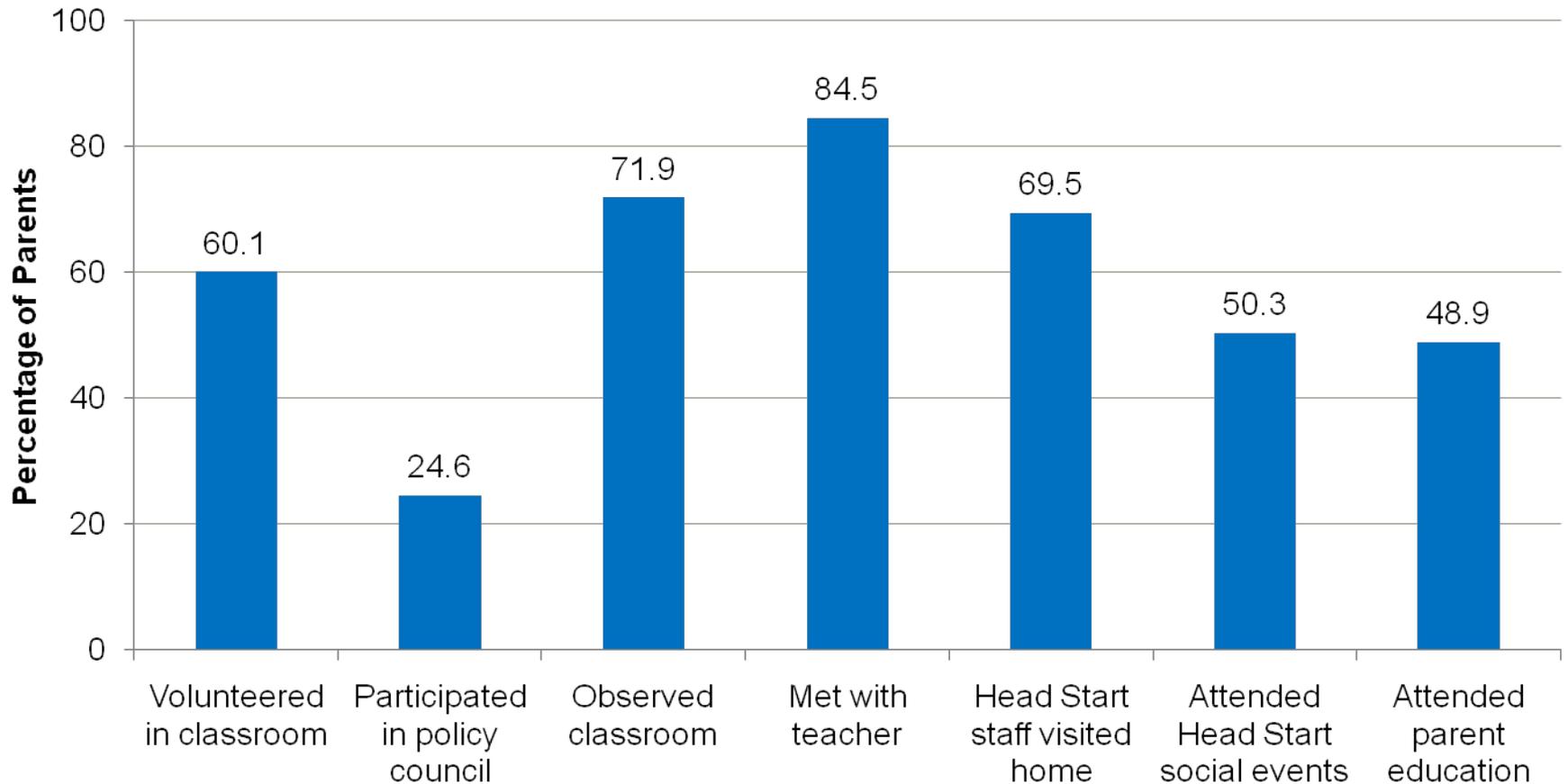


Latino Parents Increase Reading to Child During Head Start Year



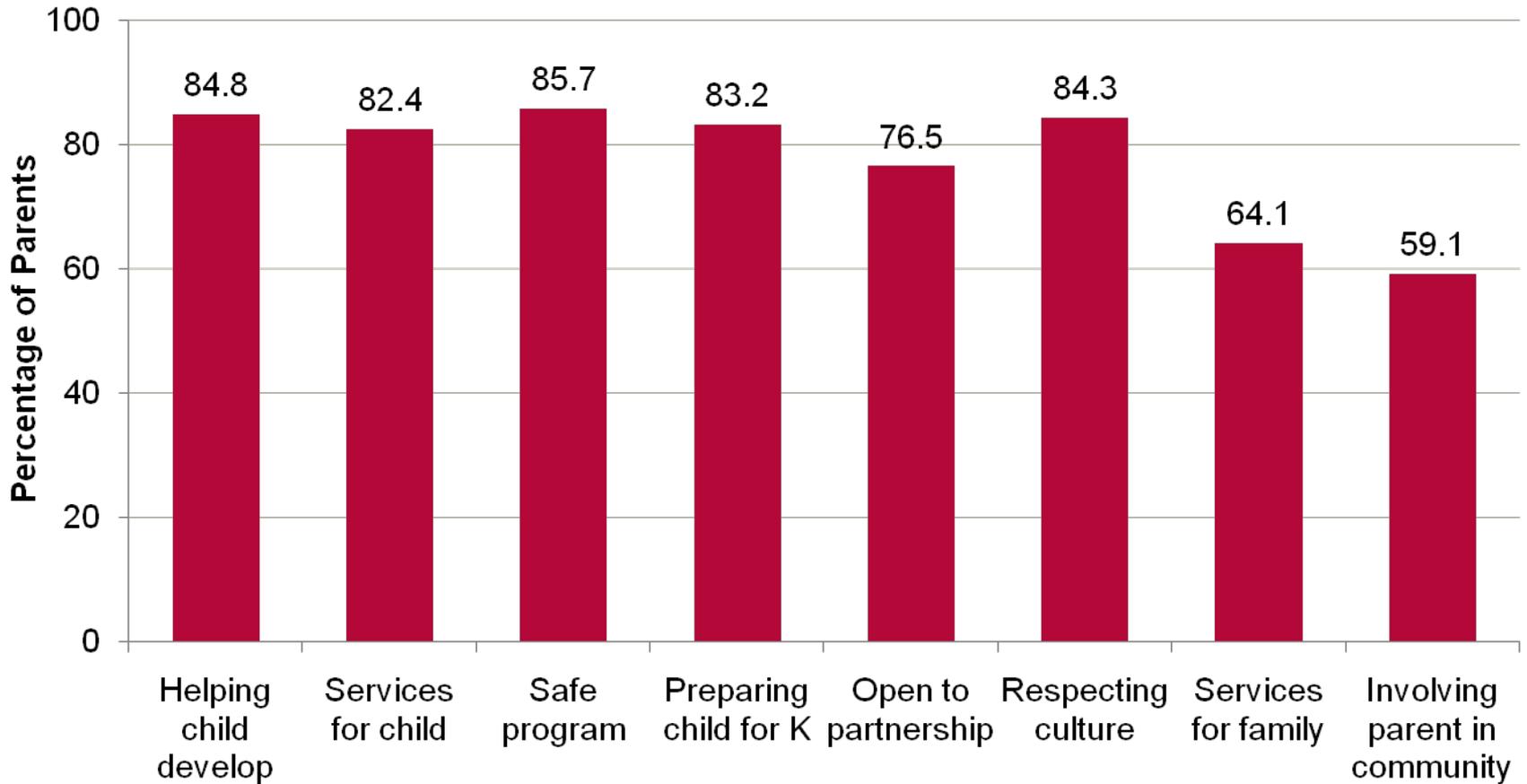
Source: FACES Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Parent Interview

Parents are Involved with Head Start



Source: FACES Spring 2007 Parent Interview

Parents are “Very Satisfied” with Head Start Services

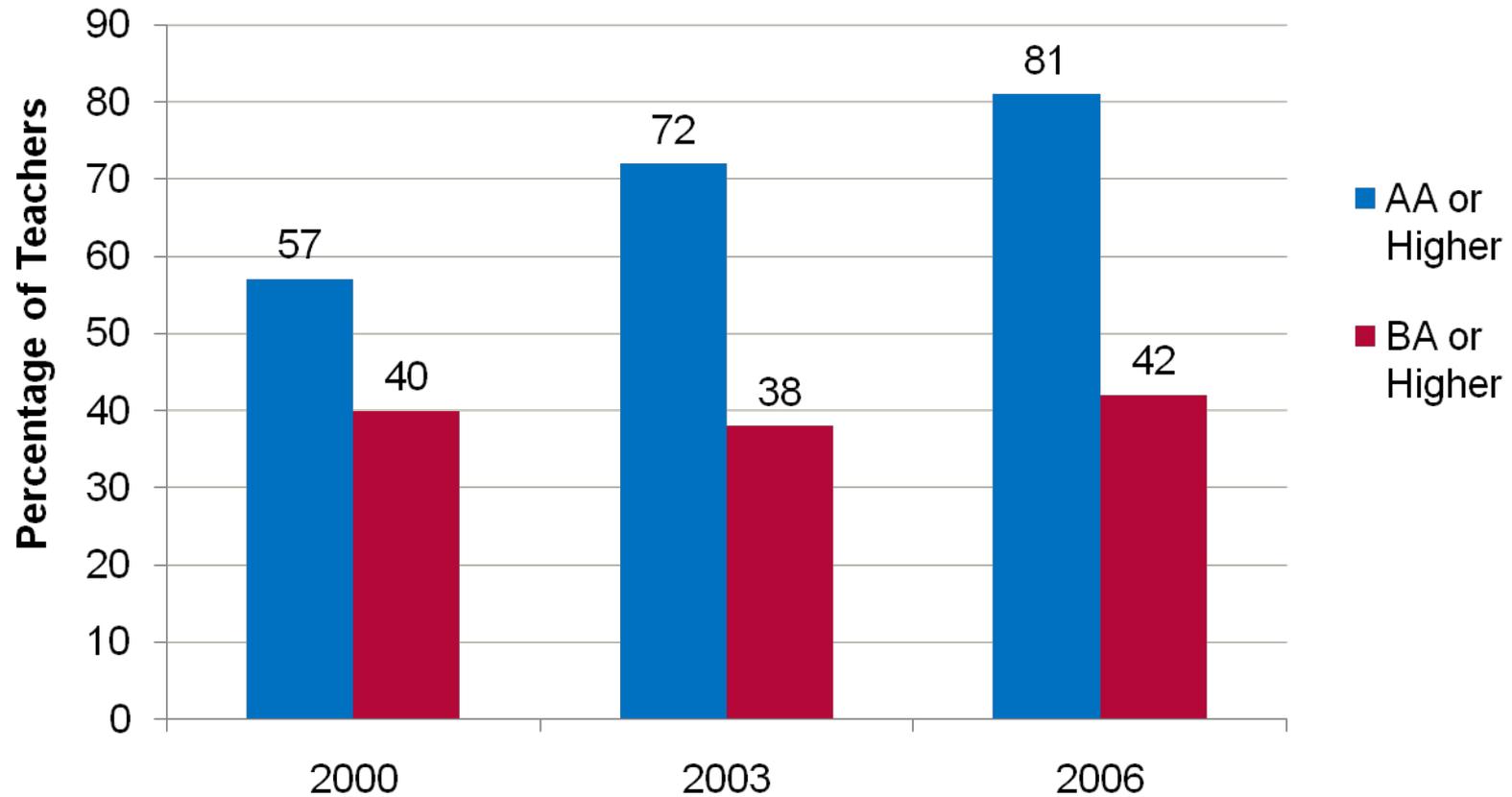


Source: FACES Spring 2007 Parent Interview

Classroom Environment



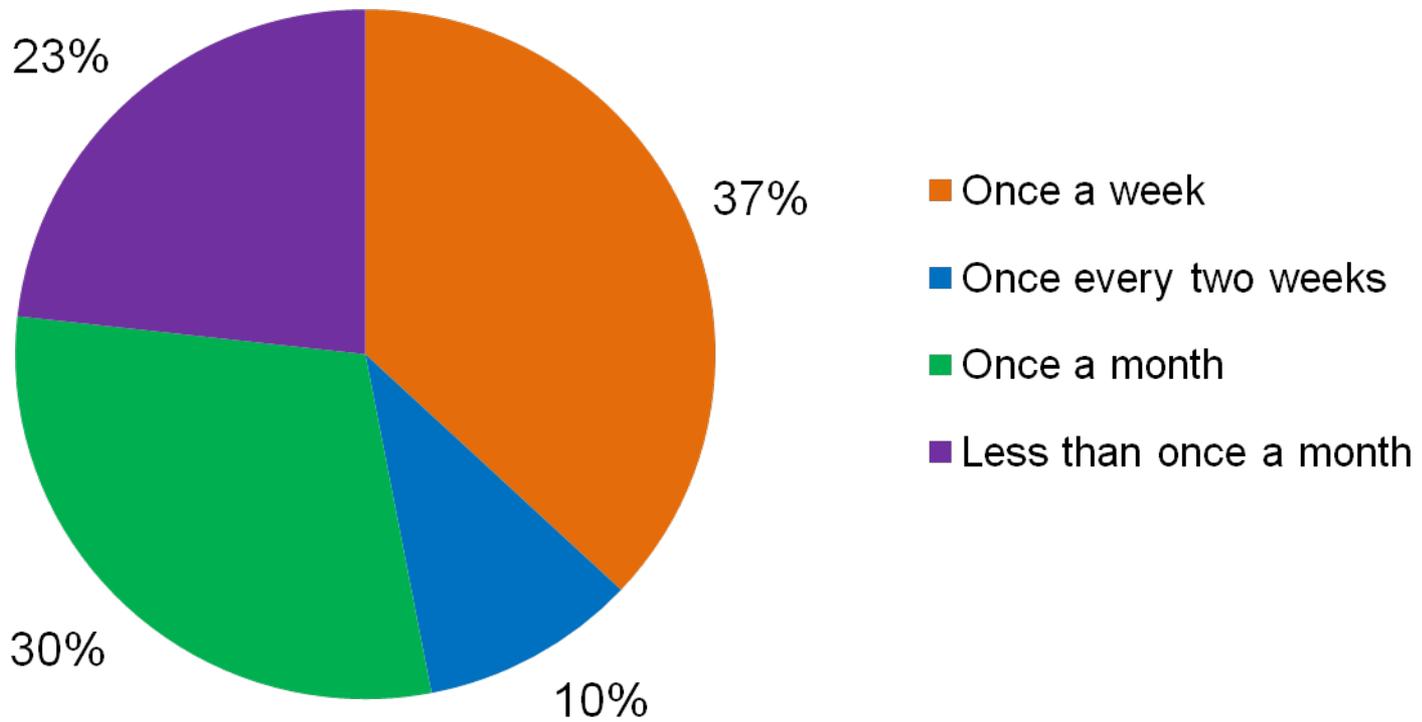
Teacher AA Degrees Increase Over Time



Source: FACES Fall 2006 Teacher Interview (and published sources)

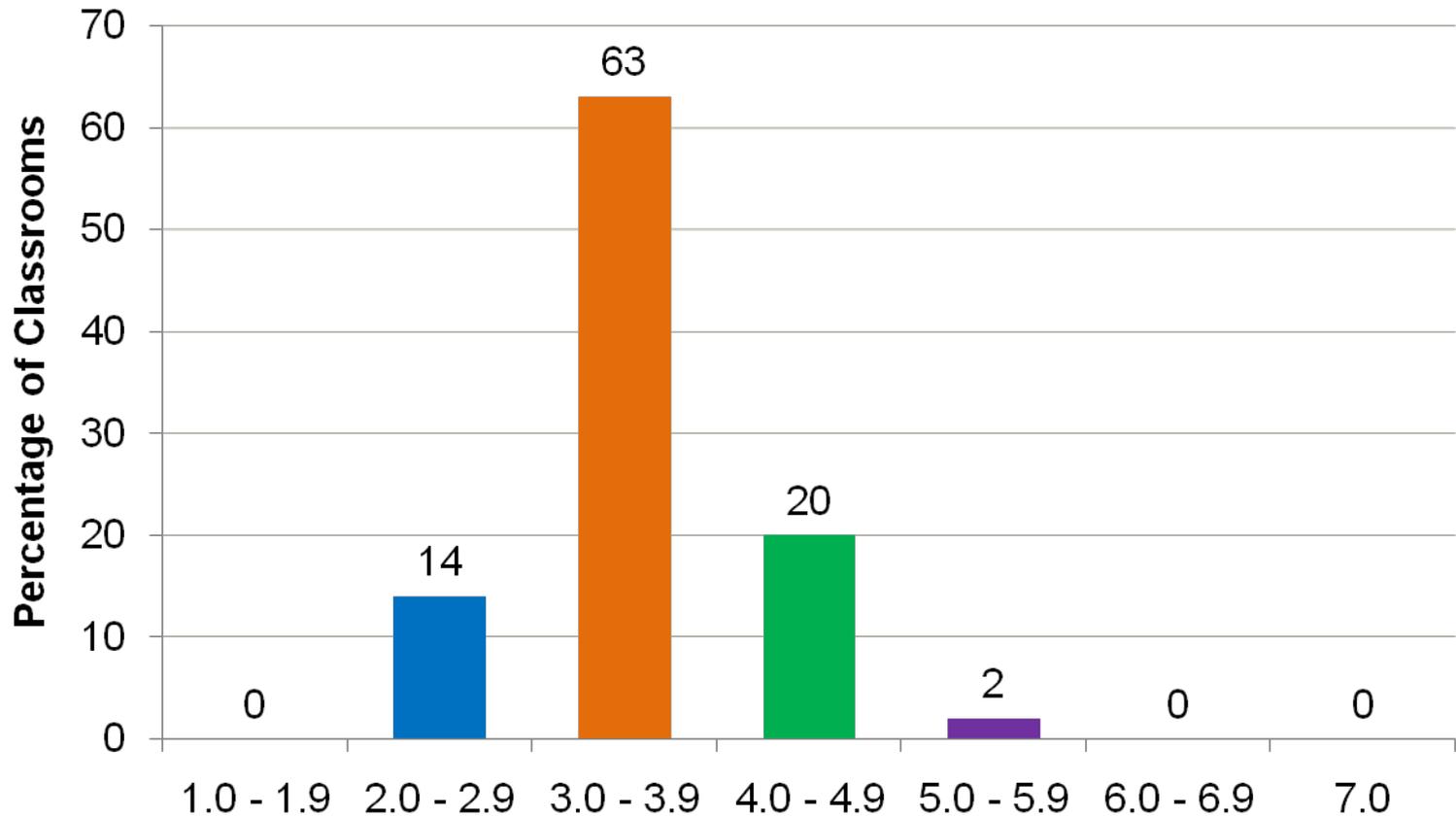
Most Teachers Have a Mentor Who Visits Their Classroom Regularly

Percentage of Teachers



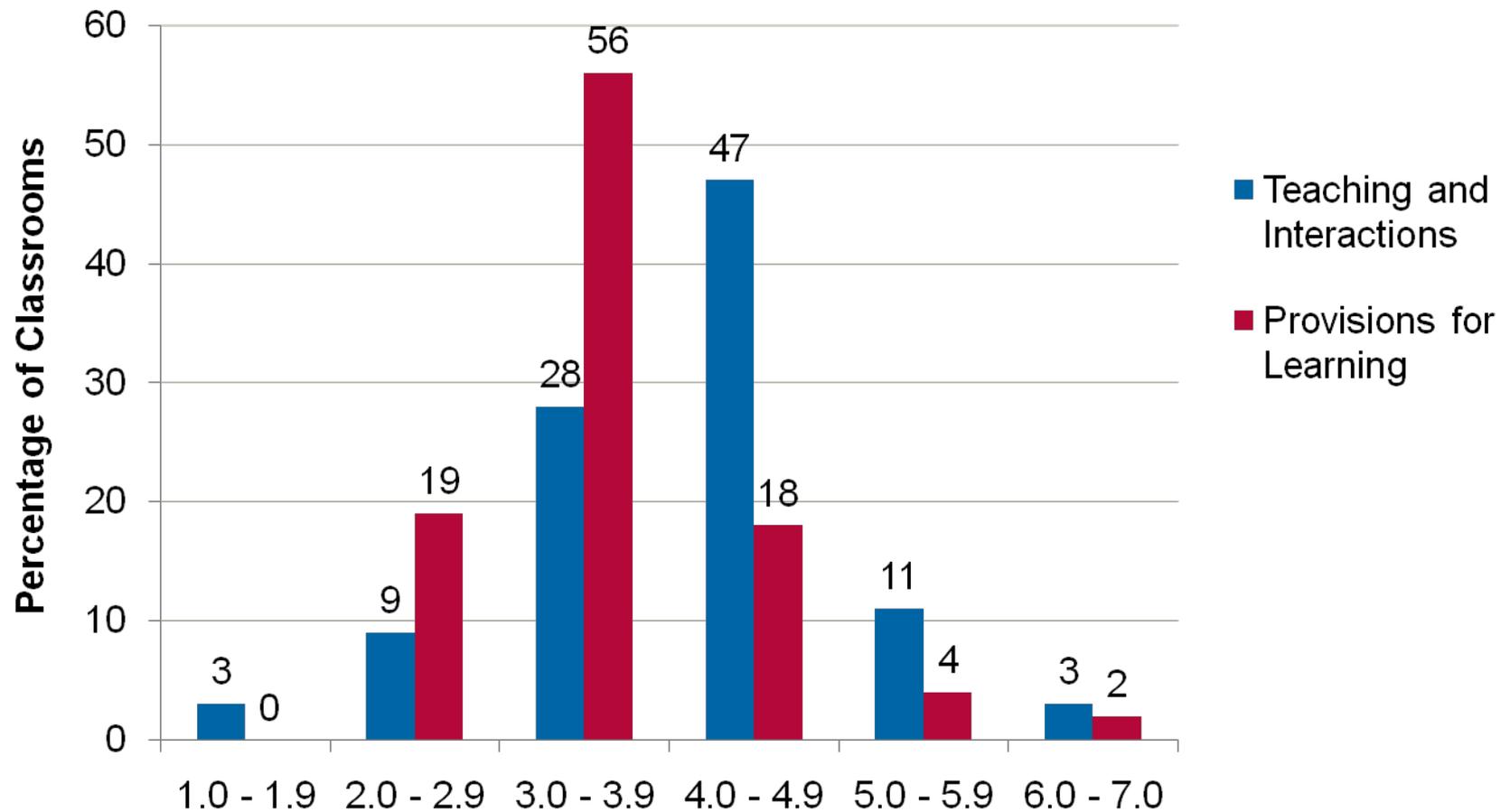
Source: FACES Spring 2007 Teacher Interview

ECERS-R Total Scores are in Adequate Range



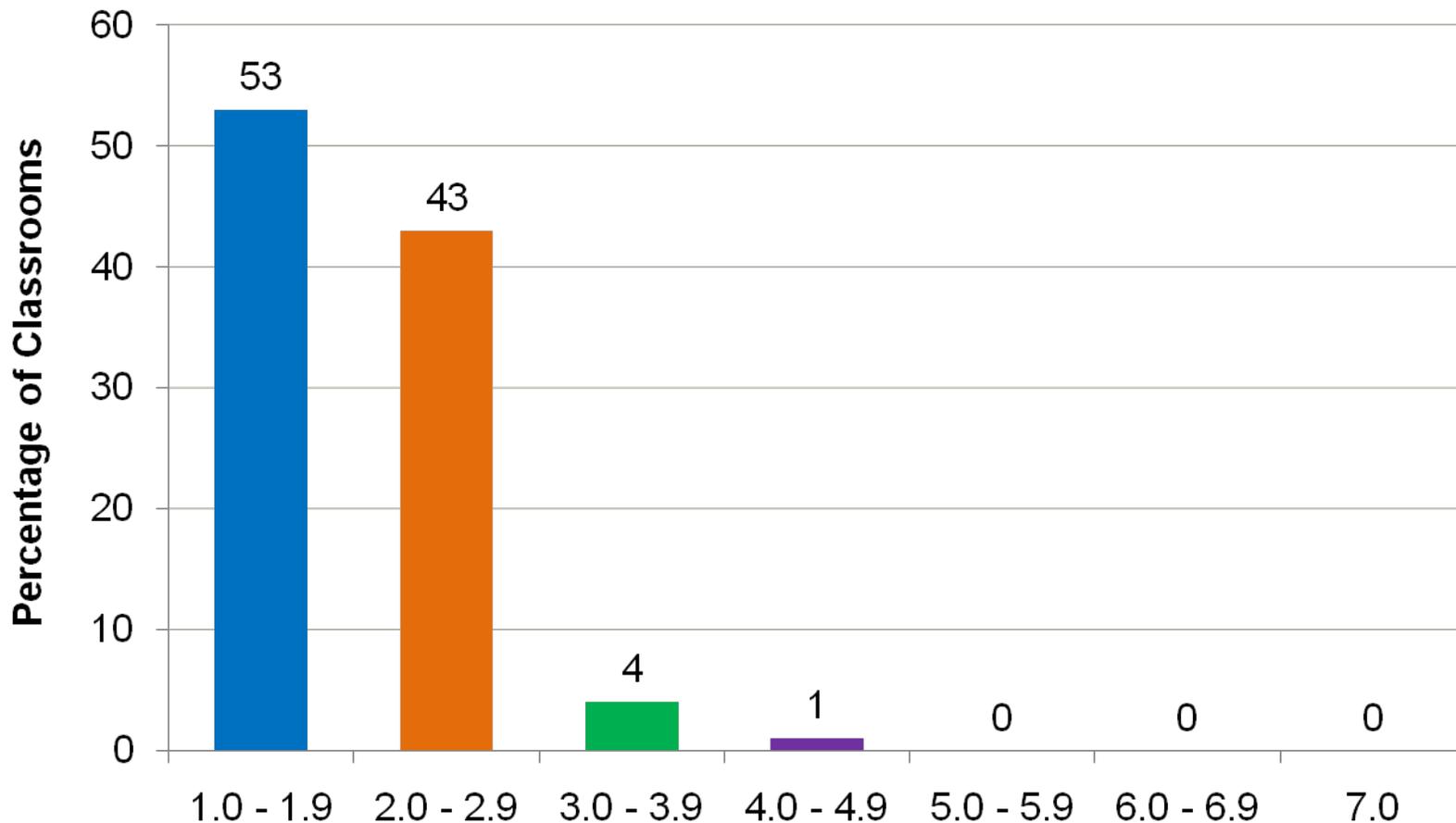
Source: FACES Spring 2007 Classroom Observation

Teaching and Interactions are Higher than Classroom Resources



Source: FACES Spring 2007 Classroom Observation

CLASS Instructional Support Scores Are at Lower End of Scale



Source: FACES Spring 2007 Classroom Observation

Summary

- **Head Start children enter with skills below national norms and make progress during and after the program**
- **Vocabulary and early math skills lag behind letter knowledge and early writing, on average**
- **Parents are engaged and satisfied with program services**
- **Classroom quality measures of intentional instruction demonstrate room for improvement**

FACES 2006 Reports*

- **Beginning Head Start: Children, Families and Programs in Fall 2006 (on OPRE website)**
- **A Year in Head Start: Children, Families and Programs (on OPRE website)**
- **A Second Year in Head Start: Characteristics and Outcomes of Children Who Entered the Program at Age Three (forthcoming)**
- **Head Start Children Go to Kindergarten (forthcoming)**

***A comprehensive set of data tables is also available with each report**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hs/faces/index.html>