



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

2007 Conference on Differential Response in Child Welfare

Parent Support Outreach Program

David Thompson: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Tony Loman; Institute of Applied Research

Child Protection & Child Welfare in Minnesota

- Minnesota screens out approximately 2/3 of all child maltreatment referrals
- Many families who are screened out have significant exposure to child maltreatment risk factors
- Minnesota has a rich array of community based services but many at-risk families lack the capacity to independently engage services
- These families could benefit from outreach and service engagement



Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) Description

- PSOP is a voluntary child welfare program offering family support services to at-risk families
- Intended to complement Minnesota's differential response to reports of child maltreatment
- Families served by county child welfare agencies or through contracts with community based social service providers



Eligibility Criteria

- Families not currently active with child protection or child welfare services
- Families with at least one child age ten or under who are identified as follows:
 - Reports screened out of CPS
 - Self referrals of child welfare concerns
 - Community referrals of child welfare concerns



Pilot Conditions

- 38 Minnesota counties participating
- 5000 families to be served over the life of the pilot
- Pilot time frame 4/1/05 thru 12/31/08
- Pilot counties receive \$1000 per family service grants
- Funded in part by a McKnight Foundation grant



Program Purpose

- Test the impact of early intervention services on outcomes for at-risk families
- Develop systems of engagement and service system infrastructure for families not traditionally served by the child welfare system
- Connect at-risk families with enduring supports within their communities



Service Categories

- Case management services
- Basic needs (food, clothing, shelter etc.)
- Parenting education
- Family and crisis counseling
- Child development services
- Child care
- Treatment screening and referral
- Other services as identified by family



Service Delivery

- Eligible families offered participation in the program by the county
- Families accepting services complete a strength and needs assessment & child well-being assessment
- Family and county or contracted community social worker develop a service plan
- Provide planned services
- Check in with families 6 months after service closing

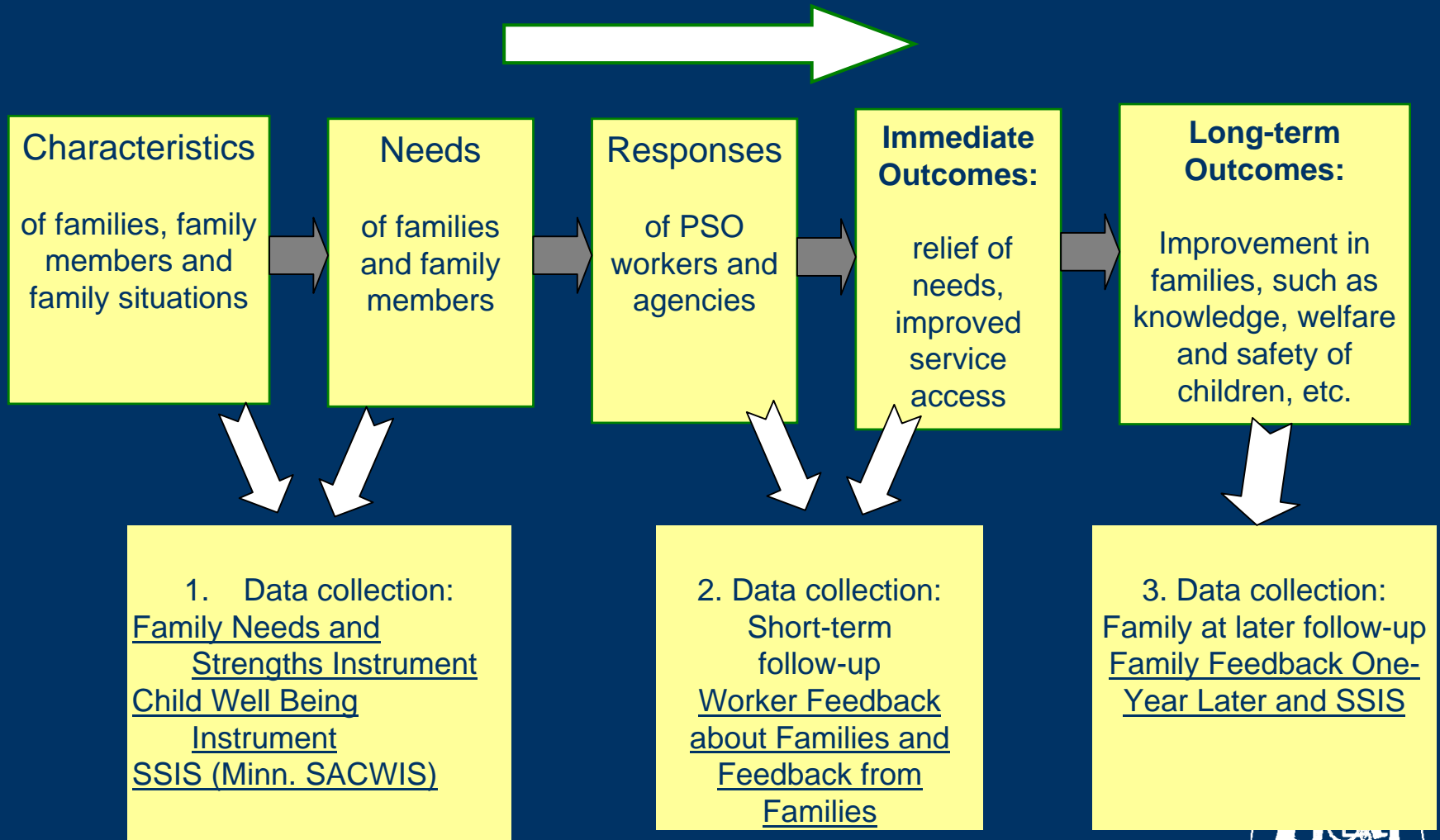


Service Provider Feedback

- Many families have service needs that meet or exceed those found in open child protection cases
- Engagement requires active efforts by service providers
- Length of service expectation has to be adjusted upward for these families
- Average cost of service delivery is higher (50%) than funding allocated
- Several case vignettes



PSOP Research Design Logic Model



Program Utilization and Data Sources

- As of August 31, 2007
- 5,123 families had been offered PSOP services.
- 2,099 (41%) had accepted the offer.

The number of cases was slightly larger than the number of families because some families had two separate PSOP cases.



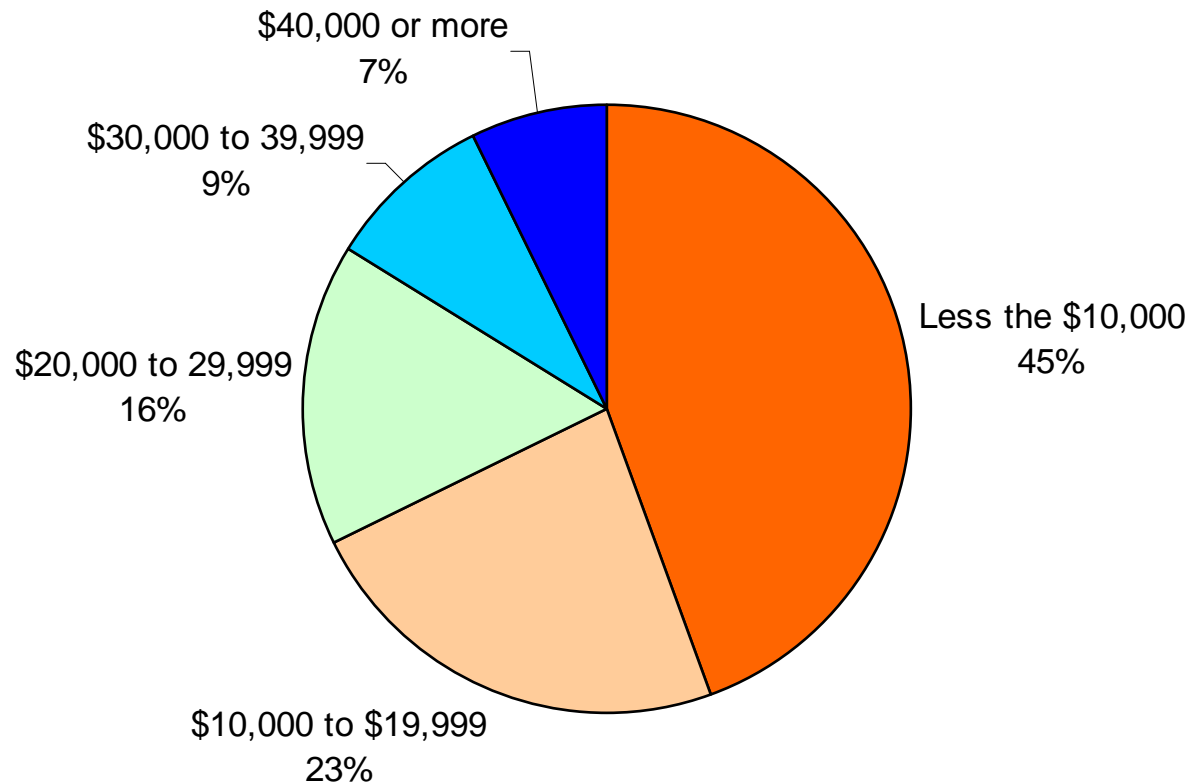
Some Characteristics of Families

- 55.6% were female-headed families without a husband or boyfriend,
- 46.4% were mother-only families with no other adult present.
- Families averaged 2.3 children each.
- Average Age of Children 5.7 years
- Percent Age 5 & under 57%

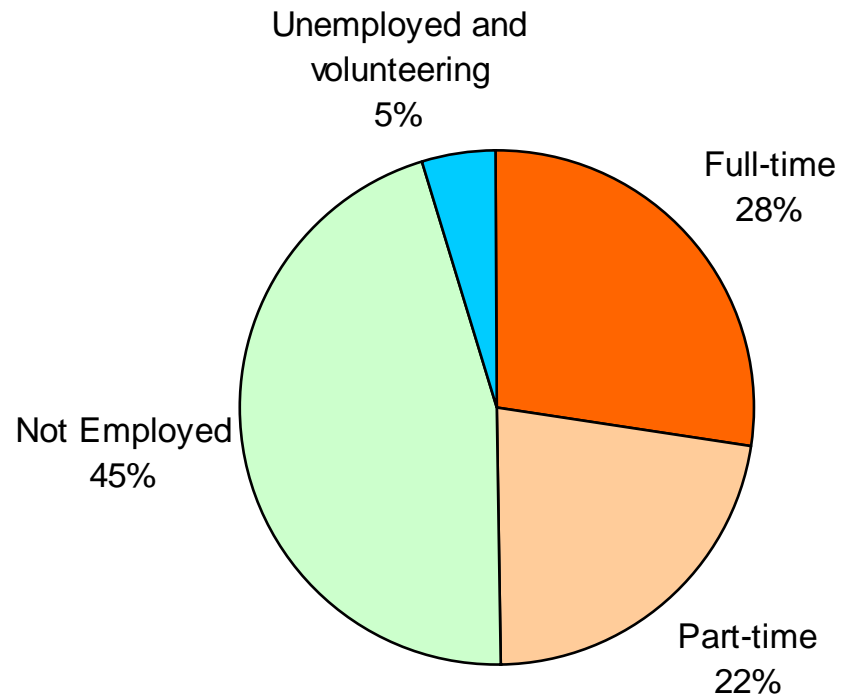
Mother-only families had no other adult in the home, but female-headed families may have had another adult, such as the mother's parent or sibling.



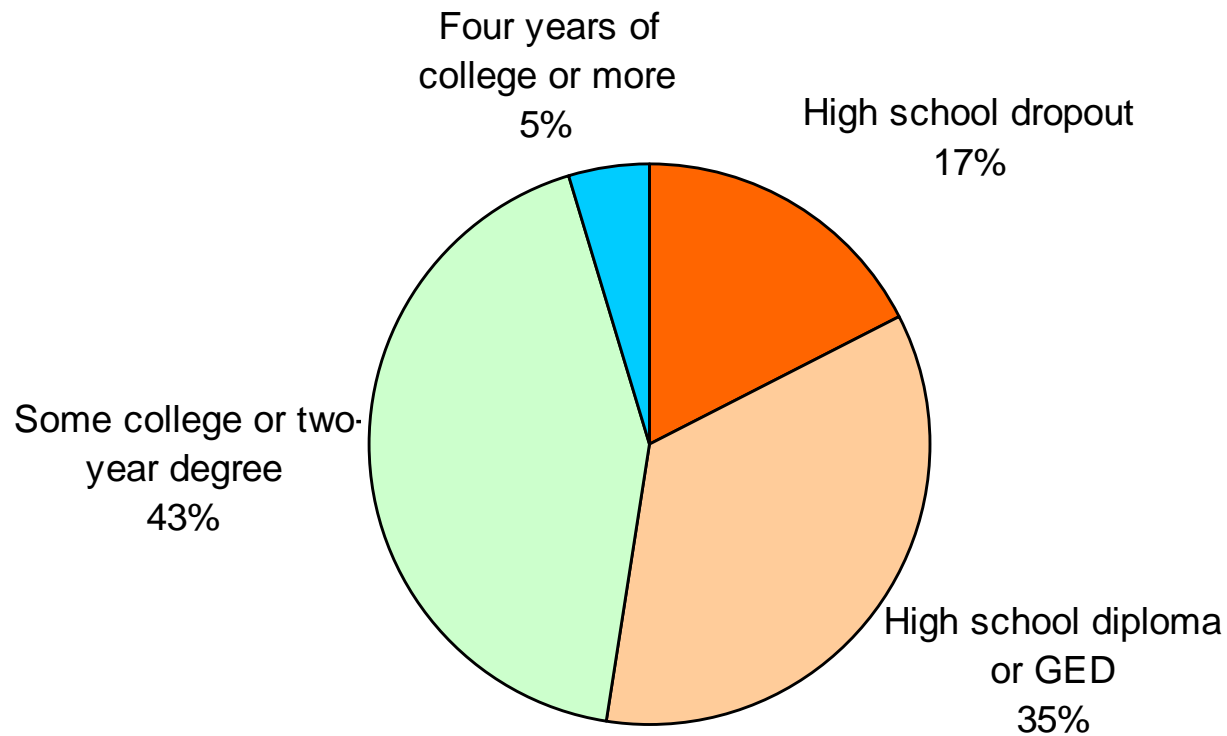
Total Household Income of PSOP Families in Last Year (as of 8/31/07)



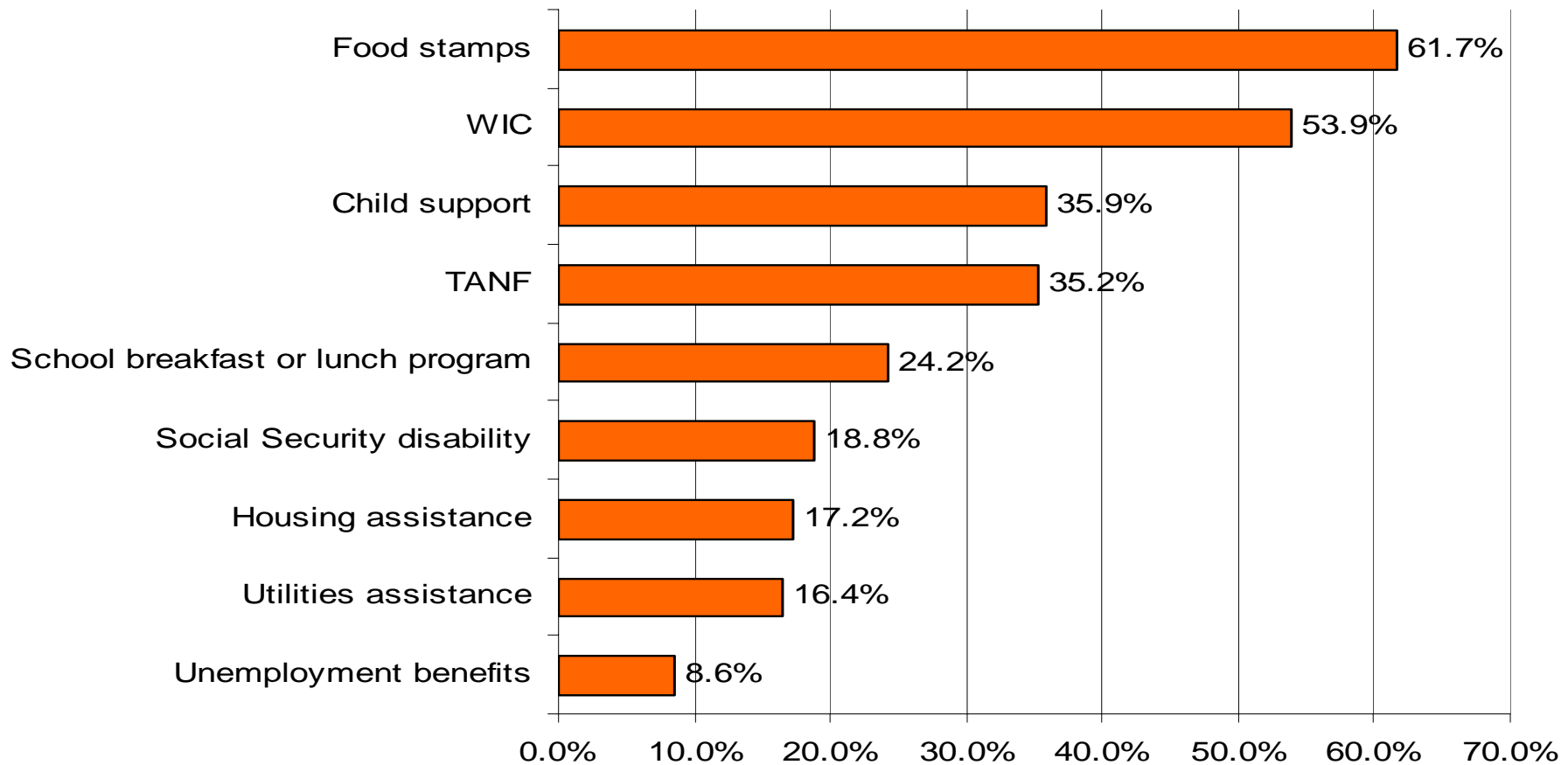
Current Employment Situation of PSOP Household Head



Highest Education Level of PSOP Household Head



Types of Public Assistance Received during the Past 12 Months



Based on worker reports in the SDM Family Needs and Strengths (FNS) instrument and the Extended Family Assessment (EFA), an data collection tool created by evaluators.

Strengths and Needs of Families Accepting PSOP Services-1

FNS (n=820) and EFA (n=828)

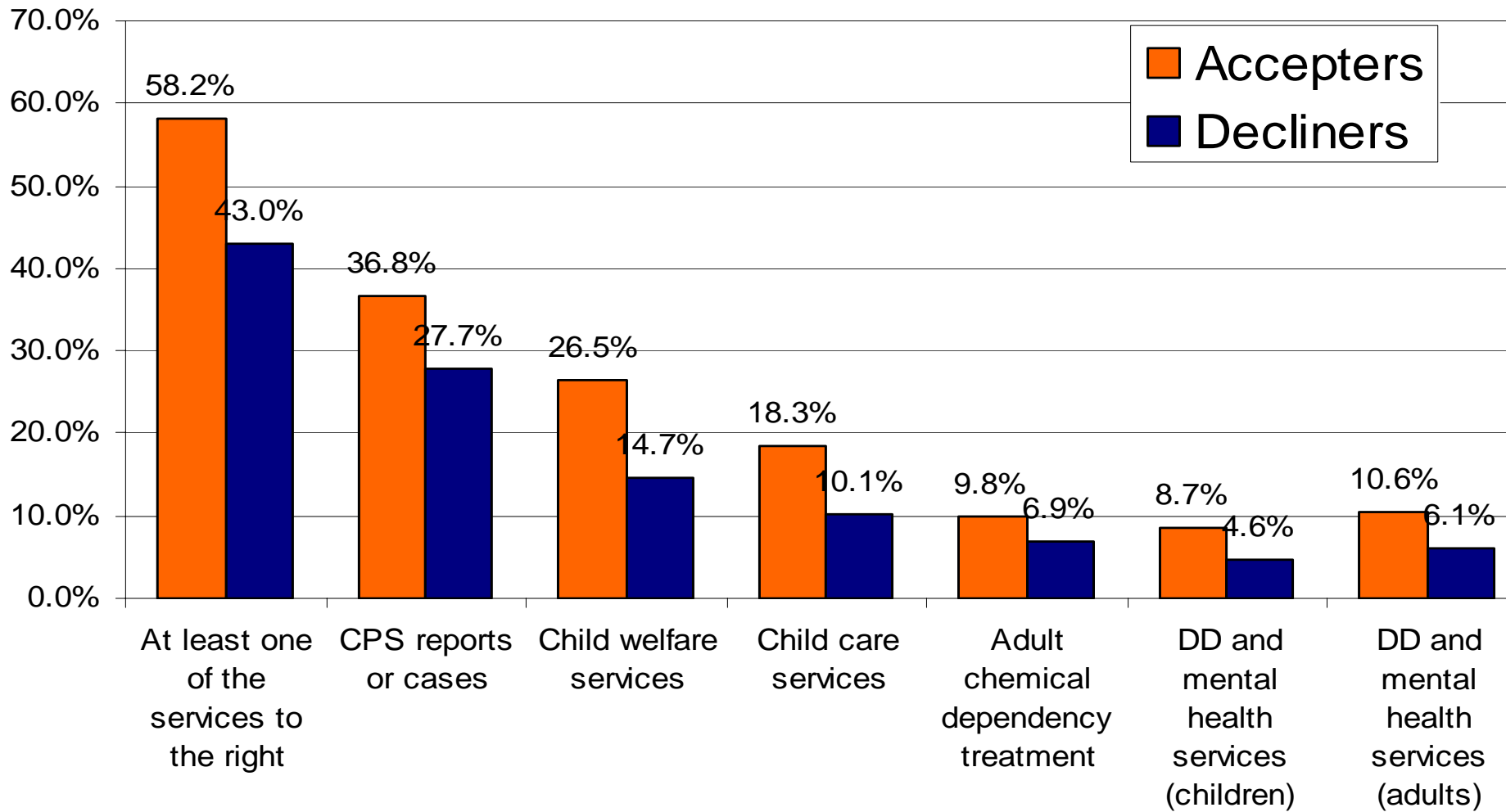
Emotional/Mental Health	<i>Demonstrates good coping skills</i>	8.5%
	No Known diagnosed mental health problems	49.6%
	Minor or moderate diagnosed mental health problems	33.5%
	Chronic or severe diagnosed mental health problems	8.3%
Parenting Skills	<i>Good parenting skills</i>	20.4%
	Minor difficulties in parenting skills	52.8%
	Moderate difficulties in parenting skills	24.8%
	Destructive parenting patterns	2.1%
Substance Use	No/some substance use	84.9%
	Moderate substance use problems	9.7%
	Serious substance use problems	5.4%
Specific substances (EFA)	Adult alcohol abuse - moderate	11.1%
	Adult alcohol abuse – severe	3.9%
	Adult methamphetamine abuse – moderate	1.4%
	Adult methamphetamine abuse – severe	1.1%
	Adult other substance abuse – moderate	5.8%
	Adult other substance abuse - severe	1.7%
Housing /Environment /Basic Physical Needs	<i>Adequate basic needs</i>	33.9%
	Some problems, but correctable	50.1%
	Serious problems, not corrected	13.7%
	Chronic basic needs deficiency	2.3%
Family Income (EFA)	Inadequate income/poverty – moderate	48.9%
	Inadequate income/poverty – severe	15.1%
Family Relationships	<i>Supportive relationships</i>	19.3%
	Occasional problematic relationship(s)	49.4%
	Domestic discord	23.3%
	Serious domestic discord/domestic violence	8.0%
Child Characteristics	Age-appropriate, no problems	37.8%
	Minor problems	39.8%
	One child has severe/chronic problems	18.2%
	Children have severe/chronic problems	4.3%
Social Support Systems	<i>Strong support network</i>	10.4%
	Adequate support network	42.2%
	Limited support network	43.7%
	No support or destructive relationships	3.7%

Strengths and Needs of Families Accepting PSOP Services-2

FNS (n=820) and EFA (n=828)

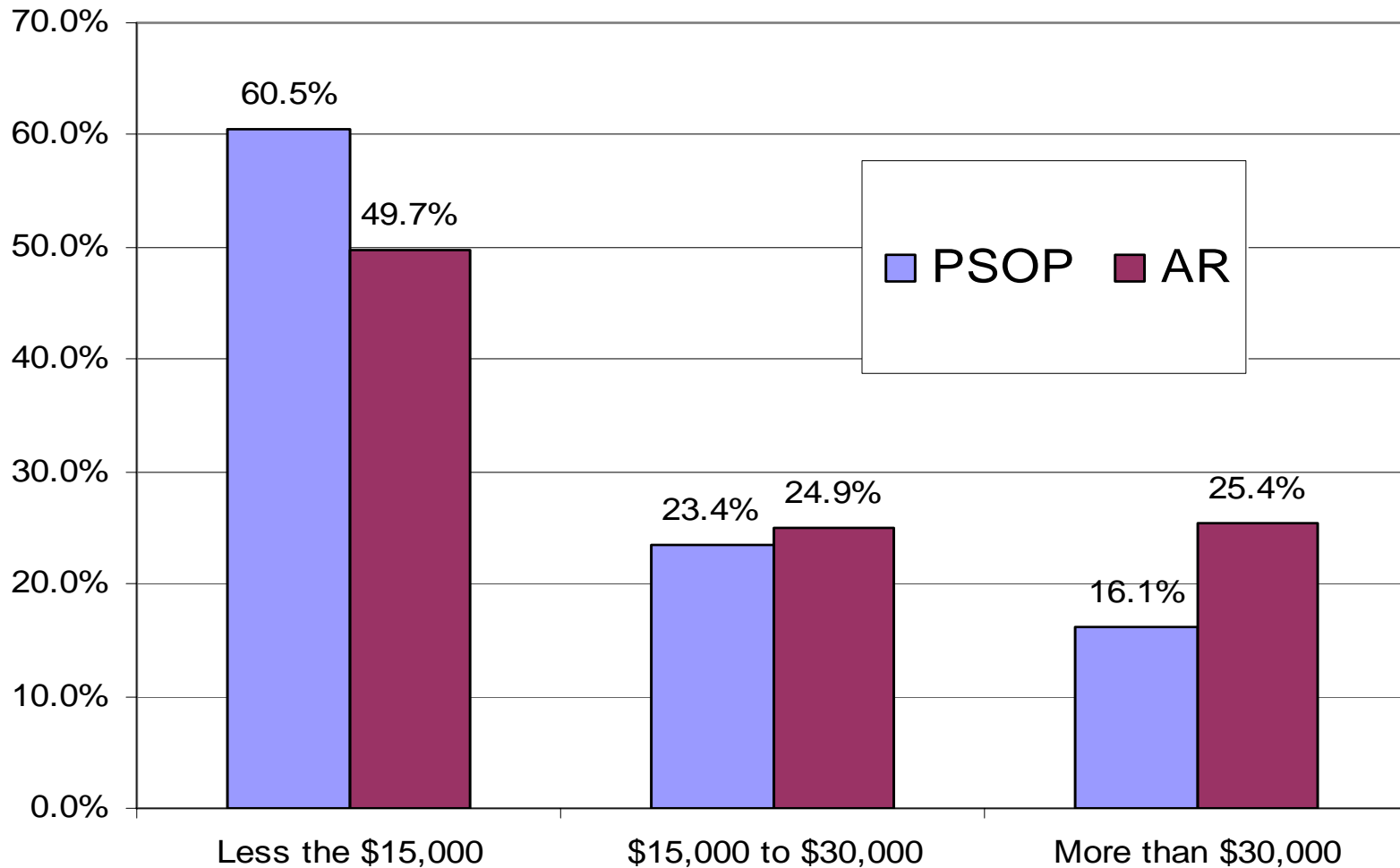
Caregiver(s) Abuse/Neglect History	No evidence of problem	69.7%
	Caregiver(s) abused/neglected as a child	20.7%
	Caregiver(s) in foster care as a child	7.7%
	Caregivers(s) perpetrator of abuse/neglect in the last 5 years	2.4%
Communication/ Interpersonal Skills	<i>Strong skills</i>	13.9%
	Appropriate skills	60.7%
	Limited or ineffective skills	23.7%
	Hostile/destructive	1.7%
Caregiver(s) Life Skills	<i>Good life skills</i>	16.1%
	Adequate life skills	54.8%
	Poor life skills	27.3%
	Severely deficient life skills	1.8%
Physical Health	No adverse health problem	80.0%
	Health problem or disability	16.7%
	Serious health problem or disability	3.3%
Disability, Mental Retardation or Chronic Health Condition (EFA)	Adult disability/MR – moderate	7.6%
	Adult disability/MR – severe	1.6%
	Child disability/MR – moderate	7.5%
	Child disability/MR – severe	2.8%
	Adult chronic physical condition - moderate	9.8%
	Adult chronic physical condition - severe	3.6%
	Adult chronic emotional condition - moderate	23.6%
	Adult chronic emotional condition - severe	8.5%
Employment/Income Management	<i>Employed</i>	32.1%
	<i>No Need for employment</i>	12.8%
	Underemployed	20.6%
	Unemployed	34.5%
Community Resource Utilization	<i>Seeks out and utilizes resources</i>	23.5%
	Utilizes resources	51.2%
	Resource utilization problems	23.7%
	Refusal to utilize resources	1.6%

Prior Contact with Service Systems of PSOP Accepters and Decliners (SSIS)



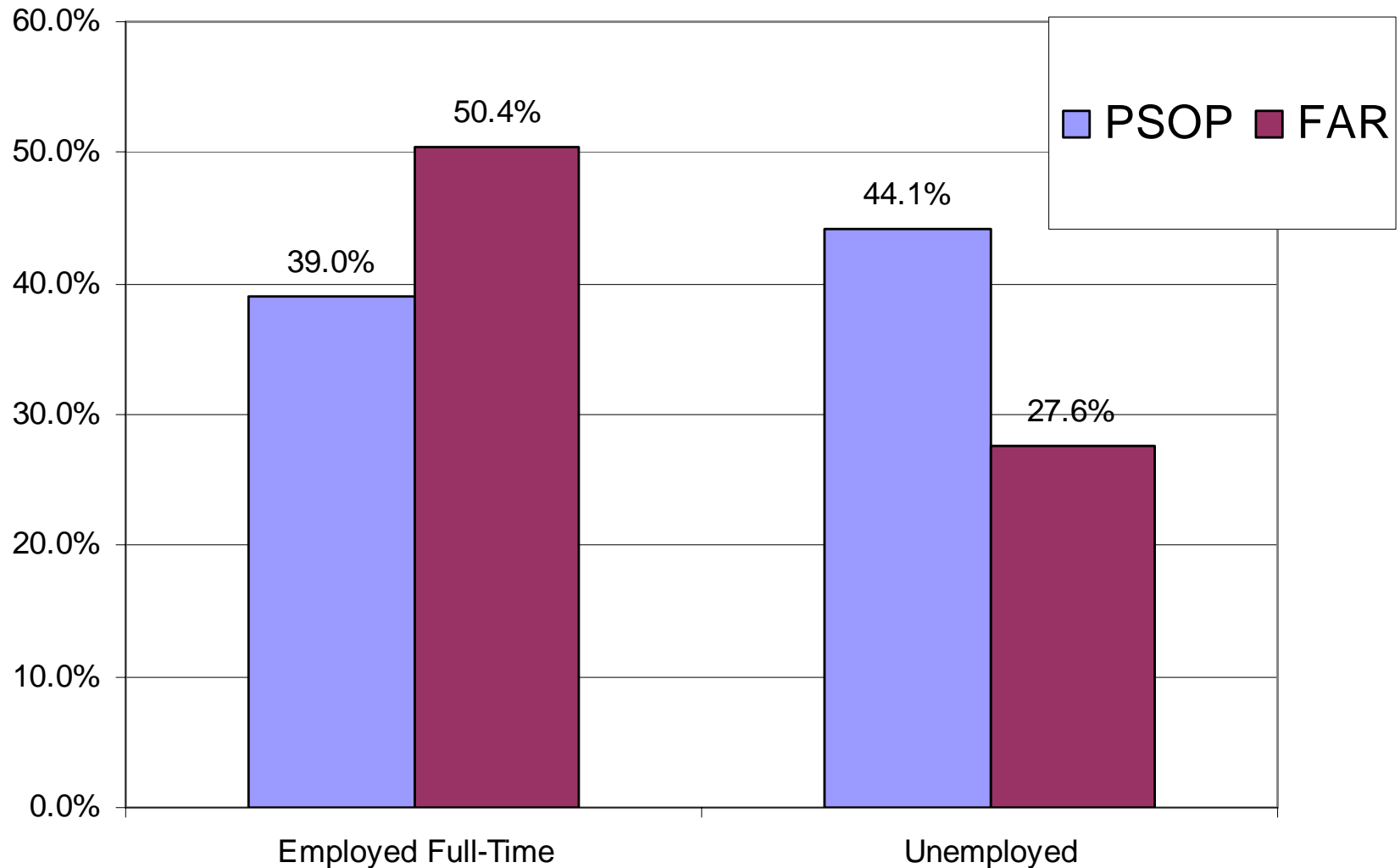
PSO families vs FAR families

Annual Income



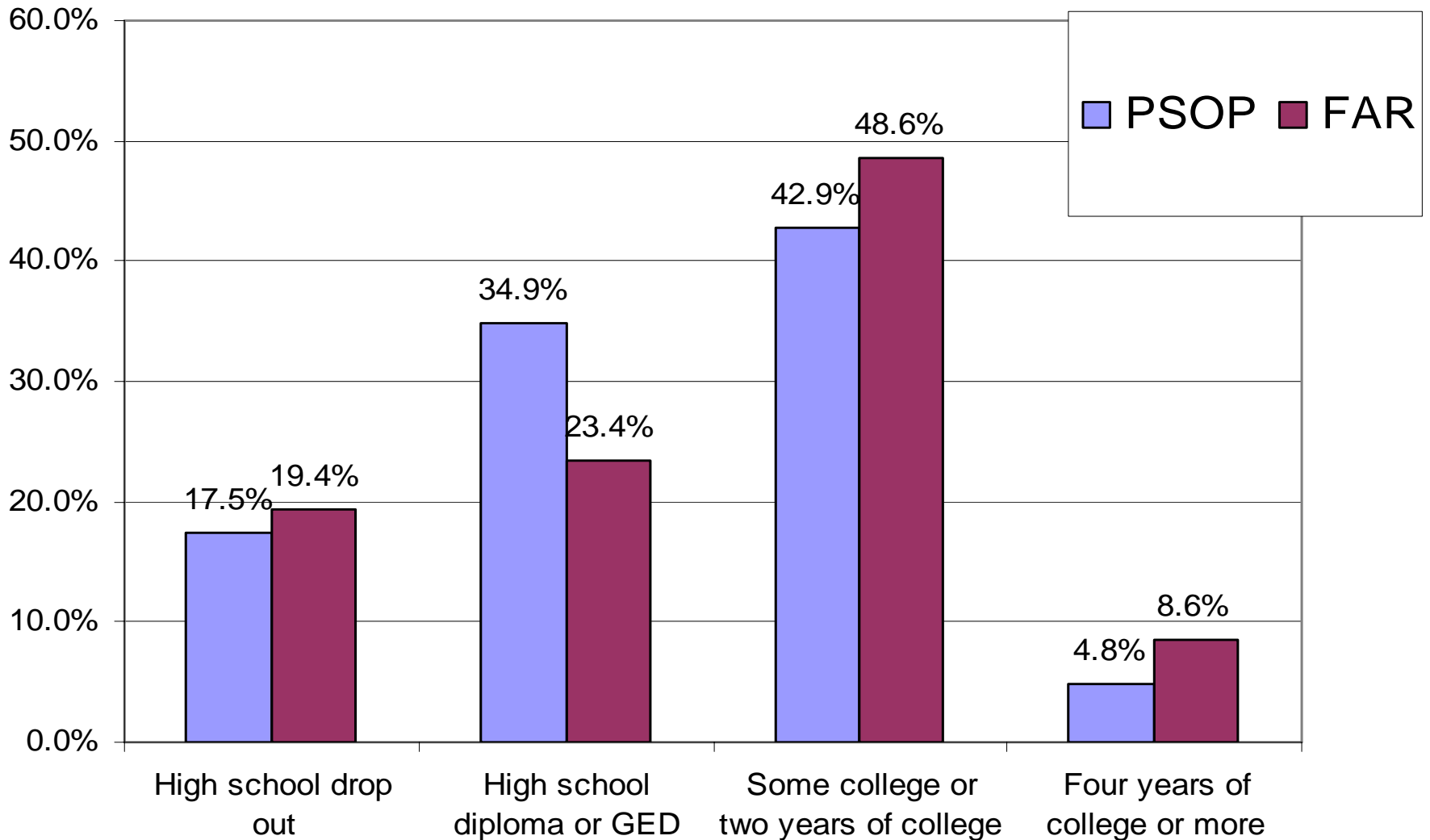
PSO families vs FAR families

Employment Situation of Household Head

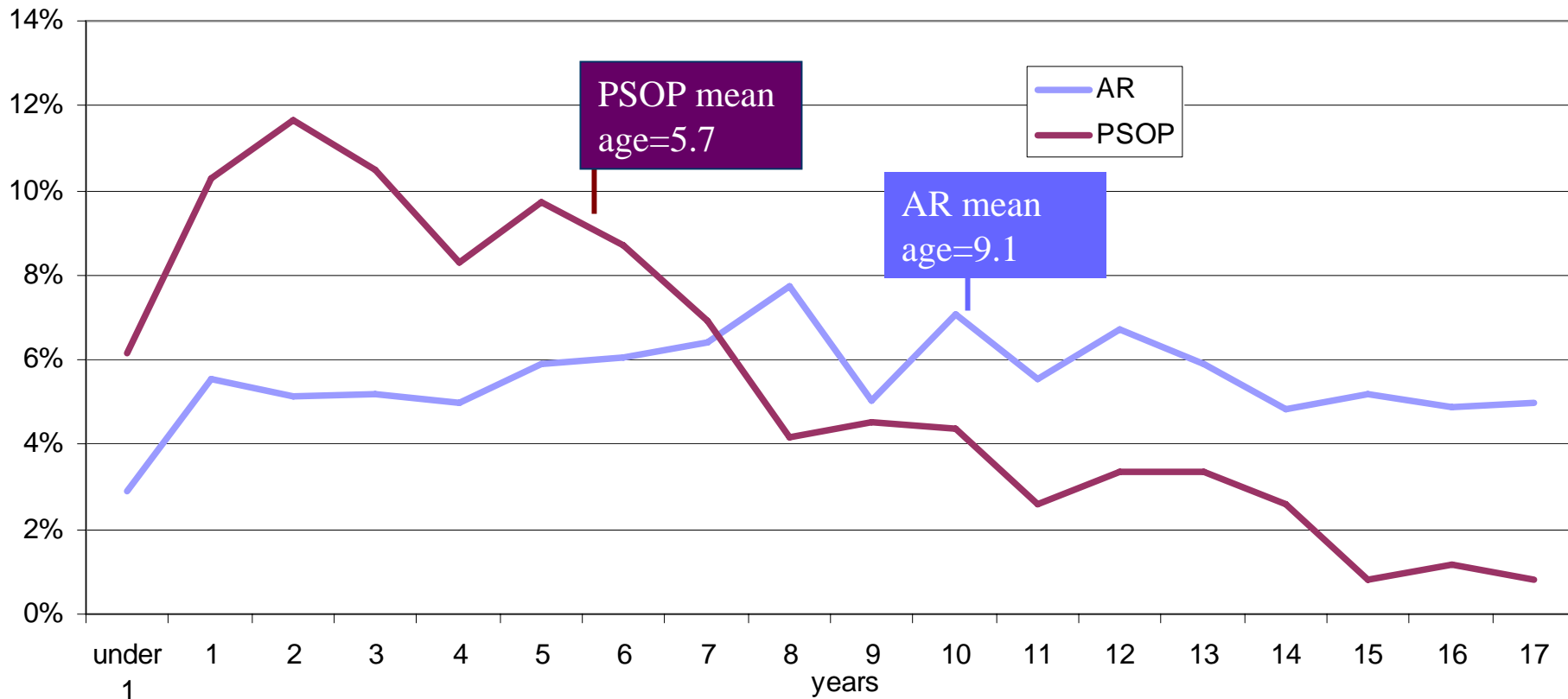


PSOP families vs FAR families

Level of Education



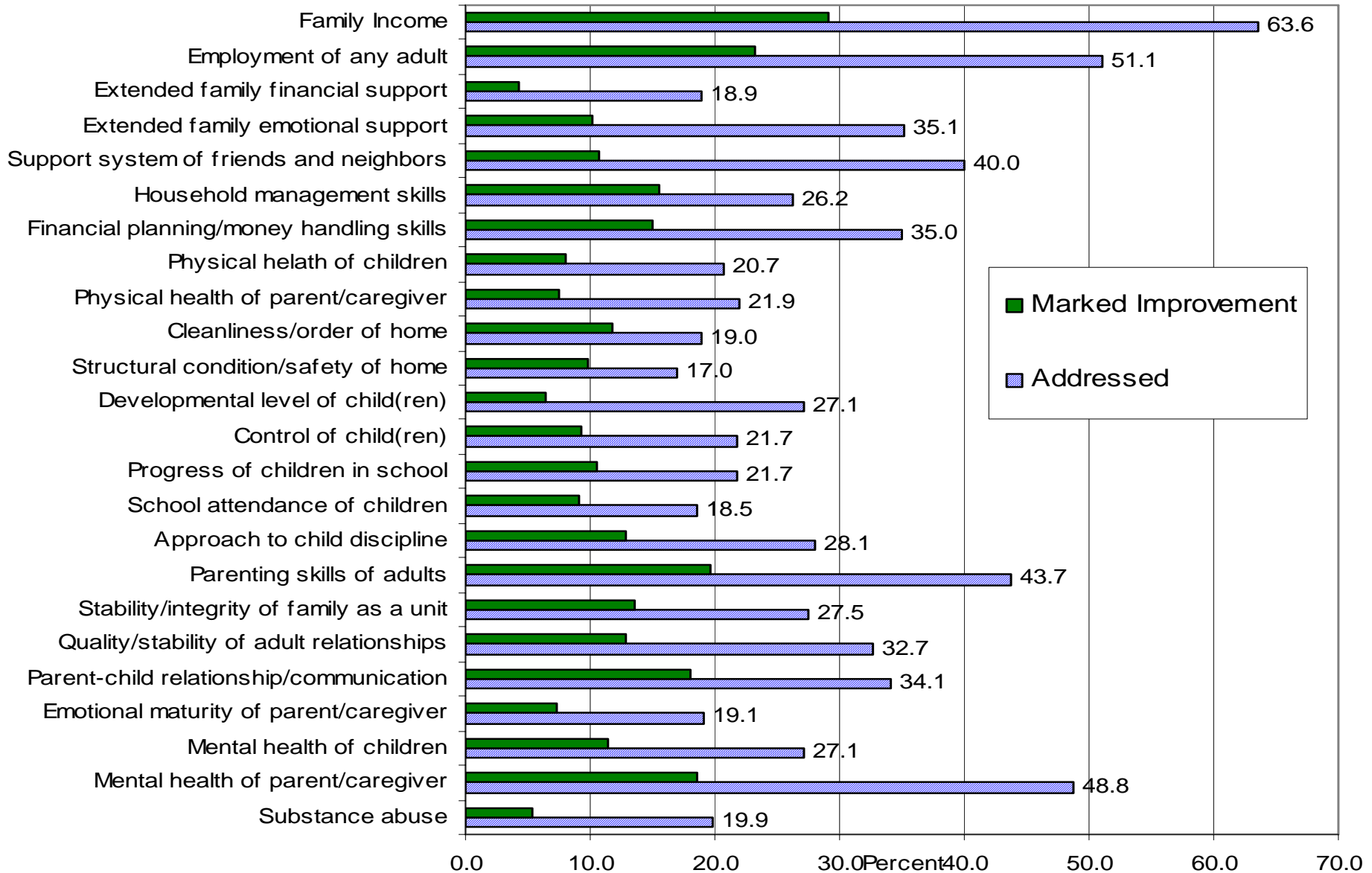
Age of PSOP and AR Children



Mean number of children under 18: AR=2.2 PSOP=2.3



Issues Addressed and in Which There was Marked Improvement while the Case was Open (EFA, n=828)



Overall Improvement from the Perspective of Families and Workers

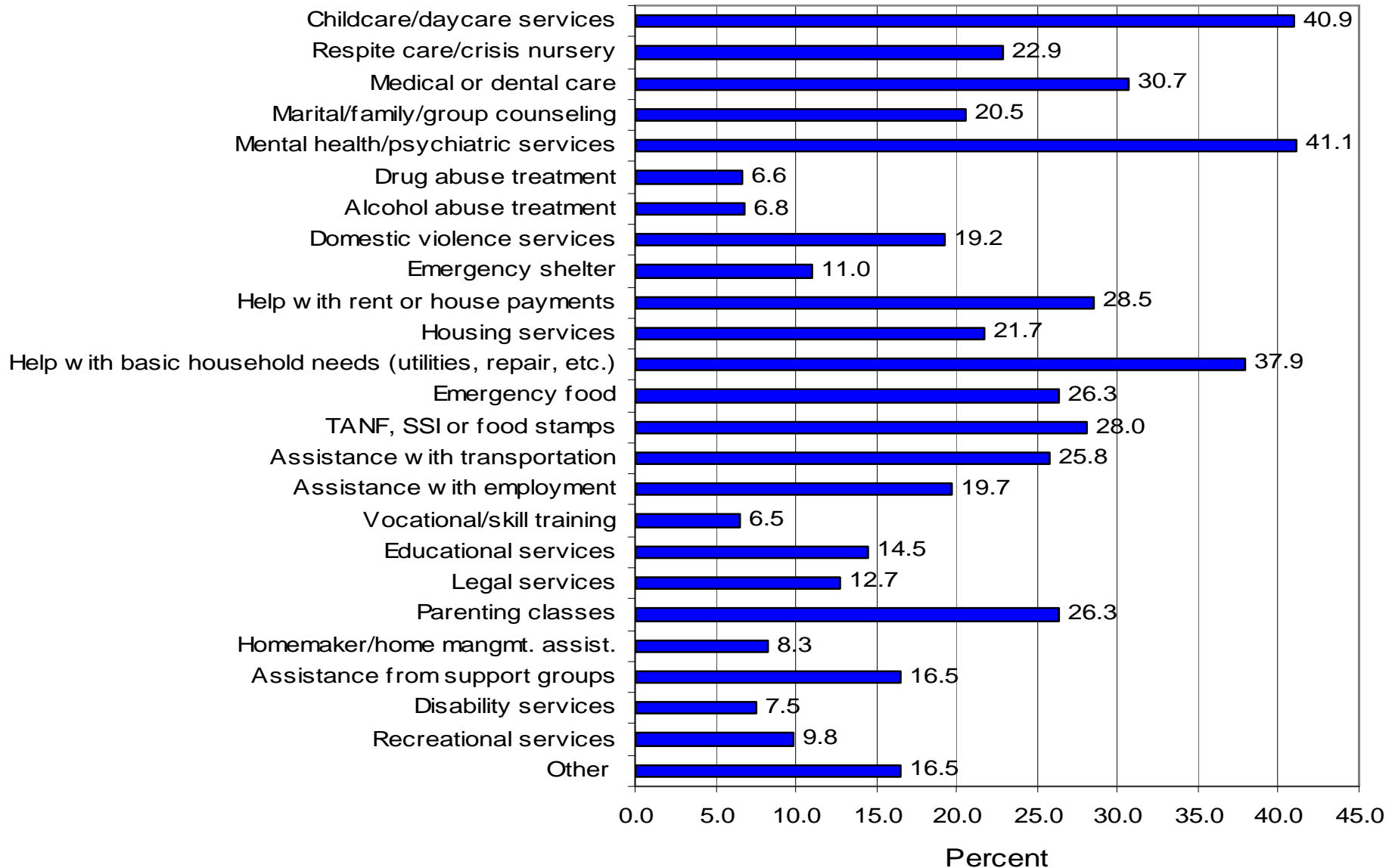
Workers indicated that at least one issue or problem in the preceding list had improved for 68.2% of families that accepted services.

From the family survey, 36.4% of family caregivers reported that their families were somewhat better off and 40.5% reported that they were much better off.

Total positive response of families regarding improvements was 76.9%.



Services with Any Participation by Families (Worker Reports)



Appropriateness of Services from the Worker and Family Perspectives

Workers indicated that services in cases where services were provided were:

Well matched for 47.7% percent of families served.

Adequately matched to service needs for 45.9%.

Total positive response: 93.6% adequately or well matched.

In 6.4% of cases services were poorly or very poorly matched.

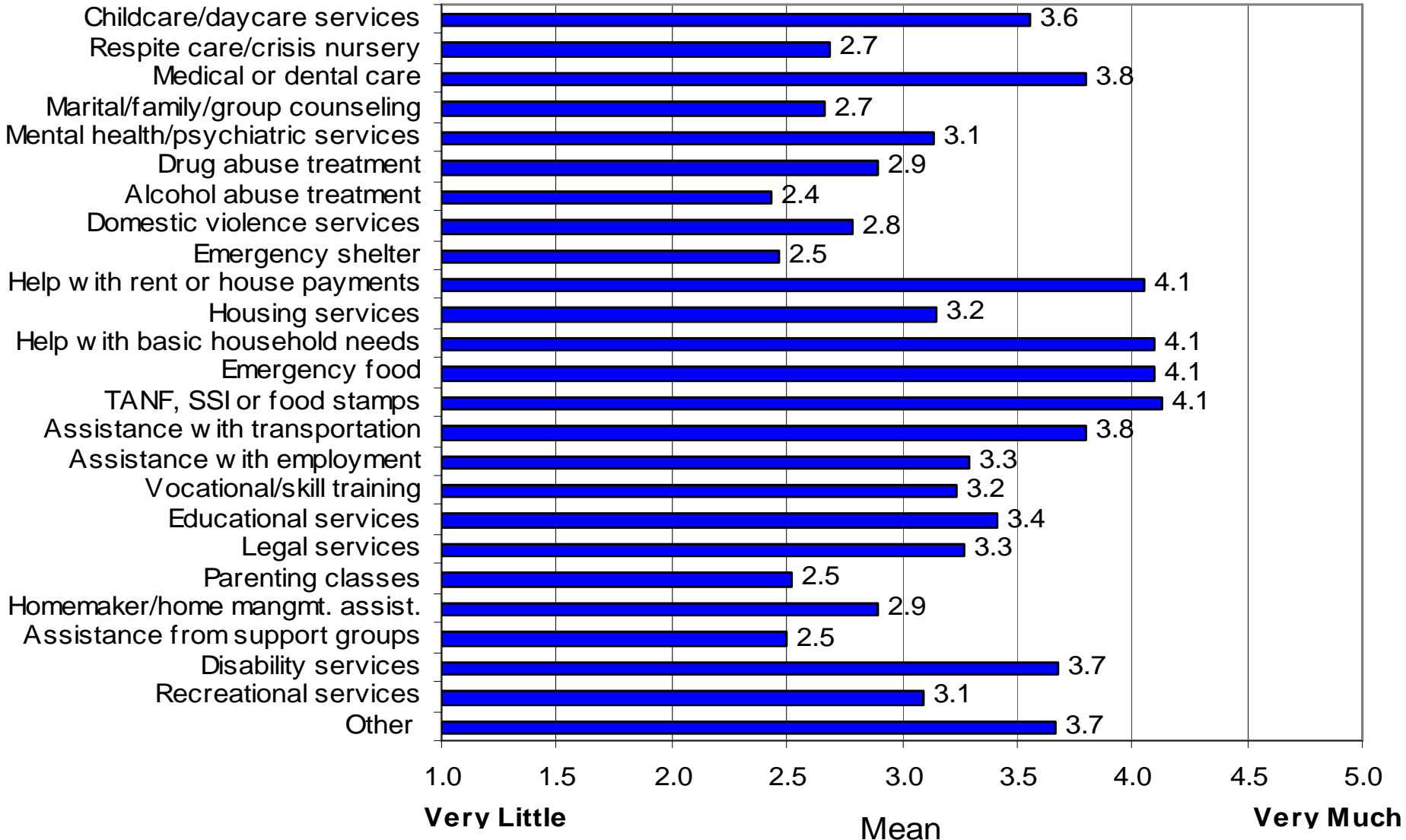
Responding families that received services:

90.0% reported that the help or services received were generally the kind they needed.

10.0% said they generally were not.



Mean Level of Participation in Services by Families* (Worker Ratings on a Scale: 1 to 5)



* Limited to families to whom a service was provided

Constellations of Services Provided

Poverty-related services

- Primarily rent, household needs, emergency food and public assistance but also with stronger loadings on medical, educational/job-related services and childcare

Drug/Alcohol abuse treatment services

- Primarily these but also including mental health/psychiatric services and parenting classes and negatively related to poverty measures

Domestic Violence/Family Discord services

- Primarily domestic violence services, marital/family/group counseling, emergency shelter and assistance from support groups and negative loadings on help with public assistance, assistance with employment and medical/dental services

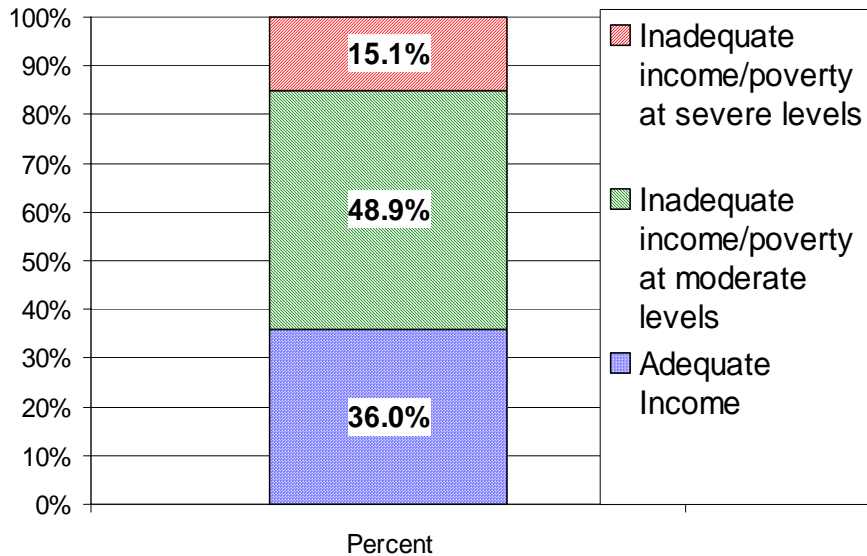
Disability/Educational Services

- Primarily disability services, educational services and homemaker/home management assistance with negative loadings on childcare, respite care, and alcohol/drug abuse treatment

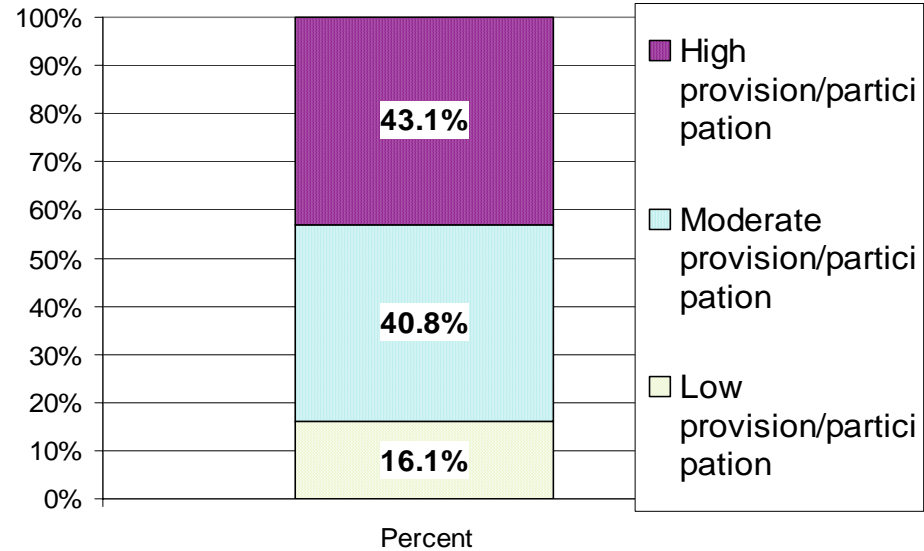


Poverty-Related Services to Impoverished Families

Income Levels

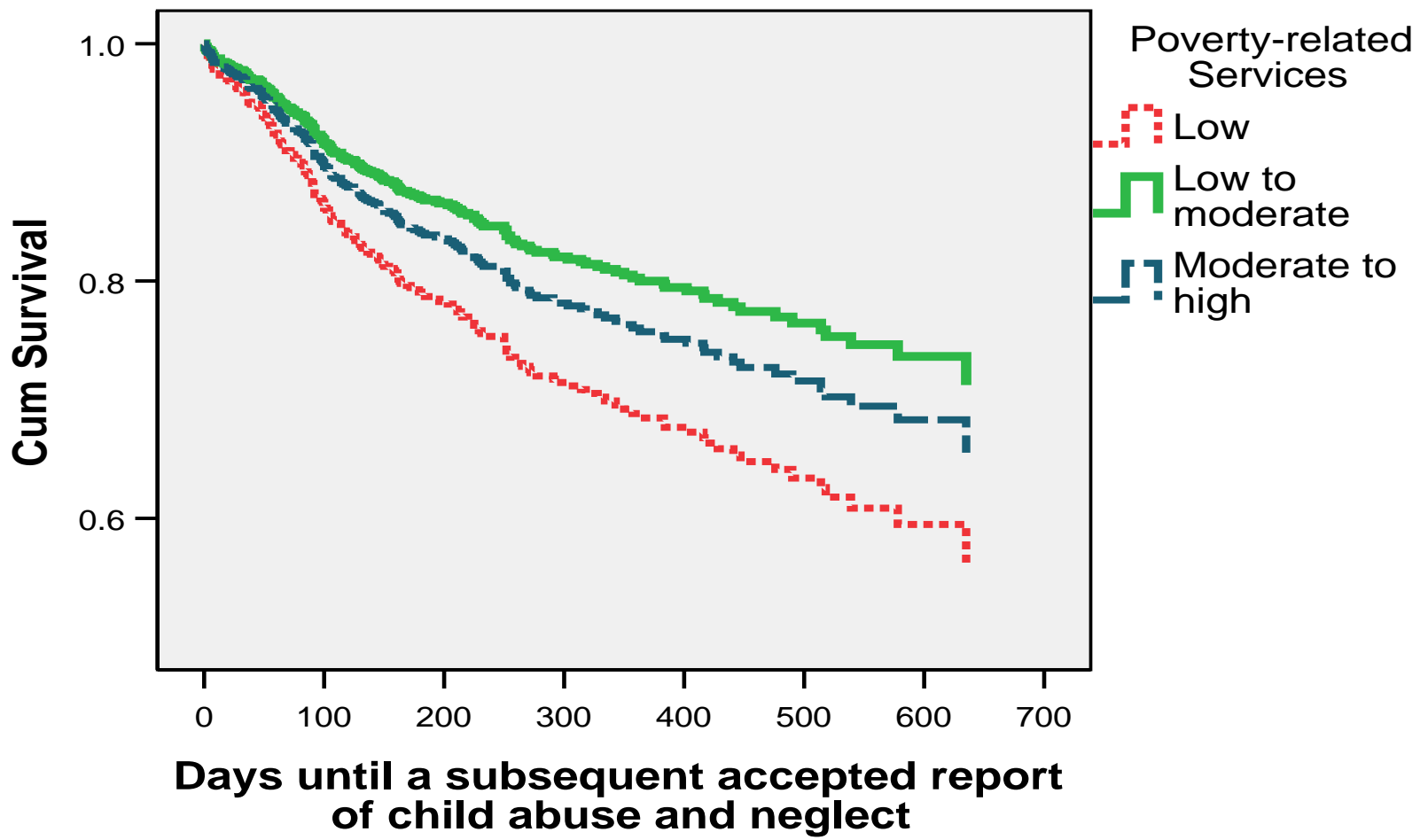


Poverty-related Services



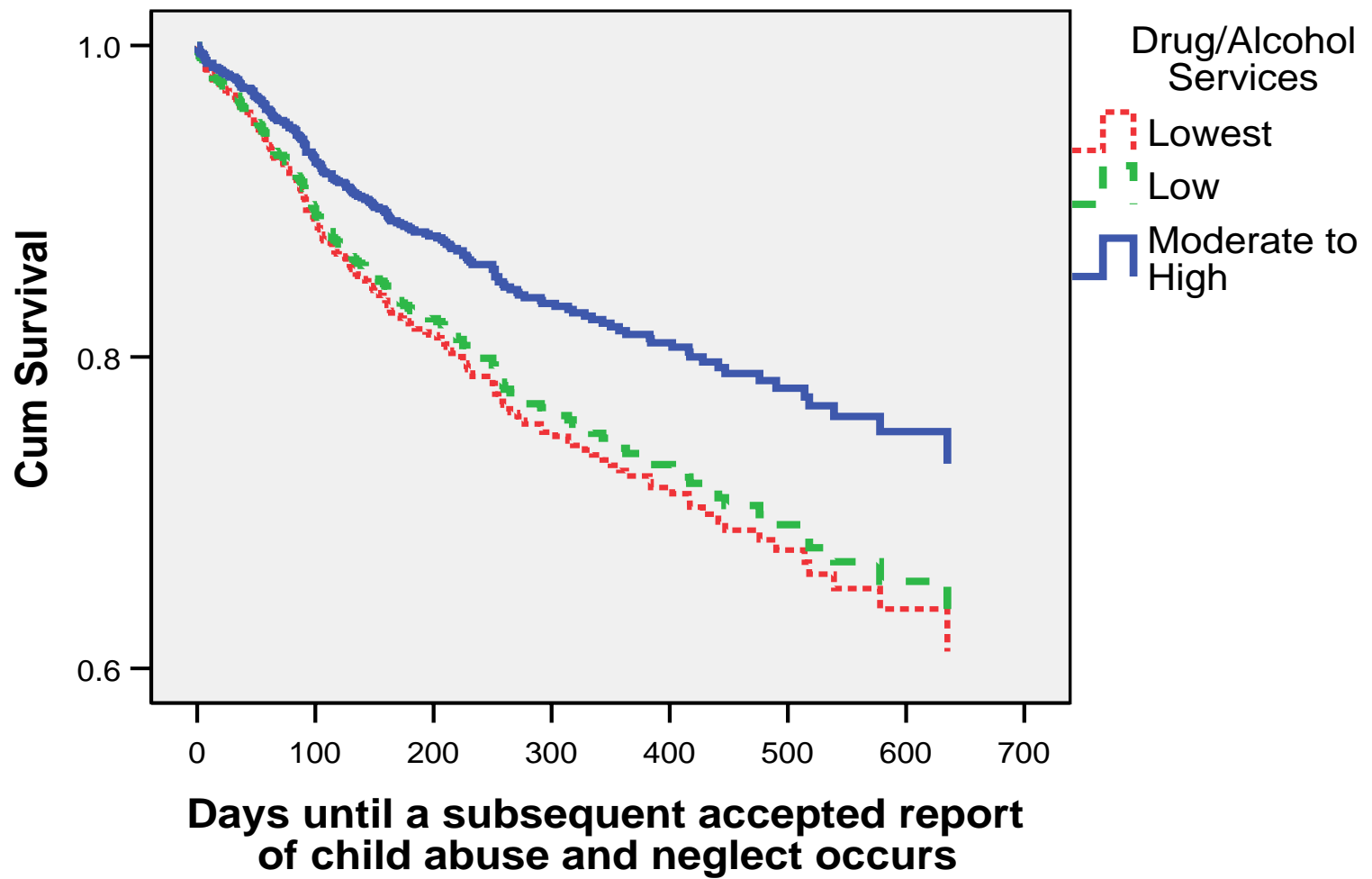
Effects of Poverty-Related Services to Impoverished Families on Subsequent Occurrence of Accepted Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

Cox Proportional Hazards Chart of Days to a Subsequent Report of Child Abuse and Neglect for Different Poverty-Related Service Levels



Effects of Drug/Alcohol Treatment Services on Subsequent Occurrence of Accepted Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

Cox Proportional Hazards Chart of Days to a Subsequent Report of Child Abuse and Neglect for Different Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services Levels



Contact Information

E-mail addresses:

- Tony Loman: lalomani@iarstl.org
- David Thompson: david.thompson@state.mn.us

Web sites

www.iarstl.org

www.dhs.state.mn.us

