



Critical Issues for Infants and Toddlers

A Child Trends Perspective

Prepared for the Communities of Hope Convening

December 8-9, Jacksonville, FL



A Sampling of Child Trends' Work on Infants and Toddlers

**The Youngest Americans:
A Statistical Portrait of Infants and
Toddlers in the United States**

November 2013
by David Murphey, Mae Cooper, and Nicole Forry

ROBERT E. McCORMICK FOUNDATION Child TRENDS

The Youngest Illinoisans: A Statistical Look at Infants and Toddlers in Illinois



January 2014
by David Murphey, Mae Cooper, and Nicole Forry

ROBERT E. McCORMICK FOUNDATION Child TRENDS

Bainum Family Foundation

**Infants and Toddlers in the District of Columbia:
A Statistical Look at Needs and Disparities**

By David Murphey and P. Alan Cooper, Child Trends | 2013
Commissioned by the Bainum Family Foundation

**CARE FOR GEORGIA'S
INFANTS and TODDLERS:
BOOSTING YOUNG CHILDREN AND
THEIR PARENTS IN THE PEACH STATE**

The period of infancy and toddlerhood (those both used to be toddlerhood) is a unique time of opportunity that can put a child on a path toward long-term success or failure. Everything we know about this stage of life speaks powerfully to the importance of good caregiving—good health, care, skills, and nurturing relationships, appropriate stimulation for learning, and supportive communities. During this period of neurologically rapid brain development, the child's capacities for communication, self-regulation, learning, and social interaction will blossom, or-wither the proper responses from their environment—they will wither.

The critical factor here is the quality of care young children receive from the adults closest to them—their parents and other caregivers. Thus, to support our youngest children, we must also support those caring for them. The consequences of failing to do so will reverberate throughout the child's life, and indeed, across generations. A lack of high-quality early care puts children at risk for poor mental and physical health, behavior problems, school failure, and diminished quality of life as an adult.

WHO ARE GEORGIA'S INFANTS AND TODDLERS?
In 2010, today's babies and toddlers will be leading the Peach State. They are nearly 400,000 budding individuals, and their healthy growth and development relies on their having the nurturing care and security of their families and communities. Georgia adults are in the temporary lurch where actions will determine how fruitful these seedlings will become.

392,000*
Number of Georgia infants and toddlers (ages birth through 2 years)

- White, non-Hispanic: 43%
- Black, non-Hispanic: 37%
- Hispanic/Latino: 17%
- Asian, non-Hispanic: 4%
- Other** 18% 4%

14 families with incomes below the federal poverty level 2010[†]
24 live in non-parent families 22%[‡]
Living with two parents 51%[§]
Living with one parent 49%[§]

* U.S. Census Bureau, Population Research, 2010
** U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis

January 2013

COE BEARS CHILDREN'S CENTER

**CALIFORNIA'S
INFANTS and TODDLERS:
FUTURE PROMISE, OR MISSED OPPORTUNITIES?**

There is a new spotlight on the first three years of life, powered by recent advances in the science of human development. These are truly years of opportunity, and how we support the youngest Californians—our infants and toddlers—will have a significant impact on their success, the success of their families, and the success of our state.

Simply put, early experiences matter. That means parents, caregivers, and all others whose decisions affect young children need the knowledge and skills to guide them well during their earliest months and years. In particular, high-quality early care and education settings benefit the development of all young children—and offer even greater benefits for those who are economically disadvantaged.¹

WHO ARE CALIFORNIA'S INFANTS AND TODDLERS?
In 2010, the generation who are now California's babies and toddlers will be leading the Golden State. They are more than 1.5 million budding individuals, and their healthy growth and development relies on the care and security of their families and communities. They are the invaluable social capital of tomorrow, for whom we adults are the temporary stewards.

California's infants and toddlers all deserve the best possible start in life, but nearly half live in families with incomes just barely high enough to meet their basic needs. Low-income families are often just one misstep or crisis away from slipping into poverty, and being poor—especially in the earliest years of life—can severely impact children's chances for optimal development.²

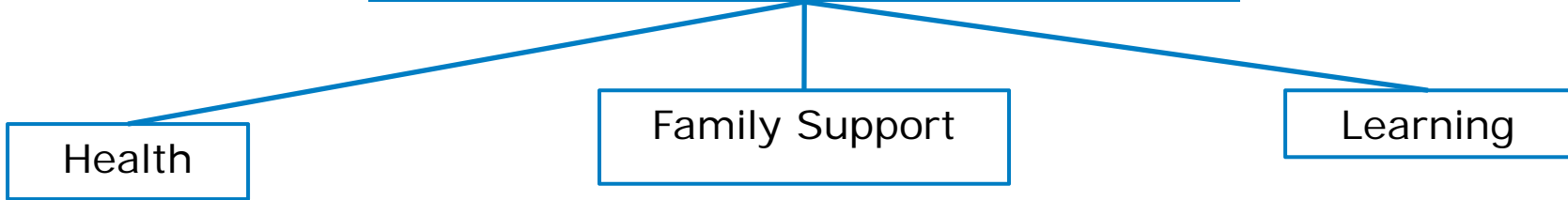
1.5 MILLION
NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS IN CA. THEY ARE:

- 53% Latino
- 25% White, non-Hispanic
- 18% Asian, non-Hispanic
- 5% Black, non-Hispanic
- 6% "Other" race
- 24% Families with incomes below the federal poverty level
- 48% Live in one-parent families
- 42% Live with two parents
- 24% Live with one parent, infants and toddlers are ages birth through 2 years 2011
- U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

State Policy: A Framework



Critical Areas for Policy



Critical Foundations to Implement Policy



Health



- Evidence confirms “critical periods” for particular health outcomes
- Early poor health compromises subsequent development, in part by reducing adaptability (resilience), and constraining opportunities
- However, neither risk nor protective factors *ensure* poor or improved outcomes across domains or for all children

Family Support



- The family is the child's *first developmental context*: material, social, and emotional
- *Poverty, low parental education, and stress* can compromise the quality of family relationships and the child's involvement in experiences that enrich development
- *Family support programs* act to increase family engagement, and parents' knowledge of child development, and reduce stress; provide work supports; and help them access health and nutrition services, job training, or treatment for substance abuse

Learning



- The achievement gap opens early, and is predictive of academic trajectories through later schooling
- Children who get high-quality early care and education experiences have better outcomes across multiple developmental domains
- The early care and education workforce and early-grades teachers play a critical role in providing quality; however, poor workplace conditions erode their potential contributions
- Training and professional development opportunities vary greatly and are poorly coordinated

Infants & Toddlers: Fact Check

- Number of infants & toddlers in the U.S.:

> 13 million

- Poverty rate, infants & toddlers:

25 percent > 3.3 million

(Poverty rate, all children: 22 percent)

- Number of neural connections formed in the brain during the first three years of life:

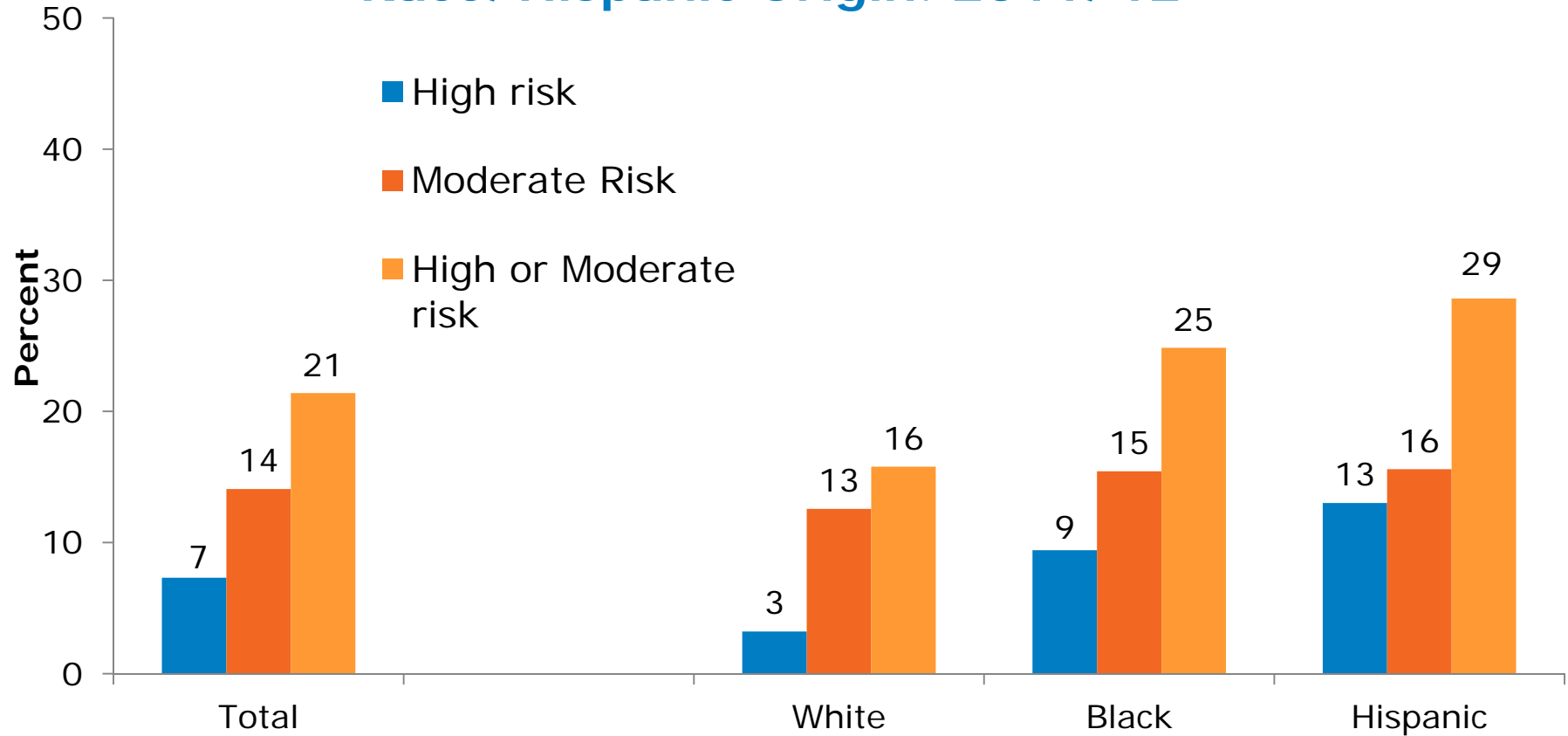
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Infants & Toddlers: Fact Check

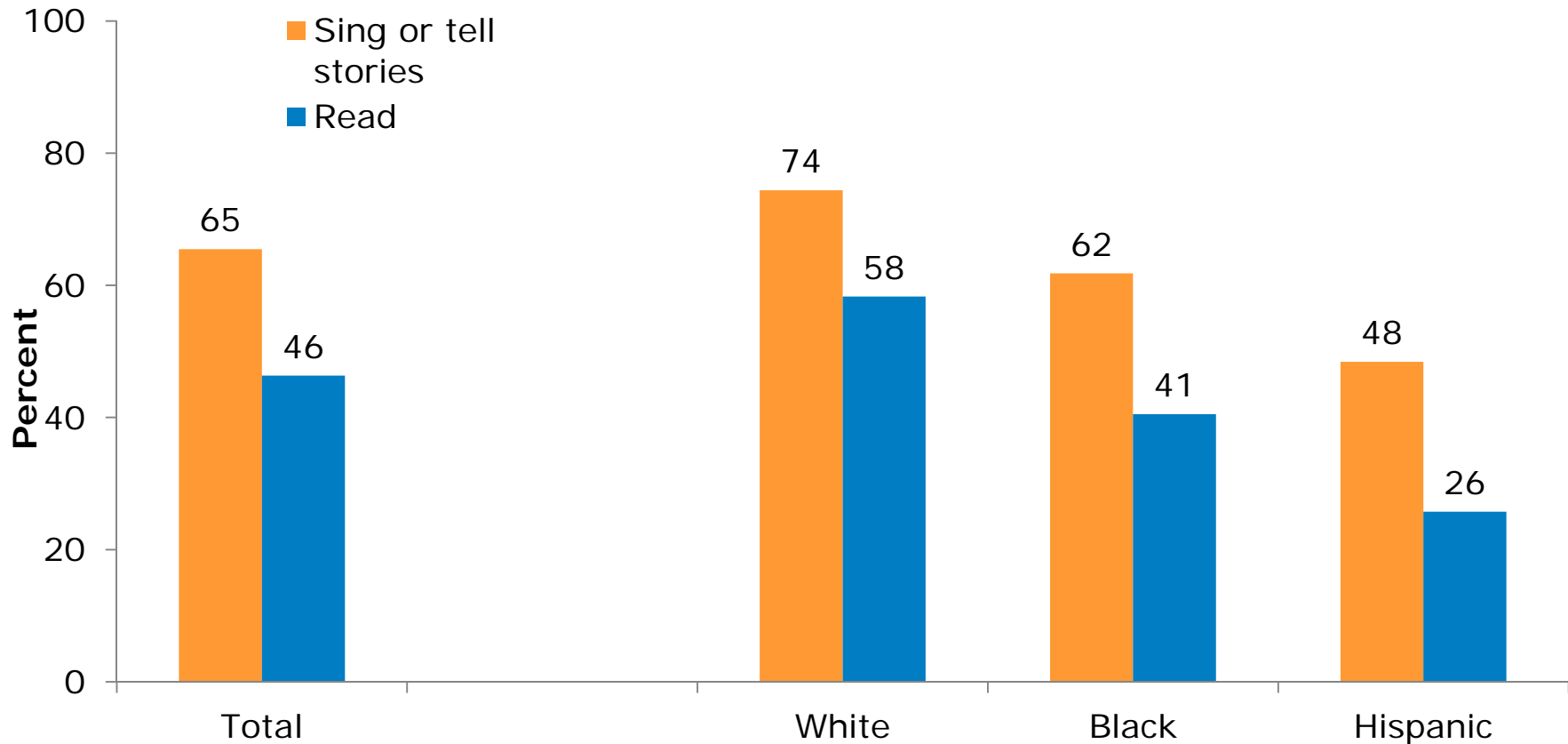
- In regular non-parental care each week: **about 50%**
- Number of infants & toddlers receiving child care subsidies each month: **>400,000**
- Average cost of full-time infant care: **\$4,560 to \$16,006**, depending on location and type of care
- Average hourly wage of center-based teachers and caregivers serving children 0-3 Years: **\$10.40**
- States with early learning standards or developmental guidelines for infants & toddlers: **44**
- Child maltreatment rate, infants & toddlers: **16.1 per thousand**
(Child maltreatment rate, all children: 9.4 per thousand)

Children, Ages 4 Months Through Two Years, With Developmental Risk,* Total and by Race/Hispanic Origin: 2011/12



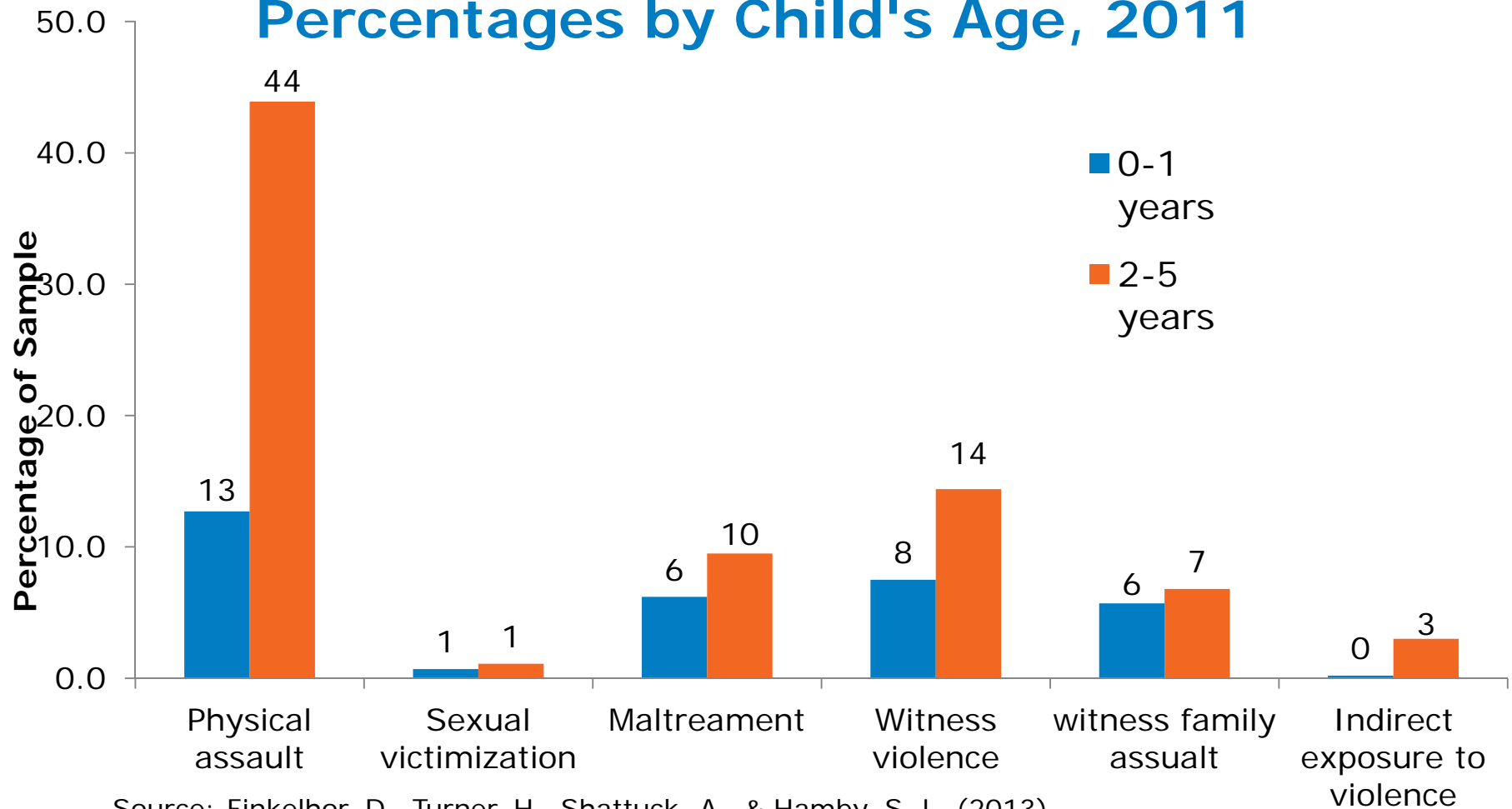
Source: Child Trends' analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health.

Children, Ages Birth through Two, Who Had A Family Member Read, Sing, or Tell Them Stories Everyday in the Past Week, Total, and by Race/Hispanic Origin: 2011/12



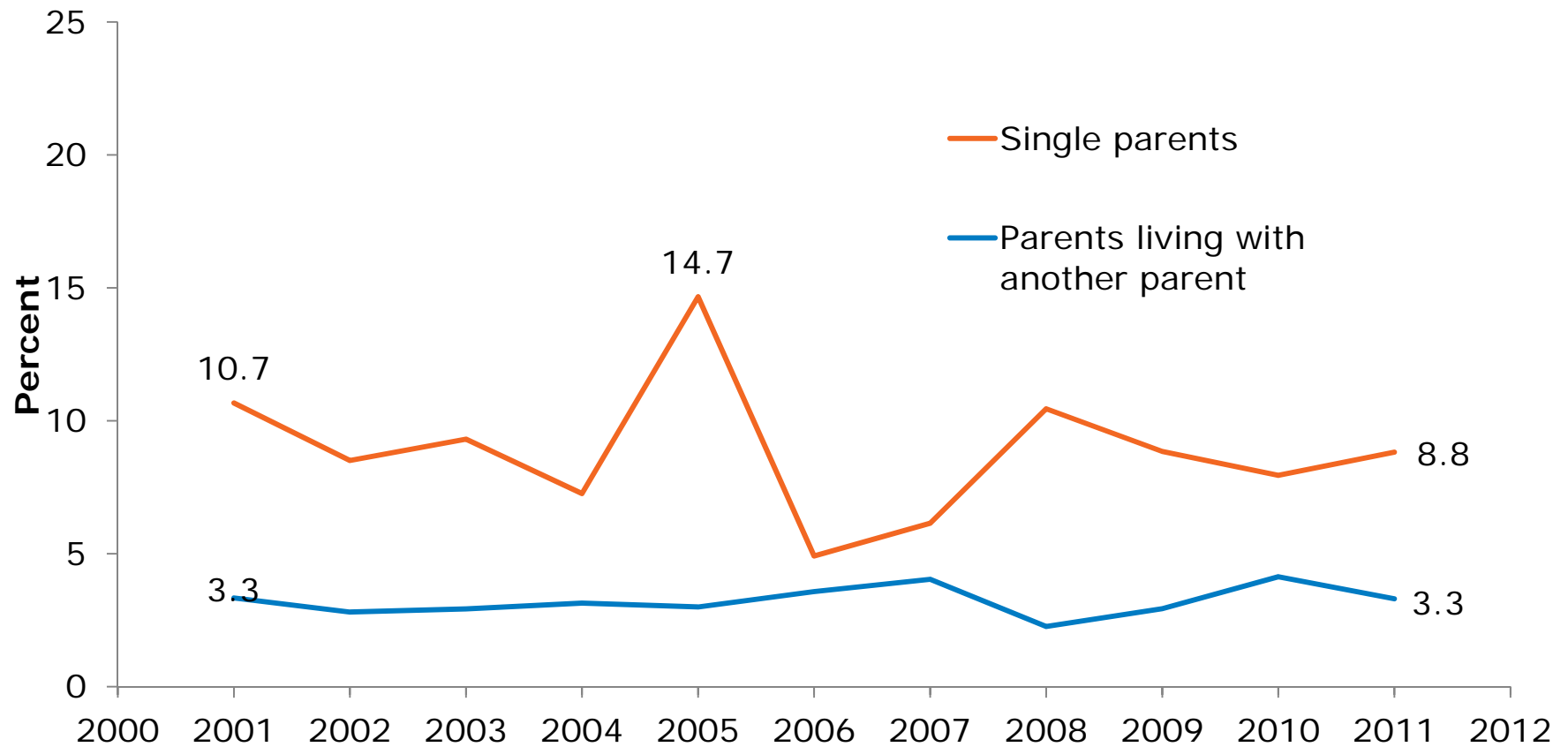
Source: Child Trends' analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health.

Children, Ages Birth through Five, Exposed to Violence in the Past Year: Percentages by Child's Age, 2011



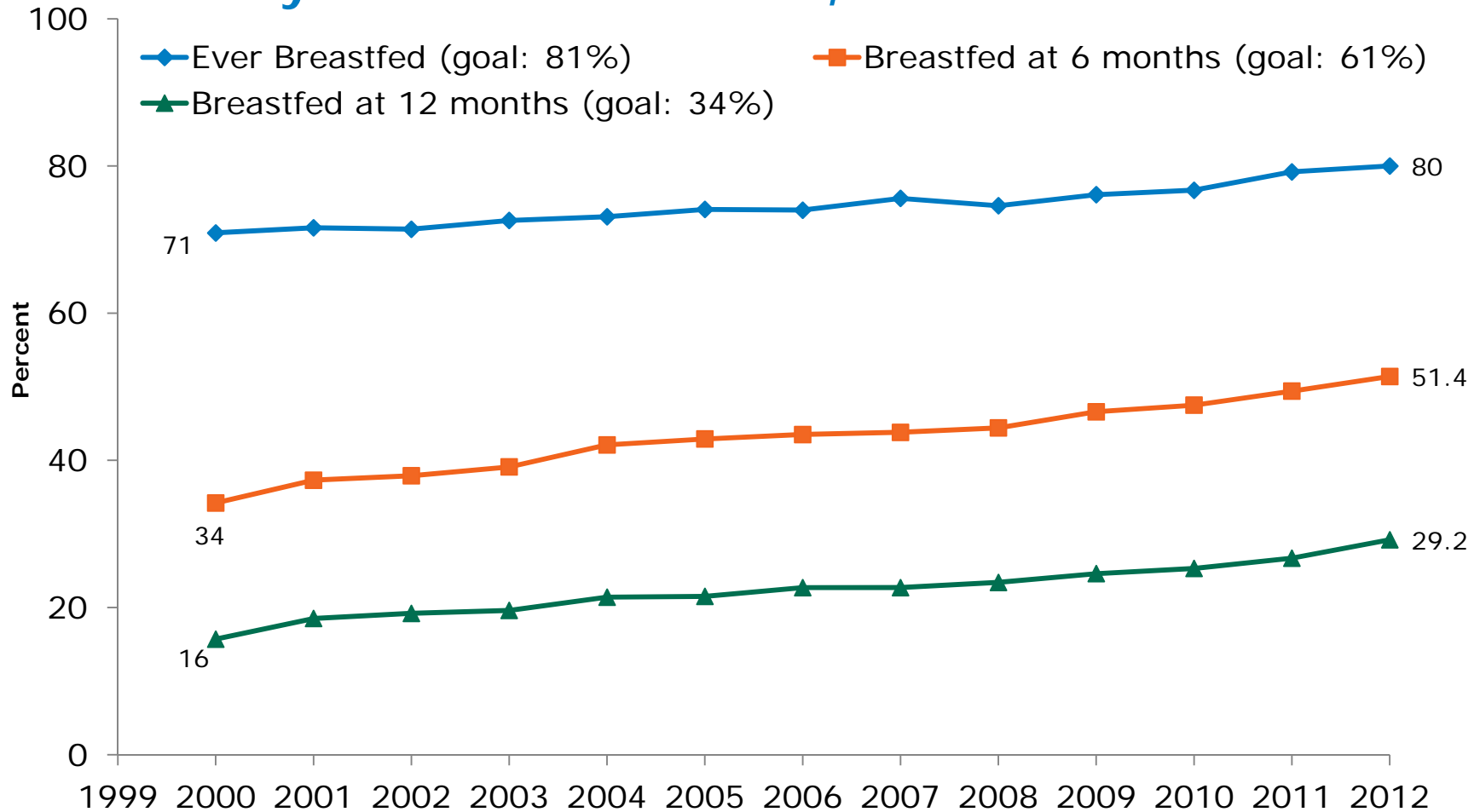
Source: Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. L. (2013).

Parents of Children, Ages Birth Through Two, Who Reported Two or More Depressive Symptoms During the Past 30 Days: 2001-2011



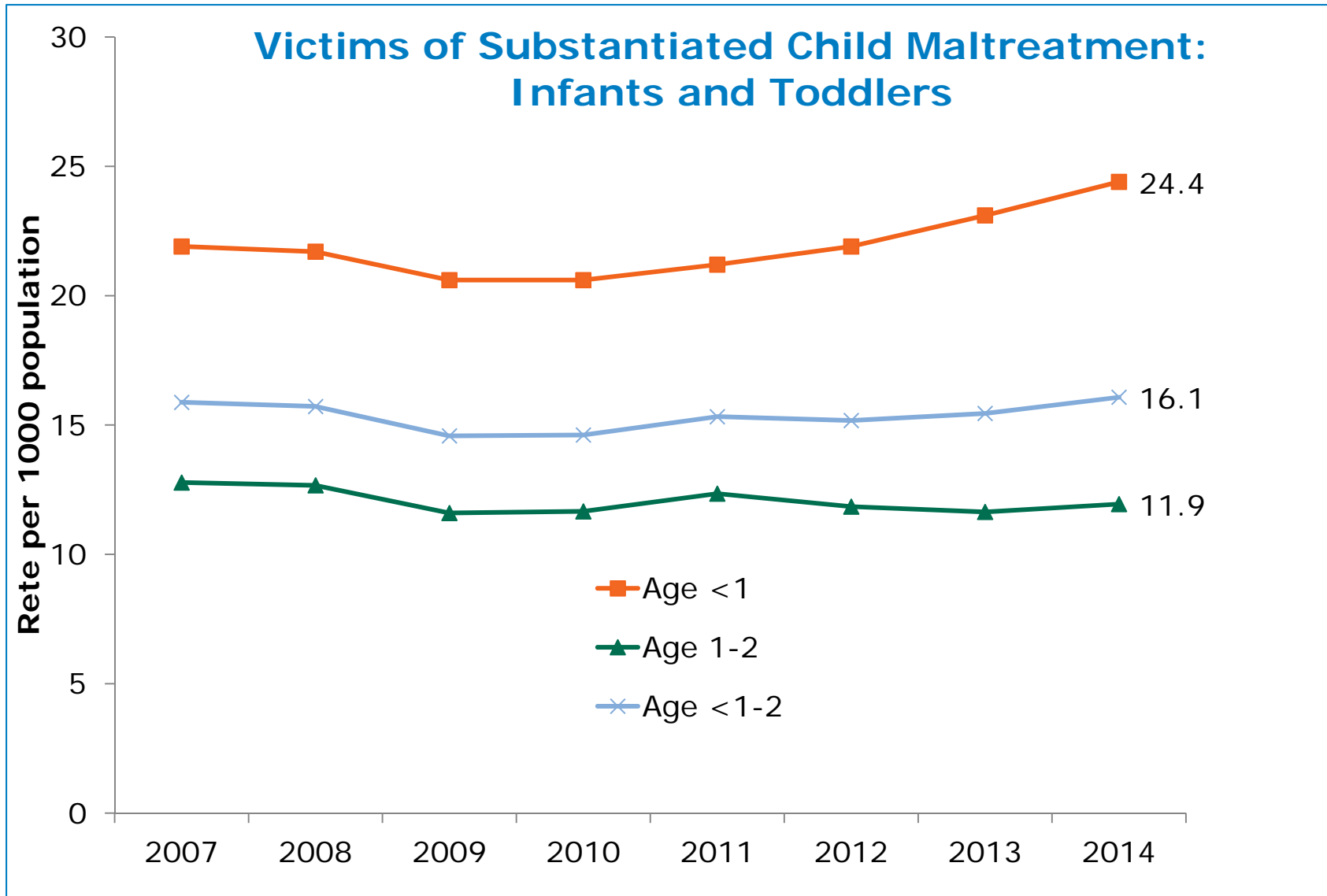
Source: Child Trends' analysis of data from the National Health Interview Survey.

Percentage of Mothers Breastfeeding, by Birth Year of Infant, 2000-2012



* Data for 2009 and later includes cell phones in the sample.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Breastfeeding among U.S. children born 2001–2012, CDC National Immunization Survey. Available online at http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/NIS_data/index.htm



Developing a Strengths-Based Perspective on Well-Being

Evidence-based protective/promotive factors (at a child level):

- ✓ Easy-going temperament
- ✓ Self-efficacy
- ✓ Intelligence
- ✓ Flexibility, cognitive reframing
- ✓ Planfulness
- ✓ High self-esteem
- ✓ Good self-control
- ✓ Effective coping skills
- ✓ Positive relationships with non-parental adults



National Survey of Children's Health: Indicators of "Flourishing"

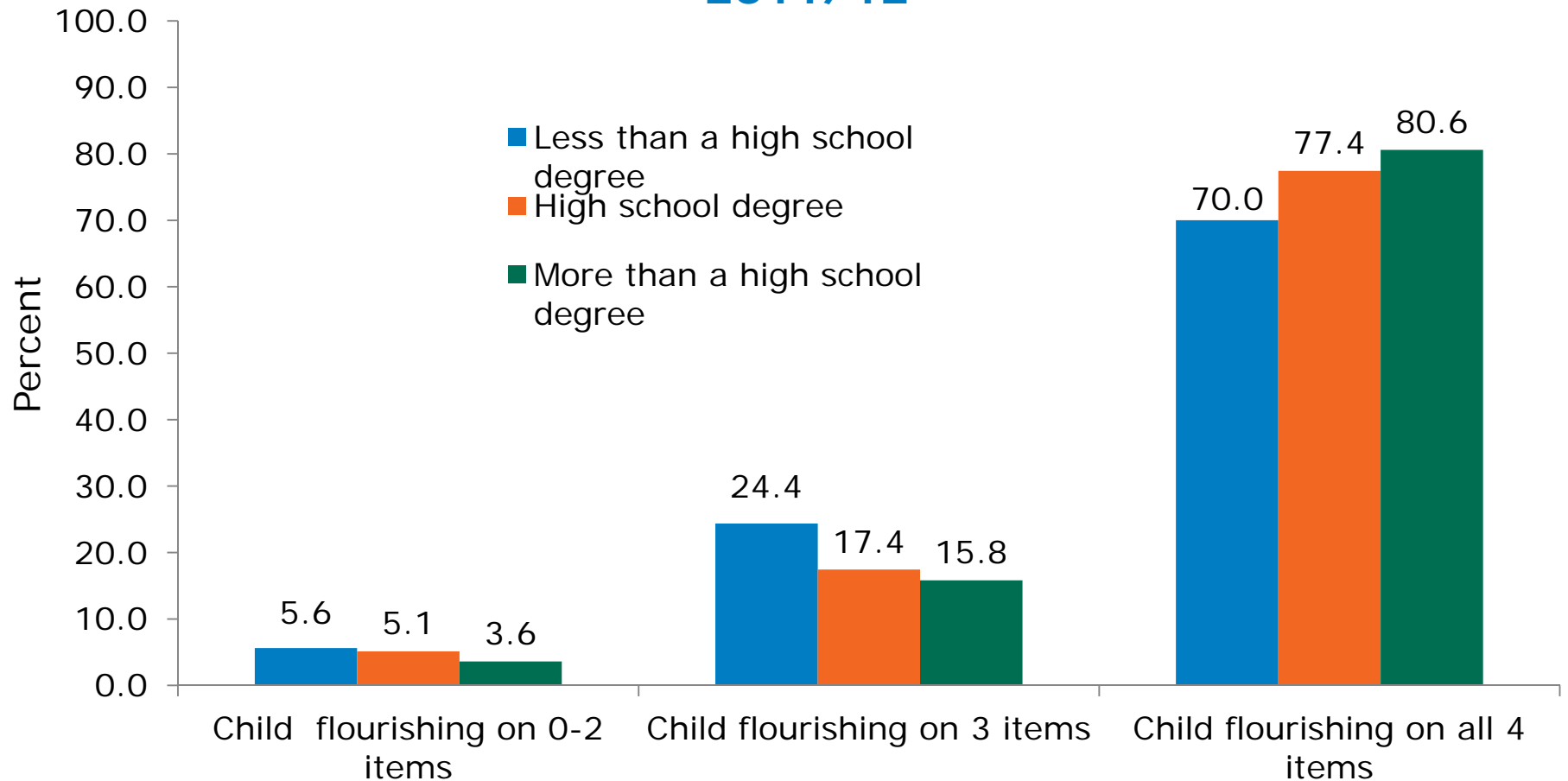
(ages birth to 5 years) How often child . . .

- Is affectionate and tender with you
- Bounces back quickly when things don't go his/her way
- Shows interest and curiosity in learning new things
- Smiles and laughs a lot

(ages 6 to 17) How often child . . .

- Finishes the tasks he/she starts and follows through with what she/he says they will do
- Stays calm and in control when faced with a challenge
- Shows interest and curiosity in learning new things
- Cares about doing well in school
- Does all required homework

Children, Six Months through Two Years, by Number of "Flourishing" Items,* by Parental Education: 2011/12



*Source: Child Trend's analysis of National Survey of Children's Health.



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See infant and toddler reports at:
Childtrends.org