

Initial Findings from the 2013 National Survey of Children in Nonparental Care

(with supplemental information from the 2011-2012 National
Survey of Children's Health)

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CWLA National Conference on Kinship Care



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Presentation Overview

- Describe the National Survey of Children in Nonparental Care (NSCNC)
- Relate initial findings about children who live apart from their parents, both from the NSCNC and the underlying National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)
- Seek your help with interpretation of findings:
 - What are the stories here?
 - What's new and important and what's old news?
 - How else should we be looking at these data?



Credits and Acknowledgements

- The NSCNC was sponsored by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
- Conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics as a module of the State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey
- With supplemental funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Child Trends developed the survey instrument under contract to ASPE
- NORC fielded the survey under contract to NCHS
- Research Triangle International will be conducting additional analyses under contract to ASPE
- Kevin Moseby assisted with the preparation of charts for this presentation



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National Survey of Children in Nonparental Care - Overview

- Surveyed caregivers of children who reside with neither parent
- Conducted in 2013
- Sampling frame was households in the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) in which neither parent of the sample child resided.
- Follow-back survey – these households were re-interviewed 1 to 2 years after their original NSCH interview
- 30 minute telephone survey (landlines and cell phones) on issues specific to these households
- Data linkable to the household's responses on the NSCH



NSCNC Interview Process

- First, call back the NSCH household
 - Determine if child still lives with NSCH caregiver
 - If so, complete the NSCNC with NSCH caregiver
- If not, complete the “No Longer with Nonparental Caregiver” (NLNPCG) Module
 - Short series of questions for the original caregiver
 - Locate and contact the child’s new household
 - Complete the NSCNC with new caregiver



Advantages of this Survey's Data and Methods

- Nationally representative sample of children in nonparental care and ages 0-16 in 2011-2012
- Questions distinguish carefully between informal kinship care, kinship foster care, and non-kin foster care
- Cellphone sample reduces coverage bias – almost half of households with children now have no landline
- Sample size of approximately 1,300 nationally allows for some subgroup analysis
- Provides details on topics not addressed in general surveys
- Much less expensive to field than a survey conducted from scratch



Disadvantages of this Survey's Data and Methods

- Point in time estimates overestimate long stayers
- We were largely unsuccessful in following children who had left the NSCH caregiver's household – we know that they are no longer living in the original caregiver's household and why, but usually could not interview the new caregiver.
- While the cellphone sample reduced coverage bias, it increased nonresponse



Response Rate

- NSCNC response rate = 52.4%
 - Product of recontact rate (70.4%) and interview completion rate among recontacted households (75.4%)
- But NSCH response rate was 23%
 - Does not mean that $\frac{3}{4}$ refused to participate
 - Included cell phones that ring with no answer
 - NSCH interview completion rate among households identified as eligible = 51.4%
- Overall NSCNC response rate: $52.4 * 23 = 12\%$



Nonresponse Bias - NSCH

- Weighting adjustments mitigate response bias
- NSCH weights adjusted so that weighted counts equal population counts in several demographic categories
- Several methods to assess bias consistently showed that bias in weighted estimates was smaller than sampling error



Nonresponse Bias - NSCNC

- Had NSCH data for NSCNC respondents and NSCNC nonrespondents
- Enabled powerful adjustment to NSCNC weights to minimize bias
 - Able to directly correct for those factors that differed between respondents and nonrespondents
- NSCNC nonresponse therefore had minimal further impact on overall nonresponse bias
 - 12% a poor indicator of potential for nonresponse bias

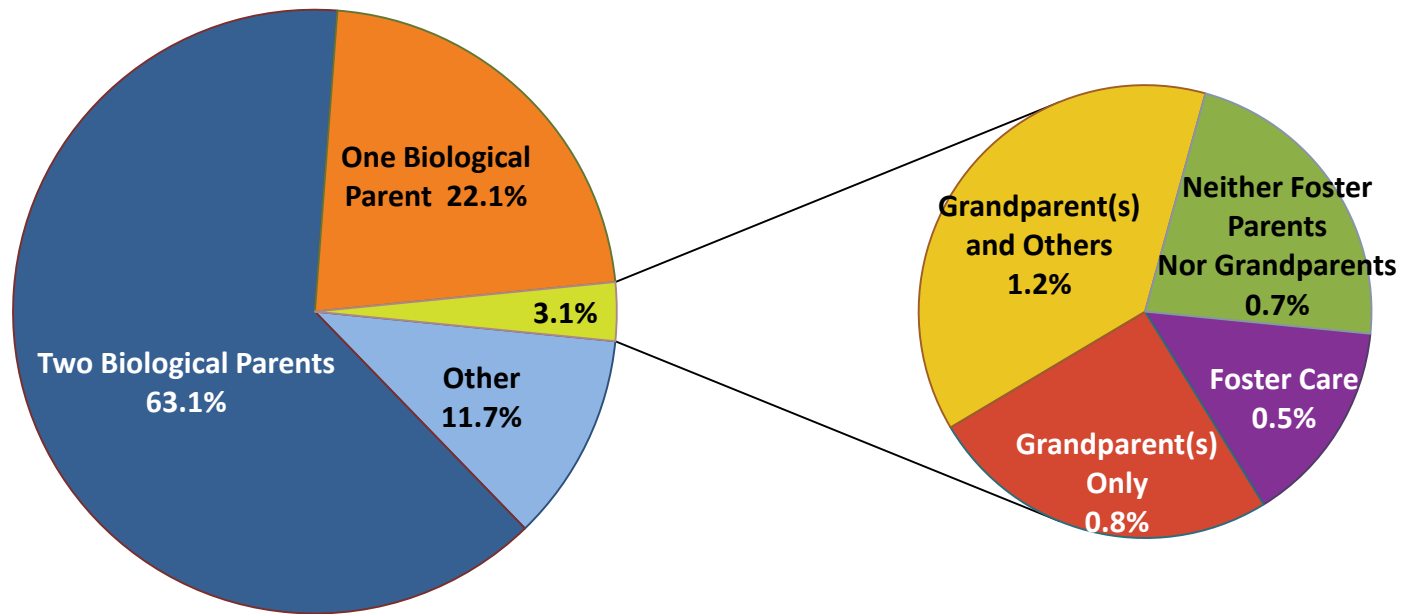


**FINDINGS BASED ON THE
NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S
HEALTH – PATTERNS OF RISK AND
WELL BEING BY HOW MANY
PARENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE
HOUSEHOLD**



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U.S. Children by Type of Caregiver Living in the Household



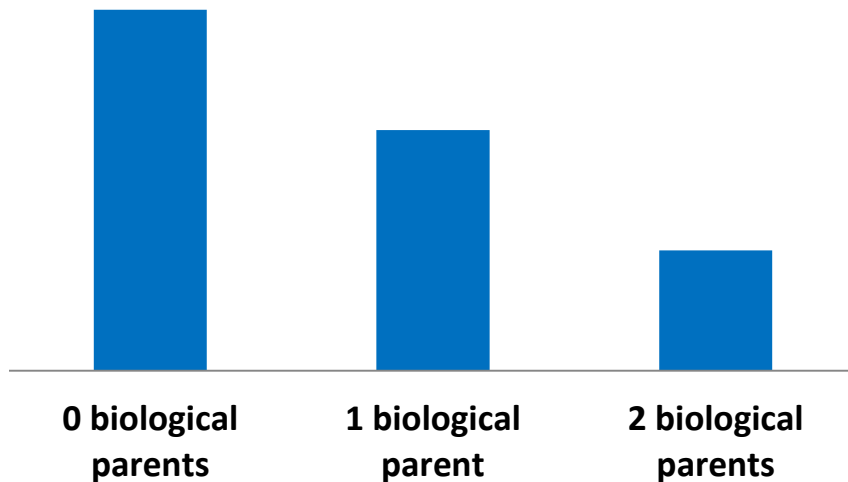
Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Pattern 1: 0 parents >1 parent >2 parents

In this pattern, children in households with no parents fare worse (or see more adversity) than children living with 1 parent, who in turn fare worse than children living with two parents



Bar heights are hypothetical, to show the basic pattern

Source: NSCH 2011-2012

Variables following this pattern:

- TANF receipt
- Child does not have excellent or very good dental health
- Child has Special Health Care Needs
- All child mental health conditions
- Child's receipt of mental health care
- Reliance on public health insurance
- Repeated grades
- Poor School Engagement
- Child has an IFSP/IEP (special education plan)
- Poor Caregiver/child communication
- Adverse Family Experience (AFE): Caregiver Death
- AFE: Witnessed Caregiver Violence
- AFE: Witnessed Neighborhood Violence
- AFE: Lived with Someone with a Mental Illness
- AFE: Parent/Guardian Incarceration
- AFE: Lived with Someone with an Alcohol/Drug Problem

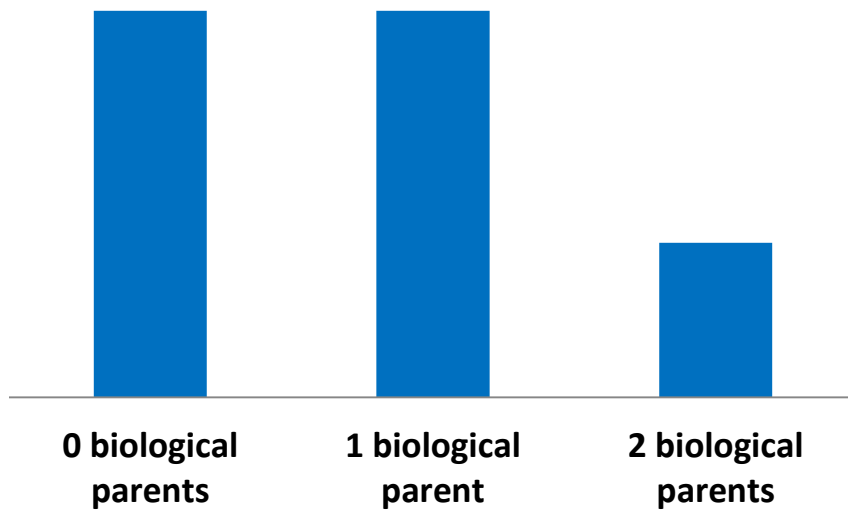


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Pattern 2: 0 parents = 1 parent > 2 parents

In this pattern, children in households with one or no parents look similar to one another, but both fare worse than children living with two parents



Bar heights are hypothetical, to show the basic pattern

Source: NSCH 2011-2012

Variables following this pattern:

- Low Household income
- Free/Reduced Price Lunch receipt
- Child overall health is not excellent or very good
- Missed school due to illness
- Reliance on public schools
- School problems
- Caregiver overall health is not excellent or very good
- Caregiver mental health is not excellent or very good
- Caregiver stress
- AFE: Experienced Racism
- AFE: Experienced Separation/Divorce

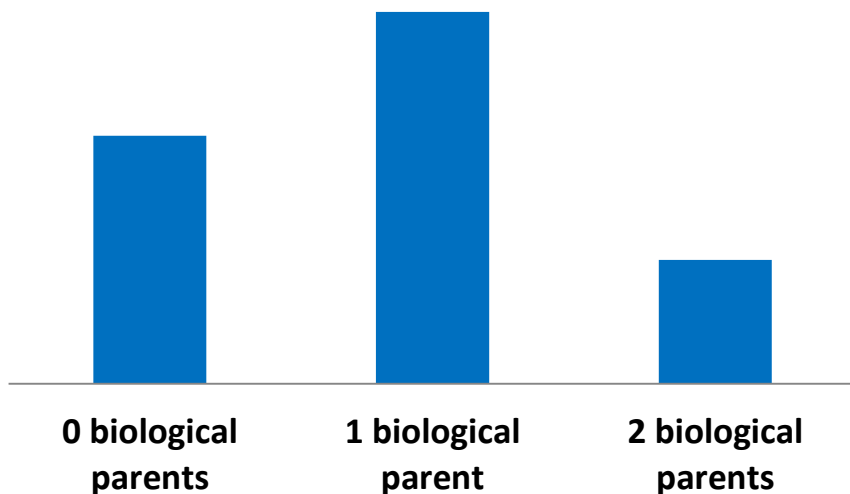


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Pattern 3: 2 parents < 0 parents < 1 parent

In this pattern, children in households with one parent fare worst, with children living with no parents in the middle, while those living with two parents still fare best.



Variables following this pattern:

- **SNAP receipt**
- **Caregiver does not have someone to turn to for help**
- **Neighborhood is not safe and supportive**
- **AFE: Often Hard for Household to Afford Basics**

Bar heights are hypothetical, to show the basic pattern

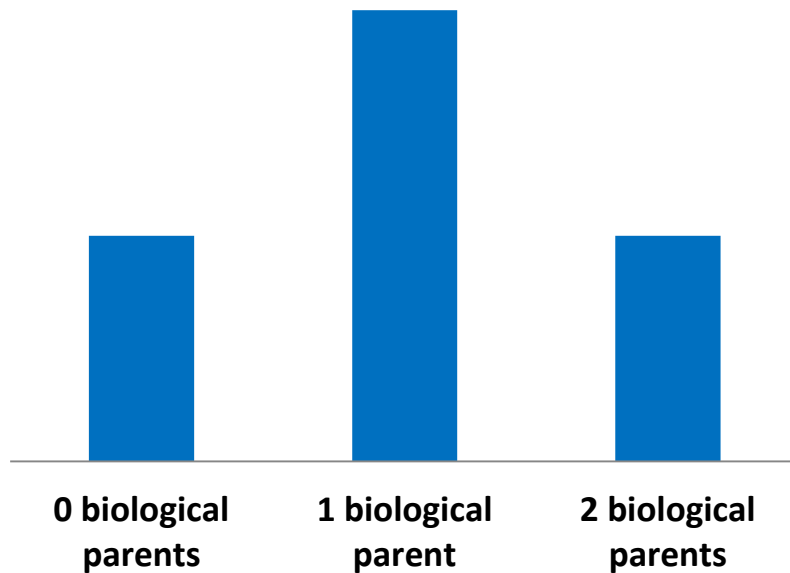
Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Pattern 4: 0 parents = 2 parents < 1 parent

In this pattern, seen in only two variables, children in households with one parent fare worst, with those in households with either two parents or no parents equally well off



Bar heights are hypothetical, to show the basic pattern

Source: NSCH 2011-2012

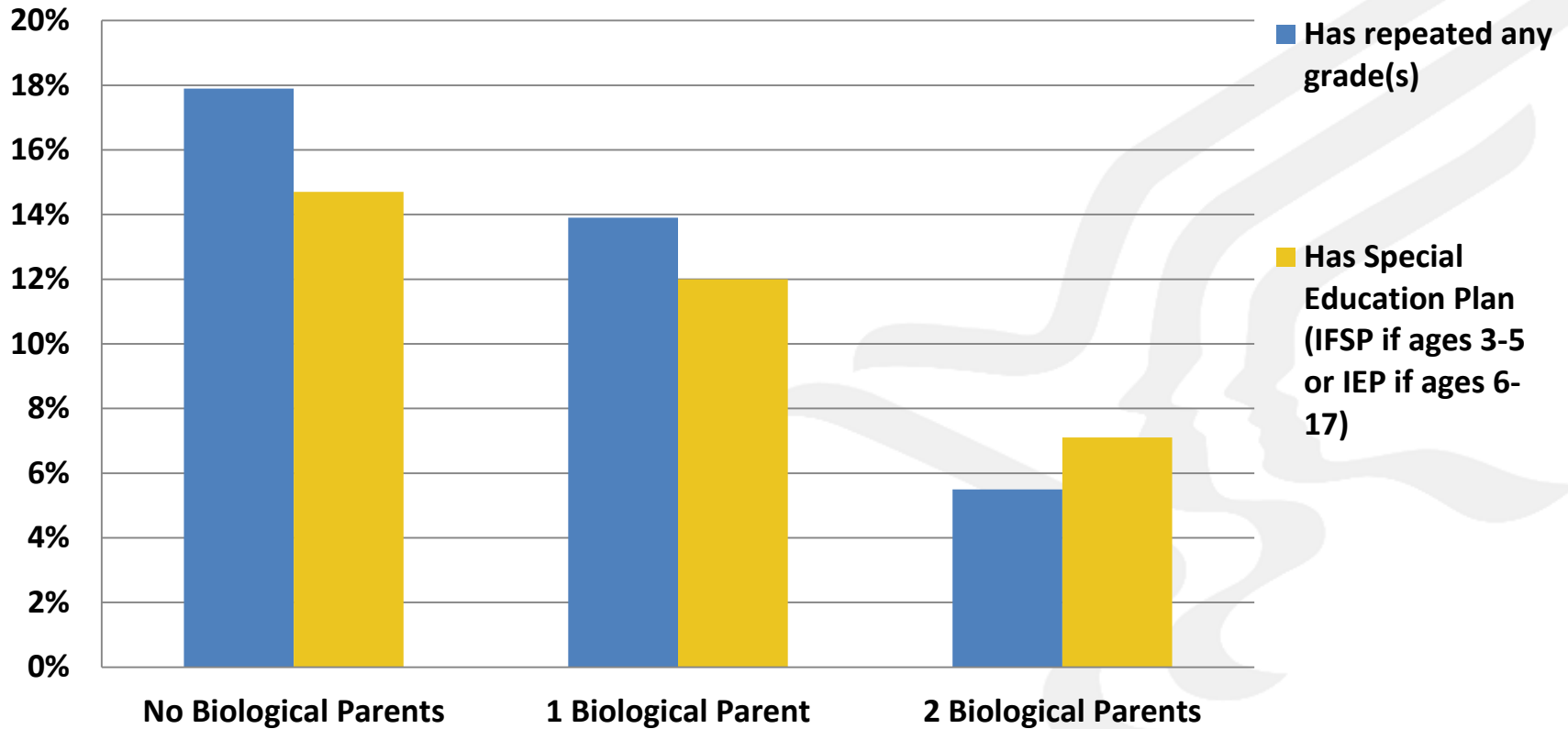
Variables Following this Pattern:

- WIC receipt
- Poor coping with parenting



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School Outcomes by Number of Biological Parents in the Household, 2011-2012

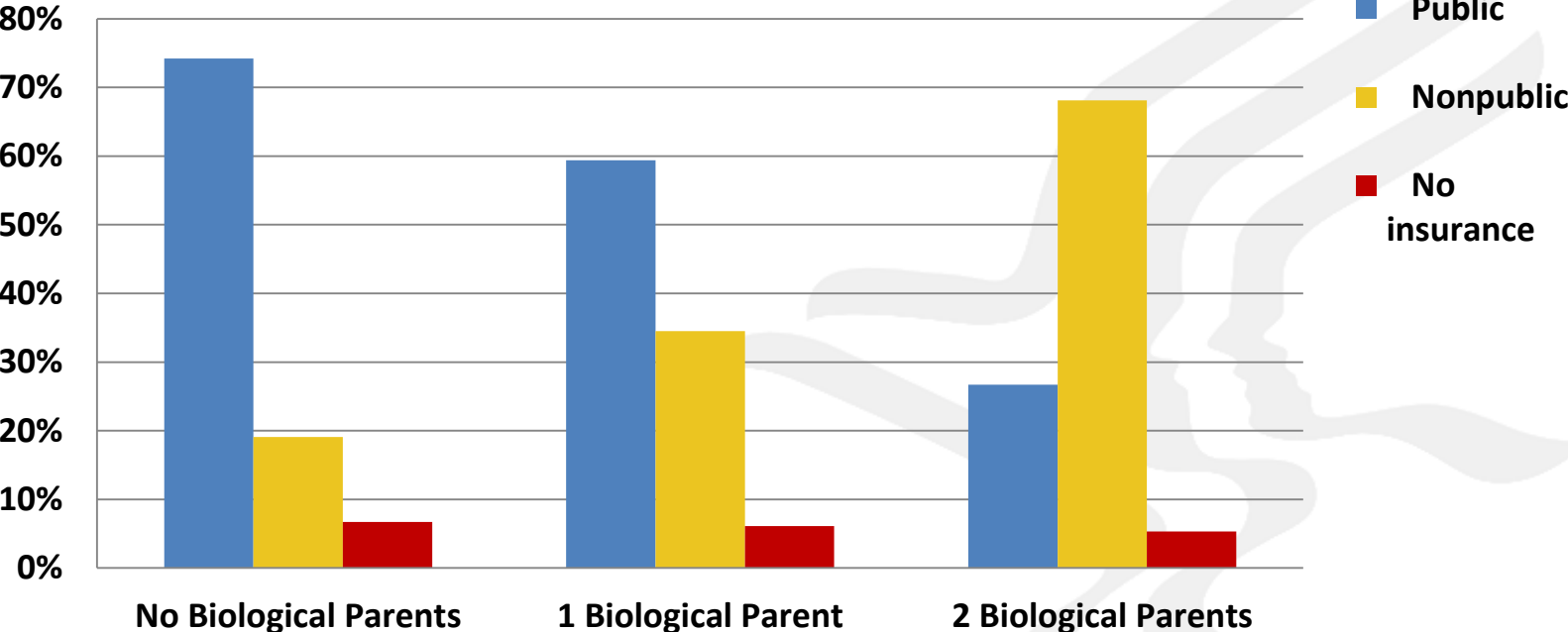


Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Children's Health Insurance Type by Number of Biological Parents in the Household, 2011-2012



Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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ADVERSE FAMILY EXPERIENCES



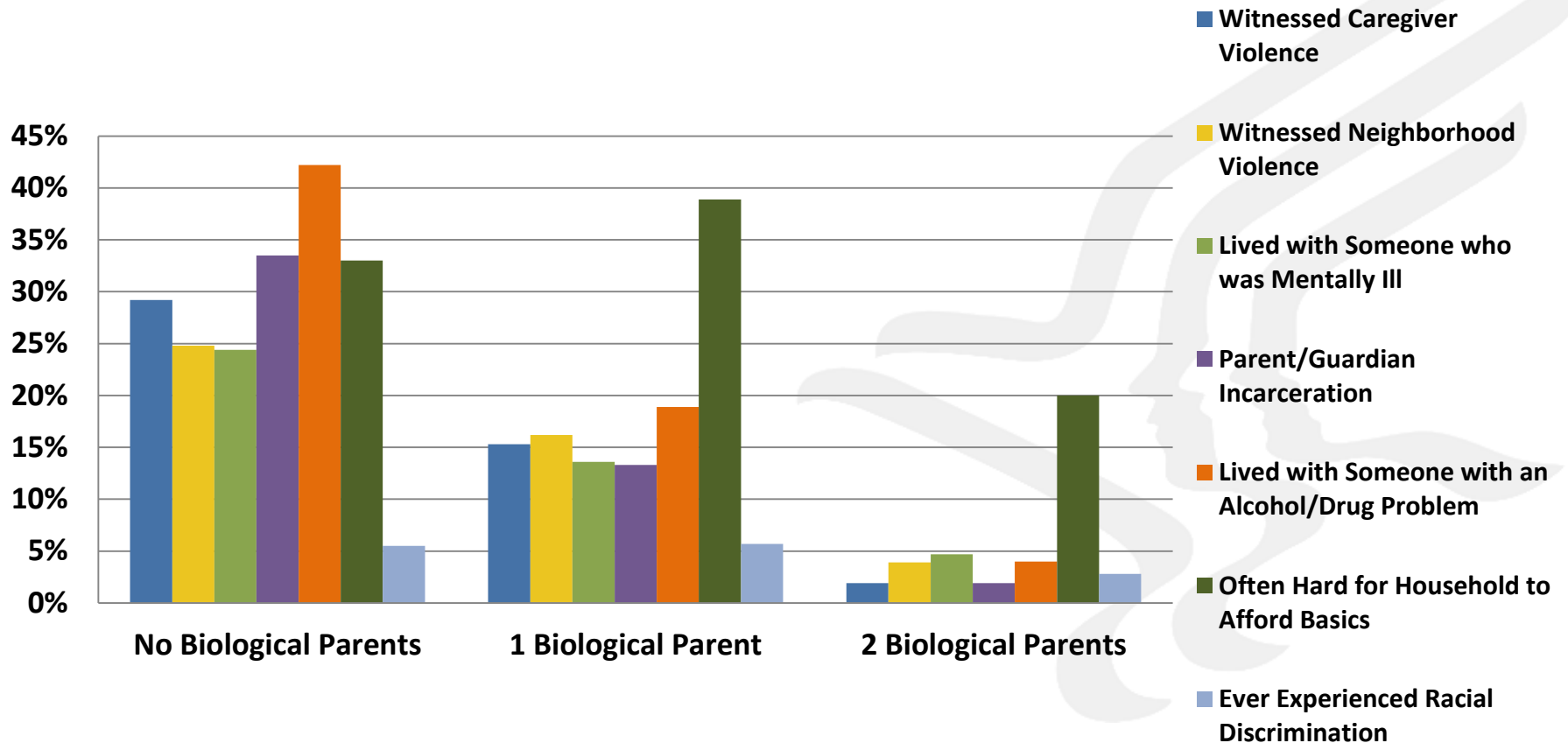
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What Are Adverse Family Experiences and Why Do We Care?

- The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study was a landmark examination of how traumatic childhood experiences have long-term health effects. It looked at adults' retrospective reports of issues like childhood abuse/neglect, death of a parent, parental substance abuse, etc.
- ACEs have been shown to be correlated with a range of health problems in adults.
- Because of its different design (caregiver reports about current children rather than adult reports of their own childhood experiences) the experiences asked about in the National Survey of Children's Health are overlapping but not identical to the original ACEs. To recognize the distinction, we refer to them in these data as Adverse **Family** Experiences.



Adverse Family Experiences by Number of Parents in the Household, 2011-2012

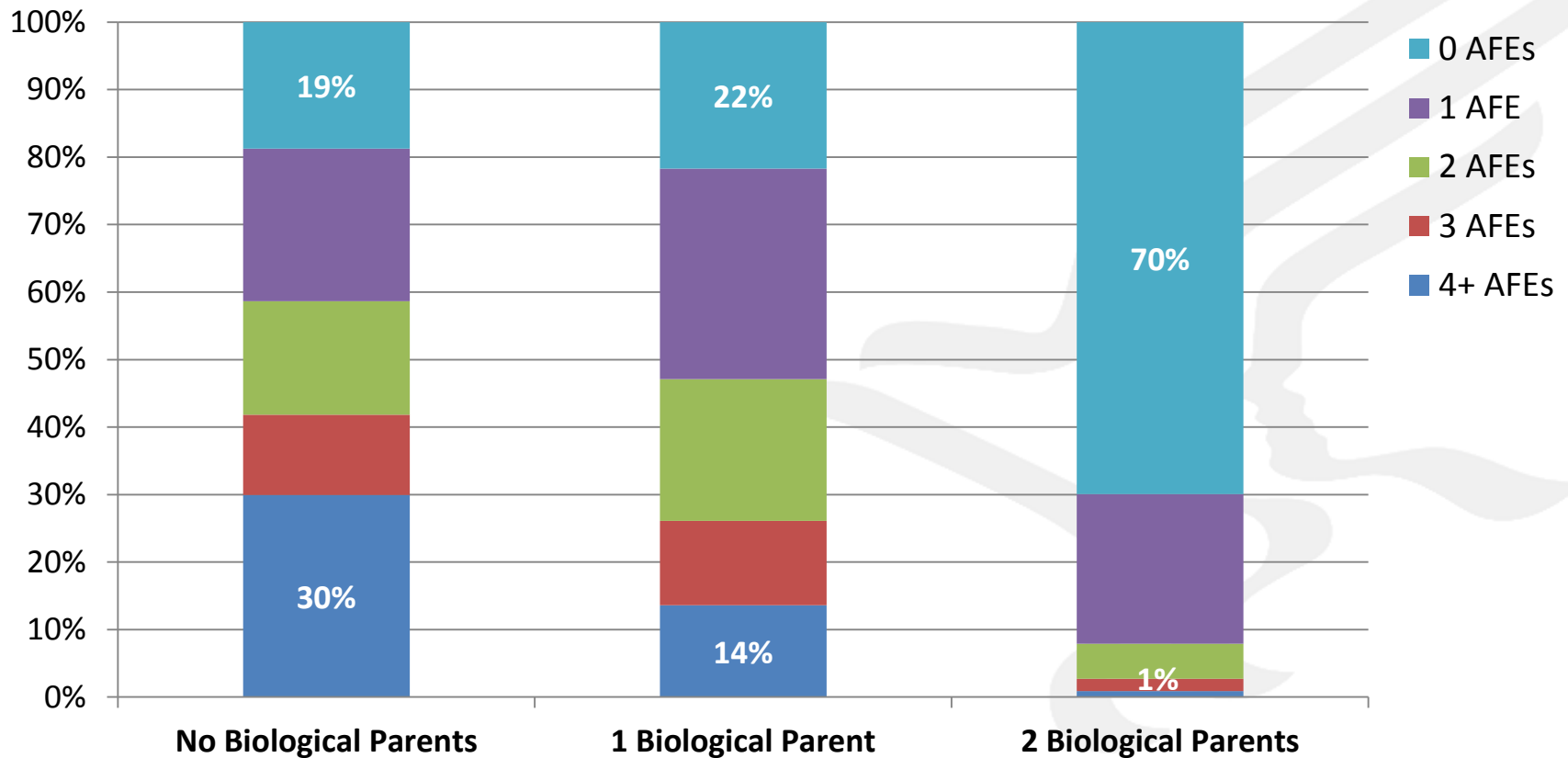


Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Percentage of Children aged 0 to 17 years by number of Adverse Family Experiences (AFEs) and number of parents living in the household: United States, 2011-2012

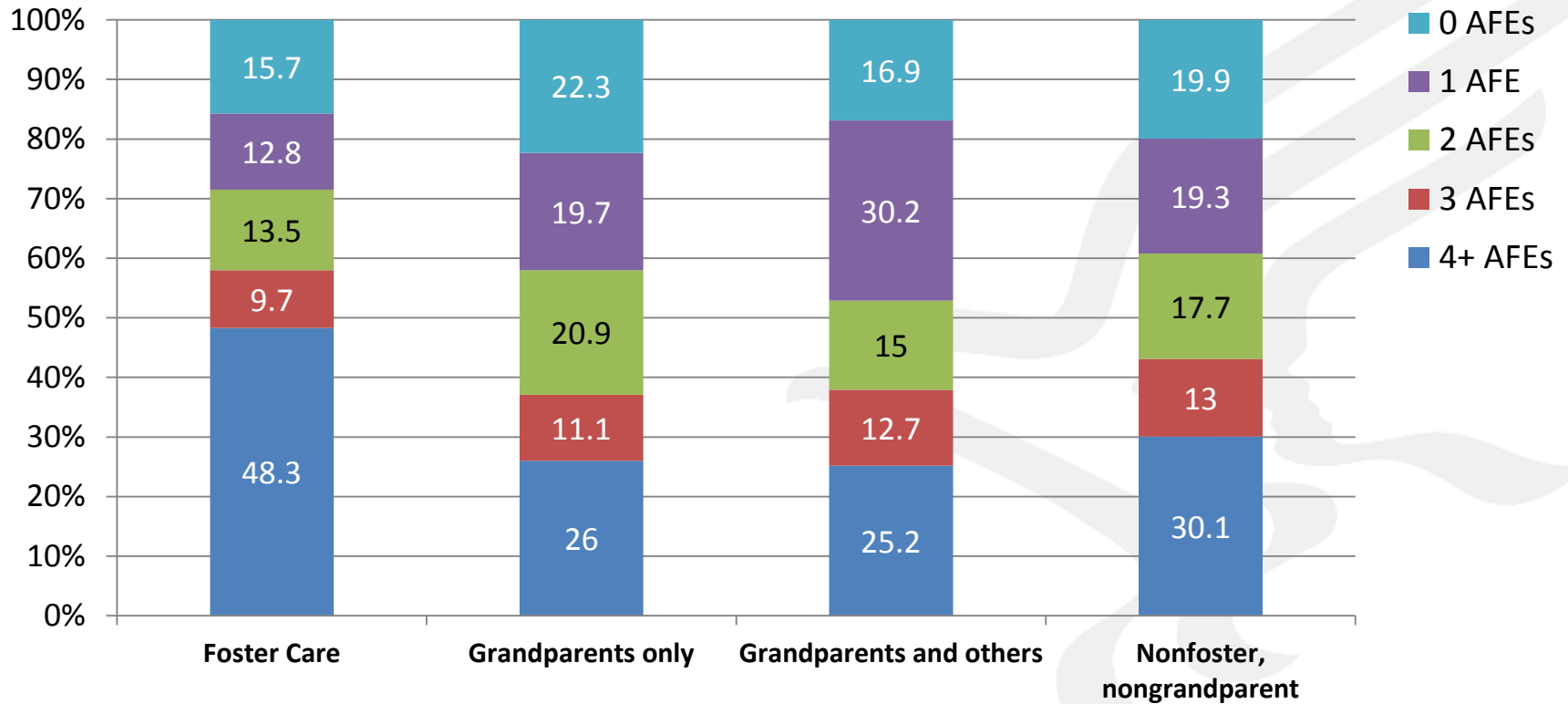


Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Percentage of children aged 0 to 17 years and in nonparental care, by number of Adverse Family Experiences (AFEs) and type of nonparental caregiver: United States, 2011-2012

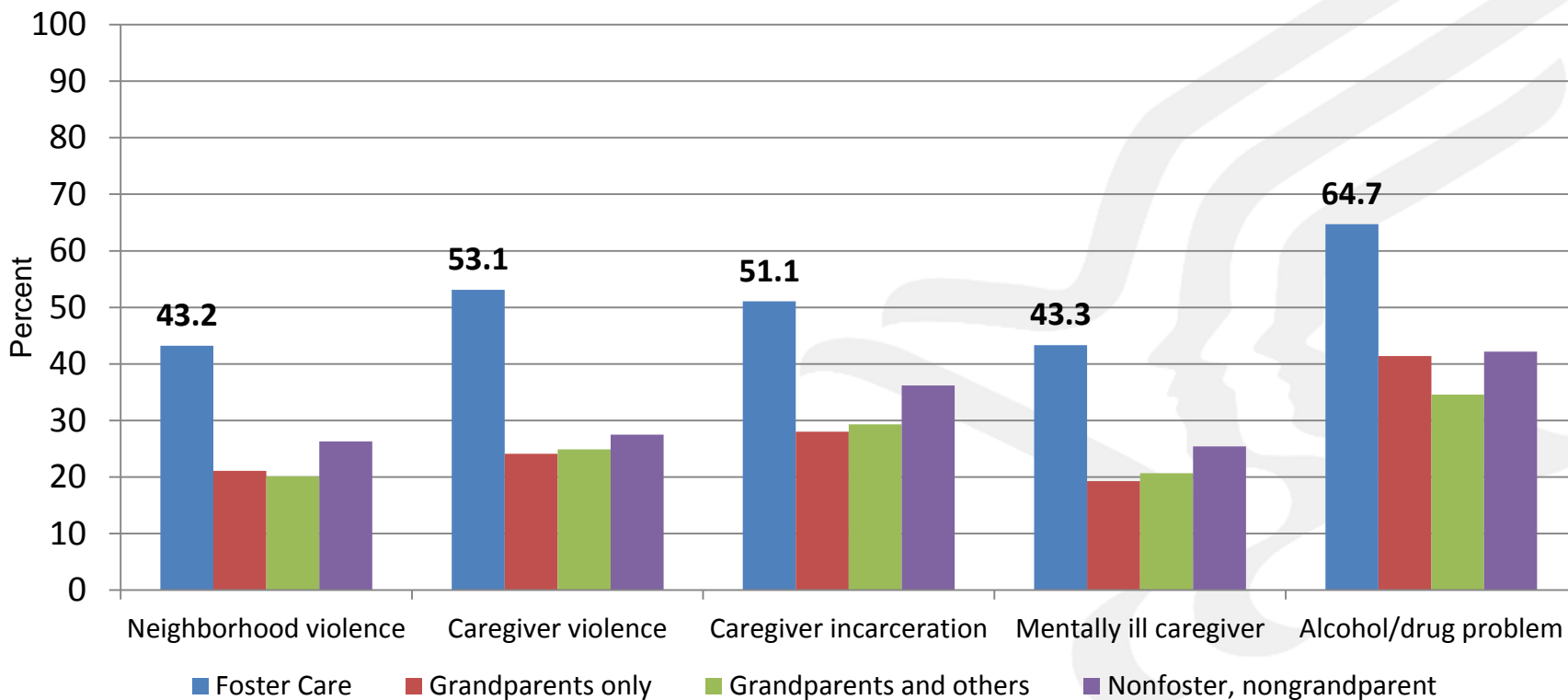


Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Percentage of Children Aged 0-17 years and in Nonparental Care by Type of Adverse Family Experience and Type of Caregiver: 2011-2012

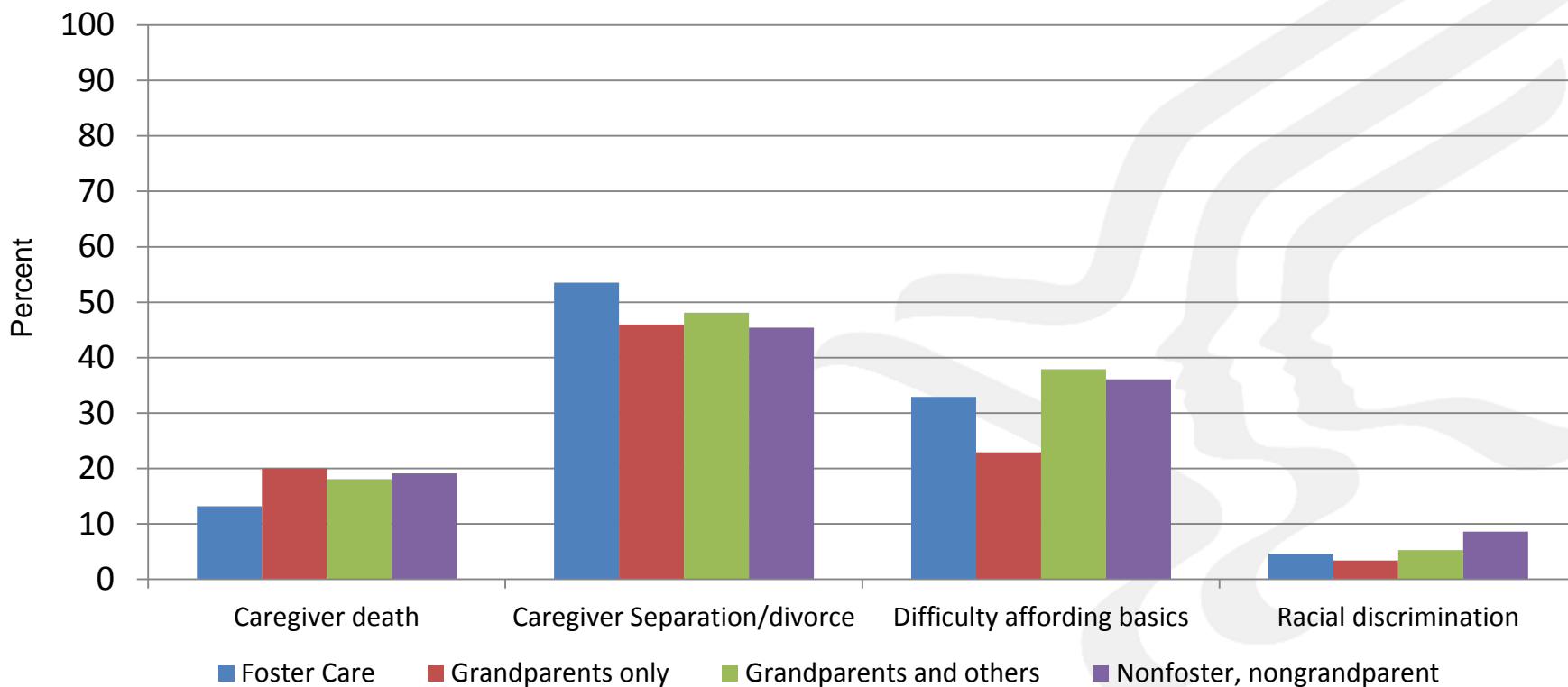


Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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Percentage of Children Aged 0-17 years and in Nonparental Care by Type of Adverse Family Experience and Type of Caregiver: 2011-2012



Source: NSCH 2011-2012



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FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN IN NONPARENTAL CARE



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WHO ARE THE CHILDREN IN NONPARENTAL CARE AND WHY ARE THEIR PARENTS NOT CARING FOR THEM?



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Reasons Children Live Apart from Their Parents for children still with the NSCH caregiver

Top Reasons for **Mothers**:

- Substance abuse (19%)
- Child removed by CPS and/or mother was abusive (16%)
- Didn't want to care for child (11%)
- Deceased (11%)
- In jail (7%)
- Thought current caregiver better for child (7%)
- Mental illness (6%)
- Financial problems (6%)

Top Reasons for **Fathers**:

- Substance abuse (15%)
- In jail (14%)
- Deceased (11%)
- Didn't want to care for child (9%)
- Financial problems (6%)



Reasons Children Live Apart from Their Parents for children no longer living with the NSCH caregiver

Top reasons for **mothers**:

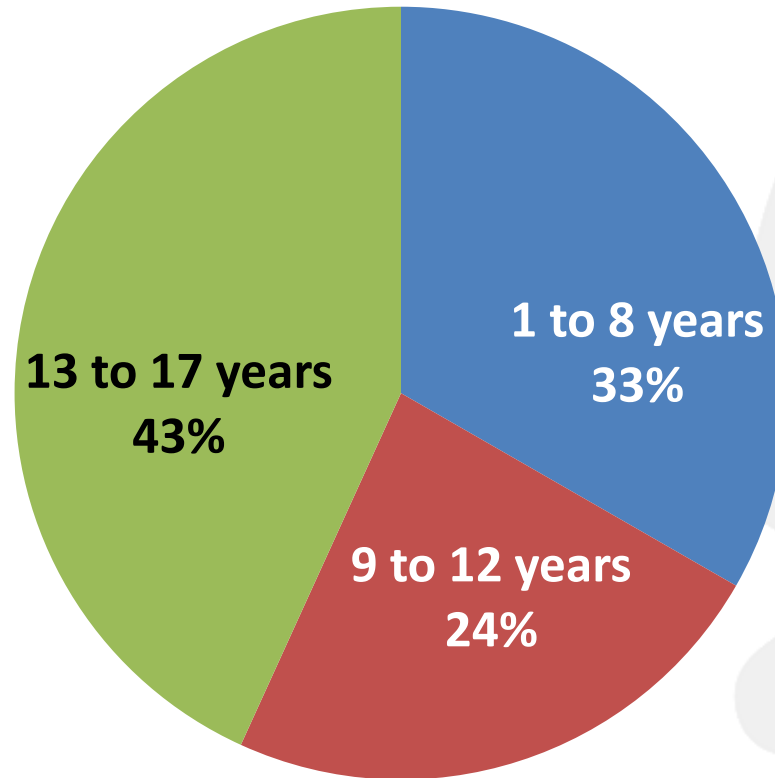
- In jail (15%)
- Financial problems (13%)
- Sick/mentally ill (9%)
- Substance abuse (9%)
- Thought alternate caregiver better (7%)

Top reasons for **fathers**:

- In jail (21%)
- Didn't want to care for child (13%)
- Deceased (10%)
- Sick/mentally ill (10%)
- Substance abuse (5%)



Age of Children in Nonparental Care

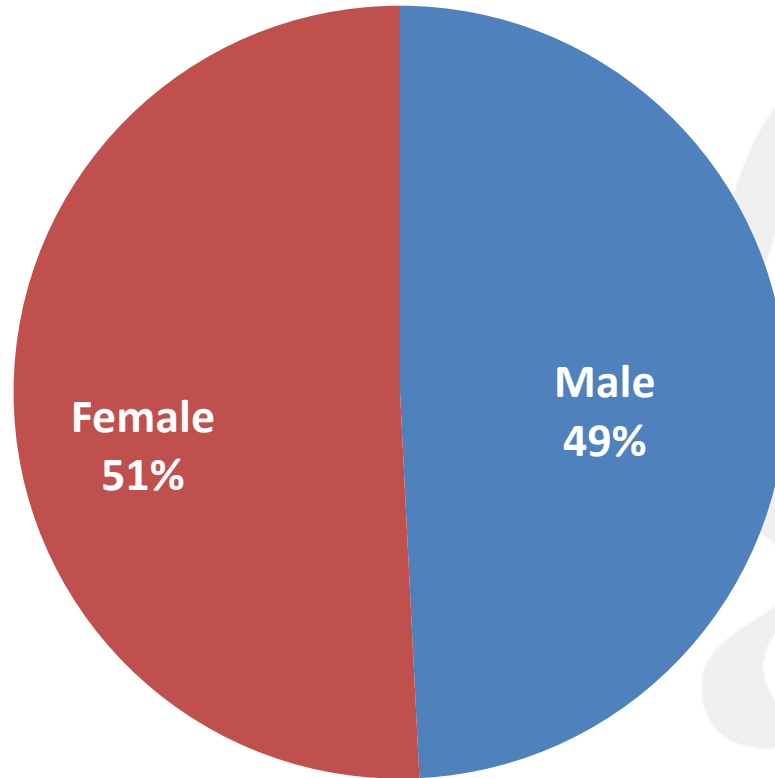


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Sex of Children in Nonparental Care



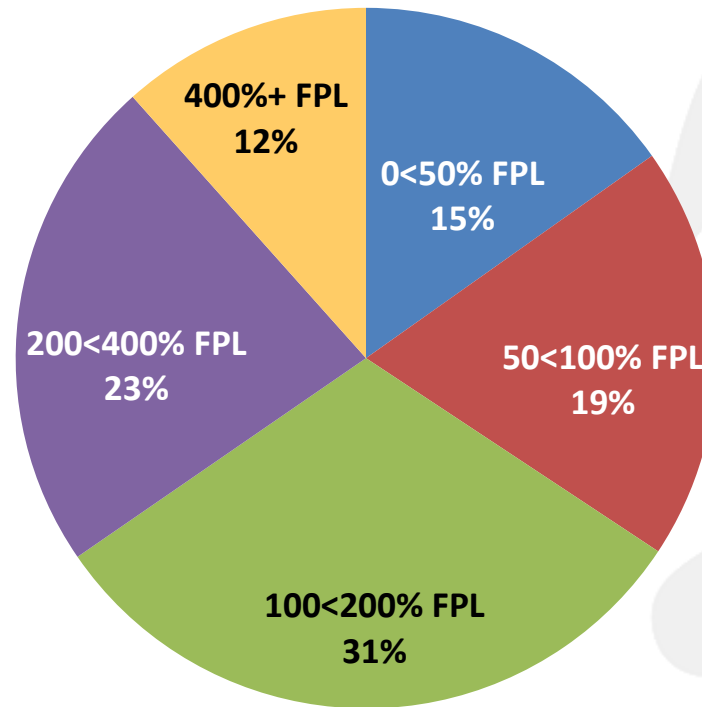
Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Income of Households in which Children in Nonparental Care Reside

(Income Relative to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL))

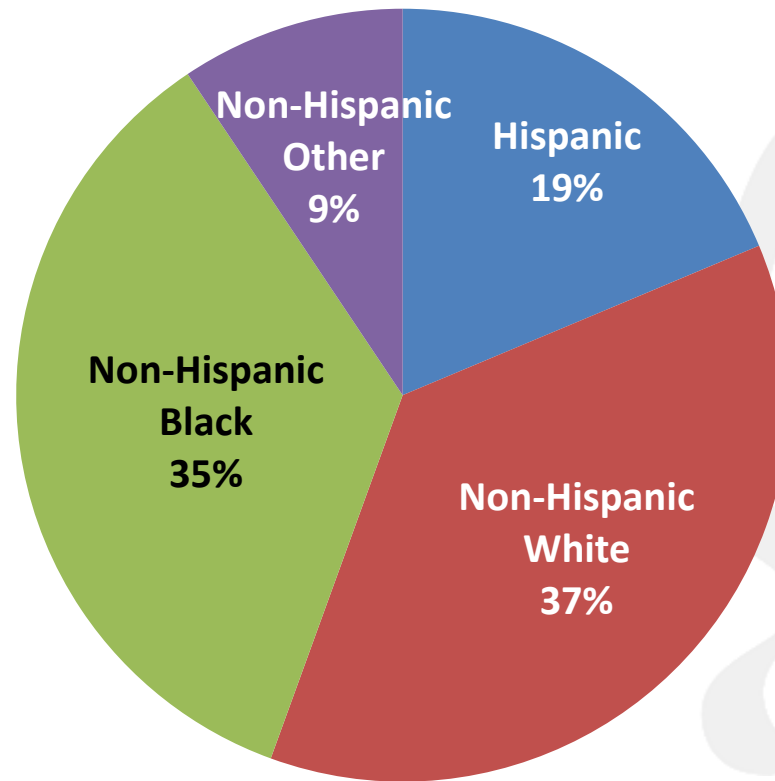


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Race/Ethnicity of Children in Nonparental Care



Source: 2013 NSCNC



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School Issues

- About 10% of children in nonparental care needed to change schools when they moved into their current caregiver's home
- This percentage was consistent across types of nonparental care
- 62% of school age children in nonparental care were reported to be excellent or very good in reading and writing
- 49% were reported to be excellent or very good in math



CHARACTERISTICS OF CAREGIVERS



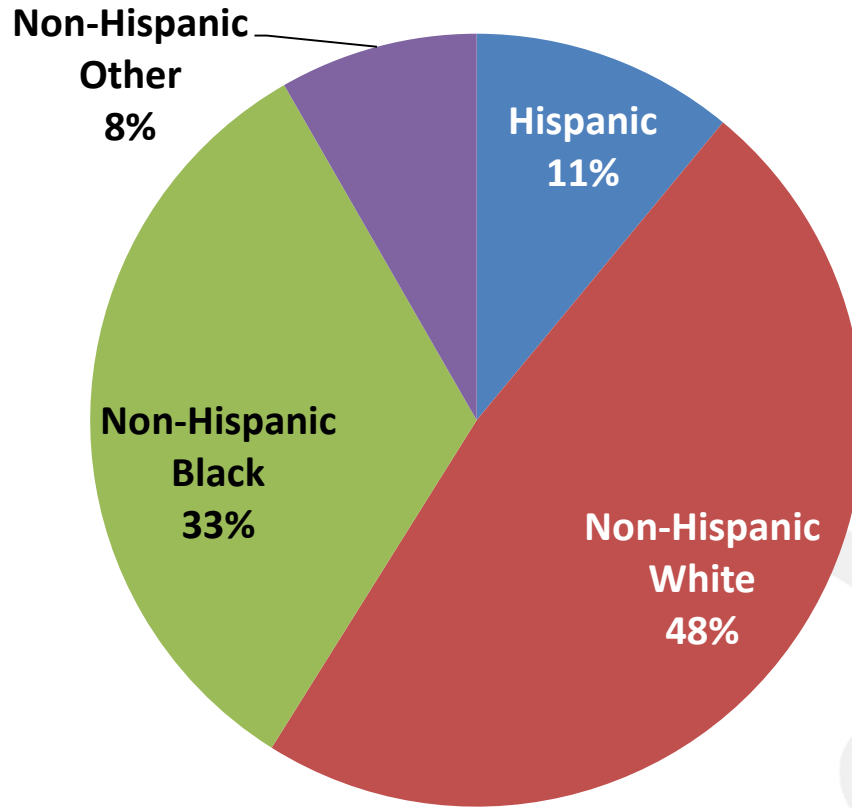
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Maternal and Paternal Grandparents

- About two-thirds of caregivers are grandparents (or spouses of grandparents)
- Of the grandparents, 69% are maternal grandparents, 30% are paternal grandparents
- Ratios of maternal to paternal grandparents were the same for kinship foster parents and informal caregivers



Race/Ethnicity for Caregivers of Children in Nonparental Care



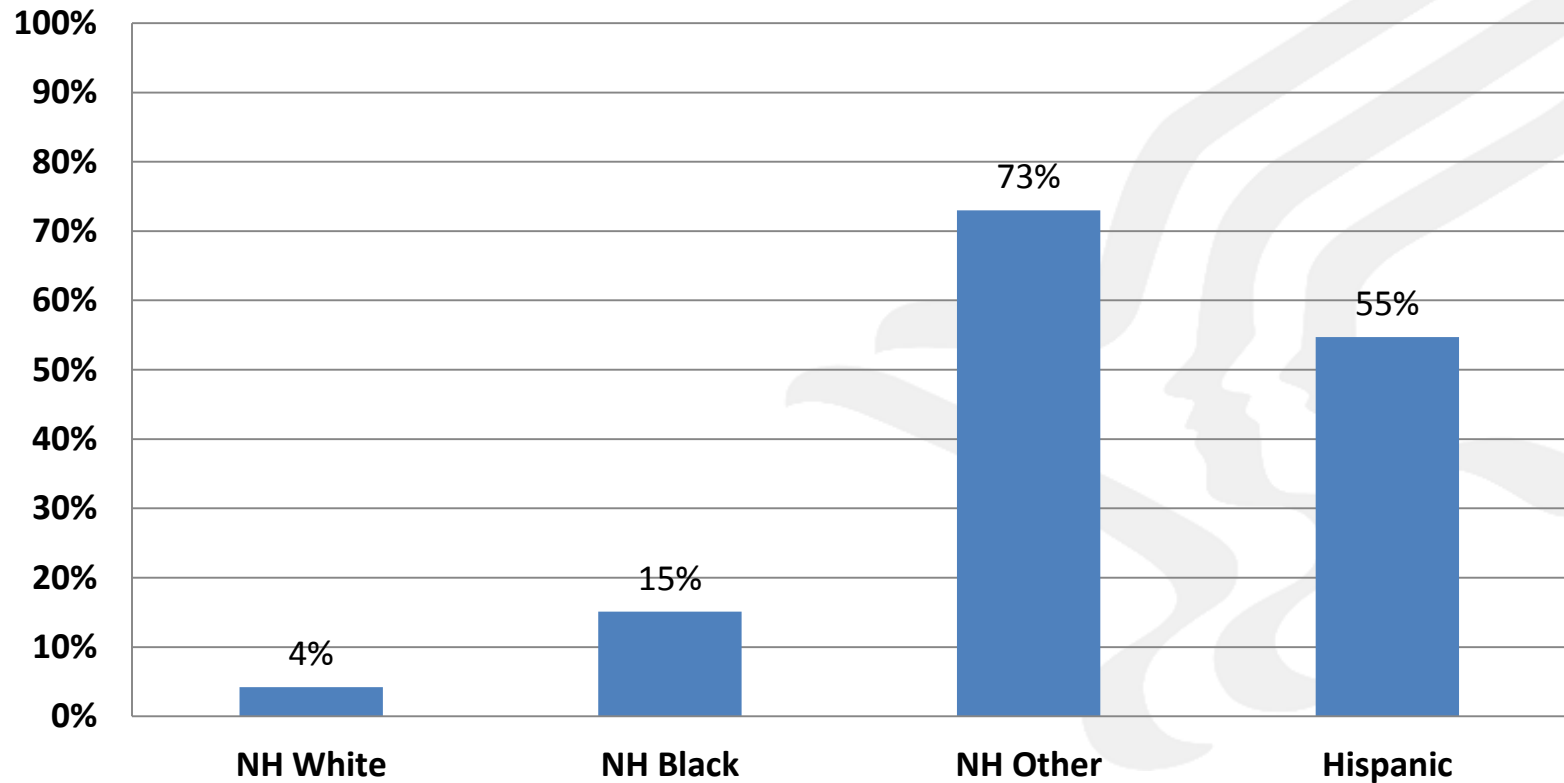
20% of children in nonparental care have a caregiver of another race/ethnicity.

Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Children Cared for by a Caregiver of a Different Race/Ethnicity than the Child

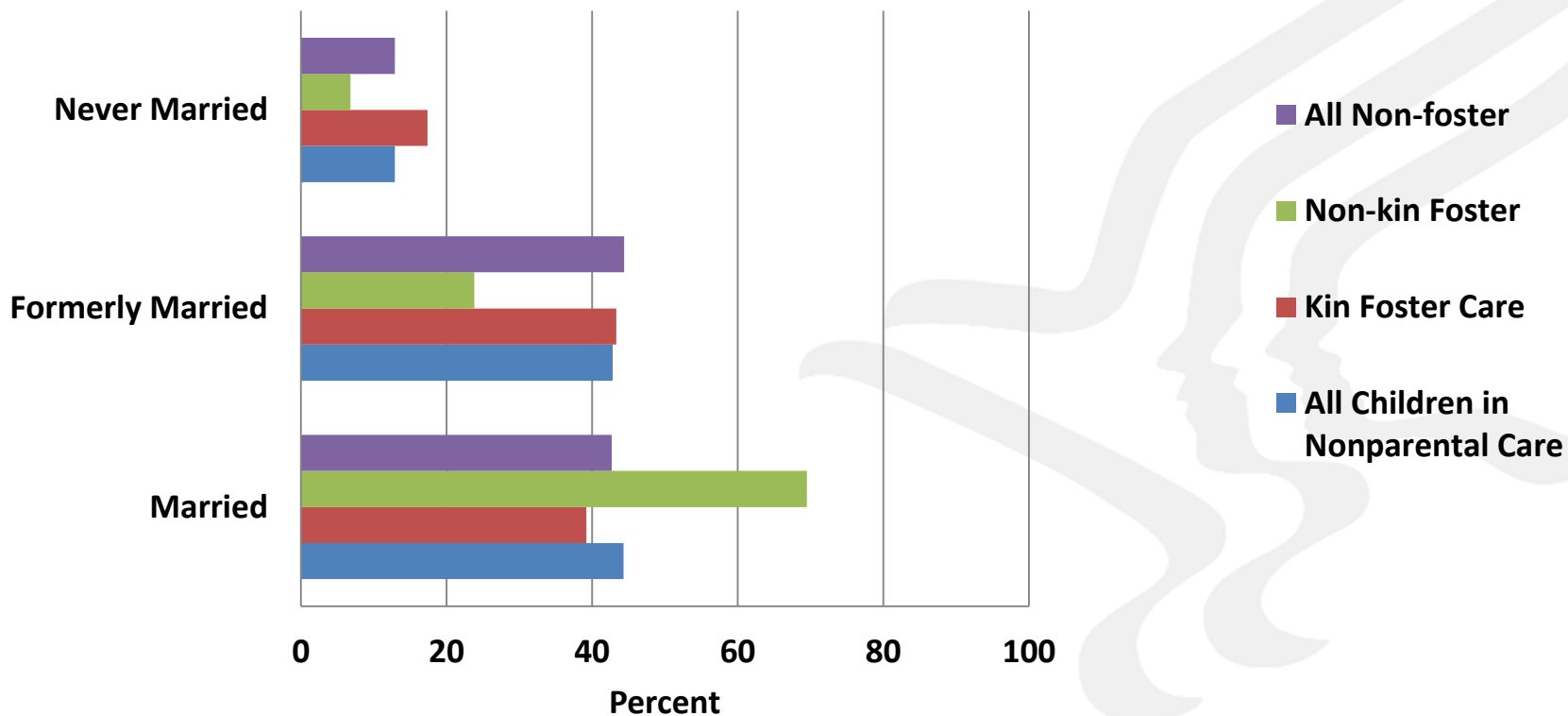


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Caregiver's Marital Status by Care Type

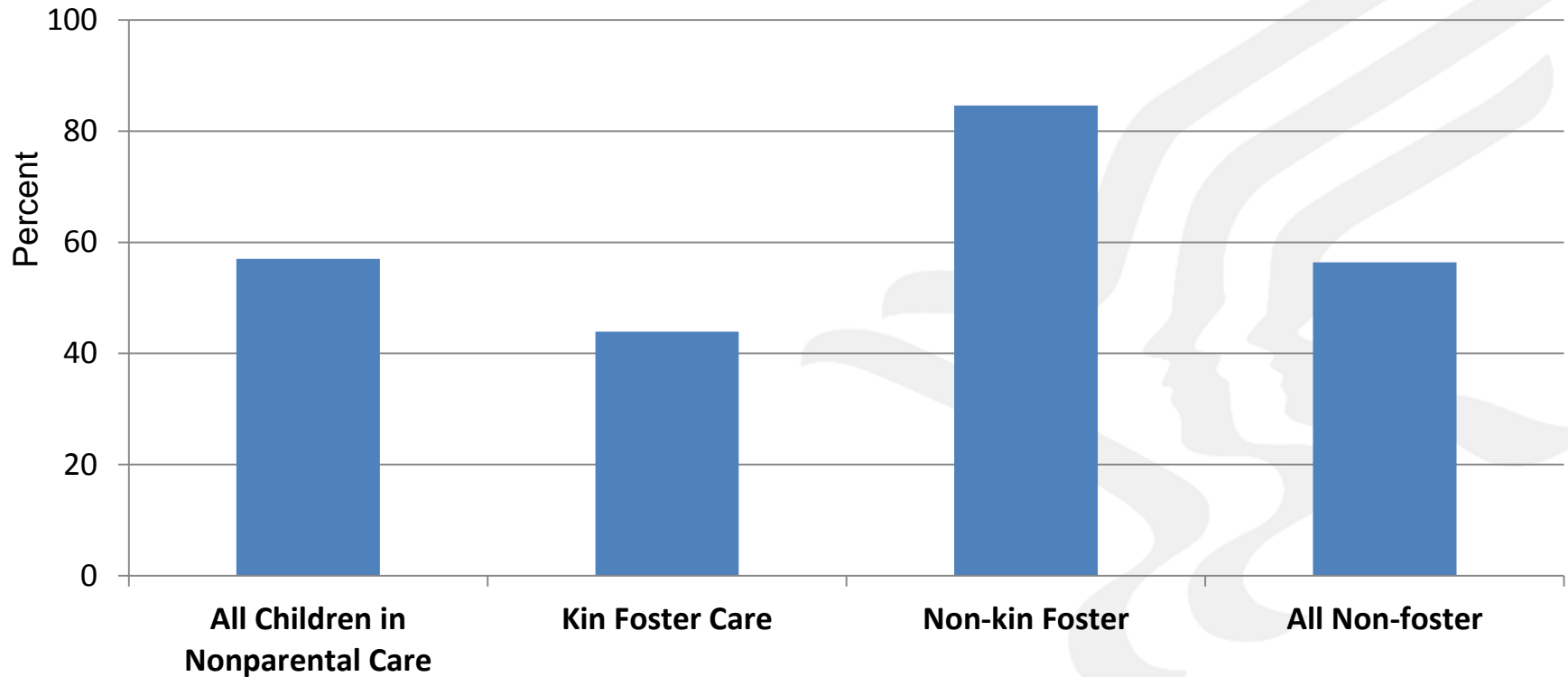


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Percent of Caregivers Who Own Their Own Homes by Care Type

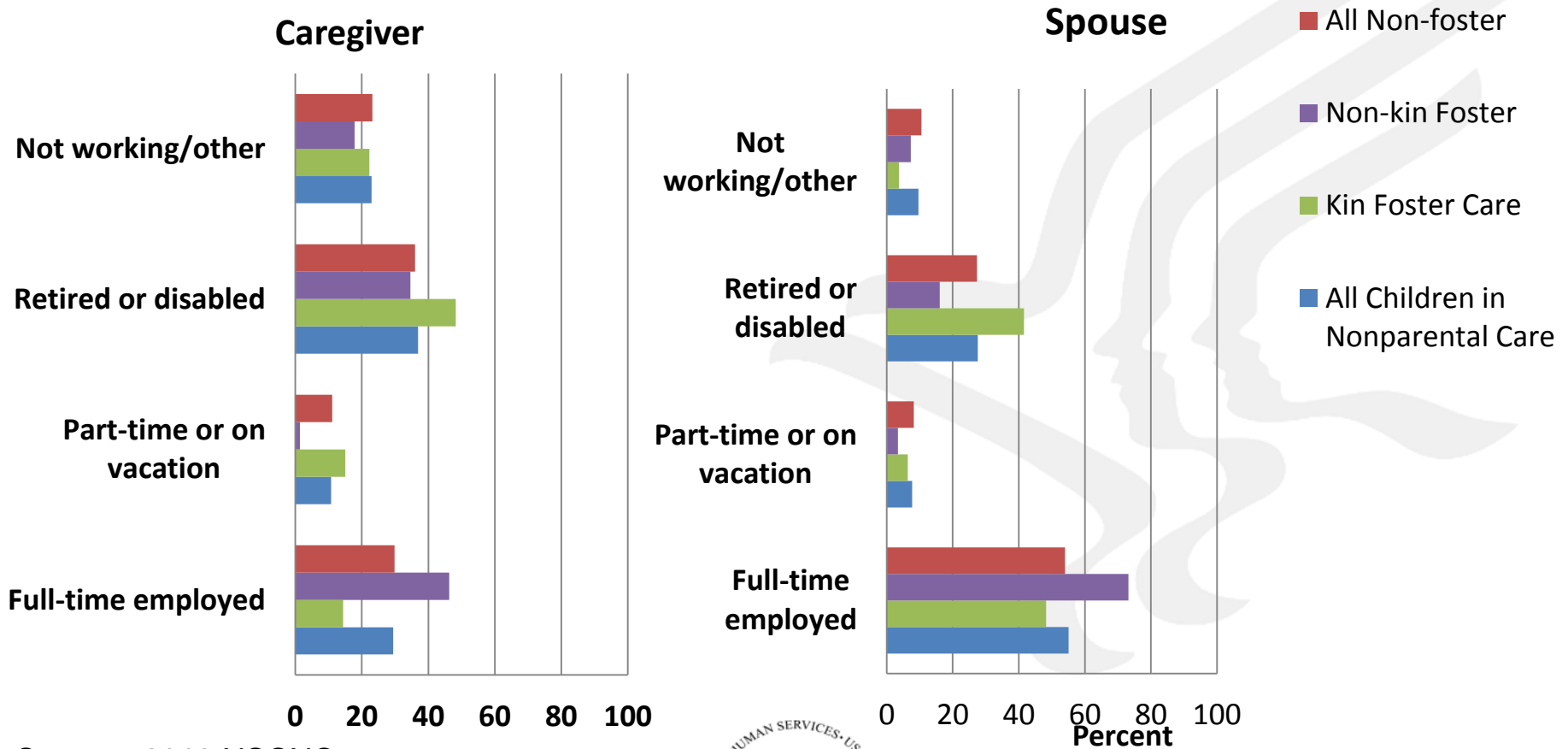


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Employment Status of Caregivers and Their Spouses



Source: 2013 NSCNC

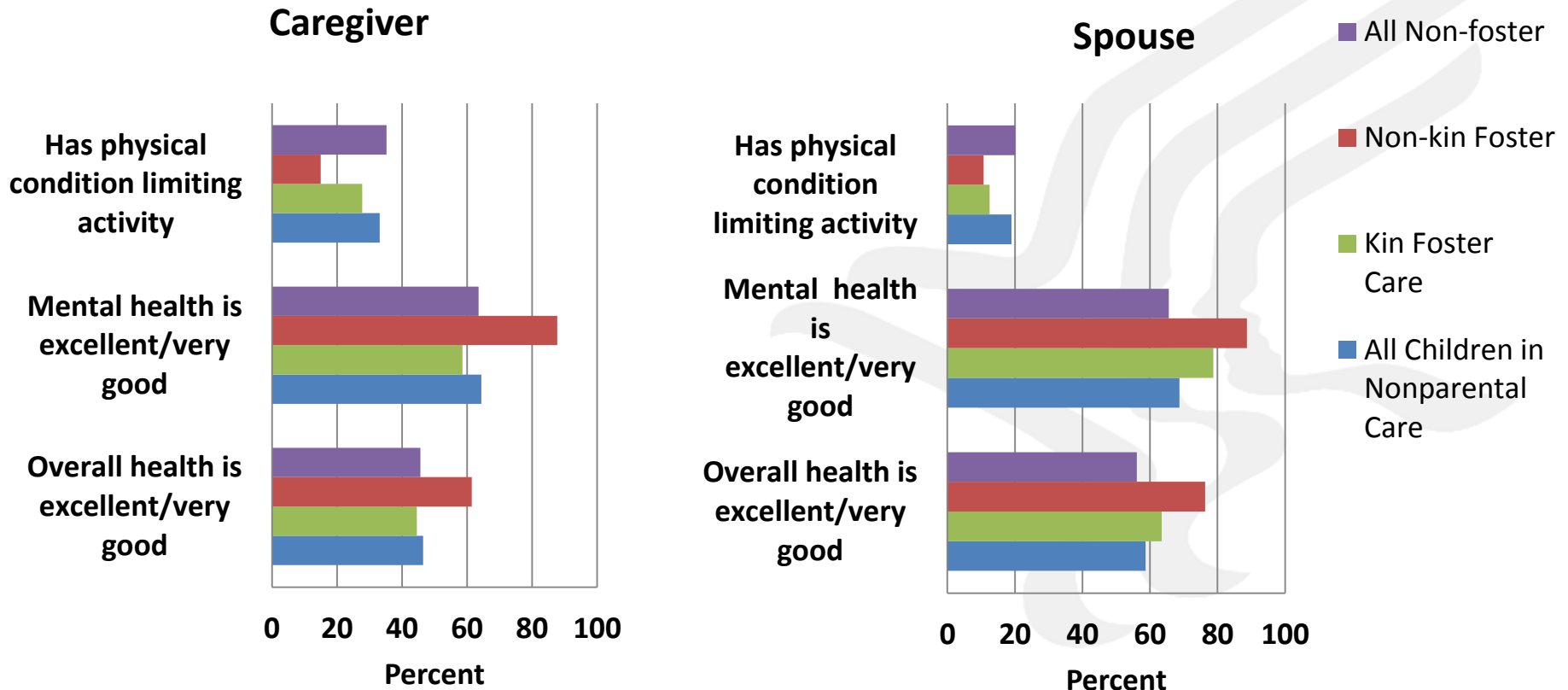
Percent



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Self Reported Health Status of Caregiver and Their Spouse

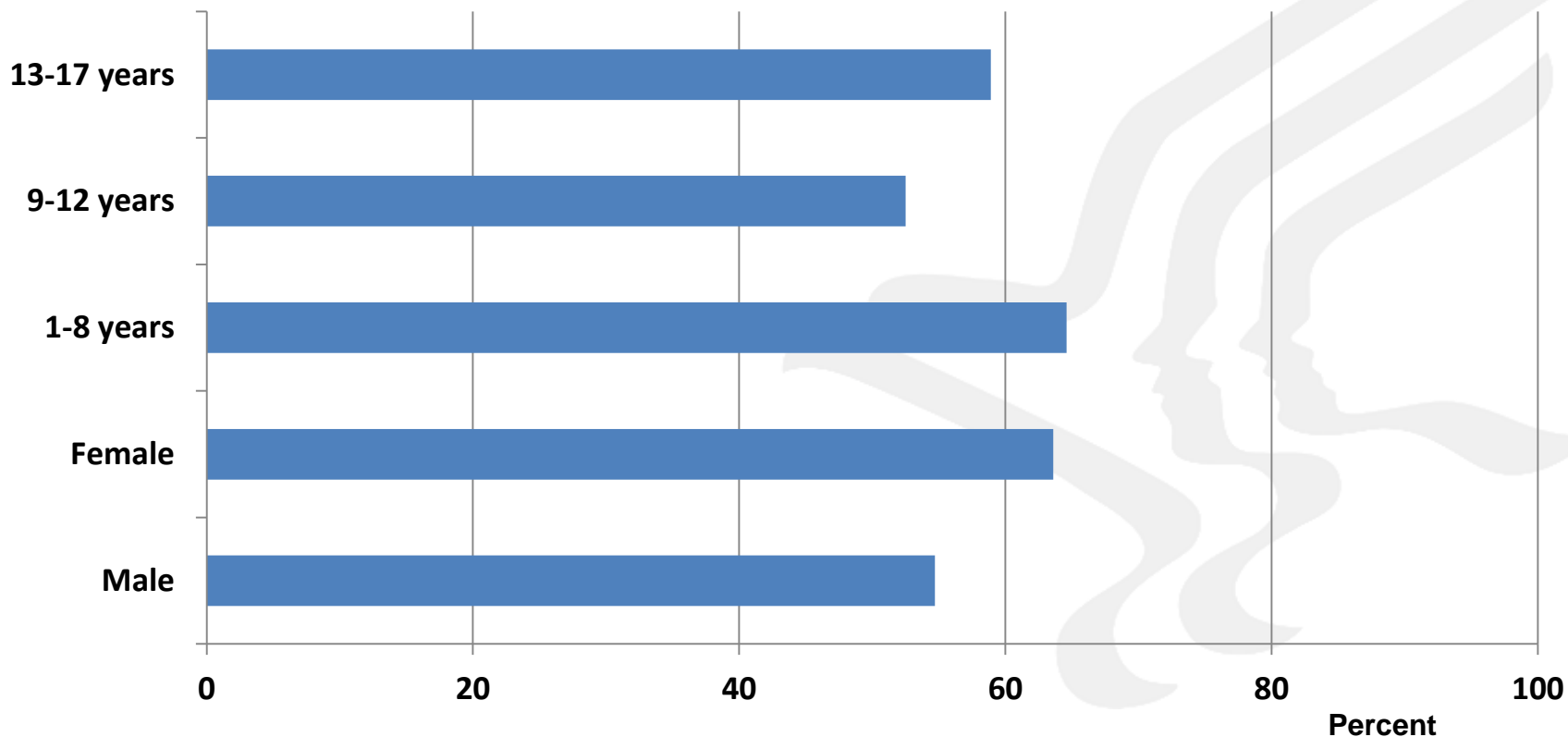


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Caregivers Who Report Being Very Well Prepared to Care for the Child by Child's Age and Sex

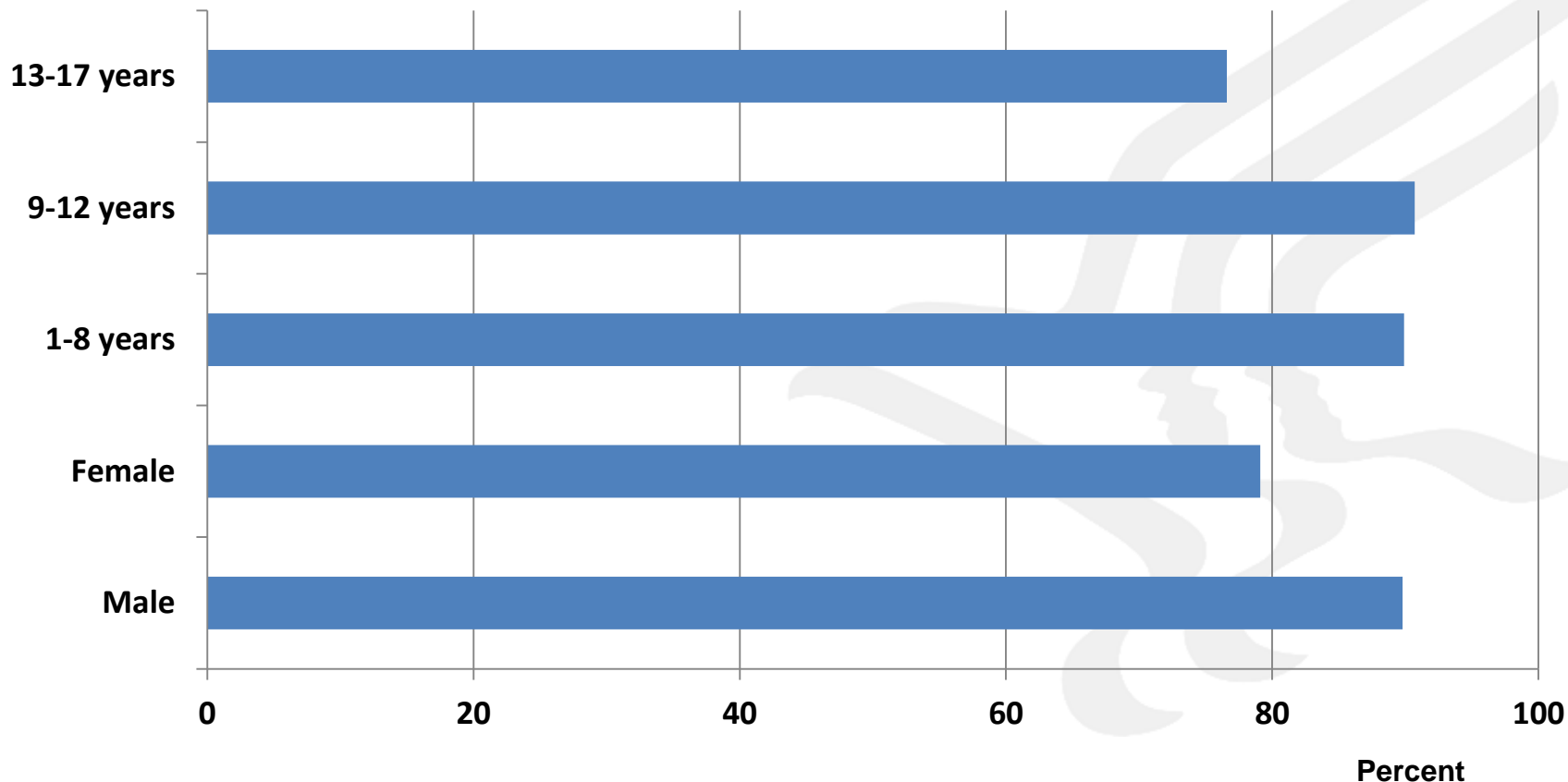


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Caregivers Who Report Understanding the Services Available in Their Community, by Child's Age and Sex



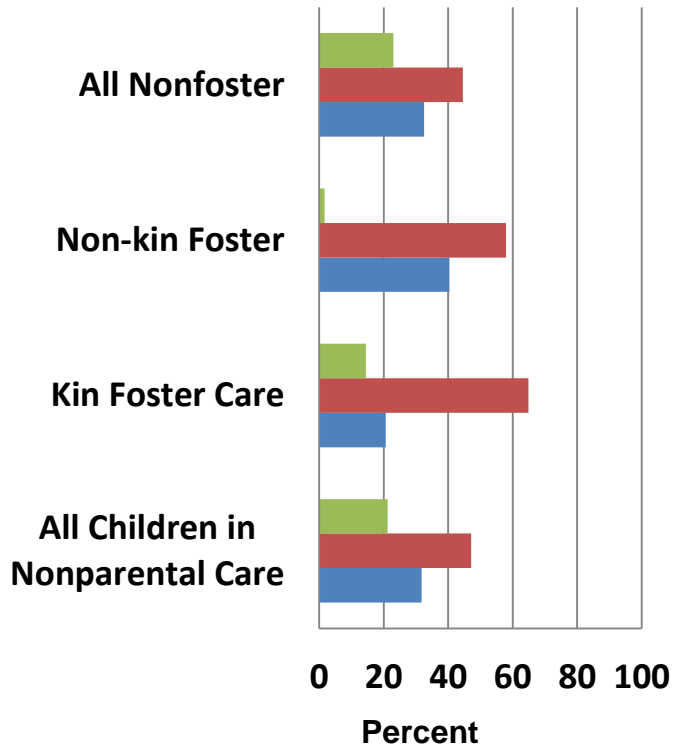
Source: 2013 NSCNC



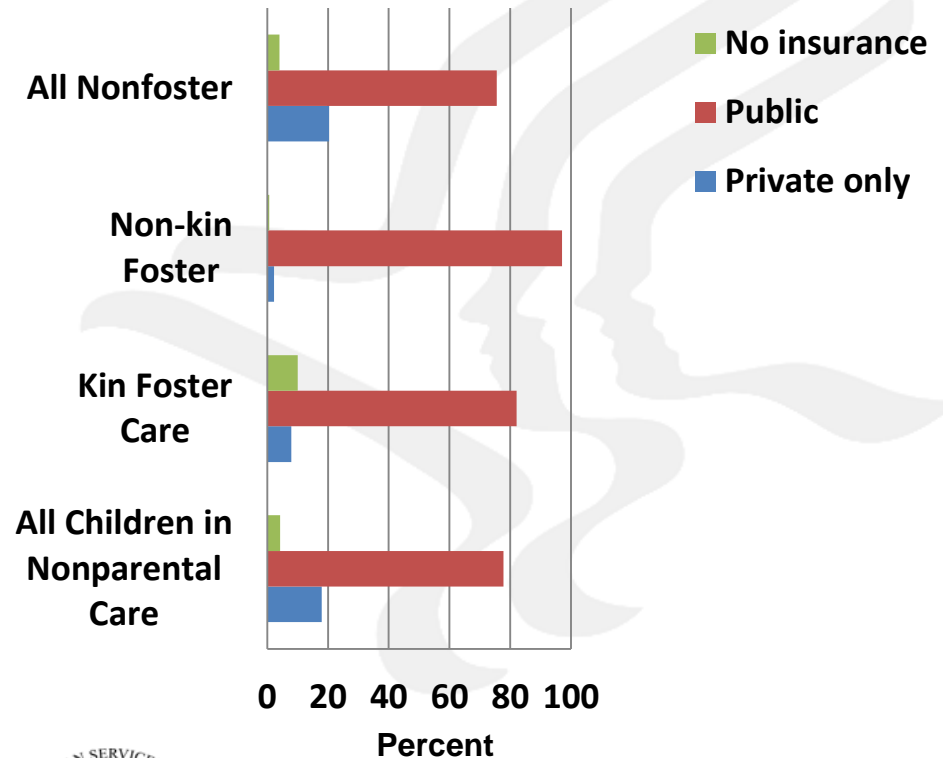
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Health Insurance Status by Foster Care Type

Caregiver's Insurance Status



Child's Insurance Status



Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Caregiver Depression

- About 10 percent of caregivers were depressed as measured by a two-question depression screener included in the questionnaire
- There were no statistically significant differences in depression across caregiver categories

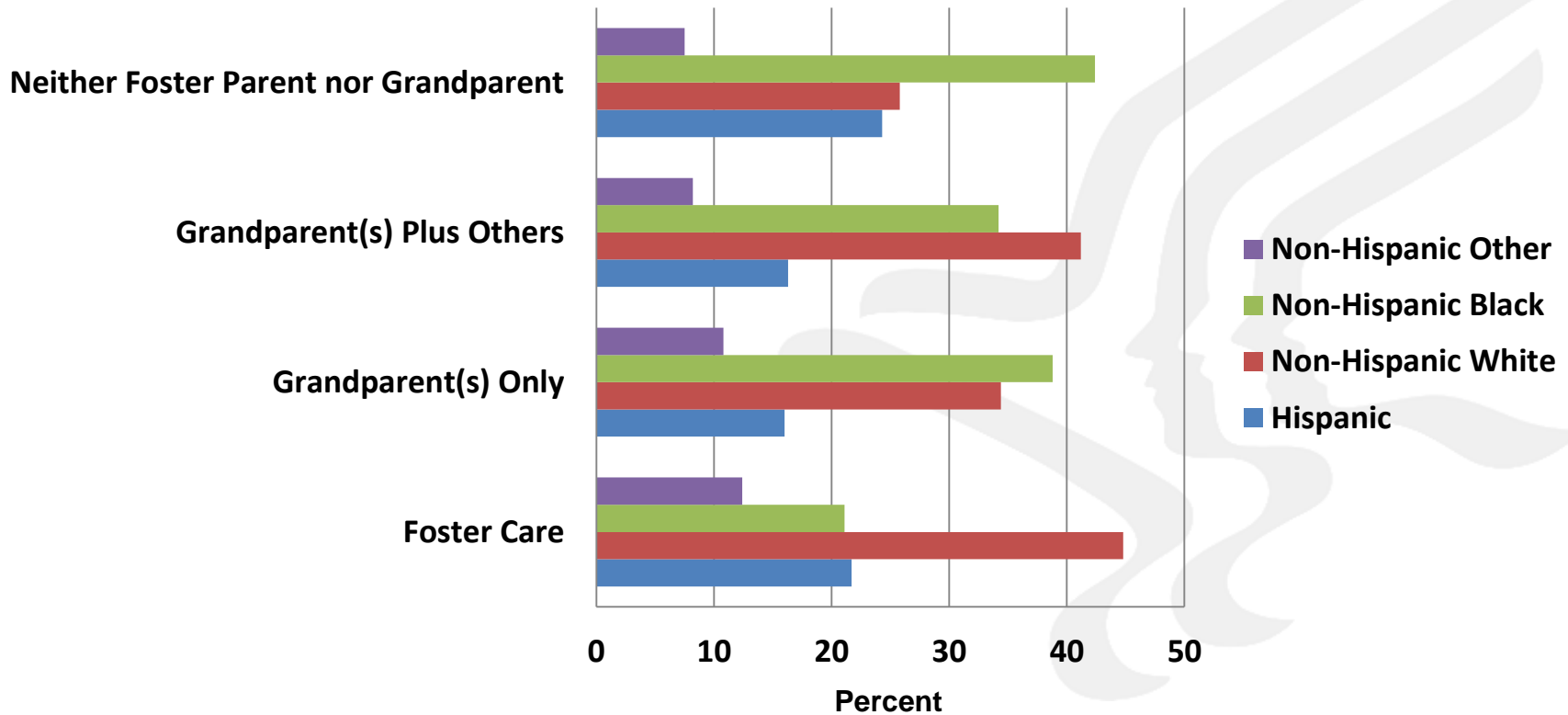


HOW DO DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS DIFFER BY TYPE OF NONPARENTAL CARE?



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Child's Race/Ethnicity by Nonparent Caregiver Type

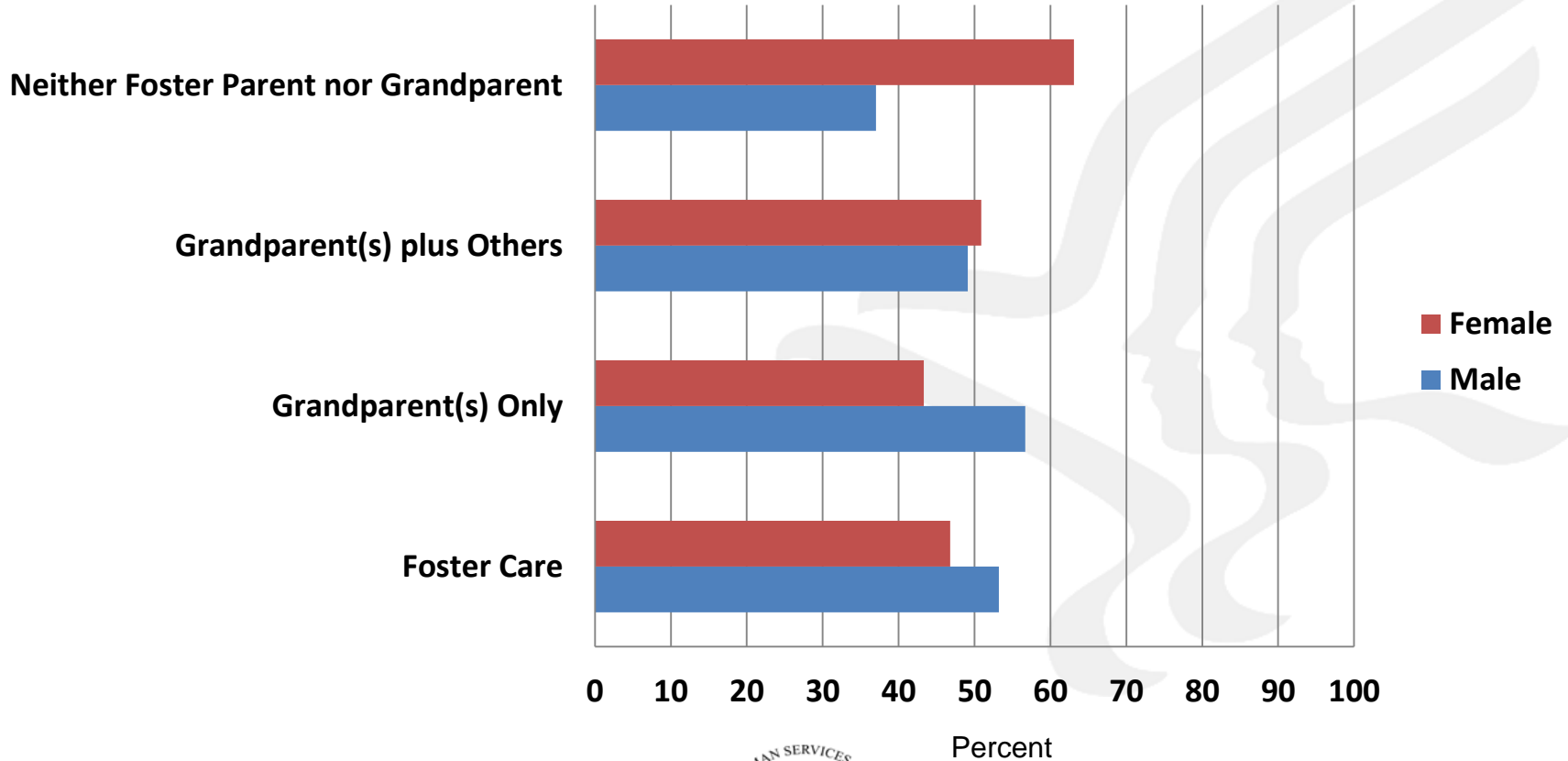


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Child's Sex by Nonparental Caregiver Type

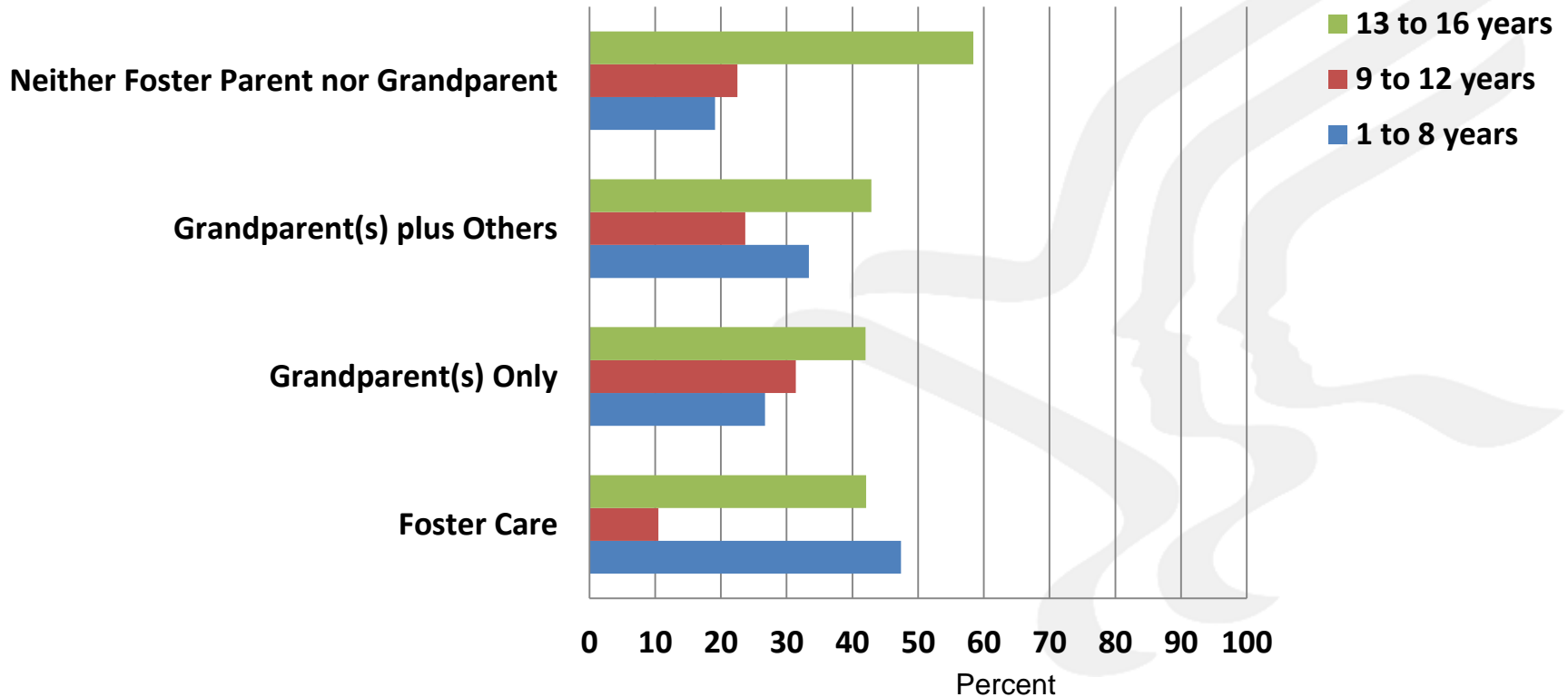


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Child's Age by Nonparental Caregiver Type

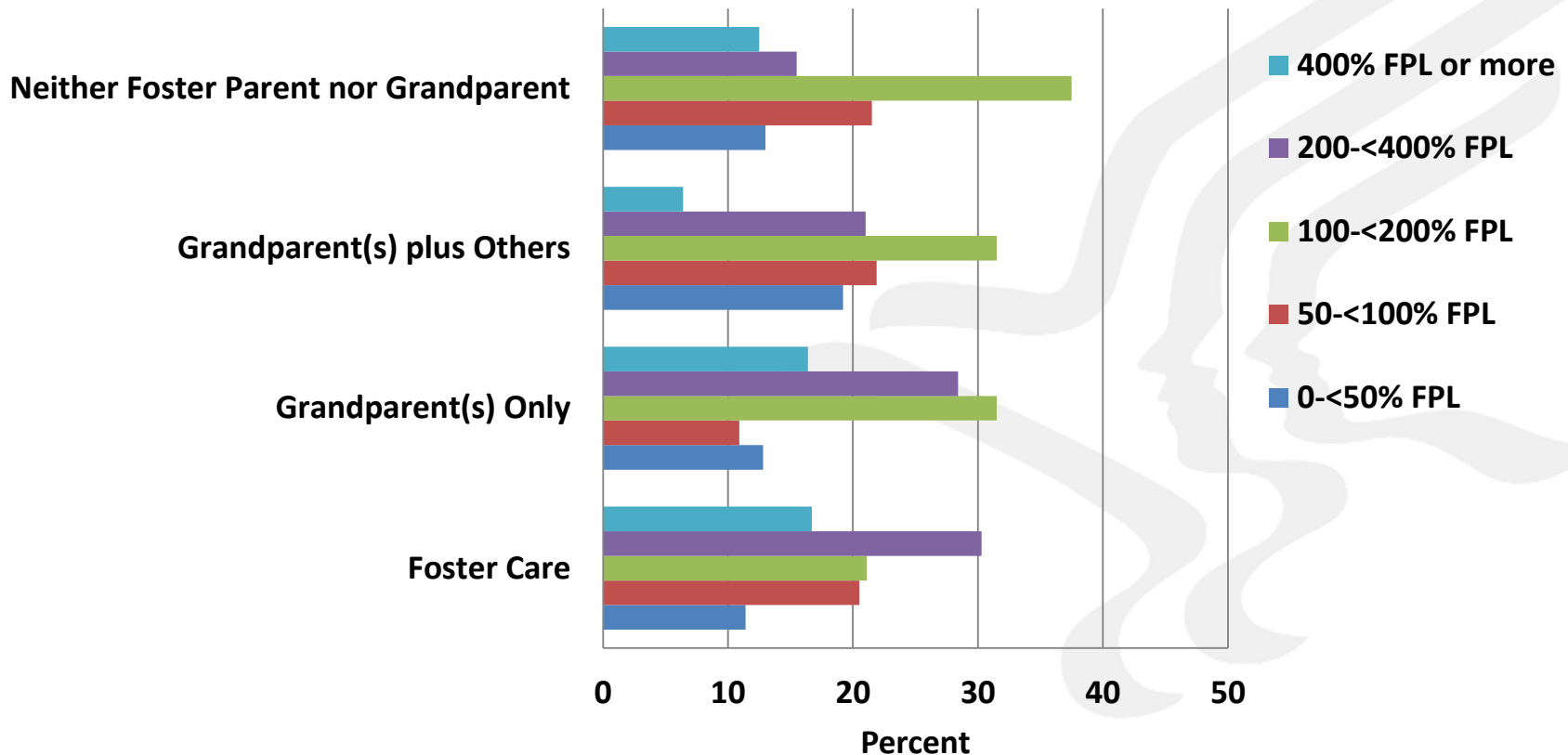


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Household Income Relative to FPL by Nonparental Caregiver Type



Source: 2013 NSCNC



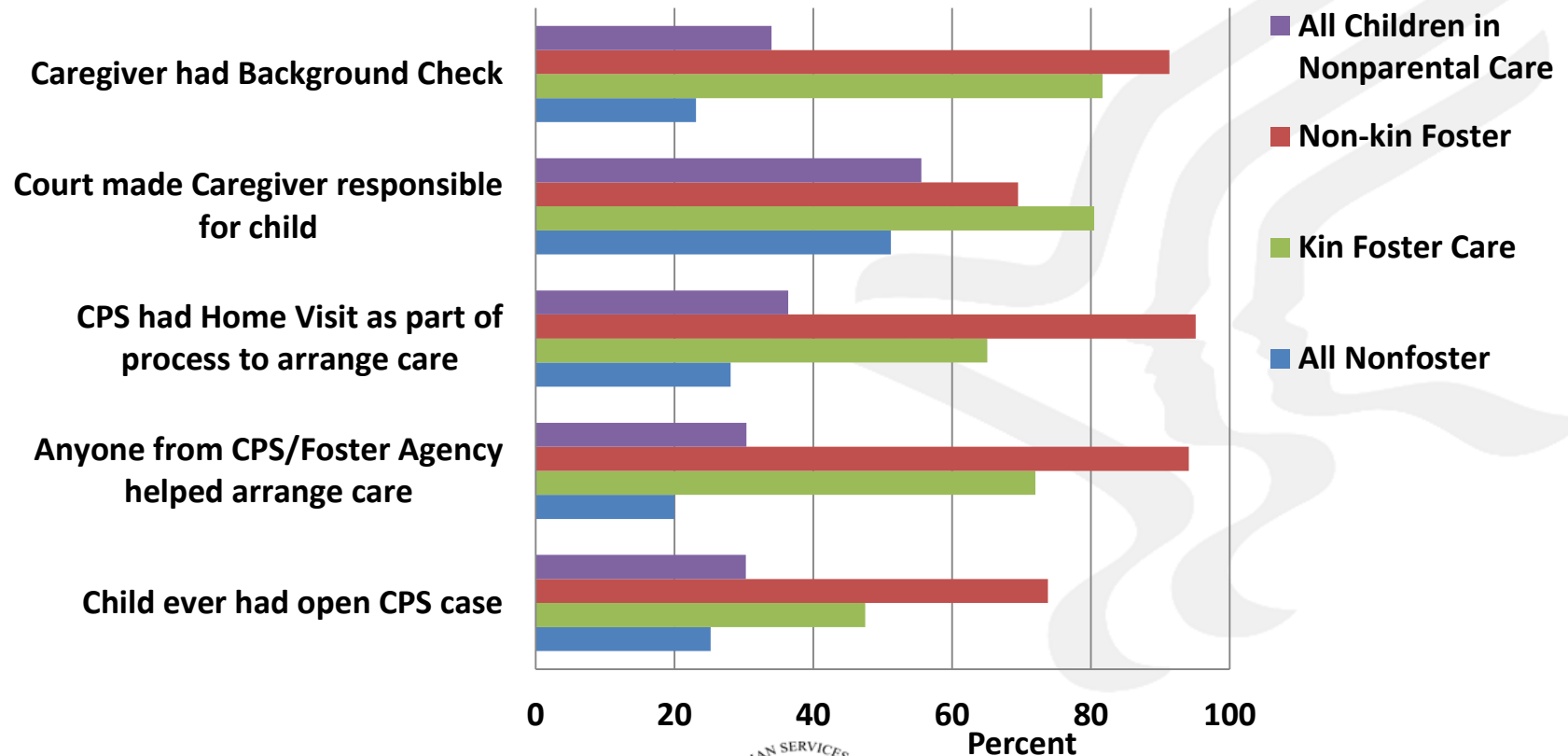
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INVOLVEMENT OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES



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Child Protective Services Involvement by Care Type

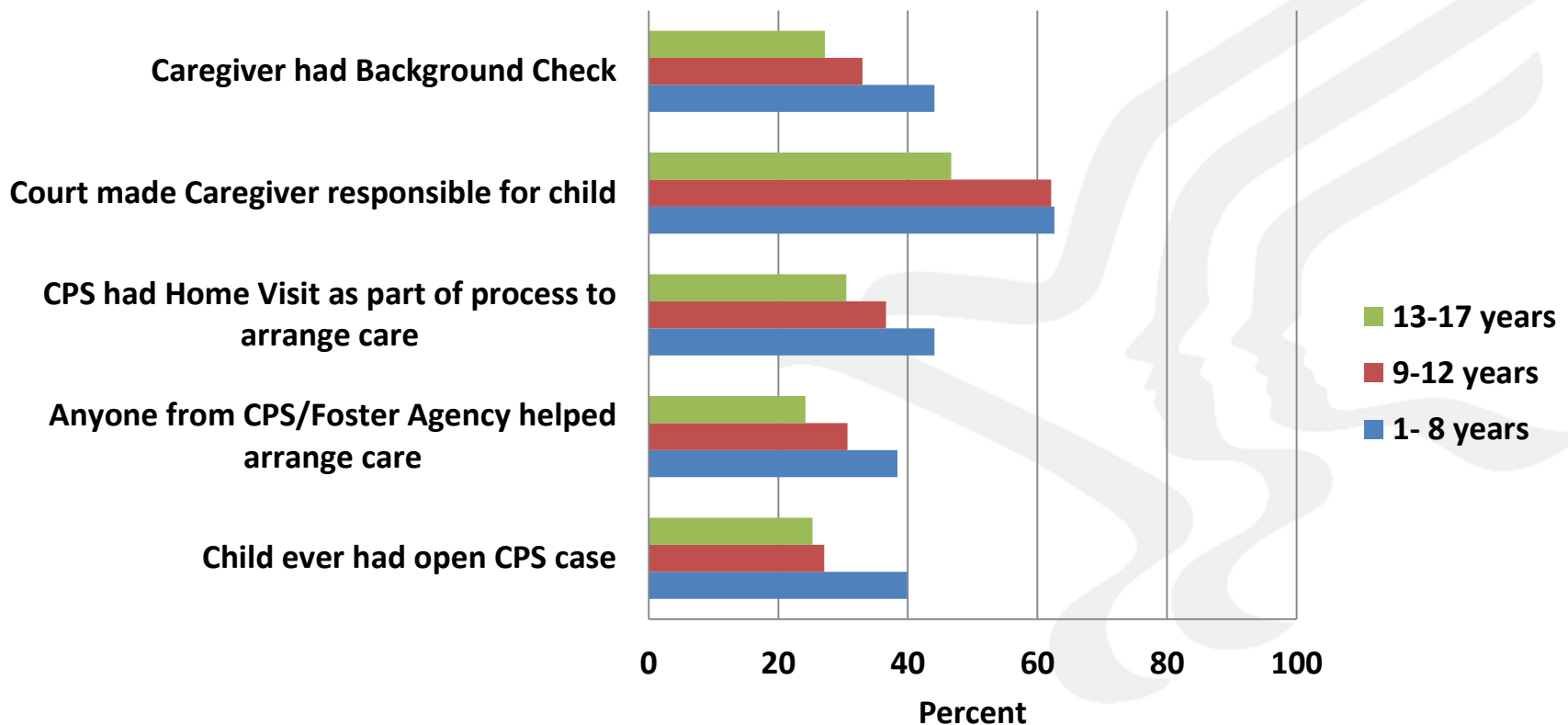


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Child Protective Services Involvement by Age of Child

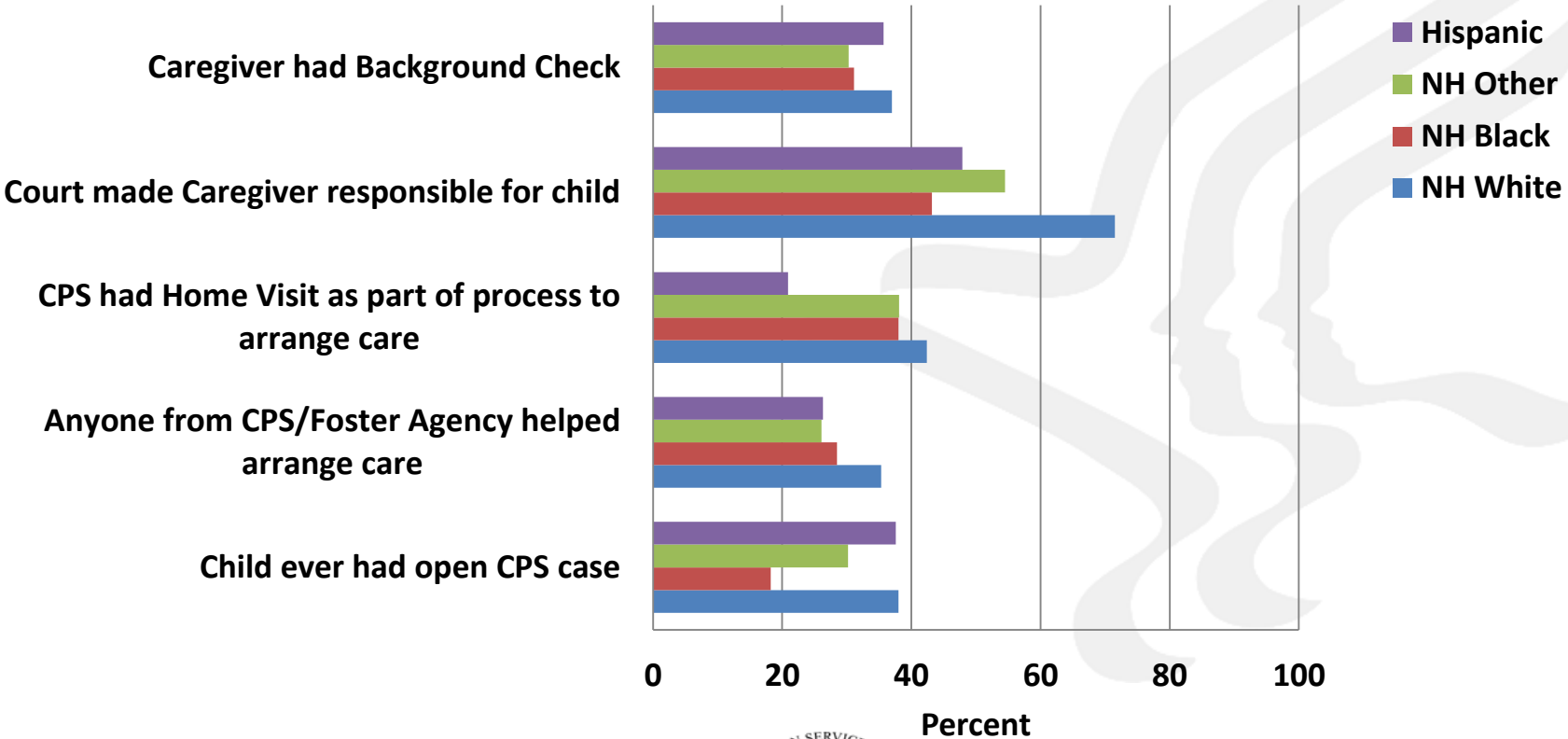


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Child Protective Services Involvement by Child's Race/Ethnicity



Source: 2013 NSCNC



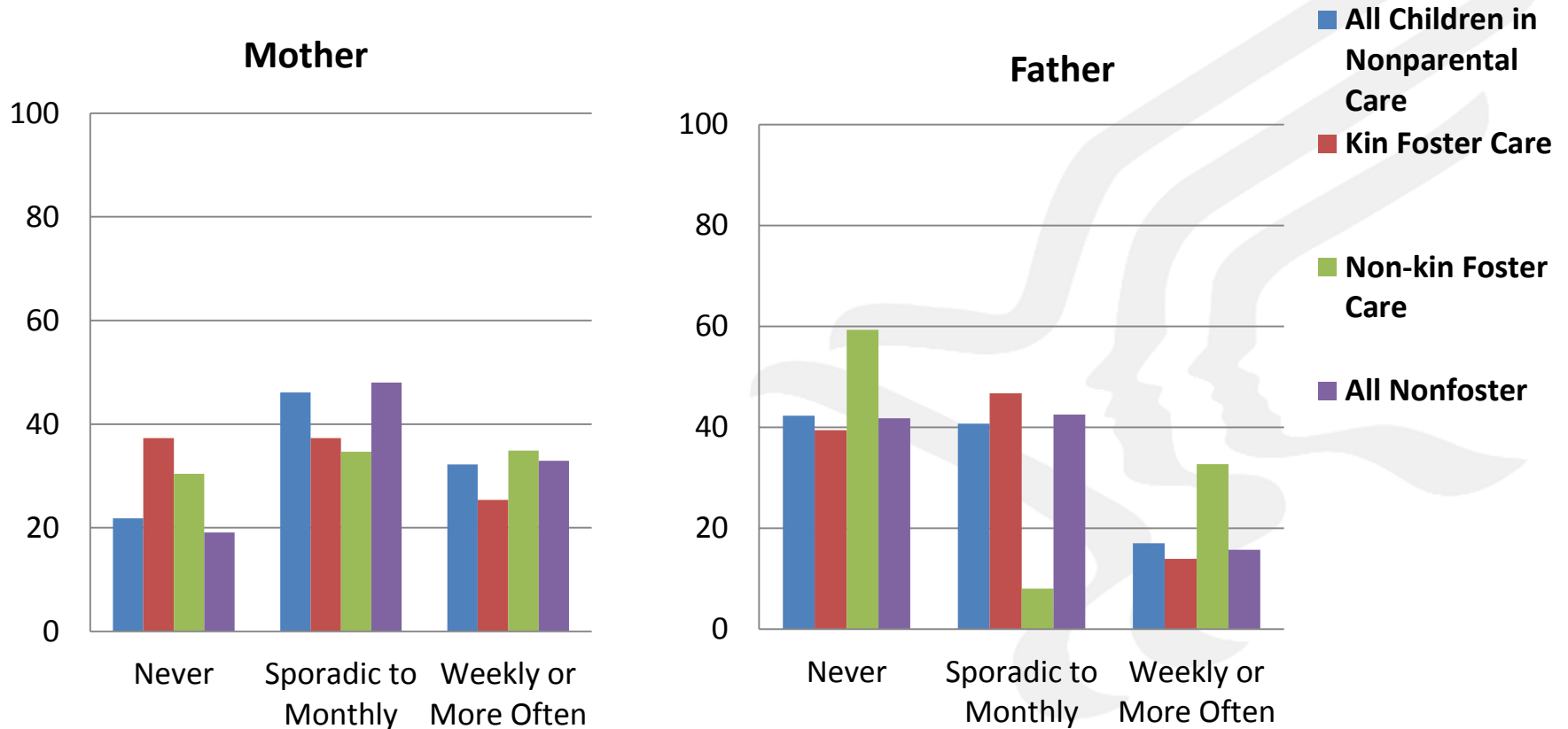
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CONTACT WITH PARENTS AND SIBLINGS



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Frequency with Which Child Sees Parent by Care Type

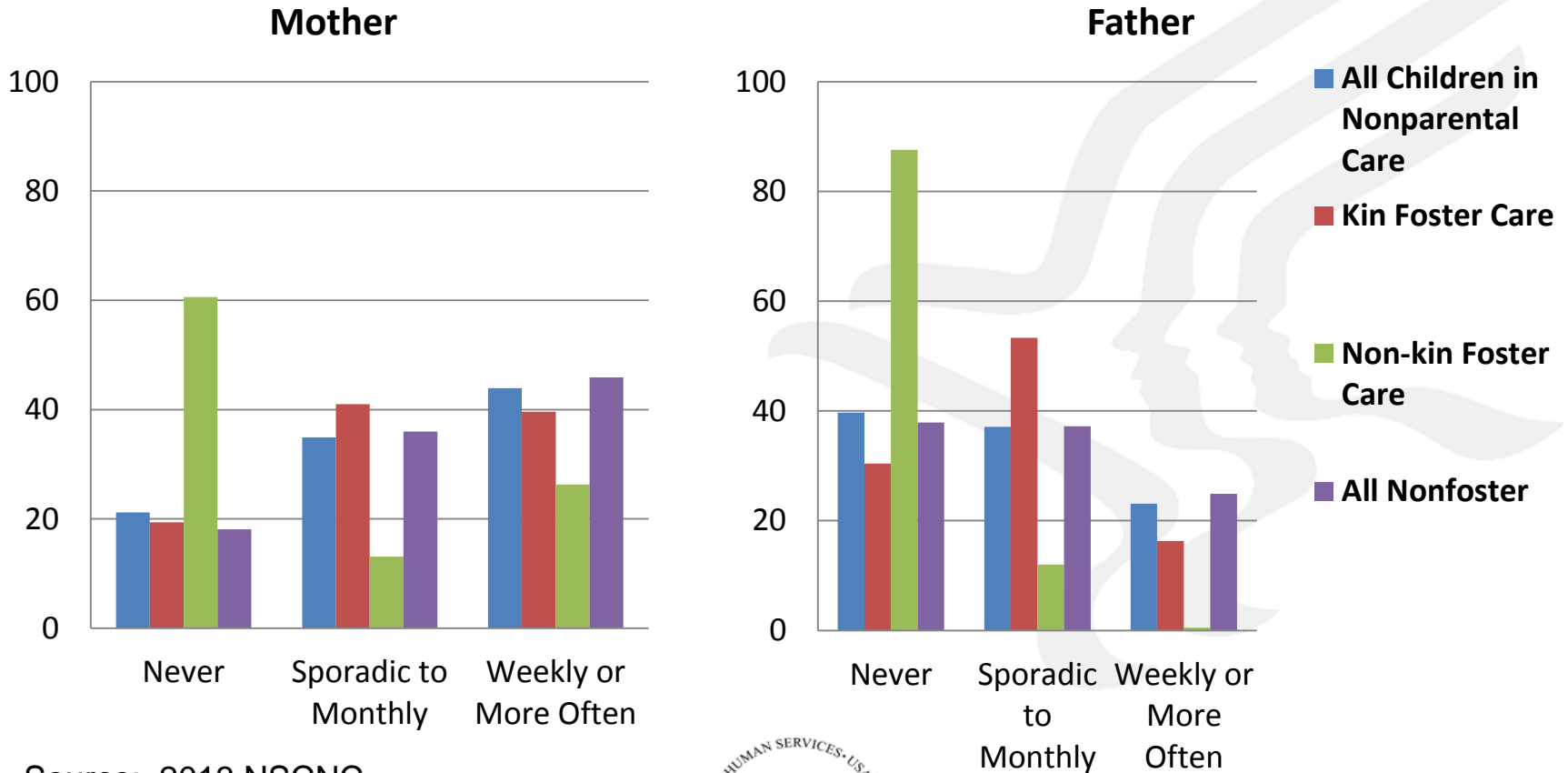


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency of Phone/Mail/Email Contact with Parents



Source: 2013 NSCNC



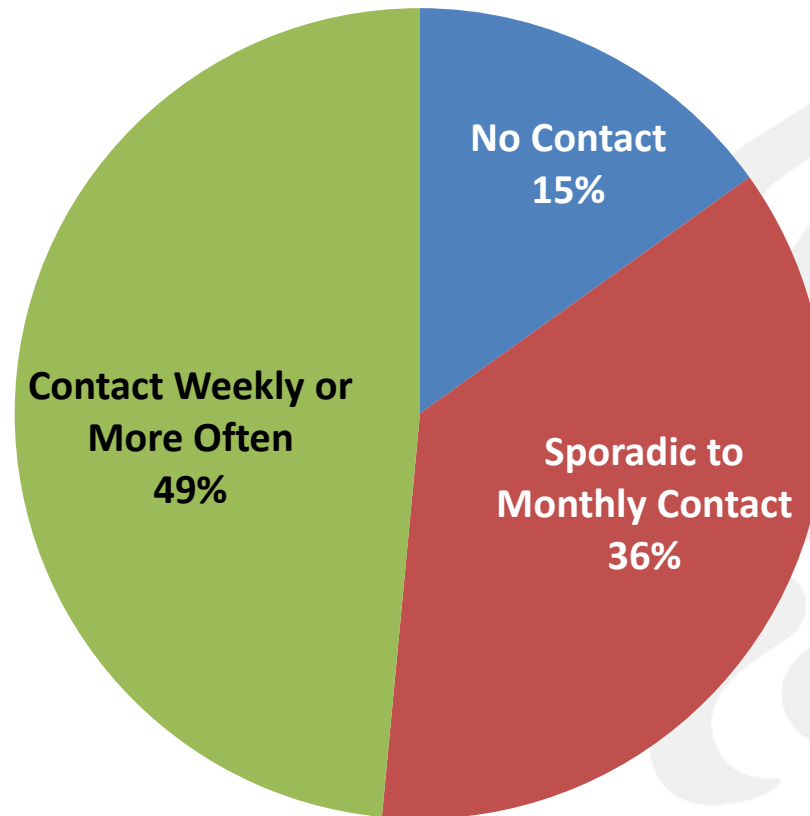
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Siblings

- 91% of children in nonparental care have siblings
- About half of those have at least some siblings living in the same caregiver's home
- Among children not living with their siblings, children in non-kin foster care are less likely to see their siblings regularly than those in kinship foster care
- Children with caregivers who are not foster parents are more likely to see nonresident siblings regularly than children in non-kin foster care (but similar to children in kin foster care)



Contact with Siblings Living Elsewhere for All Children in Nonparental Care

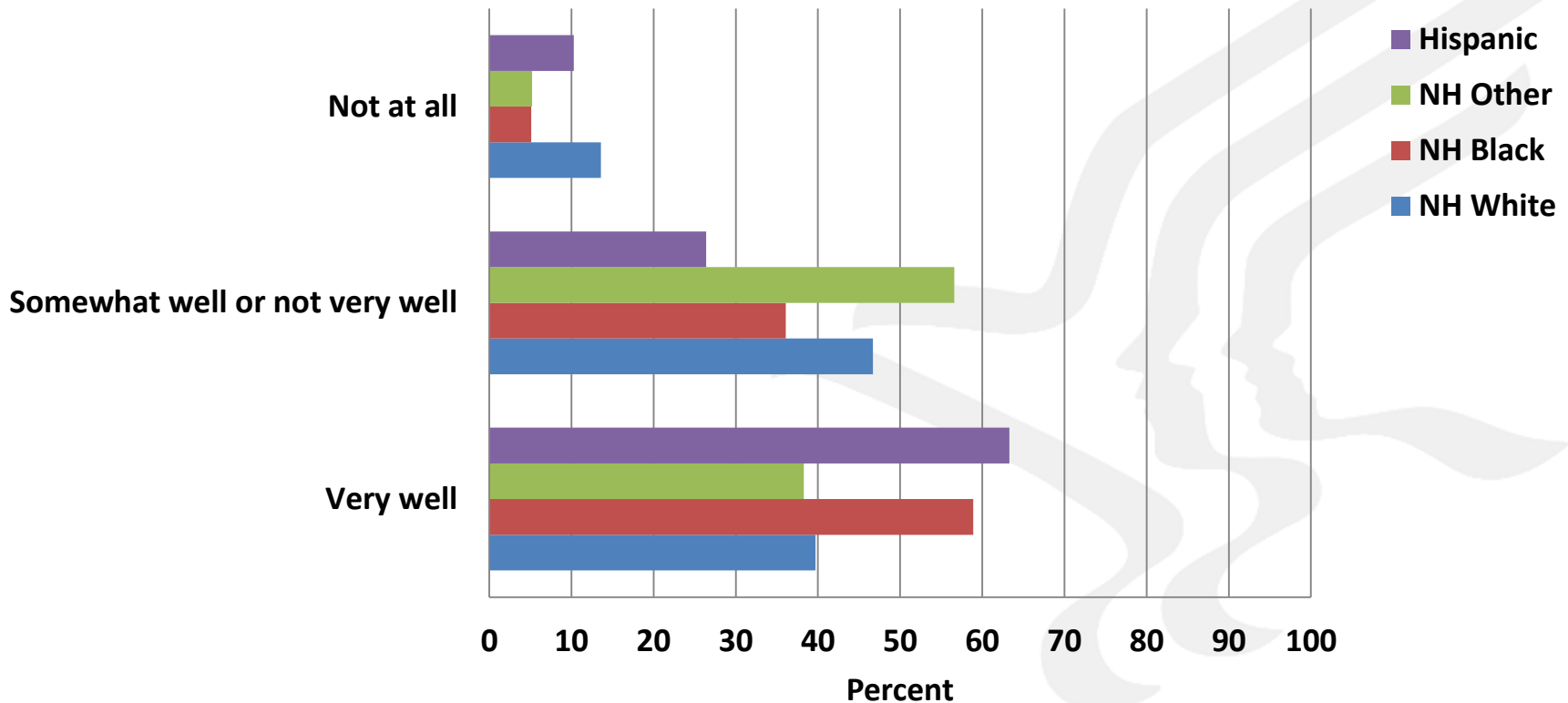


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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How Well Caregiver Gets Along with Child's Parents by Race/Ethnicity

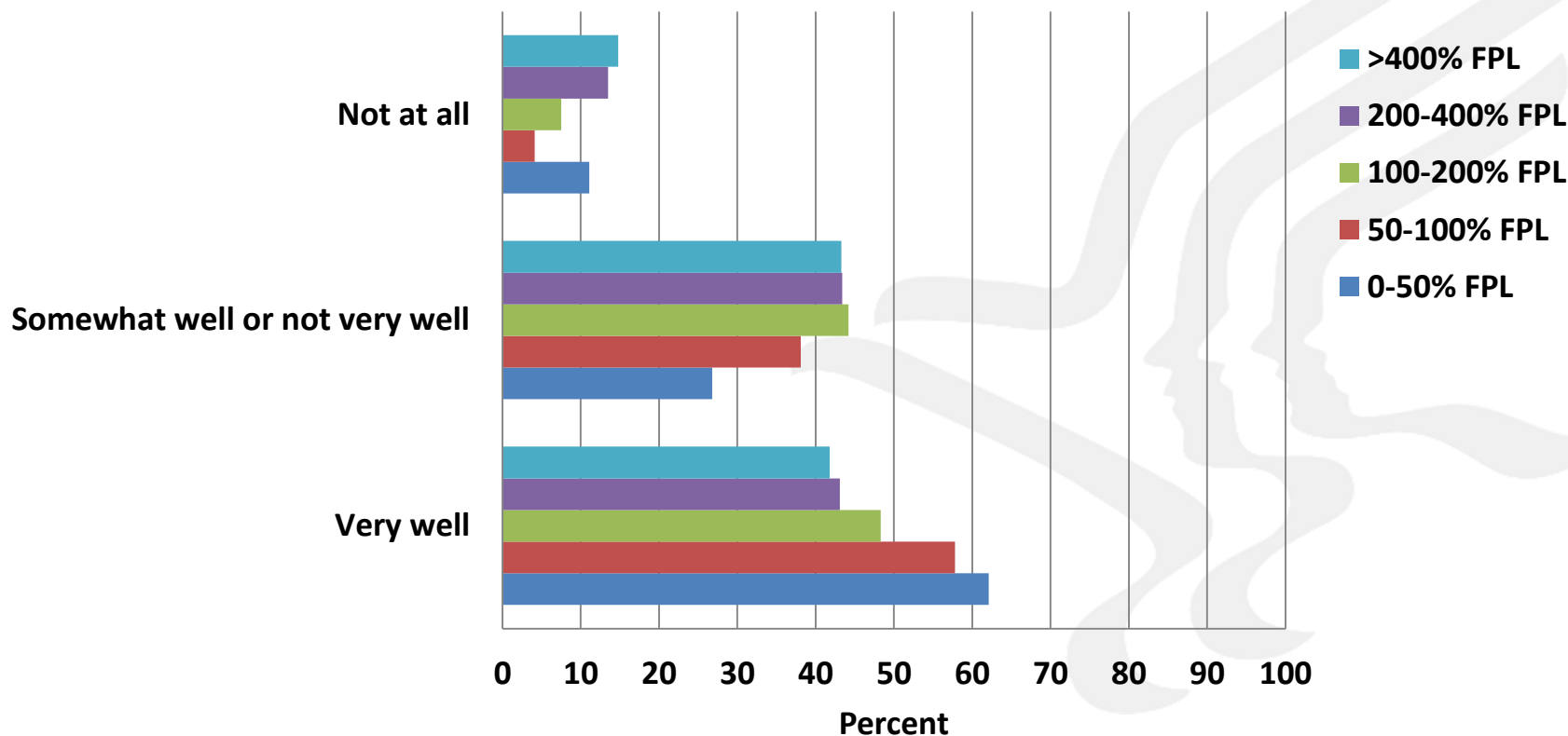


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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How Well Caregiver Gets Along with Child's Parents By Income (of Caregiver's Household)

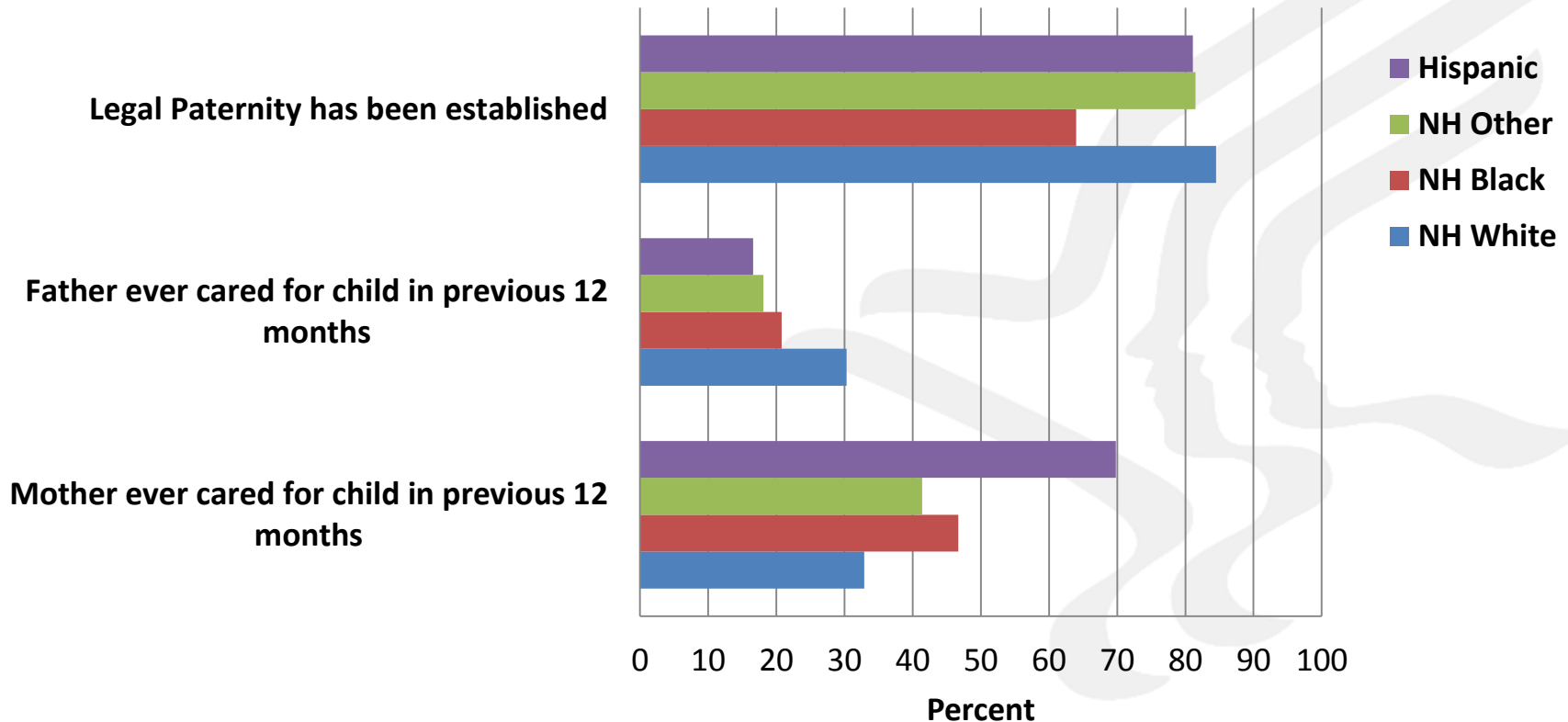


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Paternal Establishment and Recent Parental Care By Child's Race/Ethnicity

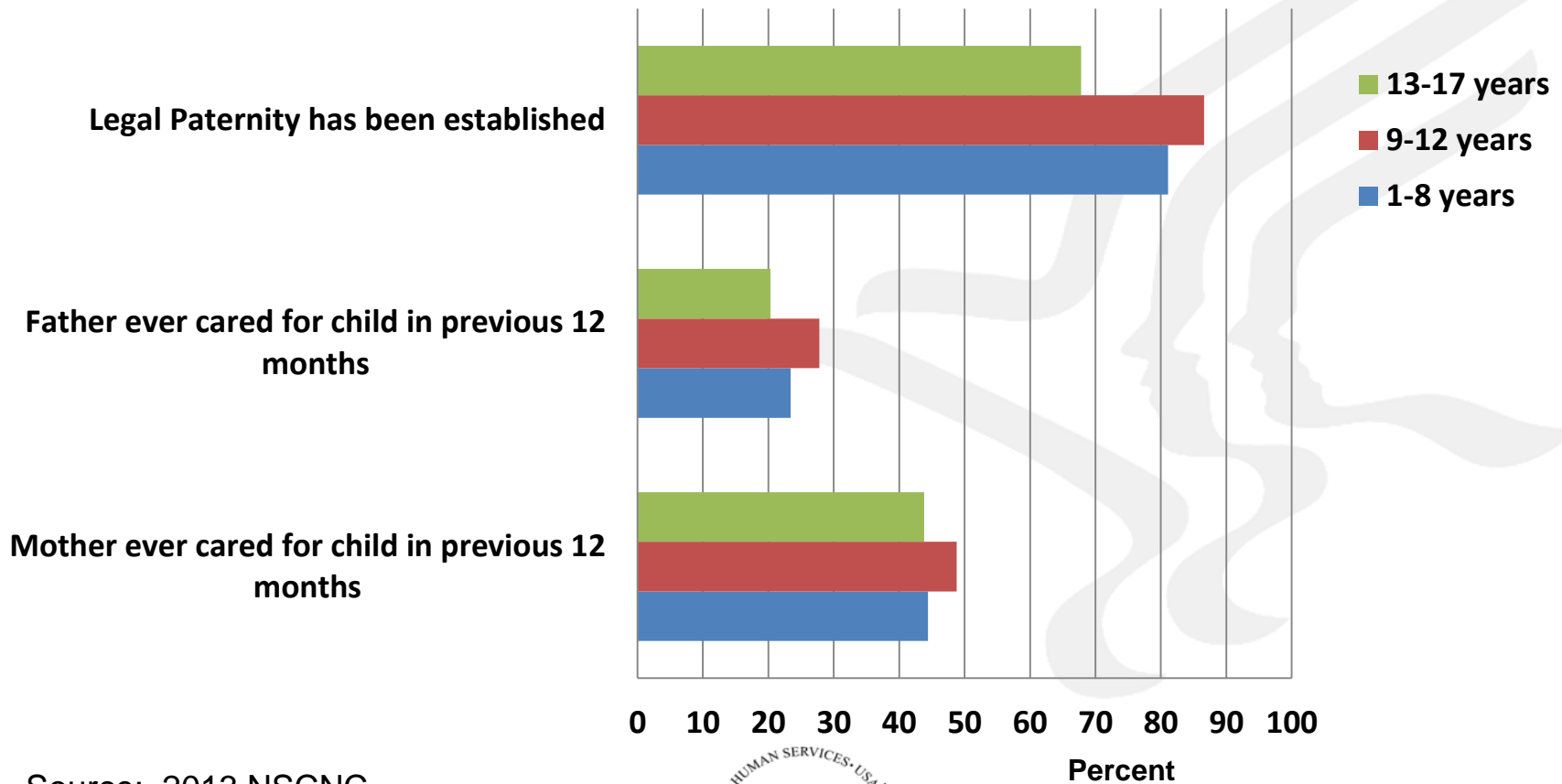


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Paternal Establishment and Recent Parental Care by Age of Child

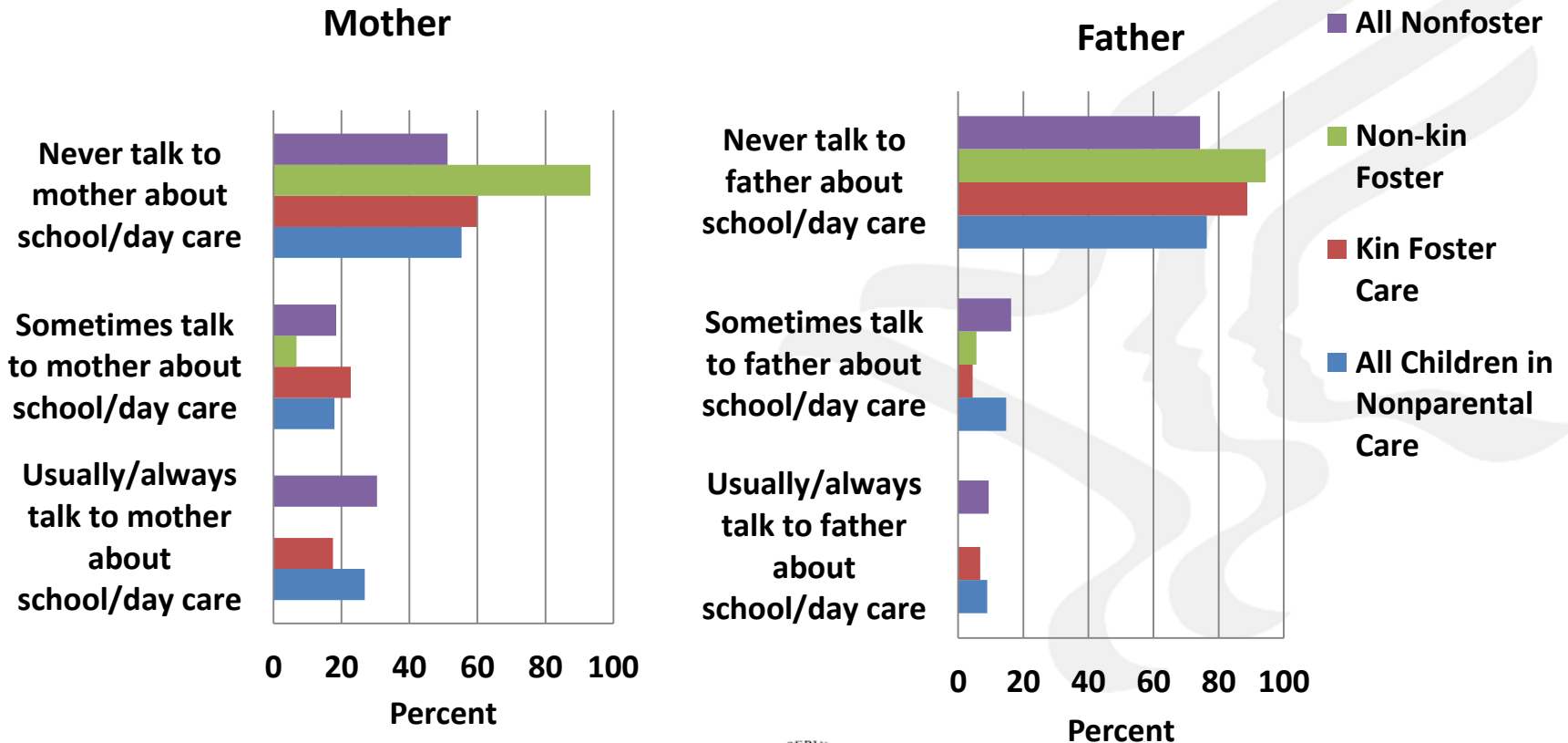


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's School or Day Care, by Care Type

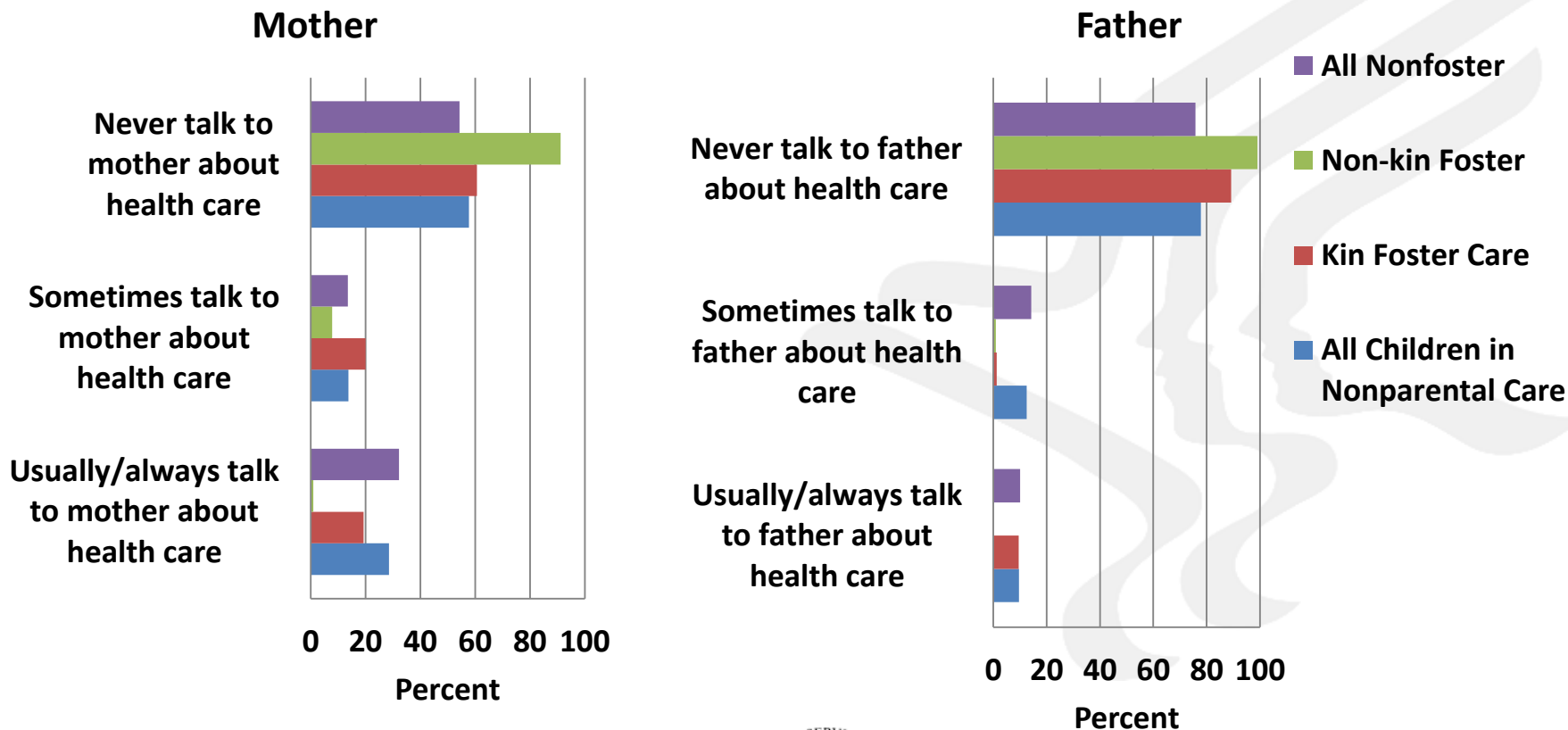


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's Health, by Care Type

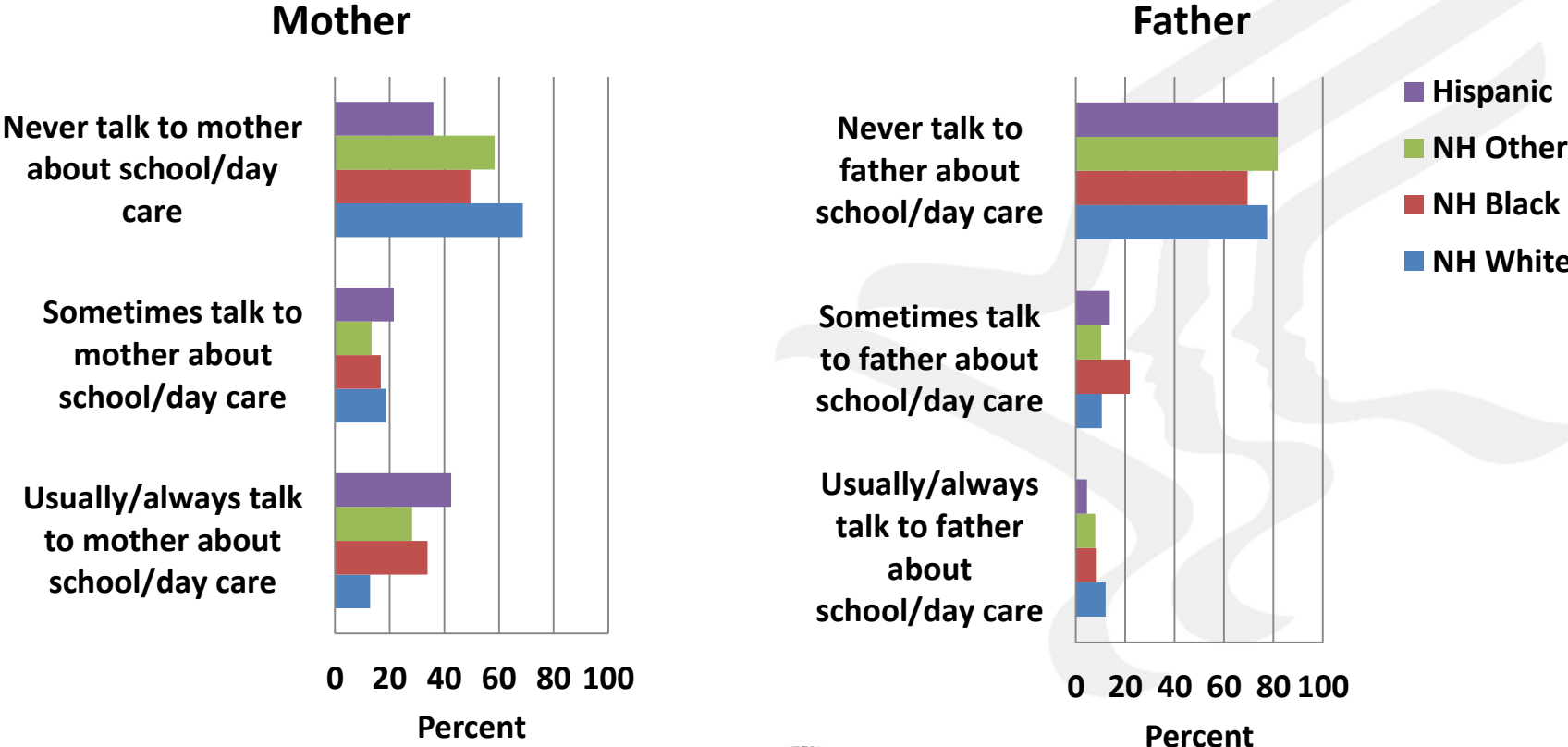


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with Which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's School/Day Care by Race/Ethnicity

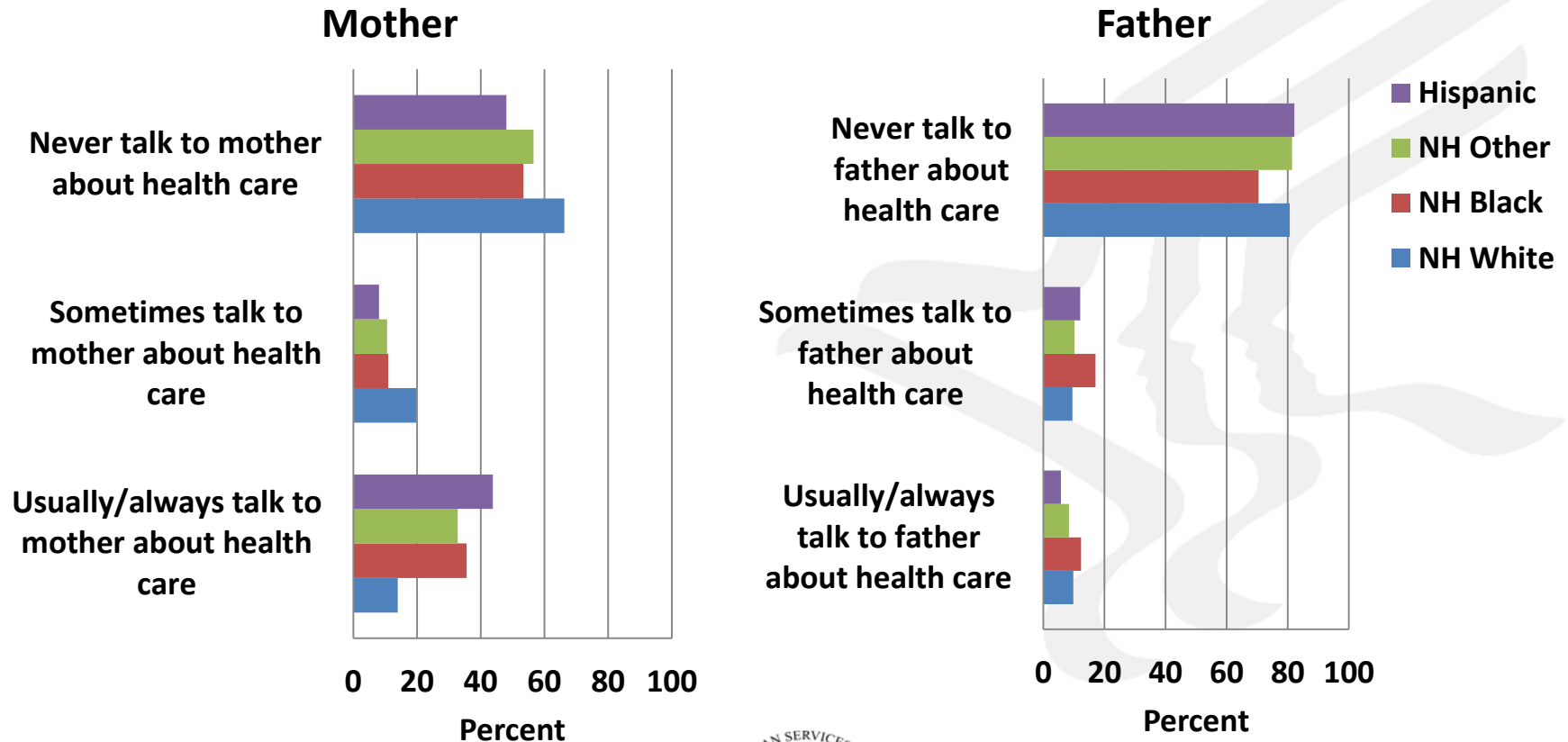


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with Which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's Health Care by Race/Ethnicity

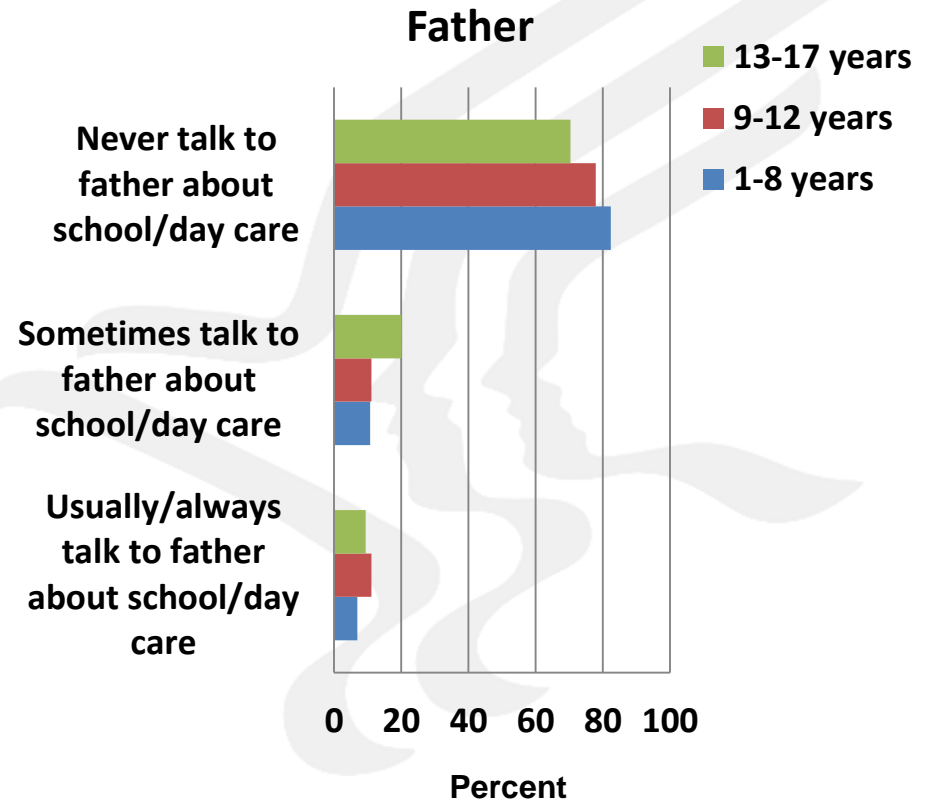
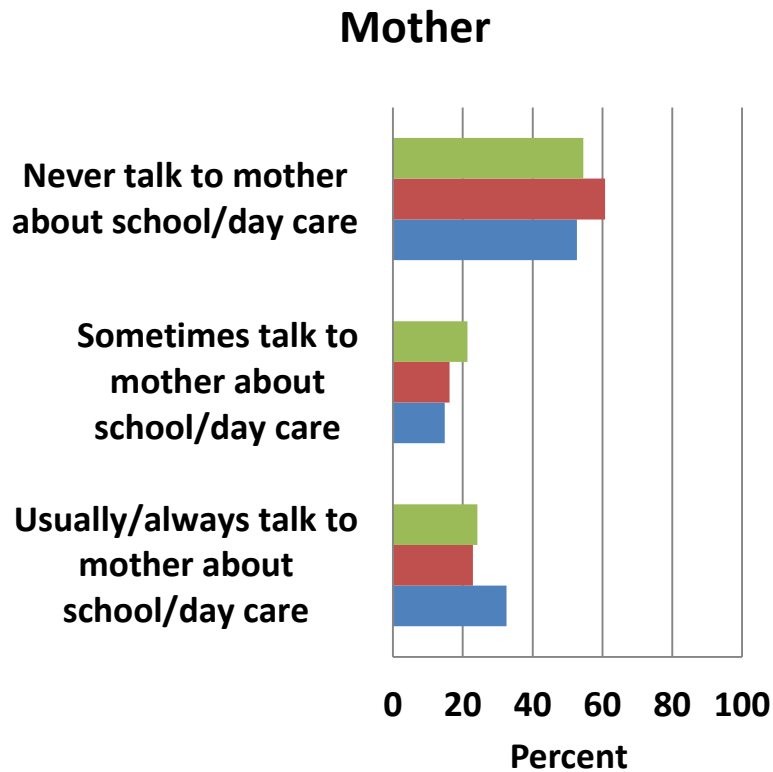


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with Which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's School or Day Care, by Child Age

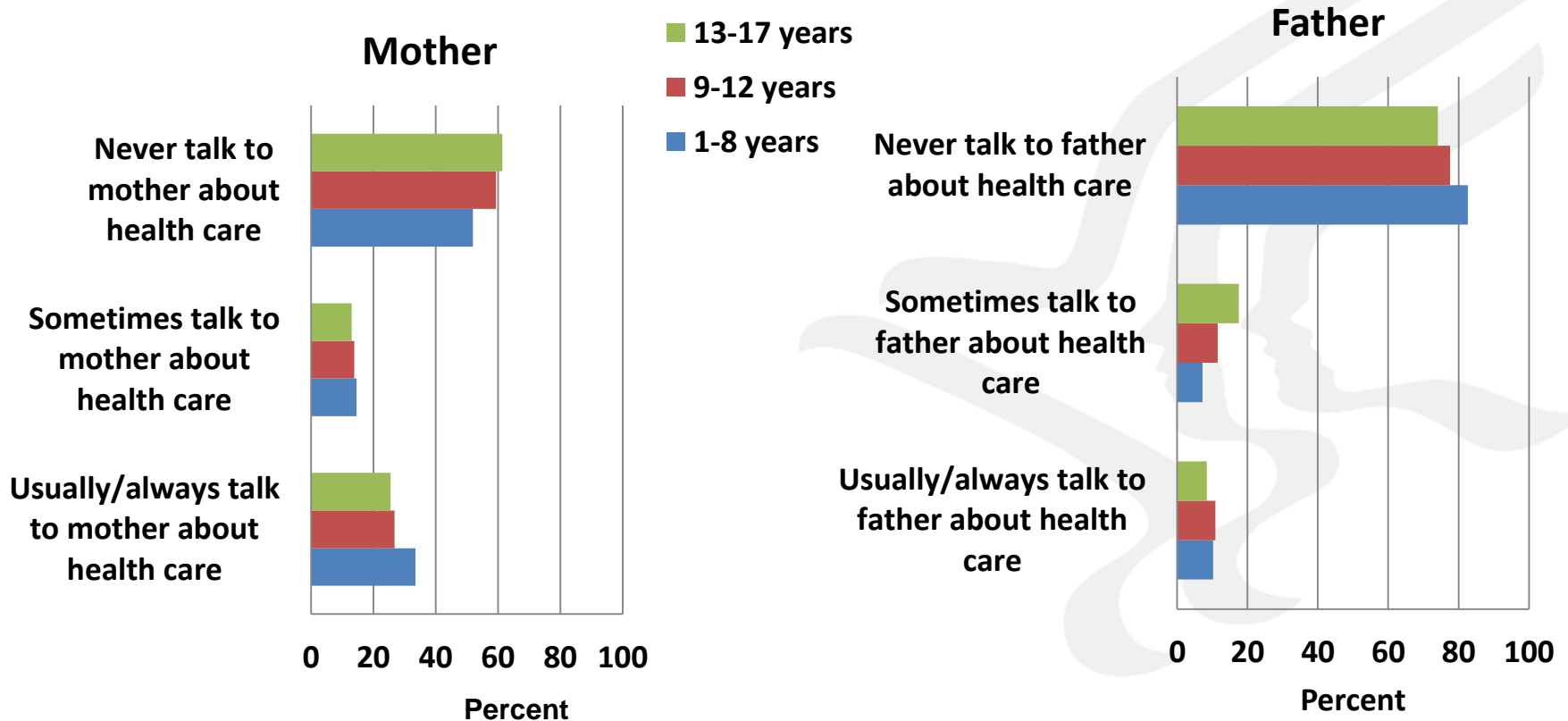


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Frequency with Which Caregiver Consults Parents about the Child's Health Care by Child Age



Source: 2013 NSCNC



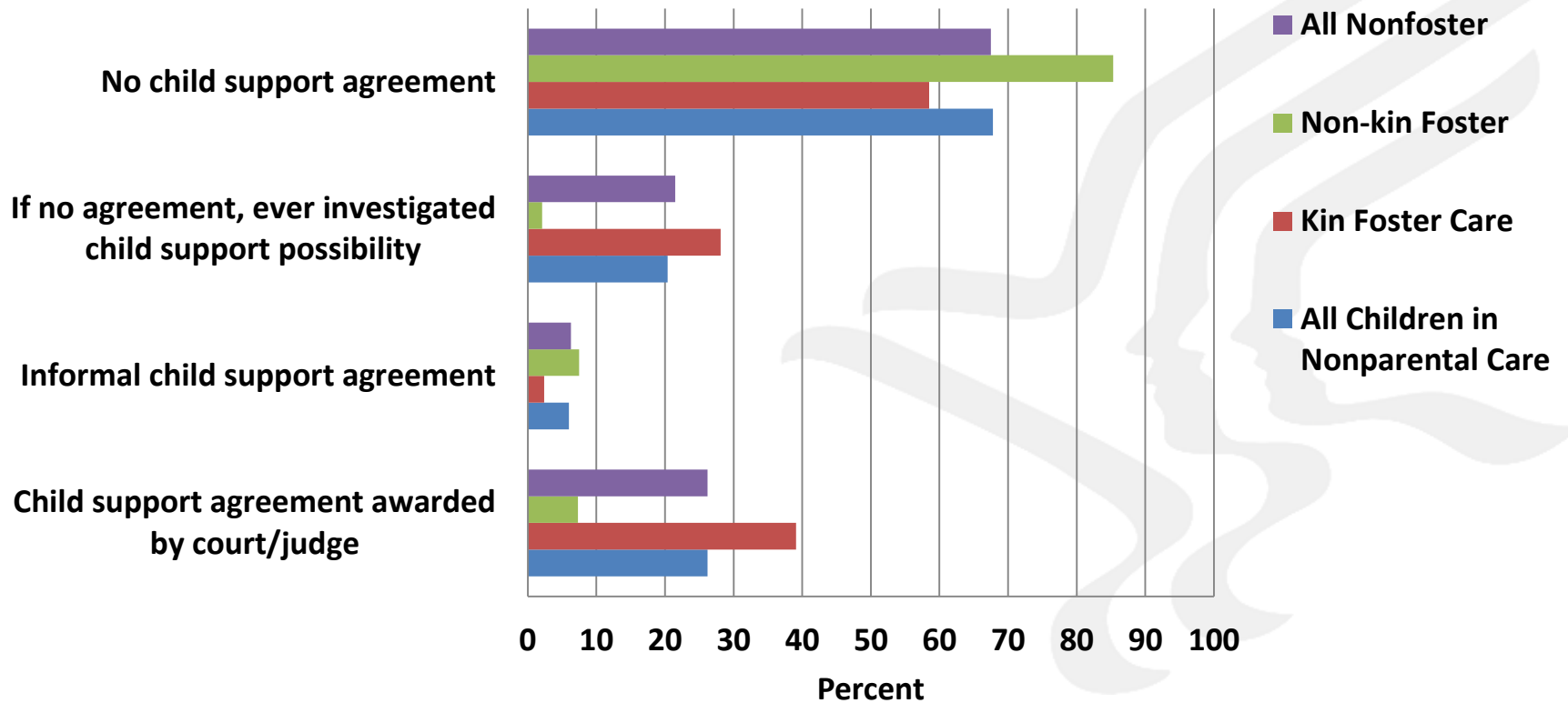
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CHILD SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



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Child Support Arrangements by Care Type

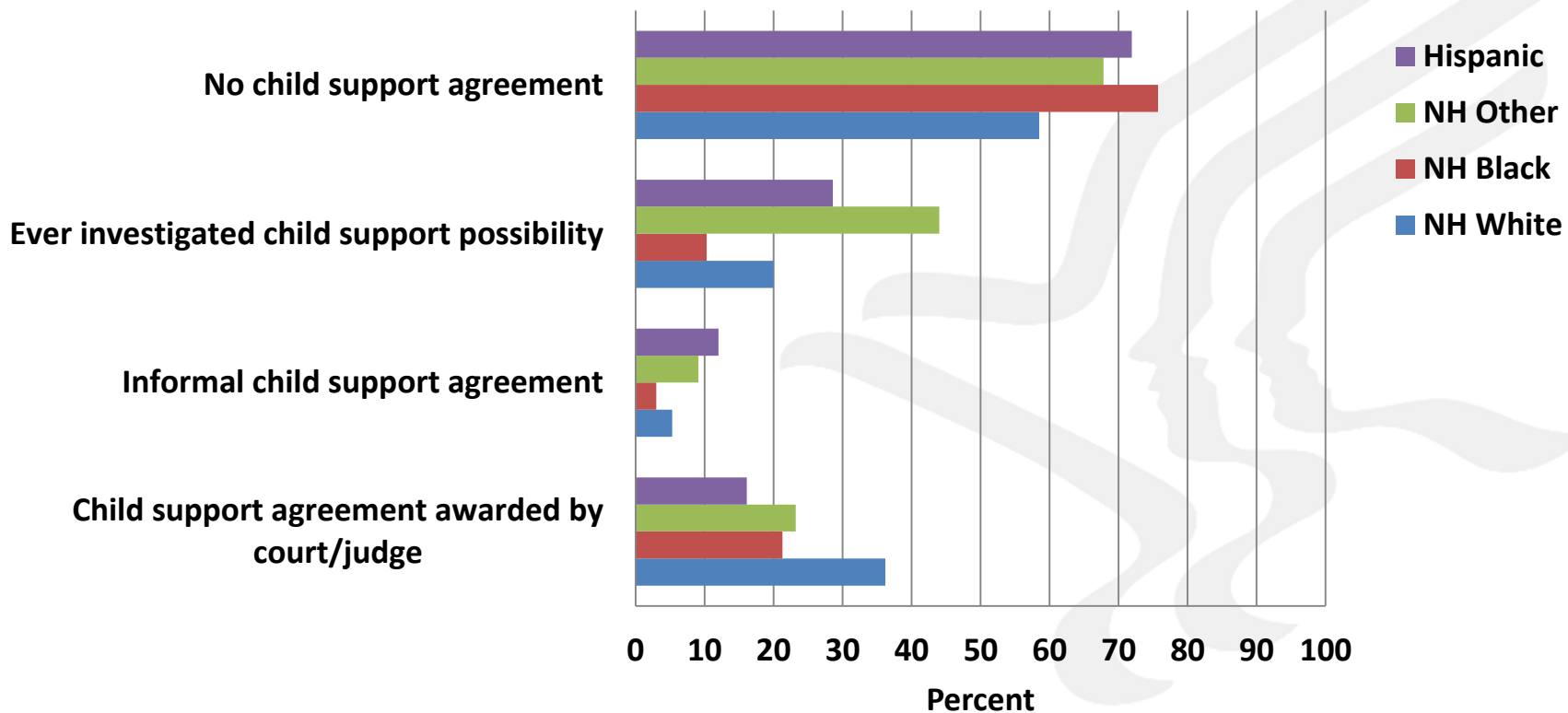


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Child Support Arrangements by Child's Race/Ethnicity

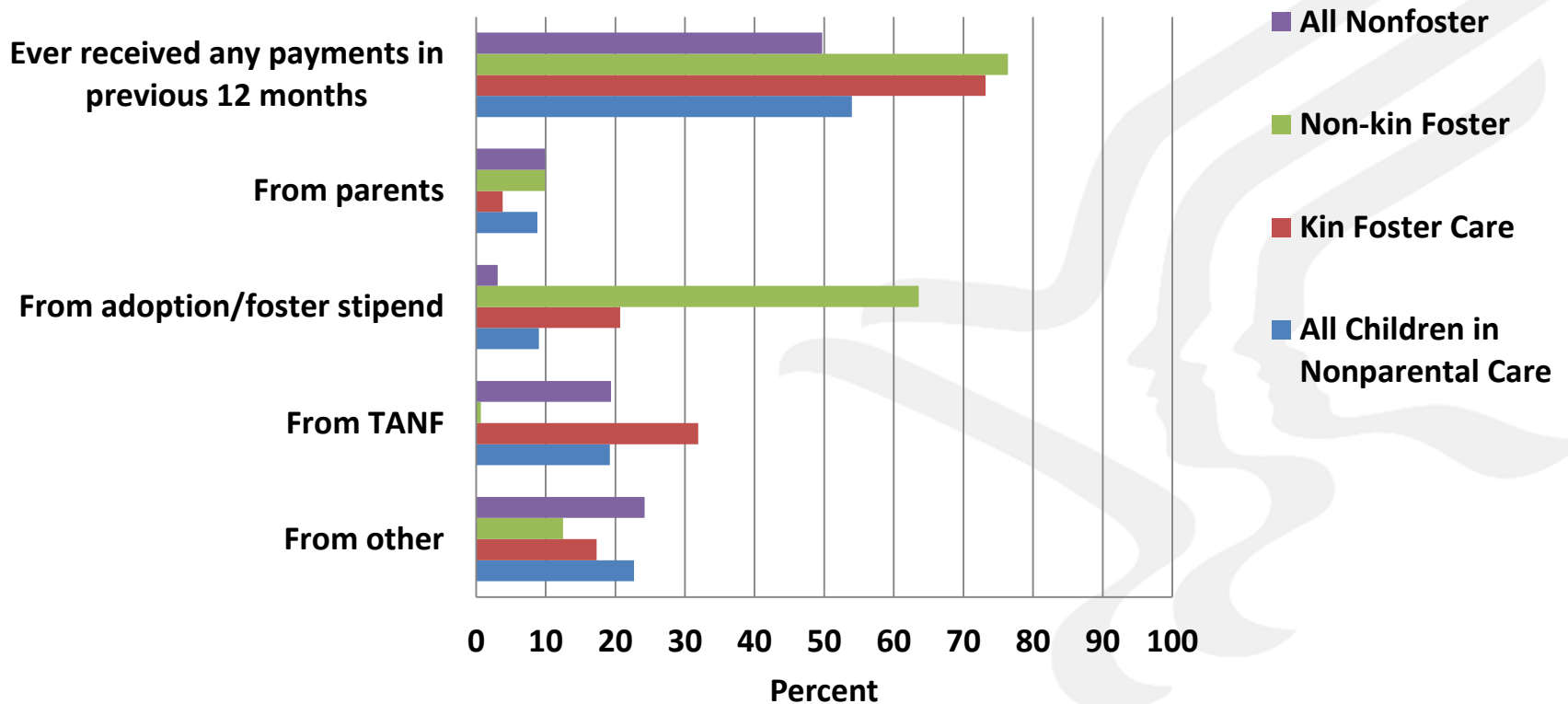


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt and Sources of Support by Care Type

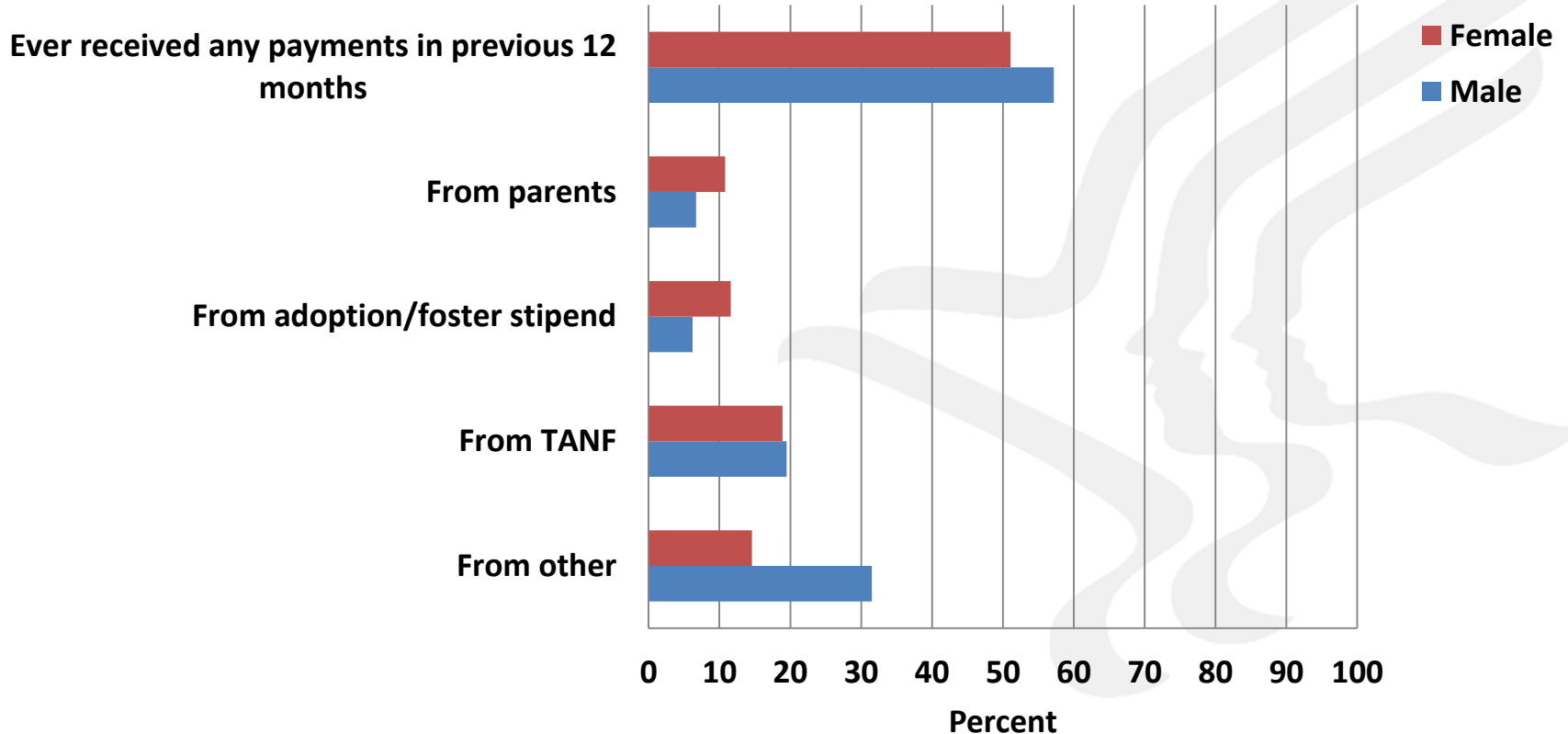


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt and Sources of Support by Child's Sex

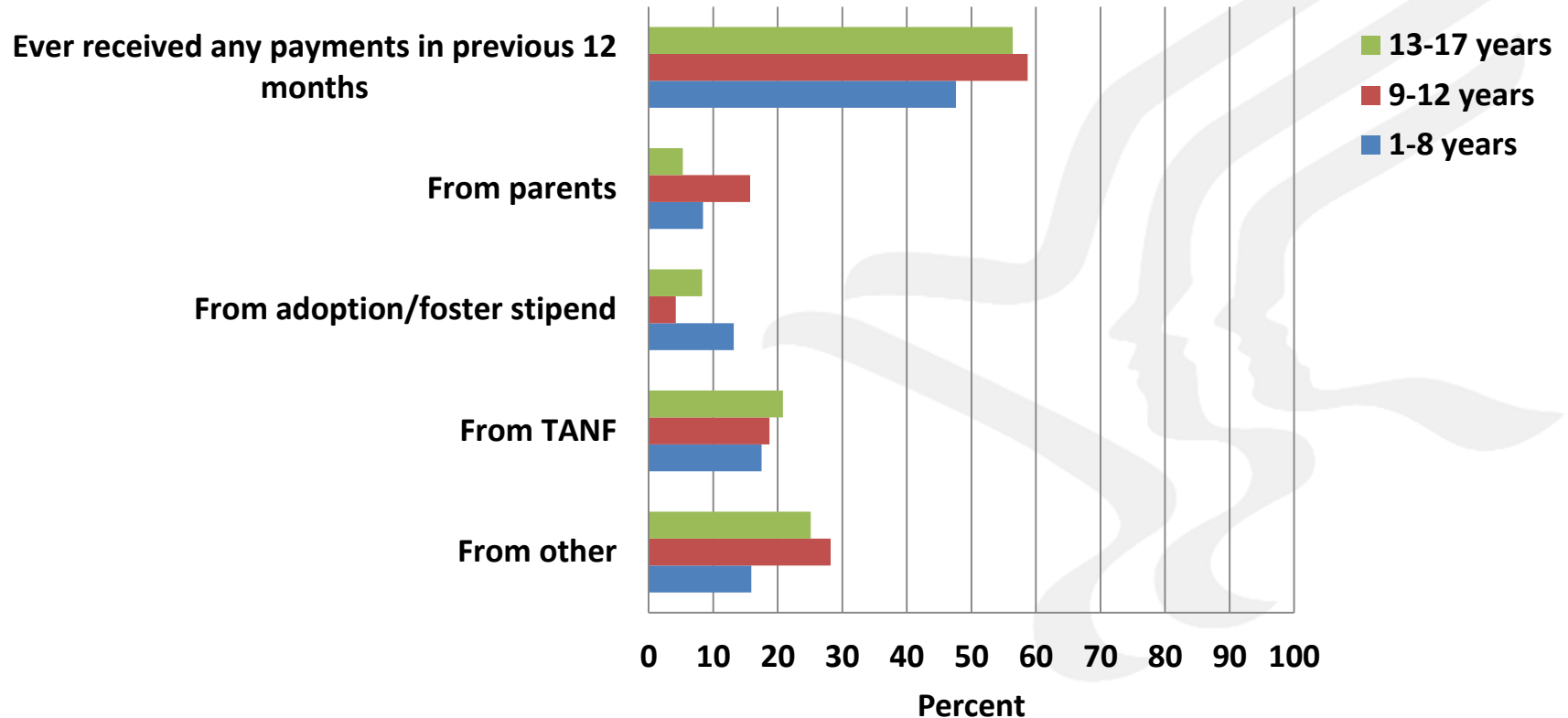


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt and Source of Support by Child's Age

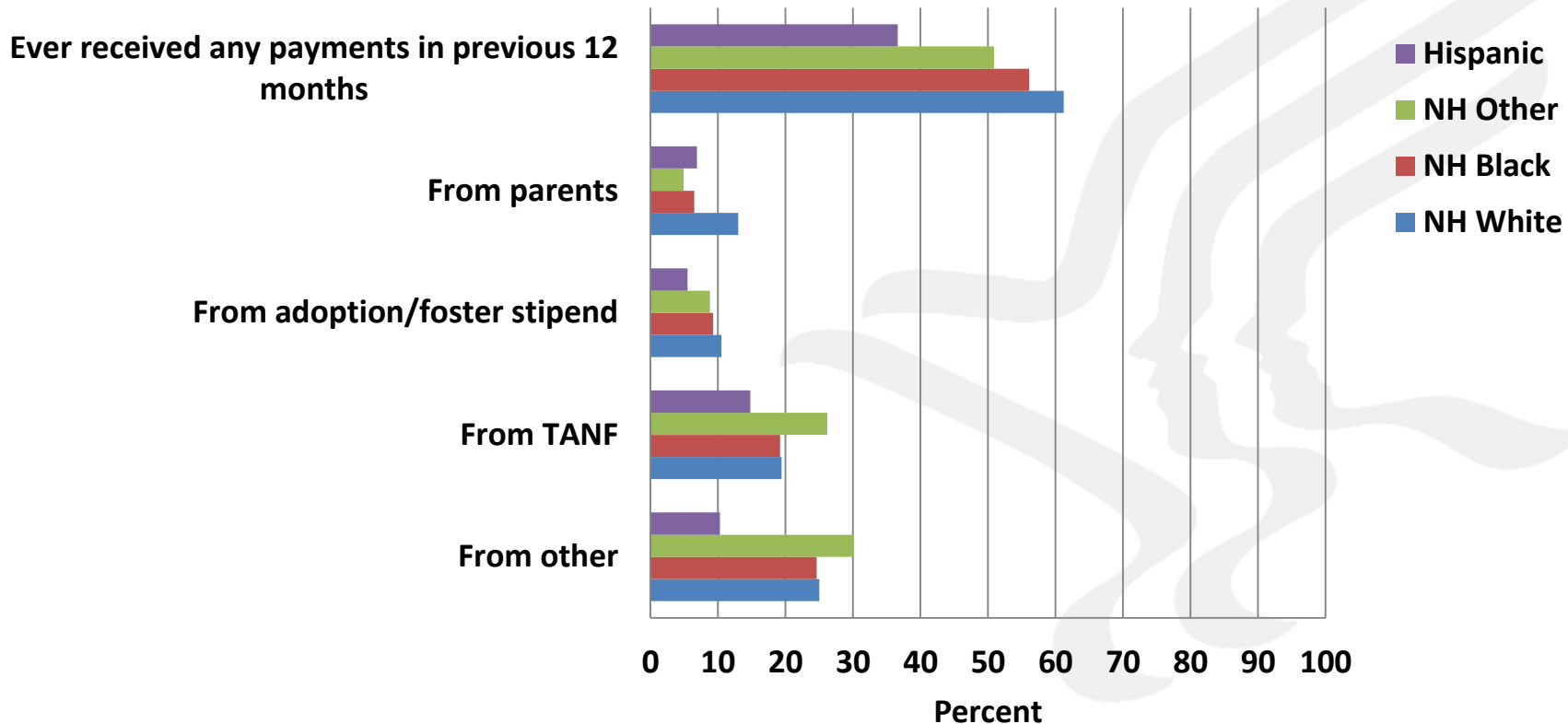


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt and Source of Support by Child's Race/Ethnicity

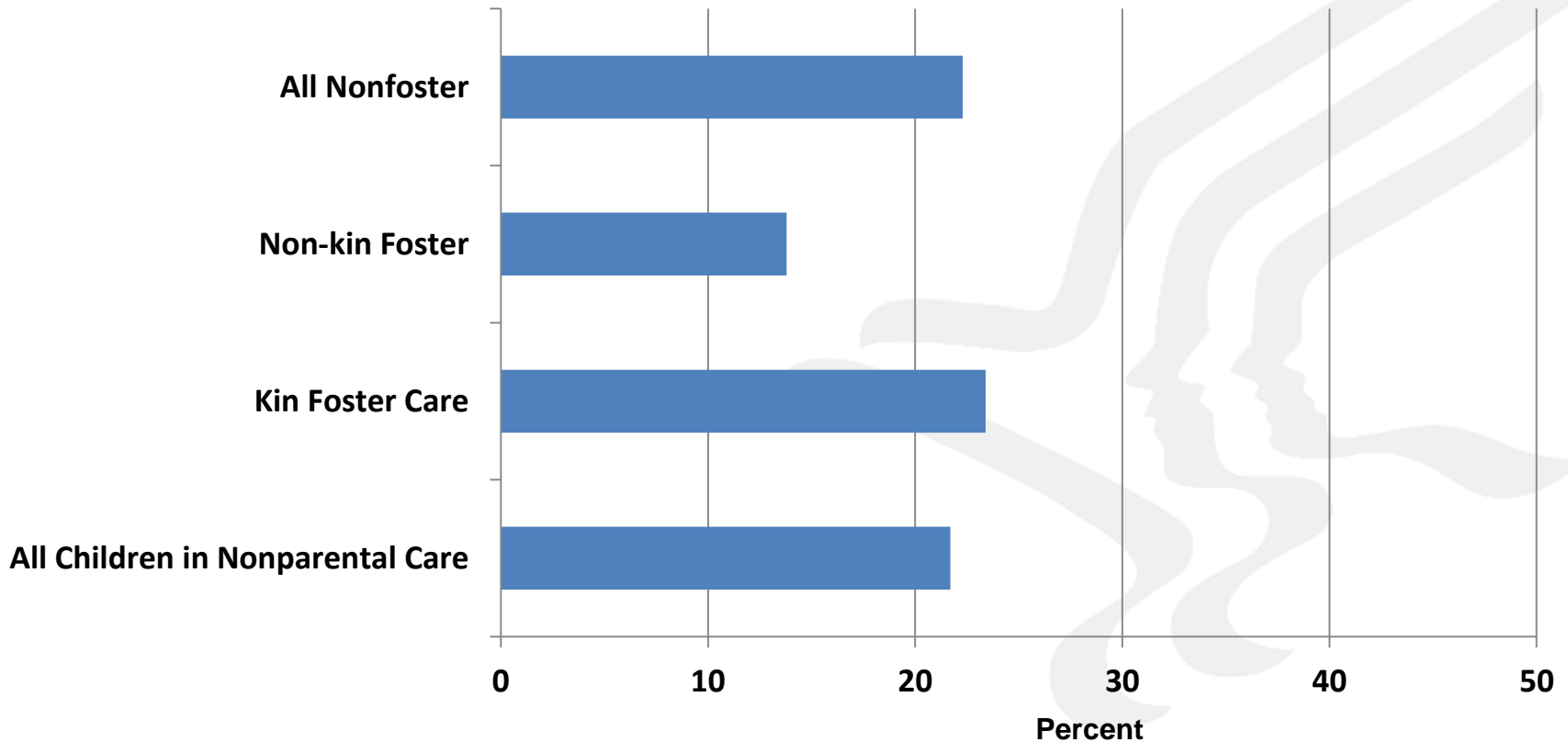


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt of Any Nonmonetary Support by Care Type

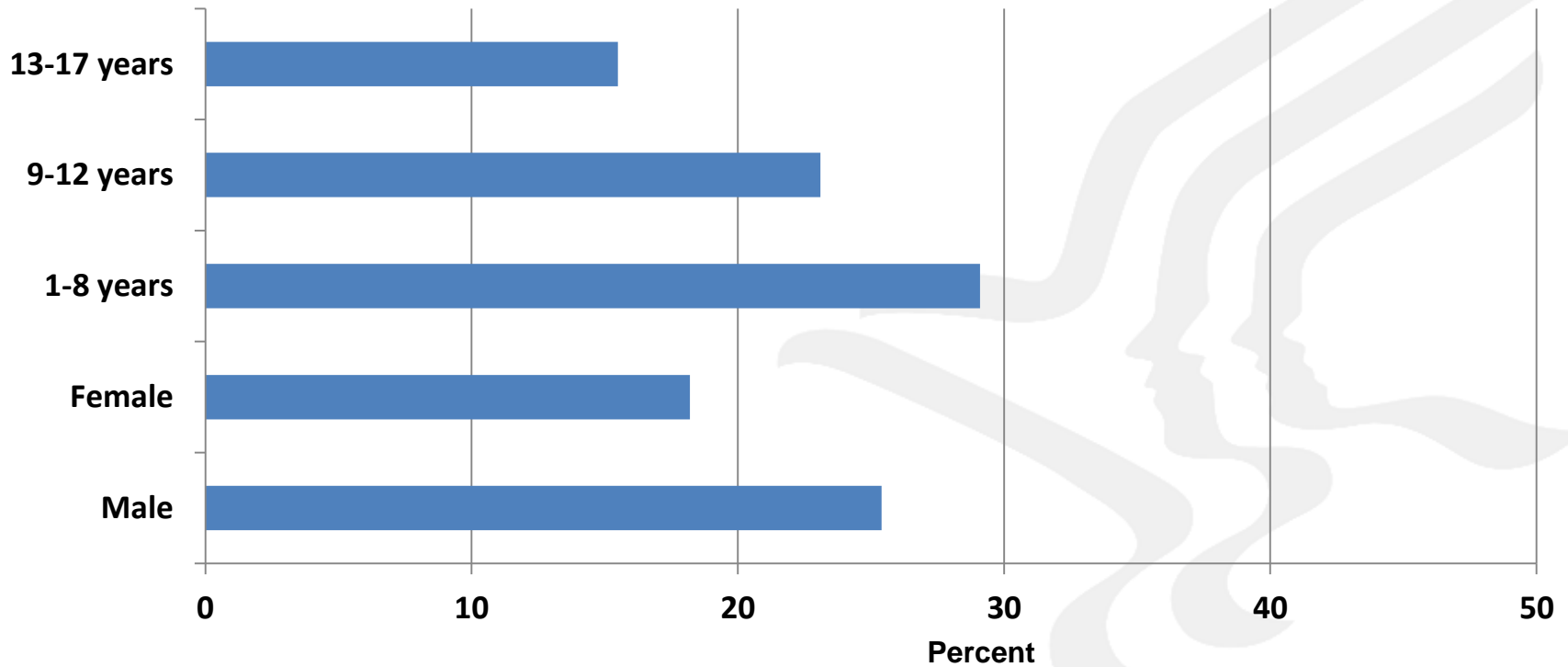


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt of Any Nonmonetary Support by Child's Age and Sex

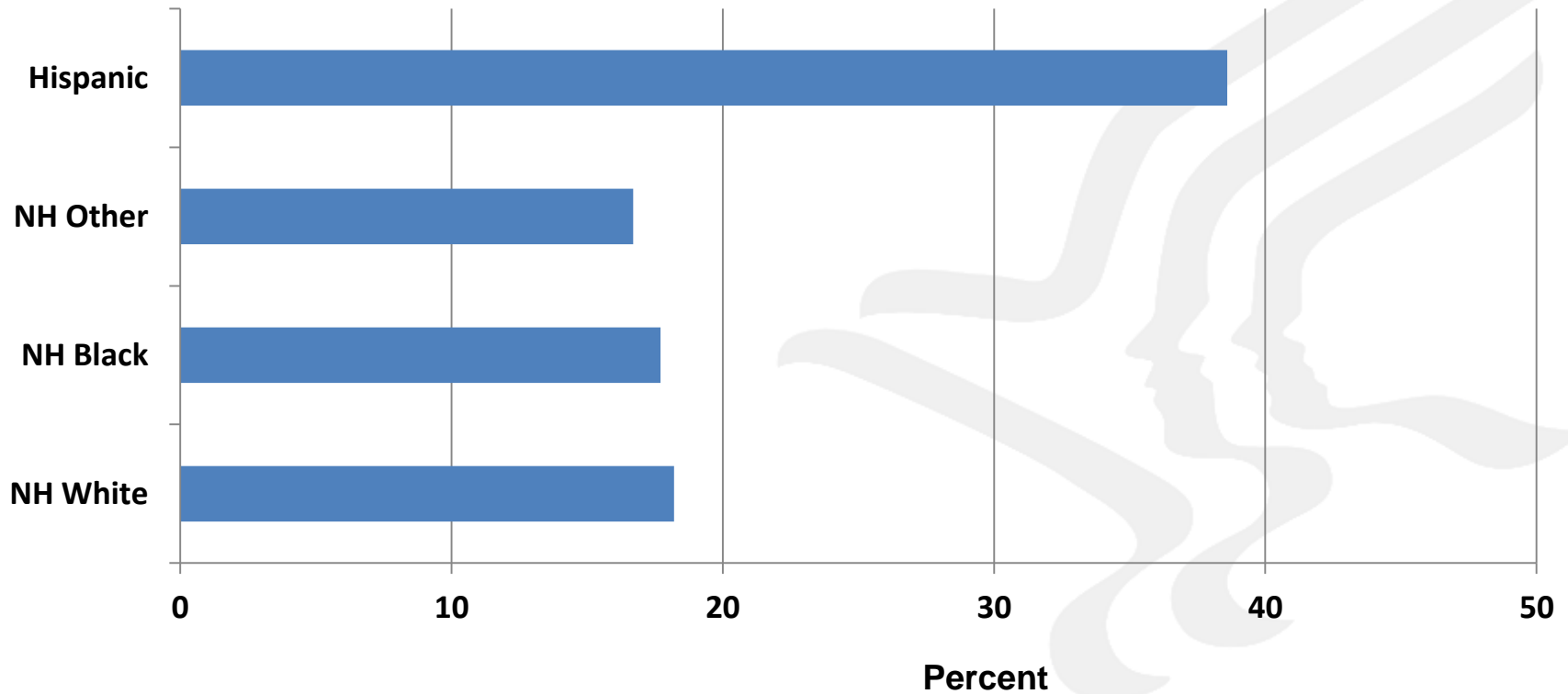


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Receipt of Any Nonmonetary Support by Child's Race/Ethnicity

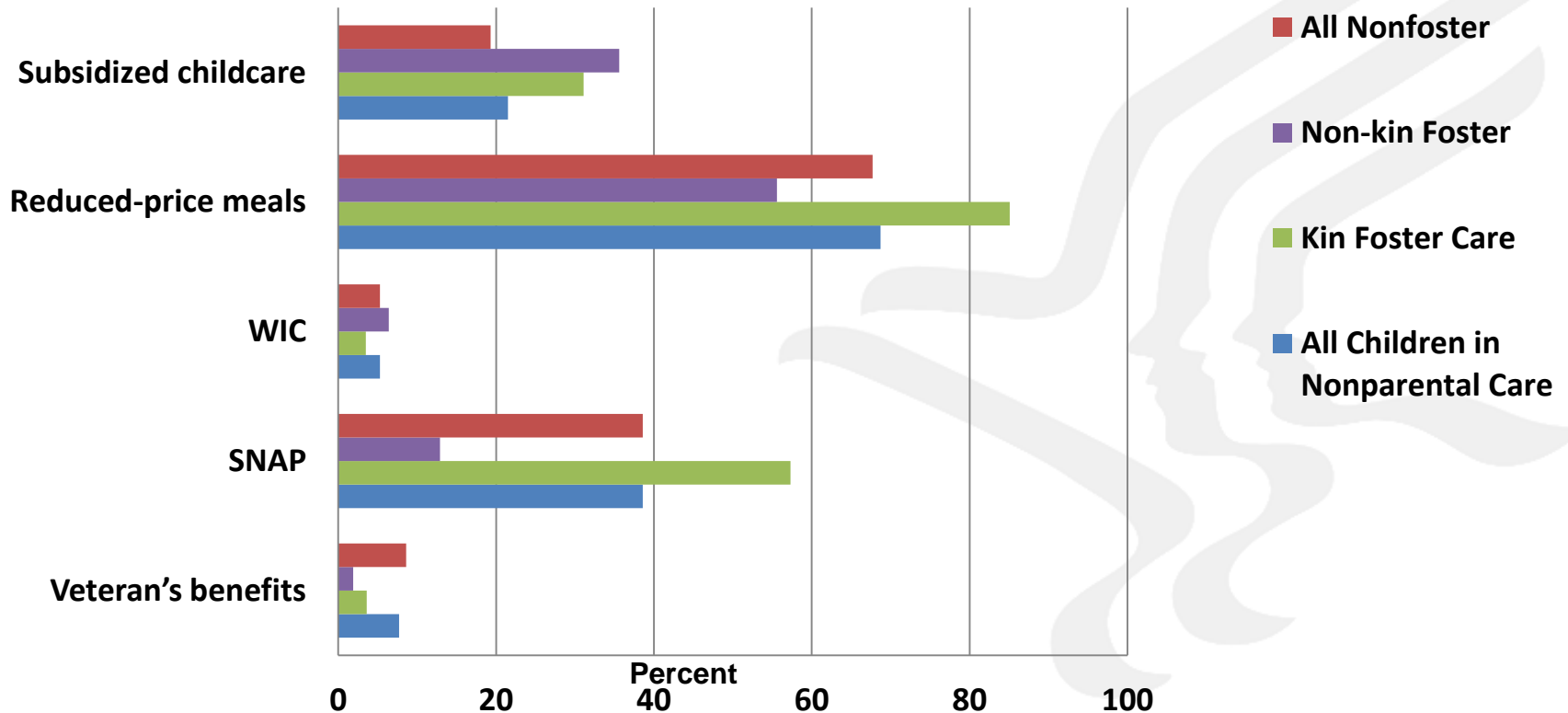


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Other Household Benefits Received by Care Type

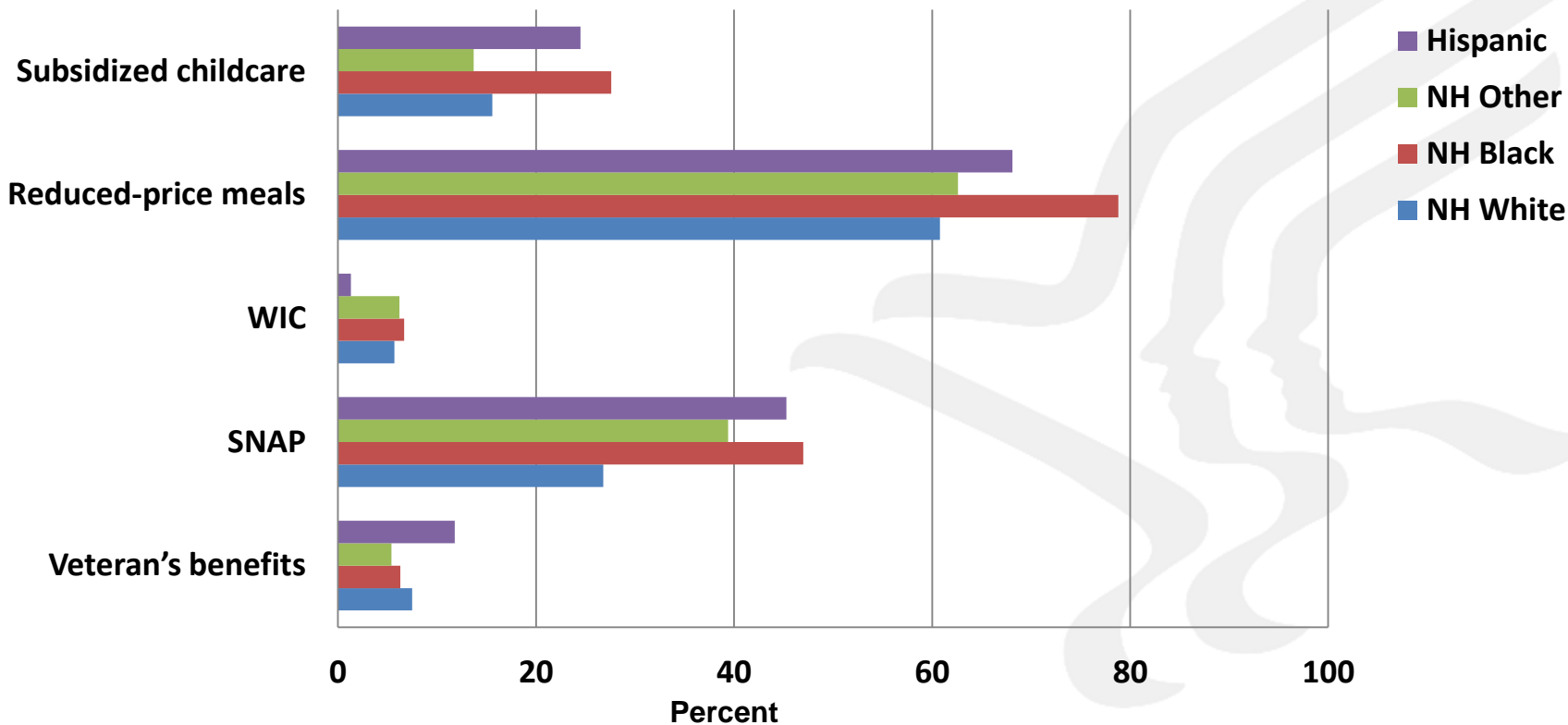


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Other Household Benefits Received by Child's Race/Ethnicity

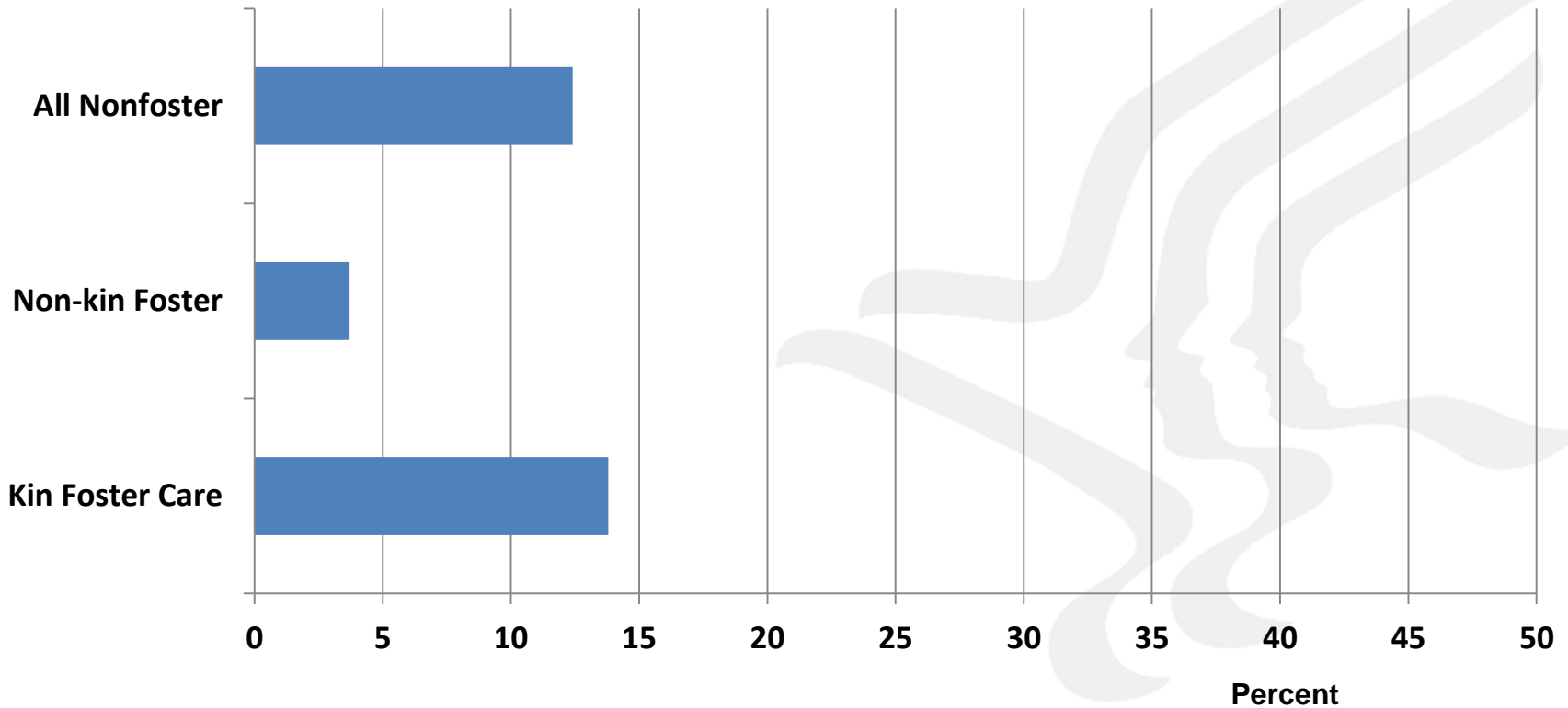


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Unmet Need for TANF

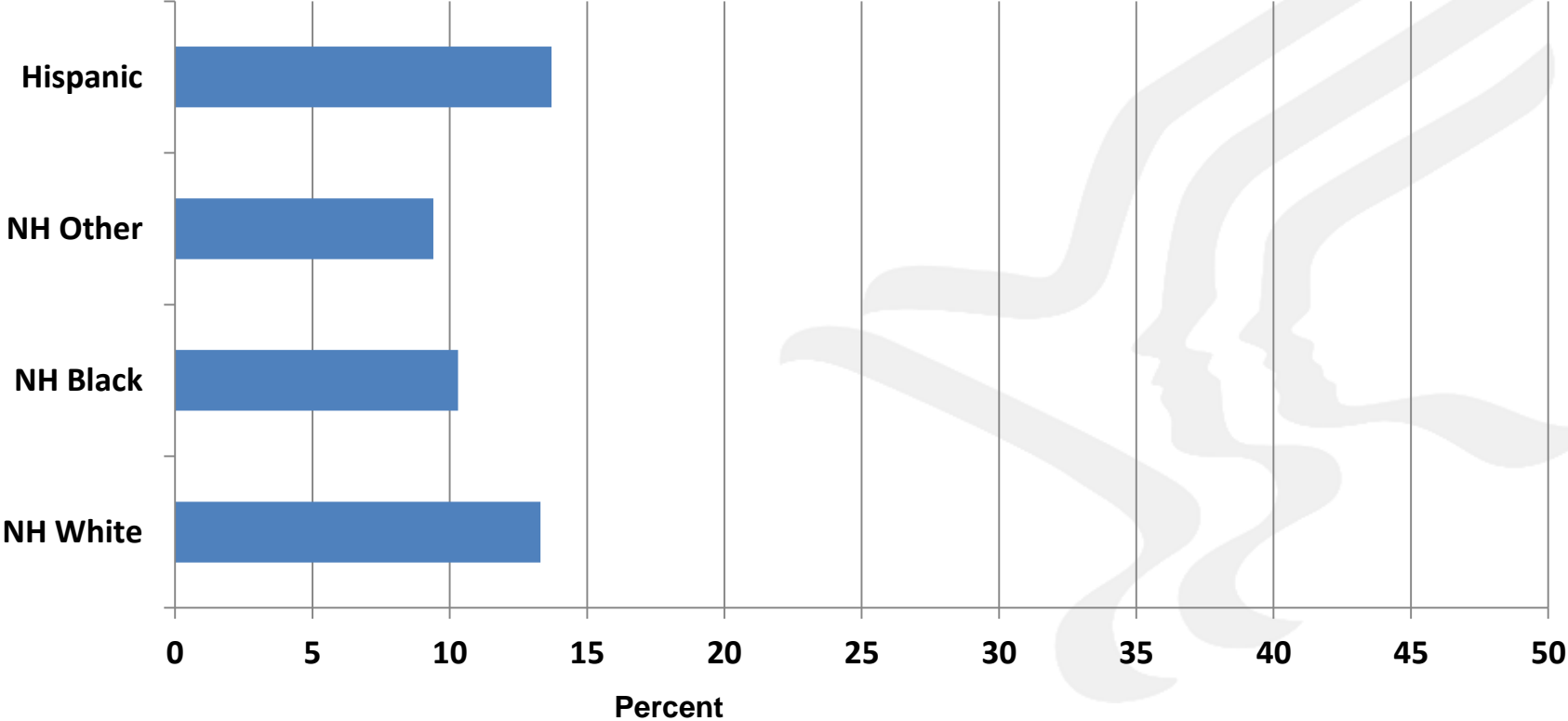


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Unmet Need for TANF by Child's Race/Ethnicity

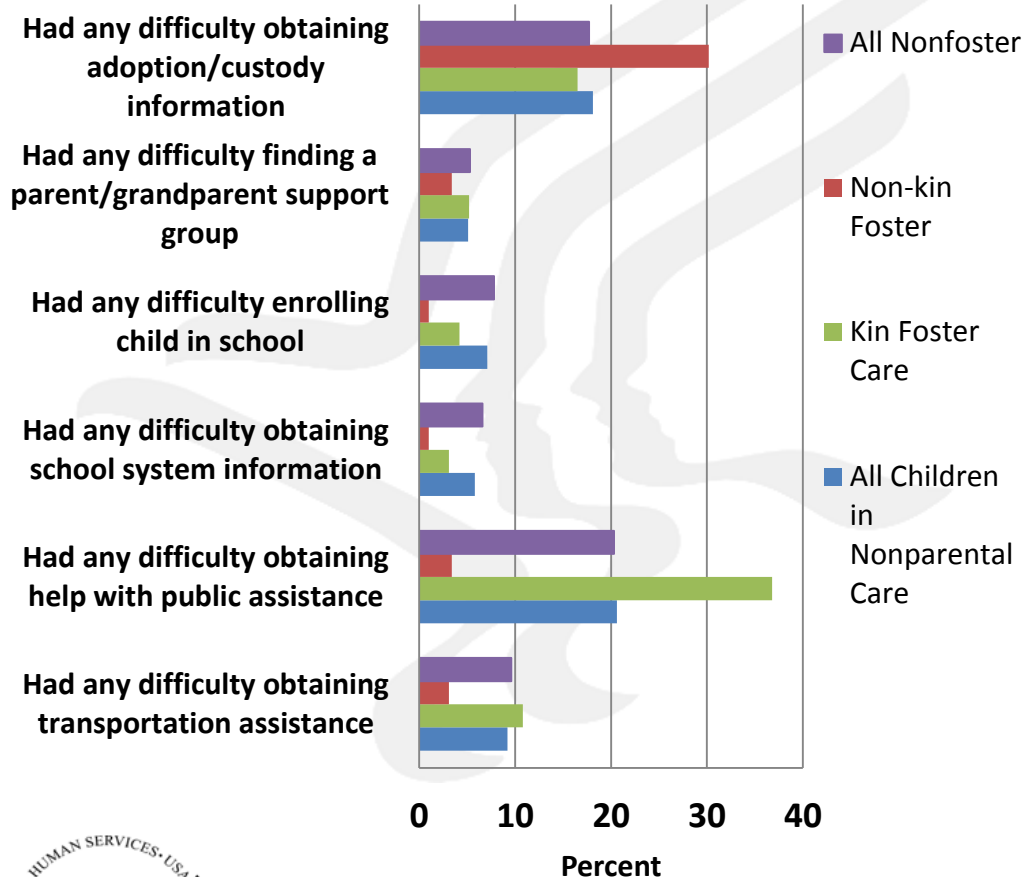
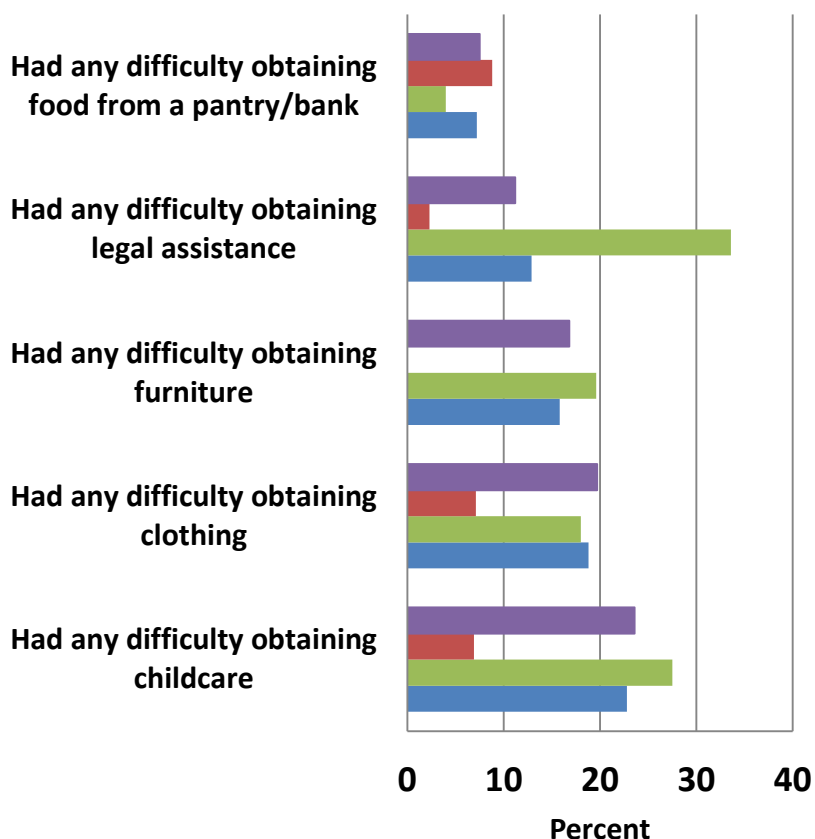


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Unmet Needs by Care Type

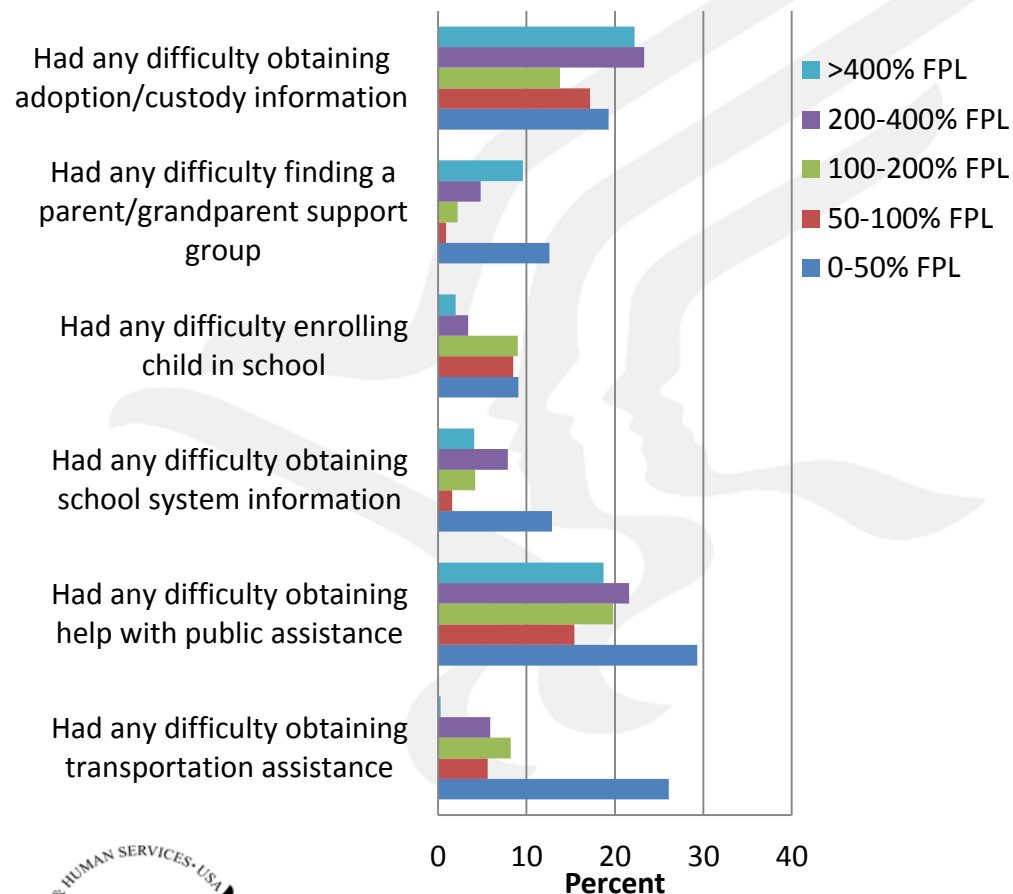
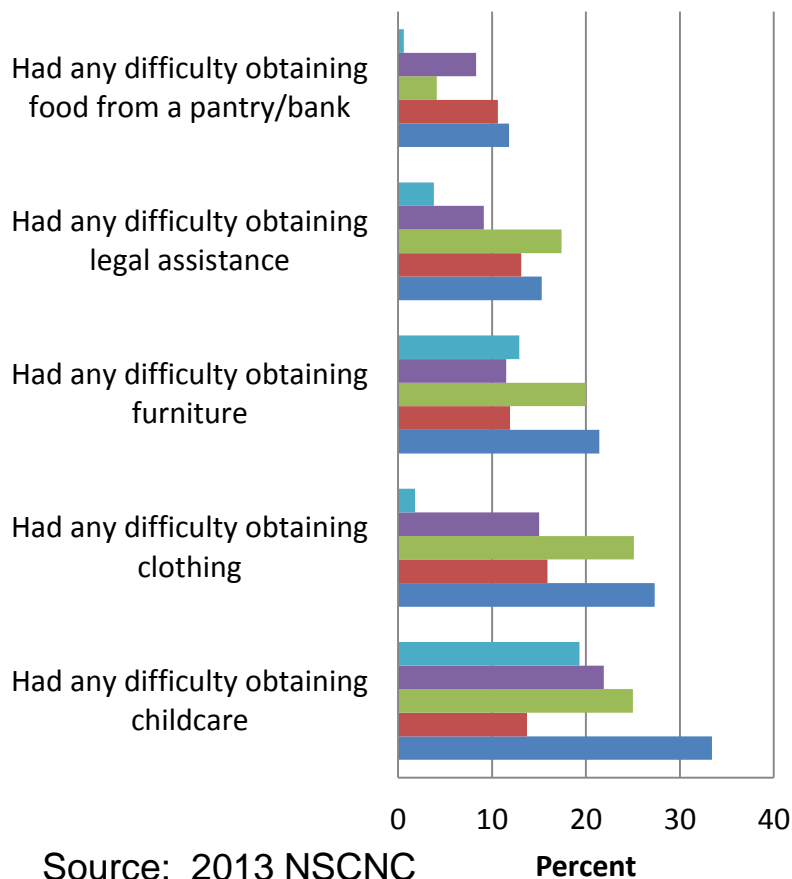


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Unmet Needs by Income (Relative to the Poverty Level)



Source: 2013 NSCNC

Percent

Percent



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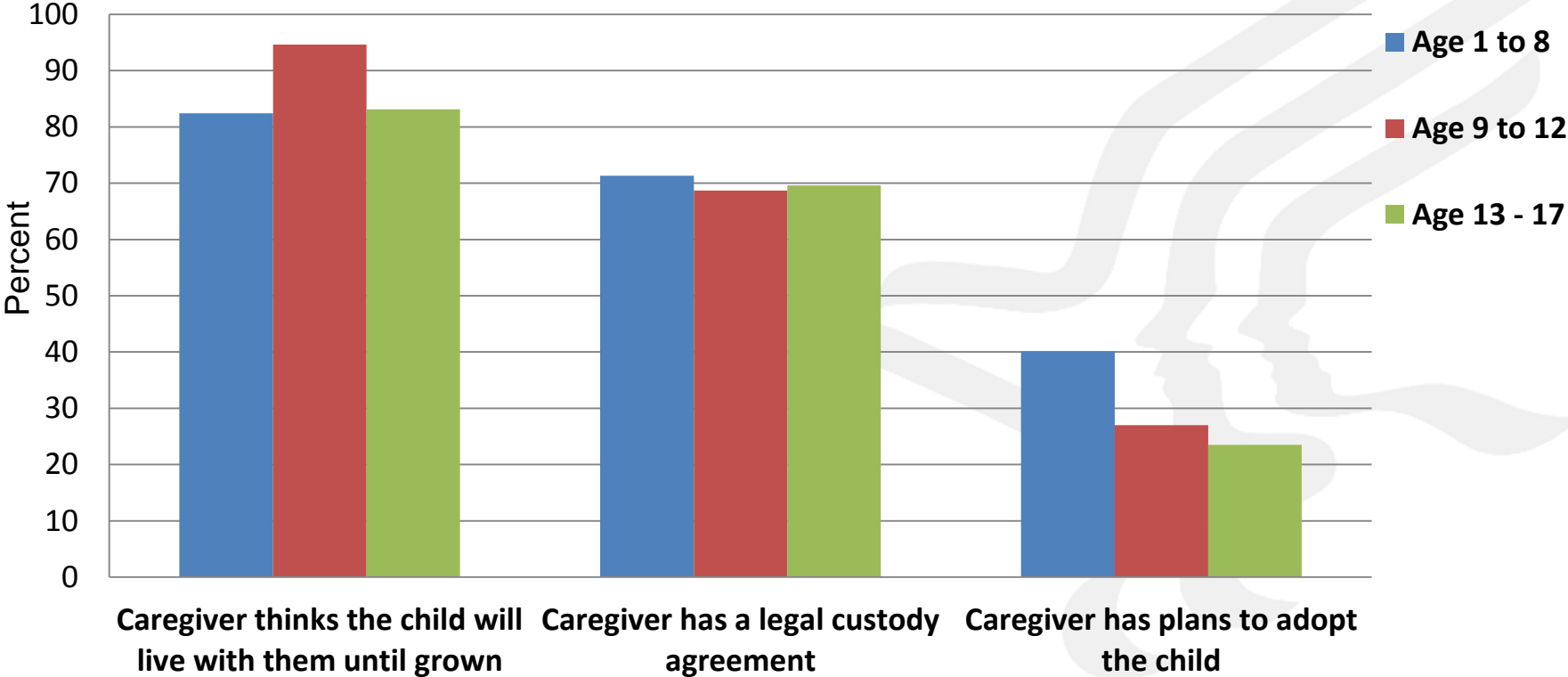
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FUTURE EXPECTATIONS



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Caregiver Expectation's for the Child's Future by Age of Child

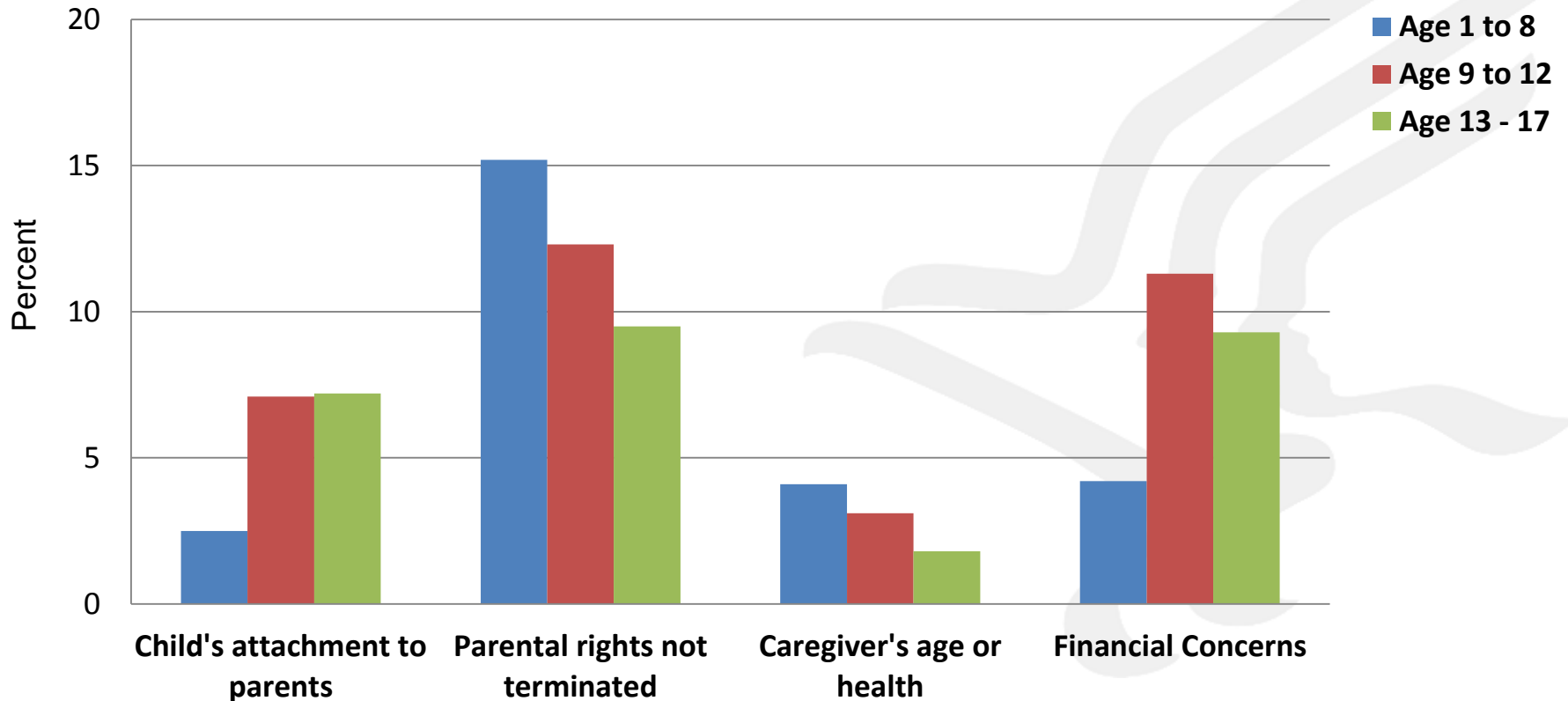


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Factors Discouraging Adoption by Age of Child



Source: 2013 NSCNC



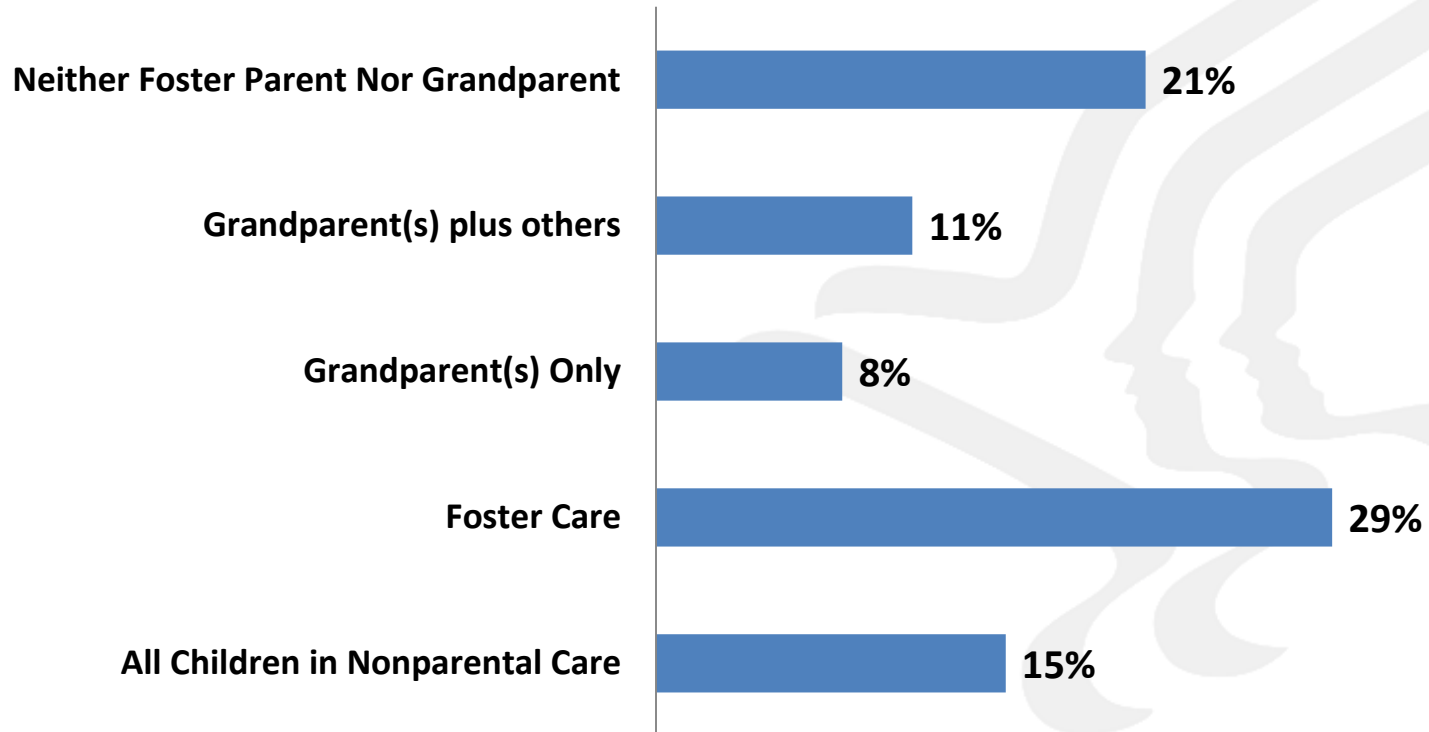
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CHILDREN NO LONGER IN NONPARENTAL CARE



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Children No Longer In Nonparental Care by Caregiver at Original NSCH Survey

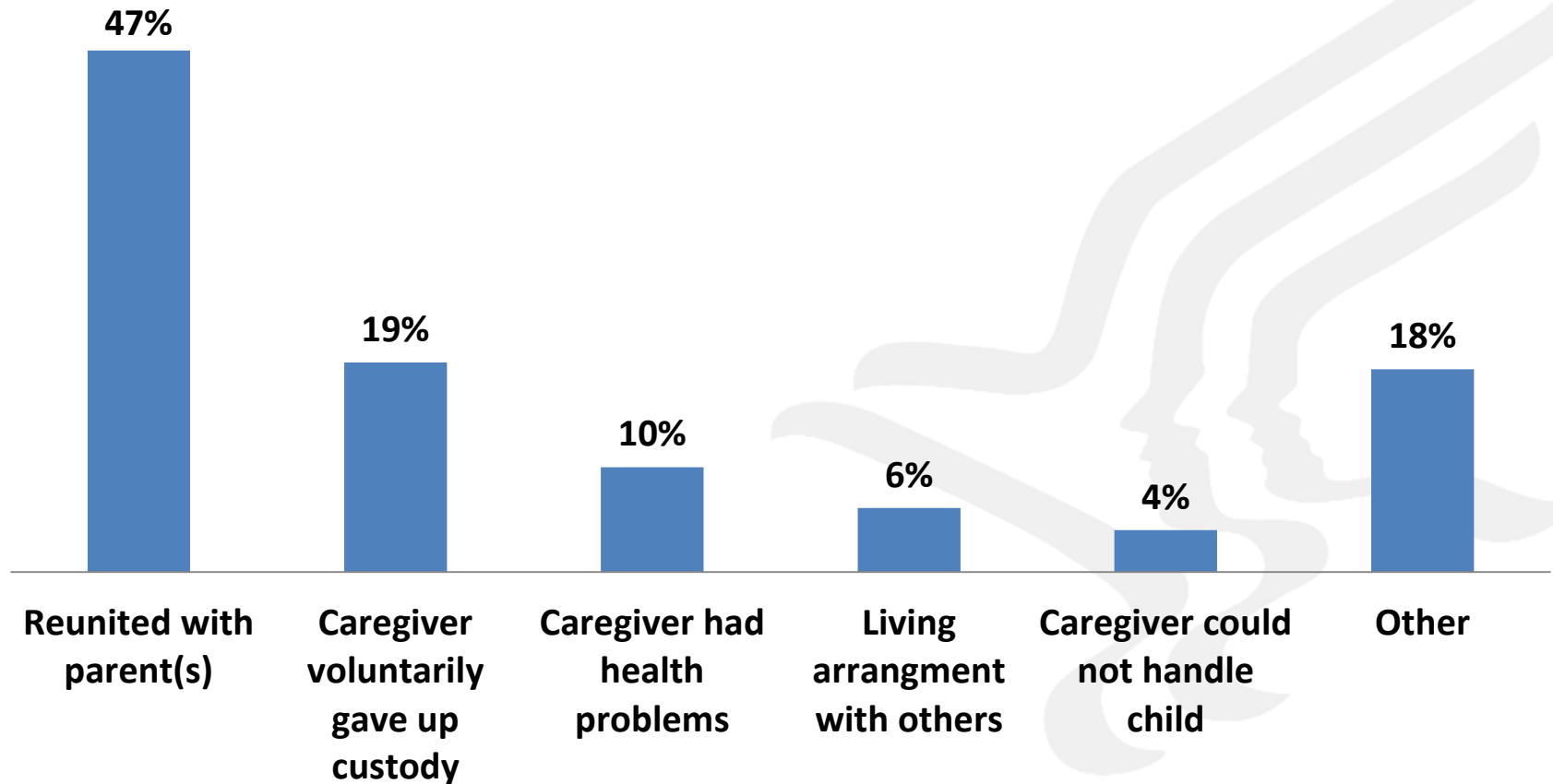


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Primary Reason Child is No Longer with the NSCH Caregiver

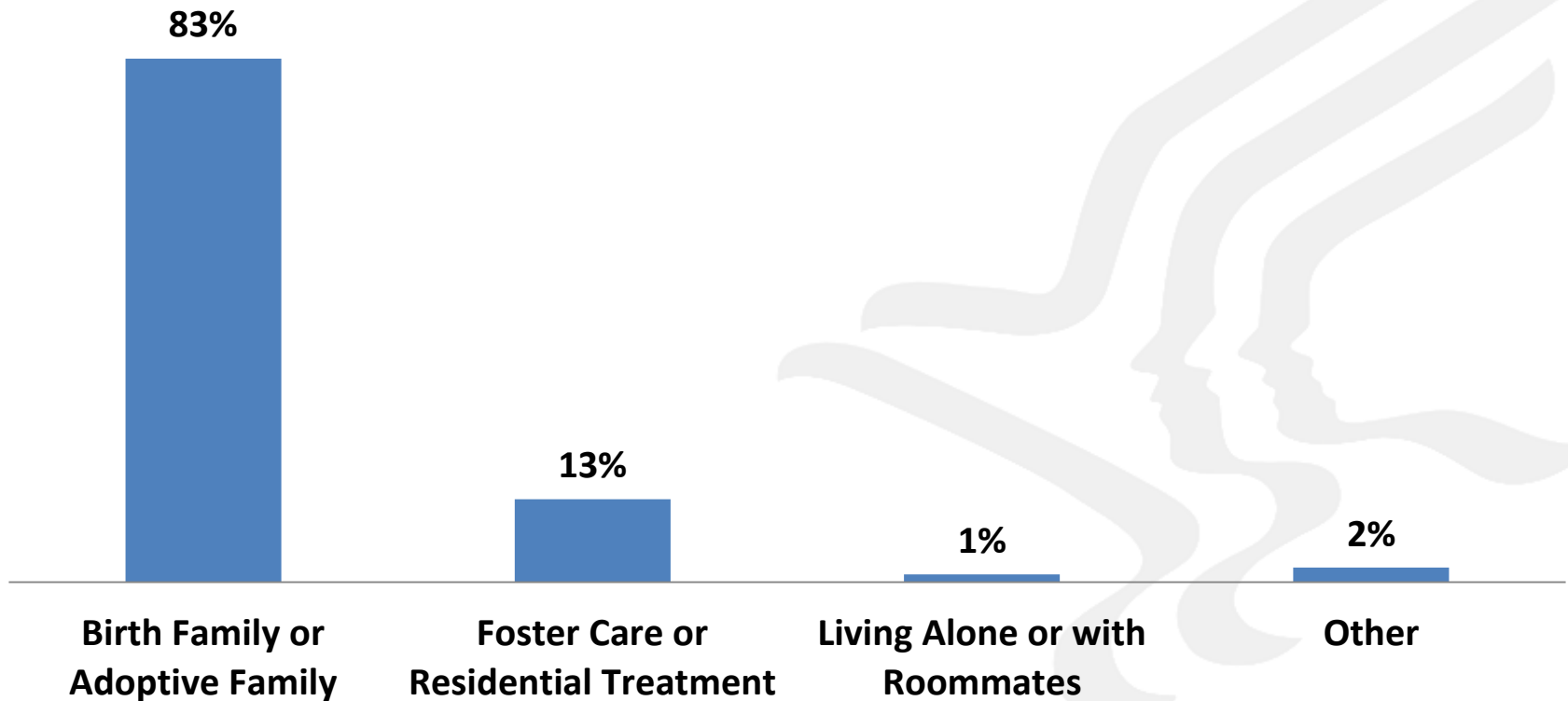


Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Destination of Children No Longer in Nonparental Care



Source: 2013 NSCNC



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Discussion – Significance of This Dataset

- This is the first large-scale, population-based nationally representative sample of children in nonparental care addressing issues particular to these households and with the ability to compare across care types.
- The data has more detail about issues specific to nonparental care than has previously been available for more than small convenience samples.



Discussion – Emerging Stories

- Consistent with other studies, this data shows that kin foster parents look more like kin outside foster care than they do like non-kin (stranger) foster parents. Our data shows this across additional domains than has been available previously.
- The grandparent headed households in particular are not, in general, transitory care arrangements. While this data overestimates long-stayers, even so these look like reasonably permanent care settings. Of the various subcategories of nonparental care, households with grandparents also reported the fewest Adverse Family Experiences.
- Households in which the nonparental caregiver is neither a grandparent nor a foster parent are different in many respects from other nonparental care types.
- What other stories are you seeing here that we should be pursuing?



Discussion – Future Analysis

- We plan to look more closely at the non-grandparent, non-foster households to explore ways in which they are different from other nonparental care.
- We also plan additional analysis comparing kin and non-kin foster care.
- These analyses are purely descriptive; we plan future analyses using multivariate methods.
- These data are rich – what else should we prioritize for analysis?



Links to Data and Publications

- Survey website with links to questionnaire and public use dataset available for download:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/slaits/nscnc.htm>

- ASPE Research Brief, ***Children in Nonparental Care: Findings from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health***

http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/14/ChildrenNonparentalCare/rb_nonparentalcare.cfm

- National Health Statistics Report, ***Adverse Family Experiences of Children in Nonparental Care 2011-2012***

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr074.pdf>

- **More to come!**



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