

# *Community Action Agency of Butte County*



*Helping People. Changing Lives.*



## *Community Needs Assessment 2005 Survey Results*

*Prepared by*



# Community Needs Assessment Overview

Community Action Agency of Butte County (CAA), in collaboration with Gary Bess Associates, conducted a community needs assessment with the intention of developing a better understanding of the needs of low-income residents in Butte County.

Three thousand (3,000) surveys were distributed by mail. Of these 3,000, 183 were deemed undeliverable, i.e., returned by the United States Post Office with no forwarding address, or returned with a new address that was out of county or out of state. Consequently, the total number of households that had an opportunity to complete and return the survey was 2,734. Of these, 537 were completed and returned, for a return rate of 19.6 percent, which is consistent with response rates for comparable survey approaches .

An additional 94 surveys were completed at various CAA sites by current users of services, bringing the total numbers of survey completed and/or returned to 631.

# Selection of Survey Participants

Surveys were distributed to residents in Butte County based on the following criteria:

- a) All households that earned \$30,000 or less each year, and had children ages five or younger; and
- b) A sampling frame of approximately one-quarter of households with income of \$30,000 or less each year, regardless of whether children lived in the household or not.

The respondents were selected from the sampling frame of households with income of \$30,000 or less, using stratified random sampling to create a sample that was representative of the Butte County population. Gary Bess Associates over-sampled the population to increase the probability that the sample would be representative when all surveys were tallied for this report. Though we can say with a confidence interval of 95 percent, plus or minus five percent, that *White* respondents are representative of Butte County residents earning \$30,000 or less each year, *non-White* respondents were not sufficiently robust to draw similar conclusions.

# Methodology to Encourage Participation

**A multi-modal approach was employed to increase return rates of survey participants:**

- The survey was accompanied by a cover letter which outlined the purpose of study, requested participation, and offered instructions for completing the survey. Additionally, survey participants were provided with self-addressed, stamped envelopes for returning their surveys.
- Participants that completed and returned the survey were entered into a raffle drawing, whereby they had a chance to win one of four \$50 gift certificates to be used at either a local Toys-R-Us or Wal-Mart store.
- Follow-up telephone calls were made to households that had received a survey. For those households contacted by telephone that had not yet completed and returned the survey, the options of being sent another survey, or completing the survey over the telephone were available; if they wished to participate.
- The deadline for returning surveys was extended in order to allow more time for participants to return their surveys.
- Respondents were provided with a telephone number where they could call to receive assistance with completing surveys, or to find out more information about the study.

# Survey Respondent Profile

## **Age (N=599)**

The mean age of respondents was 46.43 years old, with the youngest respondent, 19 years old, and the oldest, 91 years old. Approximately 30 percent of respondents (30.1%) reported their age to be within the age range of 25-34 years old. Nearly one-quarter of respondents (22.9%) reported their age to be 65 years old or older.

## **Gender (N=630)**

Slightly less than 70 percent of respondents (68.6%) were *female*, with 31.4 percent *male* (31.4%).

## **Marital Status (N=617)**

Nearly one-half (48.0%) of respondents reported they were *married*, with 20.7 percent reporting their marital status as *single*, 11.7 percent *widowed*, and 11.5 percent *divorced*, 7.4 percent *living with partner*, and 0.5 percent *other*.

## **Race/Ethnicity (N=622)**

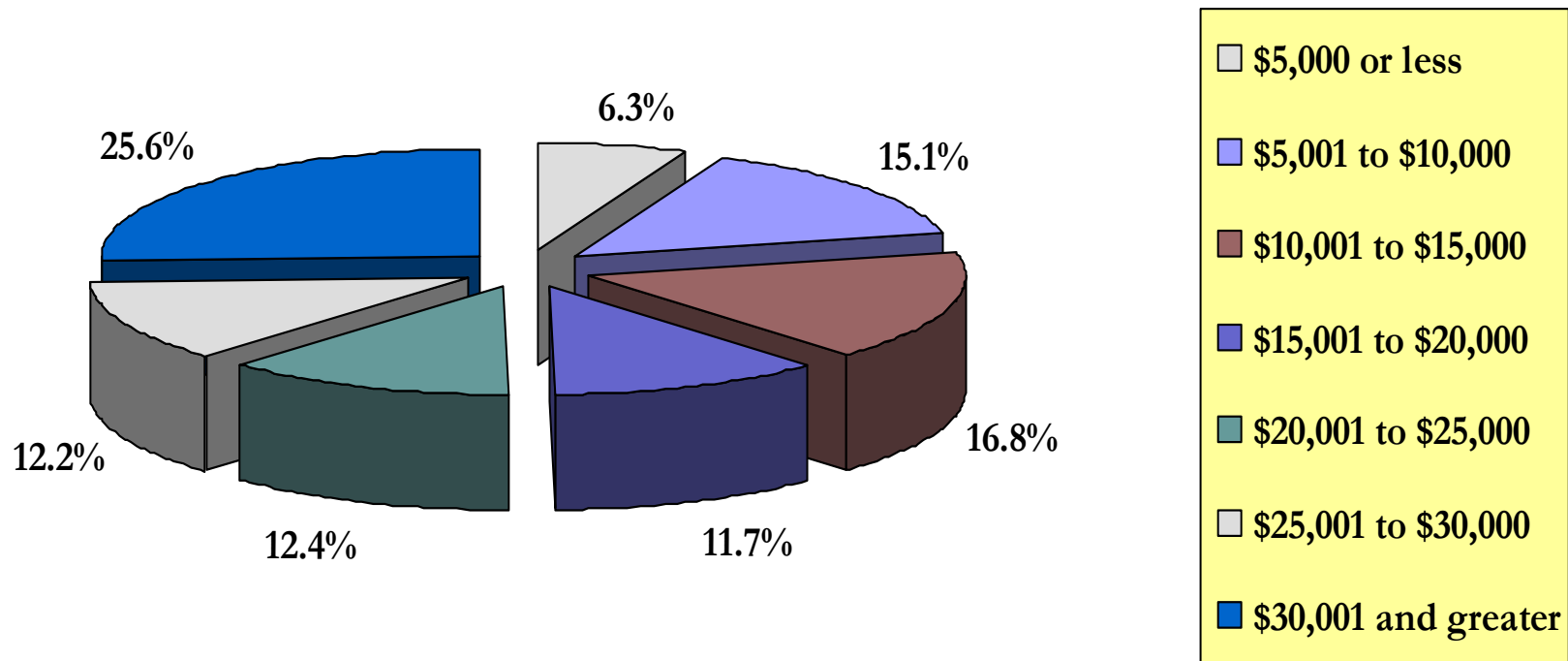
Greater than 70 percent (72.3%) of respondents reported their race/ethnicity as *White*, with 6.9 percent reporting their race/ethnicity as *Other*, 6.8 *Hispanic/Latino*, 4.8 percent *American Indian*, 4.7 percent *Asian American*, 2.9 percent *Multi-racial* and 1.6 percent *Black/ African-American*.

## **Primary Language Spoken at Home (N=624)**

The majority of respondents (91.5%) reported *English* as the primary language spoken in the home, with 3.5 percent reporting *Hmong* as the primary language spoken in the home, 3.0 percent *Spanish*, and 1.9 percent *Other*.

# Income

Income Range of Respondents



# Education and Employment

## Education (N=616)

The majority of respondents (87.1%) reported to have at least graduated high school, or earned a *GED*. Greater than one-third of respondents (36.5%) reported completing at least some college, and 16.9% reported at least attaining a *bachelor's degree*, i.e., college degree. Approximately 20 percent (20.1%) of respondents reported that they and/or their spouse were currently attending school. (N=602)

## Employment (N=618)

Slightly more than one-half of respondents (51.0%) reported that neither themselves, nor their spouse/partner were employed. Just under one-half of respondents (49.0%) reported that they and/or their spouse was employed. The majority of respondents and spouses/partners that were employed, worked more worked *31 hours or more a week* – respondents, 64.9 percent, and spouses/partners, 71.0 percent.

# Children in the Household

## **Number of Children Less than 18 Years of Age in the Household (N=563)**

Greater than 60 percent (62.7%) of respondents reported that there was at least one child less than 18 years age living in their household. The mean number of children less than 18 years of age living in households with at least one child less than 18 years old was 2.14 (SD=1.20).

## **Number of Children in the Household Five Years of Age and Younger (N=353)**

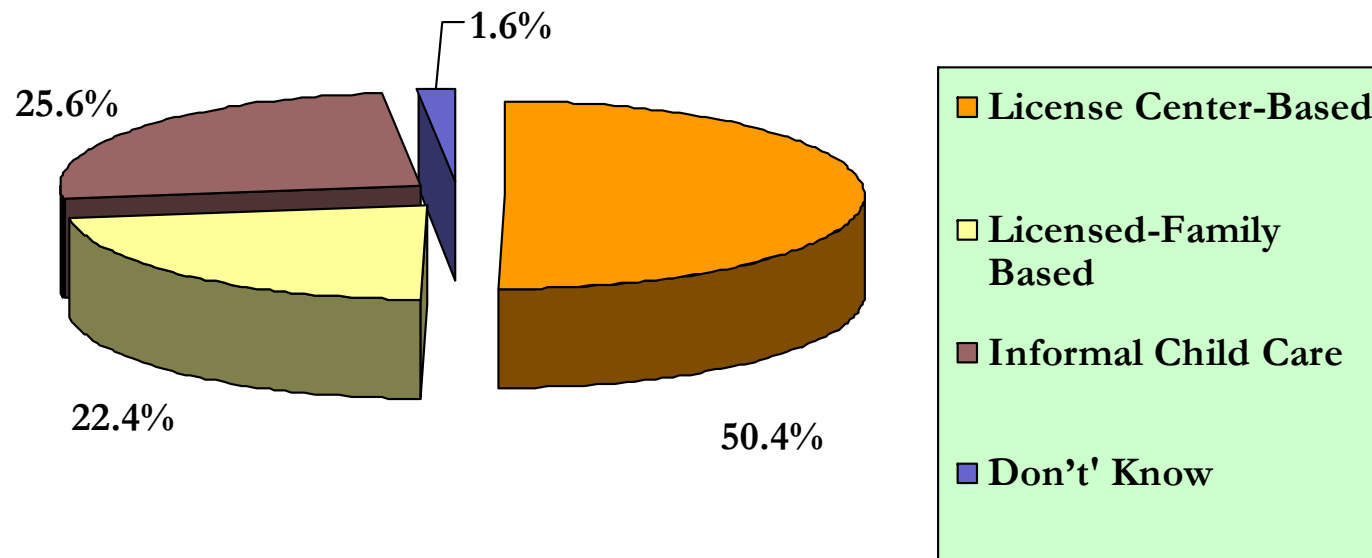
Of those respondents that reported having at least one child in the household less than 18 years of age, 70.8 percent reported having one or more children five years of age or younger.

## **Relationship of Respondent to Children Less than 18 Years of Age in the Household**

Nearly all respondents (96.5%) with children less than 18 years of age in the household reported that they were the child(ren)'s biological mother or father – based on N=316. Approximately eight percent (7.8%) of respondents indicated that at least one of their children under 18 in their home was a foster child (based on N=128), and 19 percent reported that at least one of the children was a grandchild (based on N=142).

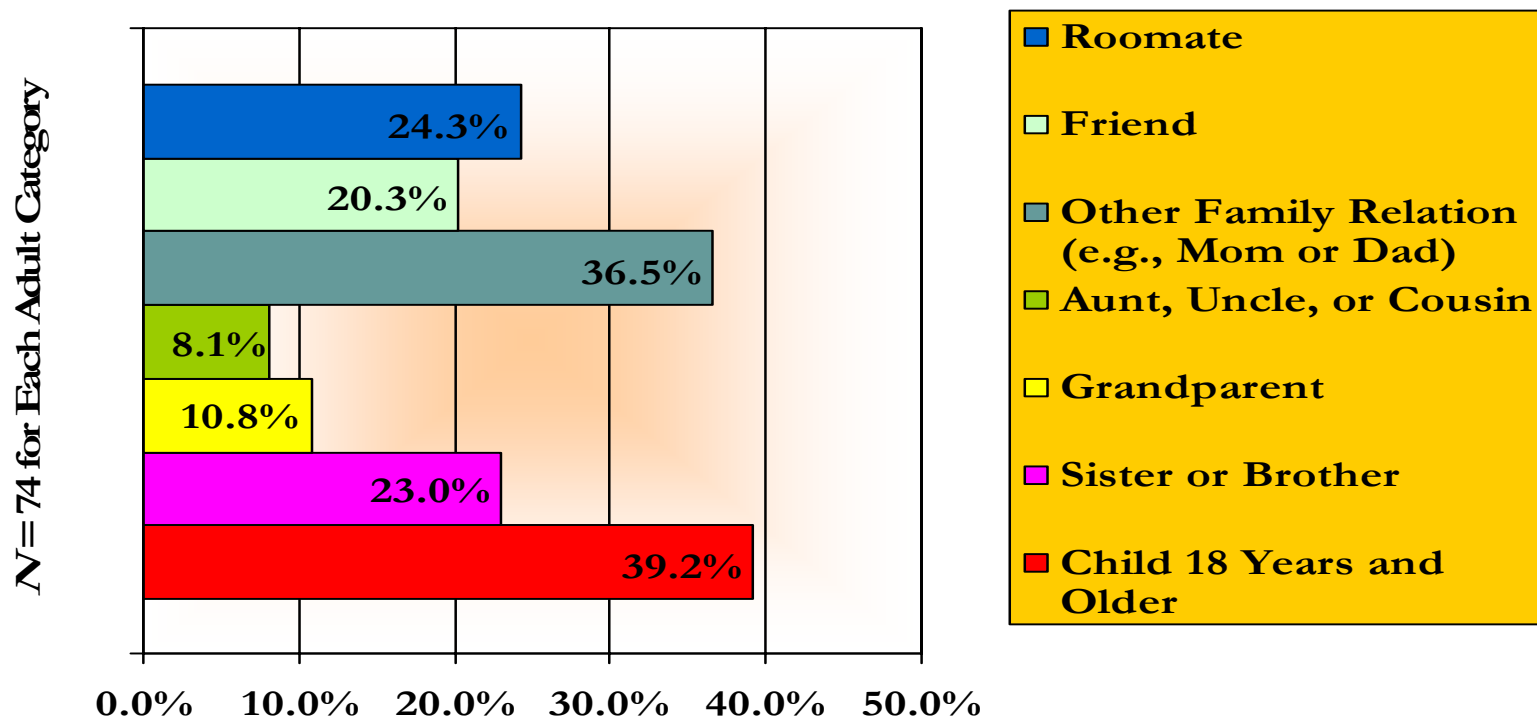
# Child Care

Approximately 21 percent (21.2%) of respondents indicated that they had children in child care – based on N=590. The types of child care typically used by respondents is presented below (N=125).



# Other Adults in the Household

Seventy-four (74) respondents reported that at least one of the following *other* adults was living with them in their household: a child 18 years and older; sister or brother; grandparent; aunt, uncle, or cousin; other family relation – which may include mother of father; friend; and roommate. A distribution of the 74 respondents as it pertains to their identifying other adults living in the household is presented below.

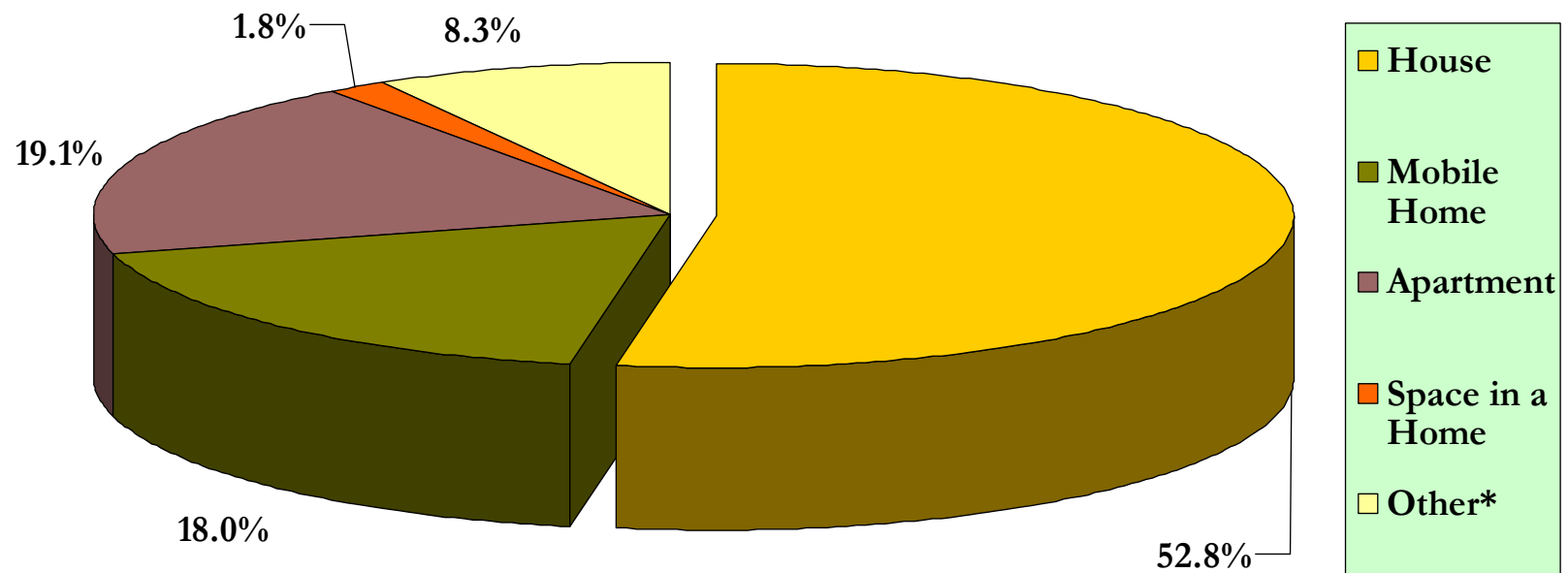


# Household Information

## Own or Rent Residence (N=606)

Slightly greater than one-half (51.8%) of respondents indicated that they *rent* the residence in which they live, with 46.7 percent reporting they *own* their residence, and 1.5 percent reporting they *neither own or rent* their residence.

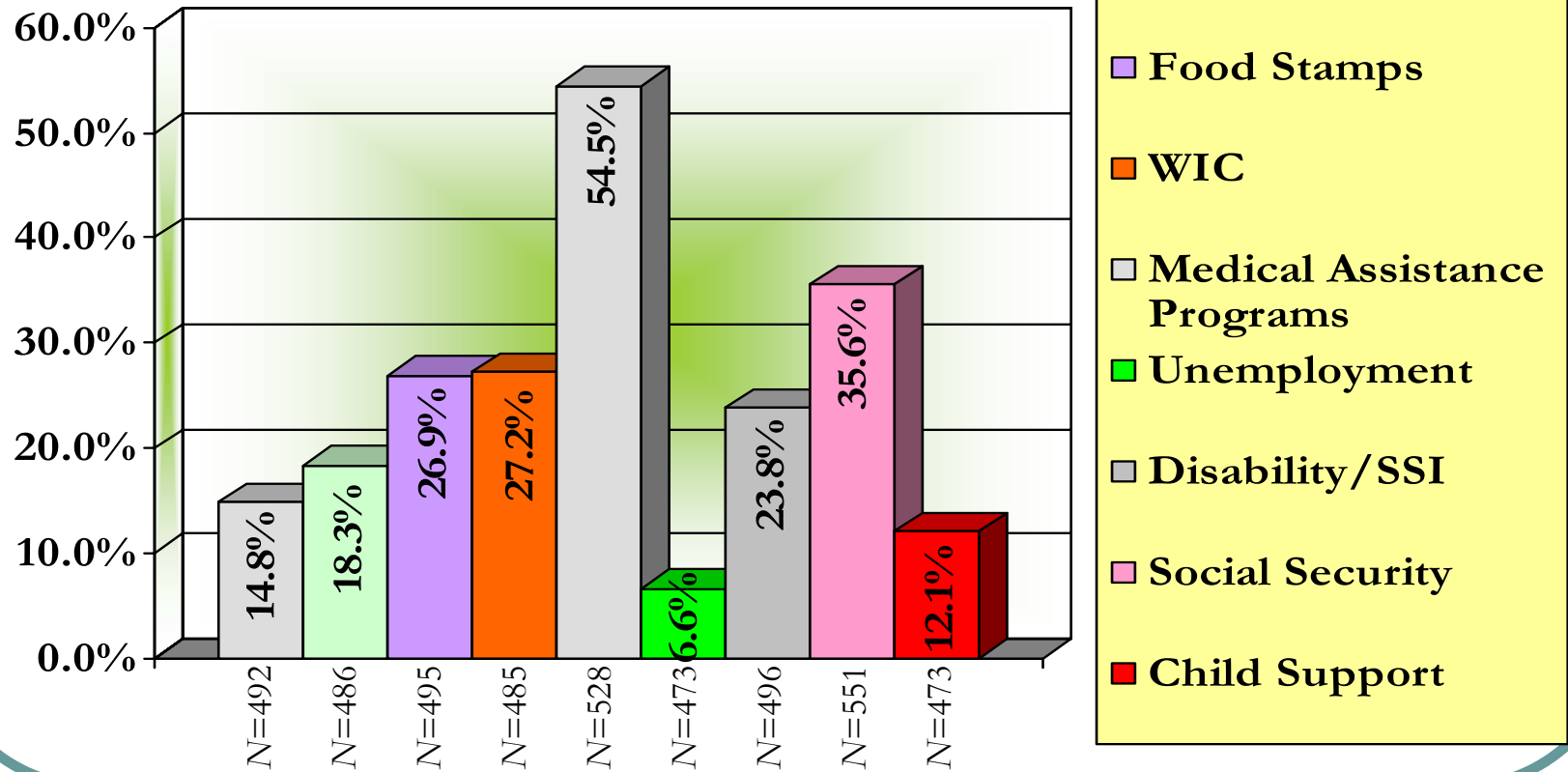
## Type of Residence in Which Respondents Live (N=627)



\*Other includes: Manufactured home, duplex, retirement home, town house, own property, quanza hut, guest house, camper/trailer/mobile/auto/motor, modular home, four-plex, complex, HUD/Section 8, cabin, transitional housing, mobile home with kitchenette, double wide, and studio.

# Assistance Programs

**Public Assistance Received**



# Medical Insurance

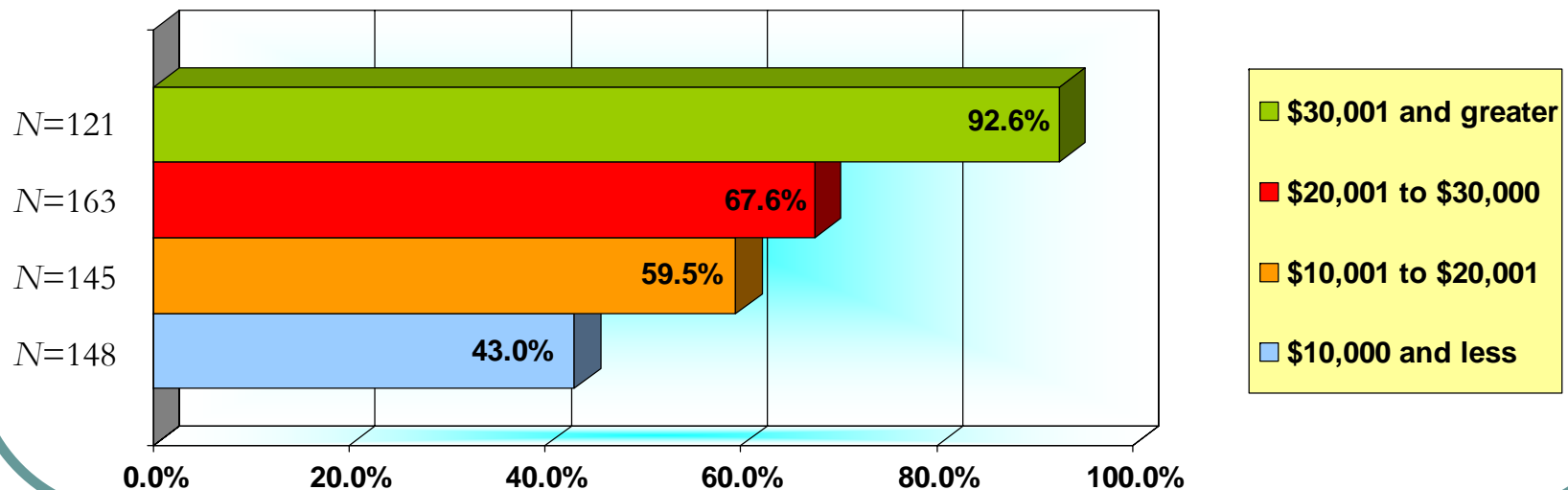
## Aggregate (N=609)

Two-thirds (66.7%) of respondents reported that they and/or their spouse/partner had some form of medical insurance.

## Respondents with Children Five Years and Younger in the Household (N=245)

Slightly less than two-thirds (64.9%) of respondents with children five years and younger living in the household reported that they and/or their spouse/partner had some form of medical insurance.

## Income Level of Respondent and Health Insurance



# Need for Services

“Do you or other members of your family (i.e., spouse or partner and children) have a need for any of the following services?”

Service	Respondent	Spouse/Partner & Children
	Percentage of Yes Responses	Percentage of Yes Responses
General health care services	38.2%	34.6%
Prenatal service (pregnancy)*	3.2%	2.7%
Pediatric services**	12.4%	31.1%
Women’s health care *	41.0%	14.2%
Diabetes care	8.8%	6.5%
Asthma care	8.2%	14.0%
High blood pressure care	16.3%	10.8%

\*Only tabulated for female respondents; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

\*\*Only tabulated for respondents with children ages less than 18 years of age living in the household; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

# Need for Services

“Do you or other members of your family (i.e., spouse or partner and children) have a need for any of the following services?”

Service	Respondent	Spouse/Partner & Children
	Percentage of Yes Responses	Percentage of Yes Responses
Counseling/mental health services	13.5%	15.1%
Help getting services	11.4%	8.2%
Parenting education services**	12.8%	5.5%
Family planning services (e.g., pap smears) *	8.3%	6.0%
Vision care	43.0%	33.3%
Foot care	17.3%	12.1%
Dental care	49.5%	48.0%

\*Only tabulated for female respondents; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

\*\*Only tabulated for respondents with children ages less than 18 years of age living in the household; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

# Need for Services

“Do you or other members of your family (i.e., spouse or partner and children) have a need for any of the following services?”

Service	Respondent	Spouse/Partner & Children
	Percentage of Yes Responses	Percentage of Yes Responses
Alcohol/drug abuse prevention	4.2%	3.1%
Weight management	25.2%	16.4%
AIDS services	0.4%	0.5%
Immigration or other legal services	3.5%	4.0%
Quitting smoking	12.4%	9.4%
Food distribution/assistance	16.1%	12.6%
Language interpretation*	30.6%	23.3%
Housing or rental assistance	22.1%	19.6%
Nutrition assistance	9.1%	7.8%

\*Only tabulated for those respondents that identified the primary language spoken in the home as a language other than English.

# Need for Services

**“Do you or other members of your family (i.e., spouse or partner and children) have a need for any of the following services?”**

Service	Respondent	Spouse/Partner & Children
	Percentage of Yes Responses	Percentage of Yes Responses
Utility assistance (e.g., help to pay PG & E)	27.2%	21.1%
Child care*	22.3%	14.0%
Child education**	13.6%	15.1%
Transportation	10.2%	9.0%
Weatherization of home	21.3%	12.7%
Shelter assistance	2.6%	1.7%
In-home health care	4.6%	3.1%

\*Only tabulated for respondents with children ages 12 years and less living in the household; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

\*\*Only tabulated for respondents with children ages 18 years and less living in the household; tabulated for all spouse/partner and children respondents.

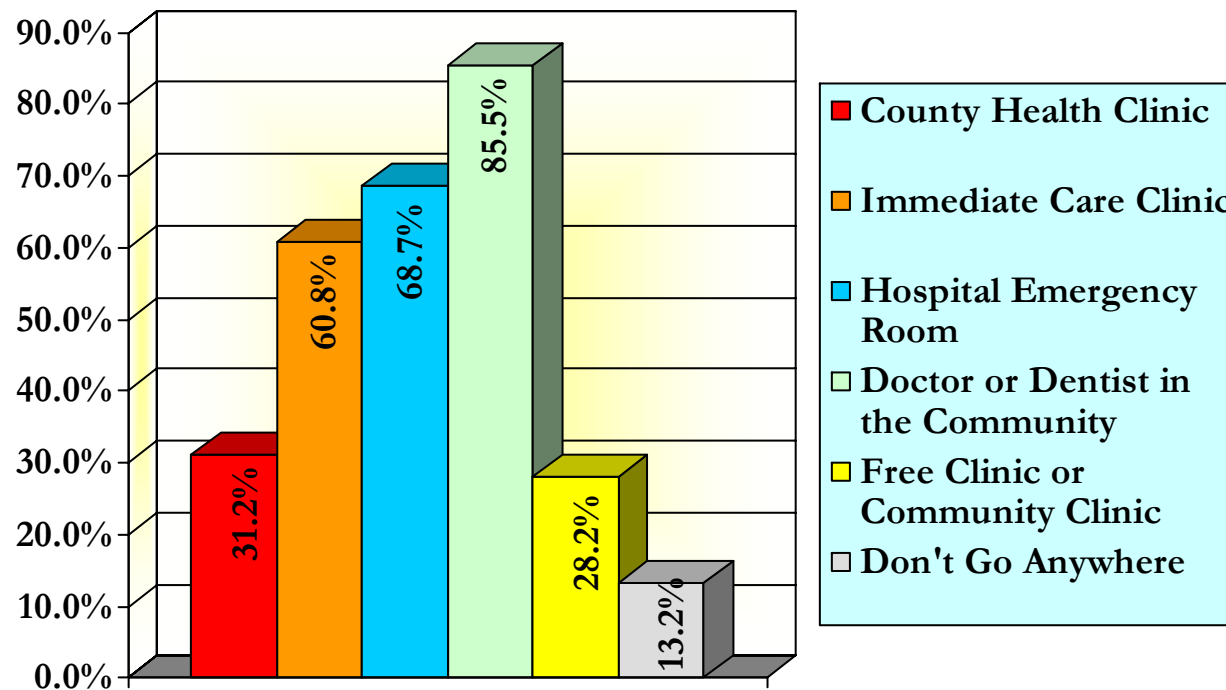
# Health Problems in Young Children

“Do any of the children five years of age and younger living with you have any of the following health problems?”

Health Problem	<i>N</i>	Percentage of Yes Responses
Asthma or bronchitis	277	14.4%
Dental problems	279	12.5%
Behavioral health problems	280	7.9%
Eye or vision problems	279	5.7%
Seem depressed	280	3.2%
Hearing problems	278	3.2%
Heart problems	279	1.8%
Stomach or intestinal problems	279	1.4%
Seizures	279	1.1%
Arthritis	279	0.7%
Kidney problems	277	0.4%

There were no “Yes Responses” to the following health problems: high blood pressure, blood or circulation problems, suffered a stroke, been diagnosed with cancer, HIV positive or AIDS, diabetes, and thyroid problems.

# Health Care Facilities Used for Medical Problems



# Financial Profile

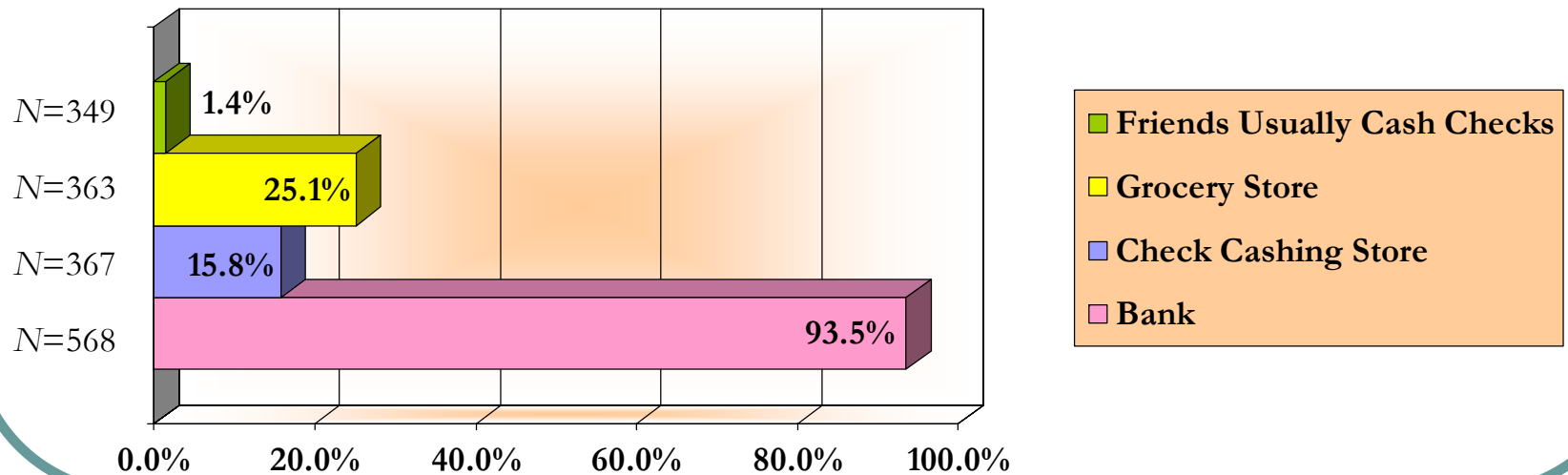
## Checking Account (N=606)

Greater than 80 percent (83.8%) of respondents reported that they or other family members had a *checking account*.

## Savings Account (N=603)

Greater than one-half (54.1%) of respondents reported that they or other family members had a *savings account*.

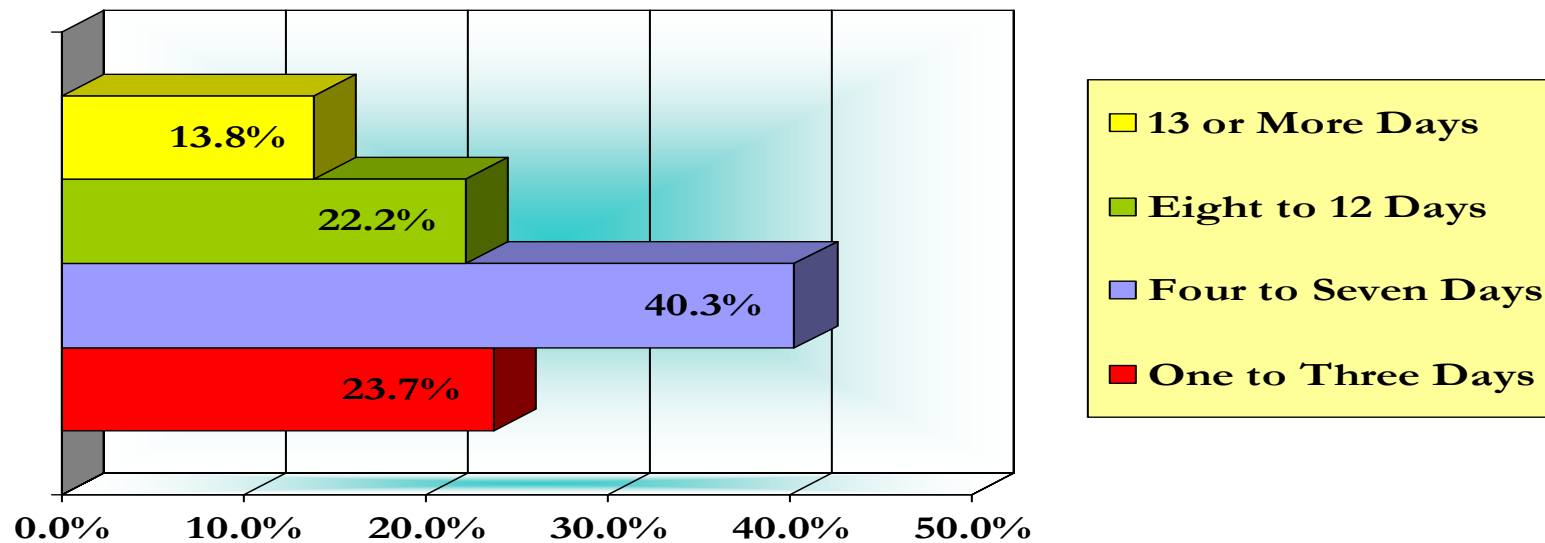
## Cashing Checks



# Running Out of Money

Greater than one-half (56.2%) of respondents reported that they ran out of money at least once before the next paycheck/source of income (e.g., SSI or Social Security) in the last 12 months – based on  $N=593$ . Of these respondents, 41.3 percent reported that they ran out of money in *one to three months* out of the last 12 months, with 23.4 percent running out of money in *four to six months*, 9.7 percent in *seven to nine months*, and 25.5 percent of respondents reported that they ran out of money before the next paycheck/source of income in *10 to 12 months* out of the last 12 months – based on  $N=329$ .

“Thinking back to the last time you or your family ran out of money, approximately how many days before the next paycheck/source of income did you run out of money?” ( $N=325$ )



# Monthly Expenses

Average spent each month on...

Item	Percentage of Total
Rent/mortgage	28.4%
Groceries	15.9%
Utilities (e.g., home telephone, electricity, water, gas, or garbage)	10.2%
Insurance (i.e., home or rental, medical, dental, and automobile or motorcycle)	9.2%
Transportation (e.g., gas for your car, car maintenance, bus fair, or taxi fair)	6.4%
Credit card debt	6.2%
Car payment	5.8%
Out-of-pocket costs for health care, dental care, and prescription drugs	3.7%
Clothing	3.4%
Entertainment (e.g., movies or restaurants)	3.3%
Education	2.0%
Cell phone	1.8%
Cable TV/satellite TV	1.7%
Child care	1.5%
Child support/alimony	0.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>