



**NEW AMERICA  
MEDIA**

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

*Multilingual Poll of Latino, Asian  
and African American Parents  
Reveals High Educational  
Aspirations for Their Children and  
Strong Support for Early Education*



August 23, 2006



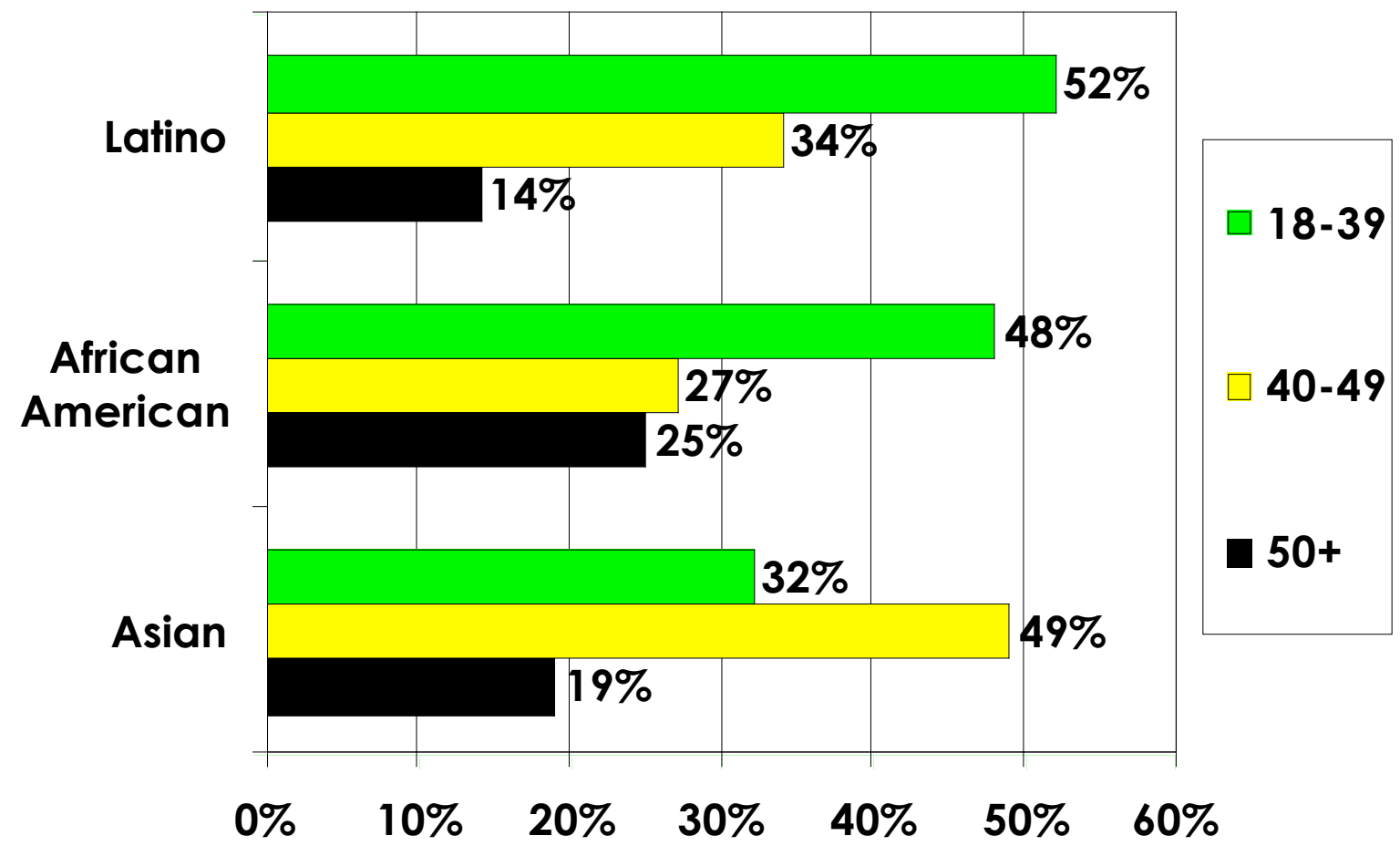
# Methodology

<b>Sample size</b>	602 total interviews, 200 African Americans, 201 Latinos, 201 Asians
<b>Dates of interviews</b>	April 20 – May 9, 2006
<b>Margin of error</b>	4 percentage points
<b>Languages of interviews</b>	English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean

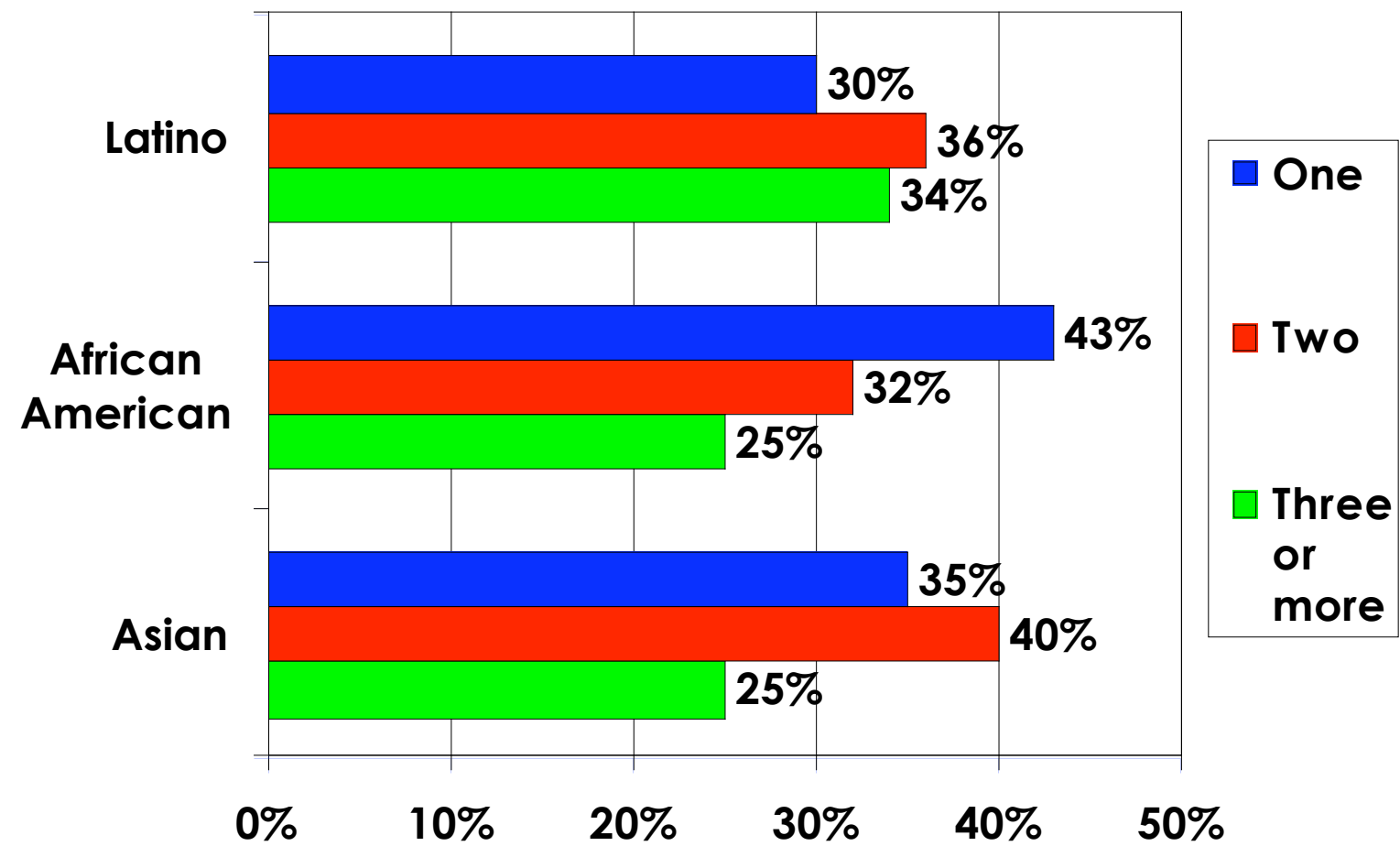
# Demographics



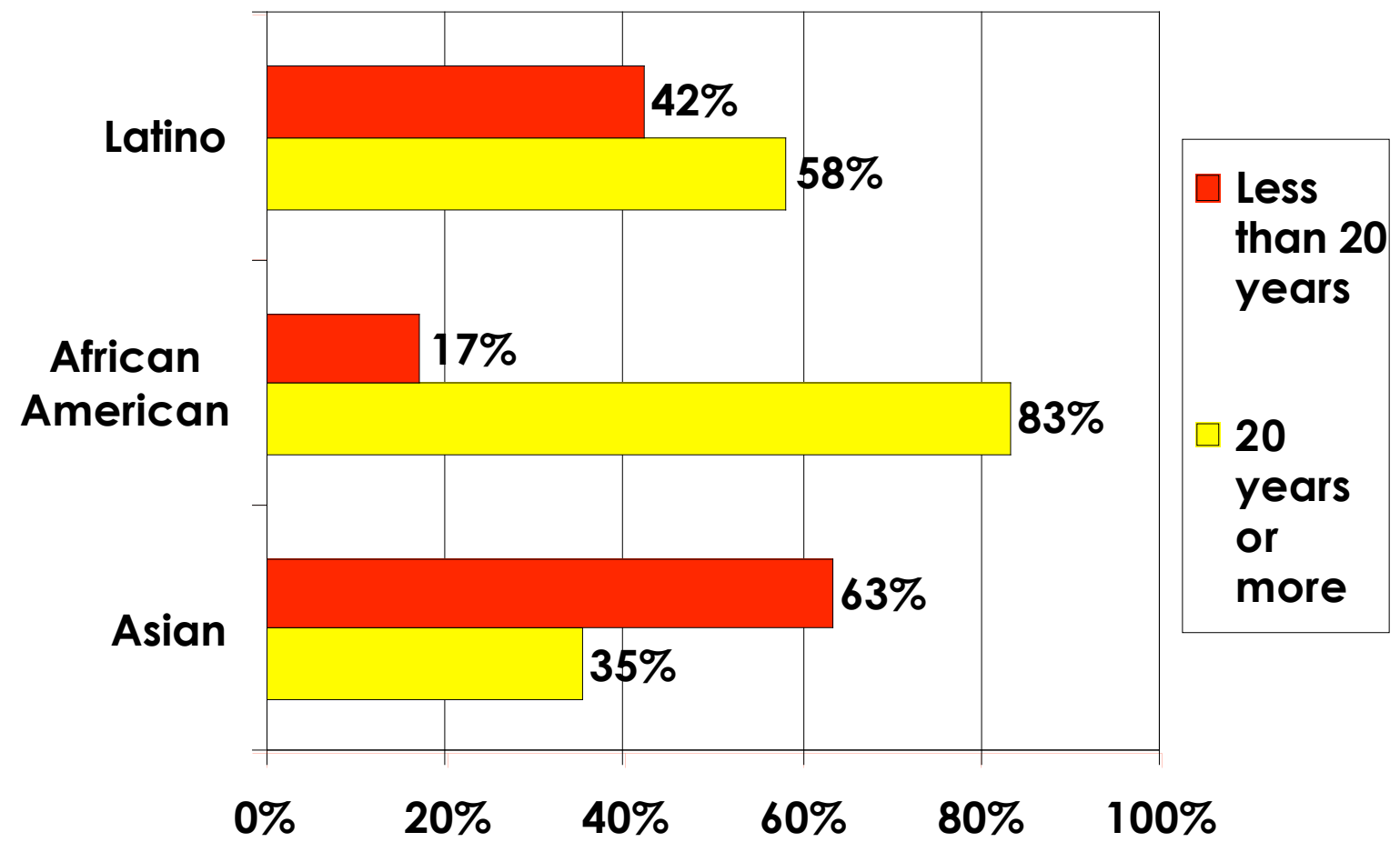
# Age



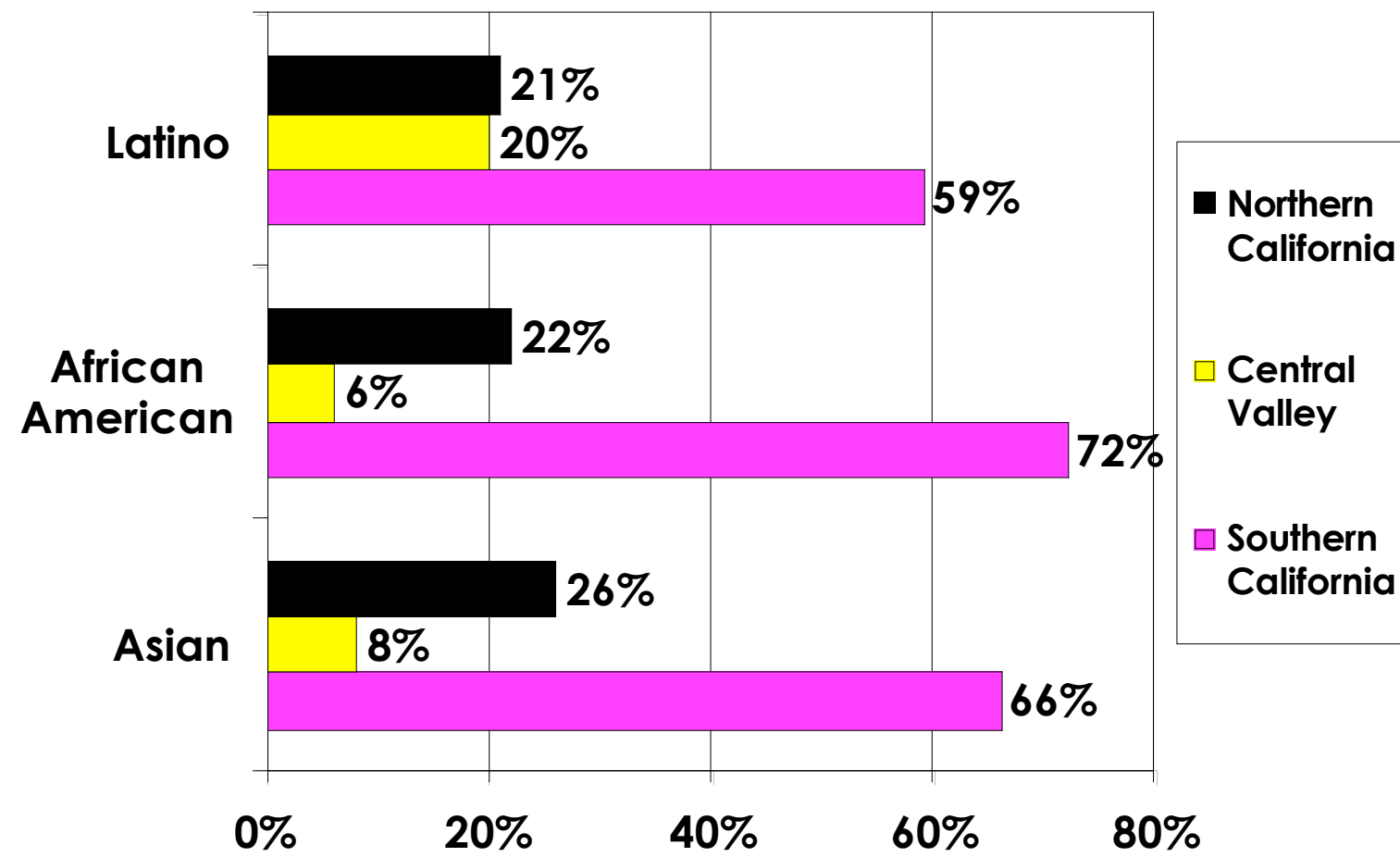
How many children under the age of 18 do you currently have living with you?



# Residency in California



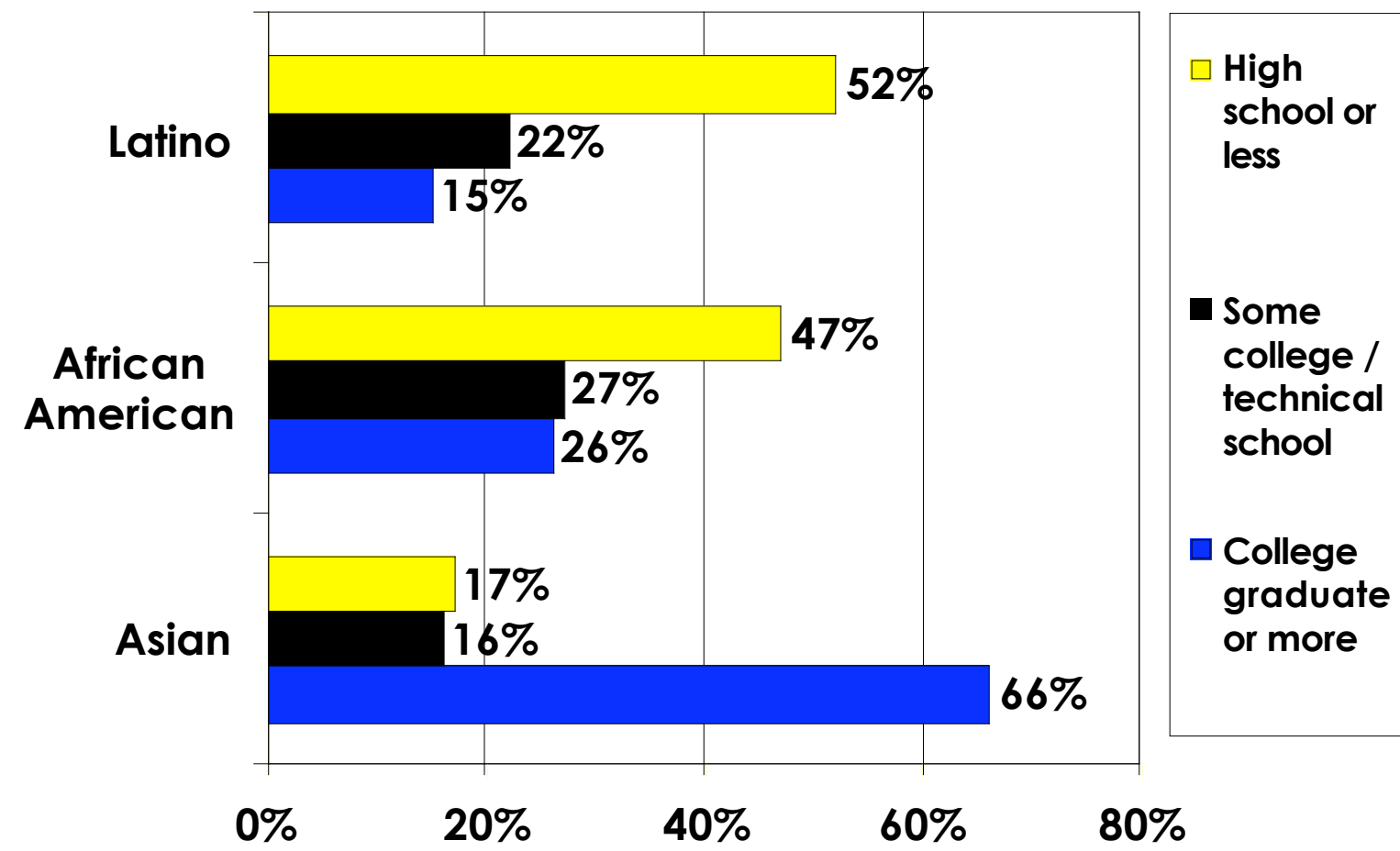
# Region



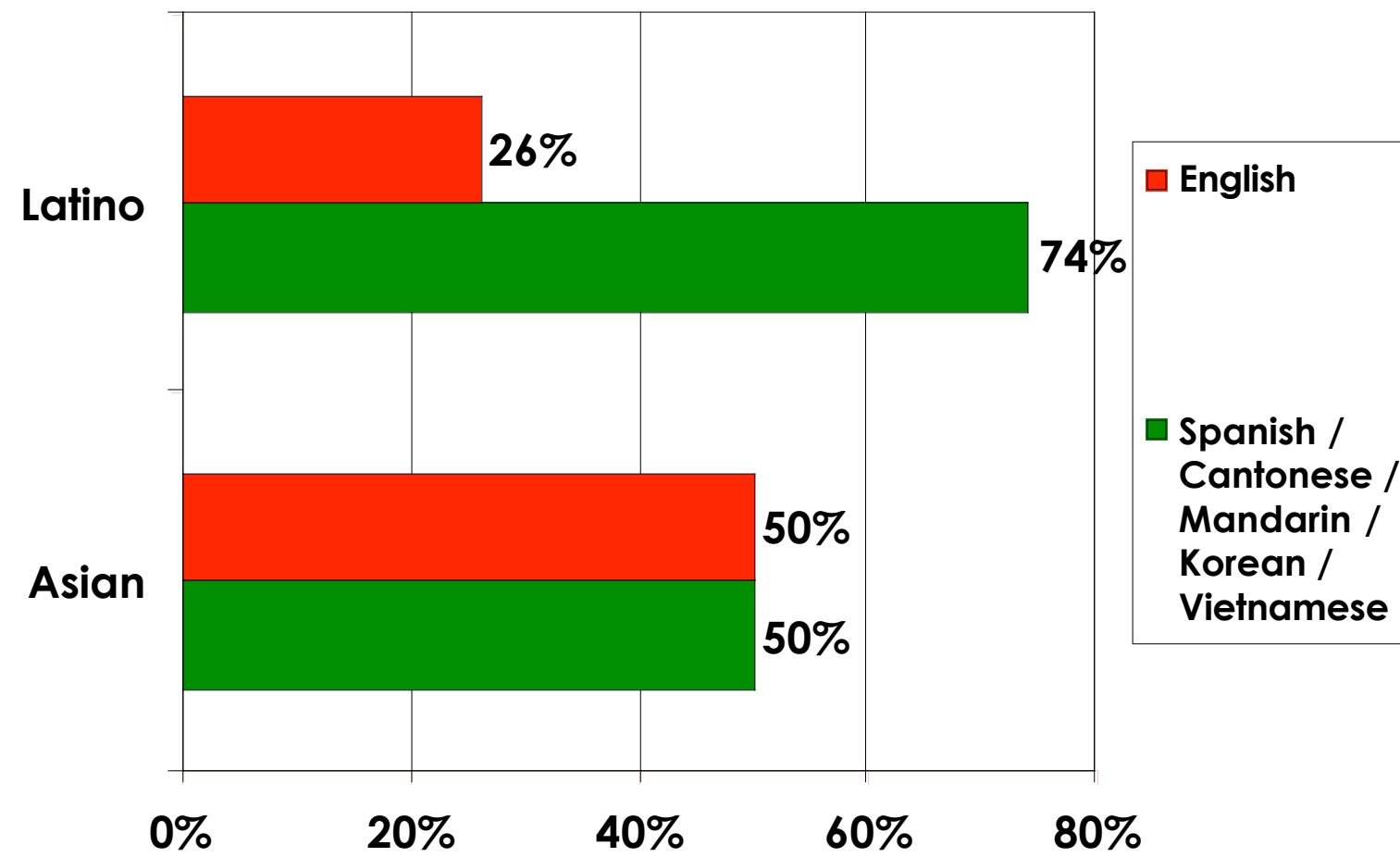
## Major Findings

1. There are important demographic and socio-economic differences between Latino, African American and Asian parents in California. These differences must be kept in mind when reviewing the other findings of the poll.

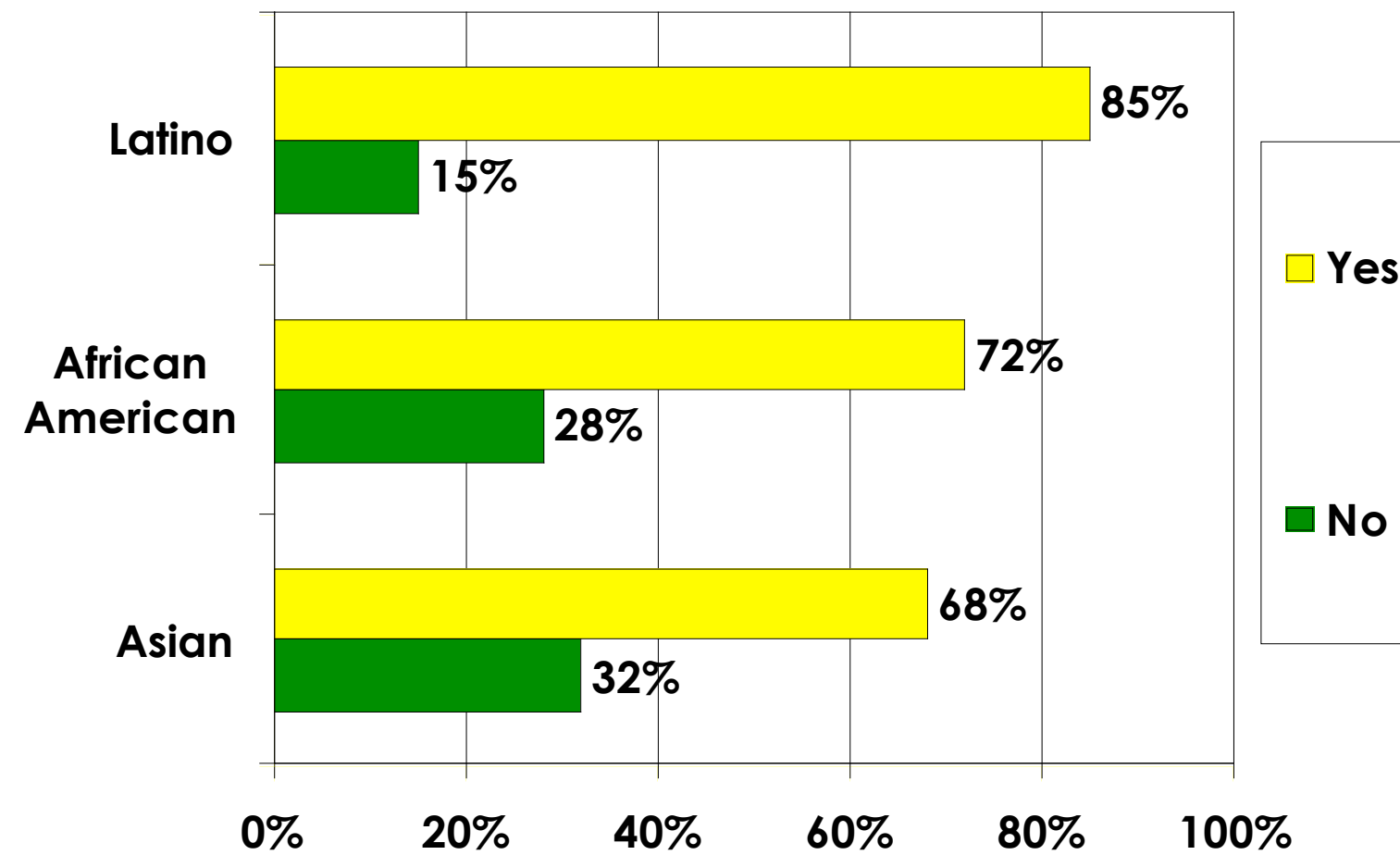
# Education



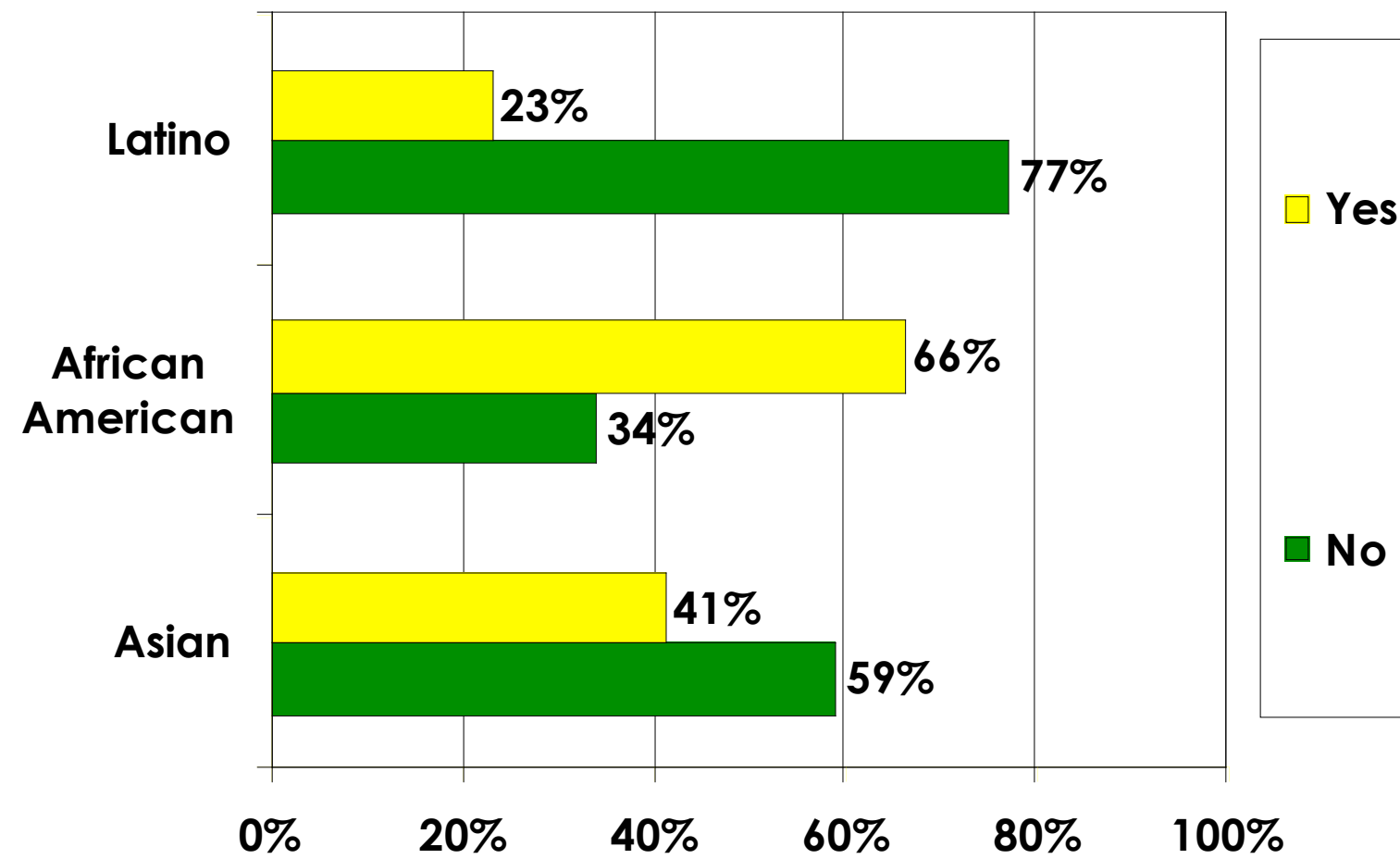
# Language of Interview



Do any of the children that live at home with you attend public schools?



Do any of the children that live with you attend a pre-school program or a child care center for children under 5 years of age?\*



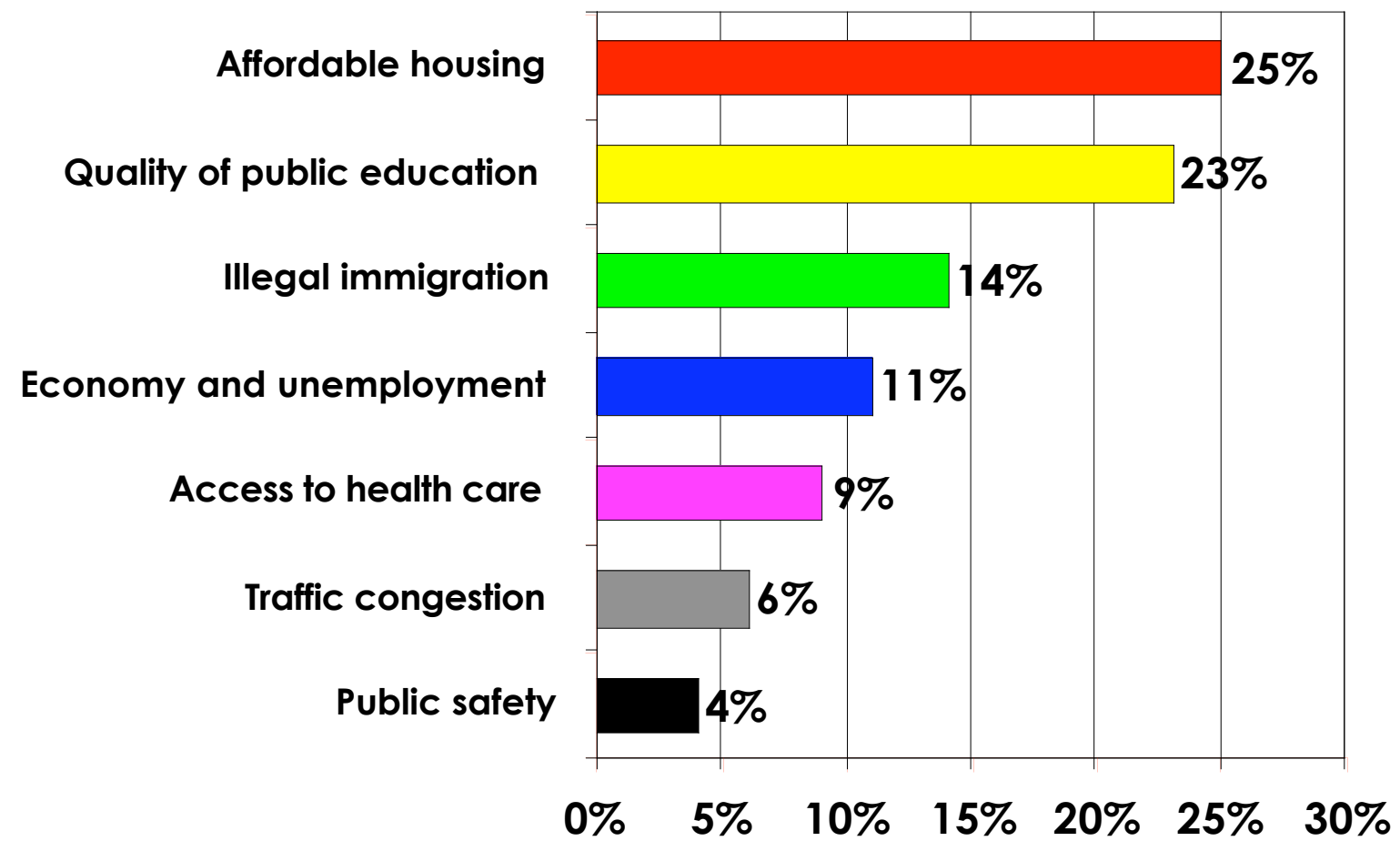
\*Asked only of respondents with children under 5 years of age.

## Major Findings

2. Ethnic parents in California have very high expectations for their children, yet maintain a realistic perspective as to the role in the public schools play in their children's lives. Their aspirations reach well beyond the simple hope that their children will earn a high school diploma. The overwhelming majority of ethnic parents would like to see their children attain at least a college degree.

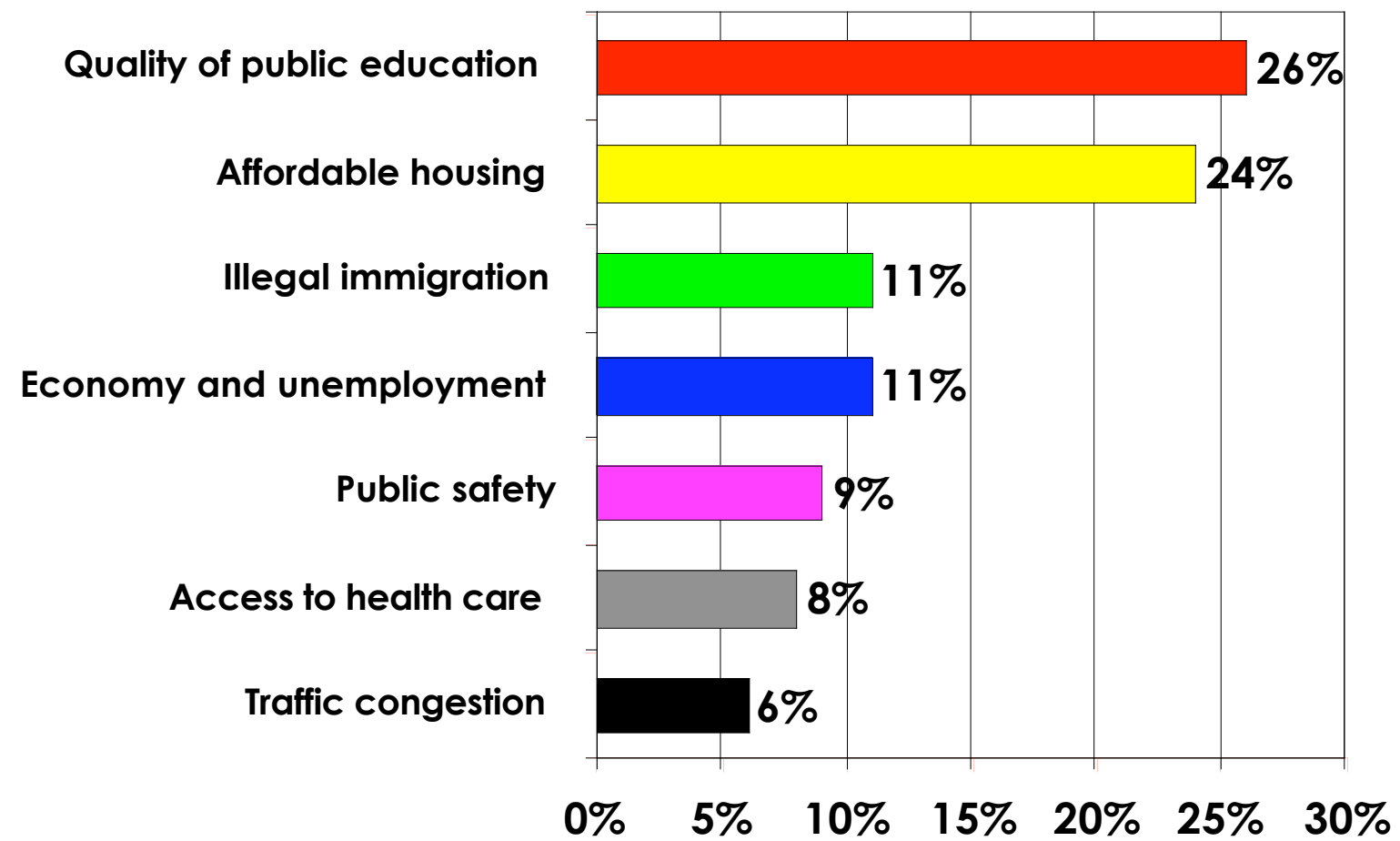
# Biggest Problem Facing California Today

*Latinos*



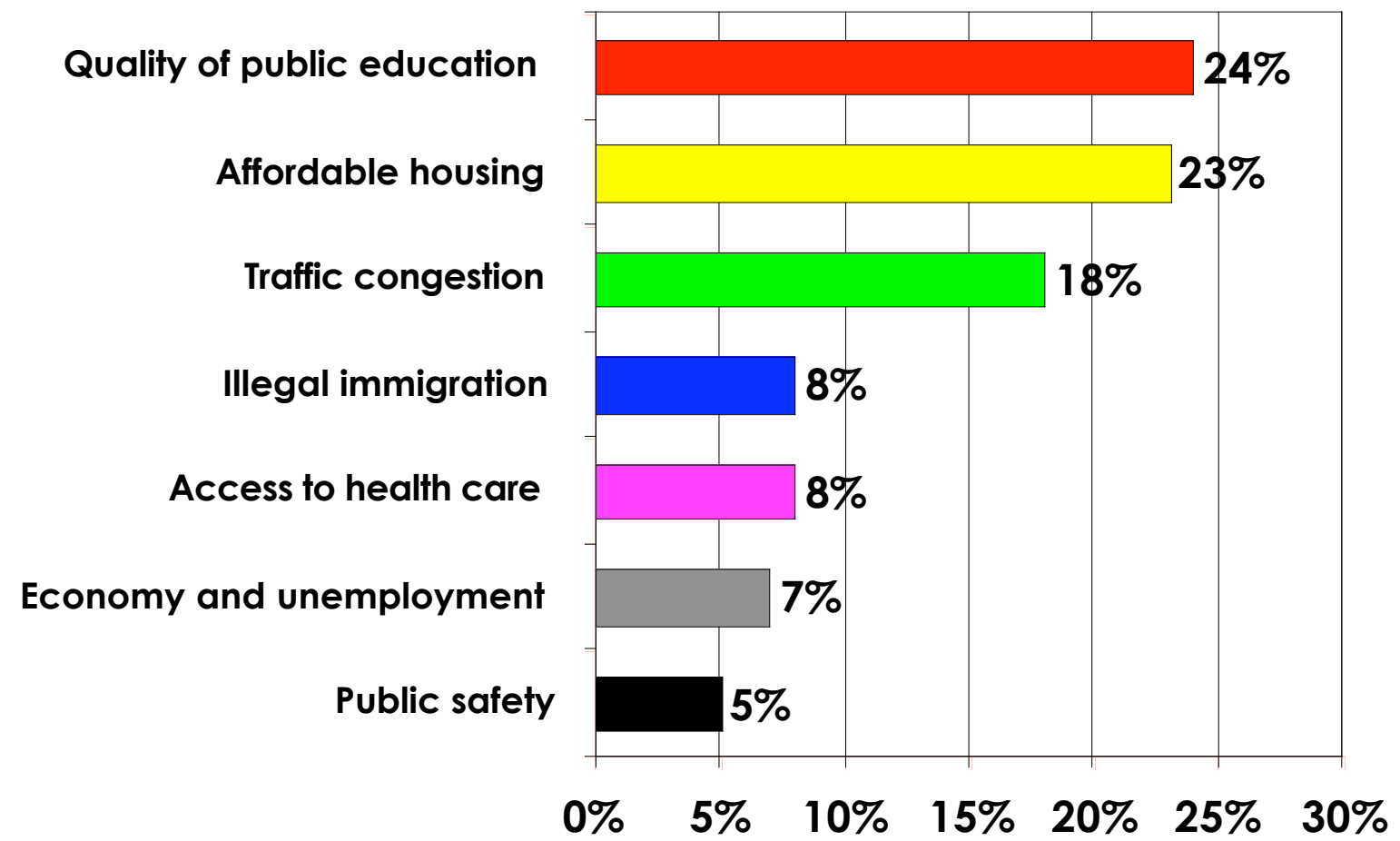
# Biggest Problem Facing California Today

## *African Americans*



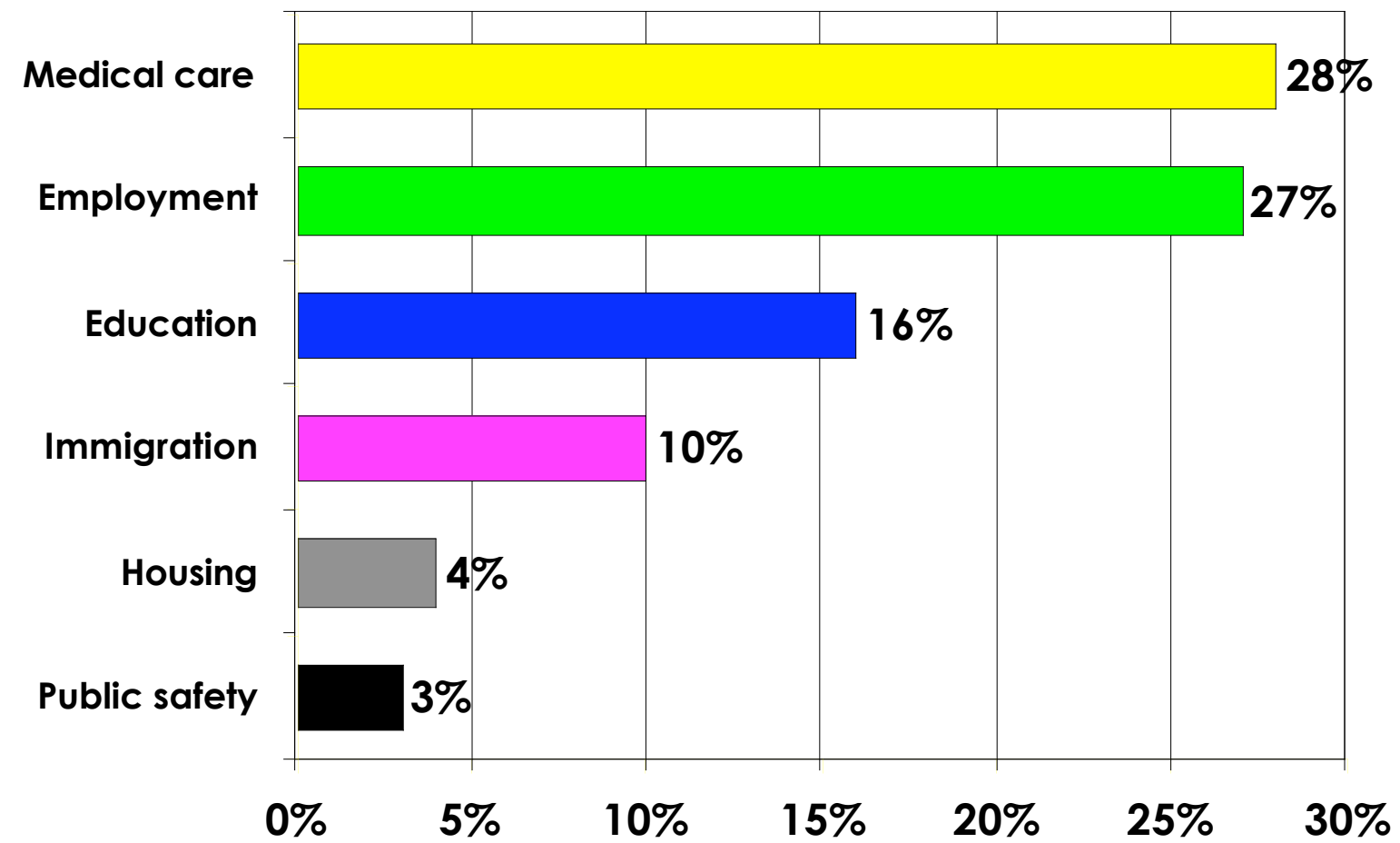
# Biggest Problem Facing California Today

*Asians*



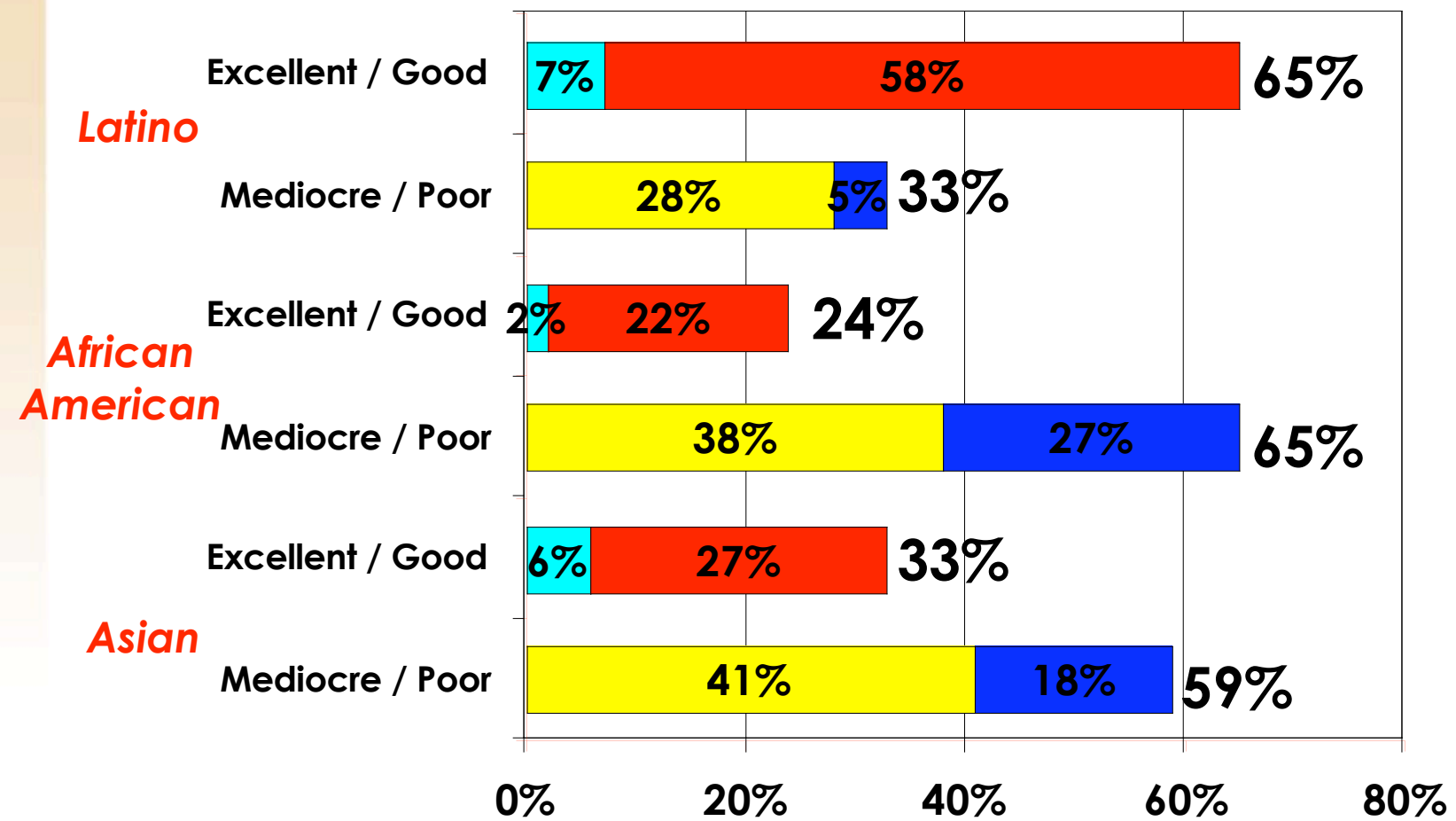
# Biggest Problem Facing California Today\*

*Immigrants interviewed in a foreign language*

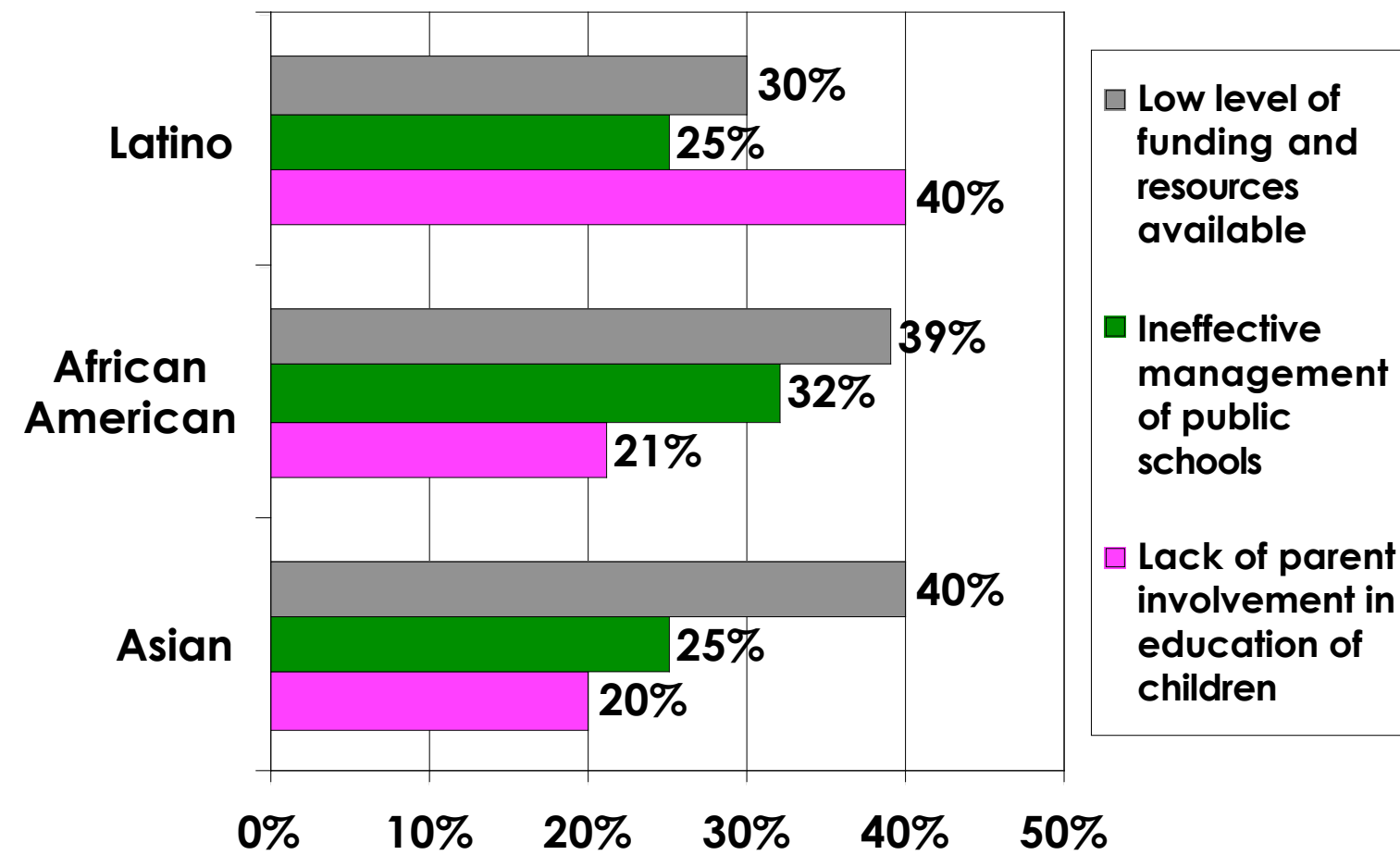


\*California Endowment health care survey, July 2003

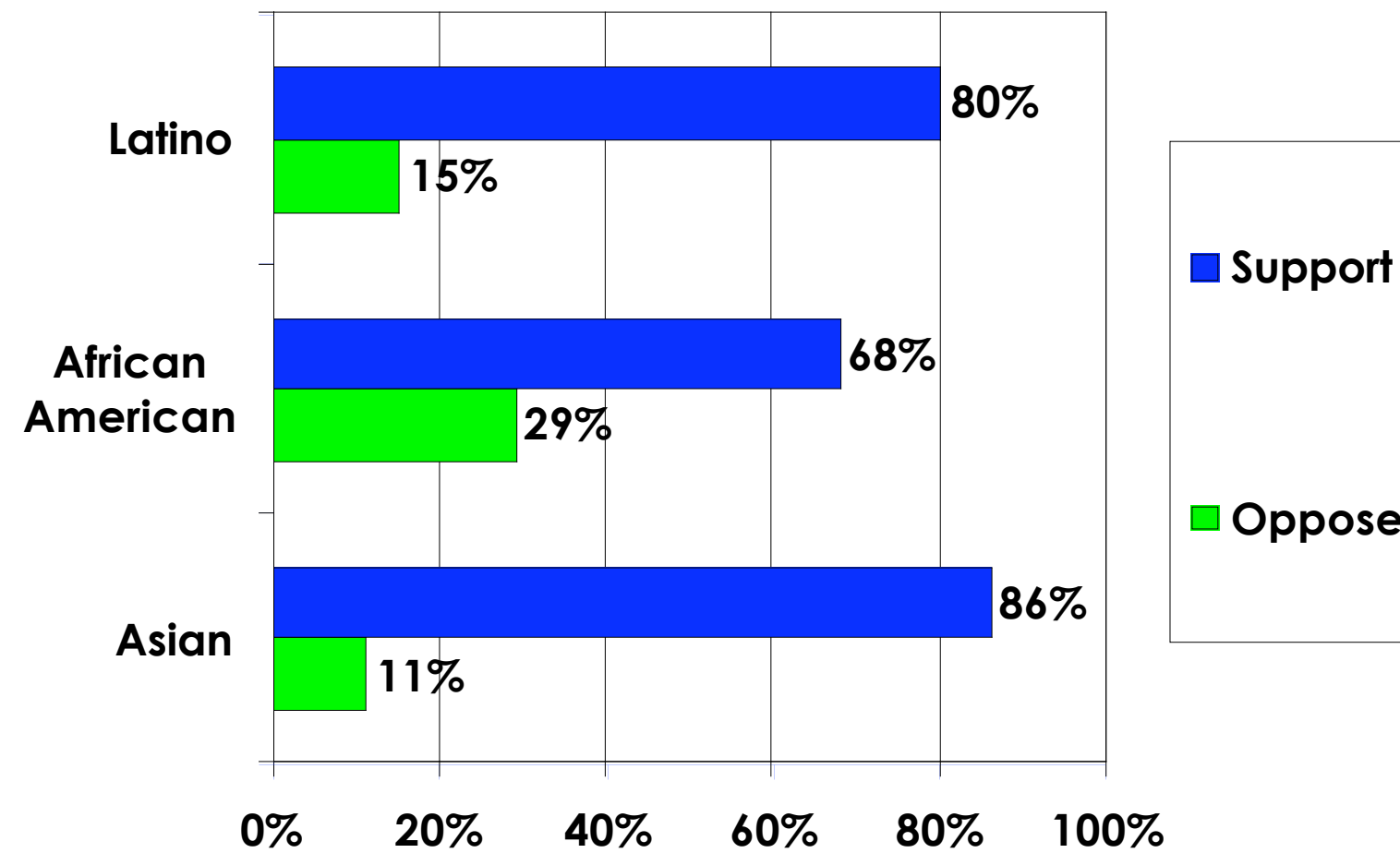
## Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in California?



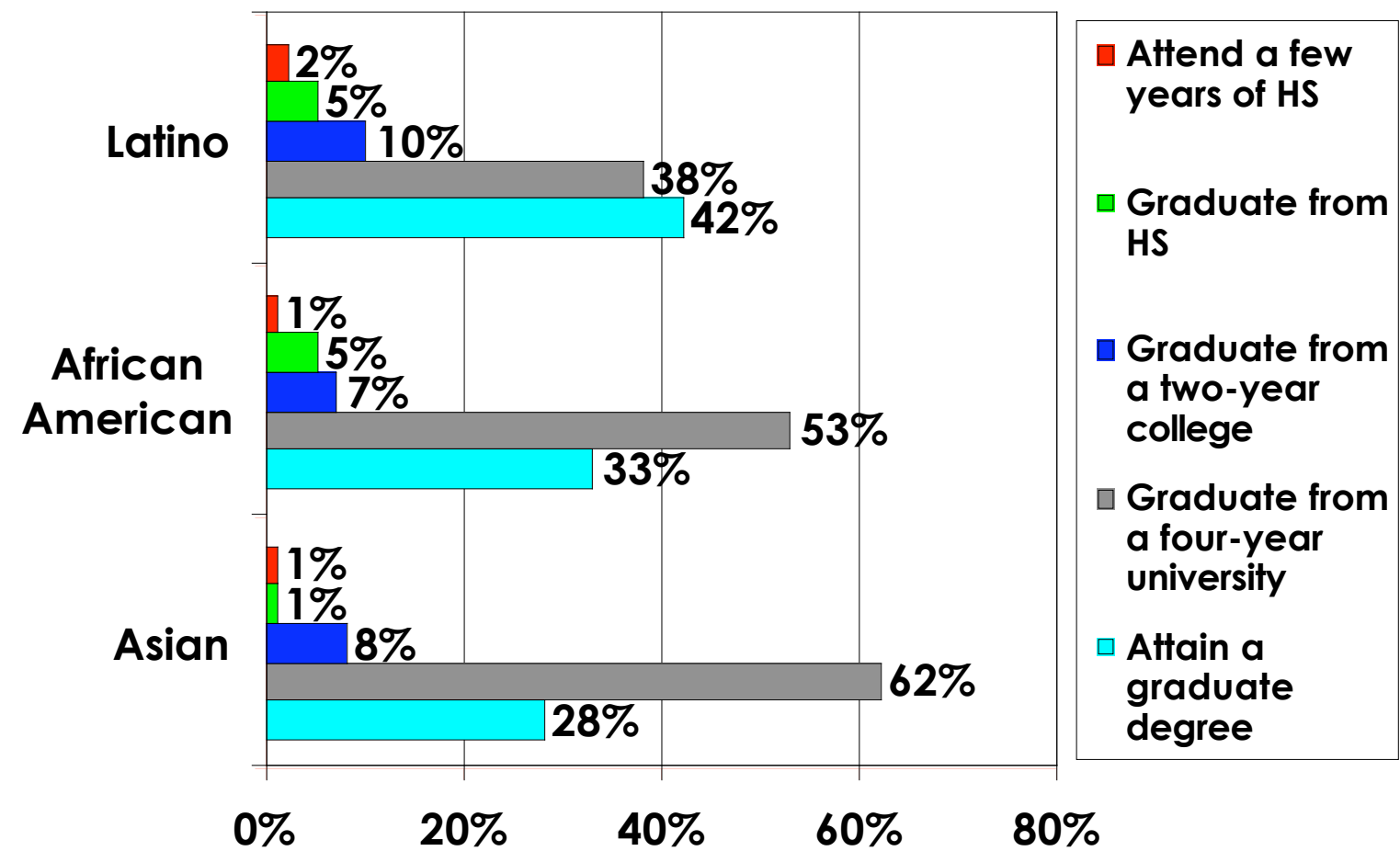
What do you think is the major reason why the California public school system has so many problems?



Testing every high school student in California with an “exit exam” before they are able to receive a high school diploma.

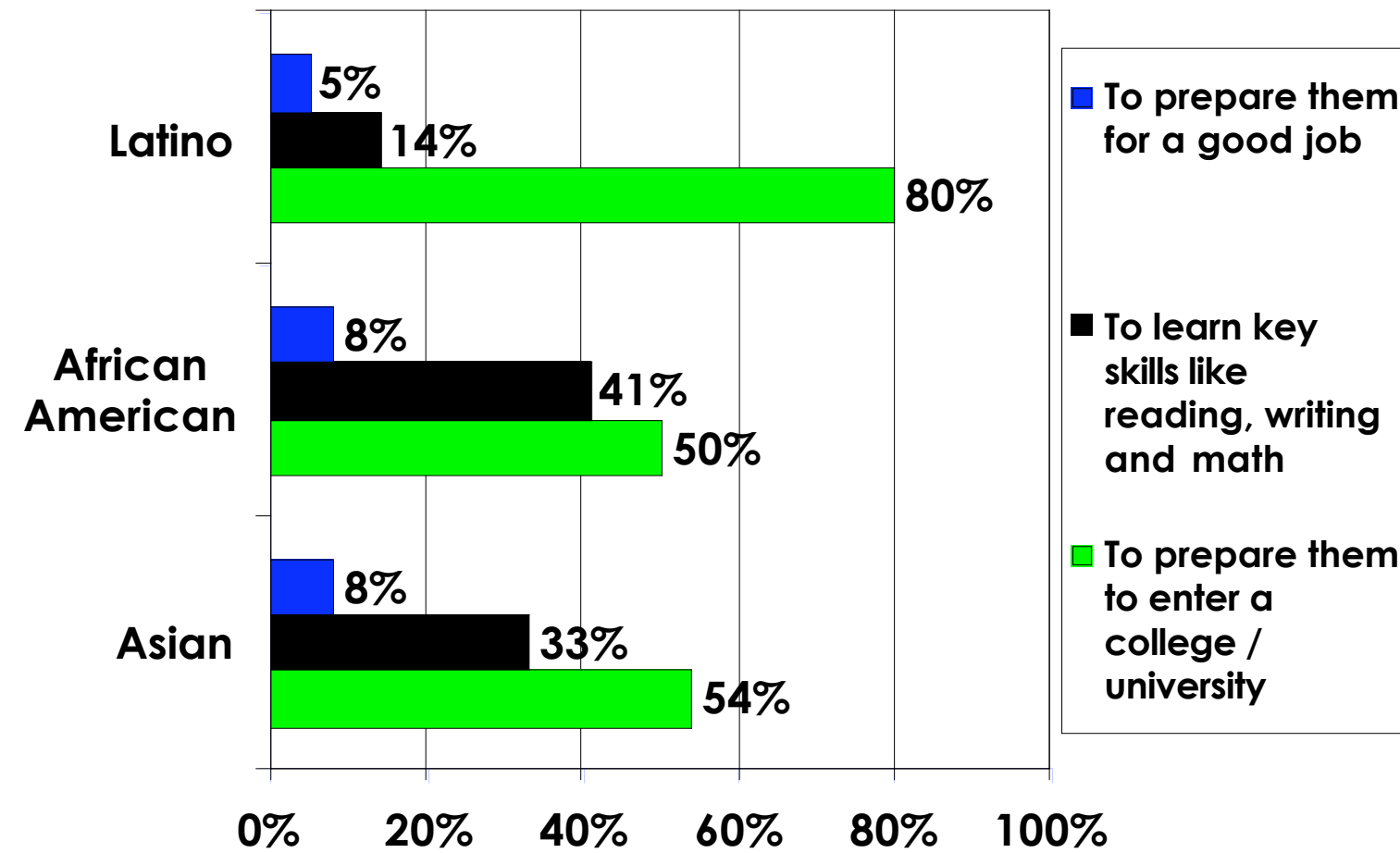


## What level of education do you expect your children to reach?\*

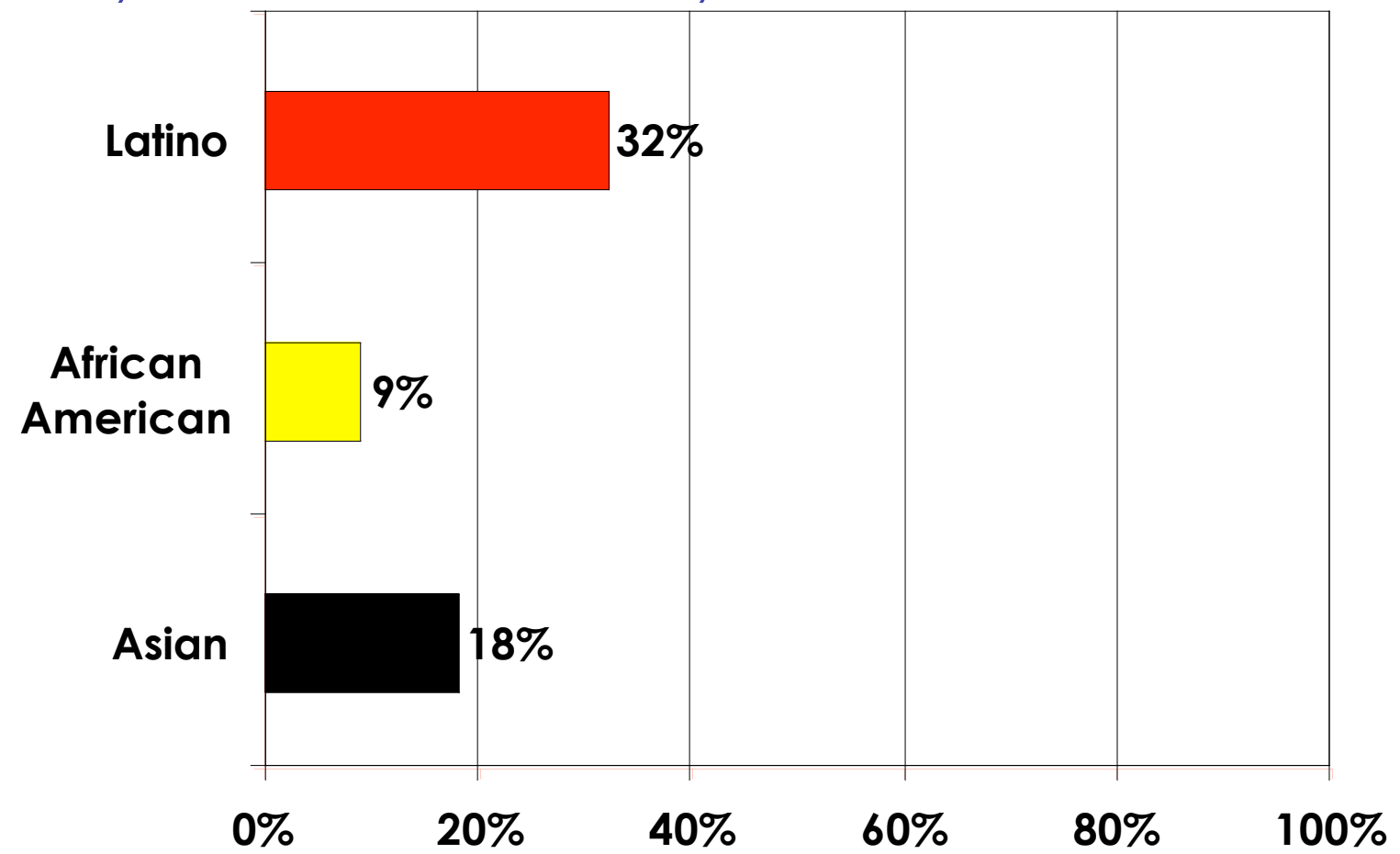


\*Asked only of respondents with children in the public schools.

What do you think is most important for children when it comes to their education in the public schools?



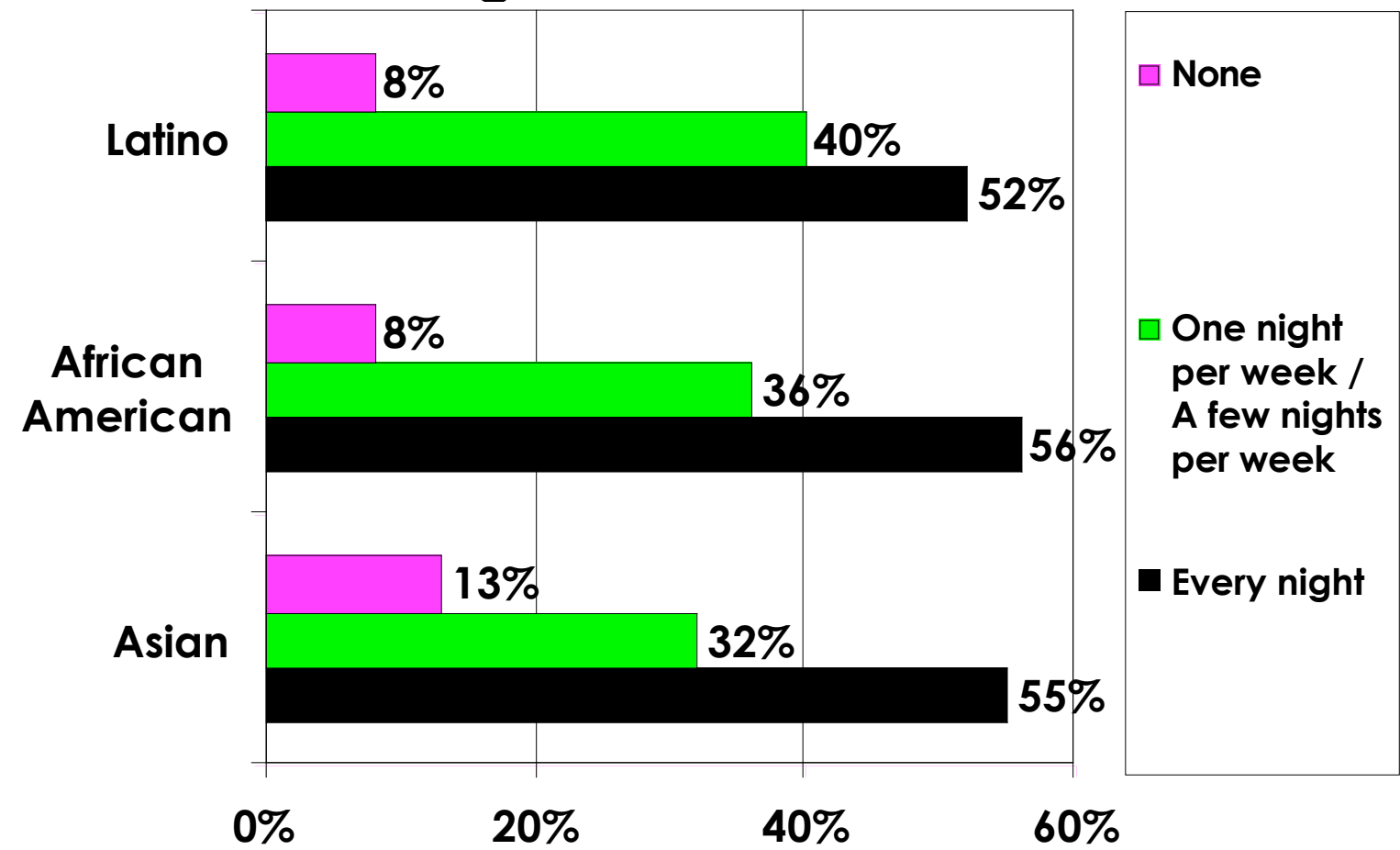
How confident are you that the public education system in California will prepare its students adequately for a good job and successful career?  
*"Very confident" answers only*



## Major Findings

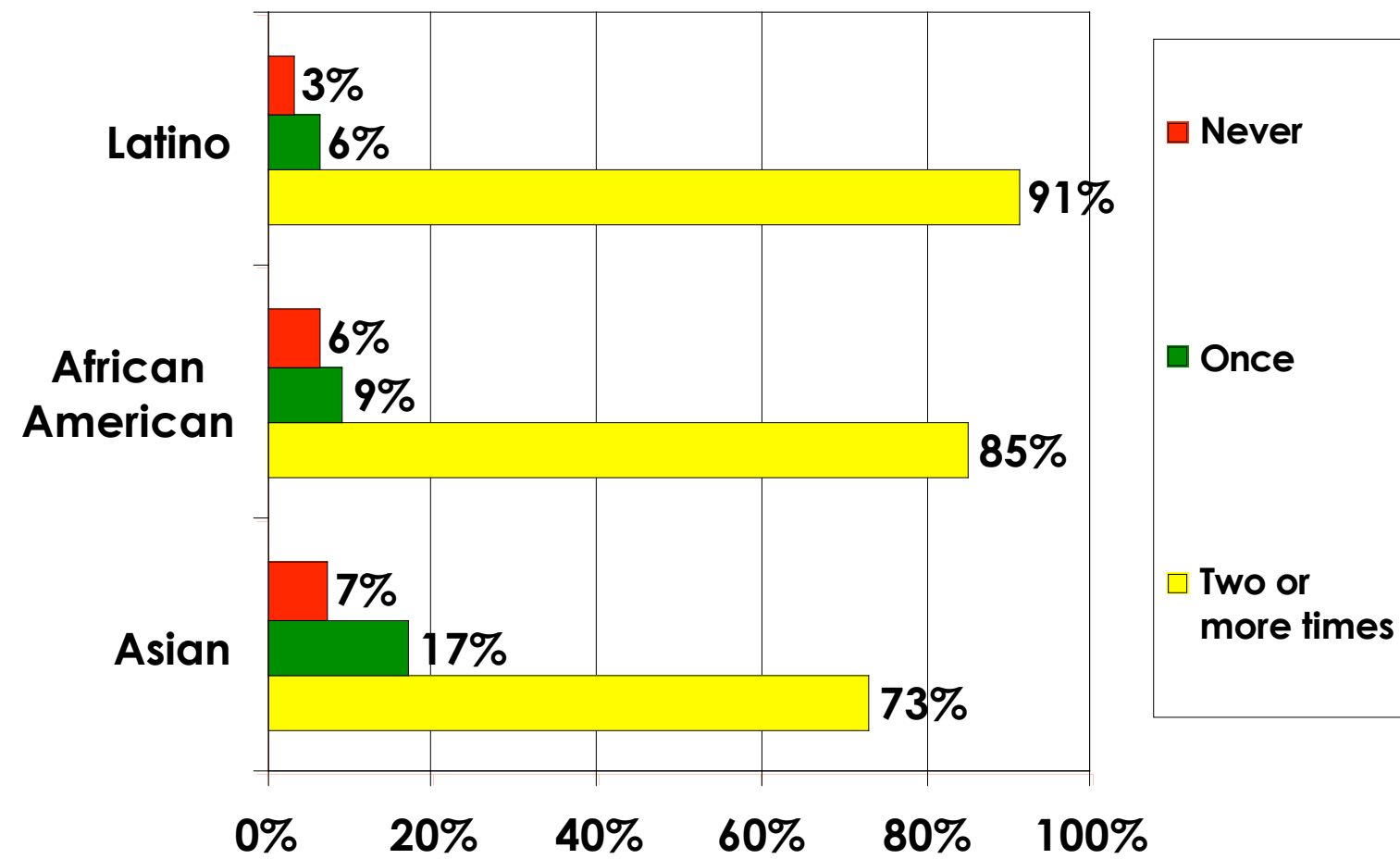
3. California's Latino, African American and Asian parents are very interested and highly involved in the education of their children. They could become an important source of pressure to raise achievement levels in the public schools of California. The hope of parents that their children will exceed their standard of living is alive and well in the ethnic and immigrant communities of California.

In a typical week, about how many nights do you help your children with their homework assignments?\*



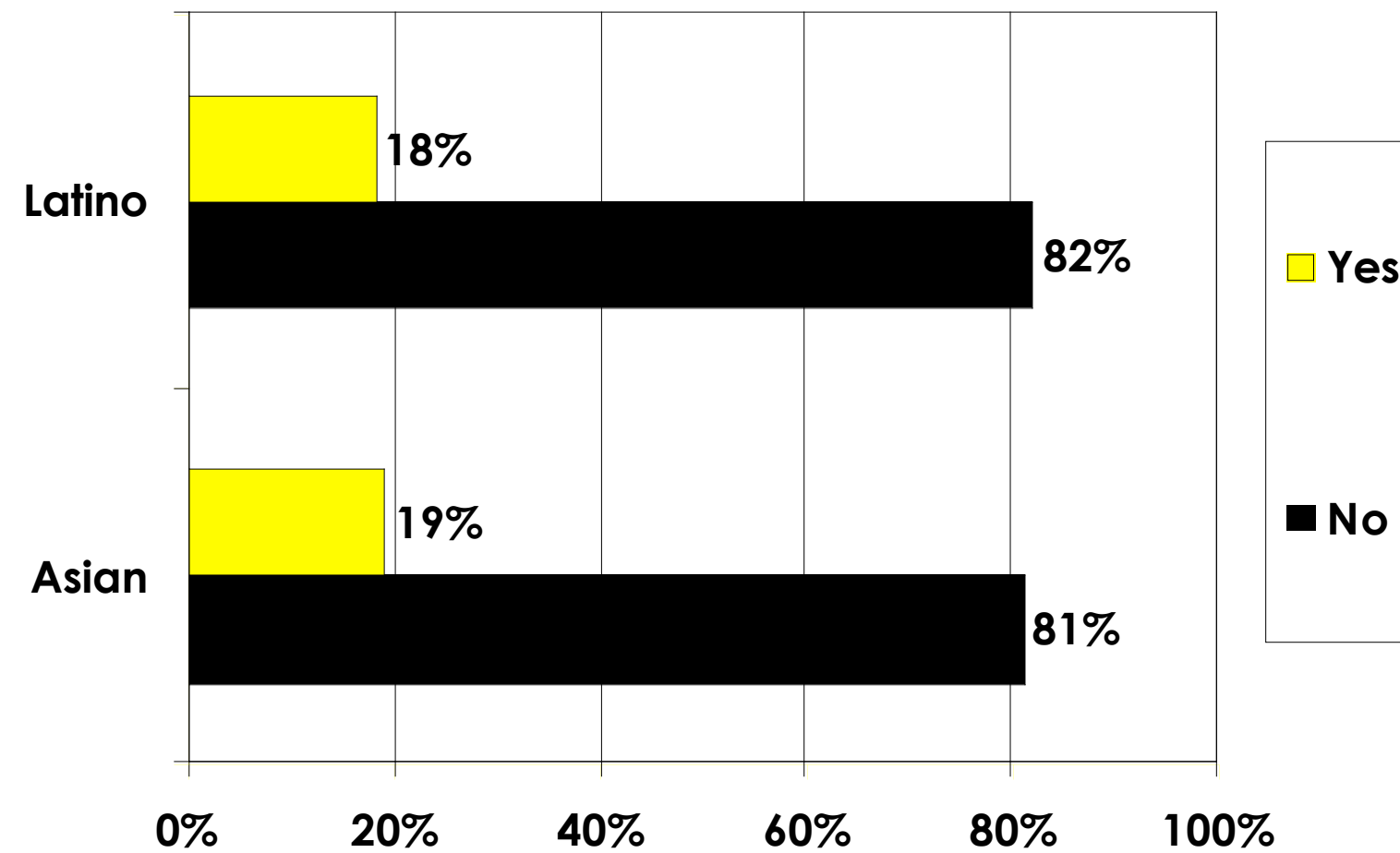
\*Asked only of respondents with children in the public schools.

Since the start of the school year, how many times have you met with the teachers of your children?\*



\*Asked only of respondents with children in the public schools.

Have you ever had a problem communicating with your children's teachers because they do not speak your language?\*

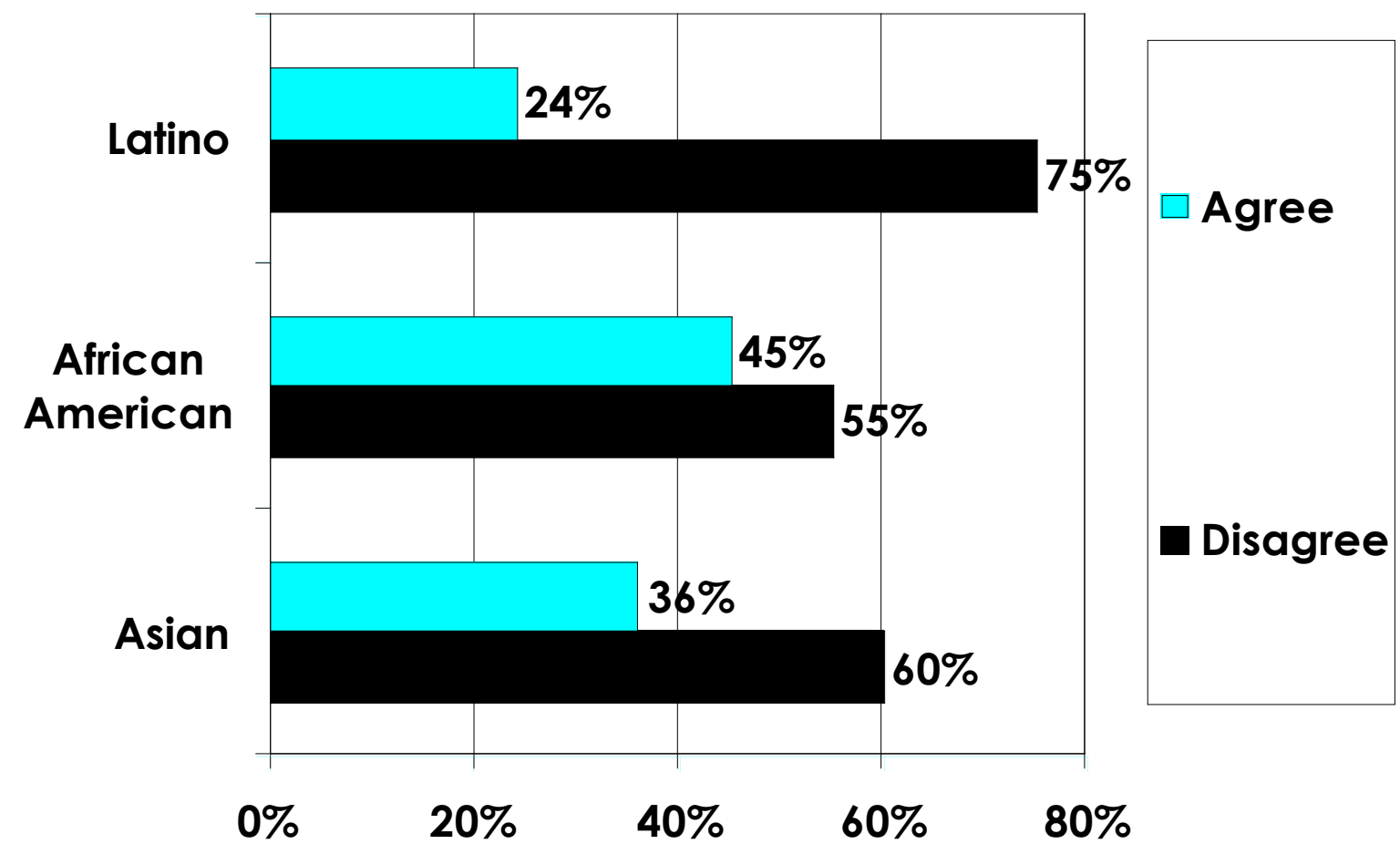


\*Asked only of respondents with children in the public schools.

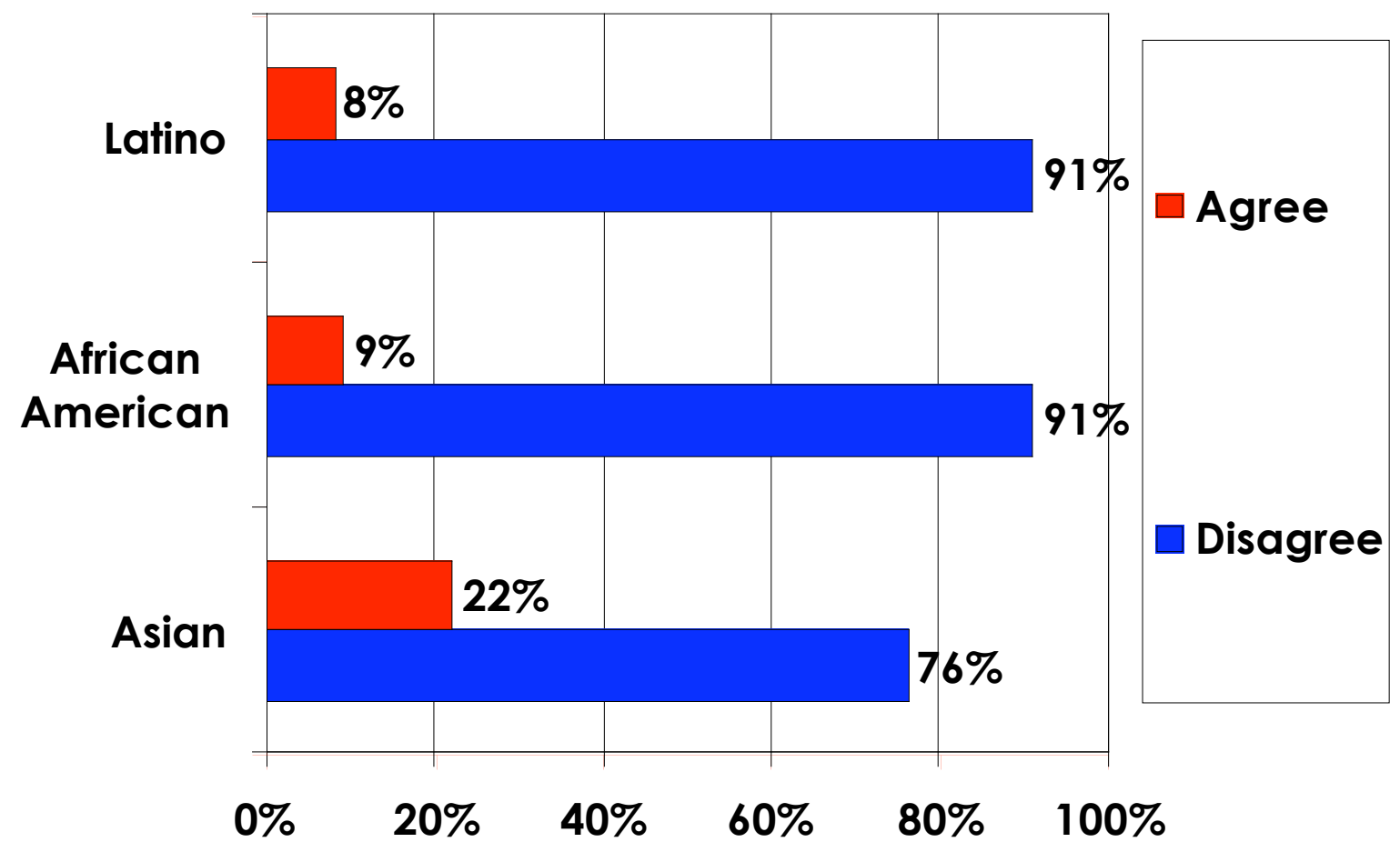
## Major Findings

4. There is strong support for pre-school programs among California's ethnic parents. Respondents report having an understanding of the importance of pre-school, a recognition of its educational function and a need for more pre-school facilities in their communities. Ethnic parents clearly see the connection between a good pre-school education and a child's later chances of having a successful career.

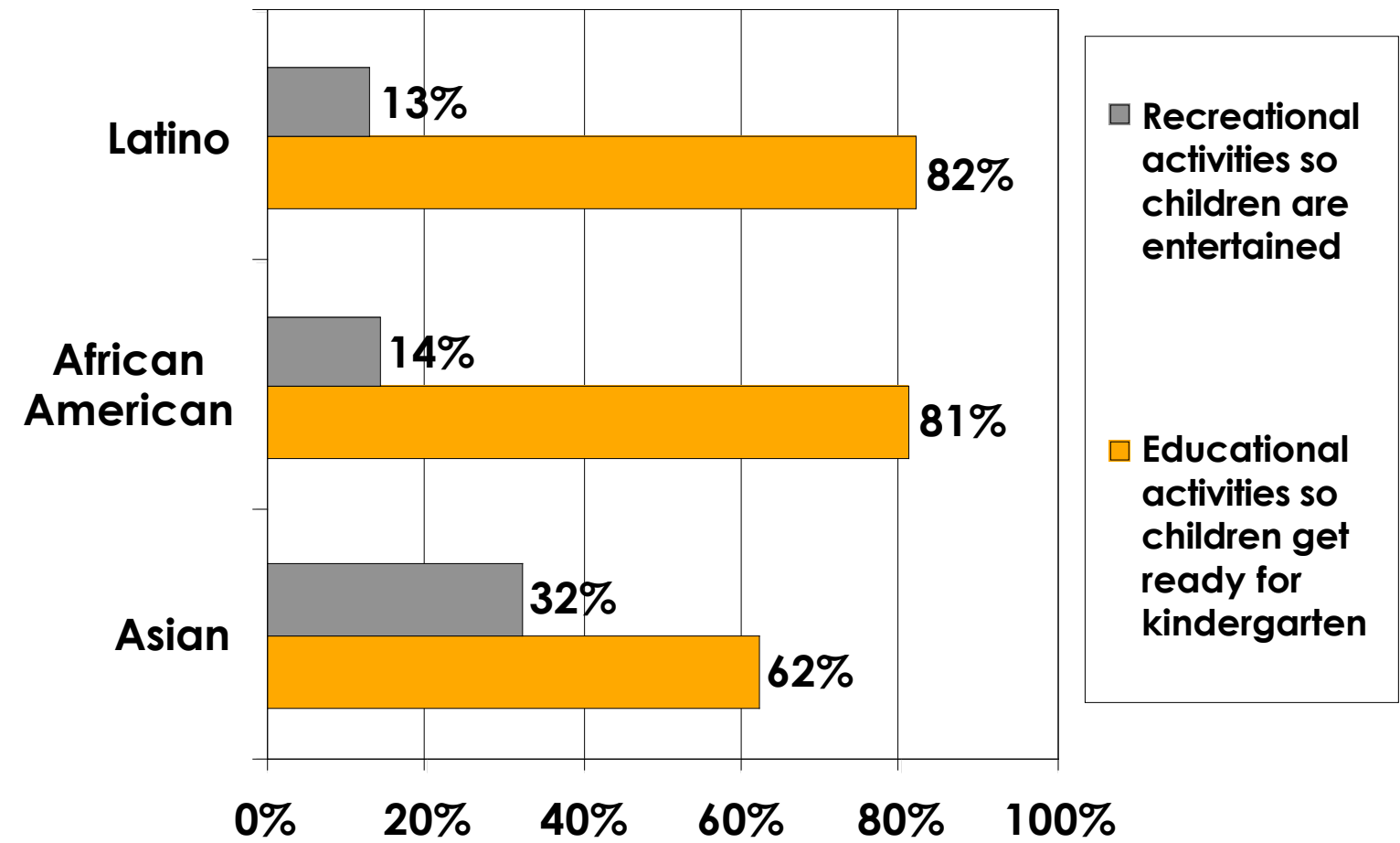
Now thinking back to your personal childhood, did you attend a pre-school program or a child care center before you went to kindergarten?



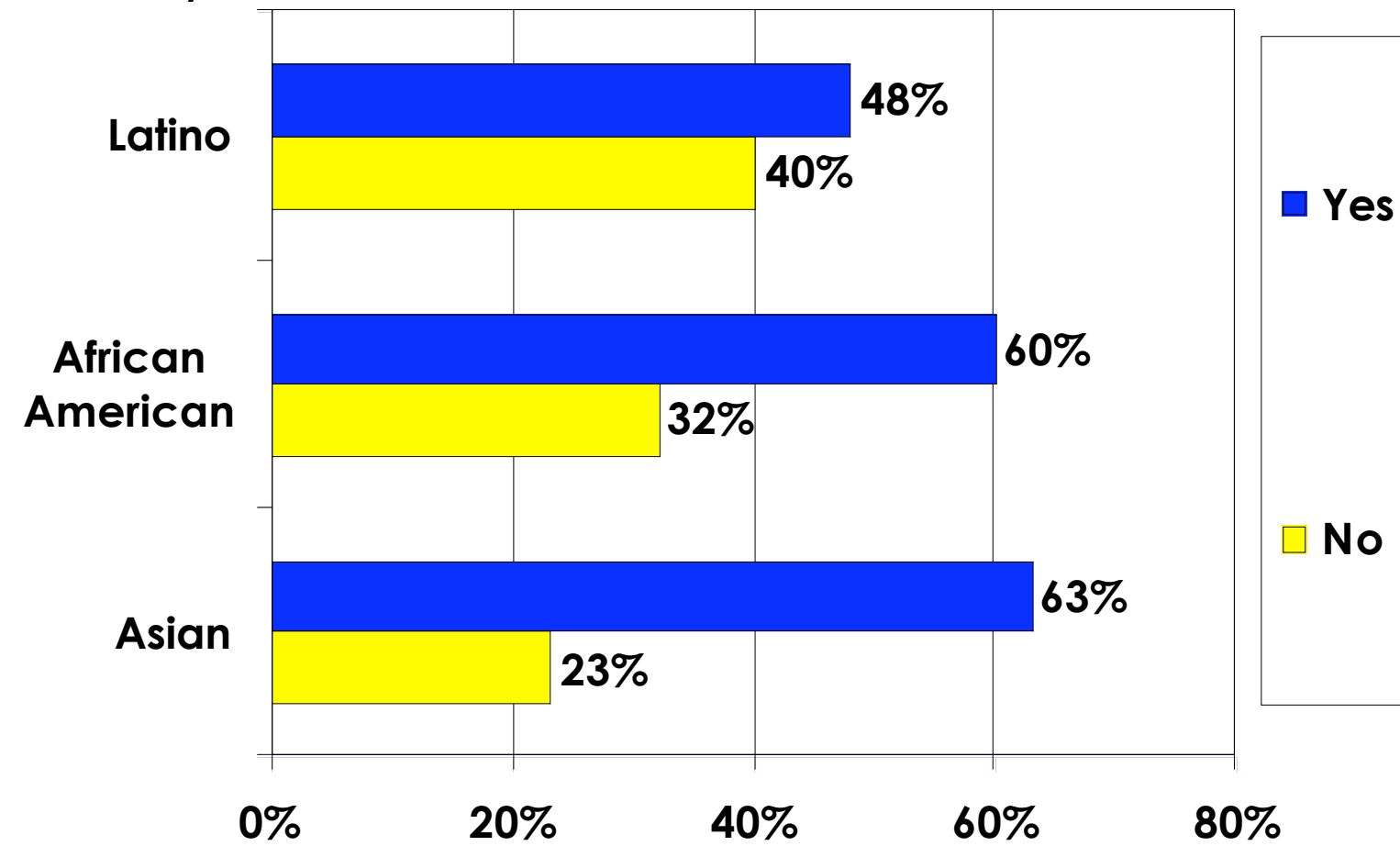
Children under five are too young to be attending any type of school program; they should be at home with their parents and family.



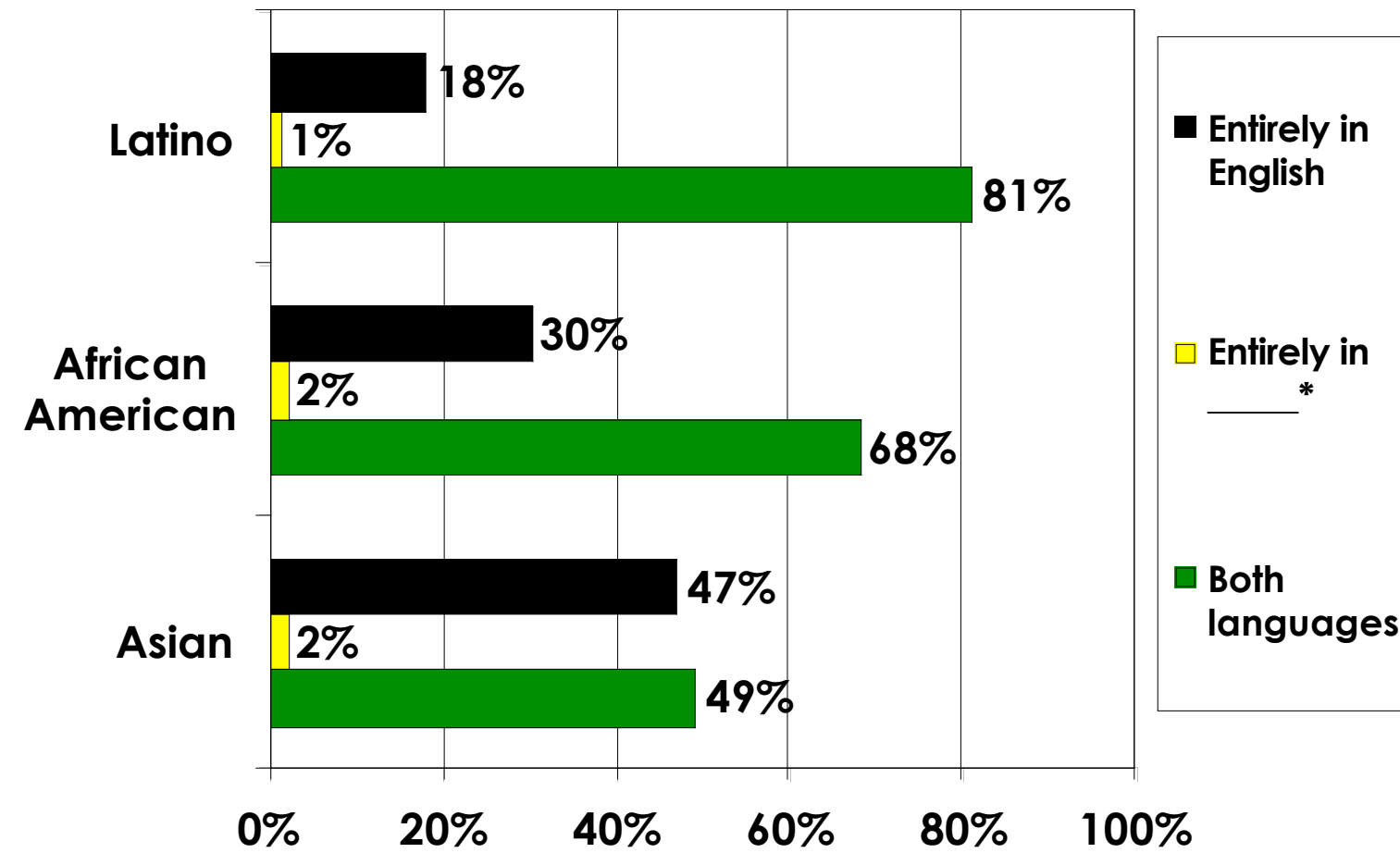
What would you say is most important about child care or day care centers for children under the age of five?



Are there quality child care or day care centers in your neighborhood or town that you can afford?



Do you think that pre-school programs for four year old children should be offered entirely in English, entirely in \_\_\_\_\_\*, or in both languages?



\*Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese