



*A National Snapshot of Low-Income Hispanic
Children's Participation in Early Care and
Education*

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Disclaimer



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Study Motivation

1 in 4 of all U.S. children
are Hispanic



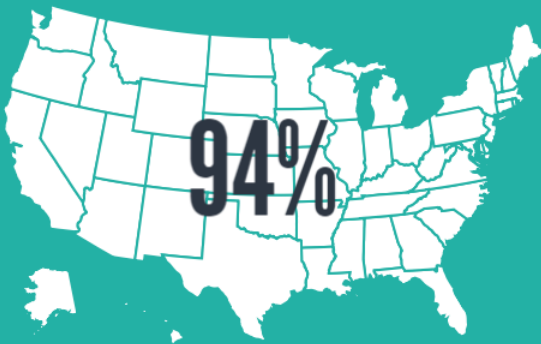
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014

Roughly 1 in 3
live in poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014

Vast majority are U.S.-born



Source: Child Trends' analysis of March CPS data, 2014

1 in 2 have a foreign-born parent



Source: Child Trends' analysis of March CPS data, 2014

ECE Participation Among Latinos



- Historically, research has shown lower ECE utilization among Hispanic families, particularly for immigrant households
- Narrative about preferences for parental care and hesitation to use center-based settings
- Emerging body of literature focused on understanding ECE access and utilization
 - ECE as a critical work support for parents and a key developmental context for children
 - Benefits of high-quality ECE for school

Study Aims

- To provide a contemporary national snapshot of ECE utilization for young Hispanic children from low-income households
 - Overall participation in ECE, broadly defined
 - For children in any non-parental arrangements – type of settings, multiple arrangements, amount and timing of hours in care
- To examine variations in Hispanic ECE participation by child age and household nativity, and to provide comparison estimates for white and black peers

Study Methodology

Data Source: 2012 National Survey of Early Care and Education

- Focus on data from public use file from Household Survey
- Information about all regular non-parental arrangements used in prior week for each child in the household < age 13

Analysis Sample: 5,153 children, ages 0-5, in low-income households

- 2,393 Hispanic (35% in native HHs, 65% in immigrant HHs)
- 1,717 White, non-Hispanic
- 1,043 Black, non-Hispanic

 **Approach:**

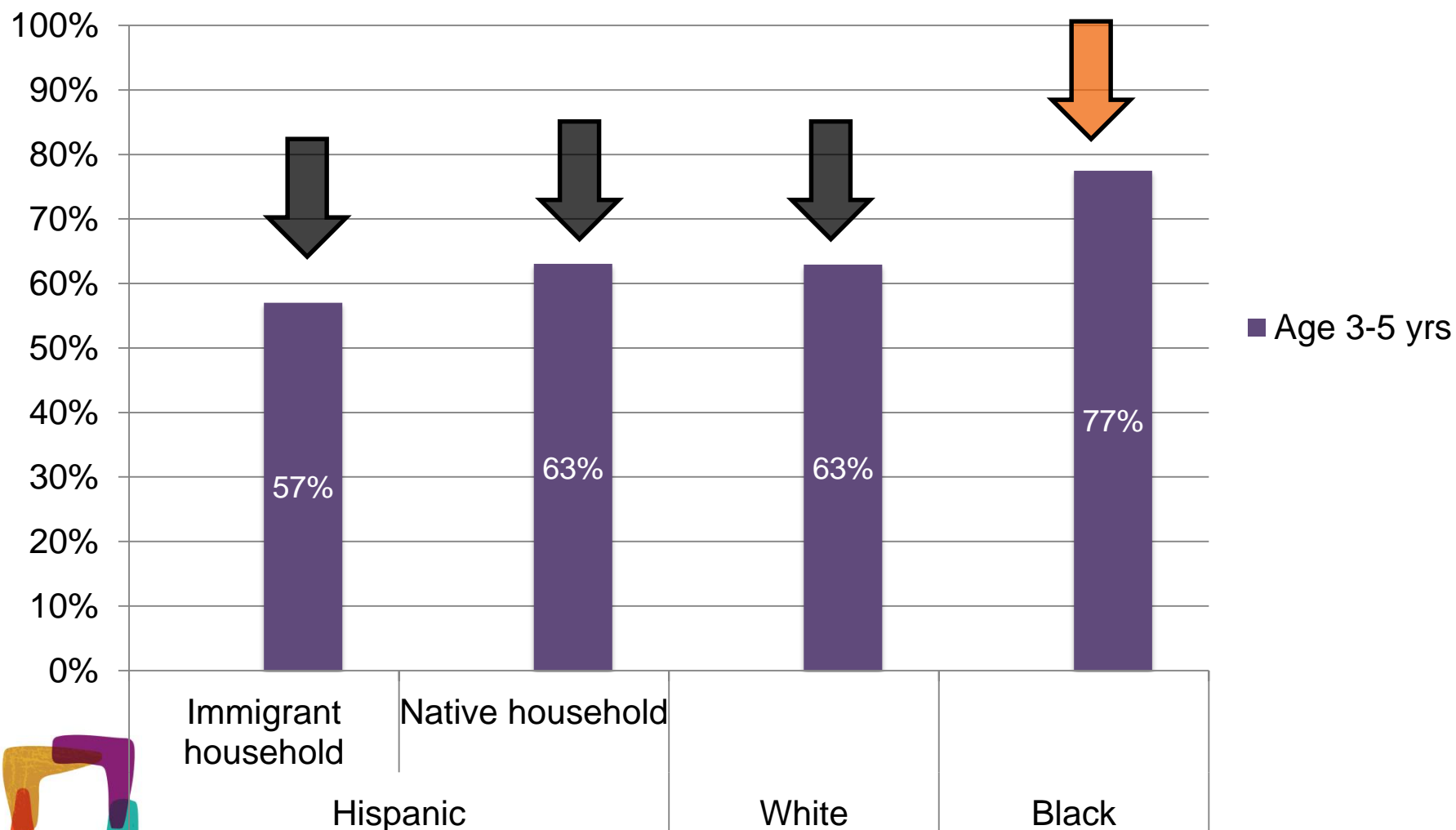
Key Variables

- **Household nativity**
 - **Immigrant:** 1+ adults in the household is foreign-born
 - **Native:** all adults in the household are U.S. born
- **ECE** – any non-parental care arrangement use for 5+ hrs per week
- **Type of care**
 - **Center-based:** any center- or organization- based care
 - **Home-based:** care provided by an individual in a home-based setting (paid or unpaid)
- **Nonstandard hours of care** – any time spent in ECE outside of 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday

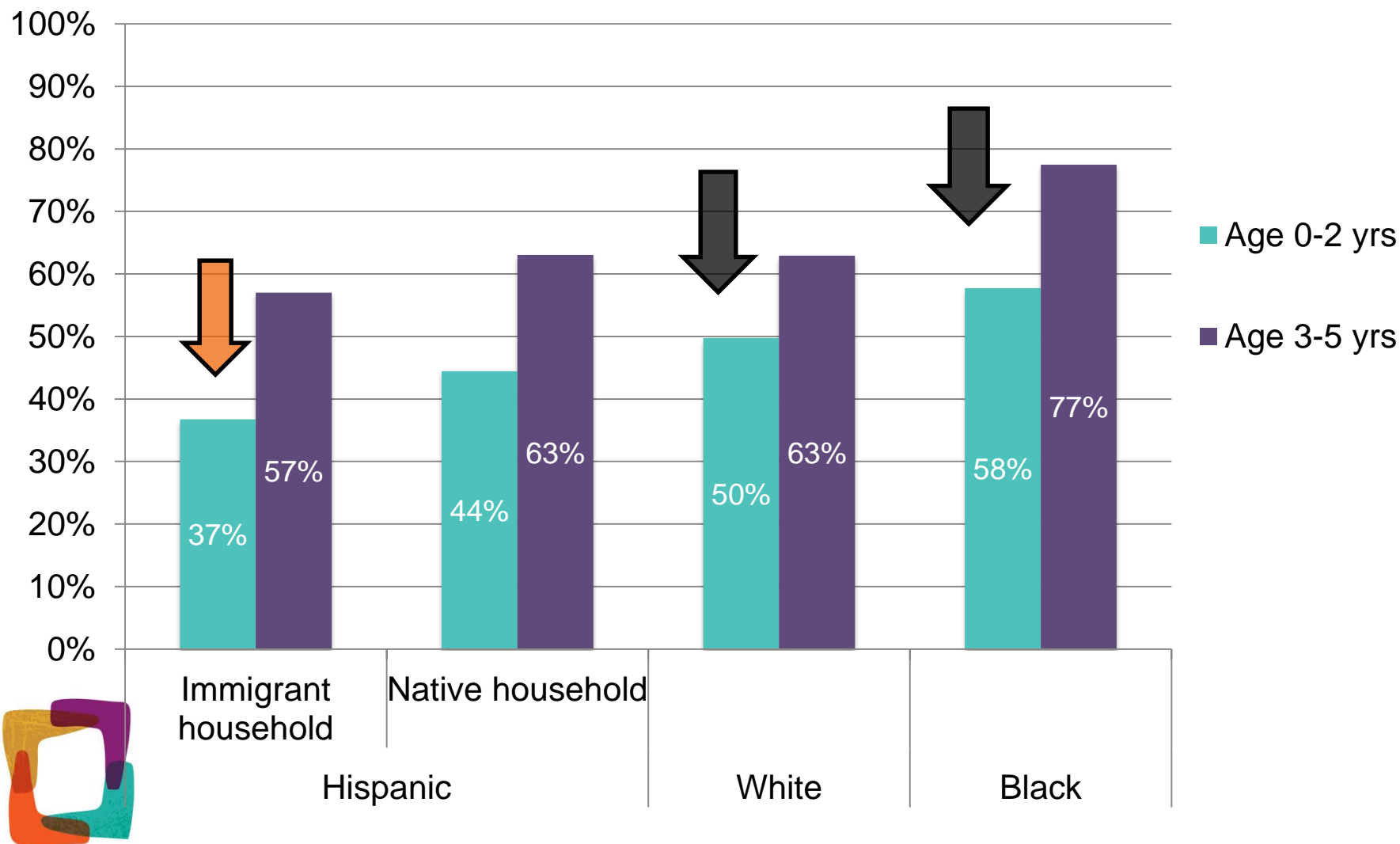


Results

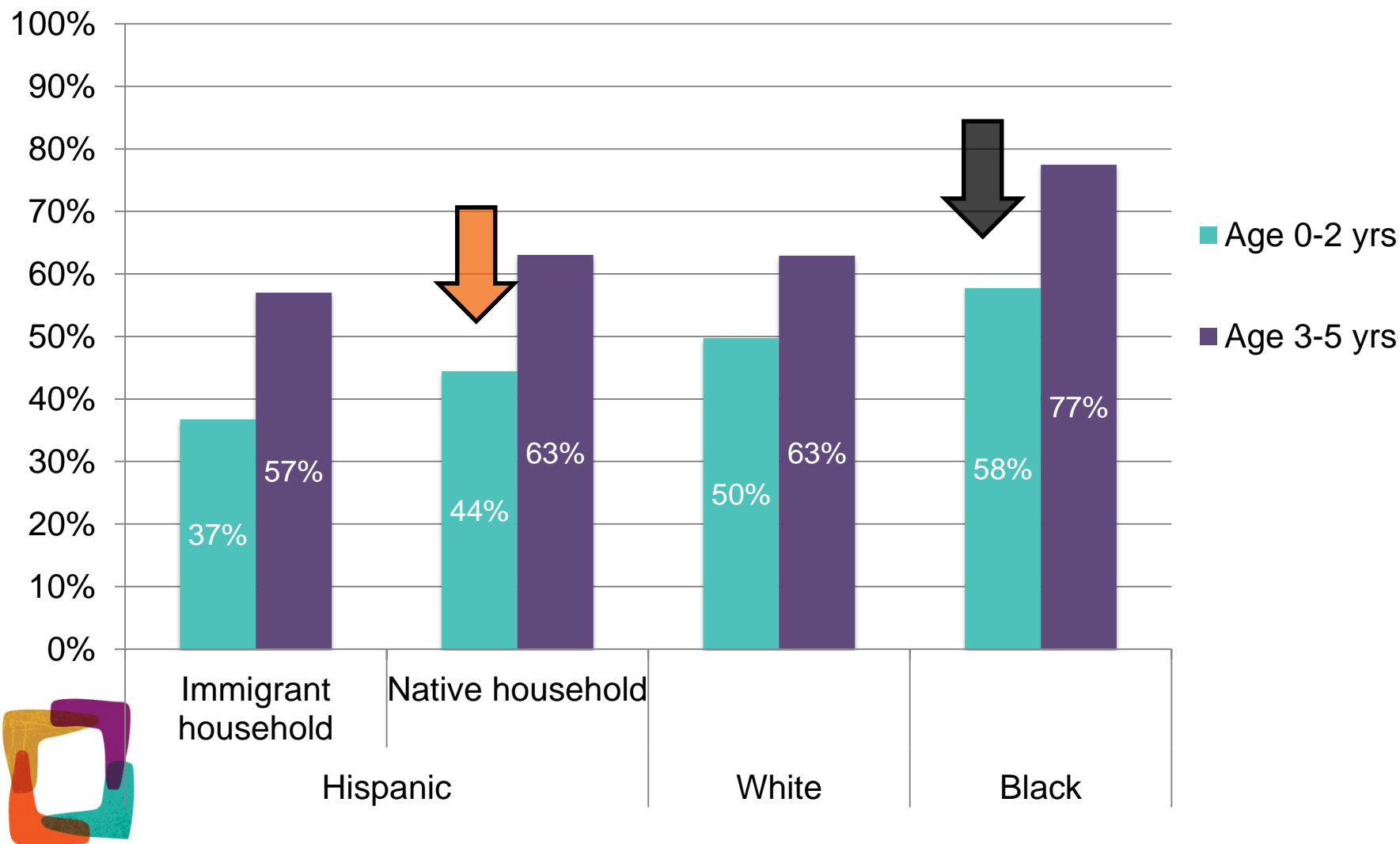
A majority of Hispanic preschool-aged children (3-5) from low-income households are in ECE arrangements



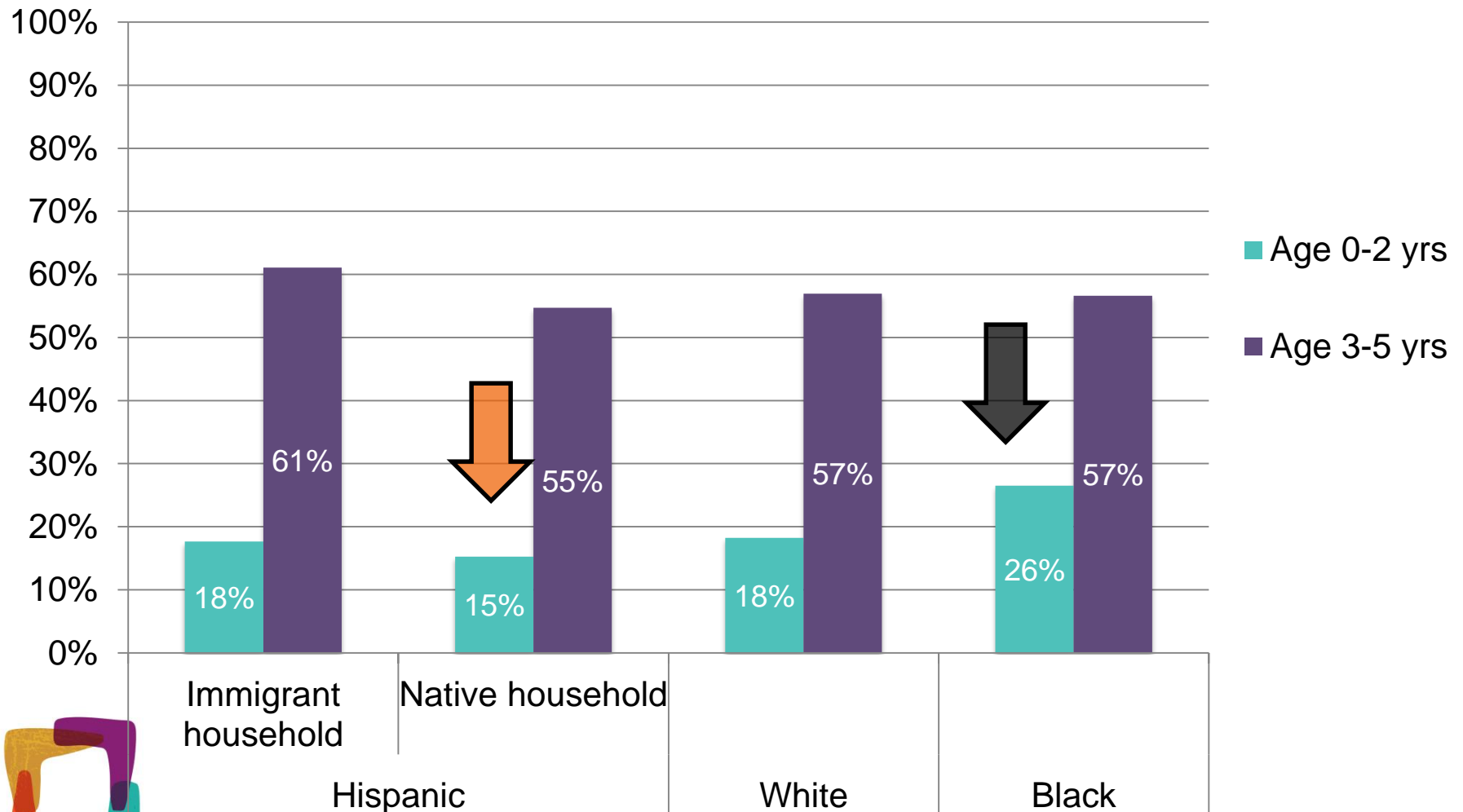
ECE participation is lower for infants and toddlers than for preschoolers, across race/ethnic groups



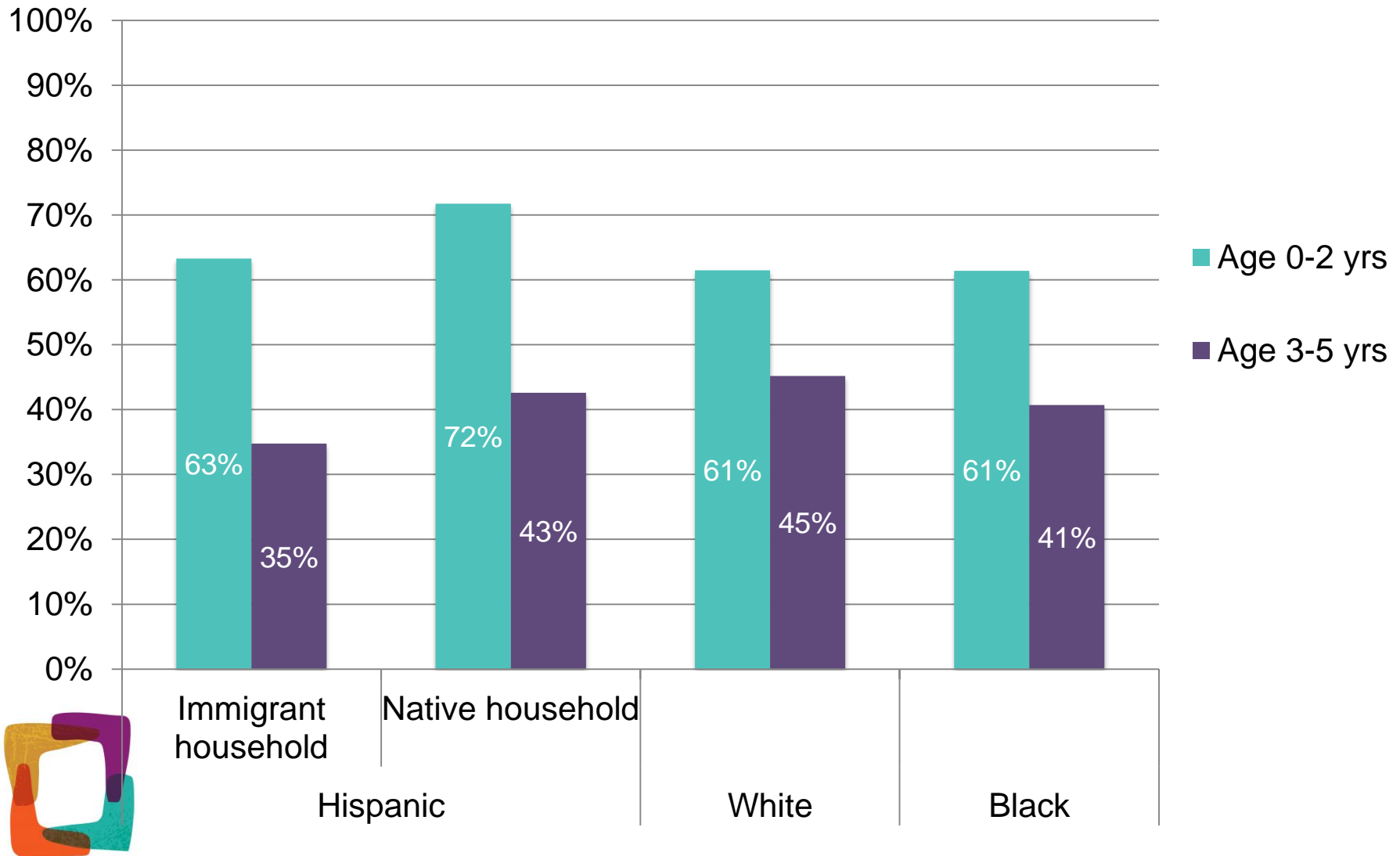
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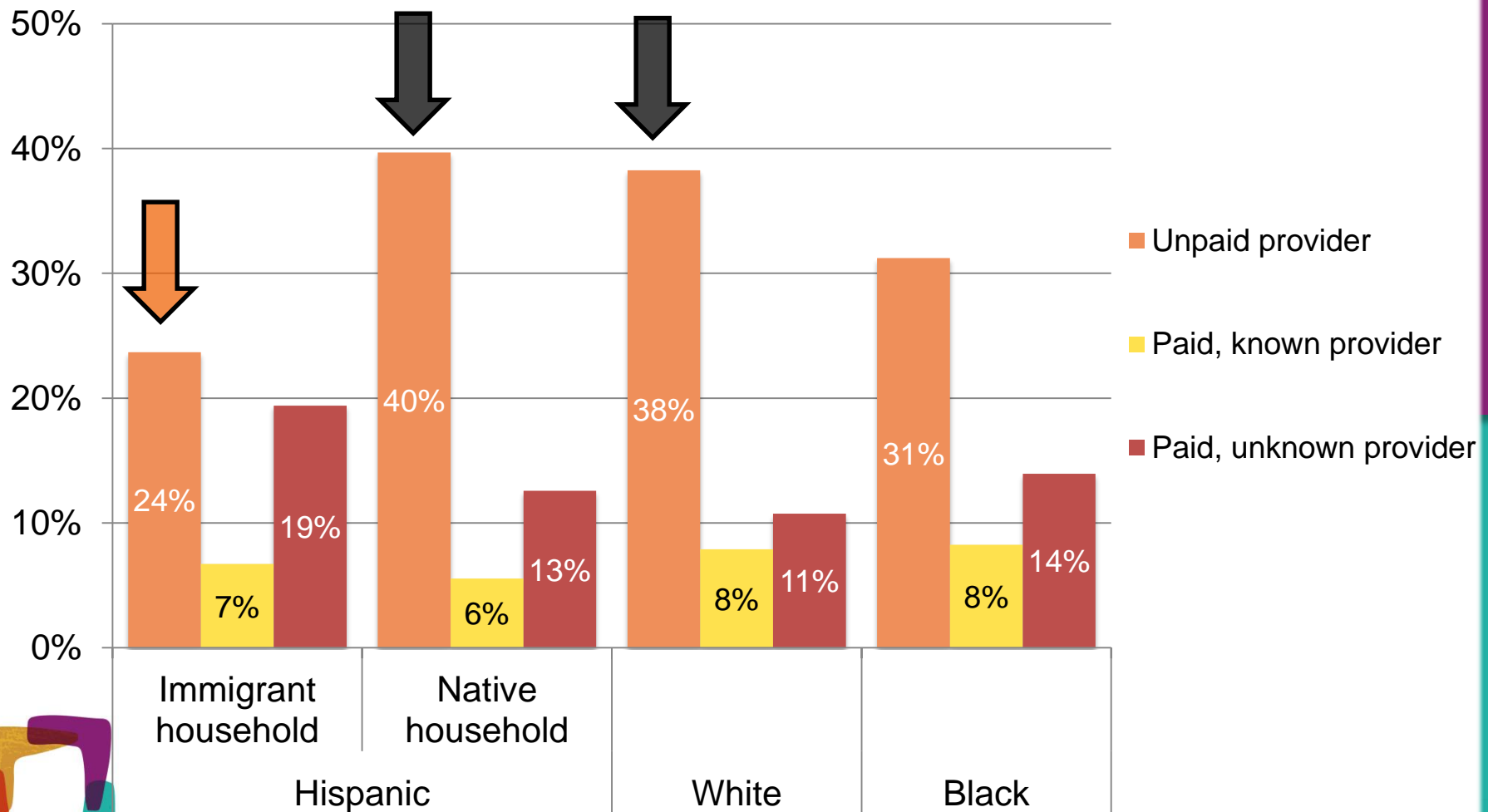
Among those in ECE, Hispanic children are as likely as white and black peers to be in center-based programs...



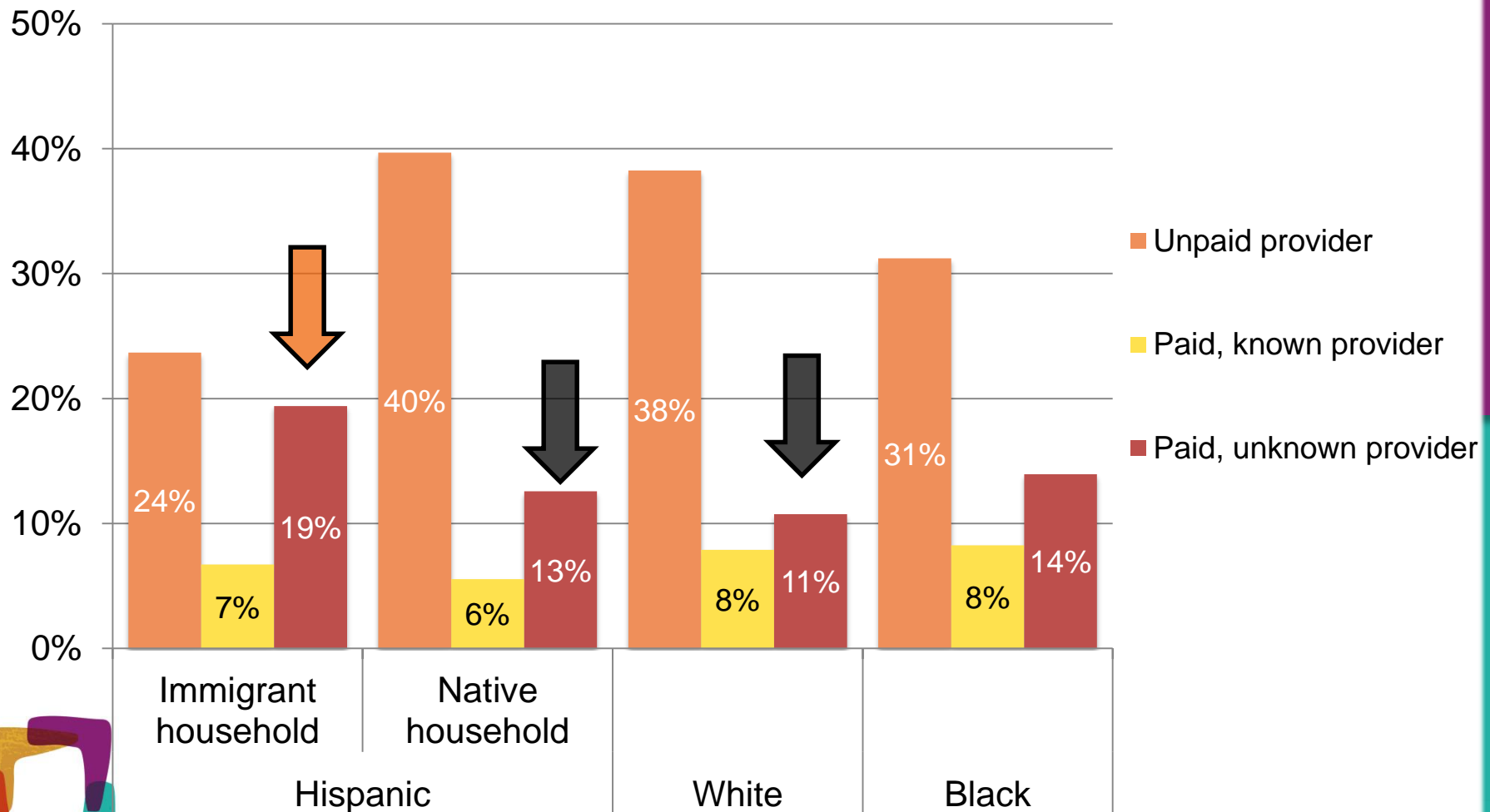
...and, no more likely than their non-Hispanic peers to be in home-based arrangements



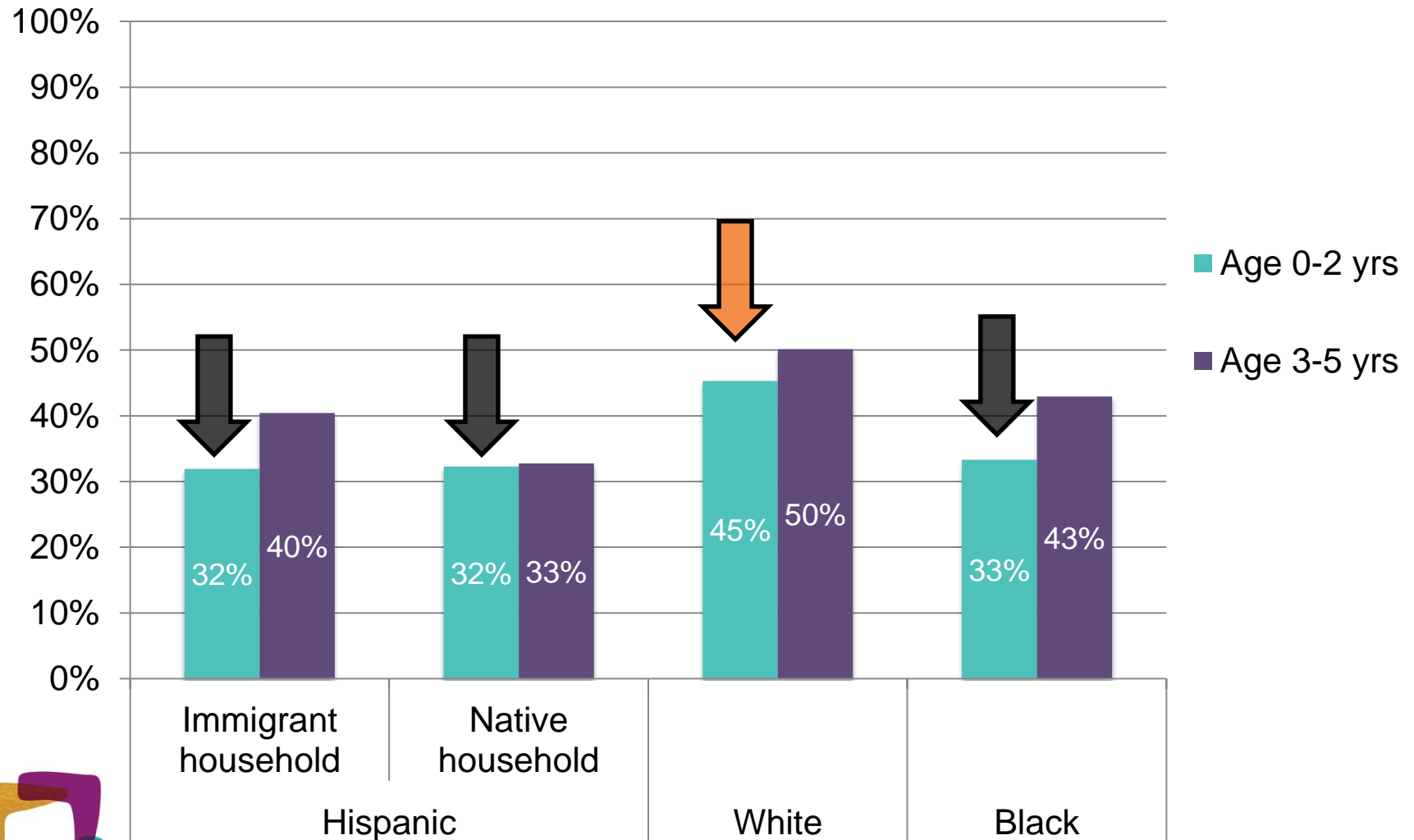
Hispanic children in immigrant homes are *less* likely than their peers to be unpaid family/friend care and *more* likely to be in paid care with an unknown provider



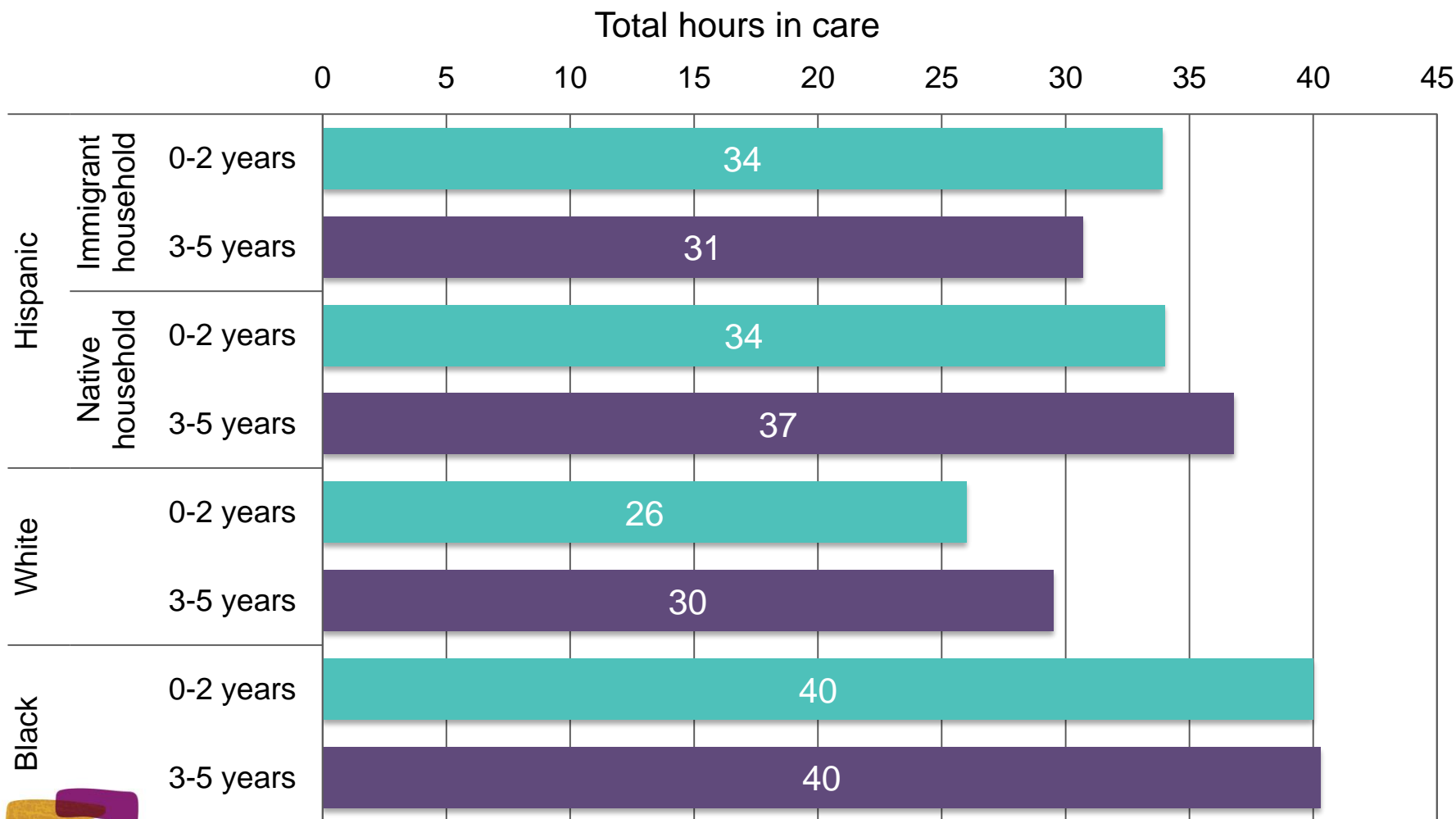
Hispanic children in immigrant homes are *less* likely than their peers to be unpaid family/friend care and *more* likely to be in paid care with an unknown provider



Roughly one-third of low-income Hispanic children in ECE are in multiple arrangements

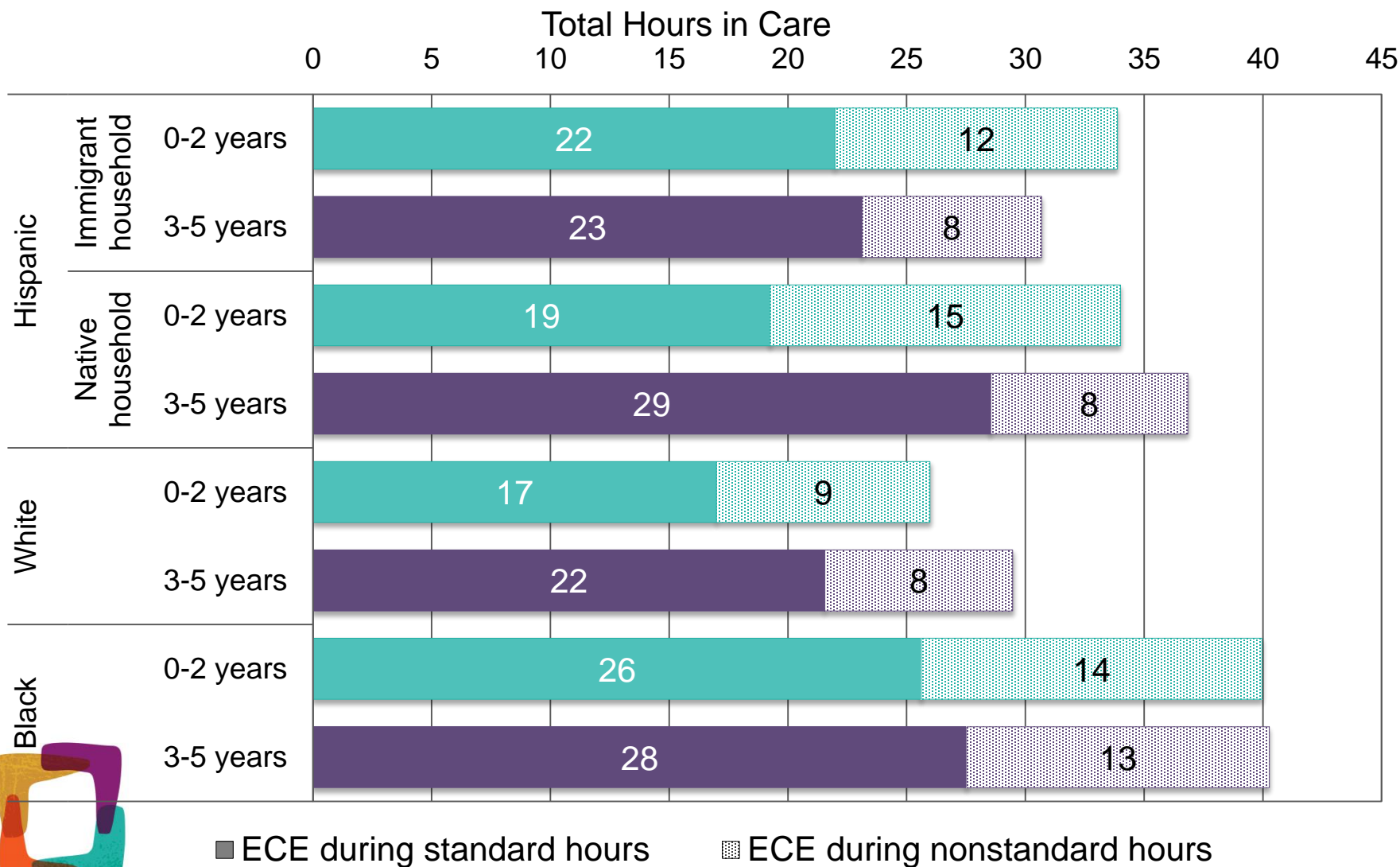


Low-income Hispanic children in ECE spend an average of more than 30 hours per week in care ...

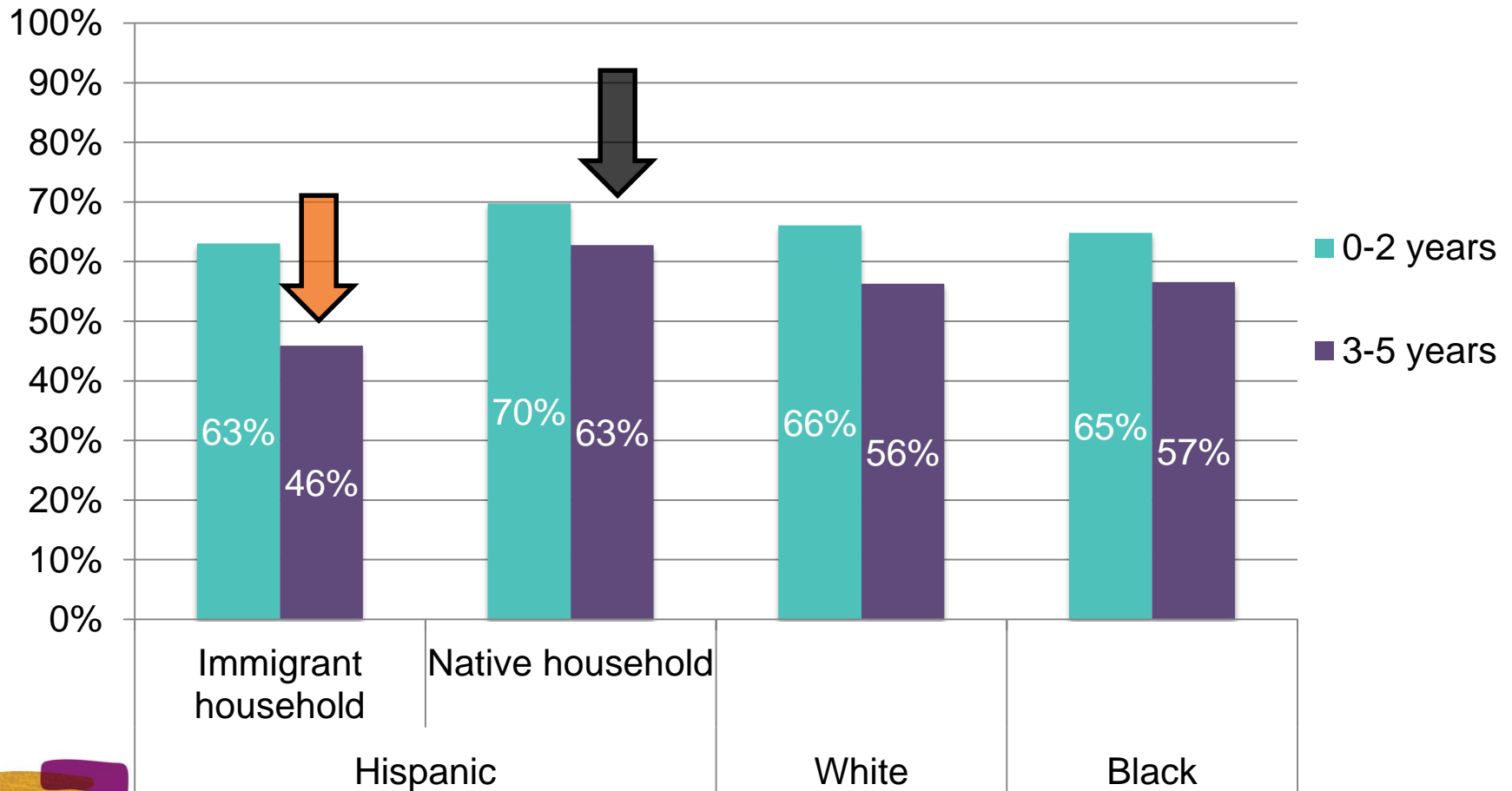


...and, more than 25% of this time in care
place during nonstandard hours

takes



A majority* of low-income Hispanic children in ECE spend some time in nonstandard hours care



Summary

- Unexpected findings regarding ECE utilization for young Hispanic children in low-income families call into question commonly held assumptions
 - Center-based programs are the most common ECE arrangement for Hispanic preschoolers
- Other Center work with the NSECE finds that:
 - Hispanic parents are no more or less likely than other parents to hold negative perceptions about centers.
 - They are also less likely than white and black parents to report having relatives available to provide child care.
- Similar to other low-income parents, many Hispanic parents currently use multiple arrangements and



Future Directions

- Uncovering the variation behind these numbers
 - More detailed characteristics of these arrangements – e.g., specific types of center-based care, subsidized arrangements
 - Within-group heterogeneity among Hispanic families
- Understanding the factors that shape utilization
 - Descriptive work on Hispanic parents' employment schedules and their connection to ECE utilization patterns
 - Community characteristics – child care markets
 - Policy levers, barriers and facilitators



Thanks to our Funders!



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