

Primary Child Care Arrangements of  
U.S. Infants at Nine Months of Age:  
Patterns of Utilization by Household  
Income, and Maternal Work Status and  
Schedule

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July 31, 2007

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# Background

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- 59% of infants ages 0 to 3 had mothers in the labor force in 2005 (Mosisa & Hipple, 2006)
- 73% of children under the age of three are cared for by adults other than their parents while their mothers work (Ehrle, Adams & Tout, 2001)
- Infants and toddlers of mothers who are employed spend, on average, about 25 hours per week in non-parental care (Ehrle, Adams & Tout, 2001)

# Overview of Analyses

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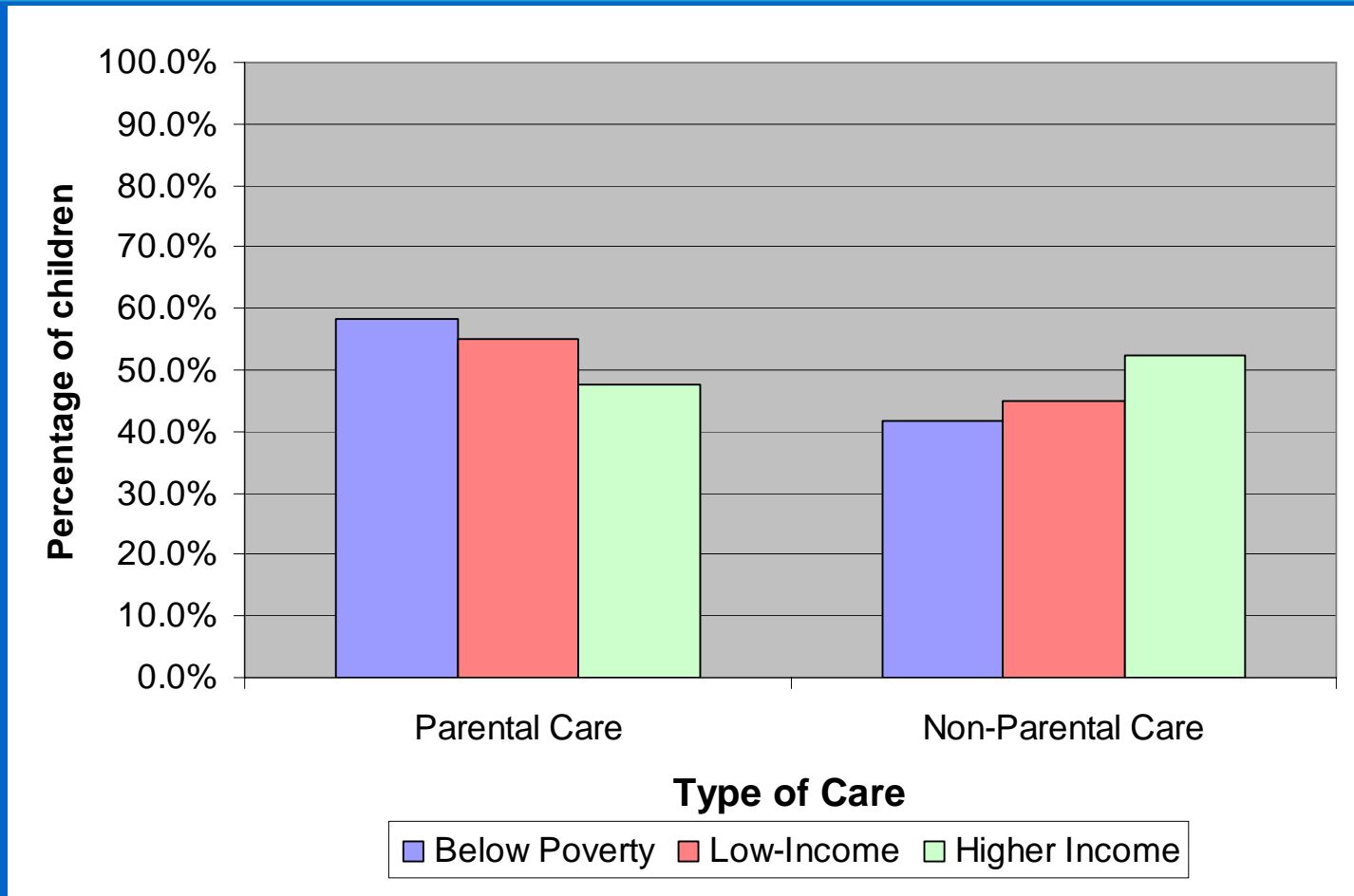
- This presentation focuses on patterns in primary care arrangements by maternal employment status, work schedule, and household income among families with 9-month-old infants
- Data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) were used to provide a snapshot of patterns in primary child care arrangements for a nationally-representative sample of infants born in the U.S. in 2001

# Characteristics of the Sample

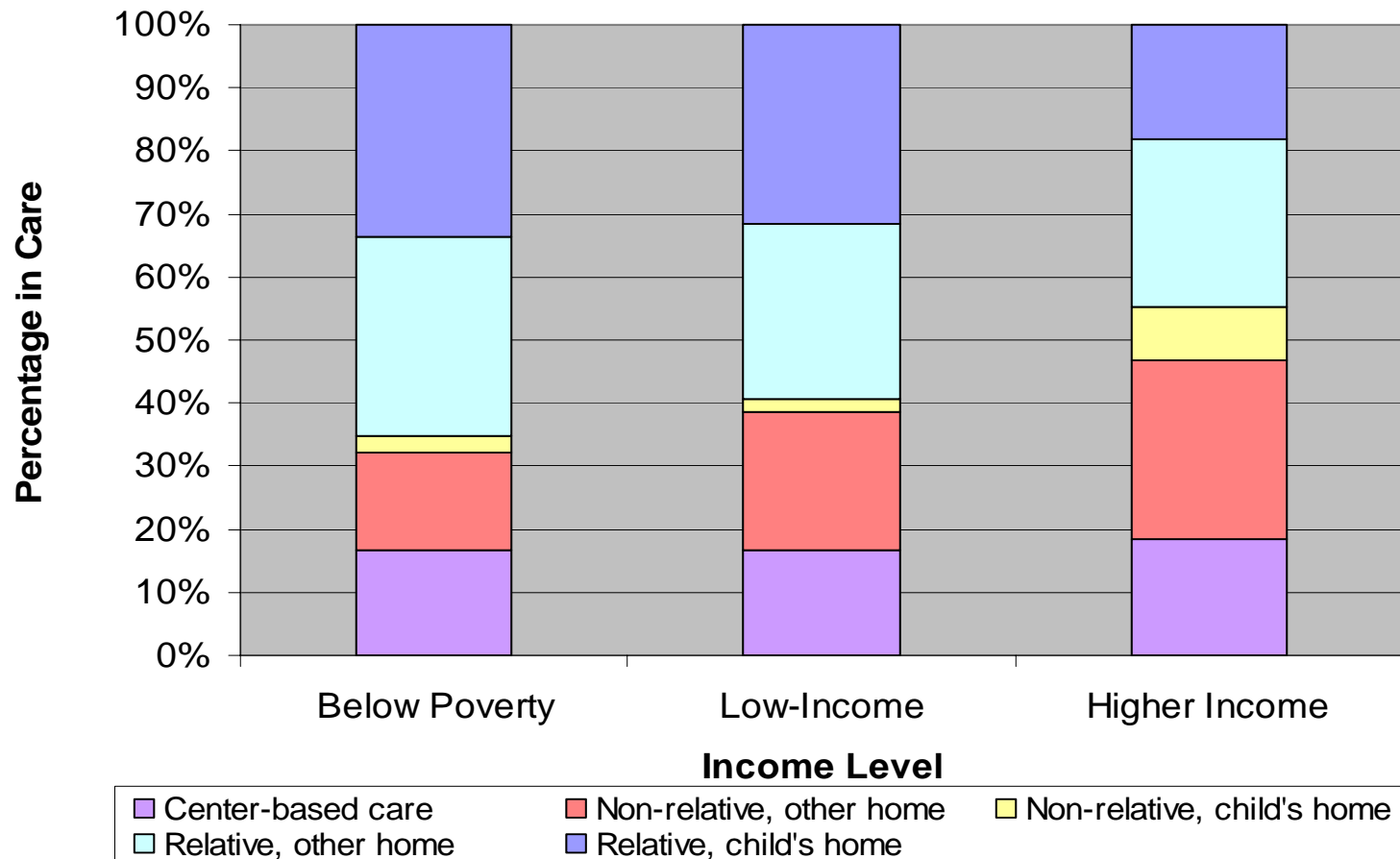
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- Household Income
  - 24% of the 9-month-old infants in the ECLS-B sample live in households below the poverty line
  - 15% live in households considered low-income (between 100% and 150% of poverty )
- Maternal Employment Status
  - About one-third of infants (32%) have mothers in full-time employment (35+ hours)
  - One in five infants (20%) have mothers who are working part-time (less than 35 hours a week)
  - 8% of infants have mothers who are looking for work
  - 40% have mothers who are not in the labor force
- Primary Care Arrangement
  - 51% of 9-month-olds are cared for primarily by their parents
  - 49% of 9-month-olds are primarily in non-parental care arrangements
  - These percentages vary by household income

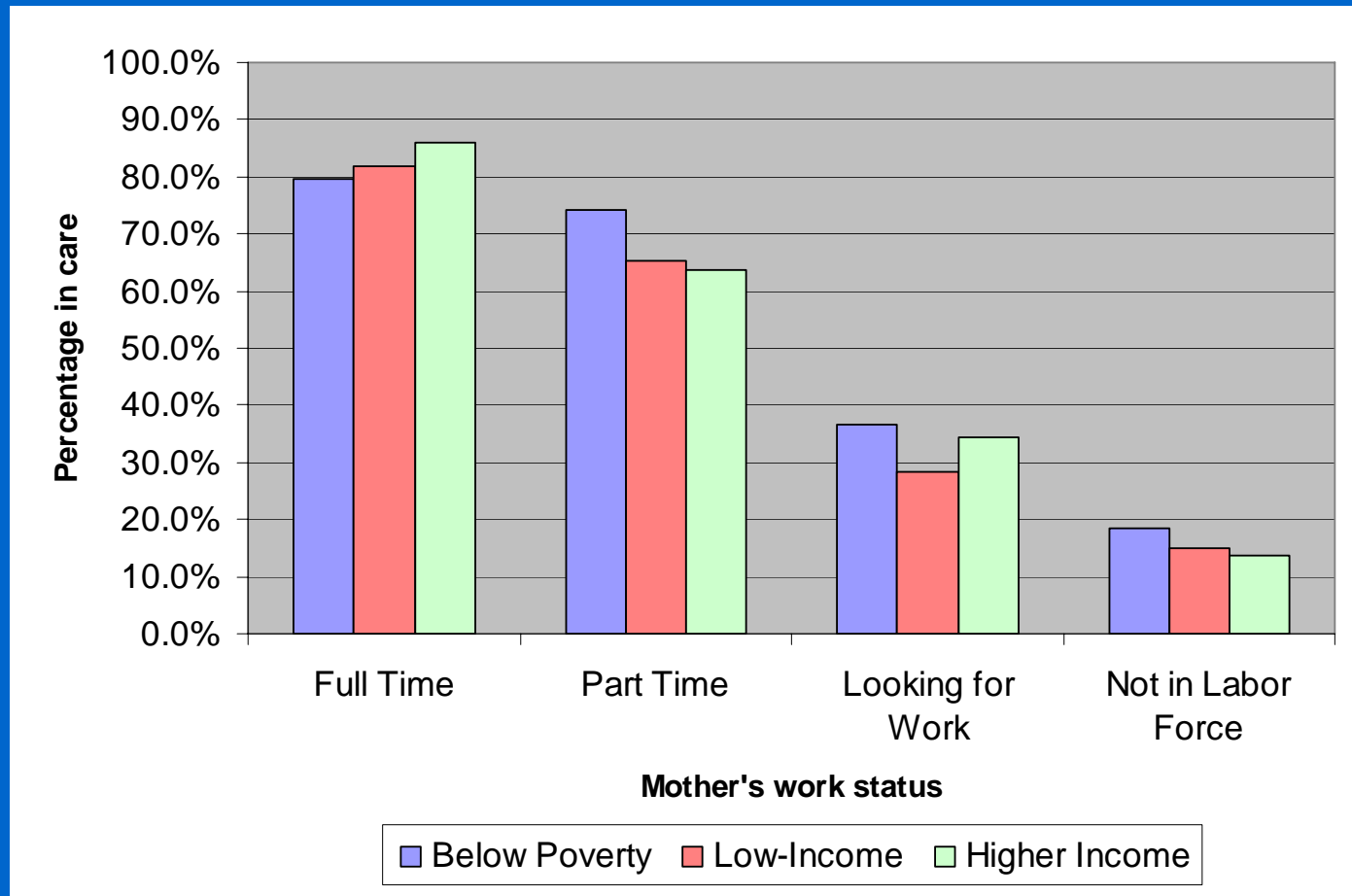
# Percentage of All 9-month-old Infants in Parental and Non-Parental Care, by Household Income



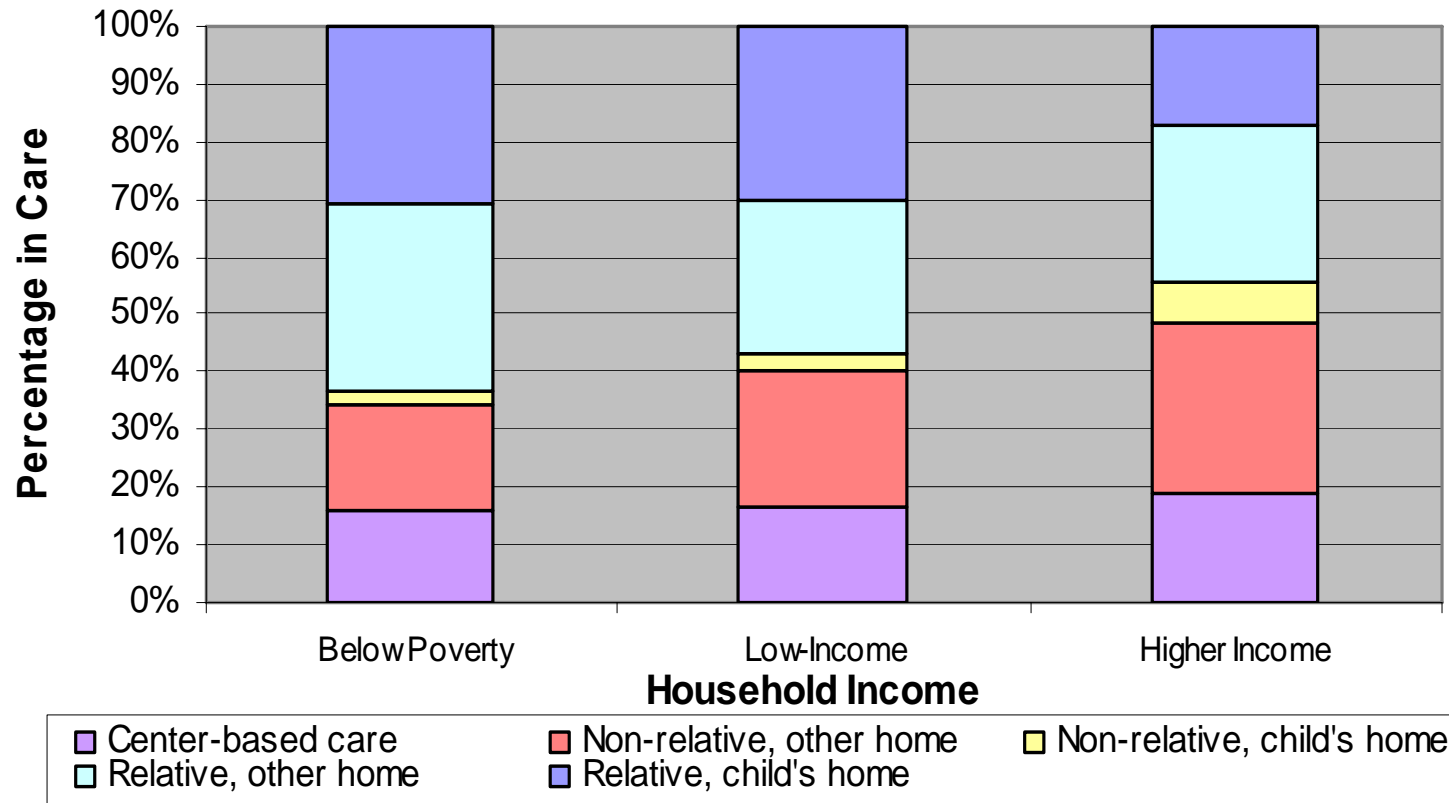
# Primary Care Arrangements at 9 Months for Those Children in Non-Parental Care, by Household Income



# Percentage of Infants in Non-Parental Care, by Mother's Work Status and Household Income

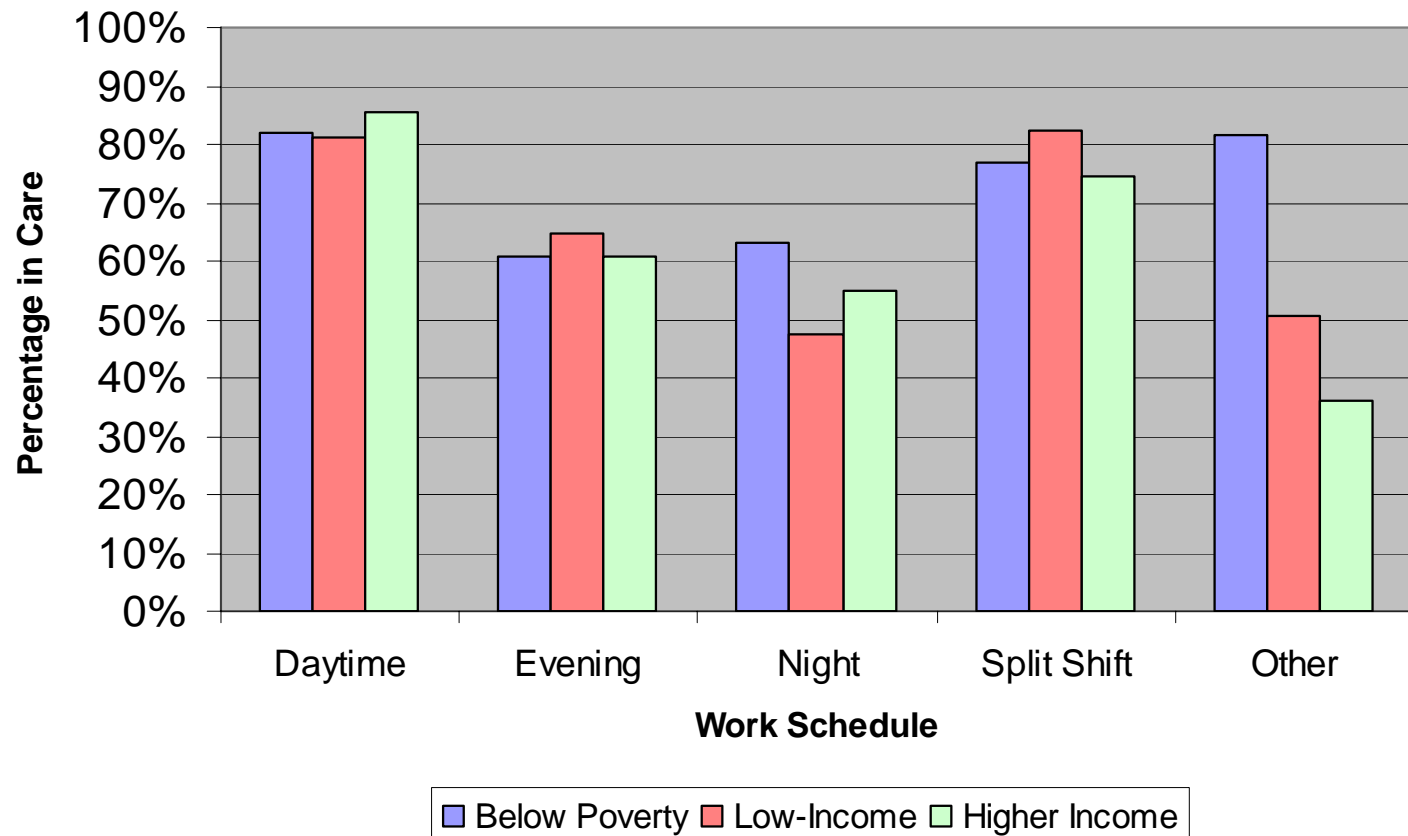


# Primary Care Arrangements for 9-Month-Old Infants Who are in Non-Parental Care and Whose Mothers are Working Full Time or Part Time, by Household Income

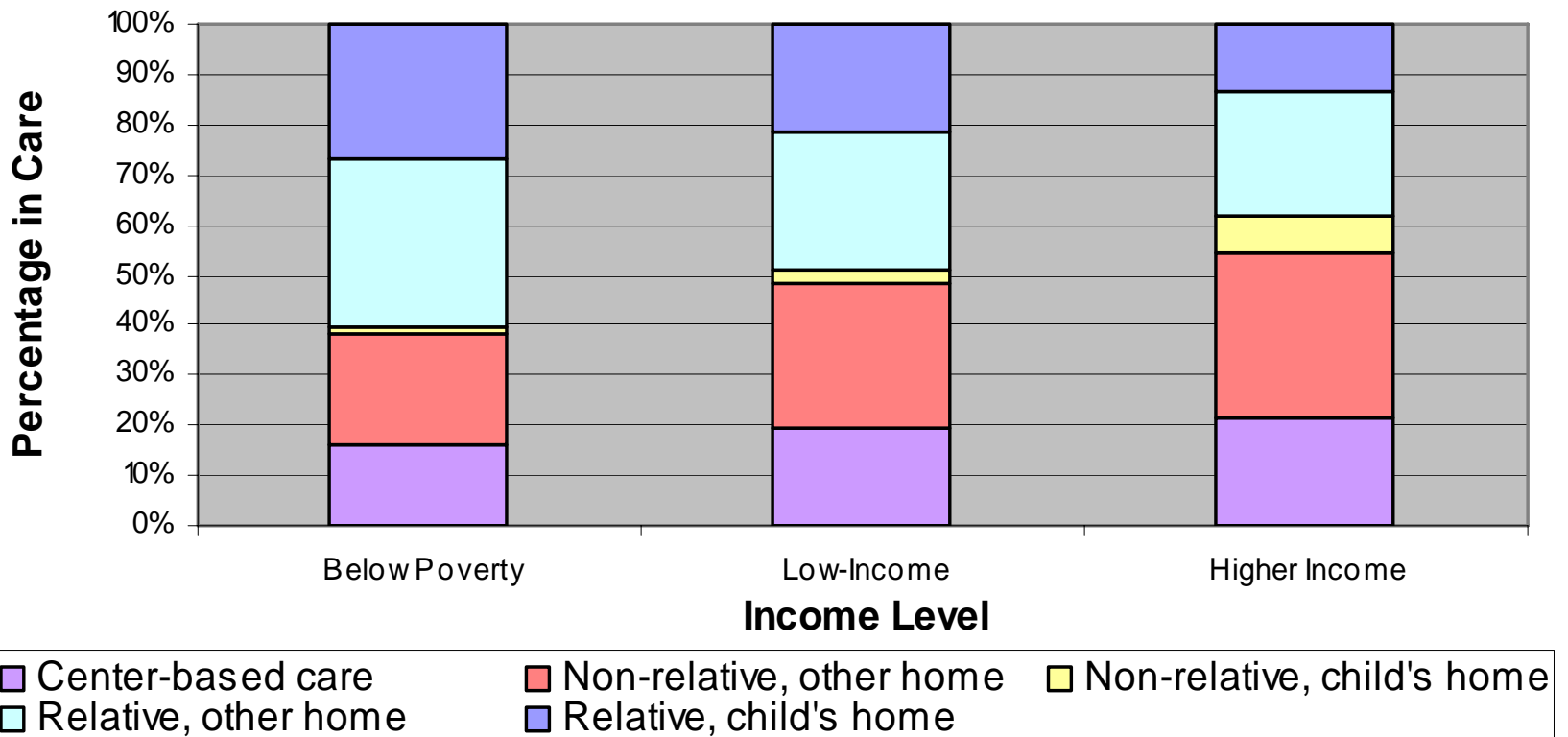




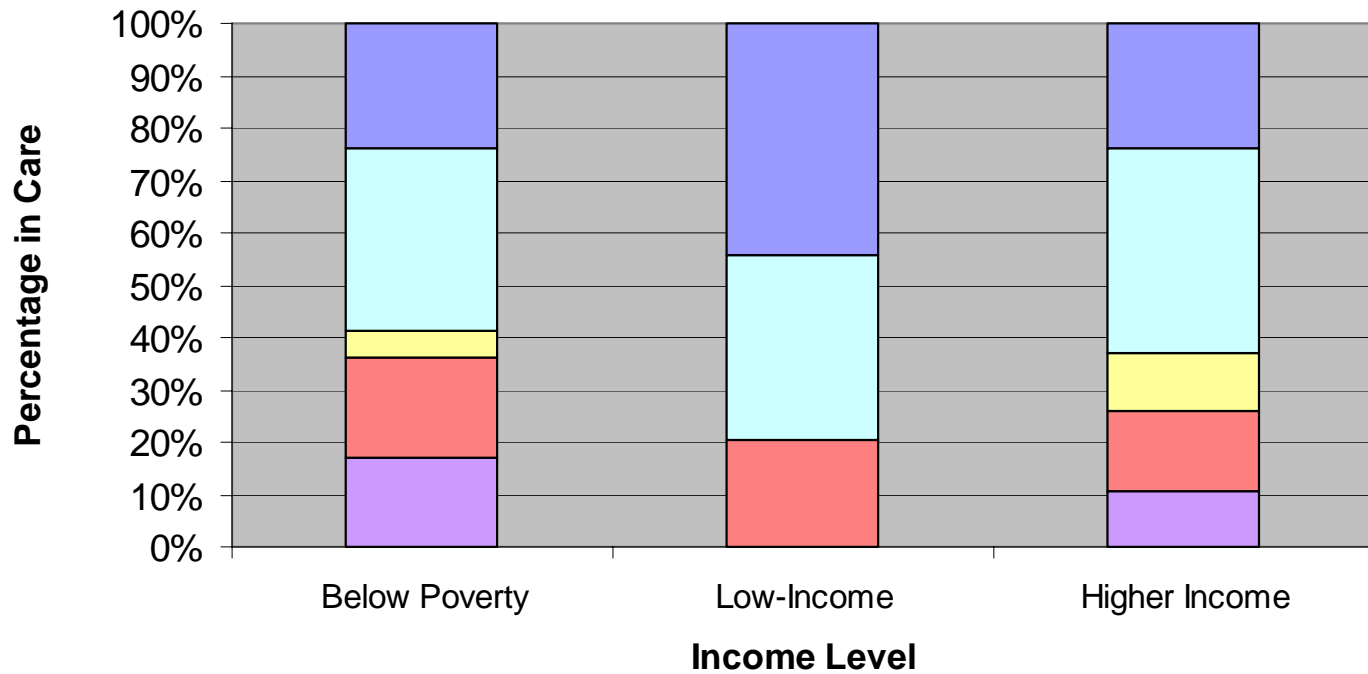
# Percentage of Infants in Non-Parental Care, by Mother's Work Schedule and Household Income



# Primary Care Arrangement by Income Level of Infants Whose Mothers are Working a Regular Daytime Shift



# Primary Care Arrangement by Income Level of Infants Whose Mothers are Working a Rotating Shift



Center-based care      Non-relative, other home      Non-relative, child's home  
Relative, other home      Relative, child's home

# Summary

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- About half of U.S. infants are in non-parental care at 9 months of age
- Of those in non-parental care, most are in relative or non-relative care rather than center-based care
- There is variation in type of primary care arrangement by household income, with higher-income infants more likely in non-relative care and low-income and below-poverty infants more likely in relative care
- The relationship between primary care arrangement and household income varies somewhat by mother's employment status and work schedule

# Next Steps

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- Multivariate, longitudinal analyses to examine:
  - Stability of care arrangements from 9 to 24 months
  - Child outcomes at 24 months
    - Predictors include:
      - Family characteristics (e.g., household income, family structure, maternal education, maternal employment, work schedule),
      - Child characteristics (e.g., prematurity, LBW)
      - Child care characteristics (type, quality, stability)



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