

Where Did the Children Go After Early Head Start?

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Purposes of the Study

- Describe child care and other program arrangements of children after leaving Early Head Start (36-48 months of age)
- Describe arrangements at prekindergarten (63 months of age)
- See how arrangements vary for diverse subgroups of children and program sites
- Assess the impact that participation in Early Head Start from birth to 36 months had on post-Early Head Start child care/program arrangements

Background for Studying Early Care and Education Program Enrollments After Early Head Start: The Role of Programs in Achieving Quality Care for Children Birth to Age 3



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What Were the Child Care Experiences of Children While Enrolled in Early Head Start?

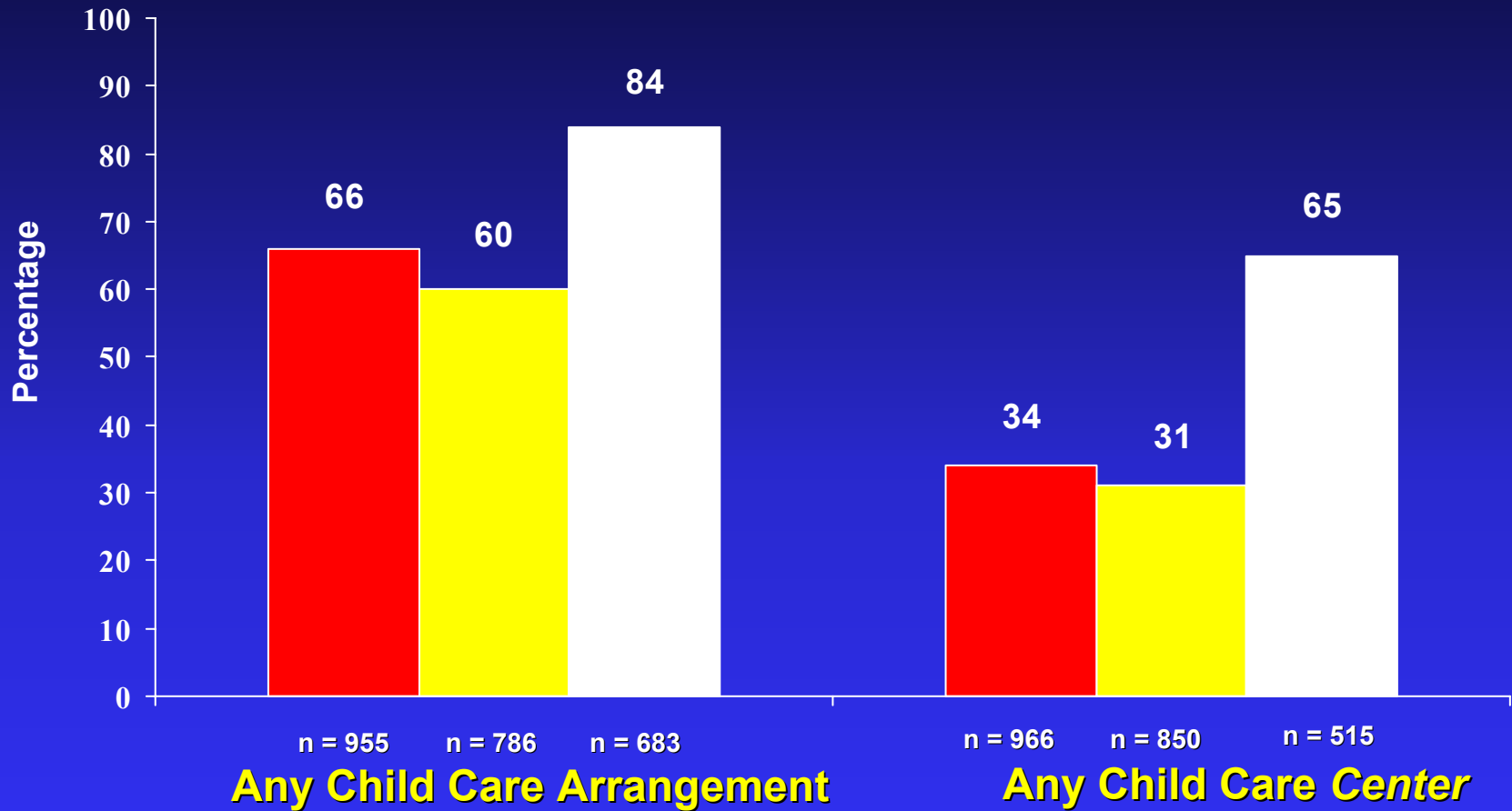
- At 36 months of age, two-thirds spent 30 hours or more per week in child care.
- Child care use increased slightly as children got older (29 hrs/wk at 14 mos; 32 hrs/wk at 36 mos).
- About half of 3-year-olds were in centers; 35% in informal or nonrelative care.
- Quality was good: Early Head Start centers averaged 5.0-5.2 on ITERS and ECERS-R.
- Quality Early Head Start children experienced in community centers was lower (ITERS = 3.8 at 14 mos; ECERS-R = 4.9 at 36 mos.).

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Did Early Head Start Make a Difference in Child Care Use and Quality Between 1 and 3 Years?

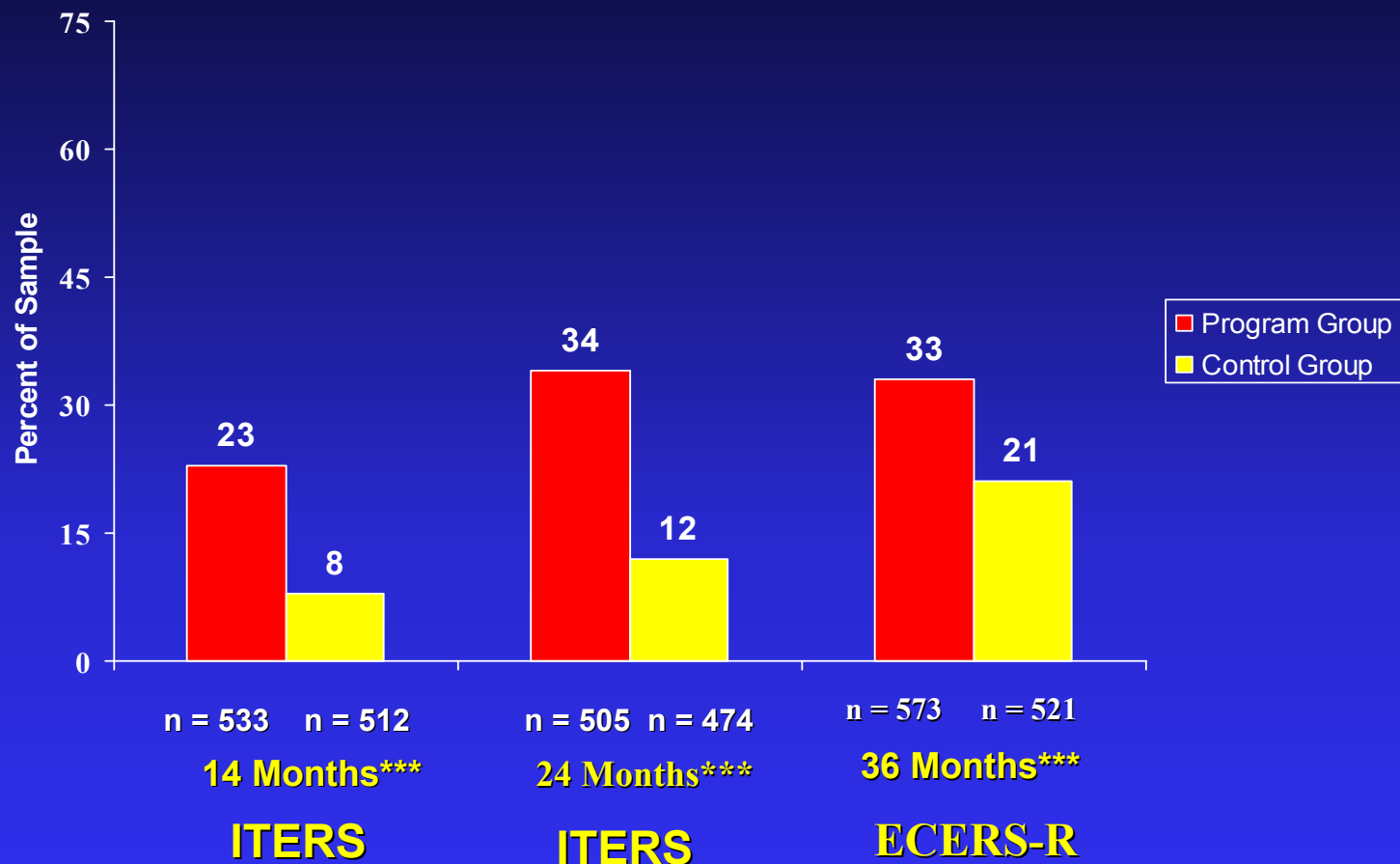
- **Yes, at all ages, Early Head Start participation significantly increased the percentage of families using any child care, percentage using center care, and average hours per week in care.**
- **Yes, Early Head Start dramatically increased percentage of children in good-quality center care (5.0 or higher) at all ages.**

Use of Child Care by Early Head Start Children at 14, 24, and 36 Months of Age



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Impact of Early Head Start on Percentage of Children in *Good-Quality* Centers



***Difference is statistically significant at the .01 level.

The Context for Studying Early Care and Education Program Enrollments After Early Head Start



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Communities Varied in Availability of Early Care and Education by Age

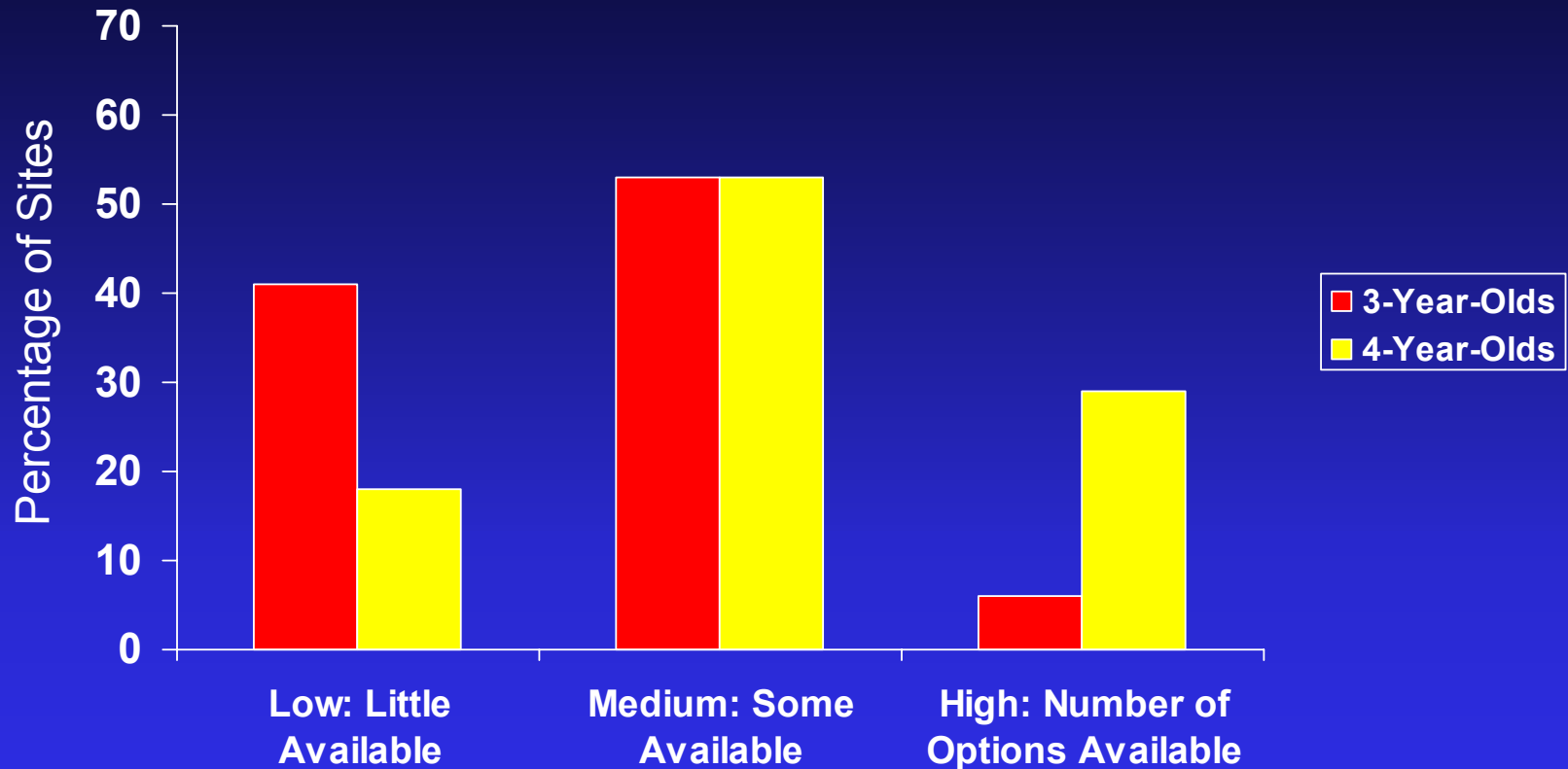
3-Year-Olds

- **Head Start**—Some availability
- **Pre-K**—Generally not available
- **Quality, formal family child care**—Infrequently available
- **Quality Center-based care**—Availability varied
- **EHS**—in most sites, some children stayed for several months, in one for a year.

4-Year-Olds

- **Head Start**—Generally available, not always full day
- **Pre-K**—Available in some communities
- **Quality center-based care**—Availability and access varied
- **Quality formal family child care**—Infrequently available

Availability of Formal Care and Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds



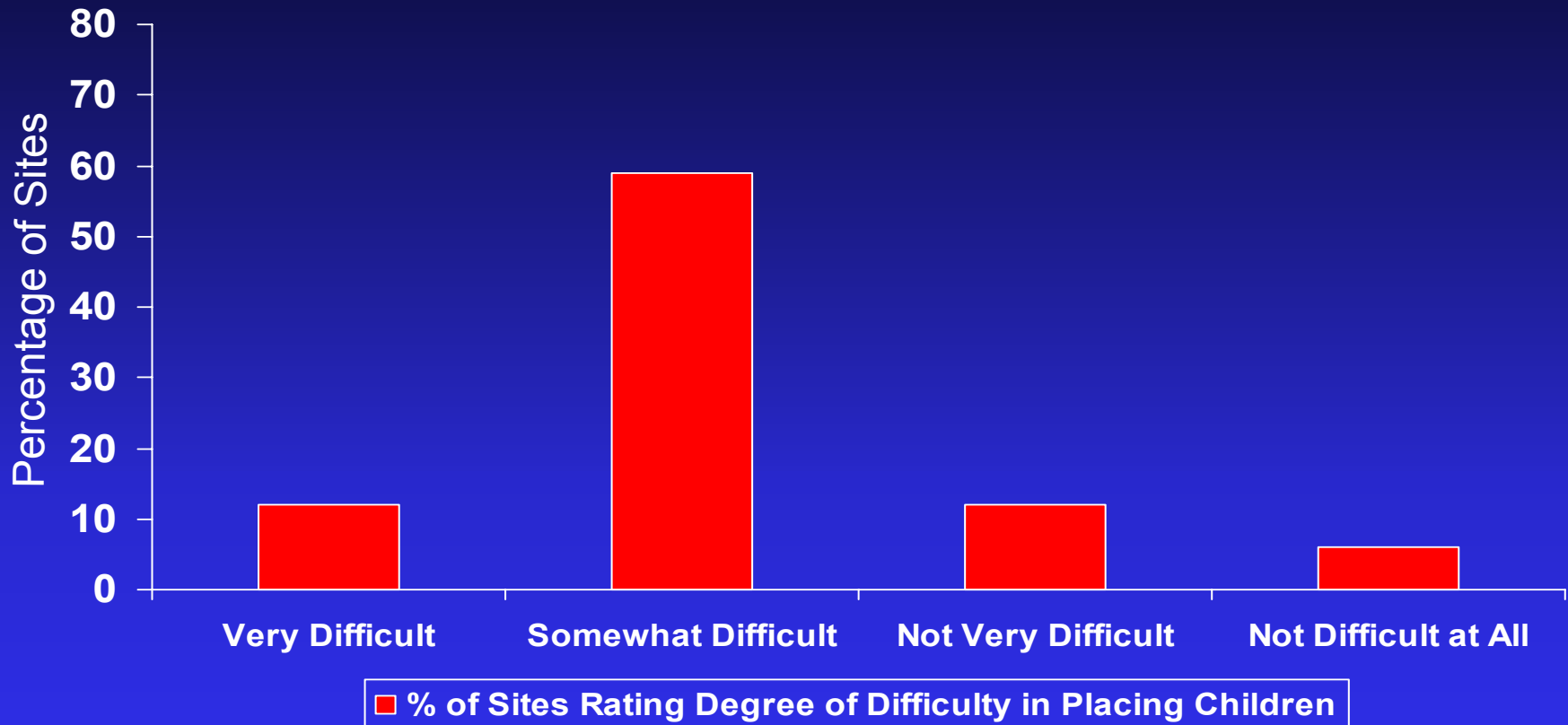
Source: Interviews with Early Head Start program designates in 17 sites. Barriers to obtaining quality formal placements for EHS children: Transportation (4 sites); Part Day Head Start available only (2); Head Start openings not available (1); Ineligibility for subsidies (3); Family preferences and availability (3); Quality care not available (3); Affordability of quality programs (3); Waiting lists (1). Of 6 sites ranked "low" by sites, 5 were ranked below median levels in the NIEER 2003 *State of the Preschool Yearbook* in terms of access to services for 3 and 4 year olds.

Transition Activities

- 10 programs were fully implemented in provision of Transition Activities in 1999.
- Of 7 not fully implemented, 5 did not have plans in place for children at age 2.5, 2 did not help families transition to programs other than Head Start.
- Except for 1 program that did not complete transition plans, most programs reported they helped from 50% to 90% of the children with transition planning.
- Most programs reported that finding quality early childhood programs for 3-year-olds was difficult.

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Program Ratings of Difficulty Placing Children at Age 3



Source: Interviews with Program Designate in 17 sites.

Note: All sites selecting Not Very Difficult or Not Difficult at All had Head Start programs in their agencies.

Methodology for Studying Early Care and Education Program Enrollments After Early Head Start



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Data Sources and Issues

- Data Sources

- Tracking interviews
- TPK interviews at prekindergarten

- Issues

- Retrospective reporting
- Response rates
- Interviewer vs. respondent as source

- Demographic characteristics measured at enrollment in Early Head Start (at the time of random assignment)

Prekindergarten Parent Interview

- Conducted with parent in the spring/summer before the child entered kindergarten.
- Parents asked to report on early care and education experience since the child's third birthday or since the most recent tracking interview.
- Number of interviews completed: 2,045
- Response rate (based on baseline sample of 3,001): 68%

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Categorization of Early Care and Education Settings Used in this Report

- **Head Start:** Parent reported that child attended a Head Start program at some point since the previous interview.
- **Other Formal Care:** Parent reported that child attended a child care center or other early education program, other than Head Start.
- **Head Start or Formal Care:** Parent reported that child attended either Head Start or other formal care arrangement, i.e., any formal arrangement.

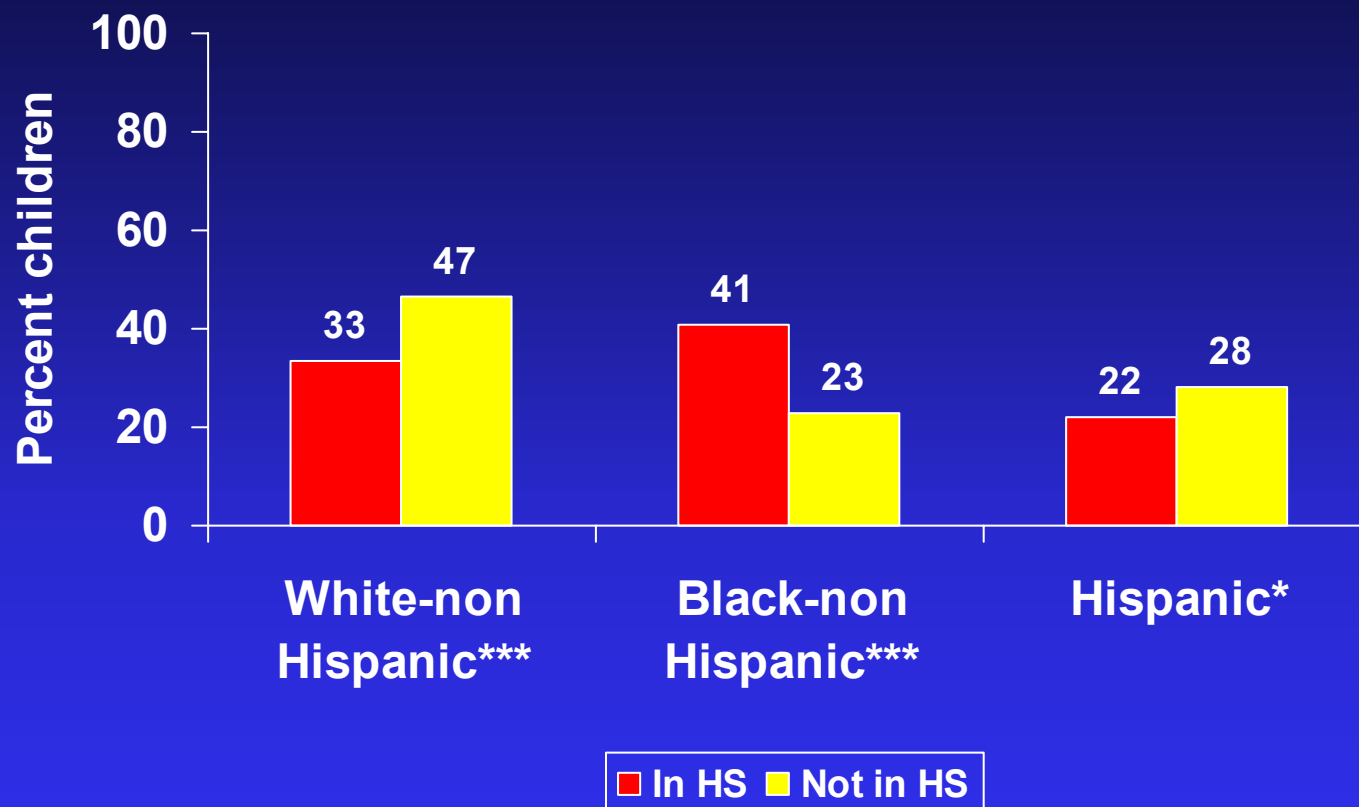
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Demographic Characteristics of Former Early Head Families Enrolled in Early Care and Education Program Enrollments After Early Head Start



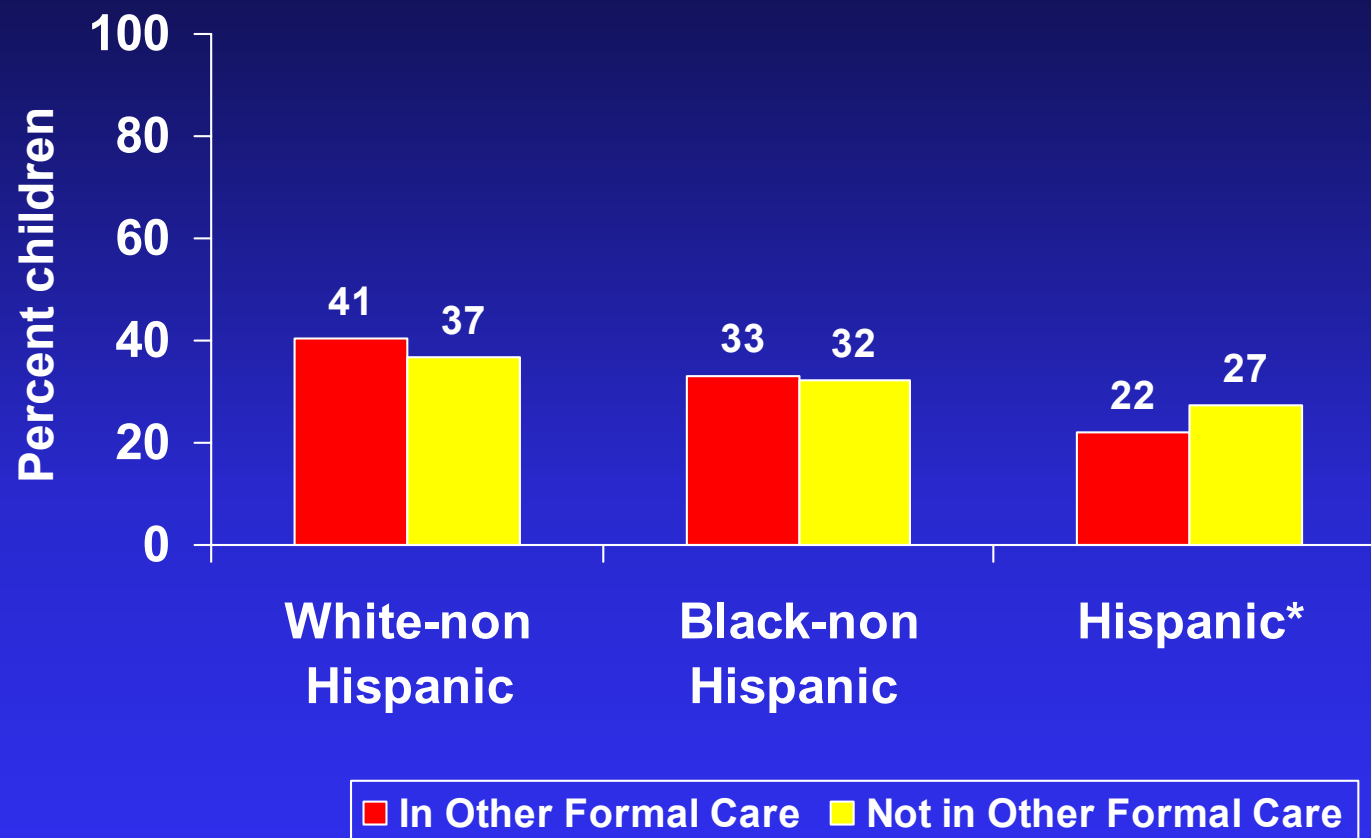
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Racial-Ethnic Characteristics of Program Children Enrolled in Head Start



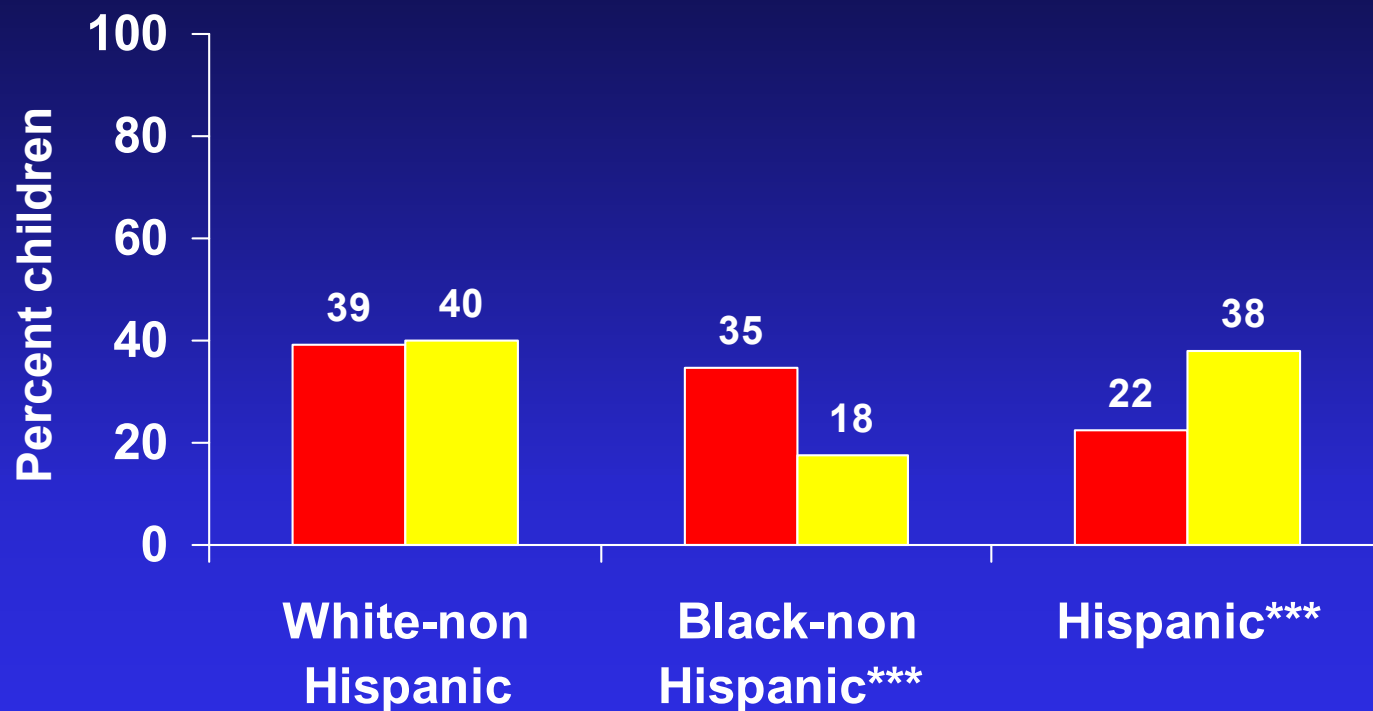
*Difference is significant at the 10% level.
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Racial-Ethnic Characteristics of Program Children in Other Formal Care



*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

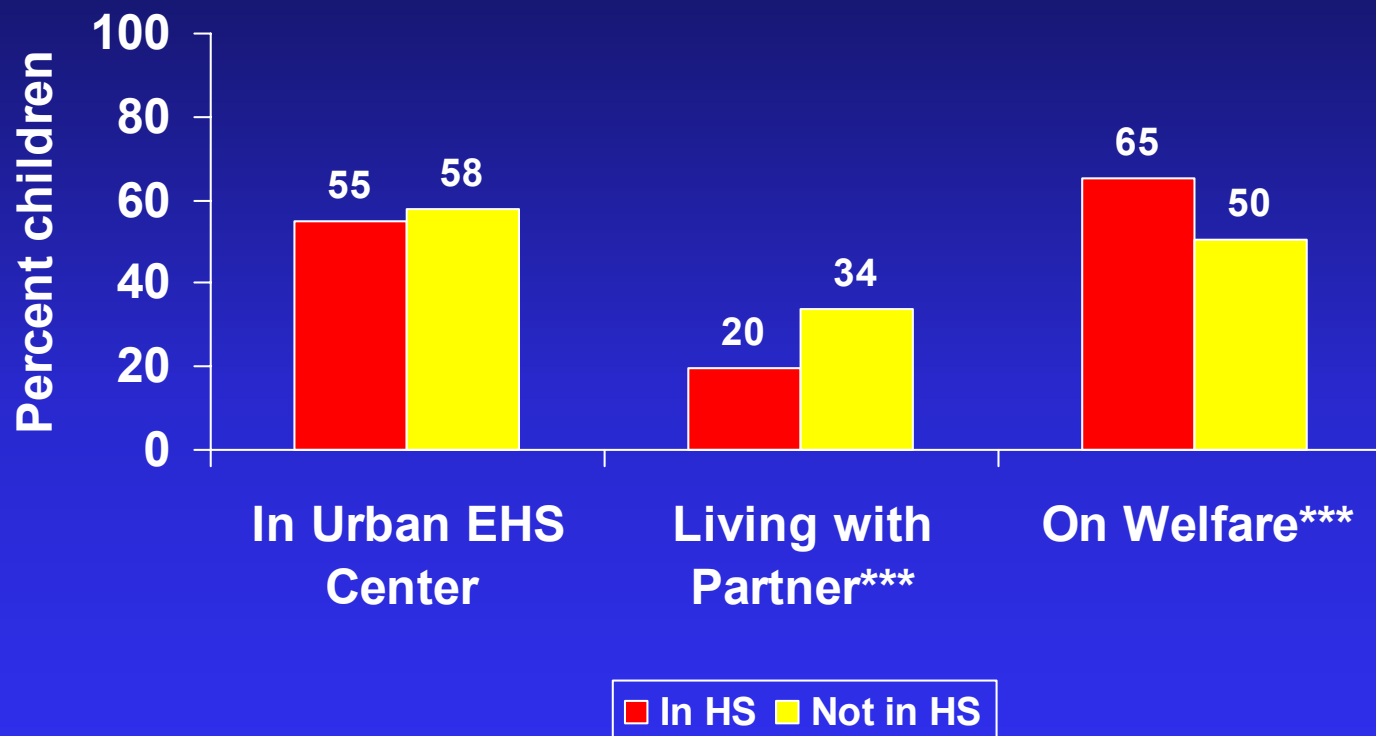
Racial-Ethnic Characteristics of Program Children Enrolled in Other Formal Care or Head Start



■ In Other Formal or HS Care ■ Not in Other Formal or HS Care

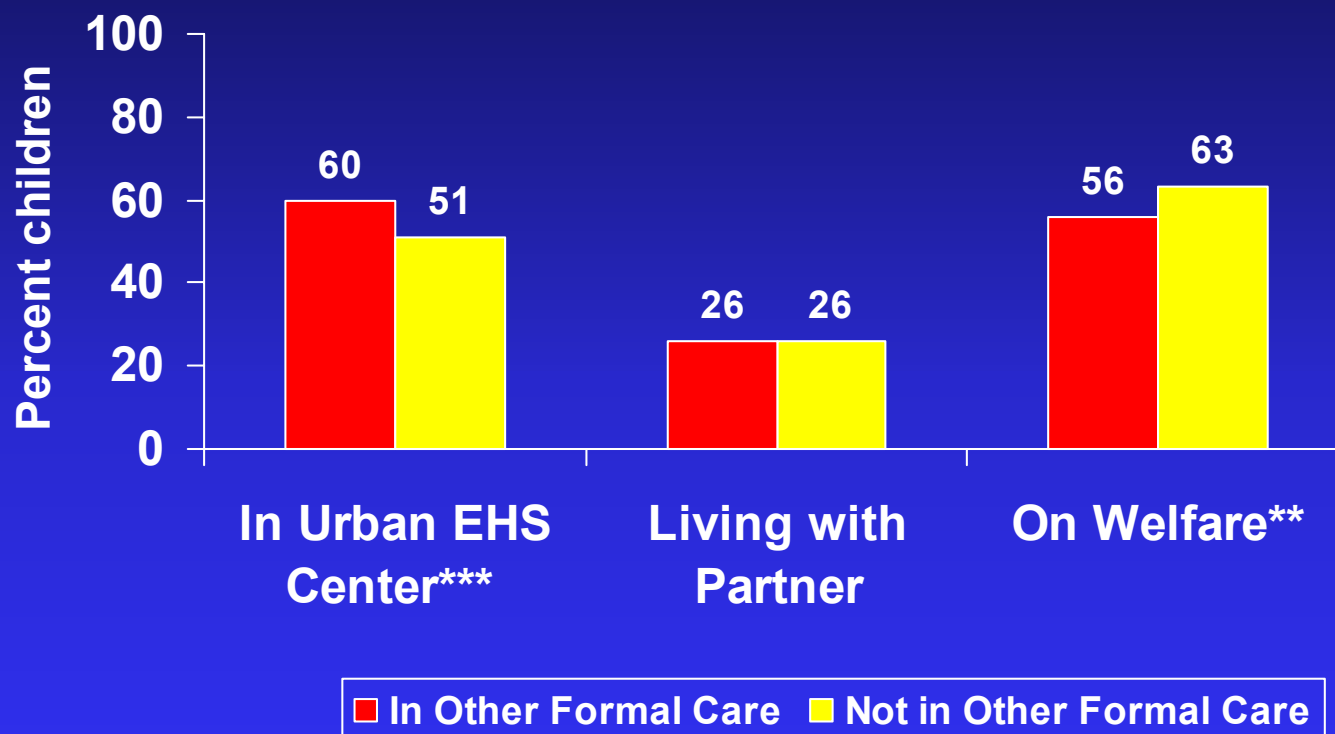
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Other Demographic Characteristics of Program Children Enrolled in Head Start



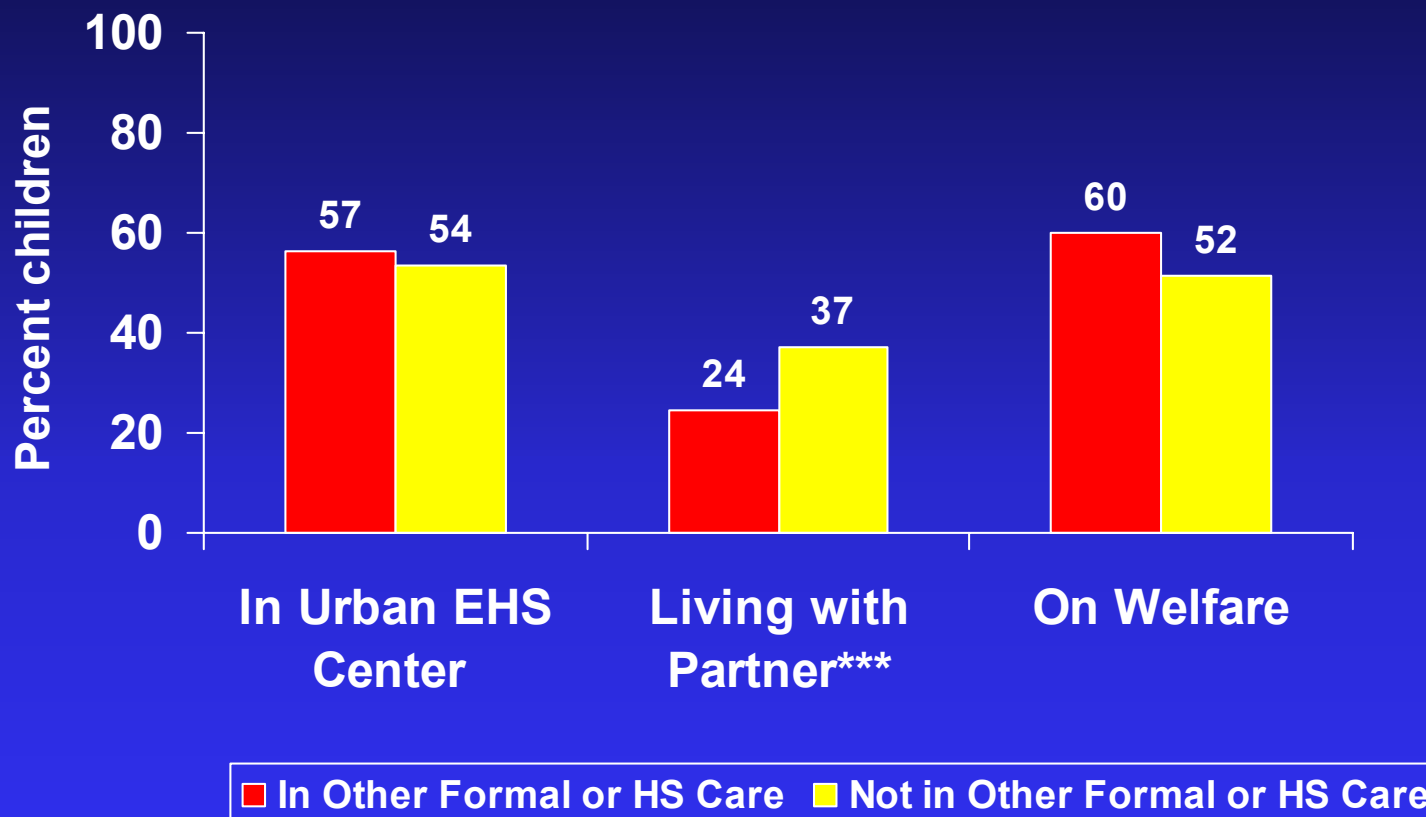
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Other Demographic Characteristics of Program Children in Other Formal Care



**Difference is significant at the 5% level.
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Other Demographic Characteristics of Program Children in Other Formal Care or Head Start



***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Analysis of Impacts of Early Head Start Program Participation (0-3) on Enrollment in Early Care and Education Programs as Reported by Parents in the Prekindergarten Interview



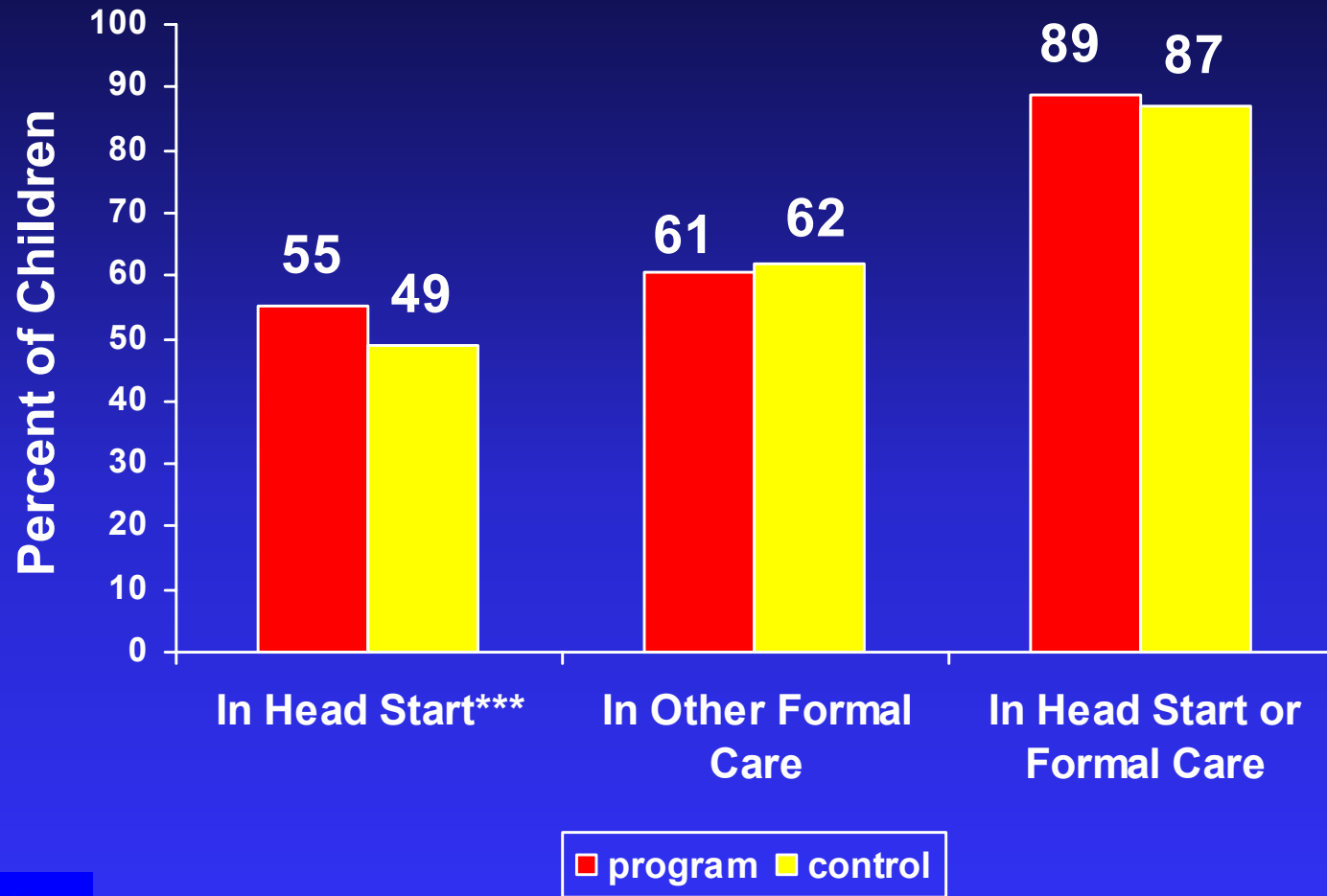
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Analytic Methods

- Randomized design – families randomly assigned to receive Early Head Start or a control group when focus children were up to 12 months old (3,001 families total).
- Pre-K sample: All families who reported information on child care arrangements in the spring before entering kindergarten (2,045 families).
- Compare percentage of children in Head Start and other formal care arrangements for program and control group families at each research site.
- Differences in reported percentages are adjusted for baseline characteristics of families and weighted equally by research site.

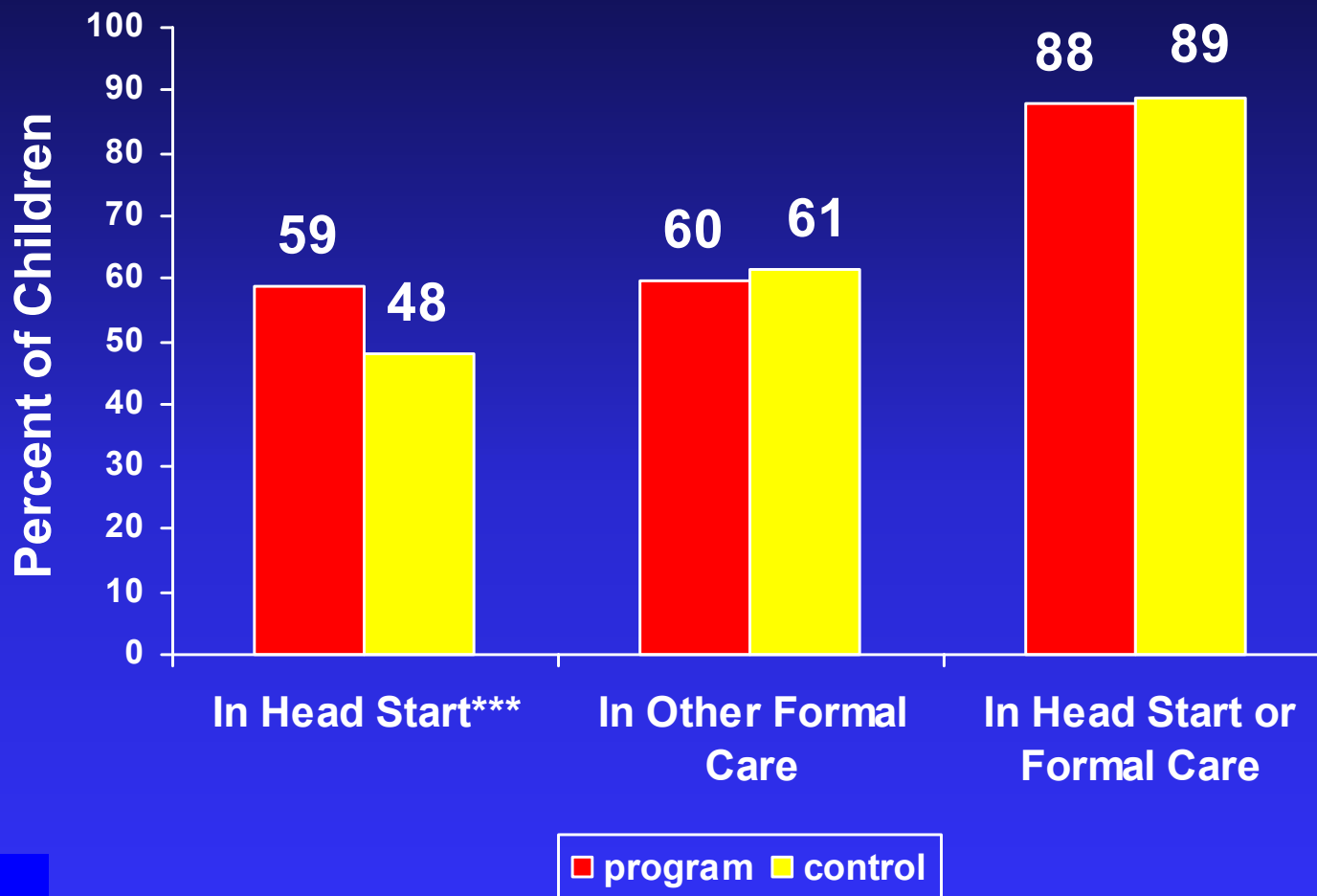
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Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation—All Sites



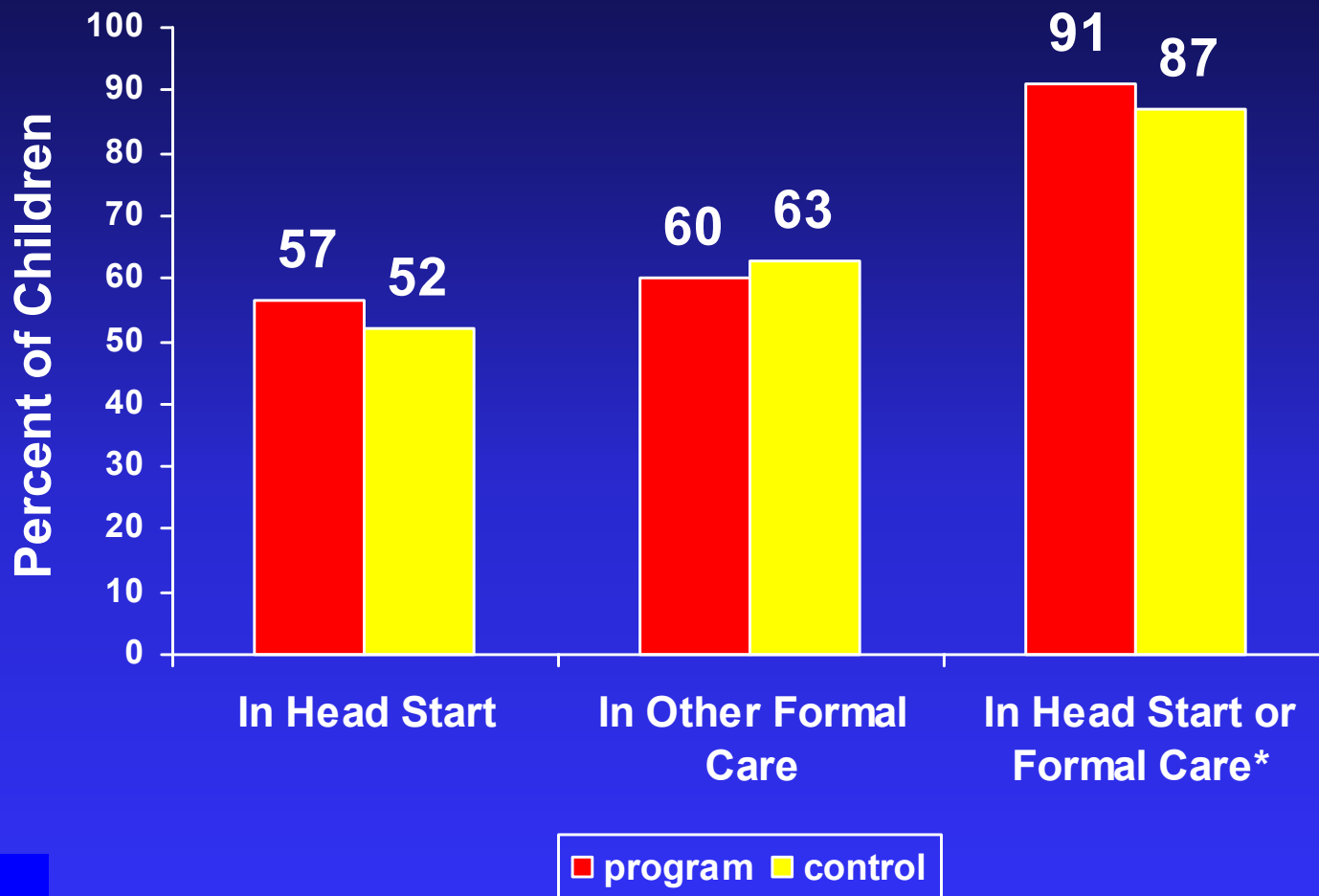
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation in Center-Based Sites



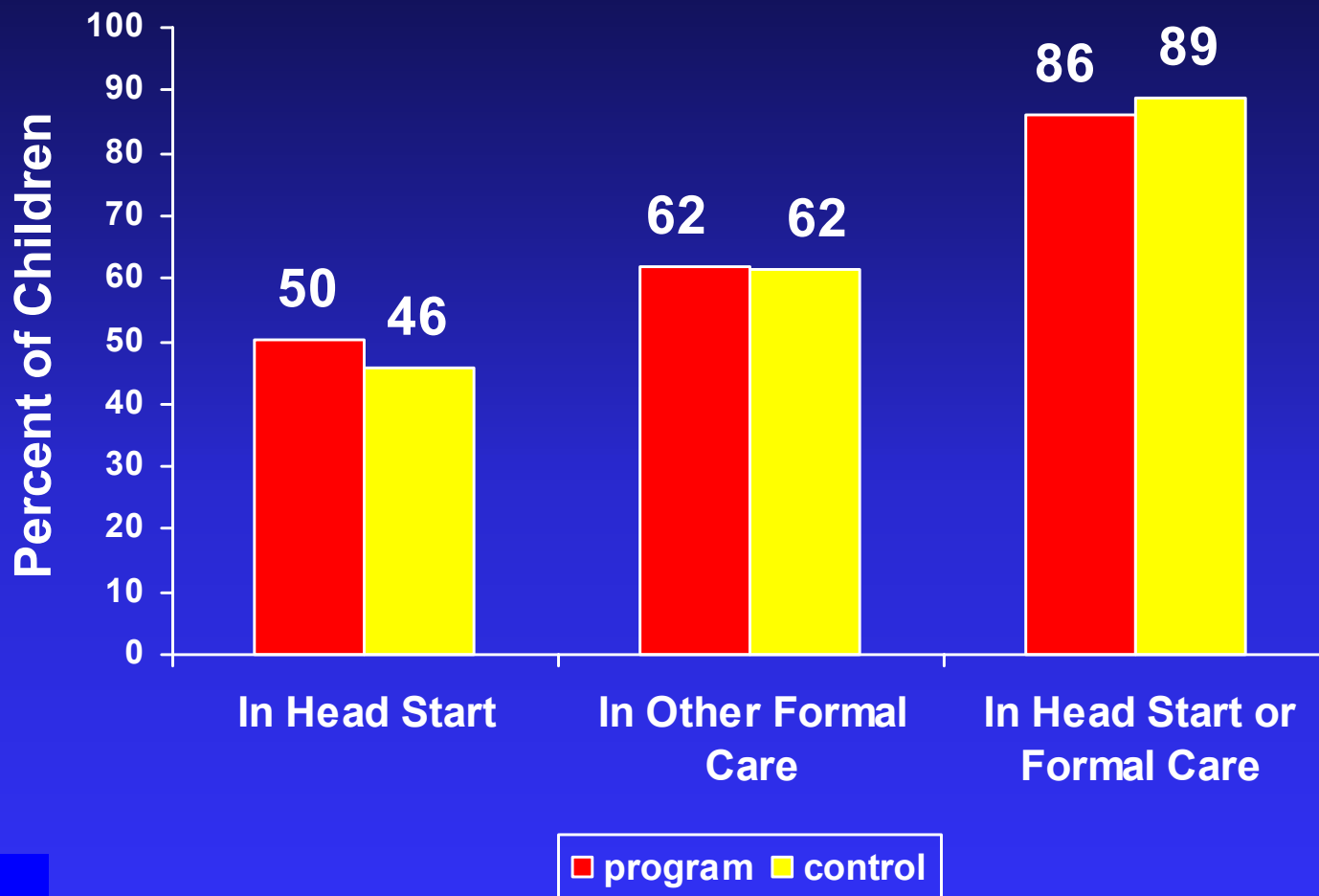
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation in Home-Based Sites

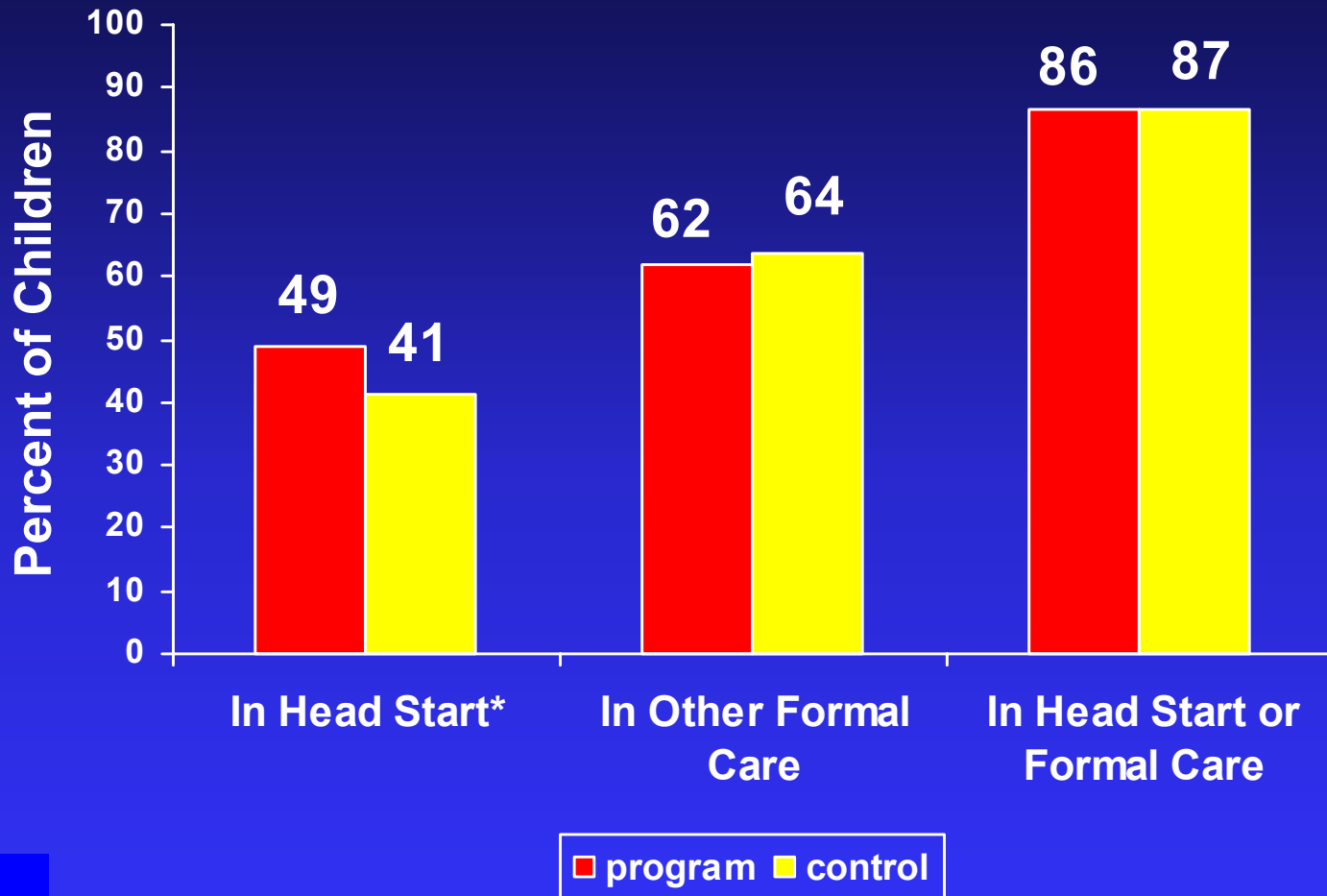


*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation in Mixed-Approach Sites

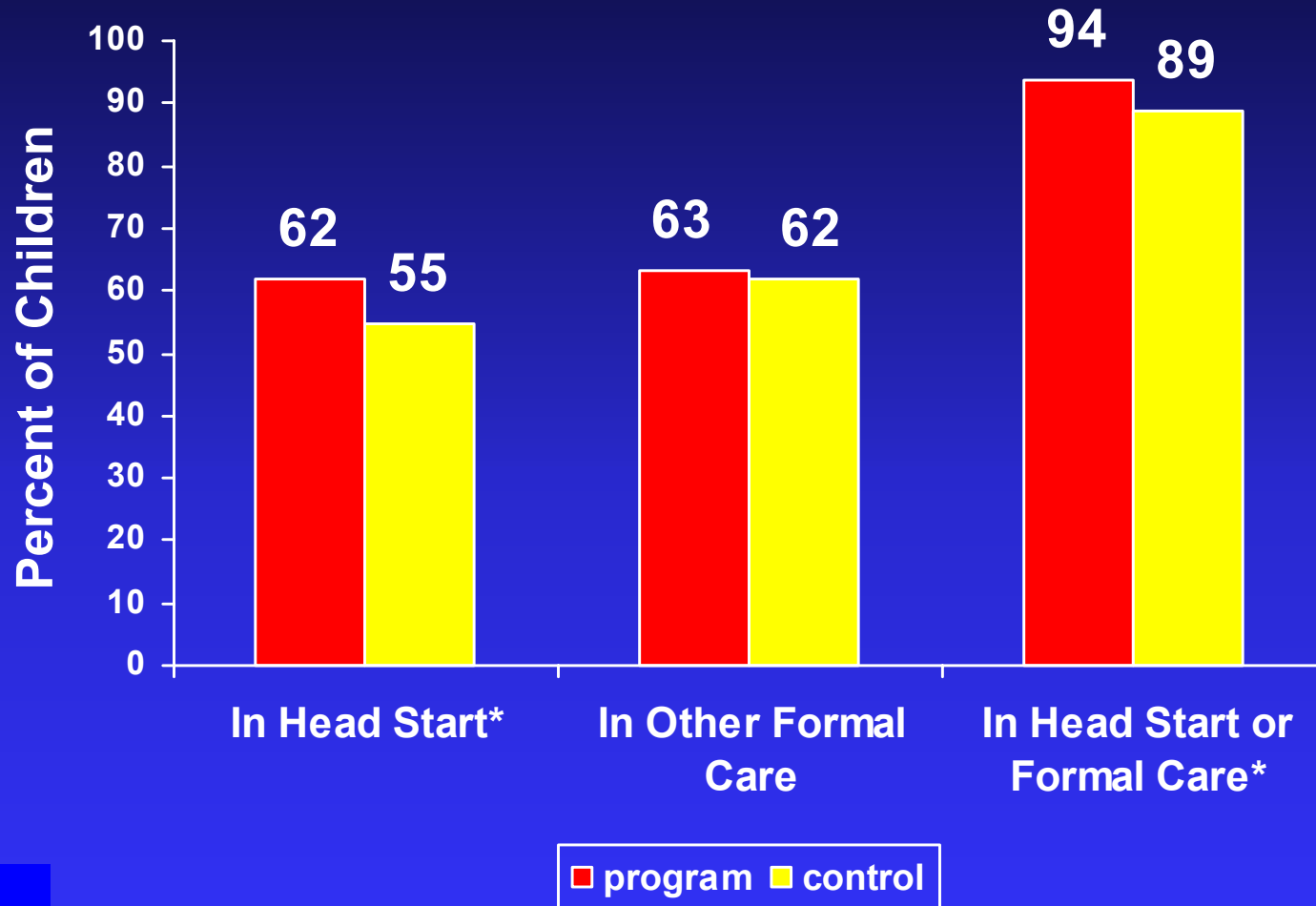


Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation in Sites that Fully Implemented Head Start Performance Standards by 1997



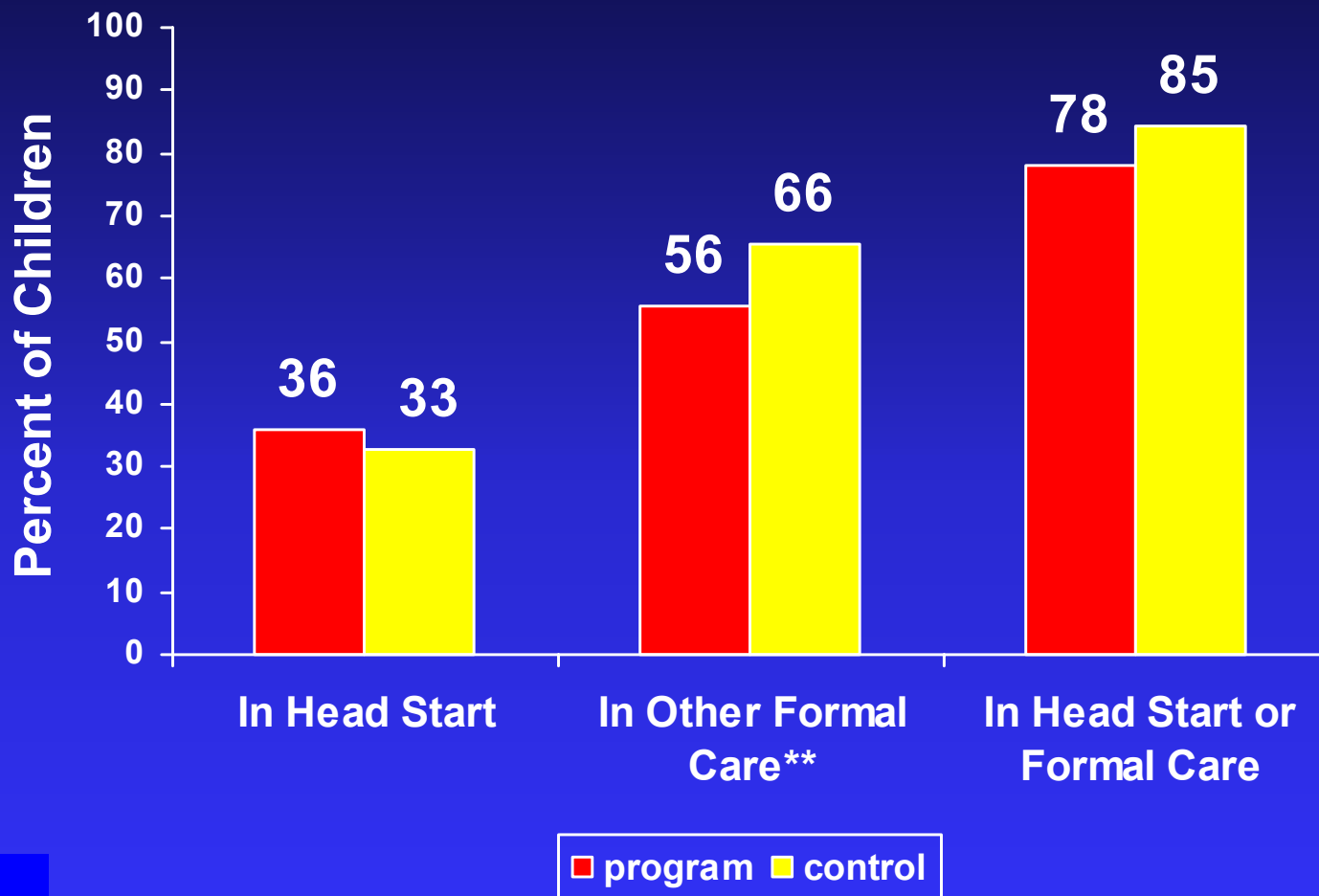
*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation in Sites that Did Not Fully Implement Head Start Performance Standards by 1999



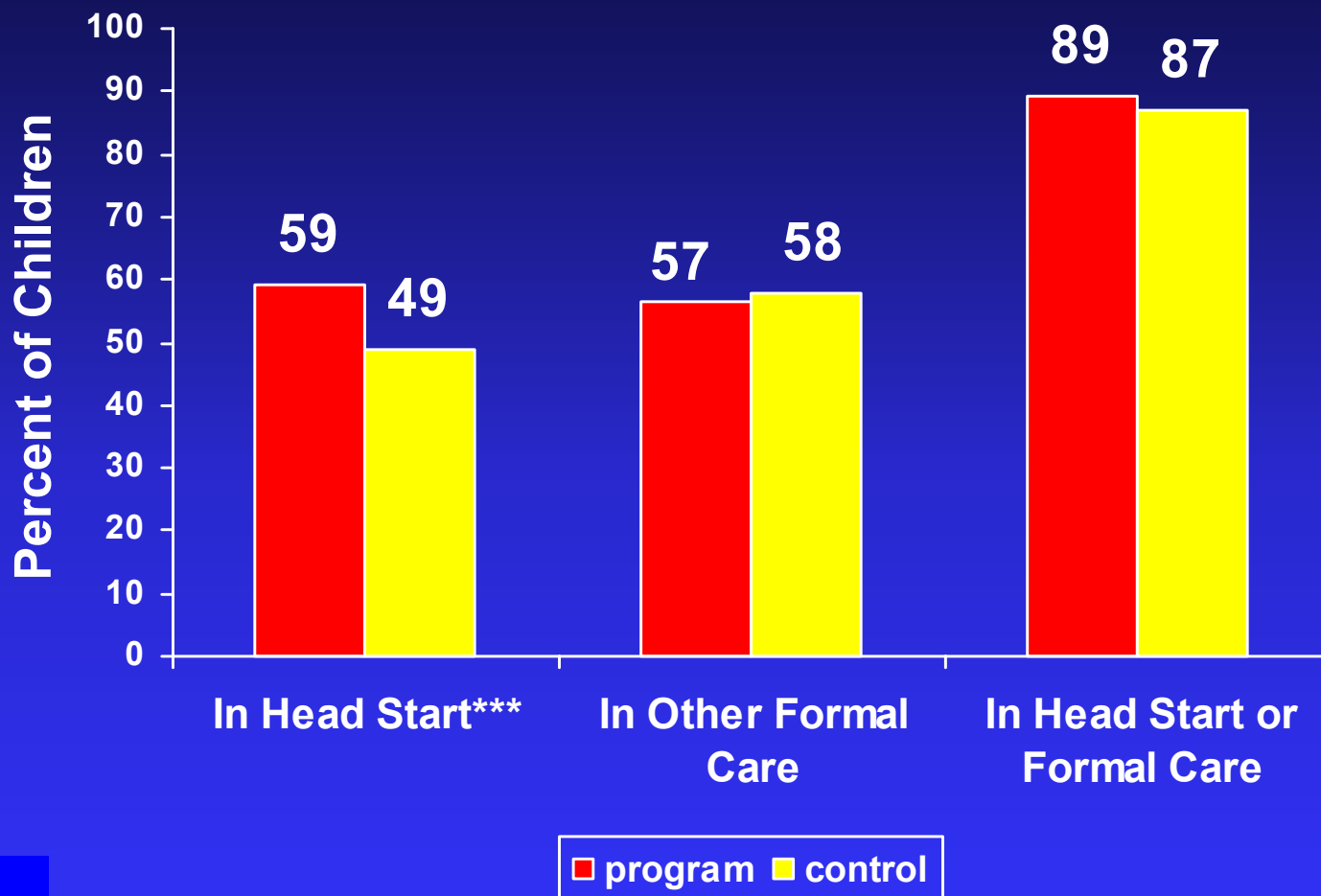
*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for Mothers Living with a Spouse at Baseline



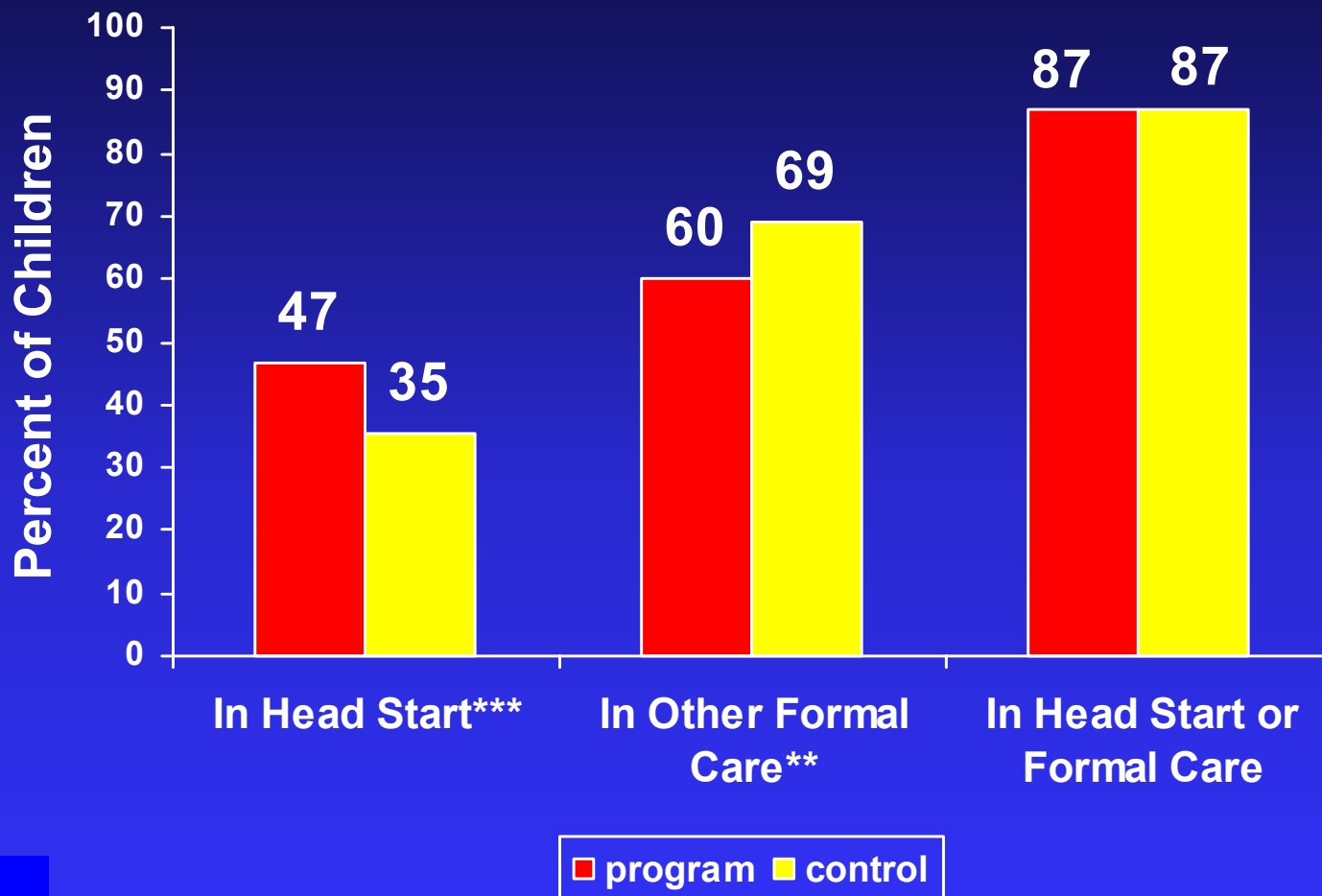
**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for Mothers Living with Other Adults at Baseline



***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

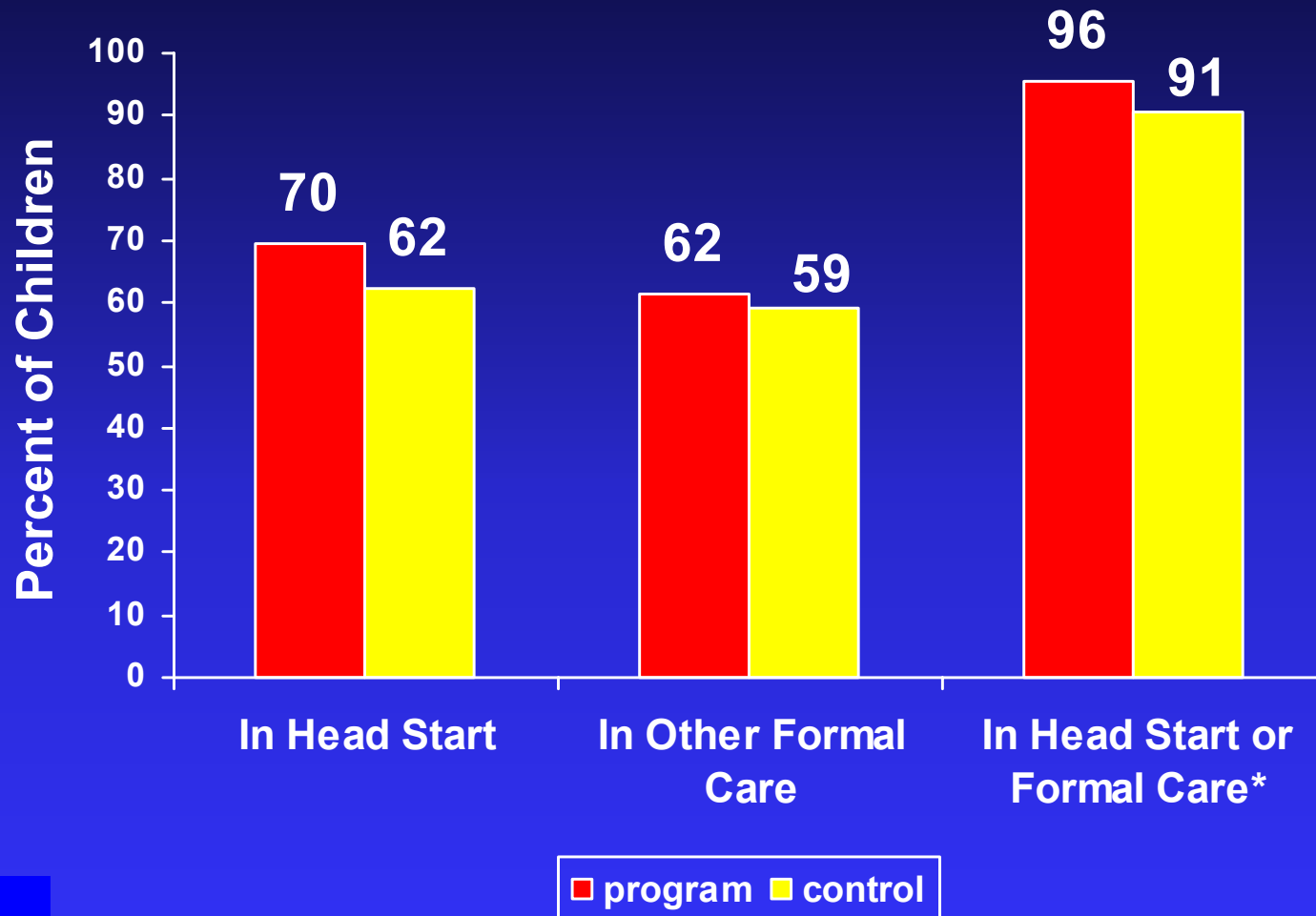
Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for White Children



**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

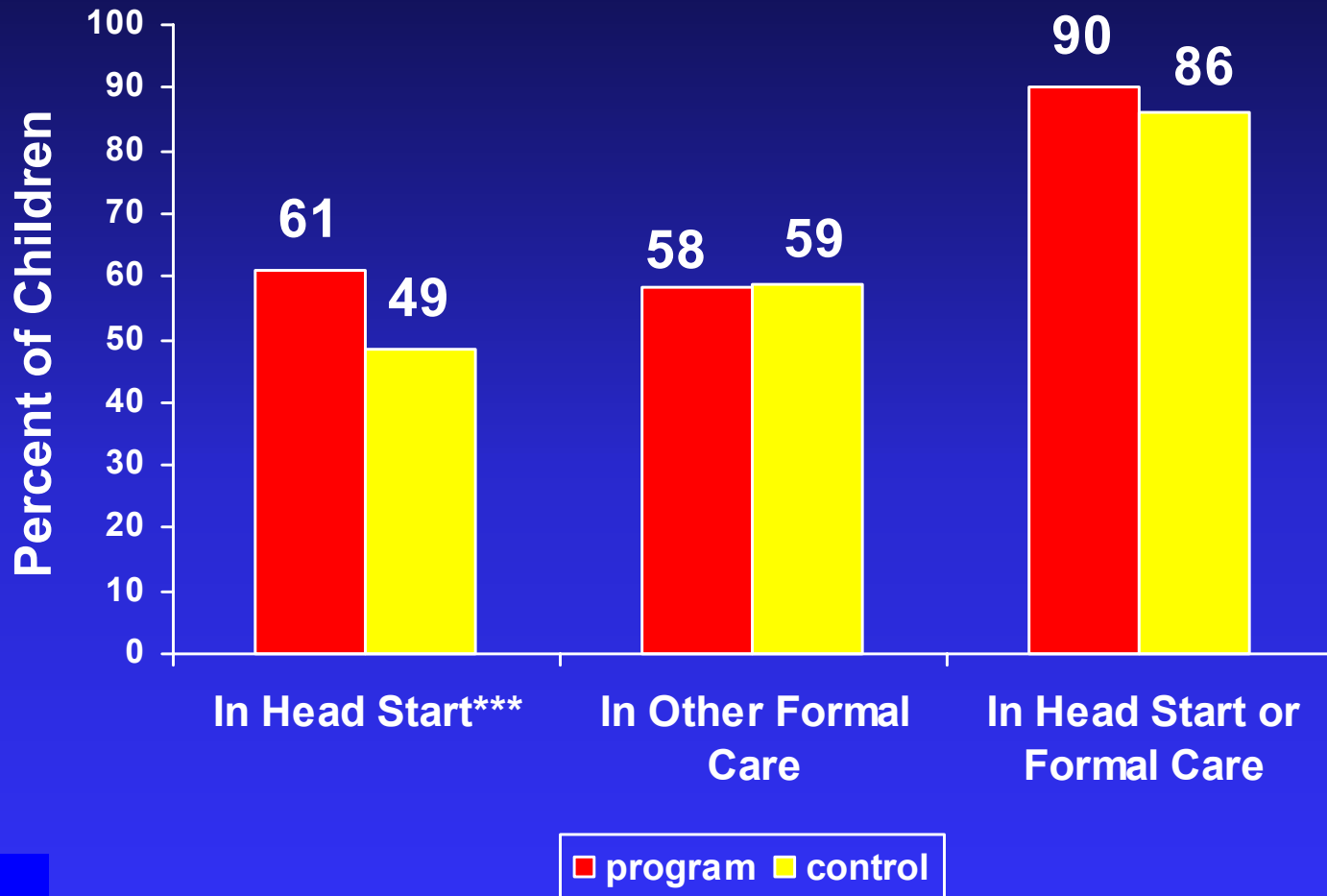
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for African American Children



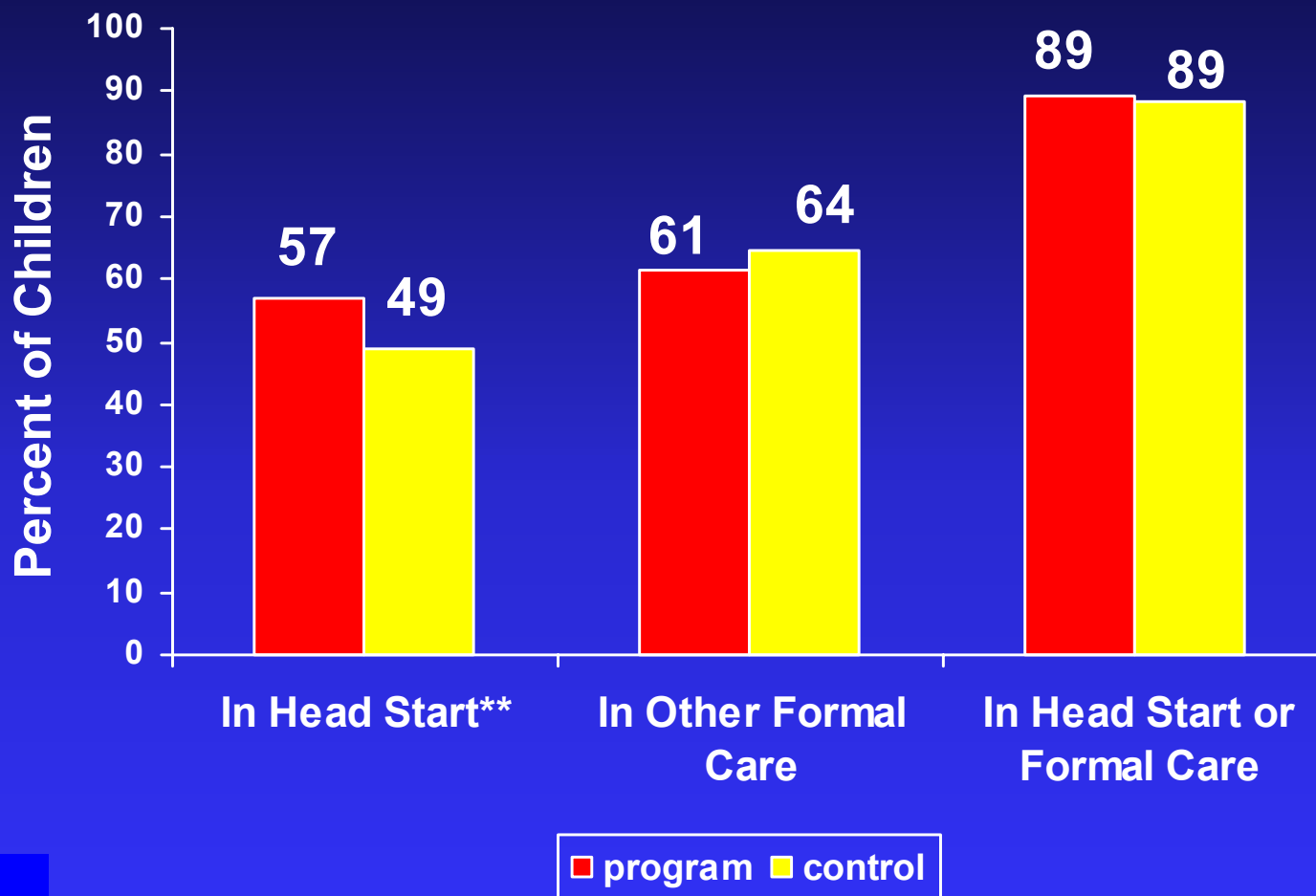
*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for Teen Mothers (19 or Younger when Child Was Born)



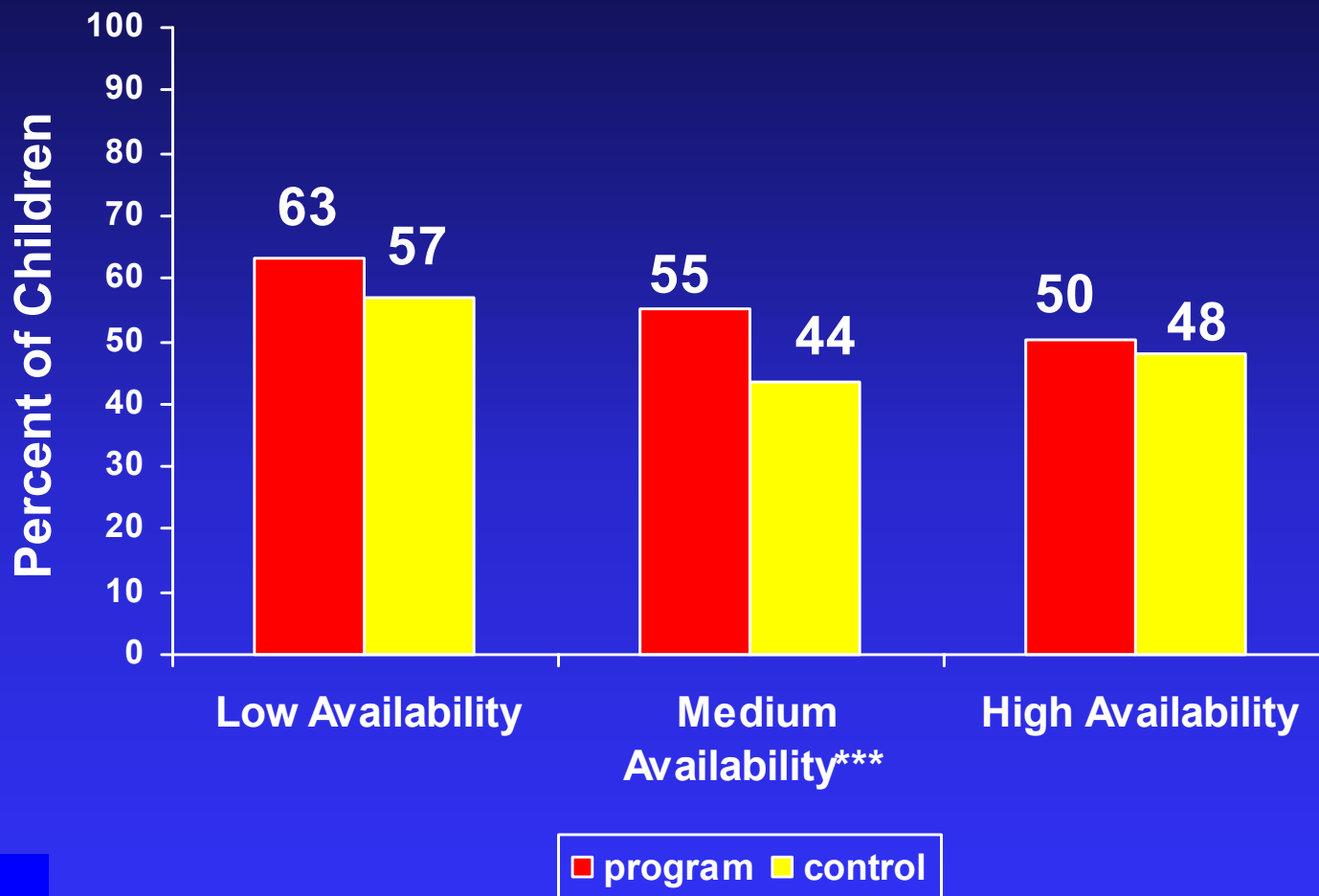
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Program Participation for Mothers who Were 20 or Older when Child Was Born



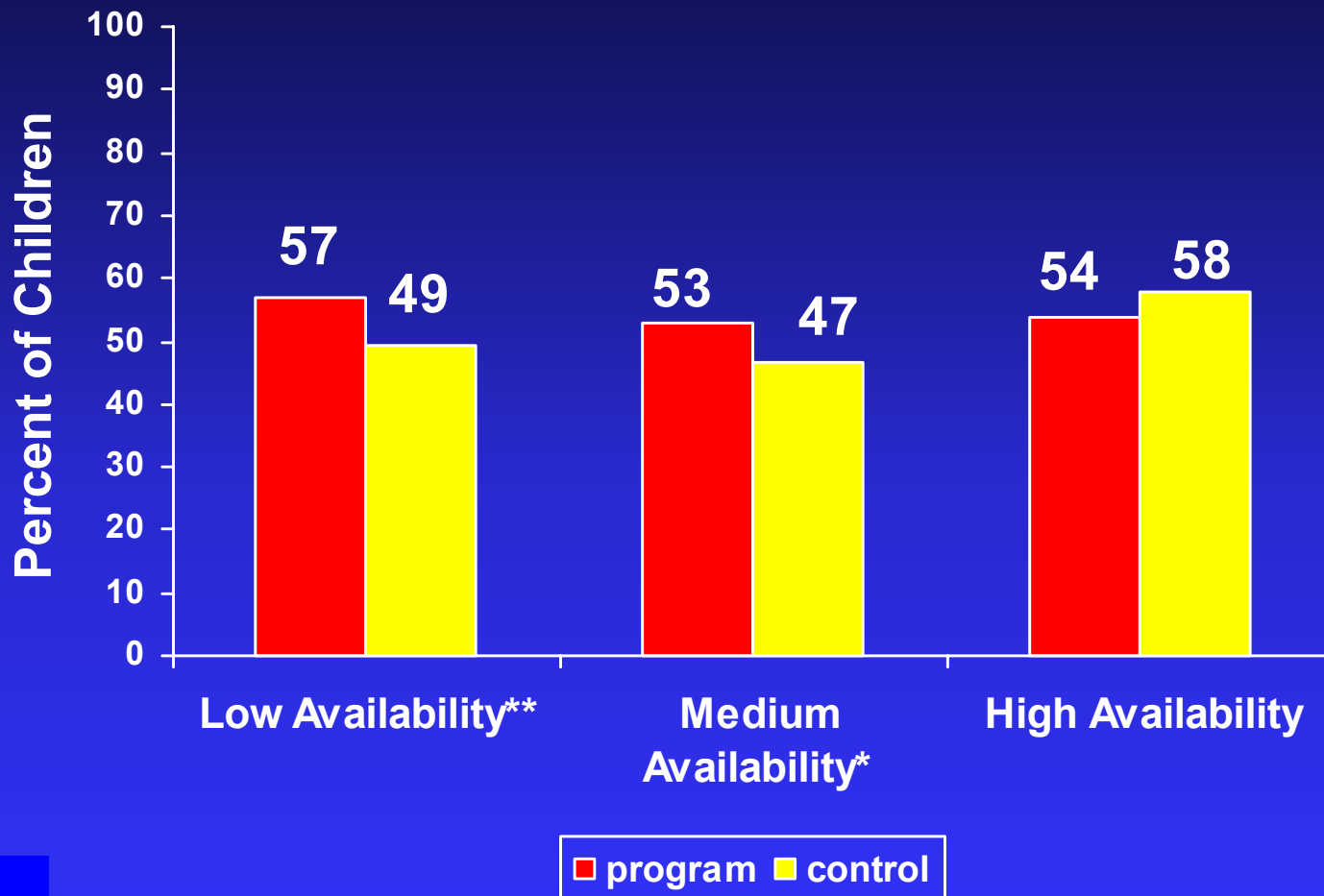
**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Participation in Head Start by Availability of Community Child Care at Age 4



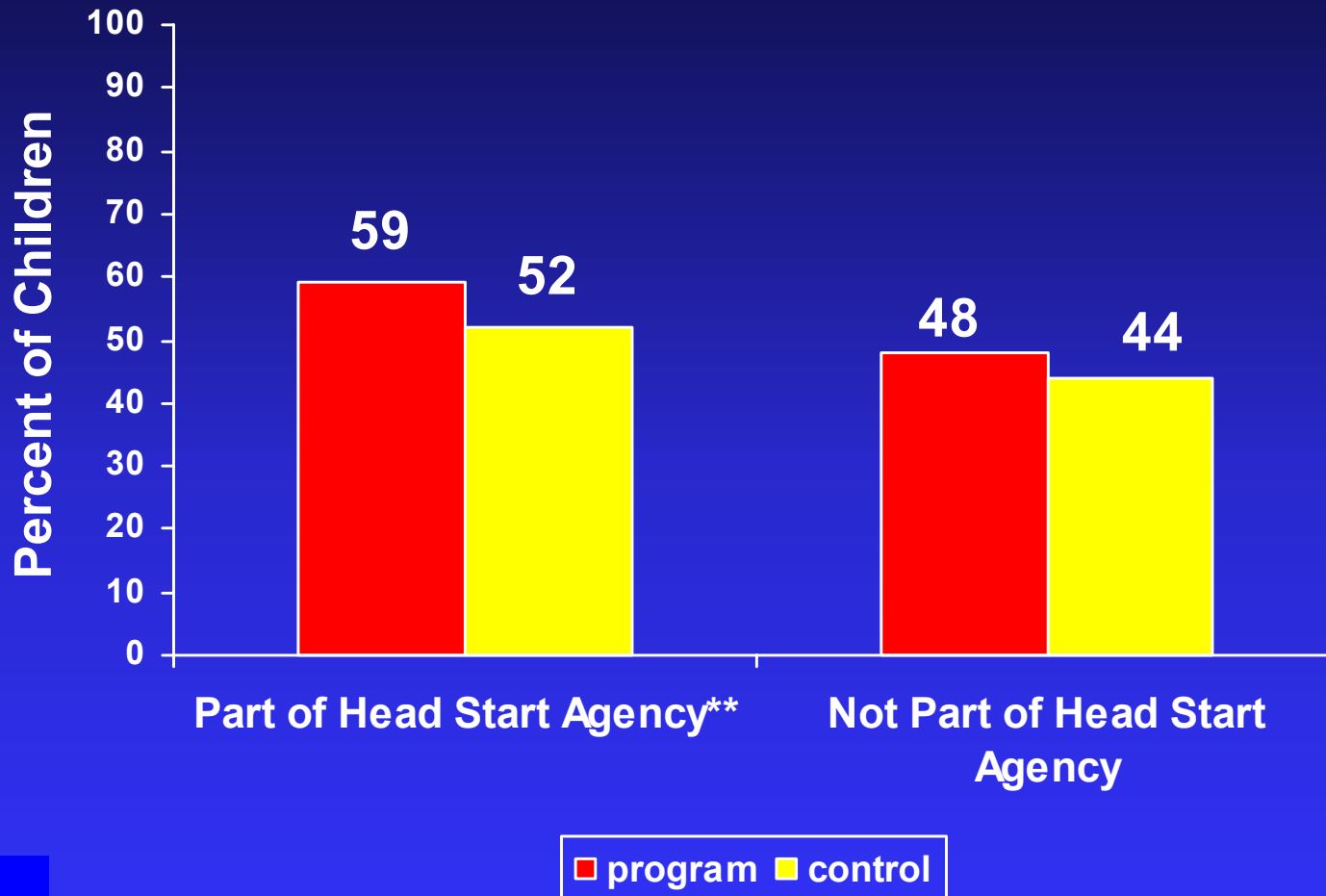
***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Participation in Head Start by Availability of Community Child Care at Age 3



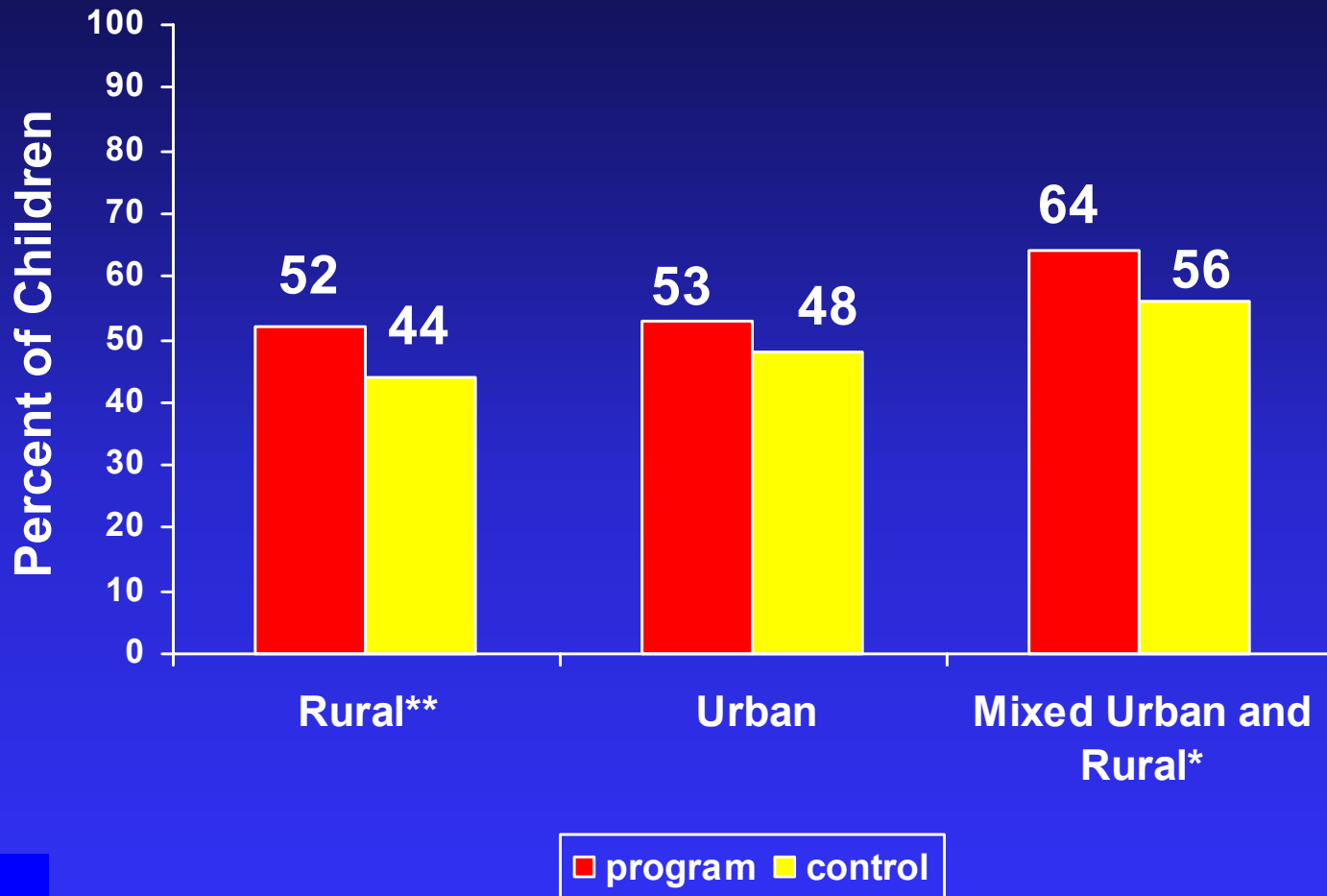
**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Participation in Head Start as a Function of Early Head Start Being Part of a Head Start Agency



**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

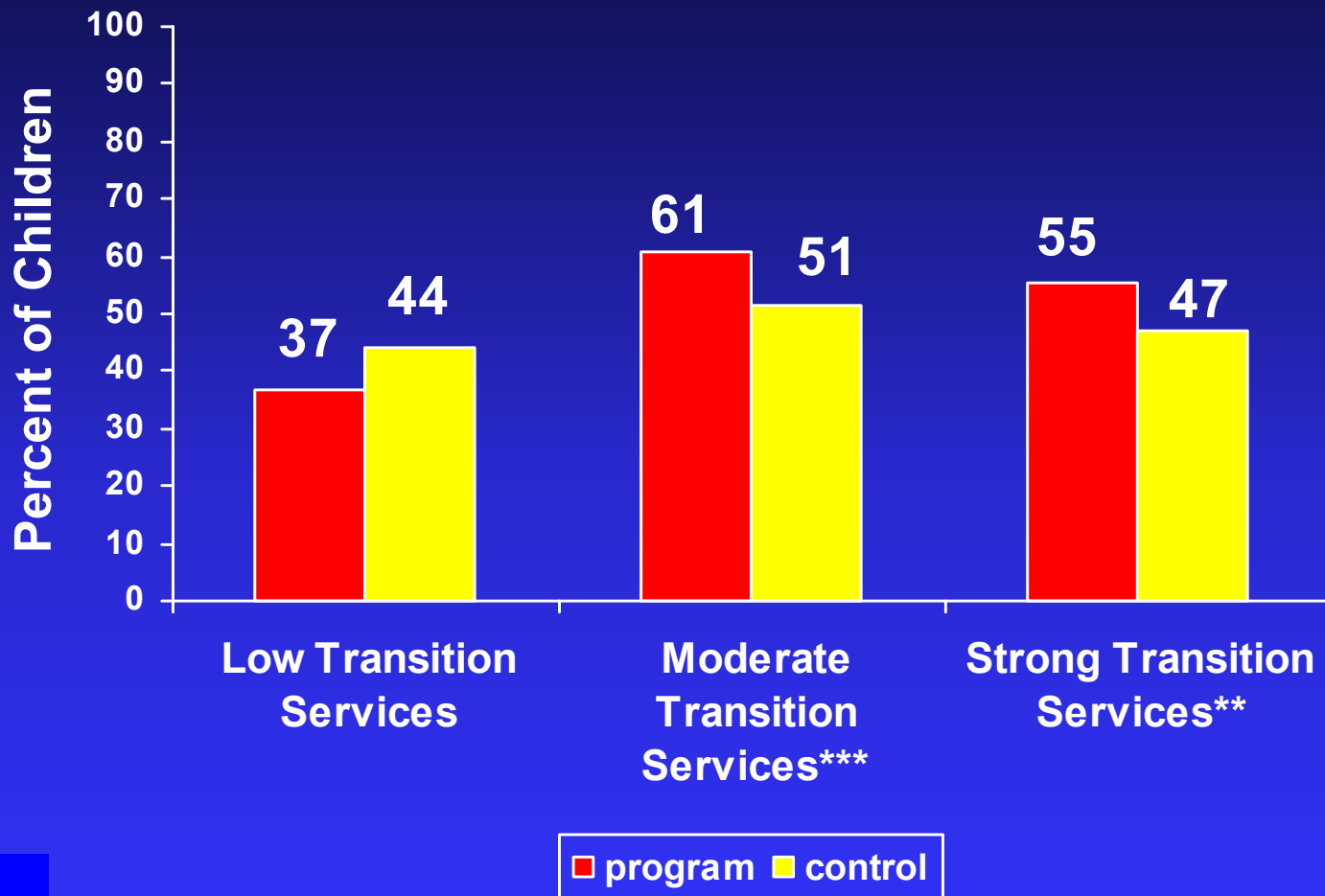
Impact of Early Head Start on Participation in Head Start as a Function of Program Location—Urban, Rural, or Mixed



**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

*Difference is significant at the 10% level.

Impact of Early Head Start on Participation in Head Start as a Function of Intensity of Program's Transition Services



**Difference is significant at the 5% level.

***Difference is significant at the 1% level.

Conclusions (1)

- Substantial percentages of children enrolled in formal early care and education programs in the year(s) preceding kindergarten.
- Participation in an Early Head Start program increased the likelihood that low-income children enrolled in Head Start in the year(s) preceding kindergarten
- Early Head Start did not affect enrollment in other programs.

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Conclusions (2)

- **Early Head Start programs were most likely to affect later Head Start enrollment when they:**
 - **Operated center-based programs**
 - **Were located in rural areas**
 - **Were part of a Head Start agency**
 - **Worked in communities where the supply of quality early care and education programs is low**
 - **Devoted more energies to transition services**
- **Early Head Start programs were most likely to affect later Head Start enrollment for families that:**
 - **Consisted of a mother who was living with other adults when first enrolled in EHS**
 - **Were White**