

Benefits of Preschool Education

- **Broad Evidence from Many Studies**
- **Chicago Child-Parent Center Study**
- **Abecedarian Study**
- **High/Scope Perry Preschool Study**
- **Cost of High Quality Preschool**
- **Why Quality Must be Improved**
- **Curriculum: Not Just Academics**

*National Institute for Early Education Research
Copies and details available from nieer.org*

Long-Term Effects

- **Many studies with children from low-income families find:**
 - Increased Achievement Test Scores**
 - Decreased Grade Retention**
 - Decreased Special Education**
- **Very long term studies also find:**
 - Increased High School Graduation**
 - Decreased Crime & Delinquency**

Three Outstanding Studies

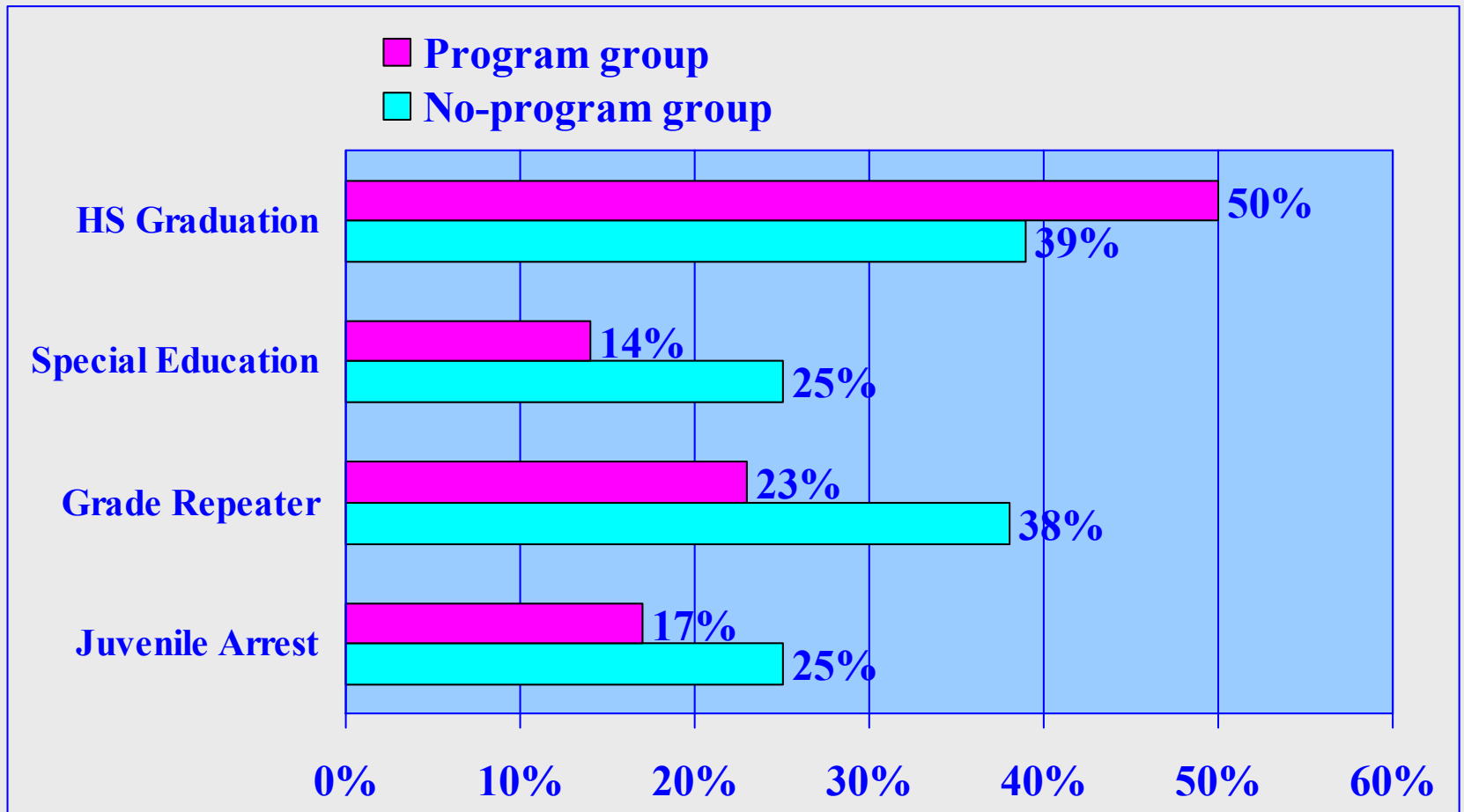
Chicago-Child Parent Centers (CPC)— a half-day program on a large scale in the Chicago public schools

Abecedarian educational child care— a full-day year-round program in Chapel Hill, NC

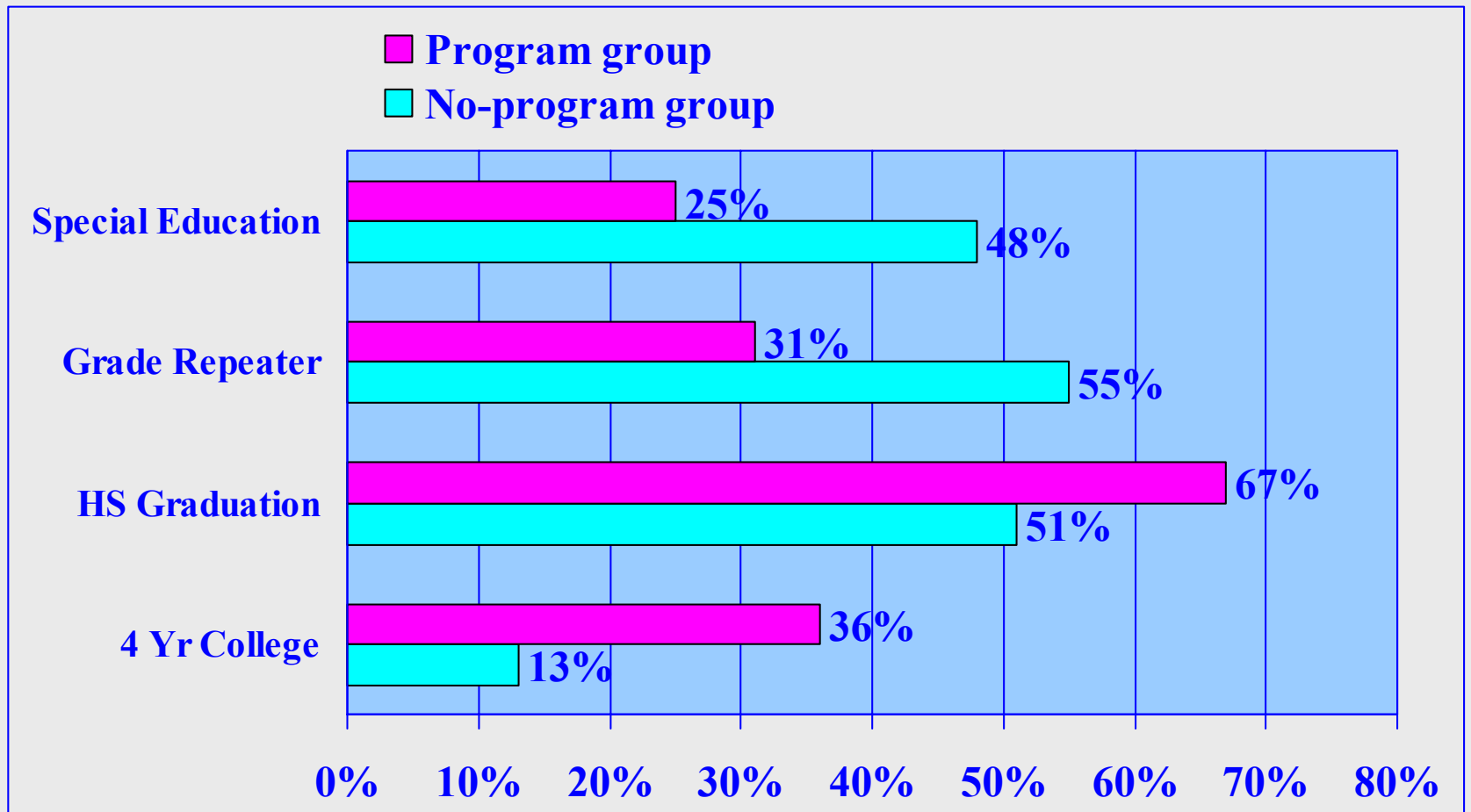
High/Scope Perry Preschool— a half-day program on a small scale in the Ypsilanti, MI public schools

All three: employ highly rigorous research methods
conducted very long-term follow-ups
evaluated costs and benefits
studied intensive, high-quality programs

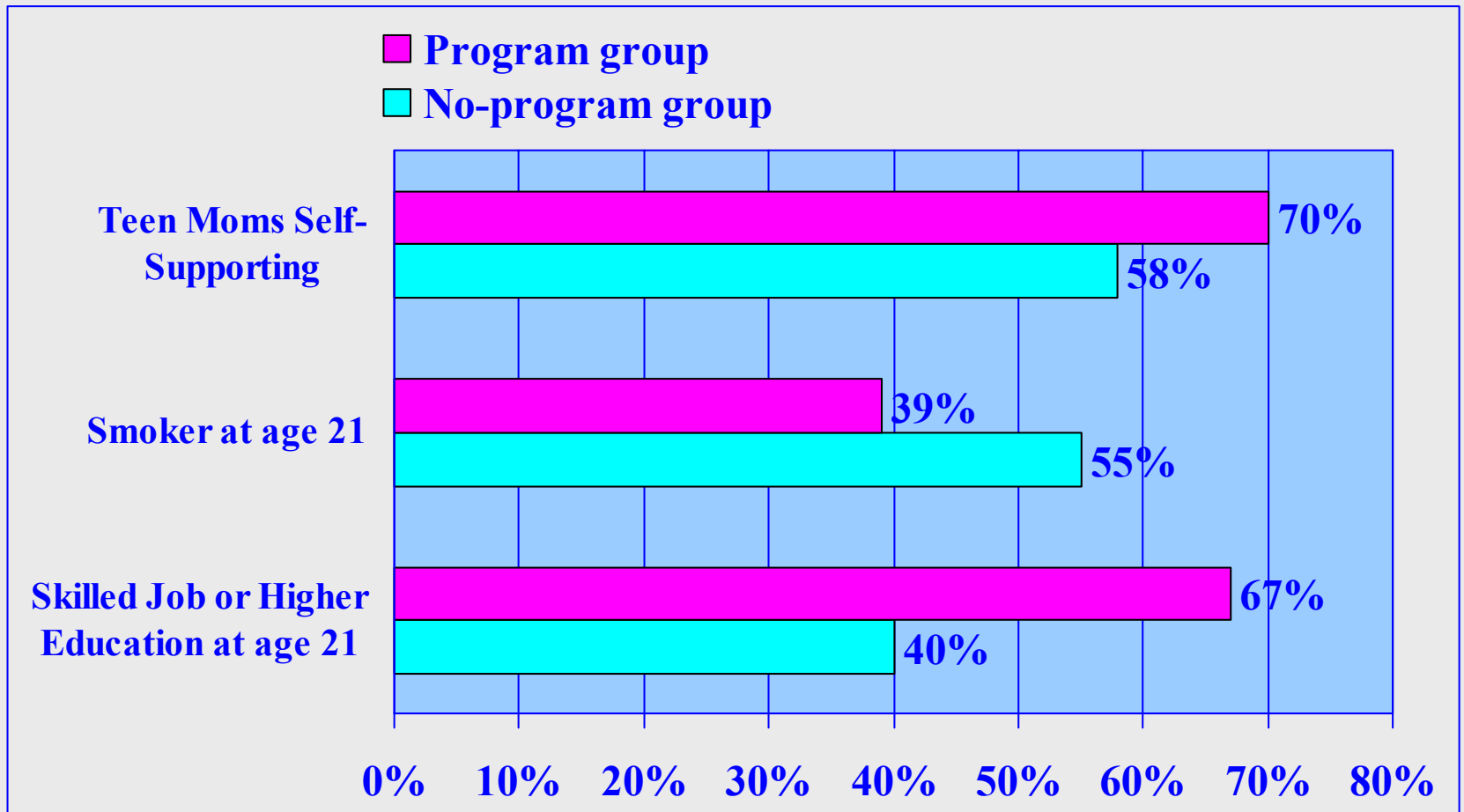
CPC: Academic and Social Benefits at School Exit



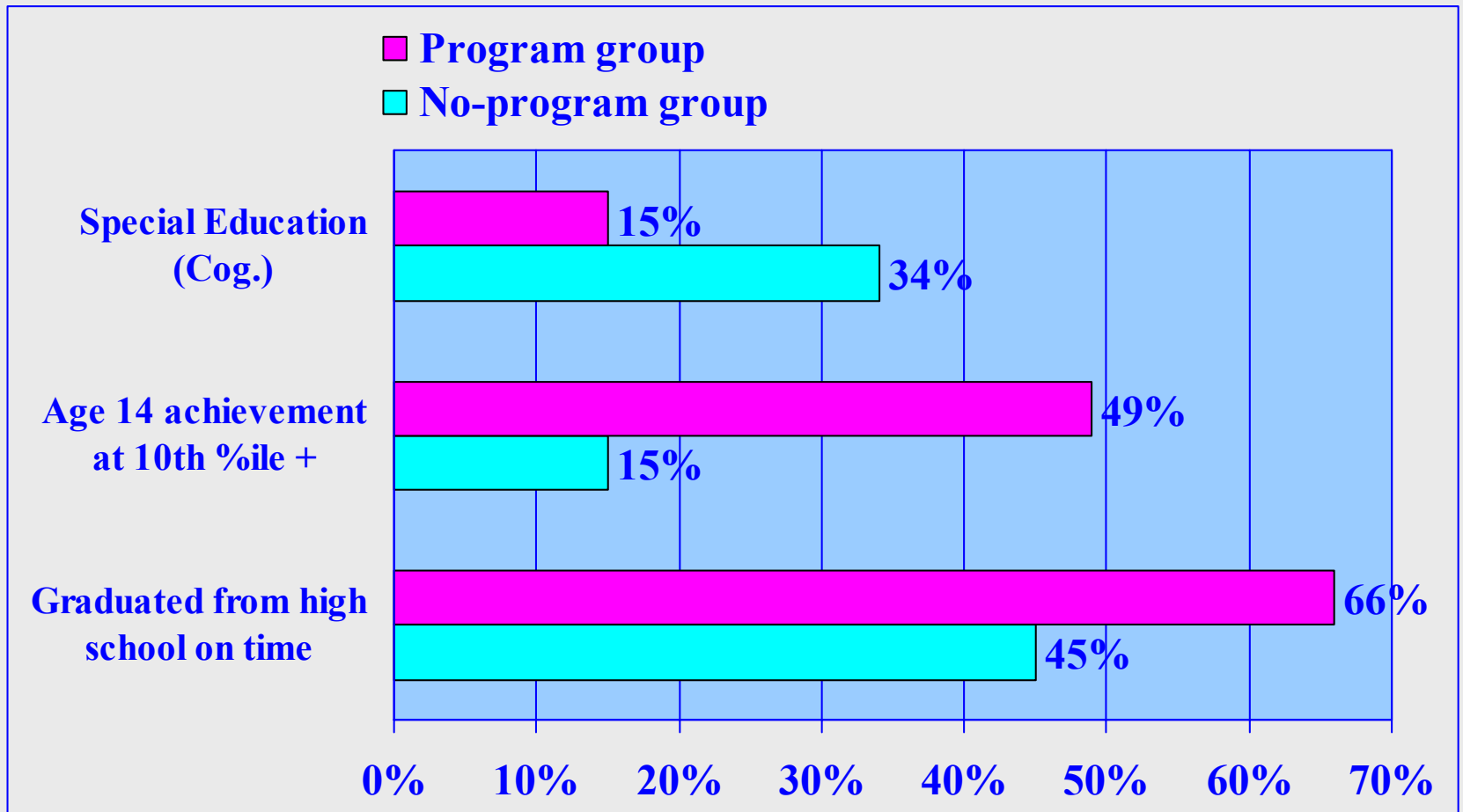
Abecedarian : Academic Benefits



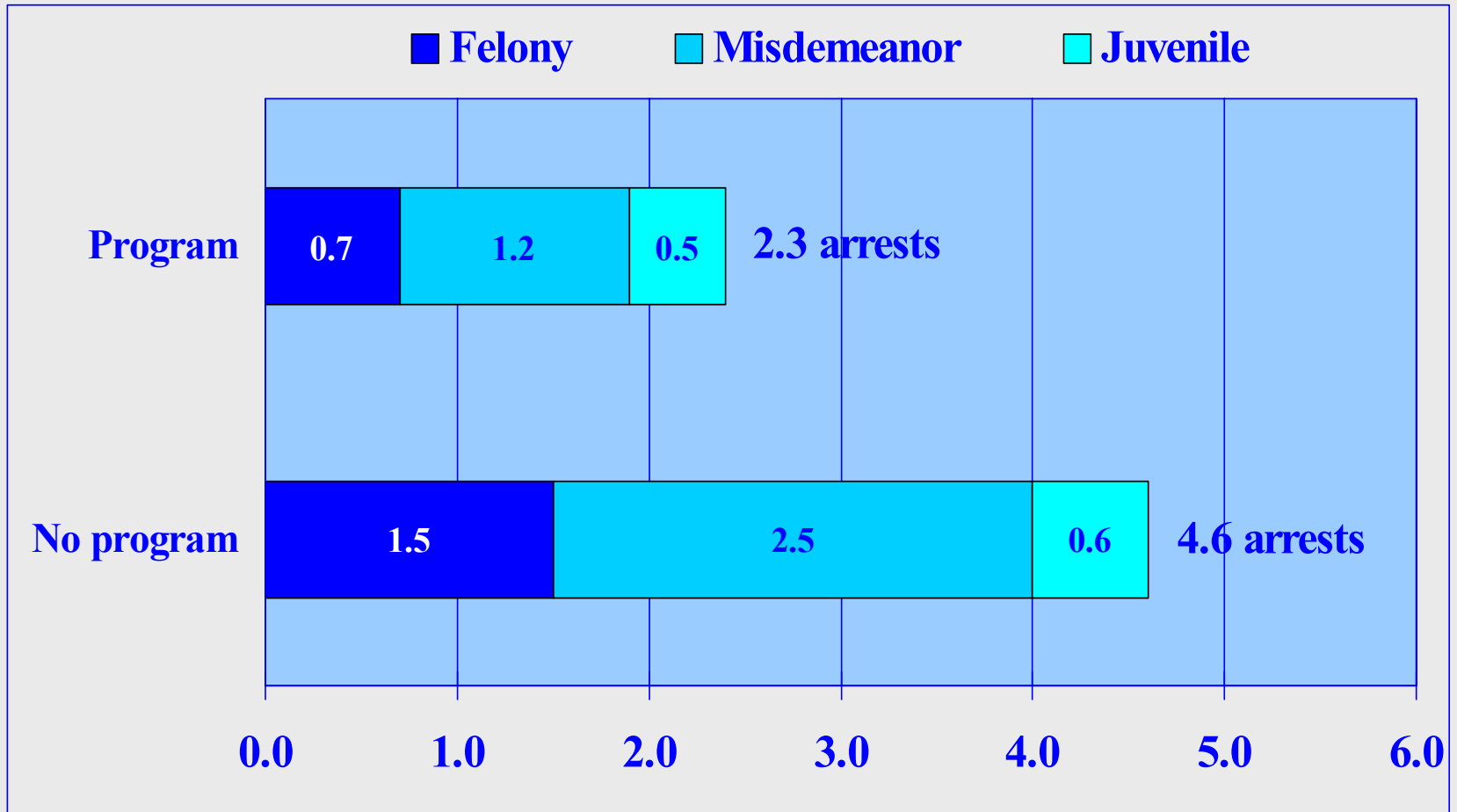
Abecedarian: Benefits to Mothers and Children



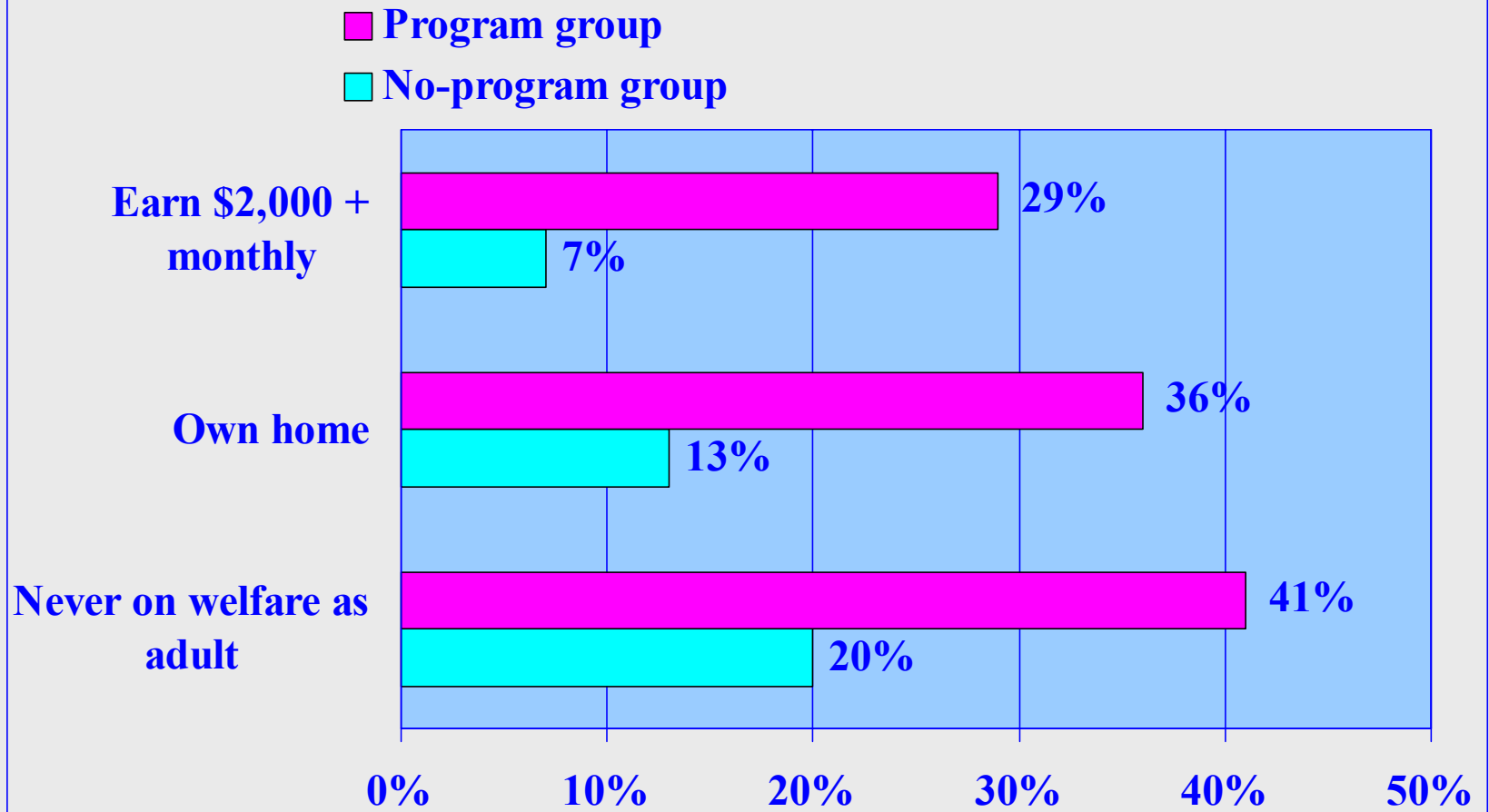
Perry Preschool: Educational Effects



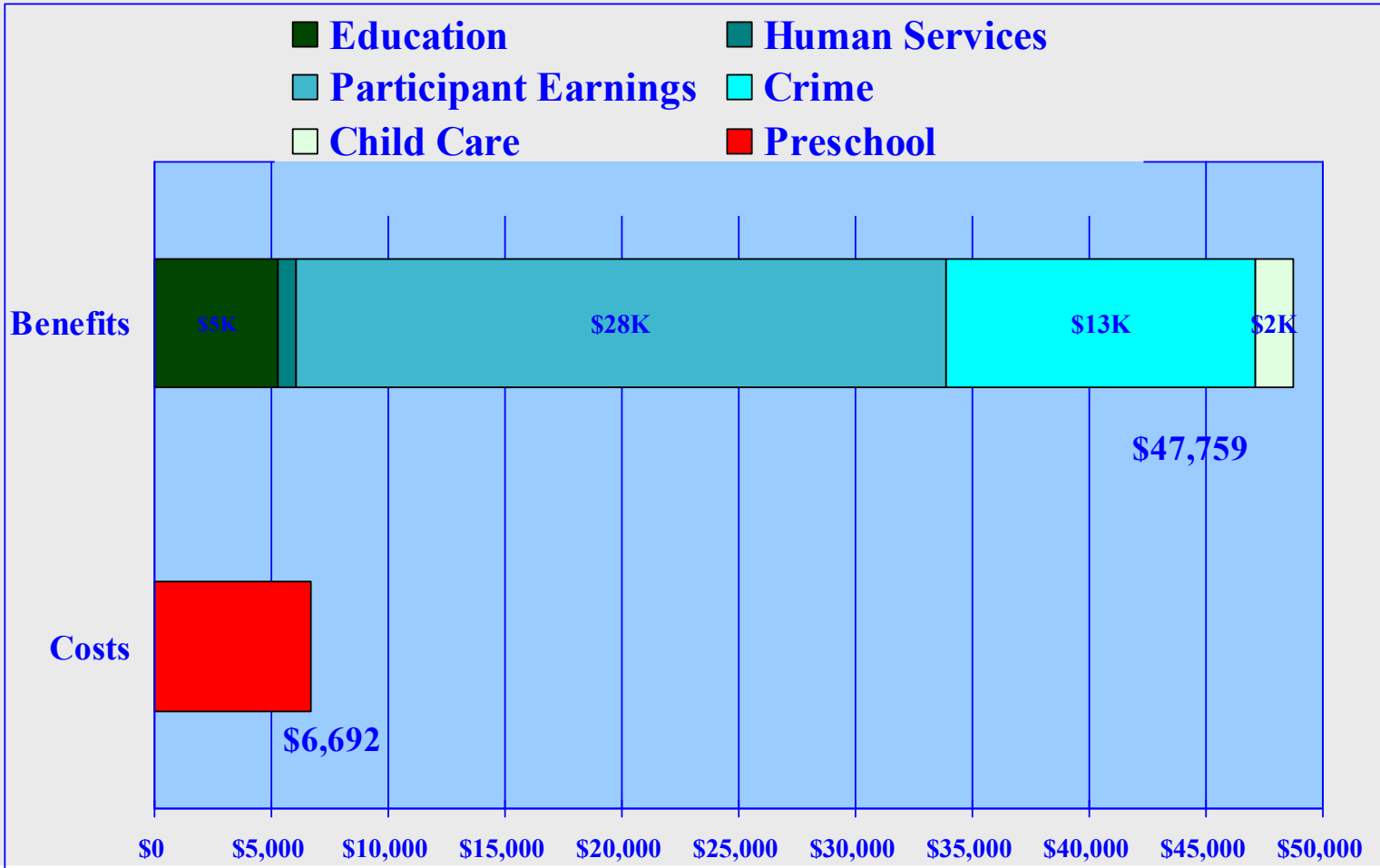
Perry: Arrests per person by age 27



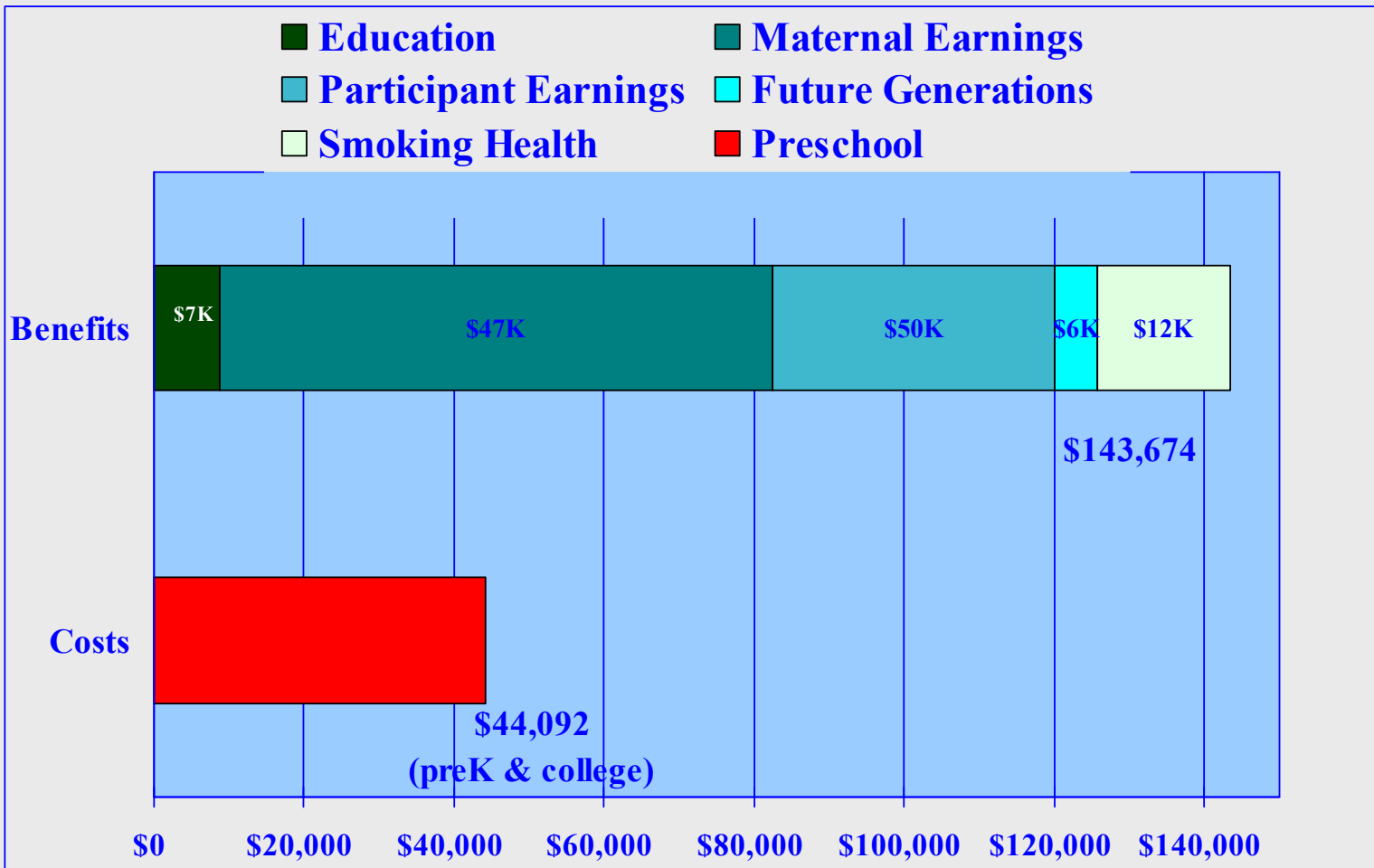
Perry: Economic Benefits at Age 27



CPC: Economic Return

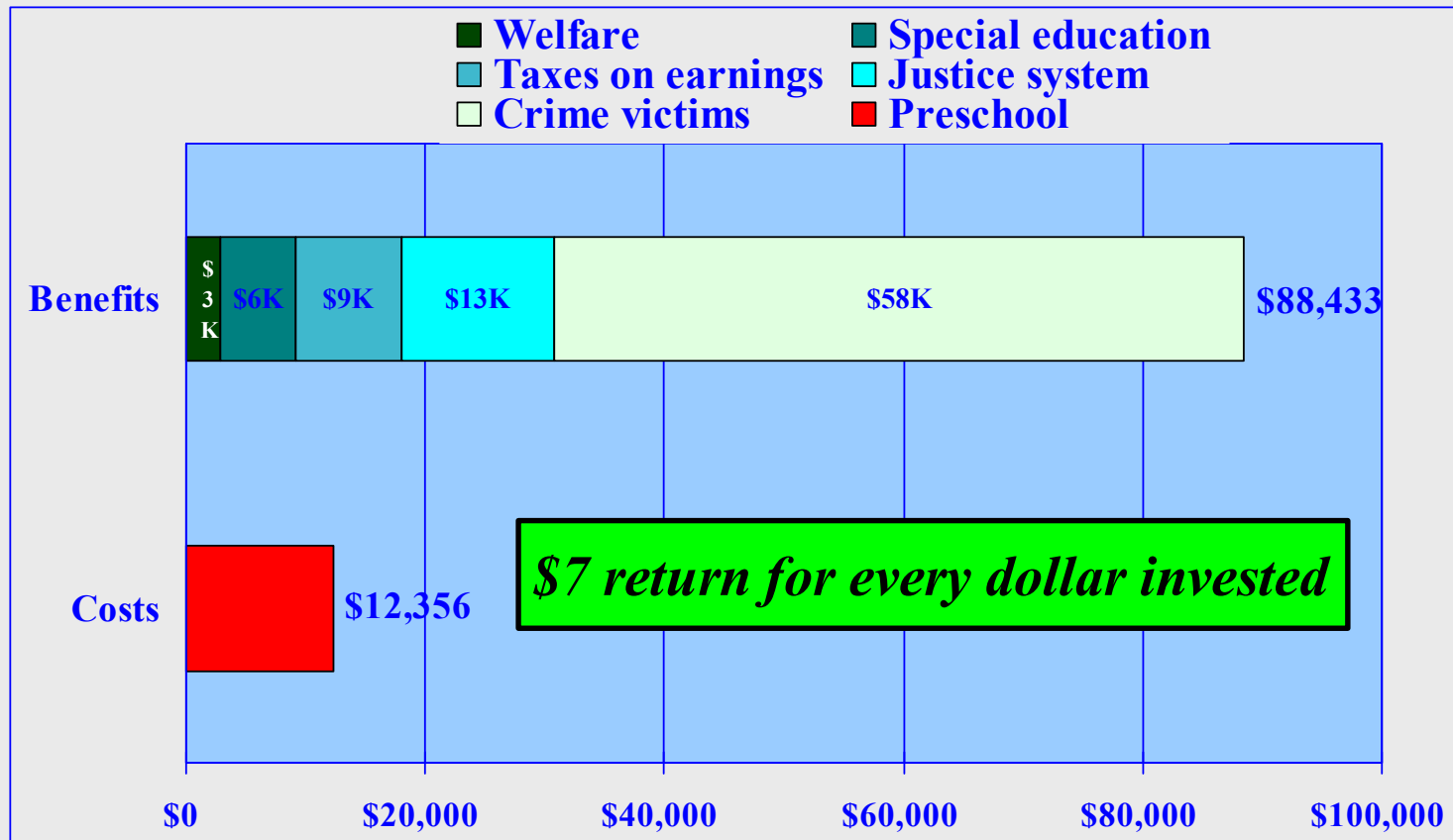


Abecedarian: Economic Return



Perry: Economic Return to the Public

(excludes \$20,000 in economic benefits to participants)



Cost – Benefit Analysis of Preschool for Disadvantaged Children

	Cost	Benefit to Society
▪ Perry Preschool:	\$12,000	\$108,000
▪ Abecedarian:	\$35,864	\$136,000
▪ CPC:	\$7,000	\$ 48,000

All three studies find that economic benefits from intensive, high-quality programs to taxpayers and participants combined far exceed the cost of high-quality programs (comparable to the cost of public education generally).

Could universal preschool produce similar benefits for the middle class?

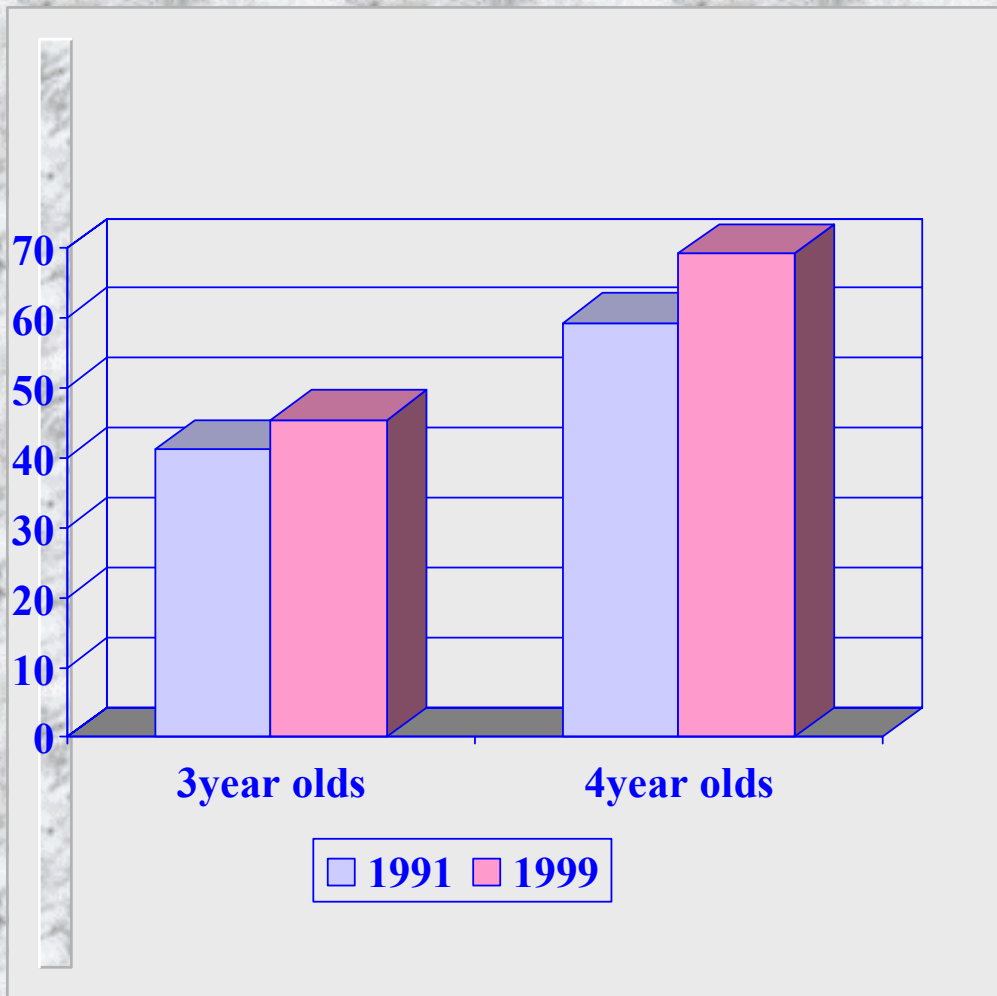
Middle class children have fairly high rates of problems preschool reduces for low-income children.

Reducing these problems could generate large benefits.

<u>Income</u>	<u>Retention</u>	<u>Dropout</u>
Lowest 20%	17%	23%
20-80%	12%	11%
Highest 20%	8%	3%

Source:US Department of Education, NCES (1997). Dropout rates in the United States: 1995. Figures are multi-year averages.

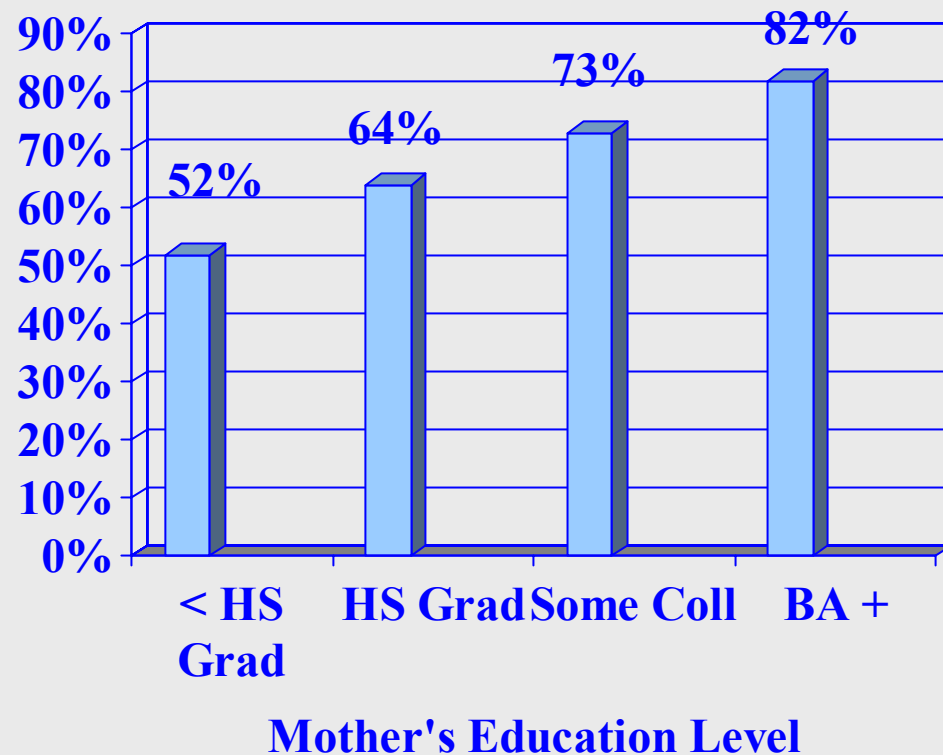
Most preschool children are already in some kind of classroom



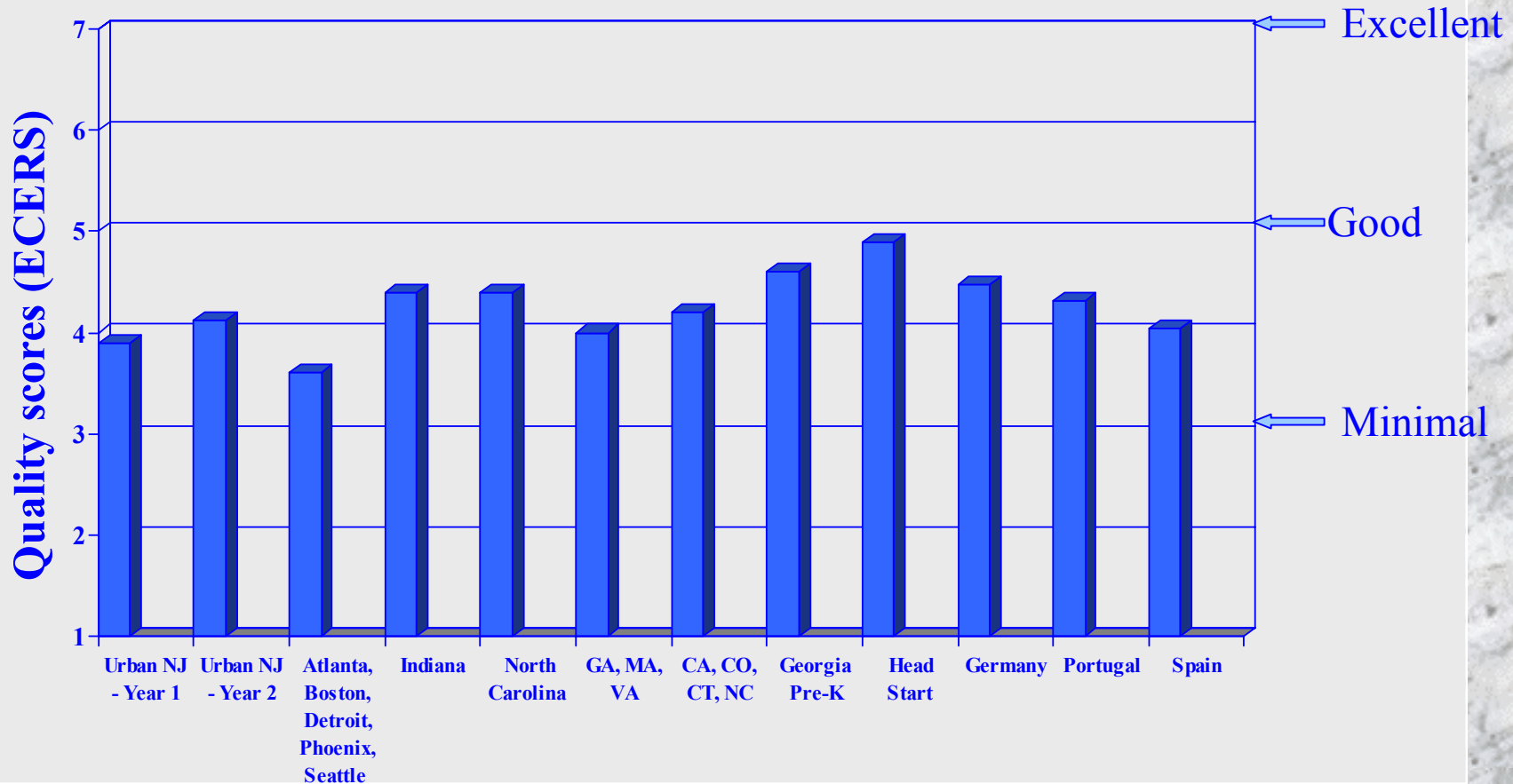
■ The percentage of preschool children in a nursery school or child care classroom has been increasing steadily.

<u>Age</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>Increase</u>
3	41.2%	45.5%	4.3%
4	59.4%	69.2%	9.8%

Participation in Center-based Programs by Mother's Education



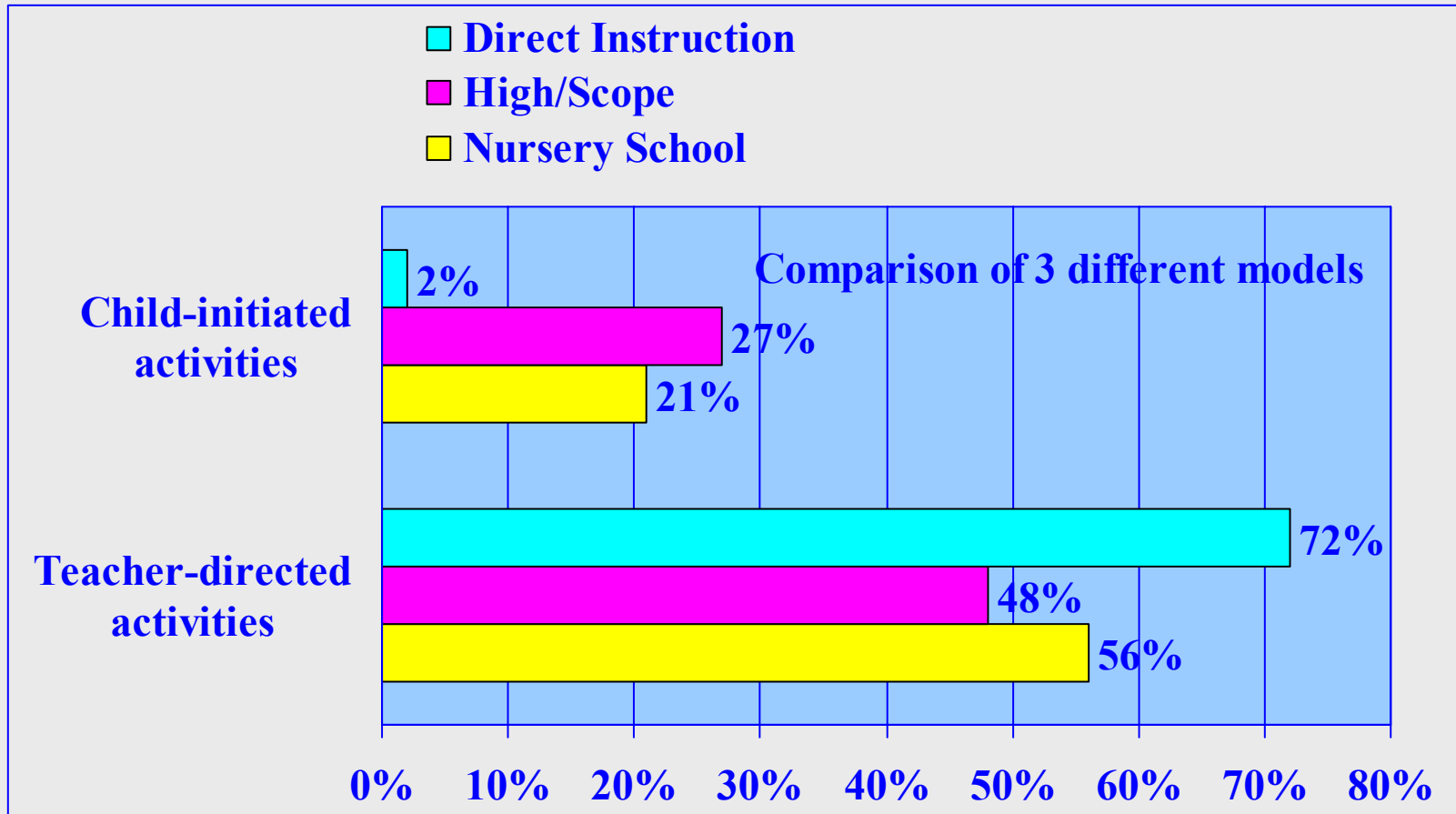
Preschool Classroom Quality is too Low in the United States and Abroad



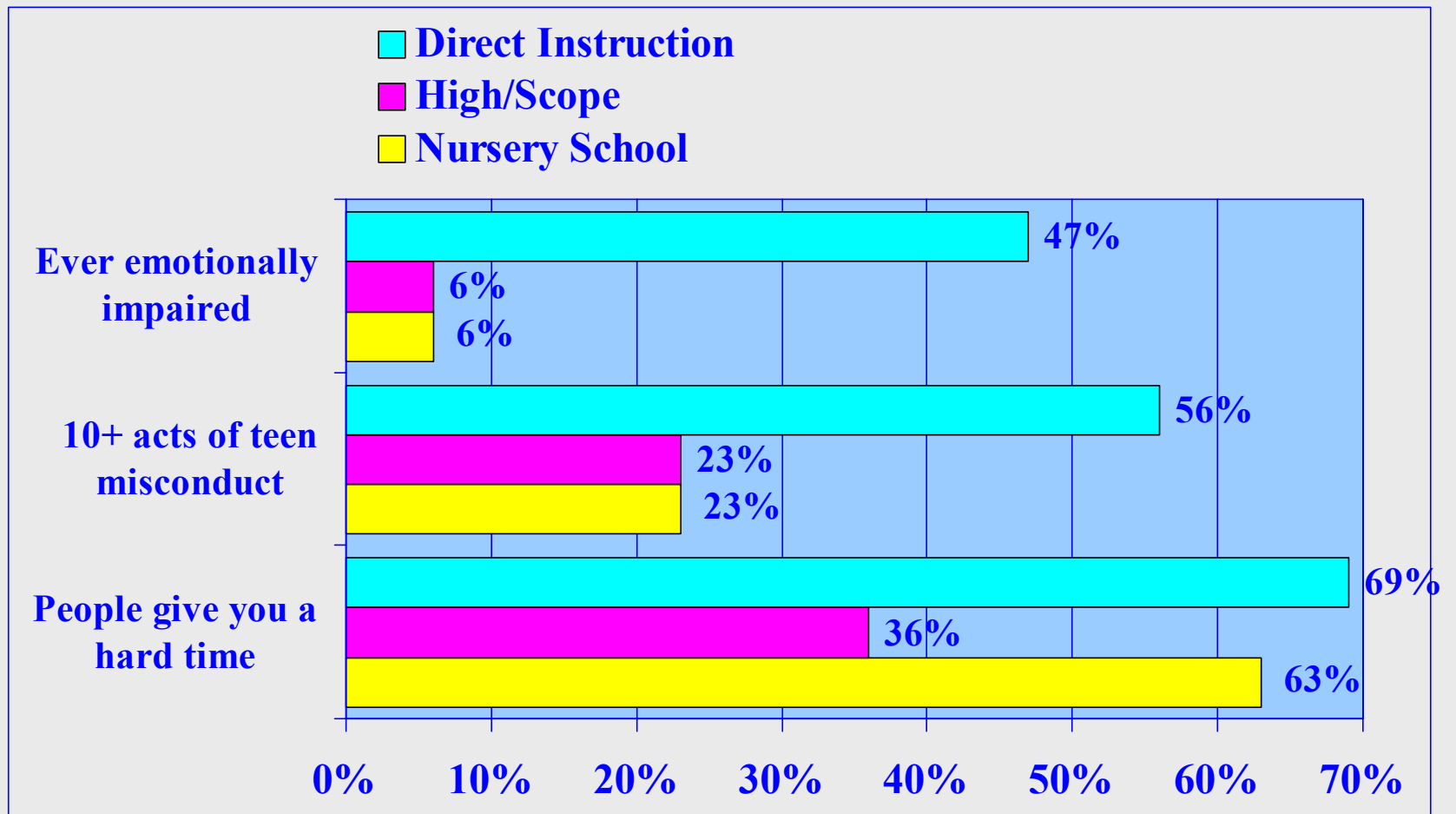
High Quality Preschool Programs Needed to Produce Benefits

- Well-educated preschool teachers
- Adequate teacher compensation
- Small classes
- Strong supervision
- High, broad standards for learning and teaching

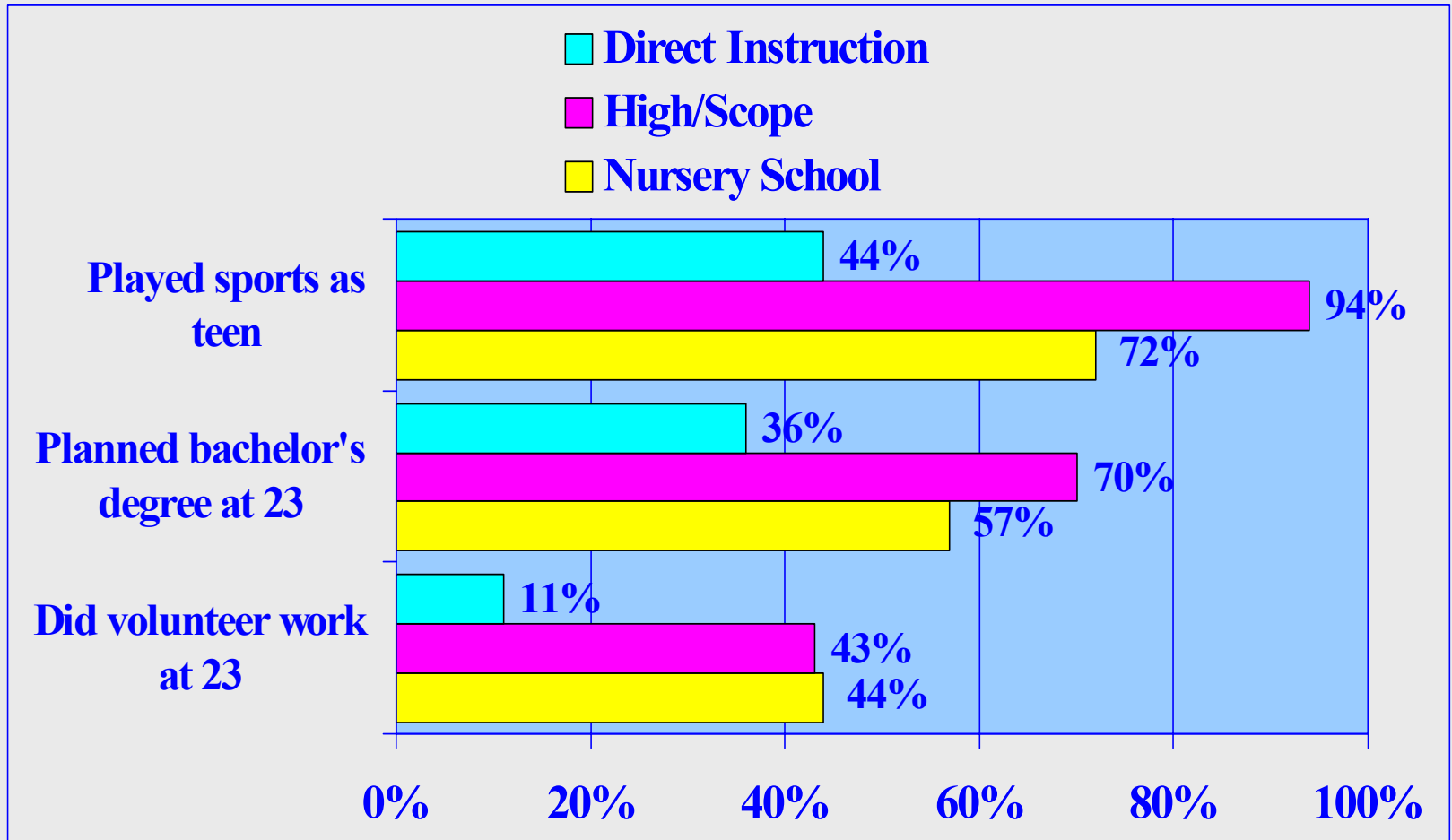
A sound curriculum includes teacher directed and self-initiated learning: Results of an experiment



Negative effects when only direct instruction is used (findings at age 23)



Positive effects when there is substantial self-initiated learning (results at age 23)



Conclusions

- Quality preschool education *can be* a good economic investment
- Most 3-4 year old children already attend some type of classroom
- Quality is too low and must be raised
- Curriculum is more than literacy and academics taught through direct instruction