



ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Presents

**“The State of Early Childhood in Southington”
May 23, 2019**

Joanne Kelleher, Director
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

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Welcome and Introductions



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Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

- Annual Meeting – Board member election
- Southington Library and Museum
- Early Childhood Statistics and Trends

ECSS Board

- Thank you to current board members
 - Michelle Beauregard
 - Krista Pisano
 - Pat Johnson
 - Shannon Fitzsimons
 - Cindy Wall
 - Kanwaljit Singh
- Election – new board member
 - Ryan Howe

Kristi Sadowski Director

Southington Library and Museum

Video: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/1391661701>

Slides: https://www.canva.com/design/DADa1lI0x_A/YfBGCHeso6Ue1AFMseeYxg/view

Goals of Early Childhood Collaborative

- 1) Advocating for high quality preschool and childcare
- 2) Empowering parents, families and childcare providers through workshops and educational programs
- 3) Being a wide-ranging resource for community members on the subject of early childhood care and education

About the Data

- Southington Public School District
- State and Federal Agencies
- United Way ALICE Report
- Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kid Count Data Center
- CFGNB First Years First Survey
- ECCS Surveys and conversations



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**All children
are healthy and
prepared for school.**



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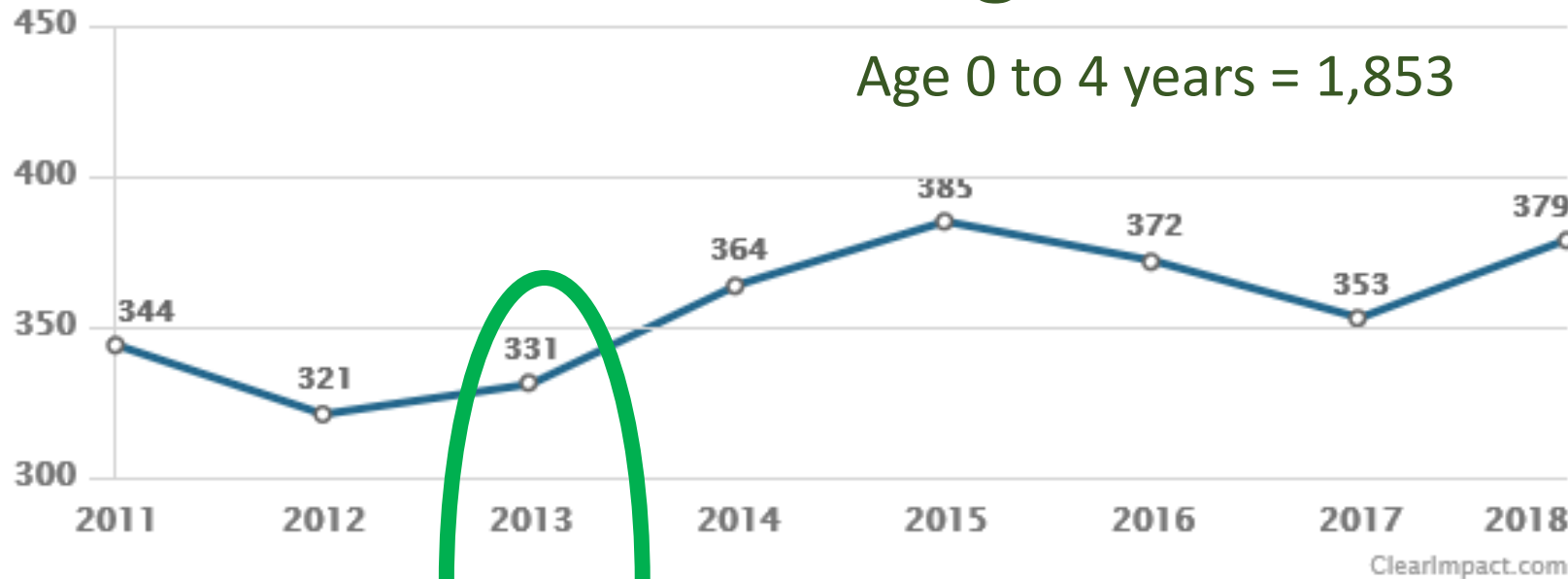
All children
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prepared for school.

What Are We Seeing? All Children

- Increase in Racial and Ethnic Diversity
- Increase in Poverty Levels

How Many Young Children Are There?

Babies Born to Southington Families



Per Connecticut Data Collaborative,
Age 0 to 4 years = 2,307 (± 621)
5.28% ($\pm 0.74\%$) of total population
data.ctdata.org/visualization/population-by-age-by-town

Source: Town Clerk's Office

As of May 2019, 428 registered for Kindergarten in SPS.

Southington Births in 2017

	Total Births	Foreign Born Mothers	%
Southington	355	58	16.4
White non-Hisp	301	33	11.0
Black non-Hisp	9	3	33.3
Other non-Hisp	18	16	94.1
Hispanic	27	6	22.2
Unk Race/Ethn	-		

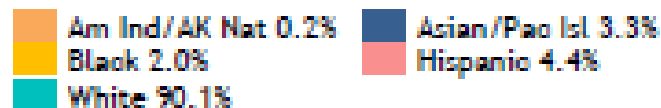
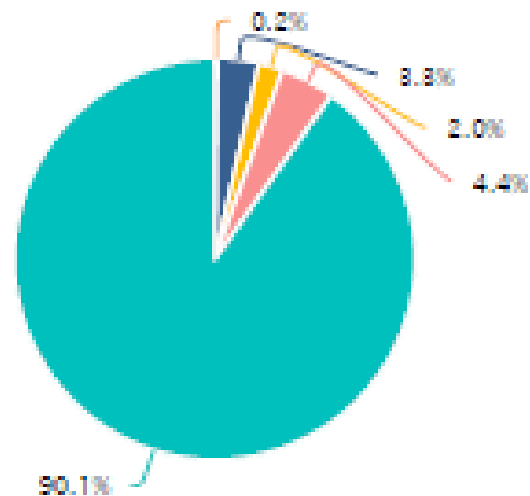
Source - State of CT Public Health Data, 2017 Annual Registration Report, Table 4
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp>

Racial Makeup of District

2009

District Enrollment

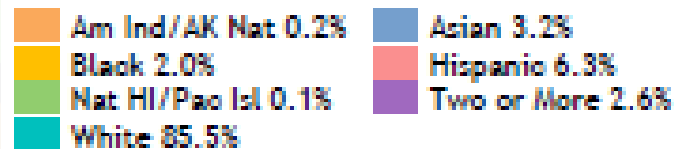
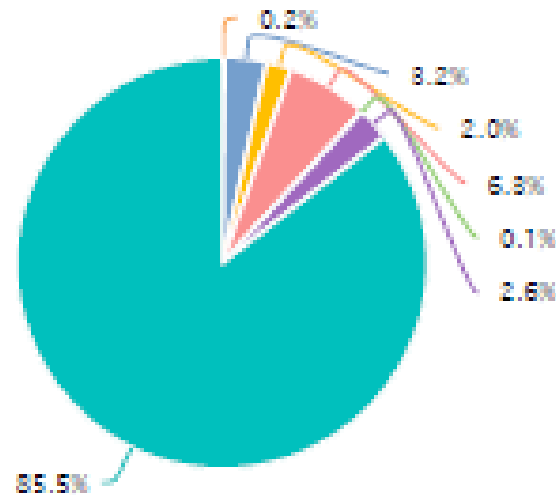
n=6,635



2013

District Enrollment

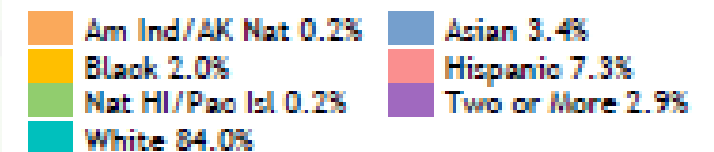
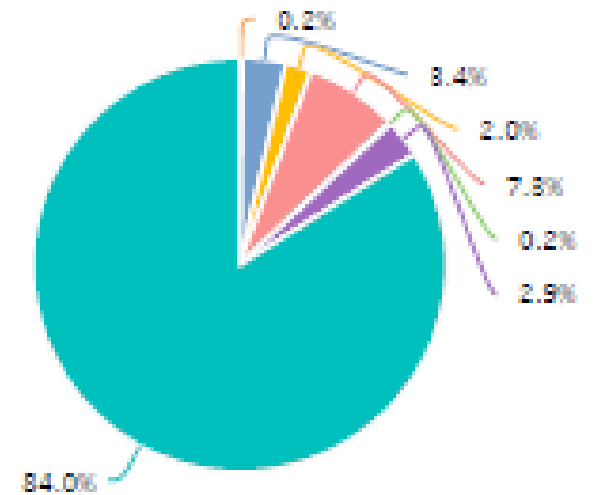
n=6,719



2015

District Enrollment

n=6,593



Source: ocrdata.ed.gov - Southington, LEA Summary of Selected Facts, 2009, 2013, 2015



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English Language Learners - SPS

- 2004-05 - 49
- 2006-07 - 88
- 2017-18 - 109

Parents of children in elementary school speak 21 languages. (2017)

Southington - ALICE

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed
Households that earn more than Federal Poverty Level but less than basic cost of living for the area.

- Poverty: 5%
- ALICE: 24%
- Above ALICE: 72%

Initiatives – All Children

- Advocate – State and local leaders
- Workshops for parents and providers
 - How to Advocate
 - Equity in Education Community Forum
- Community Plan with statistics on website



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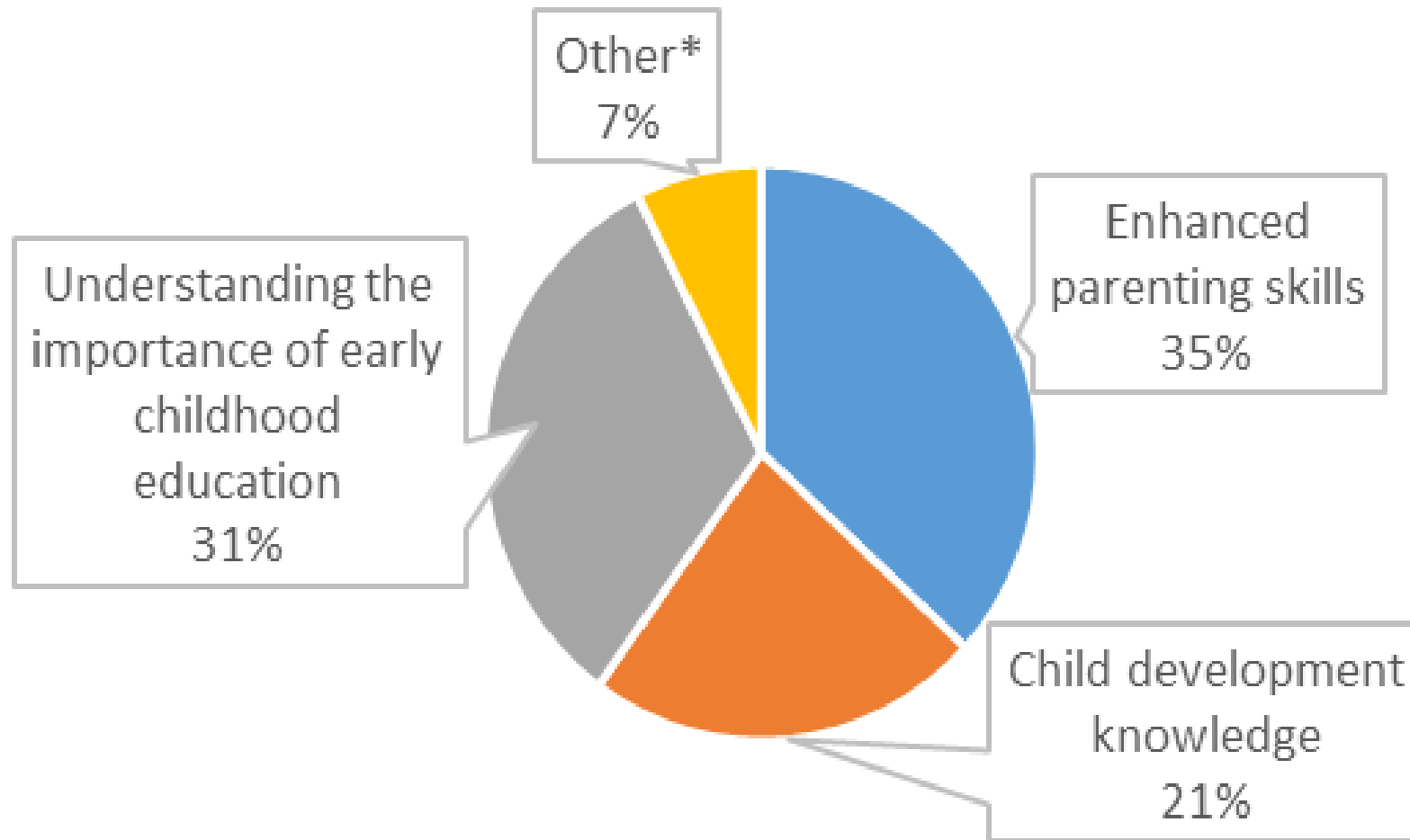
What Are We Seeing? Health

- Increase Awareness around Childhood Trauma
- Increase in Children's Anxiety & Mental Health issues
- Increase in Autism Rates
- Increase in Vaping and Drug Use - STEPS
- Parent lack of understanding

How to Measure?

- Prenatal Care
- Obesity
- Physical Fitness

FYF: What Parents/Guardians Need



New: Child First Home Visiting Program

- Wheeler Clinic to expand serve to Southington
- State Funded via OEC
- No-cost, evidence-based for birth to age 6
- Promote attachment, address trauma, and connect families to services and support
- ECCS to work with Wheeler to support outreach and coordination of community referrals

Initiatives - Health

- Workshops for parents and providers
 - Past Workshops: Brain Growth, Pretend Play and the Outdoors; Childhood Trauma; Domestic Violence; Nutrition; Gardening; Music & Movement
 - Workshop: Behavior and Social-Emotional Learning - TBD
 - Workshops: Child Development – TBD
- Share health, wellness and development topics
- Community events
 - Health Family Funfest
 - Car Seat Safety Checks with SPD – June 1 and late September
 - Bike Safety Rodeo – June 7

CT Car Seat Law

Effective October 1, 2017

[www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/
car-seats-laws/](http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/car-seats-laws/)

**Infants Rear-Facing
until a minimum
of 30 pounds
AND 2 years old**



**Toddlers in
5-Point Harness
until 40 pounds
AND 5 years old**



**In Booster Seat
until a minimum
of 60 pounds
AND 8 years old**



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CT Helmet Law

Effective October 1, 2018

Children under the age of 16 must wear head protection when:

- Bicycling
- Skateboarding
- Rollerblading
- Inline Skating
- Scootering

New Law



www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/health-development/bicycle-safety/



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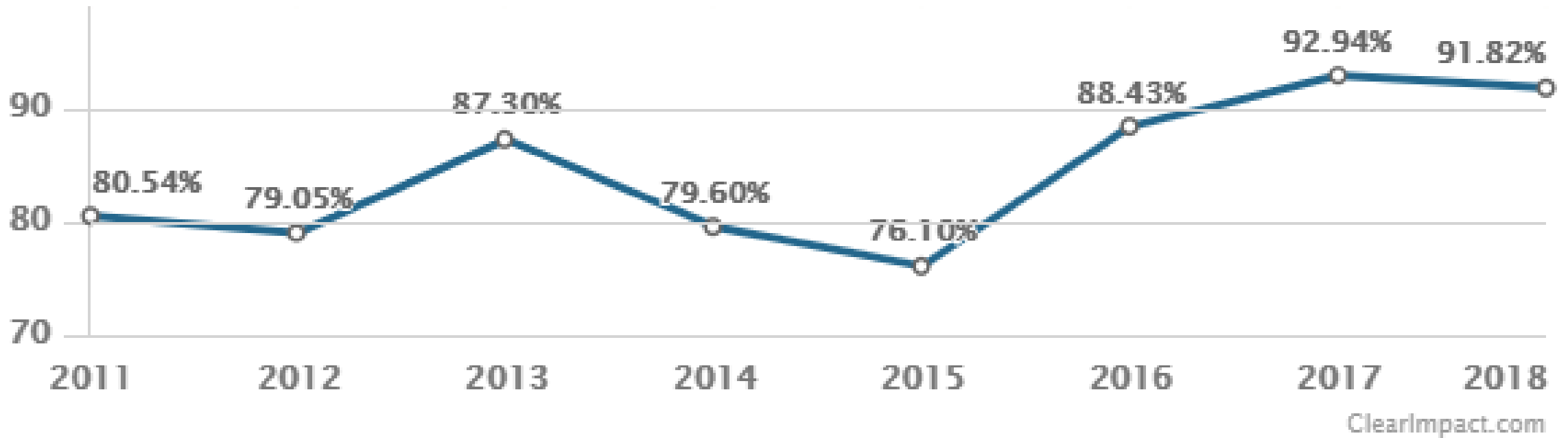
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What Are We Seeing? Readiness

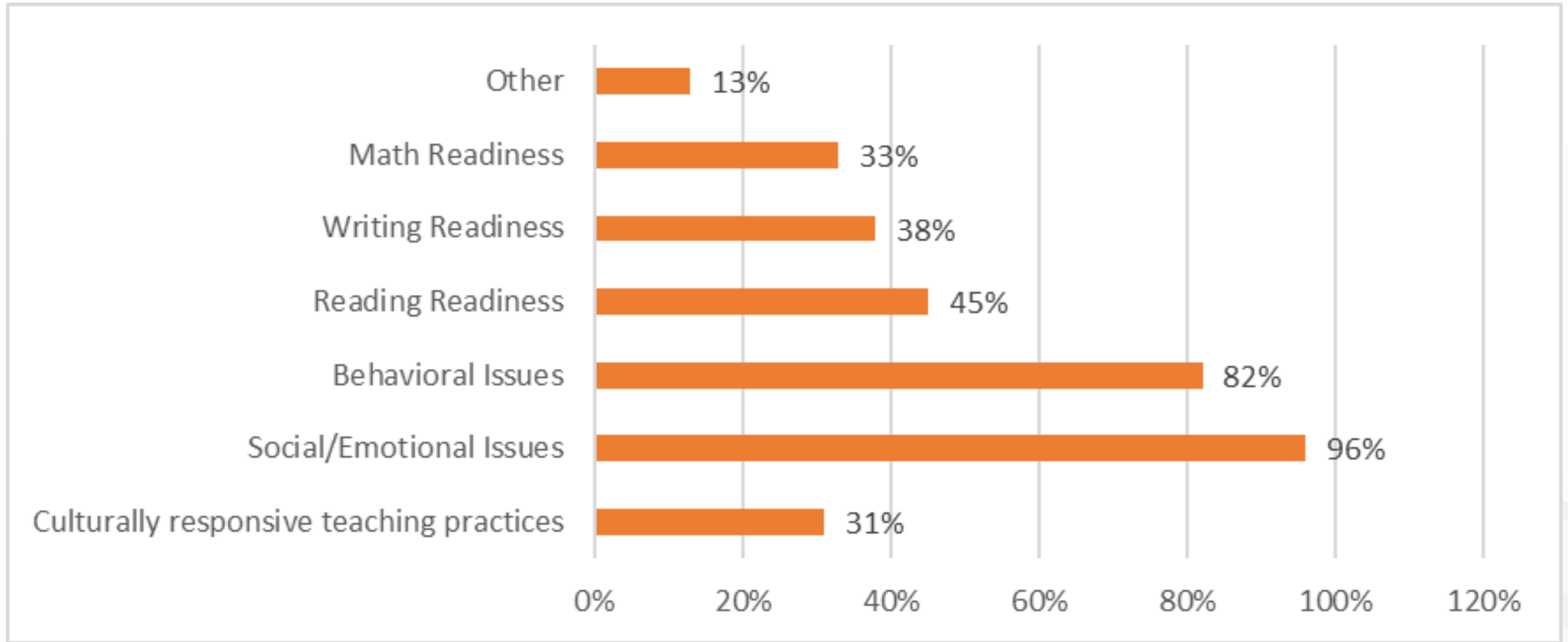
- Increase in “Preschool Experience” rate but ...
- Decline in Gross Motor Skills
- Decline in Fine Motor Skills
- Decline in Empathy
- Decline in Self-Regulation
- Increase in “Screen Time”

Children With Preschool Experience

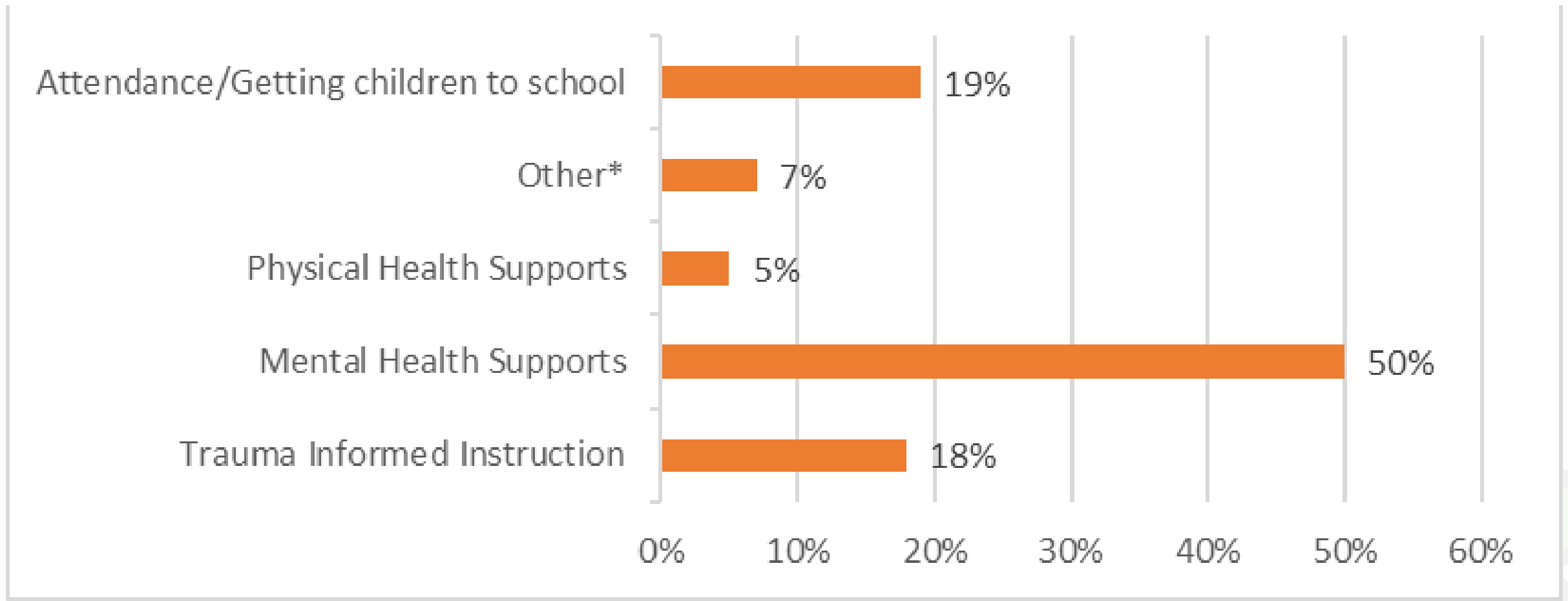


Source: Connecticut State Department of Education and Southington Public Schools (2015-2018)

FYF: What skills or abilities do your students need that impact their school readiness & success?



FYF: What other contributors to school success should FYF focus on?



What Are We Seeing? Childcare Crisis

- Space Availability
- Staffing and Regulations
- Cost
 - Nursery Schools
 - Age 3-5: \$146-310 per month, PT, 2-3 days/week
 - FT Childcare costs = In-State UConn tuition
 - Centers
 - Infants/Toddlers: \$200-\$265 per week FT
 - Preschool: \$150 -\$245 per week FT



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Care4Kids

- A state childcare subsidy for low-moderate income families.
- Cuts in eligibility in 2016 and 2017 due to major budget issues led to decline in enrollment.
 - February 2019 – 68 Centers/7 FCC/7 Relatives = 82 children
- System issues have led to a waiting list.
- Encourage people to apply. Providers must:
 - be licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood (unless exempt from licensing); or
 - be a close relative, like a grandparent; or
 - take care of the child in the child's home.

Source: <http://www.ctcare4kids.com/>



Childcare Staffing and Regulations

- Caregivers work long hours, low wages
- Costs driven by adult-child ratios
- Care 4 Kids – backlog in payments to providers
- OEC Background Checks
 - New Federal Regulation: every 5 years
 - Delay in processing & fingerprinting issues
- Family Childcare Provider applications – long delays

Licensed Childcare Centers – May 2019

	Age	#	Cap
Infant/Toddler	0-35 months	9	380
Preschool	3-5 years	11	934 all ages 3+
School Age	5-12 years	11	

List of all Southington childcare providers and other resources at
<http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/resources>

Family Childcare Providers – May 2019

	Age	#	Cap
Infant	0-23 months	24	48
Preschool	2-5 years	24	144
School Age	5-12 years	25	75

Women-owned small businesses owned run out of their homes.
Licensed, registered and inspected. Must meet training requirements.
Limited to 2 infants and up to 6 pre-school age, plus school age.

Nursery Schools

	Period	#	Cap
Age 3-5	Fall 2018	3	
Age 3-5	Fall 2017	4	196
Age 3-5	Fall 2016	4	248

- Registration starts in January/February for fall and fills quickly
 - Village Green Nursery School – added new classroom Fall 2018
 - Zion Lutheran Nursery School
 - YMCA Nursery School
 - Plantsville Community Nursery School – closed June 2018
- Excludes Pre-K programs at Southington Catholic, CCA and SPS

Source: CT 211 Childcare's Child Care Capacity/Availability/Enrollment Report – Fall 2016 and Fall 2017



Southington PS Integrated Preschool

- Special Education students (CT requirement)
- Community peers register in January, provide own transportation and pay a fee comparable to other nursery schools
- Hatton – 3 classes and Strong – 1 class

Other Pre-School Experiences - Free

- Family Resource Center of Southington
 - Classes for children age 1 to 5 with an adult
 - Six week sessions, year round
- Southington Library
 - Variety of children's programs
 - Children's Department needs more space

Initiatives – Ready for School

- Workshops for parents and providers
 - Kindergarten Readiness, Special Needs Transition
 - Workshop: Special Needs - TBD
- Encourage Pre-K and K registration
- Nursery School Showcase
- Books and math kits for incoming K students
- Answer questions about childcare, providers, etc.

Initiatives – Ready for School

- Share other training opportunities with providers
- Stress Reduction initiative for providers
- Grandparent's initiative
 - Workshop: For Grandparents: What Has Changed -TBD
 - Support online via new Facebook Group

Need Resources? Have a Question?

- Childcare and before/after school options
- Camps and summer programs
- Enrichment activities – dance, sports, music
- Healthcare providers and mental health support
- Kid's events and activities
- Parks, playgrounds and outdoor spaces
- Health and development issues

www.southingtonearlychildhood.org



Support the ECCS

- Tell a Young Family
- [Make a Donation](#)
 - (We get no State, town or SPS funding)
- Volunteer
- Join Board
- Follow, Like, Share Us on Social Media
- Attend Workshops, Events or Fundraisers -
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/events/

Thanks to ECCS Funders



- Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Bristol Brass General Grant Fund and the Fuller & Myrtle Barnes Fund for Education at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Women and Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation



Questions?

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Director

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www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

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