

Surveillance and Monitoring Social and Family Factors Child Well-Being

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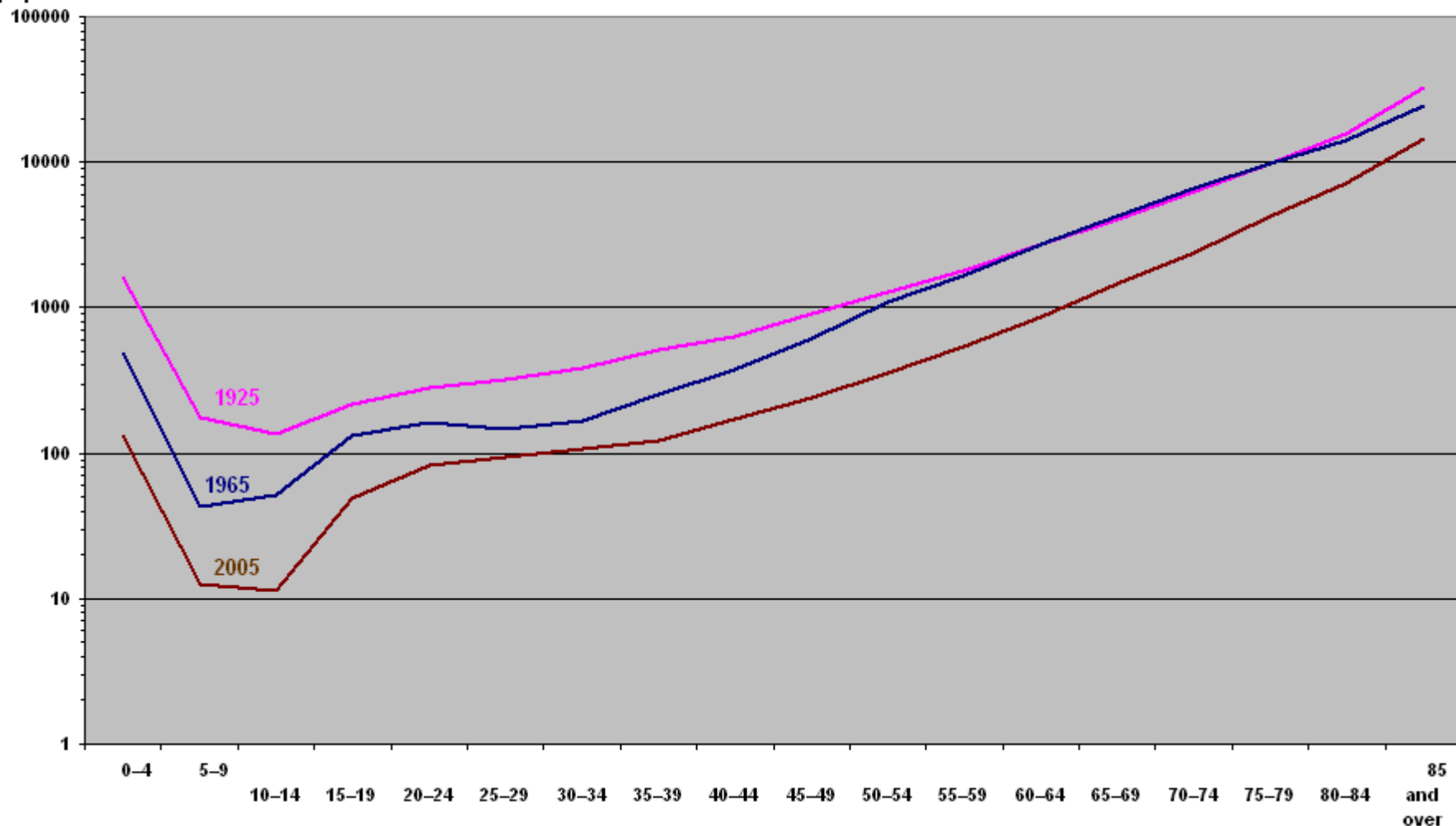
(also Service Director Surveillance and Monitoring
Hunter New England Health, NSW)

Purpose of talk

- Surveillance and monitoring of social and family indicators of child development and well-being using a CATI survey undertaken in Western Australia between 2001 and 2003.
- Of the many uses, the one that is of primary interest to me is the potential for advocating with different sectors
- Future development: need to understand better how to action at local level

Age specific death rates for all causes combined, Australia, 1925, 1965 and 2005

No. of deaths
per 100,000
population



Source: Tursan d'Espaignet et al, AIHW, 1991; and ABS 2007 (unpublished data)

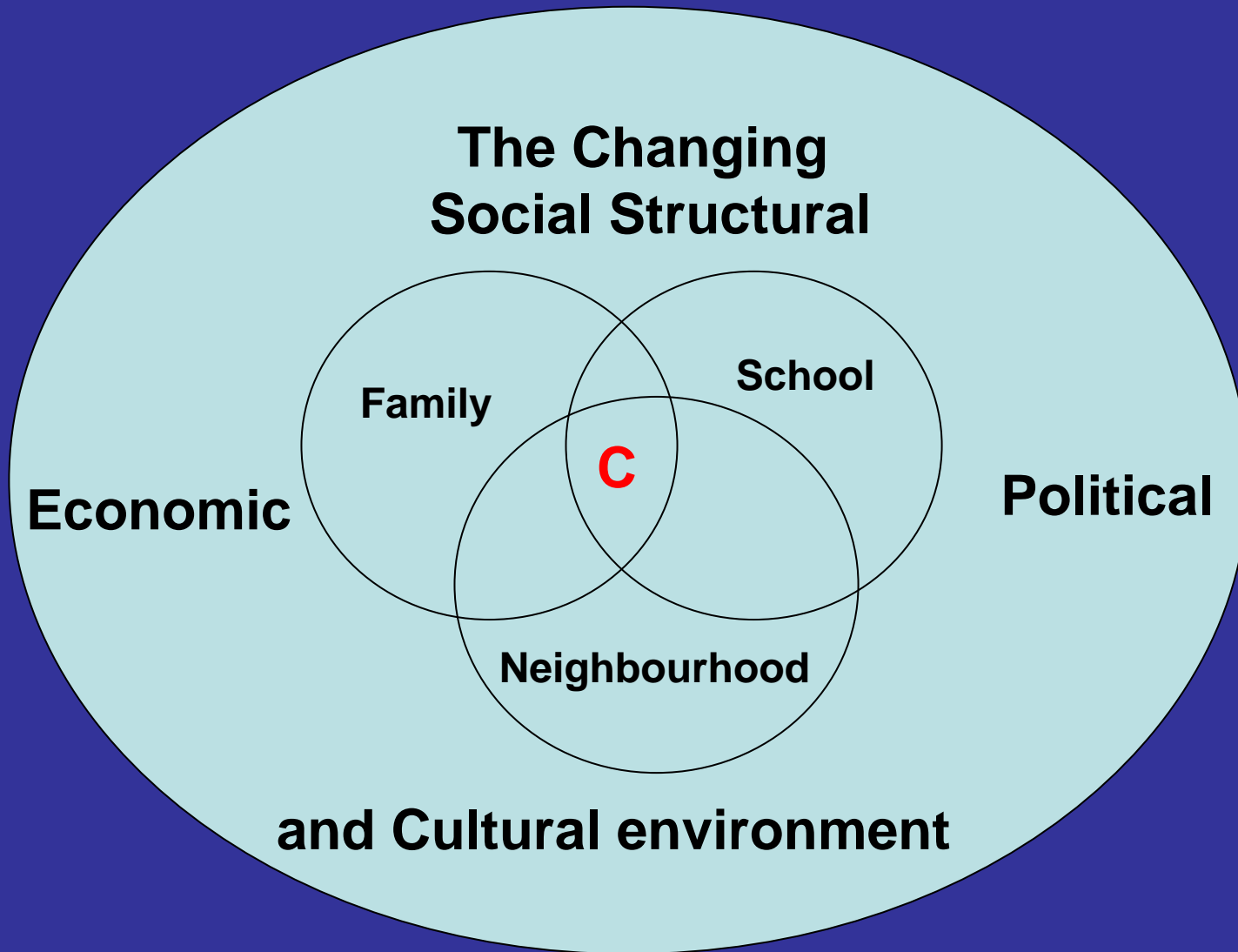
The changing epidemiology of Child Health

- Increased invisibility of child health as an issue in the 1950s-1980s
- Growing unease in the late 1980s – early 1990s
- Increasing concern with developmental issues since then

Developmental Issues

- **Physical health outcomes** (LBW, SIDS, failure to thrive)
- **Developmental and learning outcomes** (cognitive development, speech and language)
- **Mental health outcomes** (Attention, aggression, emotional)
- **Risk behaviours** (alcohol, smoking, eating disorders, unsafe sex)
- **Academic outcomes** (poor academic achievement, alienation)
- **Social outcomes** (family breakdown, child abuse, detached care)

Ecological Framework of Influence



Social and Family Functioning surveillance indicators

- Income
- Time
- Human capital
- Psychological capital
- Social capital

Methods

- Well-Being survey CATI questionnaire: relationship between emotional health status and social and family indicators
- Collaboration between WA Dept of Health (agency who commissioned the data as part of its Surveillance system) and Telethon Institute for Child Health Research who has helped with analysis of the data.
- Total sample of 3,503 children for period 2001-2003.
- This particular set of data does not cover the area of social capital although the Department has since collected these data.

Definition of Emotional Health Problem

- Overall, does your child have trouble with emotions, concentration, behaviour or getting on with people? Would you say:

No

Only a little

Quite a lot

Very much

Unsure/ Cannot remember

Refused

Prevalence of emotional health problems by age of child (weighted)

Age of child (yrs)	No. with Problems	%	No. without problems	%	Odds ratio (95% CI)	p value
12 – 15	258	30.0	600	70.0	1.51 (1.22 – 1.86)	< 0.001
5 – 11	616	35.6	1116	64.4	1.94 (1.62 – 2.32)	< 0.001
1 – 4	210	22.2	738	77.8	1.00	—

Prevalence of emotional health problems by sex of child (weighted)

	No. with Problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p value
Boys	633	34.7	1191	65.3	1.53 (1.31 – 1.80)	< 0.001
Girls	451	26.3	1263	73.7	1.00	—

Income

- Annual household income:
\$: <20k, 20-39k, 40-59k, 60-79k, 80+
- Spending more than we get
Just enough to get through to next pay day
Some money left over but spend it
Save a bit every now and then
Save a bit regularly
Save a lot

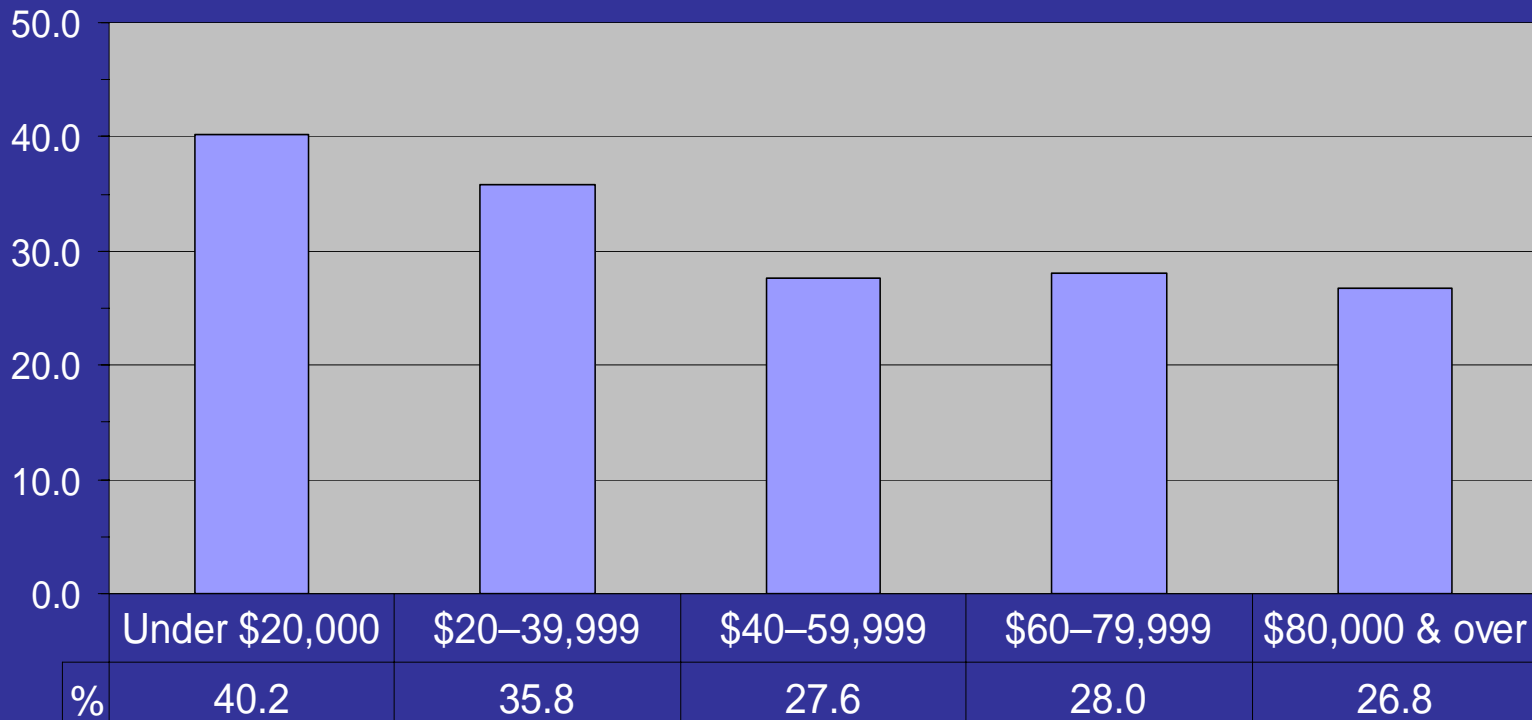
Household annual income & emotional health problems

Annual income (\$)	No. with problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p value
\$80,000 +	199	26.8	544	73.2	0.54 (0.42 – 0.71)	< 0.001
60 – 79,999	194	28.0	499	72.0	0.58 (0.44 – 0.76)	< 0.001
40 – 59,999	259	27.6	679	72.4	0.57 (0.44 – 0.73)	< 0.001
20 – 39,999	286	35.8	515	64.3	0.83 (0.64 – 1.07)	0.145
0 – 19,999 Reference	146	40.2	218	59.8	1.00	—

Emotional health problems in children by annual household income

%

Percentage

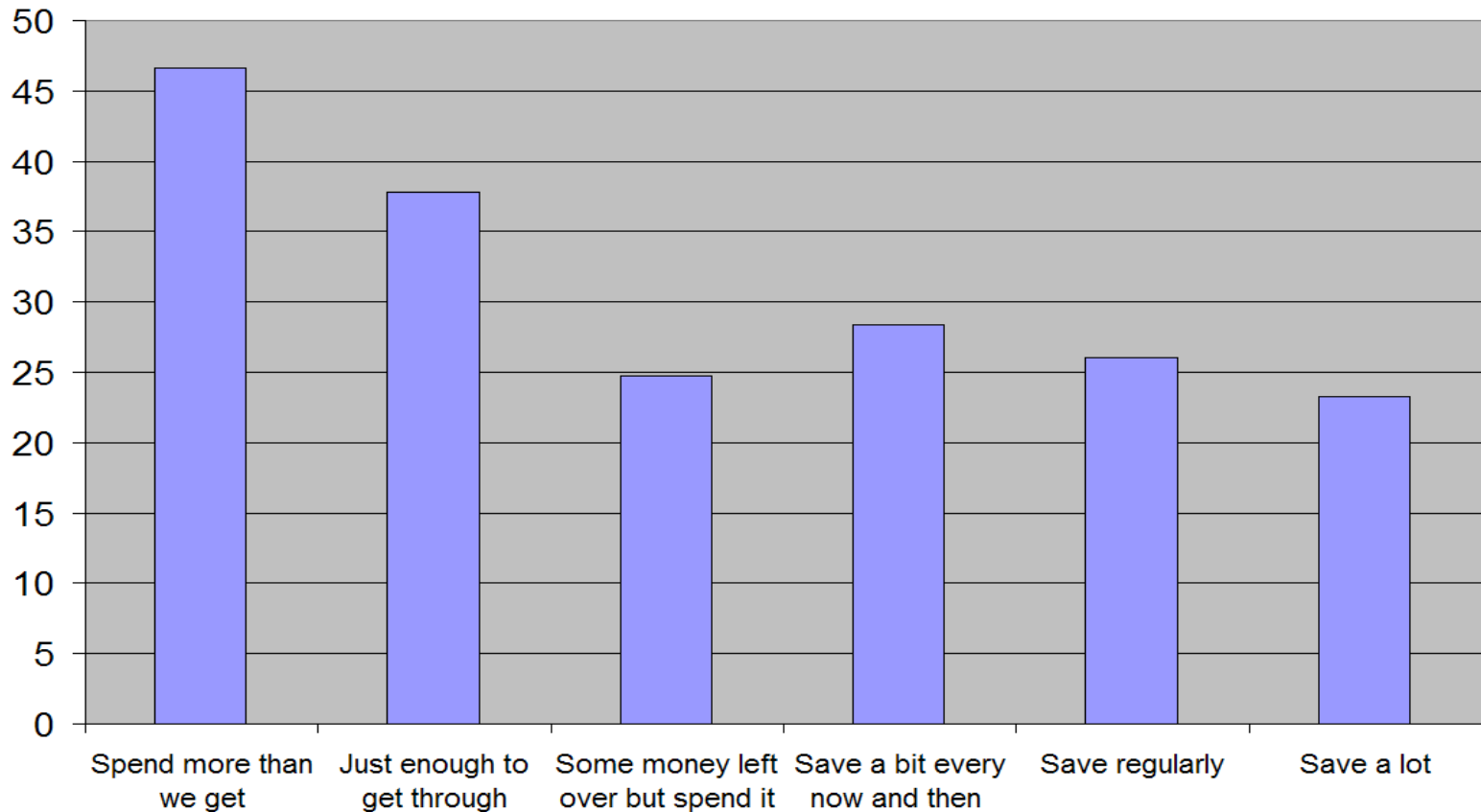


Income flow (spending patterns) & emotional health problems

	No. with problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p value
Spend more than we get	93	46.6	106	53.4	1.00	
Just enough get through	324	37.8	533	62.2	0.70 (0.51 – 0.95)	0.024
Save a bit now & then	429	28.4	1081	71.6	0.48 (0.35 – 0.64)	< 0.001
Save regularly	80	26.0	229	74.0	0.40 (0.27 – 0.59)	< 0.001
Save a lot	70	23.3	230	76.7	0.35 (0.24 – 0.51)	< 0.001

Income flow and emotional health problems

Percent



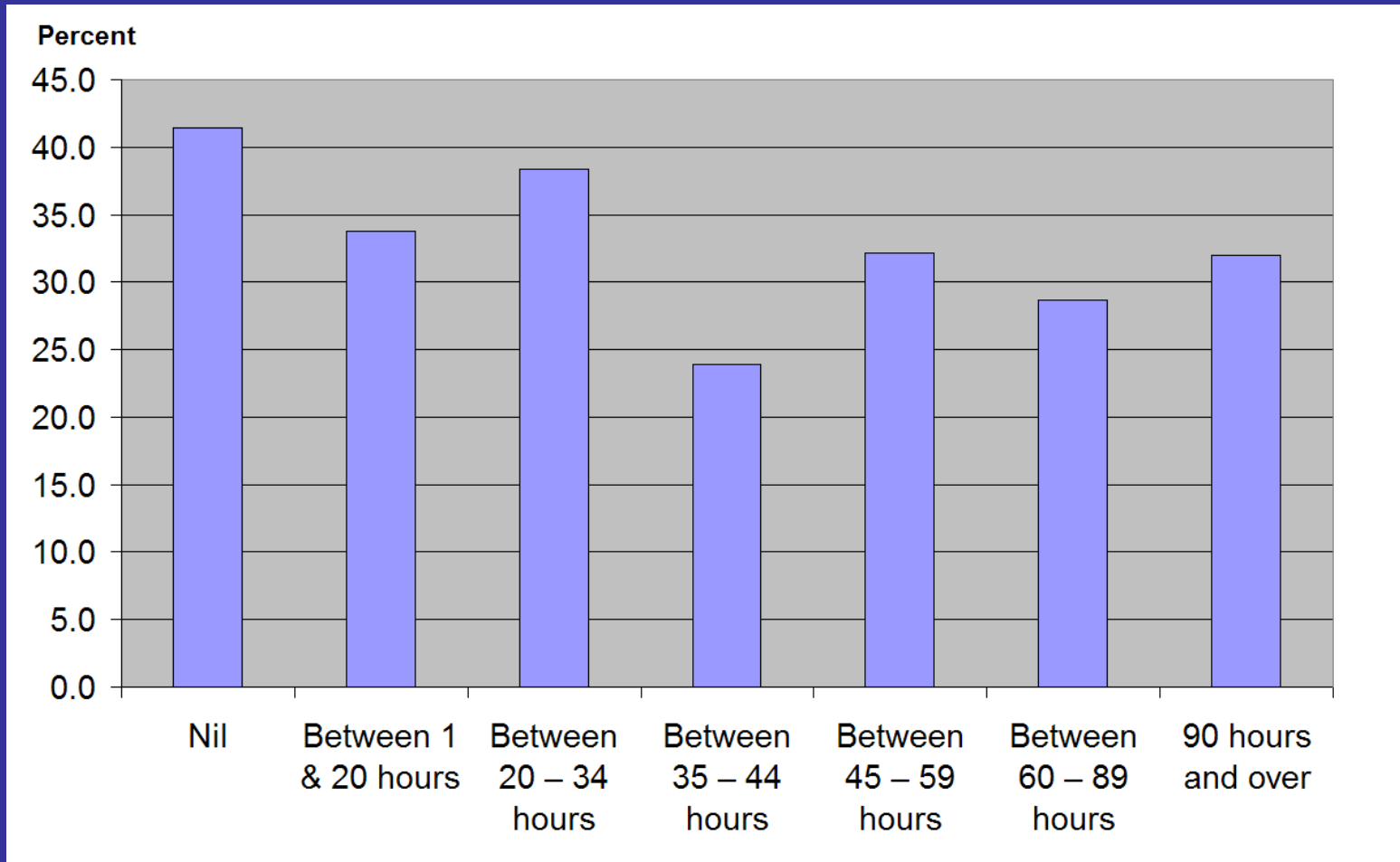
Time

- No. of hours family worked per week
- Family working arrangement: Full-time / part-time / Employed / Unemployed / One parent or two-parent families
- No. of hours of TV watched/computer games played per week by child

No.of hours worked by family & emotional health status of children

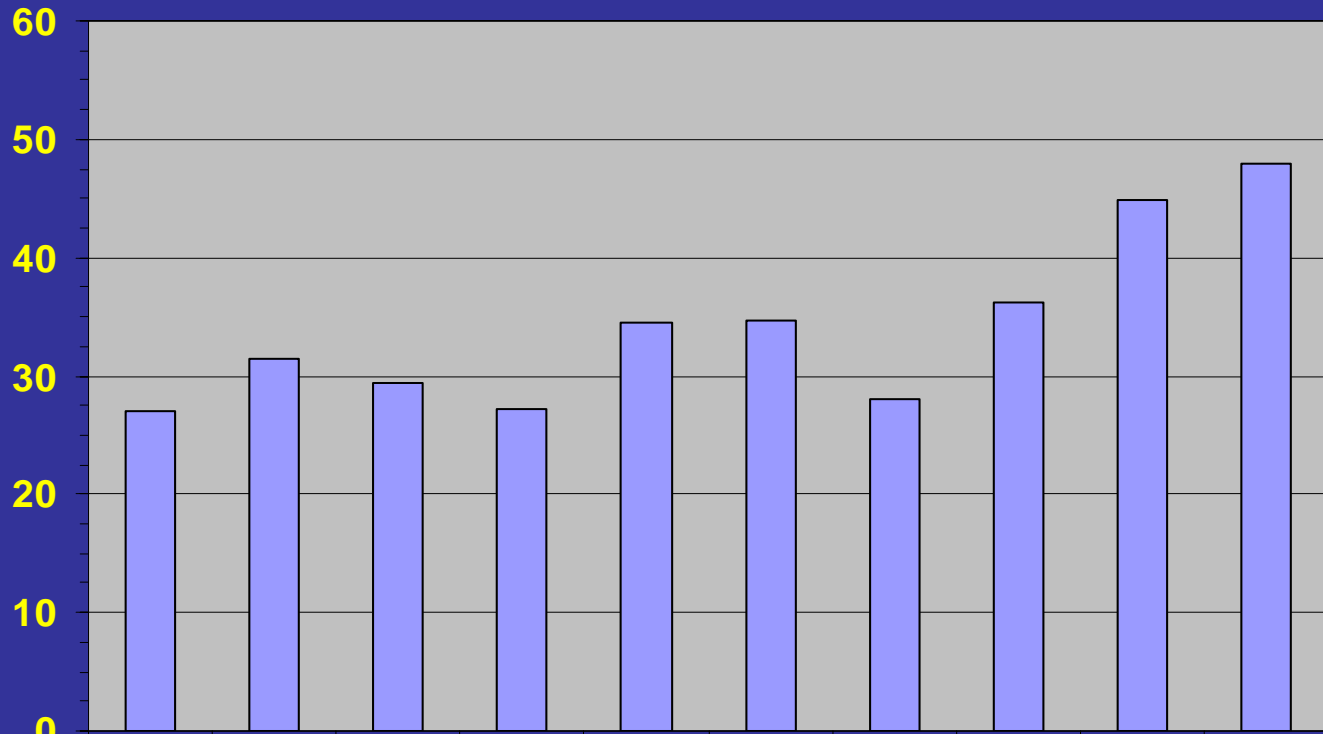
No. of family work hours	No. with problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Nil	149	41.4	211	58.6	2.25 (1.71 – 2.97)	< 0.001
1-20 hours	57	33.8	113	66.2	1.62 (1.13 – 2.34)	0.009
20-34 hours	52	38.3	84	61.7	1.98 (1.34 – 2.92)	0.001
35-44 hours	159	23.9	507	76.1	1.00	–
45-59 hours	232	32.2	488	67.8	1.51 (1.19 – 1.92)	0.001
60-89 hours	351	28.7	872	71.3	1.28 (1.03 – 1.59)	0.025
90+ hours	84	32.0	179	68.1	1.50 (1.09 – 2.05)	0.012

No. of family work hours and emotional health problems in children



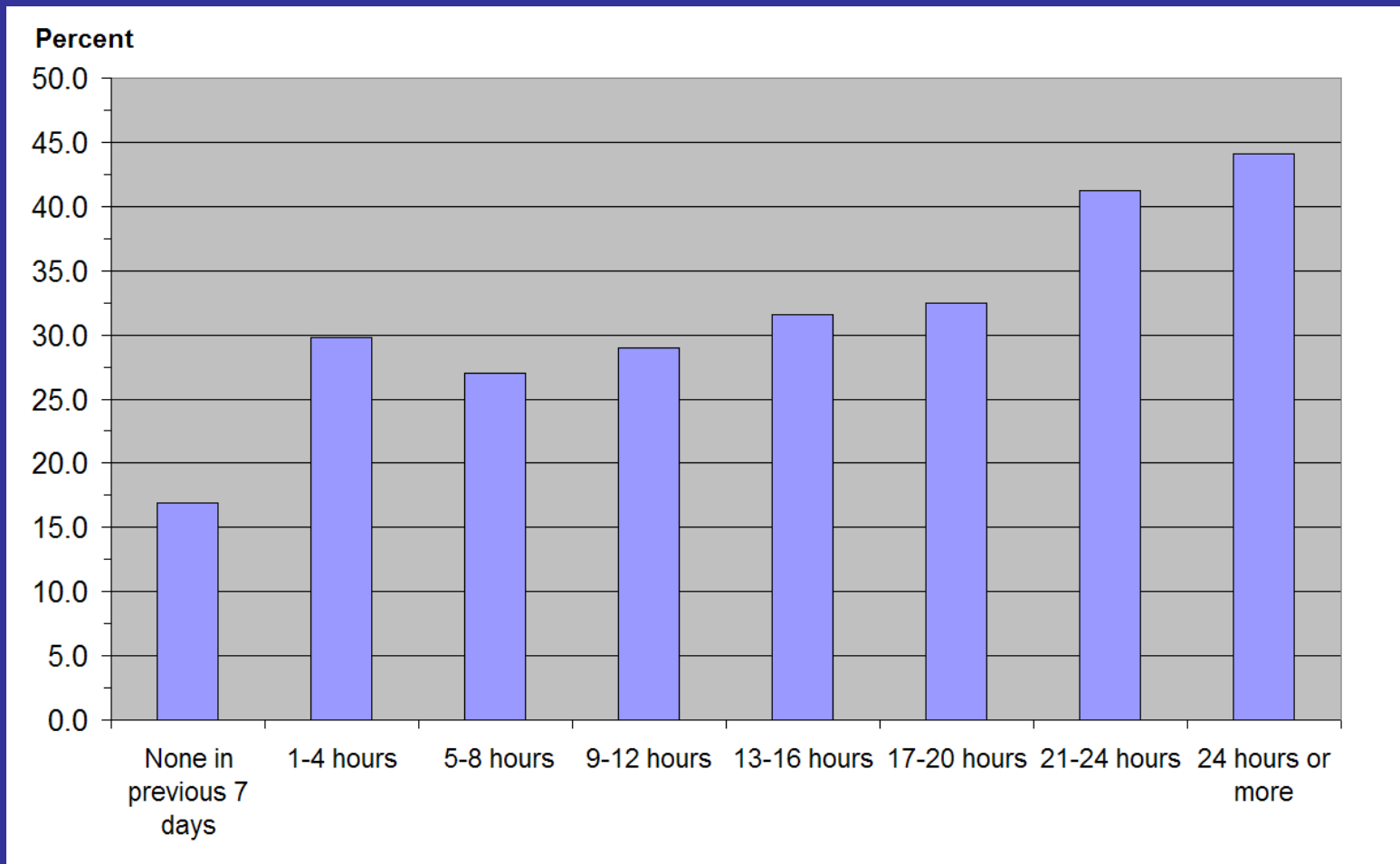
Proportion of Children with Emotional Health Problems by Family Work Arrangement

Percent



	1FT 1PT	Both FT	1FT 1UE	Both PT	1PT 1UE	Both UE	Single FT	Single PT	Single UE	Unspe c
Arrangement	27.1	31.4	29.4	27.2	34.5	34.6	28.1	36.2	44.9	48.0

No. of hours of TV child watches and emotional health problems in children



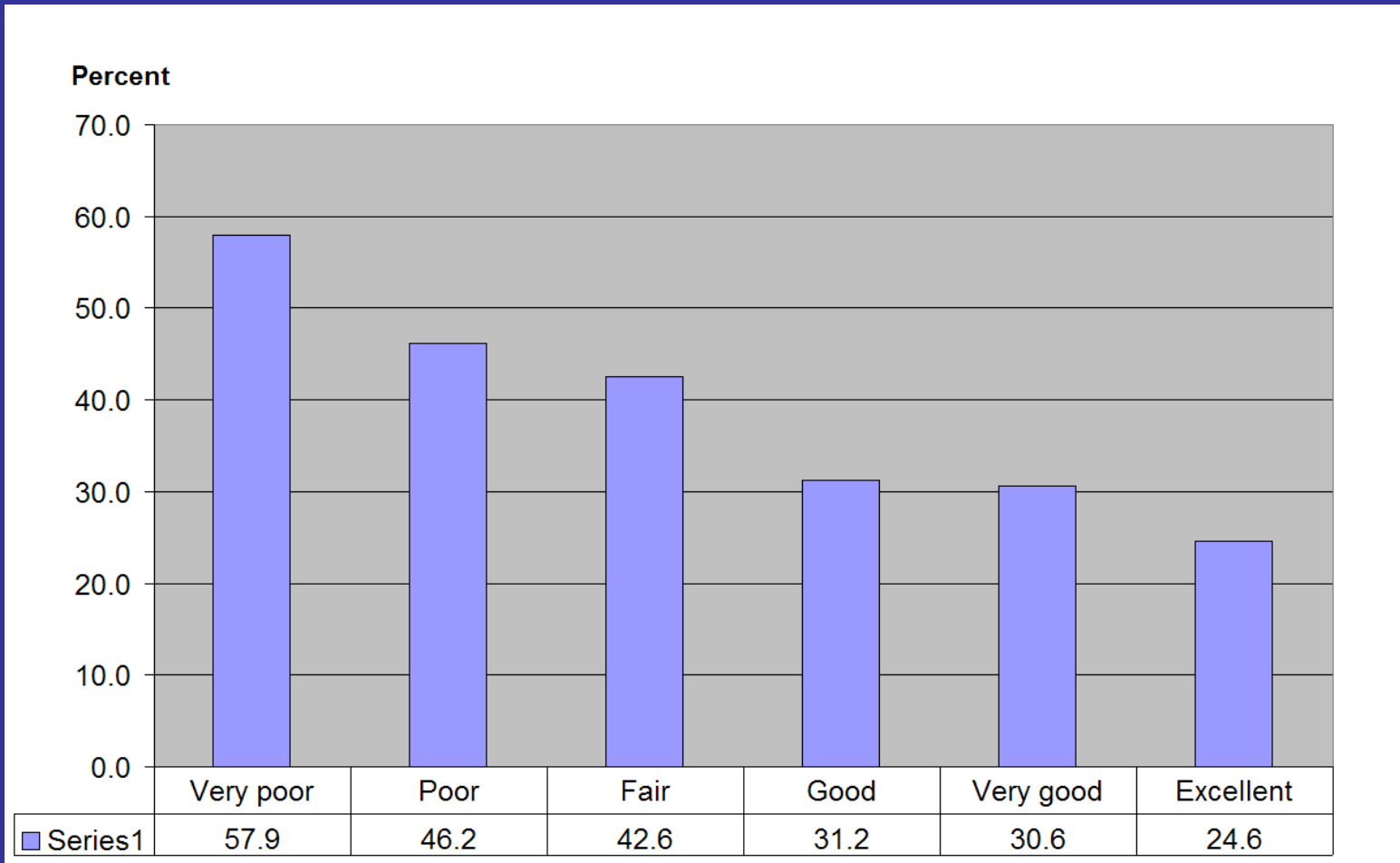
Human Capital

- Physical health of respondent
- Education level of respondent (not shown)

Self-reported physical health of respondent & emotional health status of children

Health status	No. with problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Very poor	12	57.9	9	42.1	4.22 (1.72 – 10.33)	0.002
Poor	44	46.2	52	53.8	2.64 (1.72 – 4.04)	< 0.001
Fair	126	42.6	170	57.5	2.27 (1.73 – 2.98)	< 0.001
Good	282	31.2	621	68.8	1.40 (1.14 – 1.71)	0.001
Very good	377	30.6	856	69.4	1.35 (1.12 – 1.63)	0.002
<i>Excellent</i>	243	24.6	747	75.4	1.00	–

Physical health of carer and emotional health problems in children



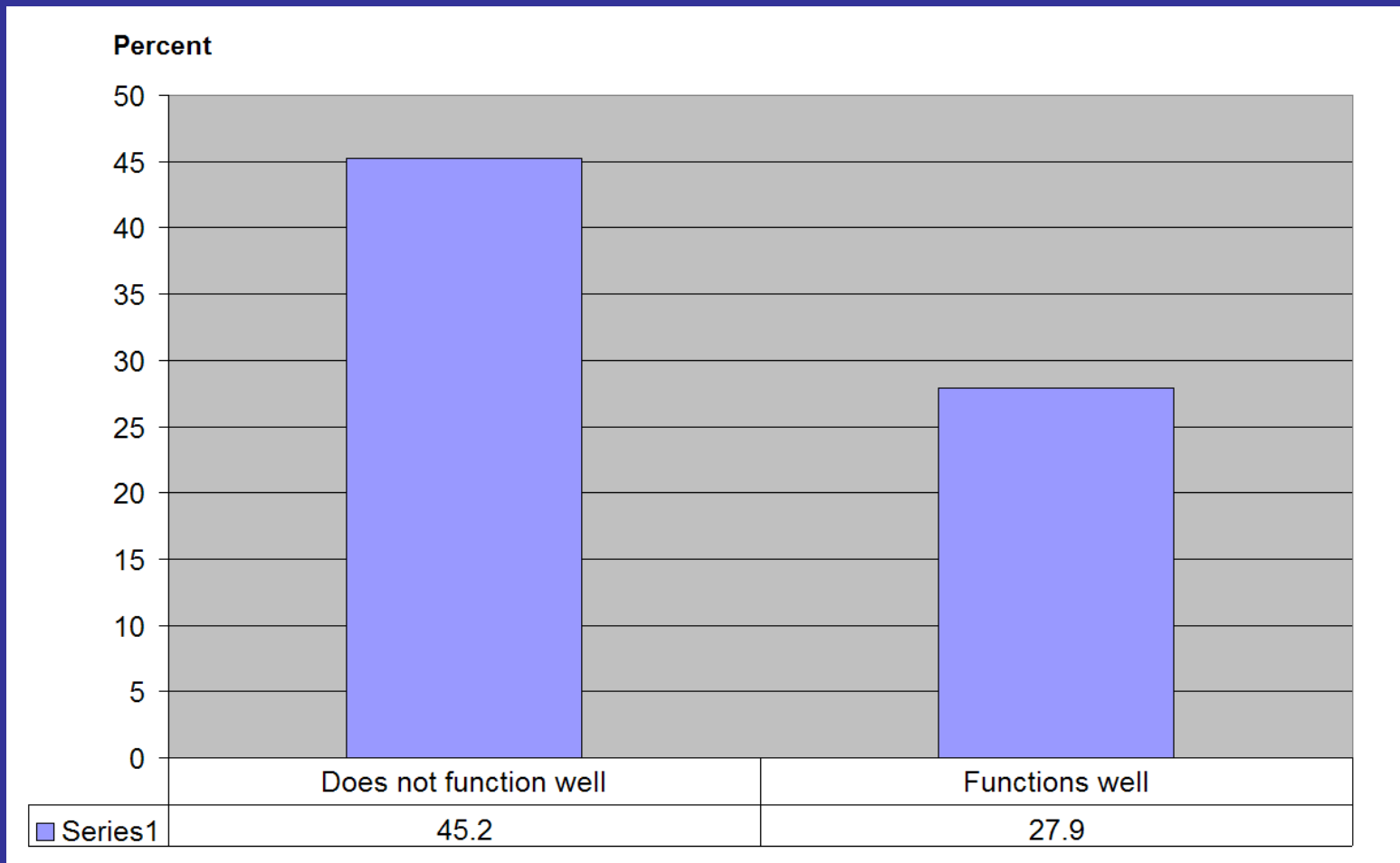
Psychological capital

- History of treatment for a mental health illness in respondent to survey (not shown)
- Family functioning skills and practice
- Lack of control over one's life (mastery)

Family functioning & emotional health problems

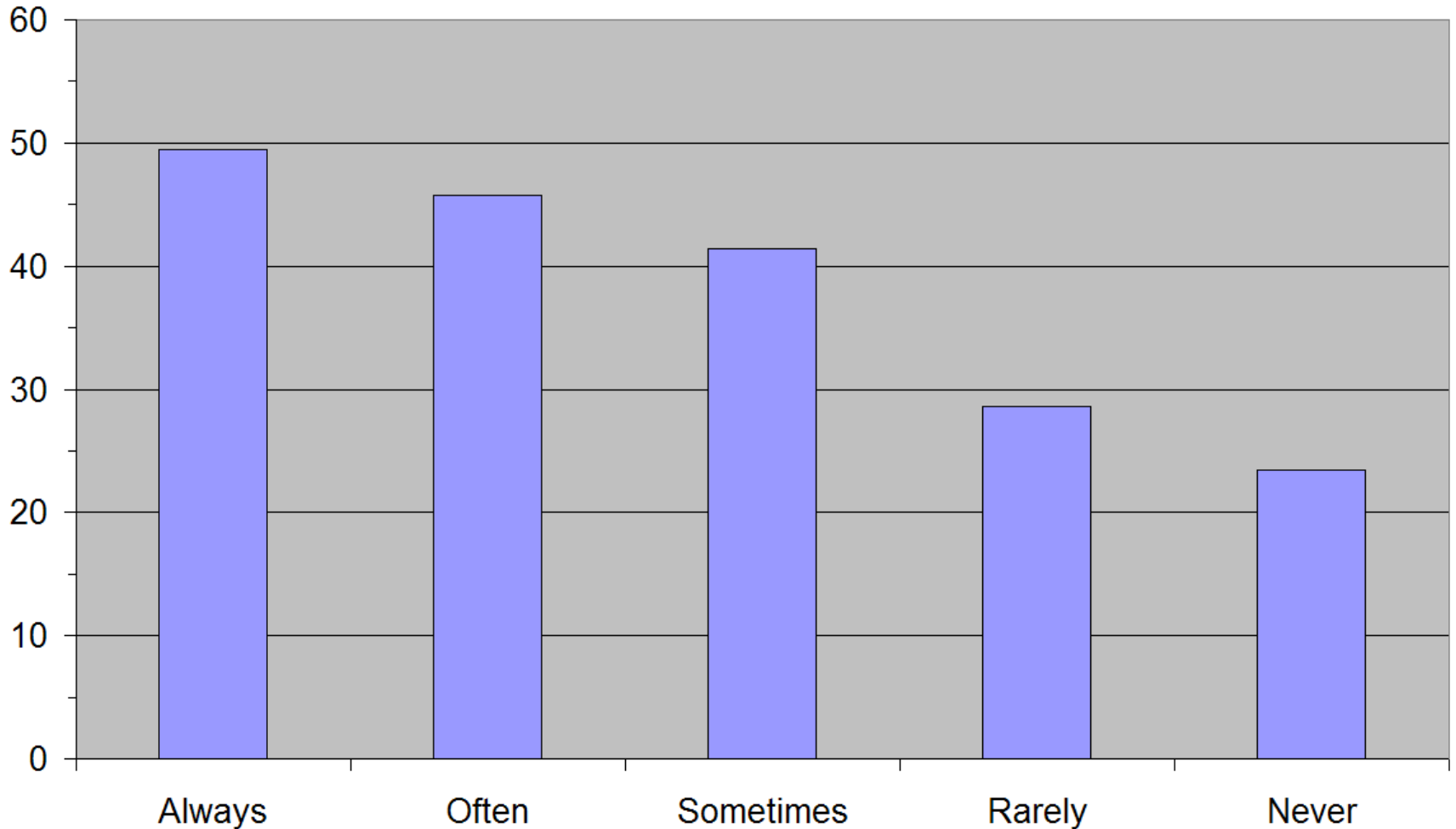
Family status	No. with problems	%	No. without problems	%	OR (95% CI)	p value
Does not function well	248	45.2	301	54.8	2.14 (1.78 – 2.58)	< 0.001
Functions well	825	27.9	2136	72.1	1.00	

Level of family functioning and emotional health problems in children



Feeling of lack of control in carer and emotional health problems in children

Percent



Action for possible advocacy

Indicator	Examples of who to target
Income level	Treasury and taxation transfers
Hours family works	Industrial relations
Family functioning	Family Services
Hours of TV / Computer games	Family and Children Services; Education
Physical health of carer	Health Services
Employment status	Treasury
Income Flow	Family Services

Conclusion

- Child health is a major issue with far reaching consequences for children in adolescence and adult life and even inter-generational
- Important to monitor social and family factors
- Need for advocacy with non-health sector
- Need to develop action at local level

Thank you



Acknowledgements

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