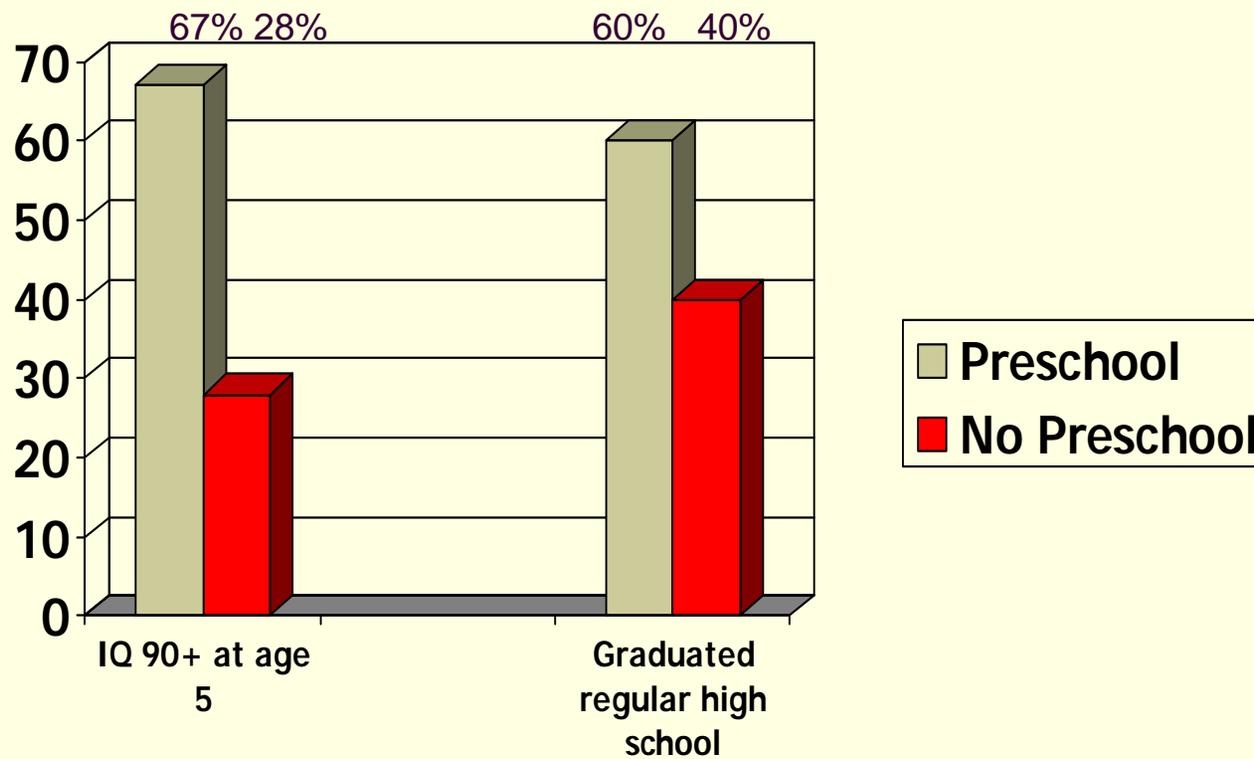


Programs and Policies to Foster Early Development: What Works?

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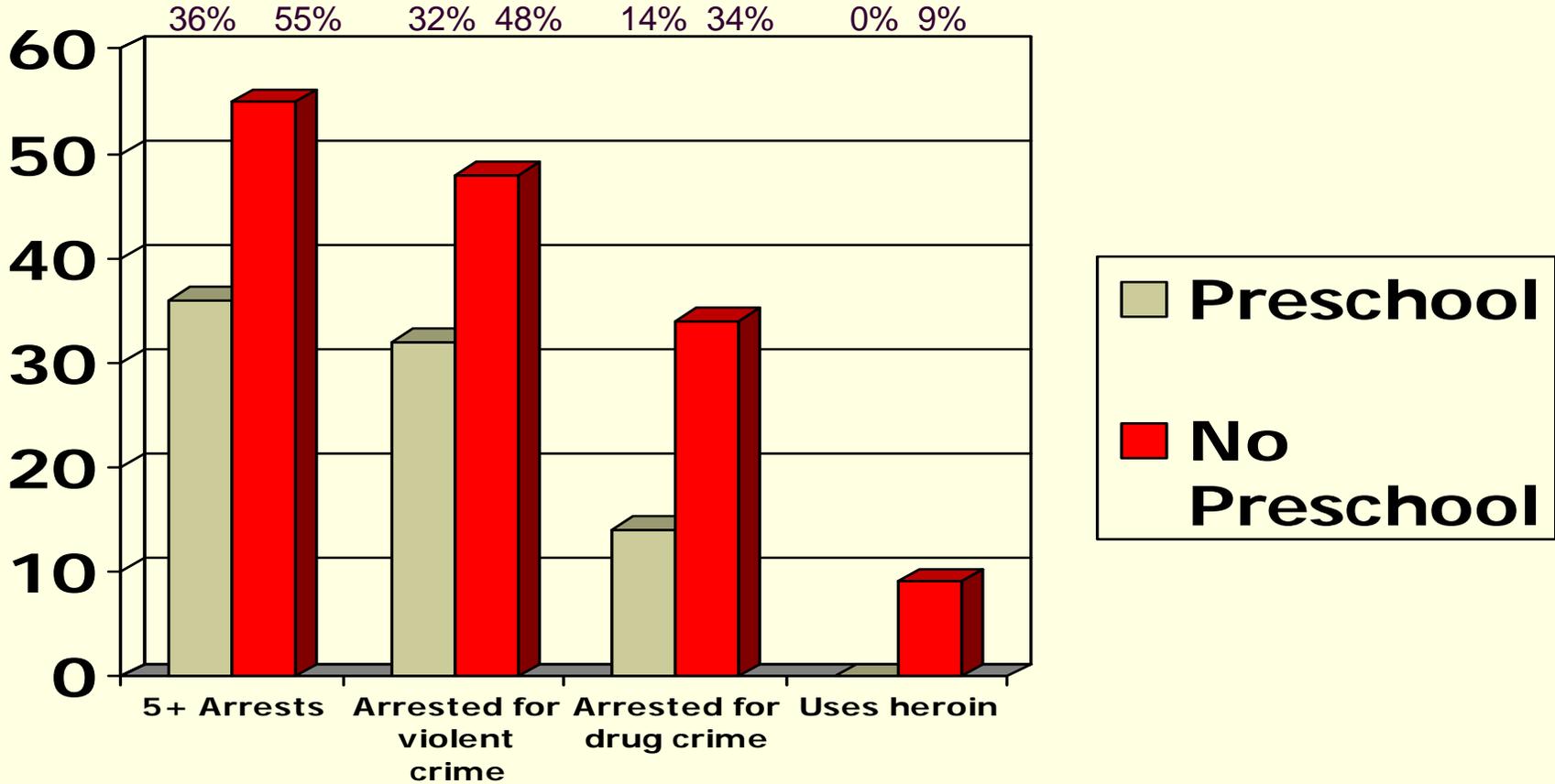
Educational Benefits of the Perry Preschool Program at age 40

Percentages of Each Group



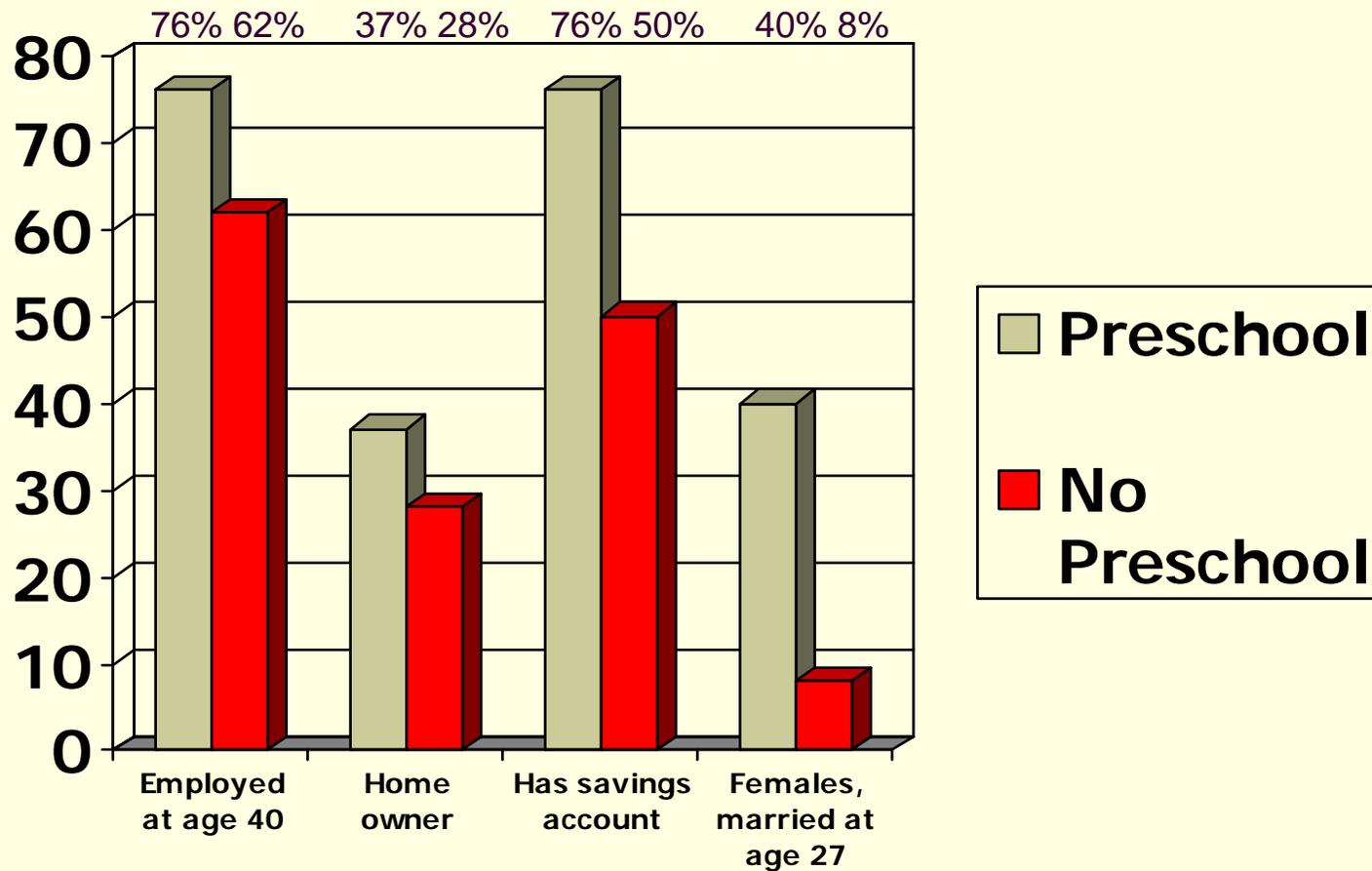
Crime Reduction Benefits of the Perry Preschool Program at age 40

Percentages of Each Group



Work / Income Impacts of the Perry Preschool Program at age 40

Percentages of Each Group



Economists have taken notice.

“You get the 16% rate of return whether you like kids or not.” --Rob Gruenewald, Federal Reserve Bank

“Very few alternative investments can promise that kind of return.” --Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve System

How do we explain such large and long-lasting effects?

- 1. Early experiences change the brain, make it better for learning.
- 2. Continuing effects on the child, through changes in the family (parents).

1. Replicate the Chicago Model in our public schools

- Like the Perry Preschool, but tested in practical, scaled up version.
- Used existing funds (largely Title I).
- State incentives could encourage local adoption.

2. State-funded Pre-K

- Several solid tests.
- Impacts on vocabulary and math skills.
- Studies have not followed into later ages yet.
- Good models from other states, and some experience in Wisconsin.

Head Start

- Positive impacts in early adulthood:
 - High School graduation
 - College attendance
 - Employed or not
 - General health

Effect size was 80% that of the Perry Preschool Program.

3. Mixed model of funding of Wisconsin child care.

- Tested by Thompson administration.
- Current investment in 6-year-olds = almost twice that in 3- or 4-year-olds.
- Intervention: \$1,500 per child/year public supplement.
- Positive impact on quality of early care & education.

4. Address training & retention of the child care workforce.

- Teacher training → child outcomes.
- Early childhood education teacher turnover = 30-35% annually.
- Wisconsin policy response: T.E.A.C.H. and R.E.W.A.R.D. programs.
- No evaluation of program quality or child gains. But program does lead to better trained teachers and retention in the field.

5. Engage the marketplace to raise quality of child care: YoungStar

- Consumer 5-star rating system.
- % of children in programs rated 3+:
 - 2011: 44%
 - 2013: 65%
- Option: Greater reward for higher quality programs, to help keep them in business (Wisconsin Shares reimbursement system).

6. Home visiting programs

- Model program: Nurse-Family Partnership. Results from randomized experiment:
 - Prenatal health
 - Child maltreatment
 - Child emergency room visits
 - Mother's economic self-sufficiency
 - Child's later arrest record
 - For girls, teenage childbirth and Medicaid

Home visiting programs

- Wisconsin has some expertise already.
- Demand exceeds supply of programs, and especially of evidence-based programs.
- Relatively costly (\$4,000-5,000 / year / family), but also cost effective when targeted. Saves public \$.

7. Multidimensional treatment foster care

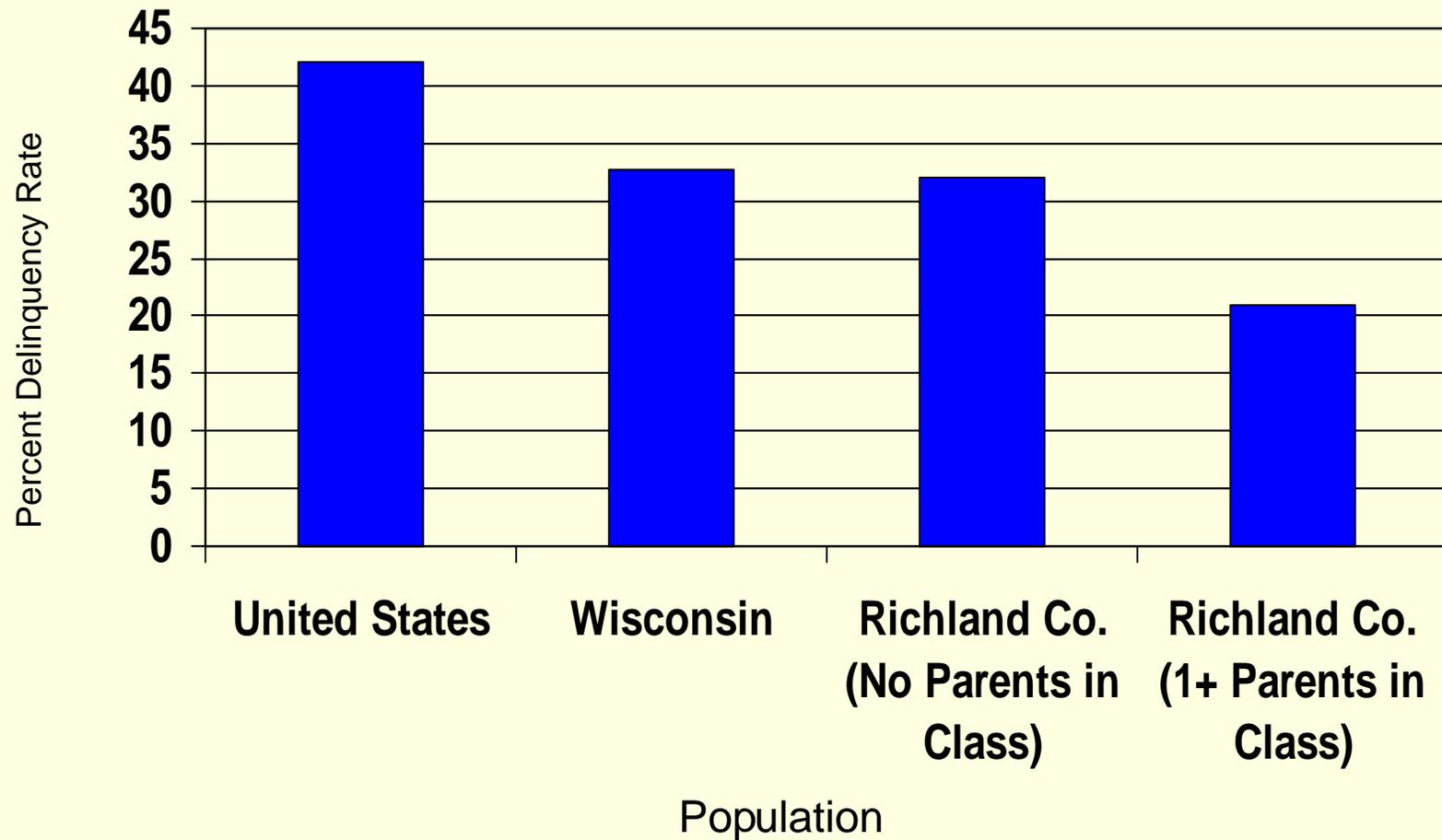
- Training in behavior management for state supported foster parents.
- Experimental test of the program:
 - 60% fewer days in jail.
 - Twice as many days with their families.

(See Family Impact Seminar briefing report #13)

8. Co-Parenting class for divorcing parents

- 15,000 minor children / year in Wisconsin.
- Class is required in some states, not in Wisconsin.
- In Richland County, cut in half the re-litigation rate and child support delinquency rate:

Child Support Delinquency Rates



In summary

- The potential of **early** interventions to create powerful, lifespan improvements in lives.
- Evidence based programs: cost-effective.
- Why haven't we done this yet? (Immediate costs, benefits are much later.)
- The most effective programs...

The most effective programs:

- Target the earliest years (brain development).
- Target at-risk families.
- Are family focused.
- Research based design, evidence of impact.
- Quality staff and standards.