



B **STRONG** **Beginnings**
PRESCHOOL FOR 3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

Why State Funded Preschool for Three-Year-Old Children?

- In 2015 almost **60%** of Michigan's 3-year-old children were potentially **at risk** for educational failure based on a family income at or below 250% of poverty.
- GSRP for four-year-old children **narrows the achievement gap** between children with lower incomes and their more affluent peers but does not eliminate it.
- By the time children enter GSRP, **they are often a full year behind** children from more advantaged families. This is simply too great a deficit for a one-year preschool program to overcome.

Research and Supporting Evidence

- Evidence from several states, as well as from other countries, shows that **two years of preschool** have more impact than one, especially for children most likely to be developmentally vulnerable due to family income and/or educational levels.
- Studies of the high-quality **Abbott Preschools in New Jersey** found that the positive effects of the program were **substantial, persistent and significantly greater** for those children who received two years of the state funded preschool program.
- Although the impact of two years of preschool is not double that of one year, “more sustained exposure to high-quality care **has generally been found to narrow the gap on measures of achievement** between low income and higher income children.”

Three-Year-Old Preschool: A Project Overview



Strong Beginnings Start 2021-2023

- The 4 ISDs selected across state represented urban and rural locations with different populations
 - Berrien
 - Heritage Southwest
 - Northwest Ed
 - Wayne
- The pilot expanded to 12 classrooms in these ISD for the 2021-2022 SY
- We were serving a total of 168 children in a program with a 30-week minimum
- The grant ended in 2022 and we thought the program would too.
- The hard work and success of our whole team led to receiving state school aid funding for the 12 classrooms for the 2022-2023 SY

Strong Beginnings

Satisfaction Survey

Findings from the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Jamie Wu, Ph.D. & Amy Mason, M.A.

Community Evaluation Programs

Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship

University Outreach and Engagement

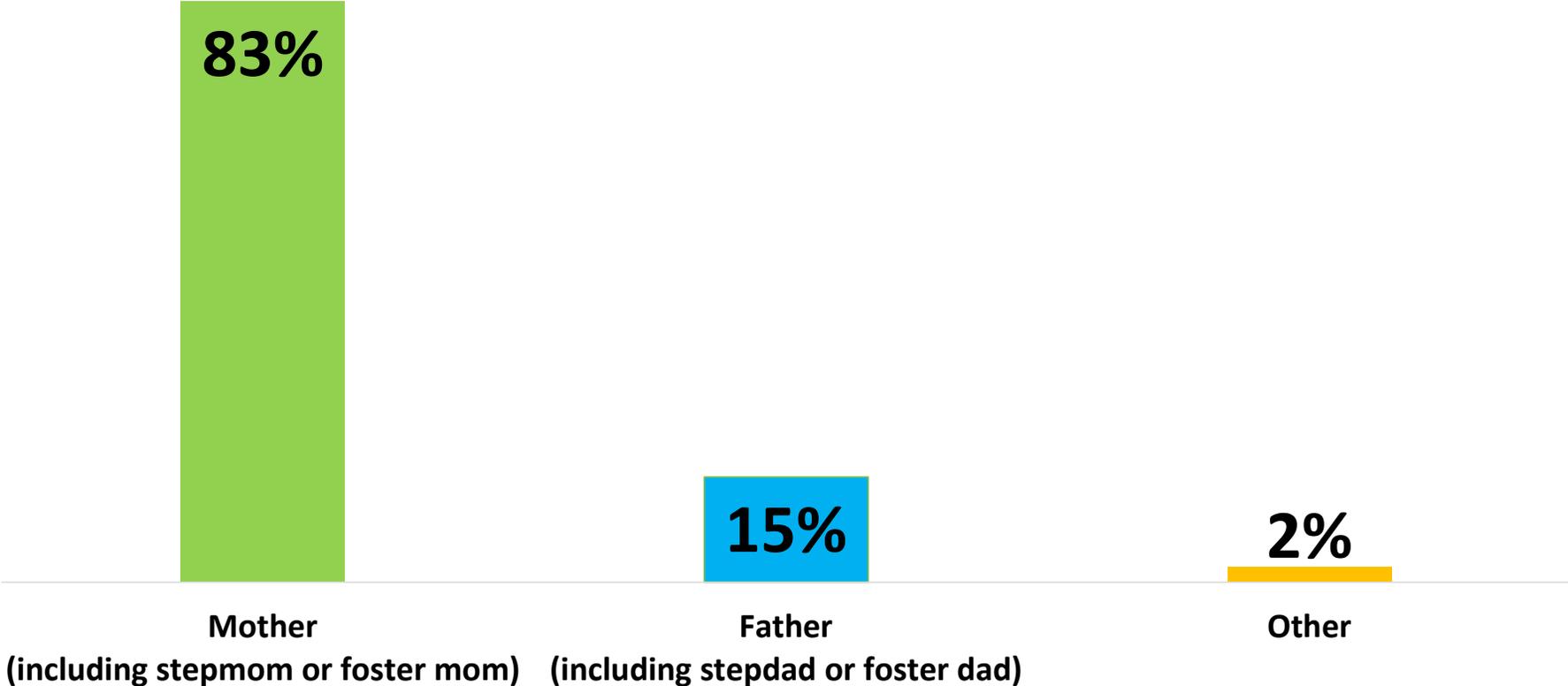
Michigan State University

August 14, 2023

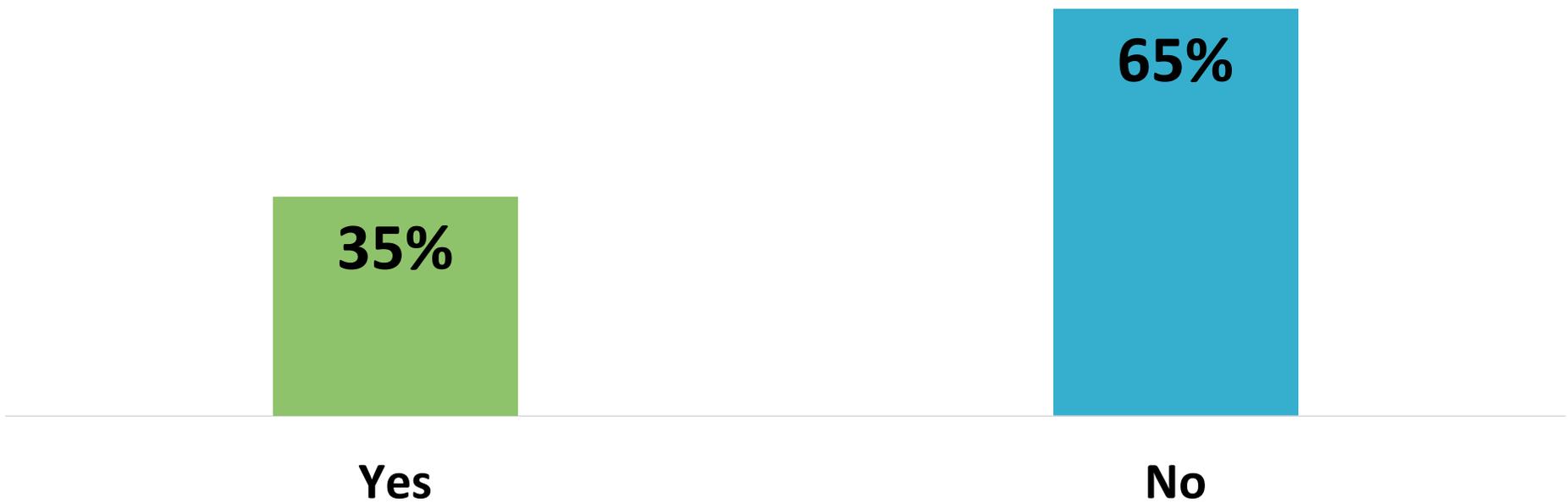
Satisfaction Survey Details

- Surveys sent to 165 current families in May 2023
- Survey links were emailed by teachers
- 140 usable surveys

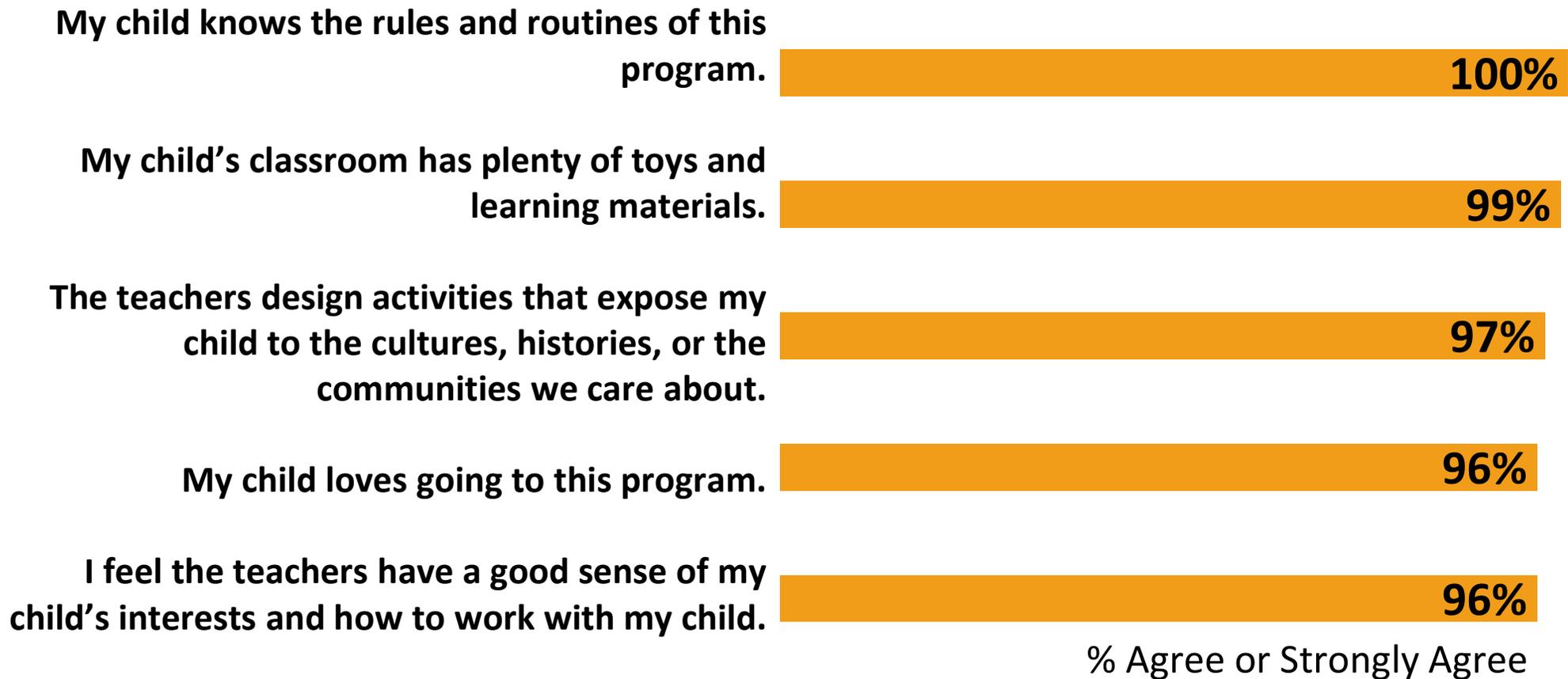
Relationship to Child



Child Is First to Attend Preschool



Programs Showed High Instructional Quality



Families Received Great Communication

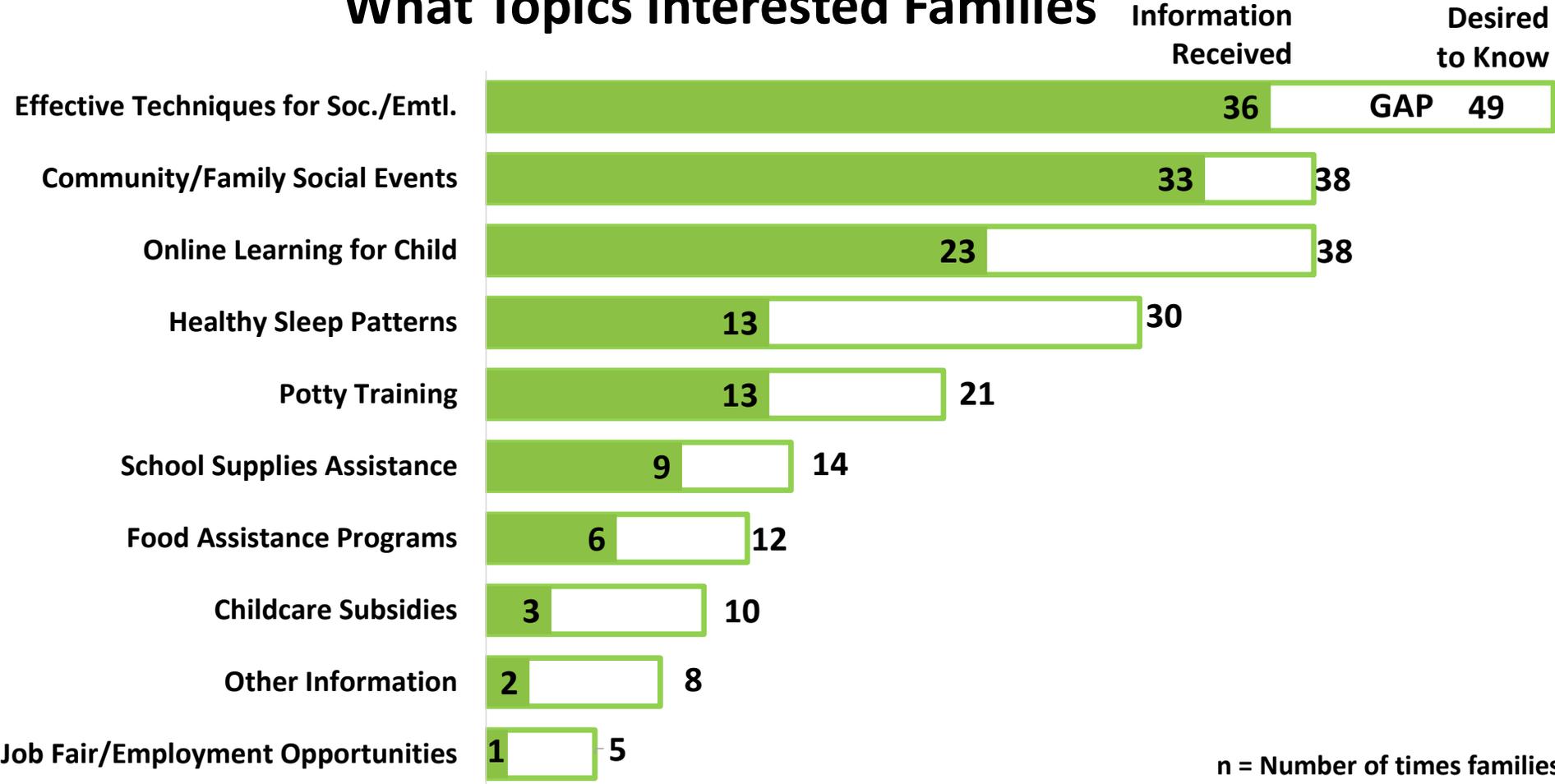
This program makes me, the caregiver, feel supported and welcomed. **97%**

The field trips or special events I attended were well organized. **97%**

I am well informed about what my child is doing at the program. **96%**

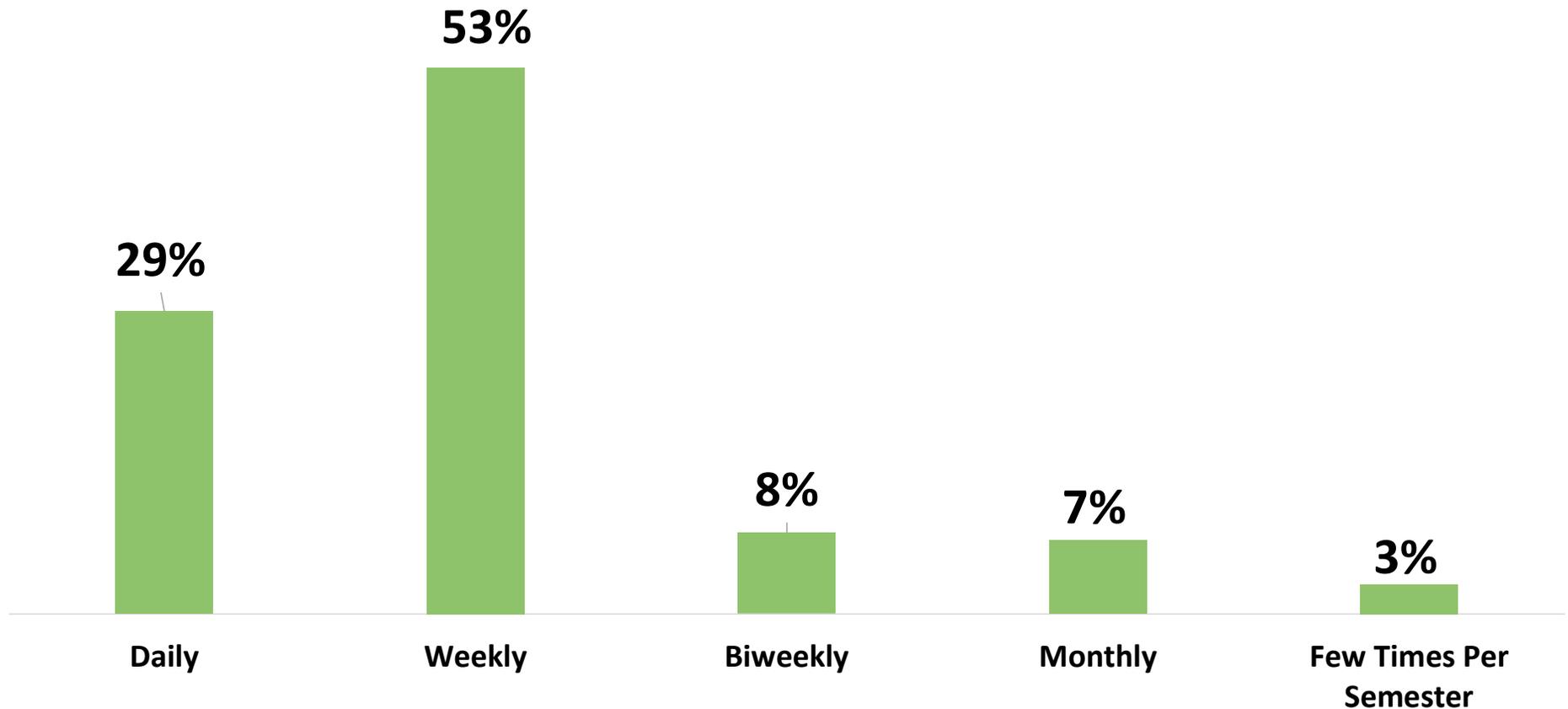
% Agree or Strongly Agree

What Topics Interested Families

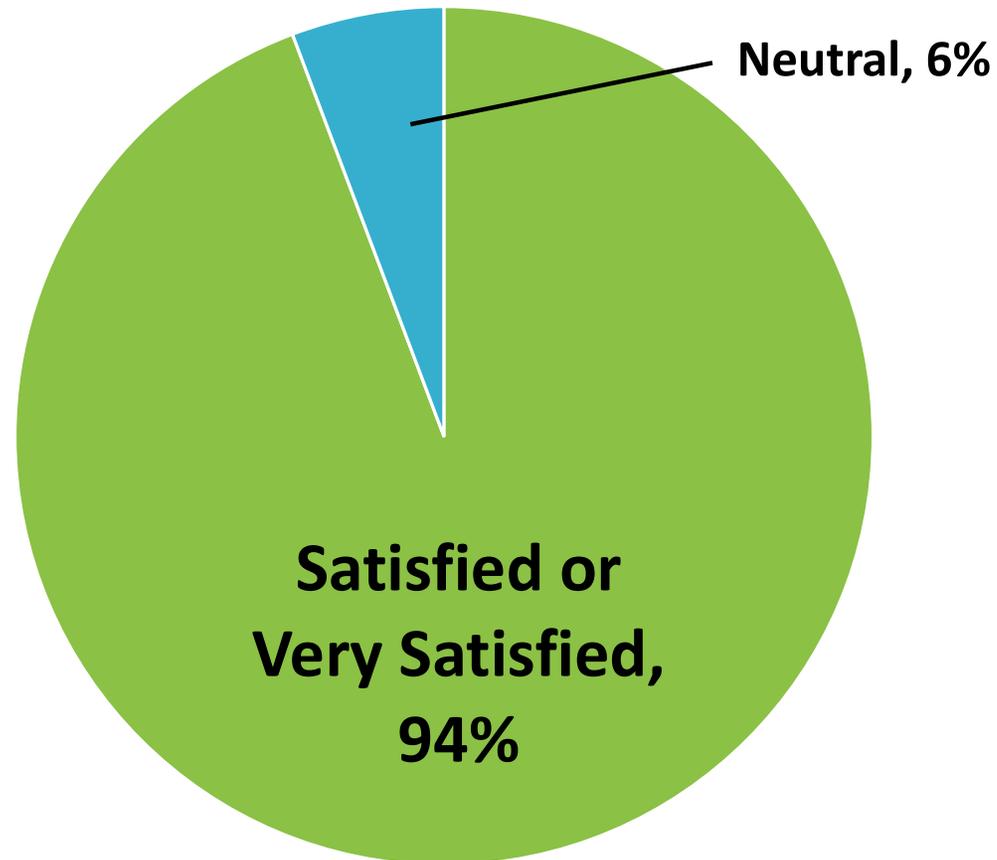


n = Number of times families select

Family Contact Frequency Preferences



Statewide Level of Parent Satisfaction



Suggestions to Improve the Program

n = Number of times families commented on topic

