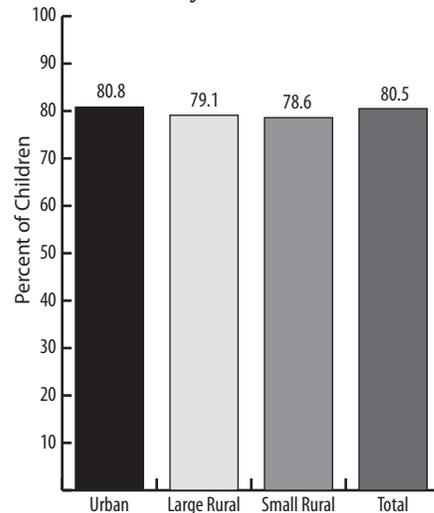


## School Engagement

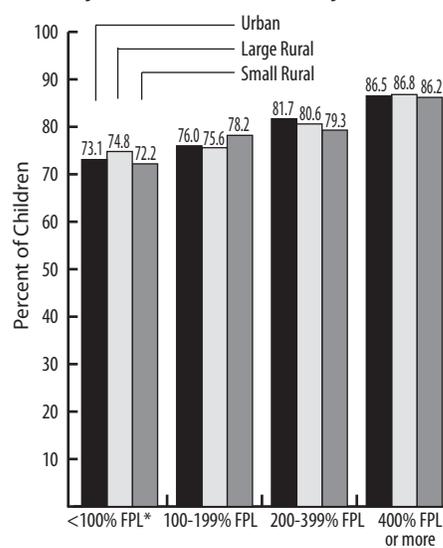
Parents of school-aged children (aged 6-17 years) were asked two questions to assess their child's engagement in school: whether the child cares about doing well in school and whether the child does all required homework. Children were considered to be engaged in school if their parent responded "usually" or "always" to both of these items. Overall, 80.5 percent of children aged 6-17 years were engaged in school. This percentage was highest in urban areas, but did not vary substantially across locations.

In all locations, children with higher household incomes were more likely to be adequately engaged in school than those with lower household incomes. For example, among urban children, the percentage who were engaged in school ranges from 73.1 percent of those with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL) to 86.5 percent of those with household incomes of 400 percent of FPL or more. Within each income group, however, the rate of school engagement was similar across locations.

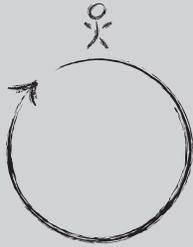
Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who were Engaged in School, by Location



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who were Engaged in School, by Location and Poverty Status



\*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.



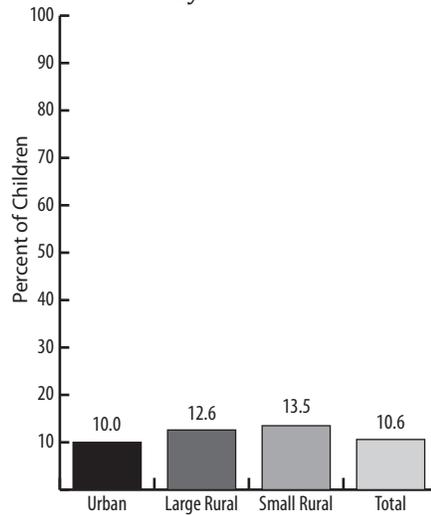
## Repeating a Grade

Parents of school-aged children (aged 6 and older) were asked if their children had repeated one or more grades since starting school. Overall, 10.6 percent of children aged 6-17 years had repeated a grade. Repeating a grade is more common in rural areas, with 12.6 percent of school-aged children in large rural areas and 13.5 percent in small rural areas repeating a grade, compared to 10.0 percent of urban children.

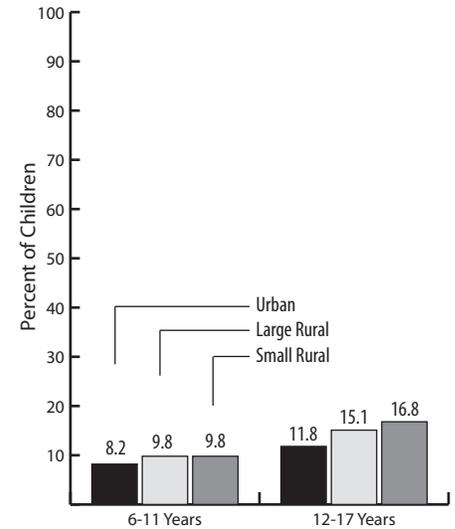
Older children have had more opportunity to repeat a grade over the course of their school careers, so the percentage who have done so is higher in all locations. Fewer than 10 percent of children aged 6-11 in all areas have repeated a grade; among those aged 12-17, the percentage ranged from 11.8 percent in urban areas to 16.8 percent in small rural areas.

In all locations, boys were more likely than girls to have repeated a grade, and the discrepancy between urban and rural locations is greatest among boys. Among girls, 10.0 percent or fewer had repeated a grade in all locations; among boys, the percentage who had repeated ranges from 11.9 percent in urban areas to 17.4 percent in small rural areas.

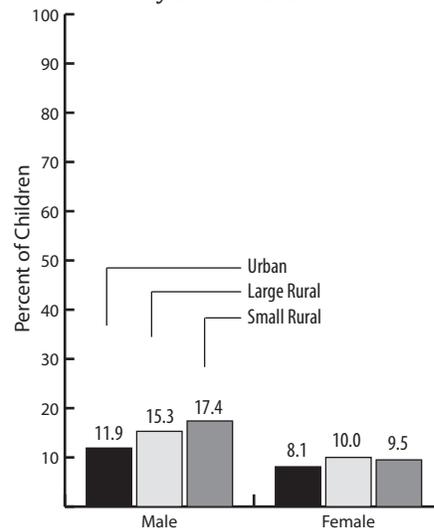
Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who have Repeated a Grade, by Location



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who have Repeated a Grade, by Location and Age



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who have Repeated a Grade, by Location and Sex



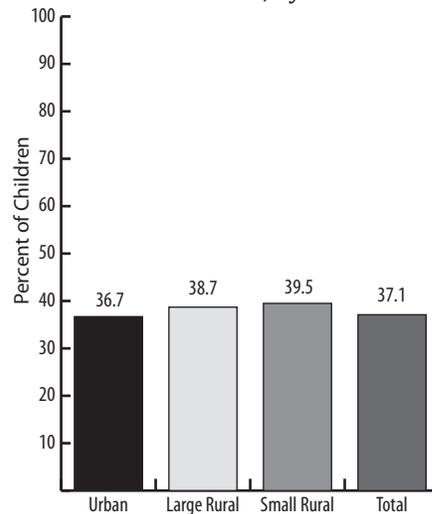


## Volunteering

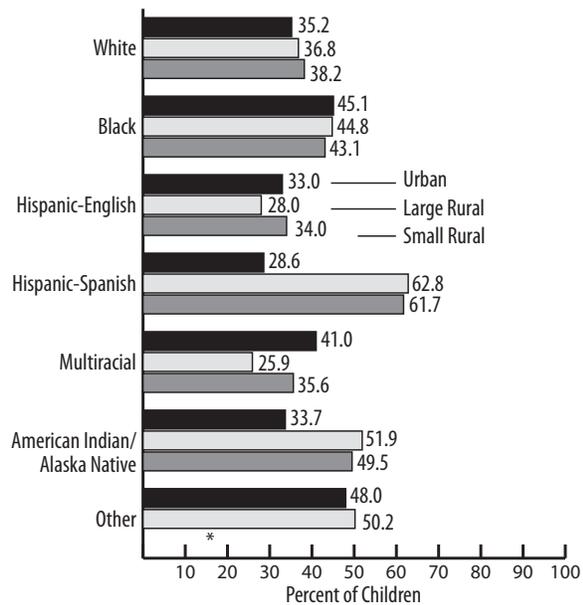
Parents of children aged 12-17 years were asked how often their children had participated in community service or volunteer activities during the past year, including activities at school, church, and in the community. Among children in this age group, 37.1 percent of children participated in these types of activities once a month or more during the past year, while 40.8 percent did so a few times that year and 22.0 percent had not participated in any community service or volunteer activities in the past year. The total percentage of children volunteering a few times a month or more did not vary across locations.

The percentage of adolescents who volunteer at least a few times a month varied by racial and ethnic group. The highest rates of volunteering were found among Black youth, with approximately 45 percent of adolescents volunteering a few times a month or more, regardless of location. Other groups show more variation by location; among Spanish-speaking Hispanic youth, those in rural areas were more than twice as likely to volunteer a few times a month or more than those in urban areas.

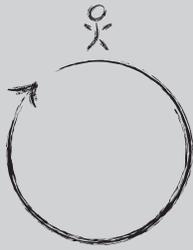
Percent of Children aged 12-17 who Volunteer a Few Times a Month or More, by Location



Percent of Children aged 12-17 who Volunteer a Few Times a Month or More, by Location and Race/Ethnicity/Language



\*Estimate suppressed as it does not meet the standard for reliability or precision.

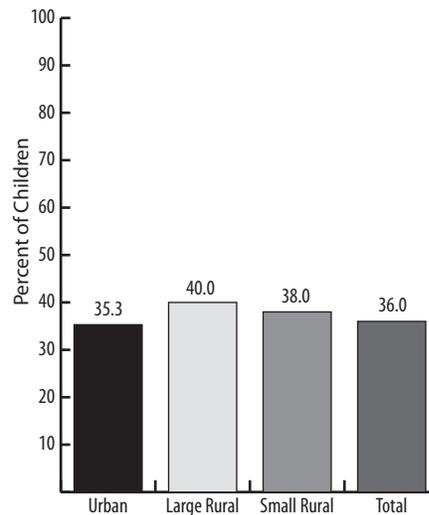


## Working for Pay

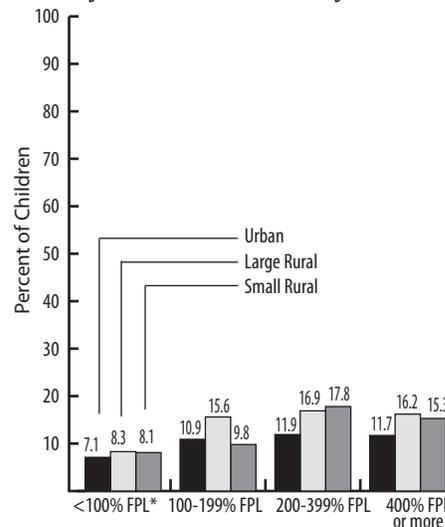
Parents of children aged 12 and older were asked whether their children worked outside the home for pay in the past week, and if so, how many hours their children had worked for pay in the past week.† Overall, 36.0 percent of children aged 12-17 years had worked for pay; the parents of those who did work outside the home reported that their children worked an average of 8.8 hours. Working for pay was slightly more common among adolescents in large rural areas than in urban areas; 40.0 percent of those in large rural areas worked for pay, compared to 35.3 percent of urban adolescents.

The percentage of adolescents who work at least 10 hours a month for pay was higher among children from higher-income households, and this discrepancy was greater in rural than in urban areas. In large rural areas, the percentage of adolescents who work at least 10 hours a month was nearly twice as high among those with household incomes of 400 percent of the Federal poverty level or more as among those with household incomes below the poverty level (16.2 and 8.3 percent).

Percent of Children aged 12-17 who Work for Pay, by Location

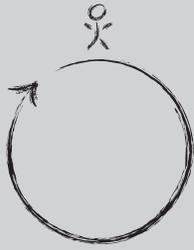


Percent of Children Aged 12-17 Who Work for Pay, by Location and Poverty Status



\*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.

†The question asked in 2007 was not comparable to the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health, and has resulted in higher estimates. Estimates from 2003 and 2007 should not be compared.



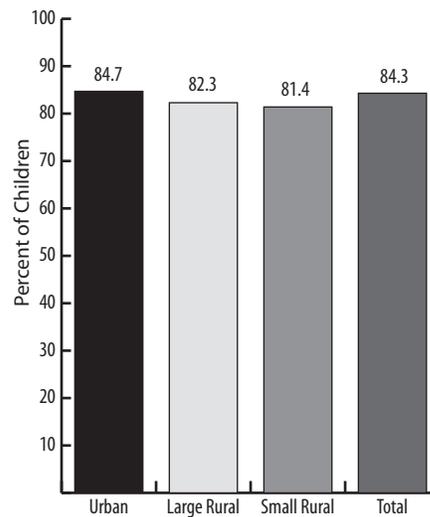
## Reading for Pleasure

Parents of school-aged children (aged 6-17 years) were asked how much time their child spent reading for pleasure on an average school day. Overall, 84.3 percent of children in this age group read for pleasure for some amount of time, and those who did read were reported to spend an average of 61.0 minutes per school day reading. The percentage of children who read for pleasure is slightly higher in urban areas (84.7 percent) than in small rural areas (81.4 percent).

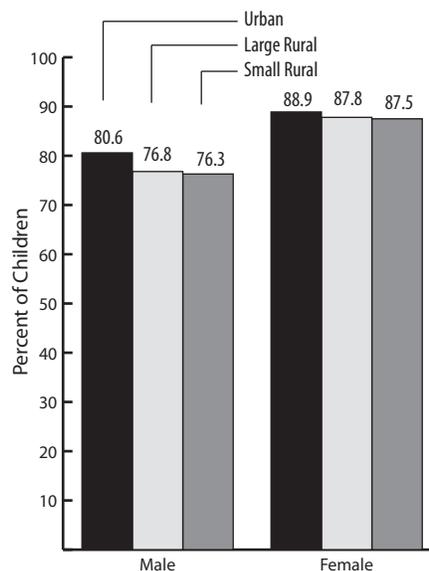
In all locations, younger children (aged 6-11) were more likely to read than older adolescents (aged 12-17). Approximately 90 percent of 6- to 11-year-olds were reported to read for pleasure, compared to 74.1 percent (in small rural areas) to 79.5 percent (in urban areas) of those aged 12 to 17.

Girls were also more likely to read for pleasure than boys. Approximately 88 percent of girls in all locations read, compared to 76.3 percent (in small rural areas) to 80.6 percent (in urban areas) of boys.

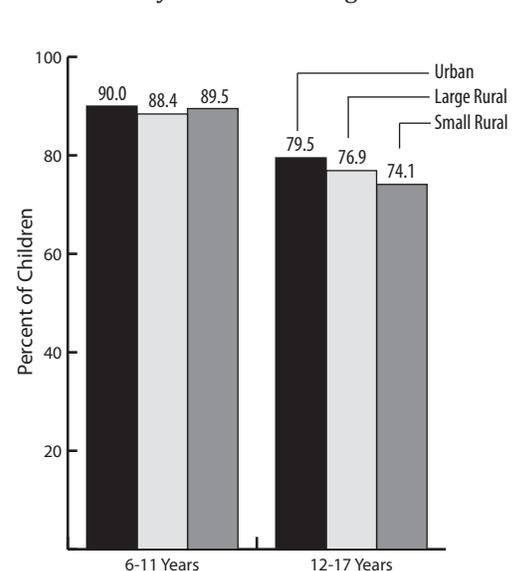
Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who Read for Pleasure, by Location

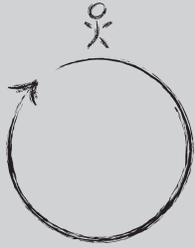


Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who Read for Pleasure, by Location and Sex



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who Read for Pleasure, by Location and Age





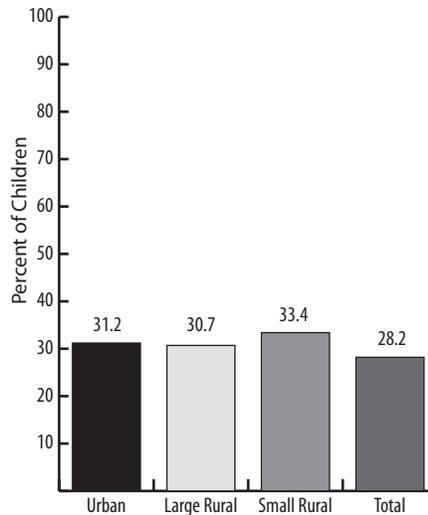
## Playing with Children of the Same Age

Children learn and develop social skills and behaviors through interactions with other children their own age. Parents of 1- to 5-year-olds were asked to report on how many days in the past week their child played with other children their own age. In all, 28.2 percent of children aged 1-5 years had played with other children every day in the past week, while 54.9 percent of children did so on some days. Fewer than 17 percent of children had not played with another child their own age on any day in the past week. Approximately one-third of children in all locations played with children of the same age every day in the past week.

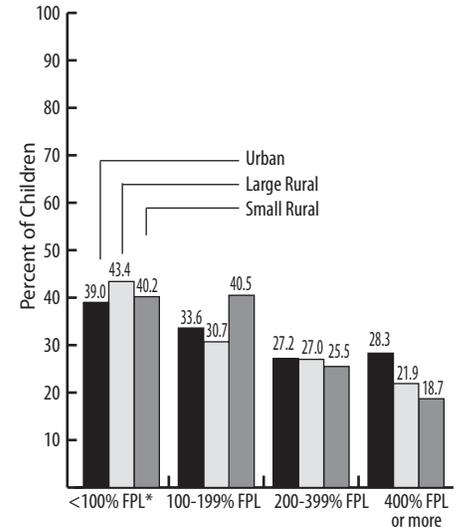
In all locations, children with lower household incomes were more likely to play with their peers every day. Among children with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL), 39.0 percent (in urban areas) to 43.4 percent (in large rural areas) played with other children of the same age every day, compared to 18.7 percent (in small rural areas) to 28.3 percent (in urban areas) of those with household incomes of 400 percent of the FPL or more.

The percentage of children who play with their peers every day varied by race and ethnicity, although

Percent of Children Aged 1-5 who Played with Children of the Same Age Every Day in the Past Week, by Location

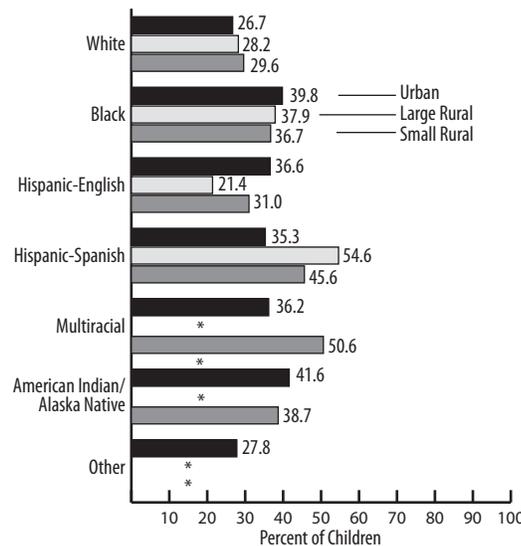


Percent of Children Aged 1-5 who Played with Children of the Same Age Every Day in the Past Week, by Location and Poverty Status



\*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.

Percent of Children Aged 1-5 who Played with Children of the Same Age Every Day in the Past Week, by Location and Race/Ethnicity/Language



\*Estimate suppressed as it does not meet the standard for reliability or precision.

within each racial and ethnic group, this percentage did not vary substantially by location. One exception is Hispanic children whose families primarily speak English; within this

group, 36.6 percent of those in urban areas played with other children of the same age every day, compared to 21.4 percent of those in large rural communities.



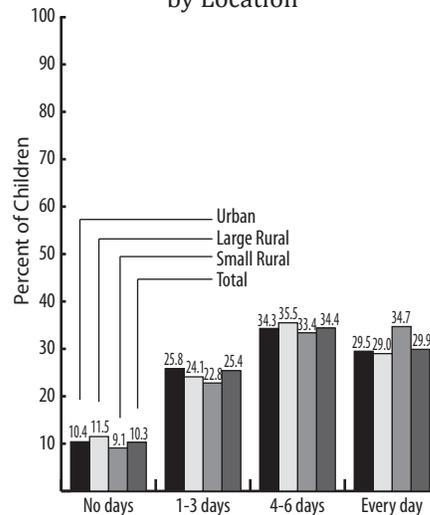
## Physical Activity

Regular physical activity plays an important part in children's health by helping them to maintain an appropriate energy balance, which in turn helps to regulate weight. Physical activity also reduces the risk of certain cancers, diabetes, and high blood pressure, and contributes to healthy bones and muscles.<sup>12</sup> The most recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends that children aged 6-17 engage in 60 minutes of physical activity every day.<sup>13</sup>

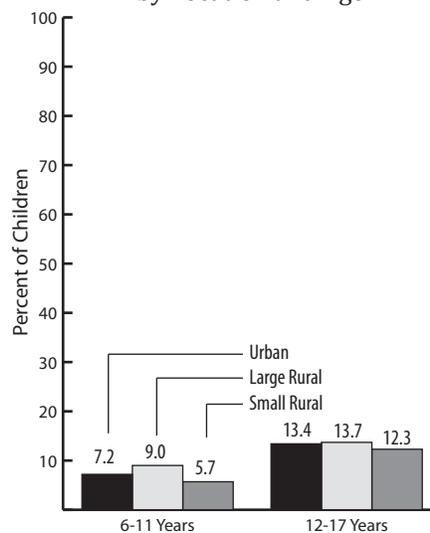
Parents of children aged 6-17 were asked on how many days in the past week their children exercised, played a sport, or participated in physical activity for at least 20 minutes. Overall, 29.9 percent of children participated in physical activity every day, 34.4 percent did so on 4 to 6 days, 25.4 percent exercised on 1 to 3 days, and the remaining 10.3 percent did not participate in physical activity on any days in the past week.

In all locations, older adolescents (aged 12-17) were more likely than children aged 6-11 not to participate in physical activity at all. This discrepancy was greatest in small rural areas, where 5.7 percent of 6- to 11-year-olds got no physical activity, compared to 12.3 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds.

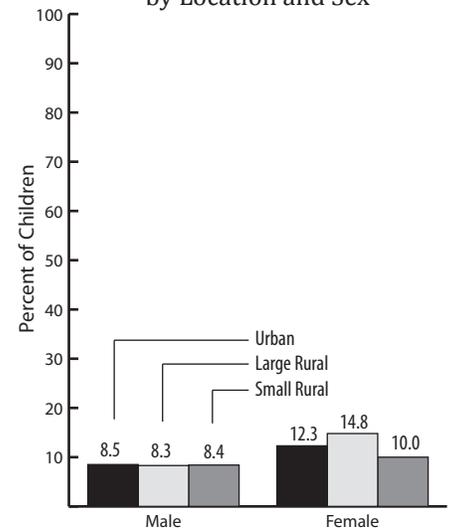
Number of Days Children Aged 6-17 Participated in Physical Activity in the Past Week, by Location



Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who Did Not Participate in Physical Activity in the Past Week, by Location and Age



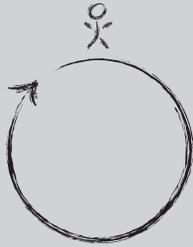
Percent of Children Aged 6-17 who Did Not Participate in Physical Activity in the Past Week, by Location and Sex



Girls were also more likely than boys not to participate in physical activity in all locations. Regardless of location, about 8.5 percent of boys got no exercise in the past week; for girls, this percentage ranged from 10.0 percent in small rural areas to 14.8

percent in large rural communities.

Children in small rural areas were the most likely to participate in physical activity every day (34.7 percent did so), while children in urban areas were the most likely to exercise on 1 to 3 days (25.8 percent).

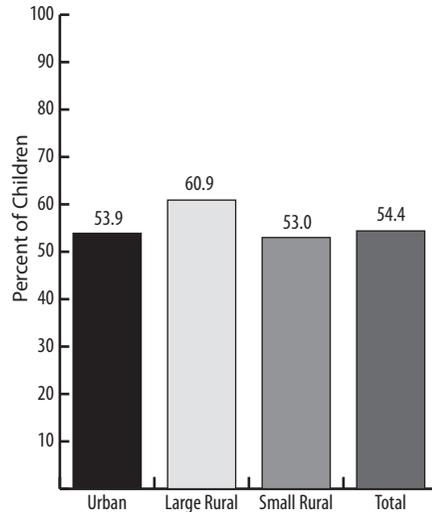


## Screen Time

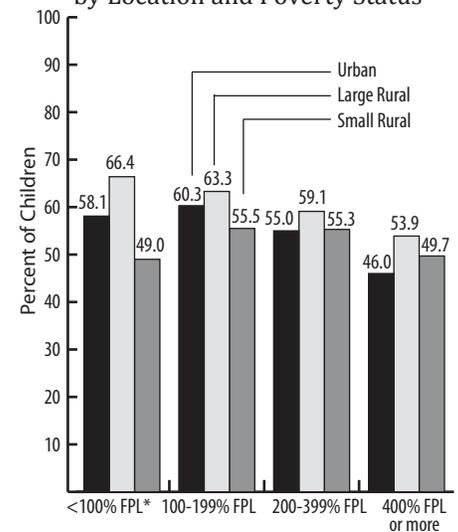
The Bright Futures guidelines for infants, children, and adolescents recommend that parents limit children's screen time to 1-2 hours per day for children aged 1-5 years. Parents of children aged 1-5 years were asked how many hours children spent watching TV or videos on weekdays. Overall, only 7.9 percent of children aged 1-5 years did not watch any TV, while 37.7 percent watched 1 hour or less per weekday, and 54.4 percent watched TV for more than 1 hour per weekday. The percentage of children who watched more than an hour per weekday was highest in large rural areas, where 60.9 percent of children did so.

In general, children with higher household incomes were less likely to watch more than an hour of TV or videos a day. However, this discrepancy was smallest in small rural areas, where the percentage of children aged 1-5 with more than an hour of screen time a day ranged from 49.0 percent among children with household incomes below the Federal poverty level (FPL) to 55.5 percent of children with household incomes of 100 percent to 199 percent of the FPL. In urban areas, by contrast, only 46.0 percent of children with household incomes of 400 percent of the FPL or more watched more than an hour of TV or videos a day, compared

Percent of Children Aged 1-5 with More than One Hour of Screen Time per Weekday, by Location

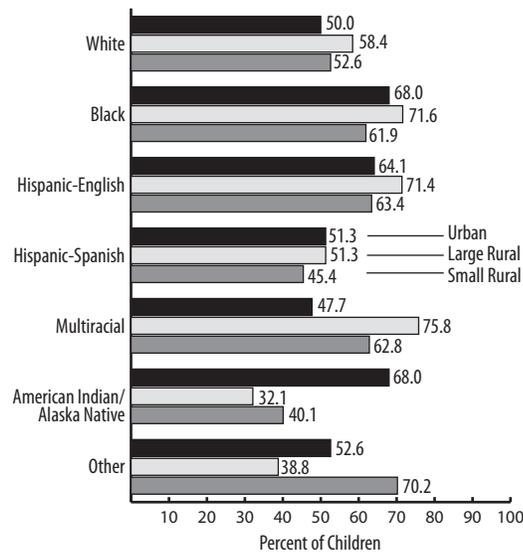


Percent of Children Aged 1-5 with More than One Hour of Screen Time per Weekday, by Location and Poverty Status



\*Federal poverty level was \$20,650 for a family of four in 2007.

Percent of Children Aged 1-5 with More than One Hour of Screen Time per Weekday, by Location and Race/Ethnicity/Language



to 60.3 percent of those with household incomes of 100 to 199 percent of FPL.

Within most racial and ethnic groups, the percentage of children who watch TV or videos for more than an hour per weekday does not

vary by location. One exception is White children, who are more likely to report more than an hour of screen time if they live in large rural areas (58.4 percent) than in urban areas (50.0 percent).