



American Indian and  
Alaska Native

family and child experiences survey

# **American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey 2019 (AIAN FACES 2019)**

Key Findings from Fall 2019

OPRE Report # 2022-109

# What is Head Start?

- Head Start programs promote school readiness for young children ages 3 to 5 in low-income families nationwide. Programs provide comprehensive services to support children's early learning and health, as well as their families' well-being.
- Early Head Start (EHS) serves pregnant women, infants, and toddlers, but EHS programs are not included in this study.
- Programs engage parents in their children's learning and aim to strengthen parent-child relationships. In addition, they promote parents' progress toward their own educational and employment goals.



# What are the regions of Head Start?

- Head Start operates in 12 regions nationwide
- Regions I-X are geographically defined
- Regions XI and XII are defined by the populations served.
  - Region XI: Grants to federally-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes
  - Region XII: Children and families of migrant and seasonal farmworkers



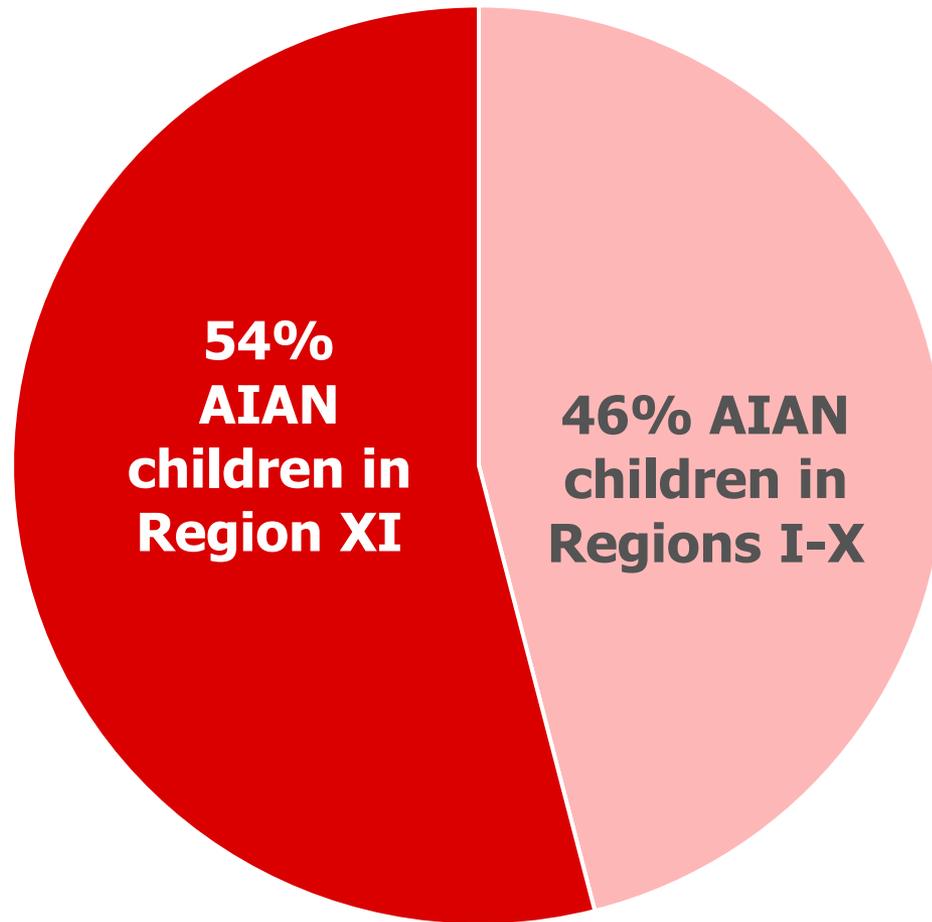
# What is a federally recognized tribe?

- “A federally recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Furthermore, federally recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government (i.e., tribal sovereignty) and are entitled to receive certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States.”
  - Definition from the Bureau of Indian Affairs





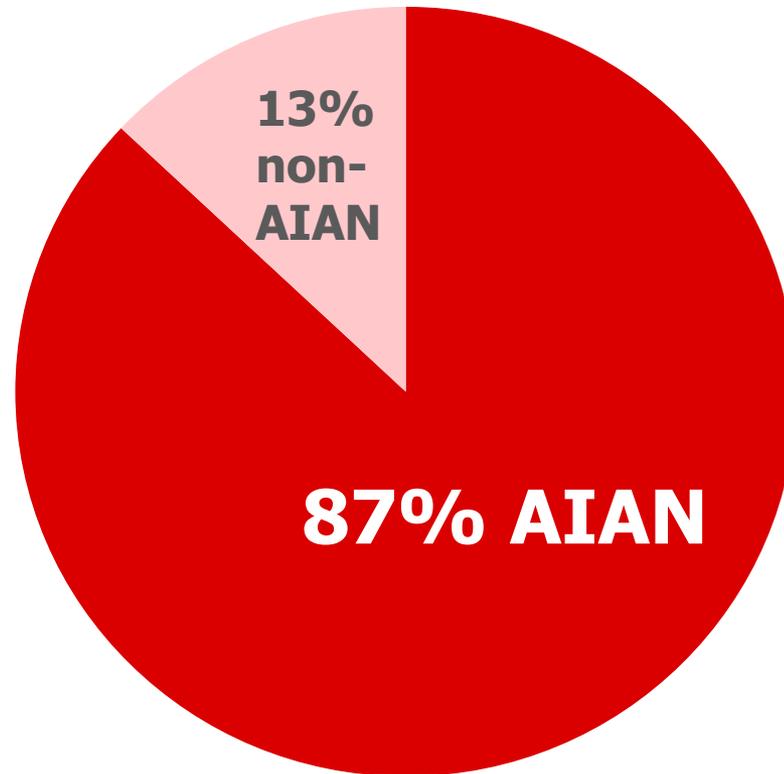
**Region XI serves more than 1/2 of all AIAN children in Head Start.**



Source: Head Start Program Information Report, 2018-2019.



# Region XI serves both AIAN and non-AIAN children, but the **majority** are AIAN.



Source: Fall 2019 AIAN FACES Parent Survey and Survey Management System, Table A.1.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. AIAN children includes children whose parents reported they were AIAN only or in combination with another race or Hispanic identity.

# Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)

- The goal of FACES is to describe the children who attend Head Start and their families as well as the programs and staff who serve them. FACES collects data on a nationally representative sample of 3- and 4-year-olds, their families, and the programs they attend.
- Seven waves of data collection occurred from 1997 through 2019. Children were sampled from programs and centers in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Some data from the 2009 cohort are also included.



# What is the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) FACES?

- Until 2015, FACES did not include programs operated in Region XI Head Start.
- Reasons Region XI was not part of FACES include:
  - Tribal concerns about research
  - Unique protocols for research involving sovereign tribal nations
  - Planning and implementing research according to best practices for research with tribal communities is resource intensive
- In the 2015-16 program year, AIAN FACES was fielded for the first time. AIAN FACES 2019 is the second time this study is being conducted.

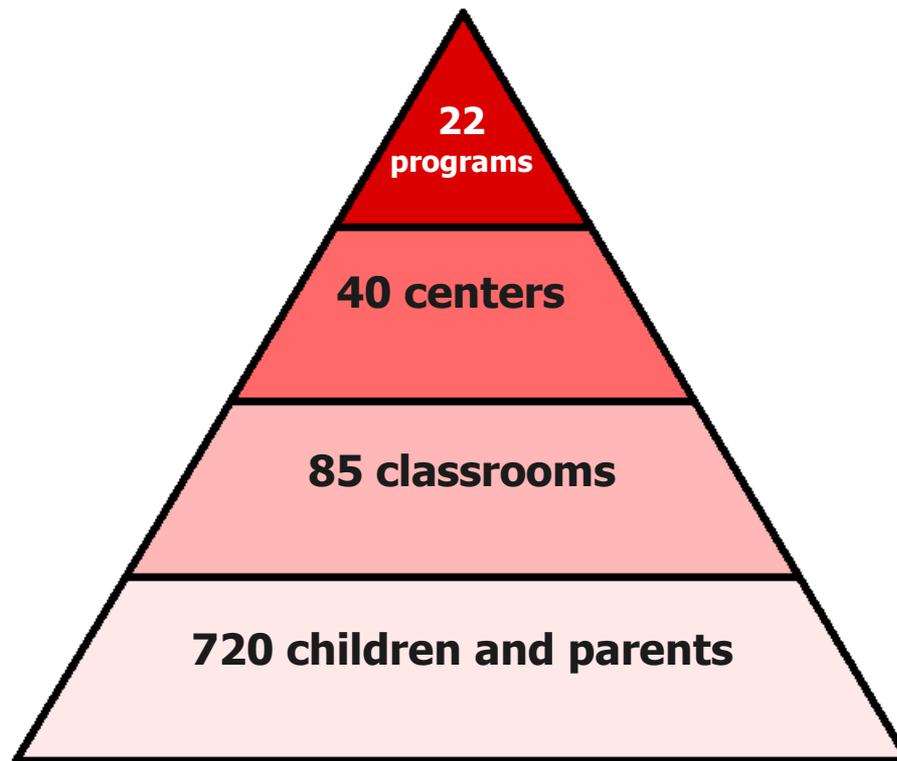


# The AIAN FACES Workgroup was formed to help guide the study according to best practices for research with AIAN communities.



- The members of the Workgroup advise on the study design and implementation and the dissemination of study findings.
- The members of the Workgroup worked to ensure that Region XI priorities were at the forefront.
- A workgroup for the 2019 study consists of members from the 2015 study with some new members.

**During the 2019-20 program year, 22 Region XI Head Start programs were randomly selected and agreed to participate.**



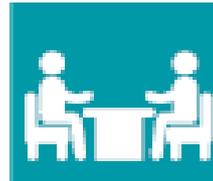
Protocols for tribal review and approval were followed in each community.

# Data were gathered in fall 2019 from parents, teachers, and children.



## **Surveys**

- Parent surveys



## **One-on-One Assessments**

- One-on-one assessments of children's cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development



## **Teacher Child Report**

- Teacher report of children's social-emotional development and developmental needs

# Data Collection and Weighing

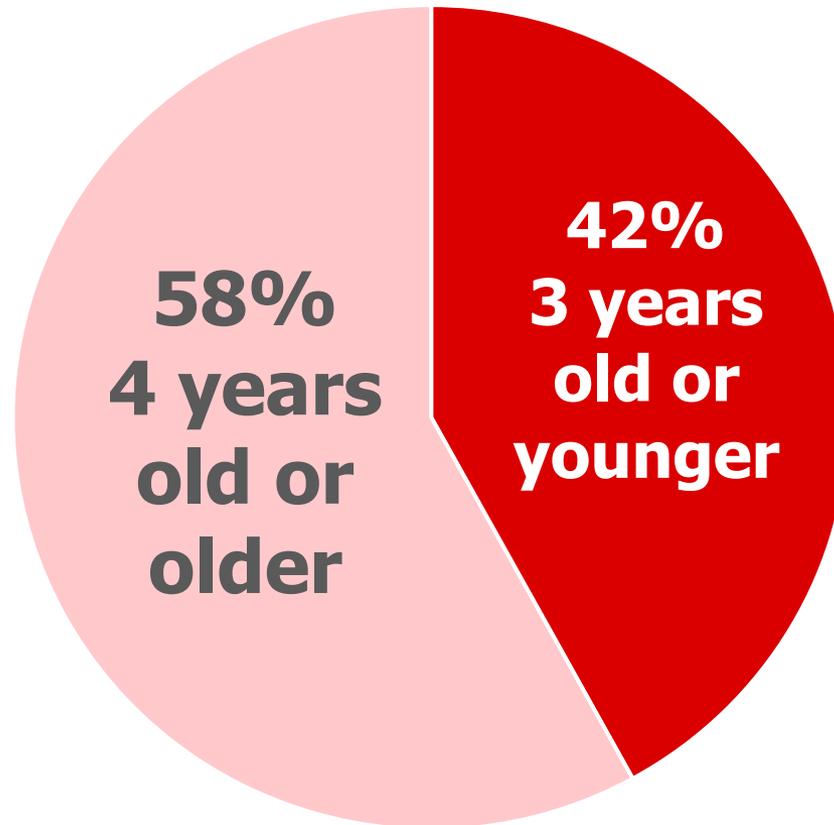
- A sample of children in sampled classrooms were selected to participate with parental consent.
- Children completed several direct child assessments on a variety of skills.
- The data are weighted to represent all of the children enrolled in Region XI Head Start.
- For more information on the study:  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>



# **Key Indicator Findings for All Region XI Head Start Children**



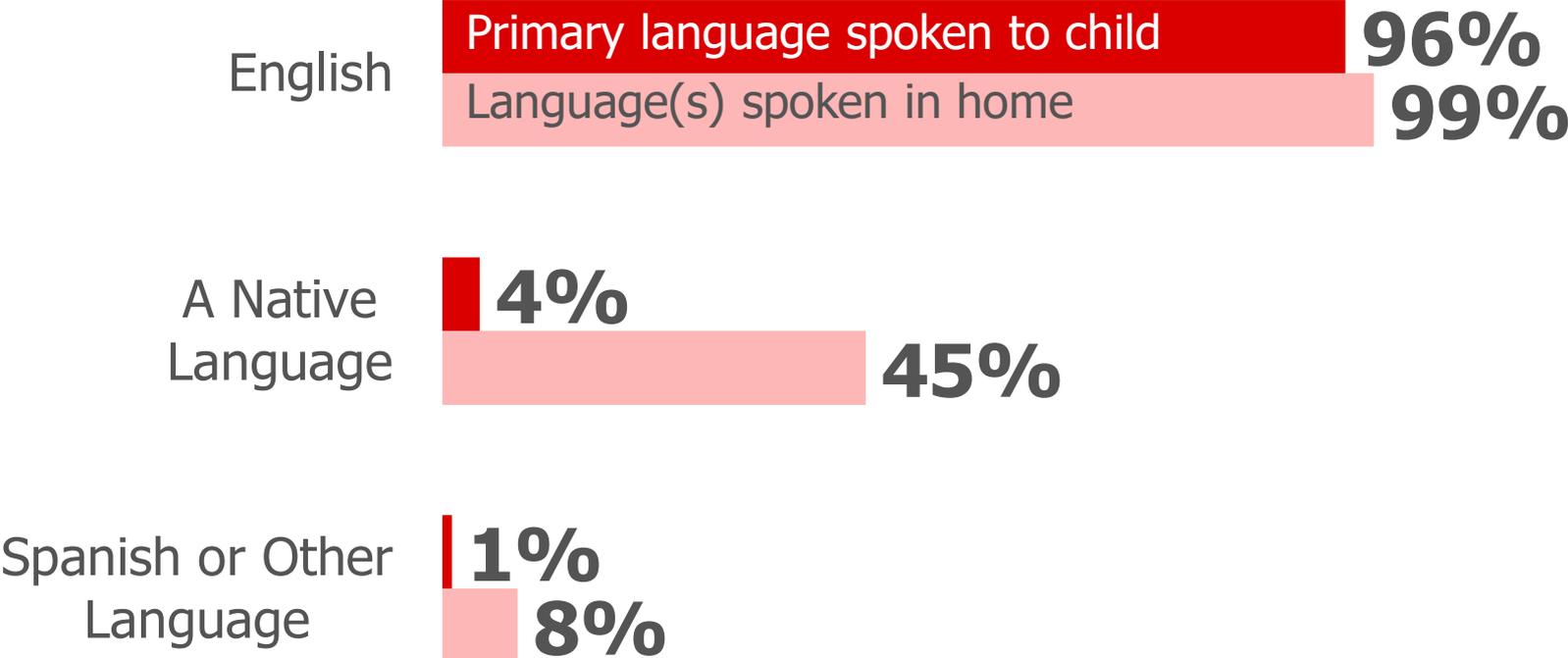
**As of September 1, 2019, more than 1/2 of Region XI Head Start children were 4 years old or older.**



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey and Survey Management System, Table A.1.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019.

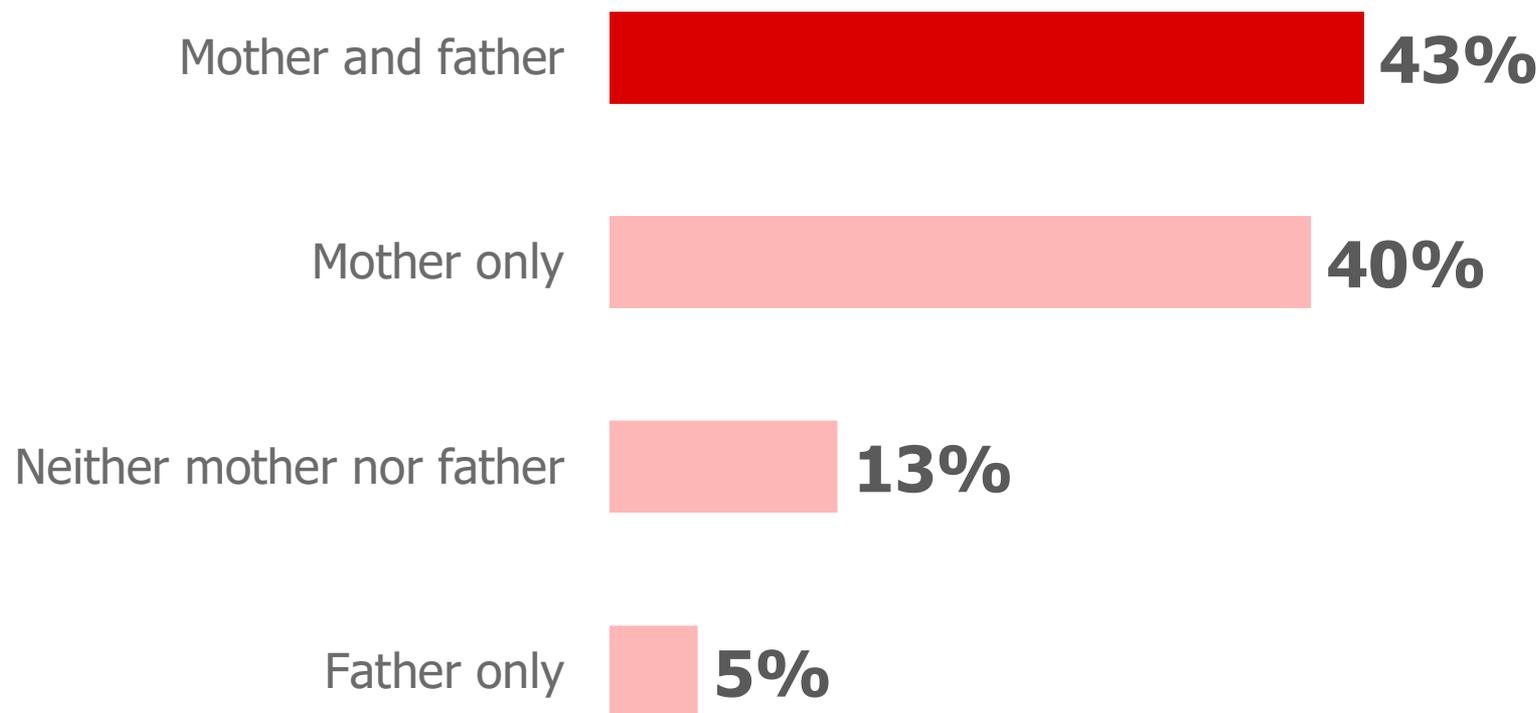
**Most** Region XI Head Start children are primarily spoken to in English in their homes. A Native language is spoken to children in **almost 1/2** of homes.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.2.  
 Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. The characteristic of "Language(s) spoken in home" is based on the parent's report of any languages spoken in the home, and therefore may sum to greater than 100 percent if more than one is spoken. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding for the "Primary language spoken to child" characteristic.

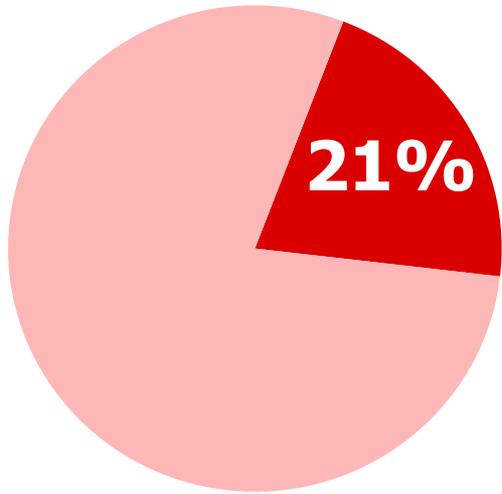


# Almost 1/2 of Region XI Head Start children live with both their mother and father.

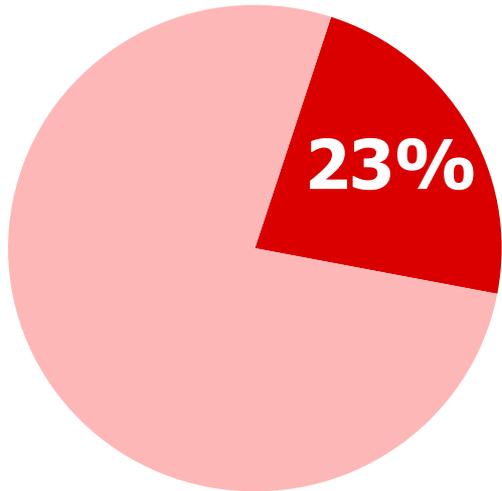


Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.3.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. This table focuses on biological/adoptive parents and does not include other adults, such as parents' romantic partners, step-parents, foster parents, or grandparents. Thus, for example, the "Mother only" category does not mean that the biological/adoptive mother is the only adult in the household, but that she is the only biological/adoptive parent in the household. \*Other includes mother and father living together in a registered domestic partnership or civil union, or the marital status is not reported. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.



**21%** of Region XI Head Start children live with their grandparent or great-grandparent.

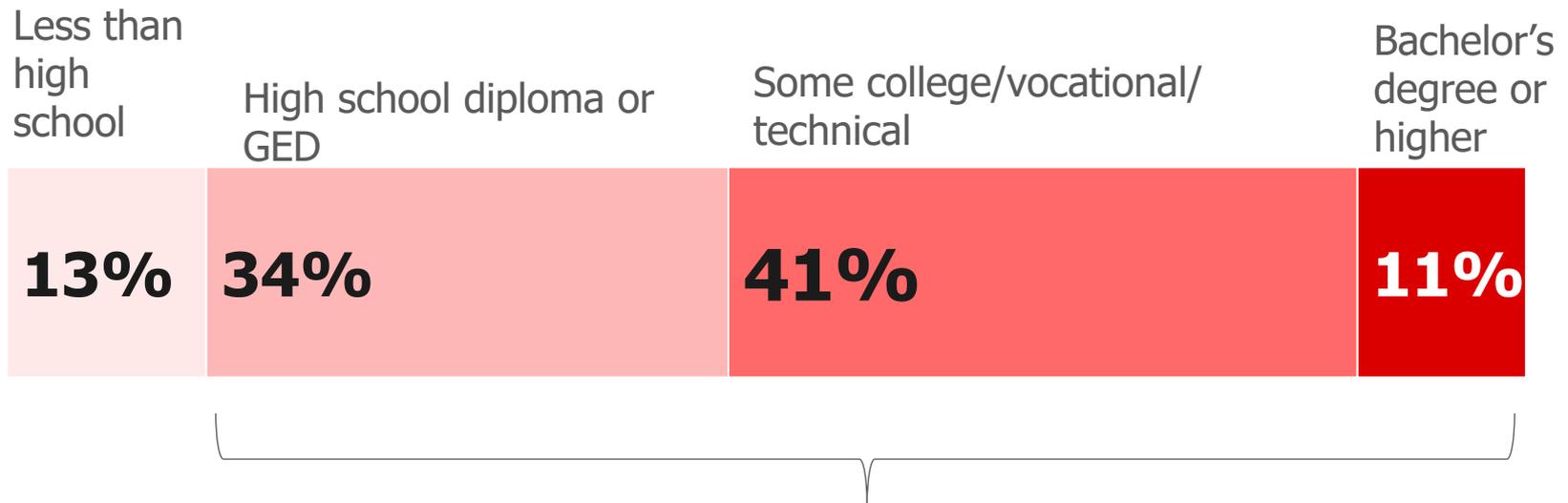


**23%** of AIAN children live with their grandparent or great-grandparent.

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.3.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. This includes children living with and without their biological/adoptive parent(s).

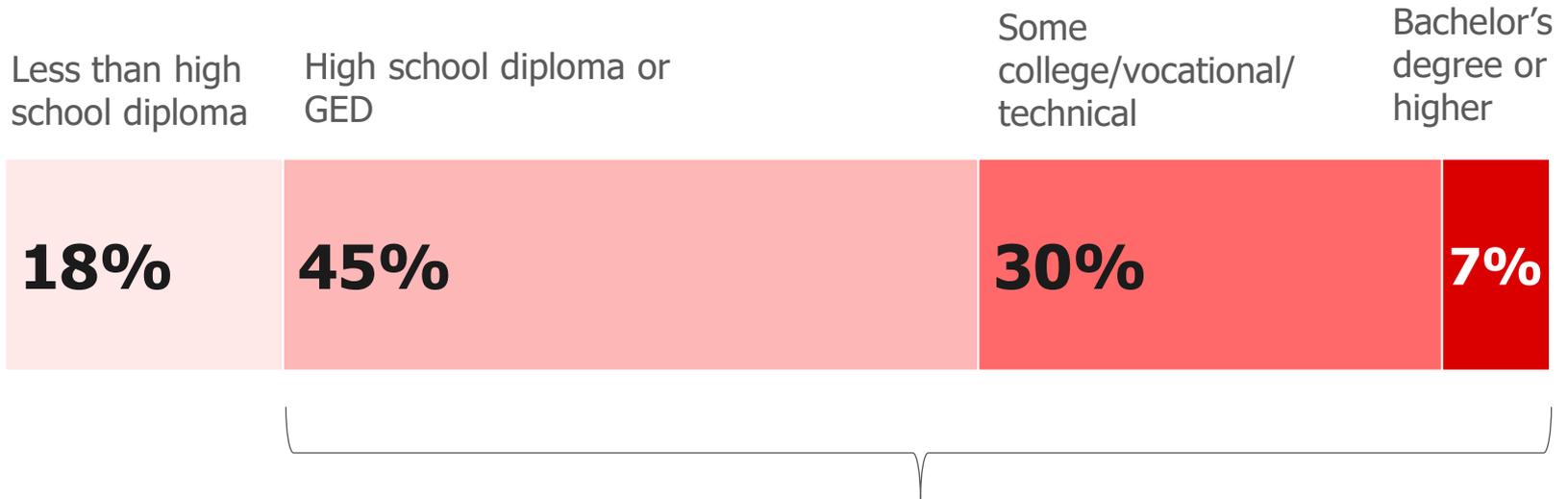




**Most (86%) Region XI Head Start children's mothers have at least a high school diploma or GED.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.4.

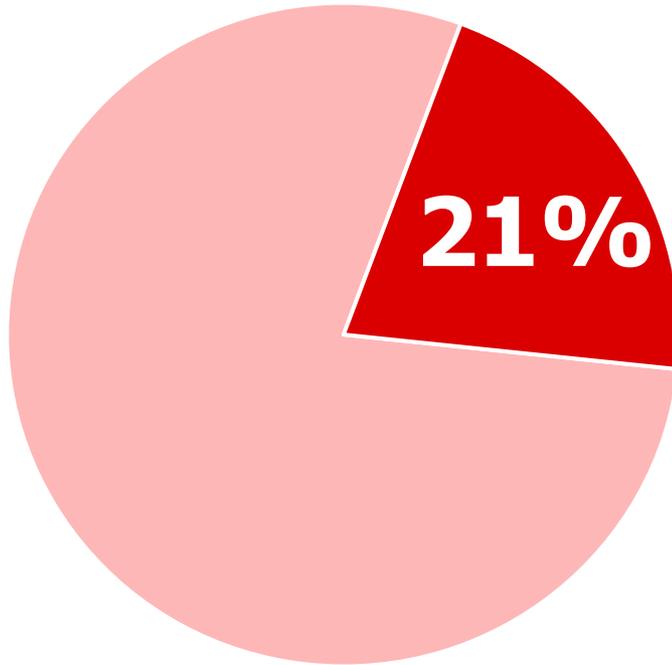
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Parents include both biological and adoptive parents. Households that do not include a mother and/or father are not included. Any parent in the household includes children with one or two parents in the household (that is, mother only, father only, and mother and father) and the highest education level among them when there are two parents in the household. If there is only one parent (mother only or father only), it reflects that parent. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.



## Most (82%) Region XI Head Start children's fathers have at least a high school diploma or GED.

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.4.

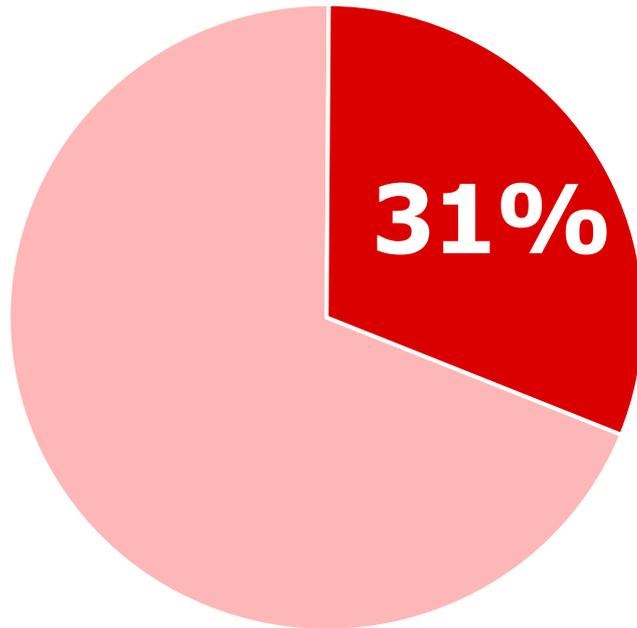
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Parents include both biological and adoptive parents. Households that do not include a mother and/or father are not included. Any parent in the household includes children with one or two parents in the household (that is, mother only, father only, and mother and father) and the highest education level among them when there are two parents in the household. If there is only one parent (mother only or father only), it reflects that parent.



**of Region XI Head Start children have a mother and father in the household who are both working full-time.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.5.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Parents include both biological and adoptive parents. Households that do not include a mother and/or father are not included.



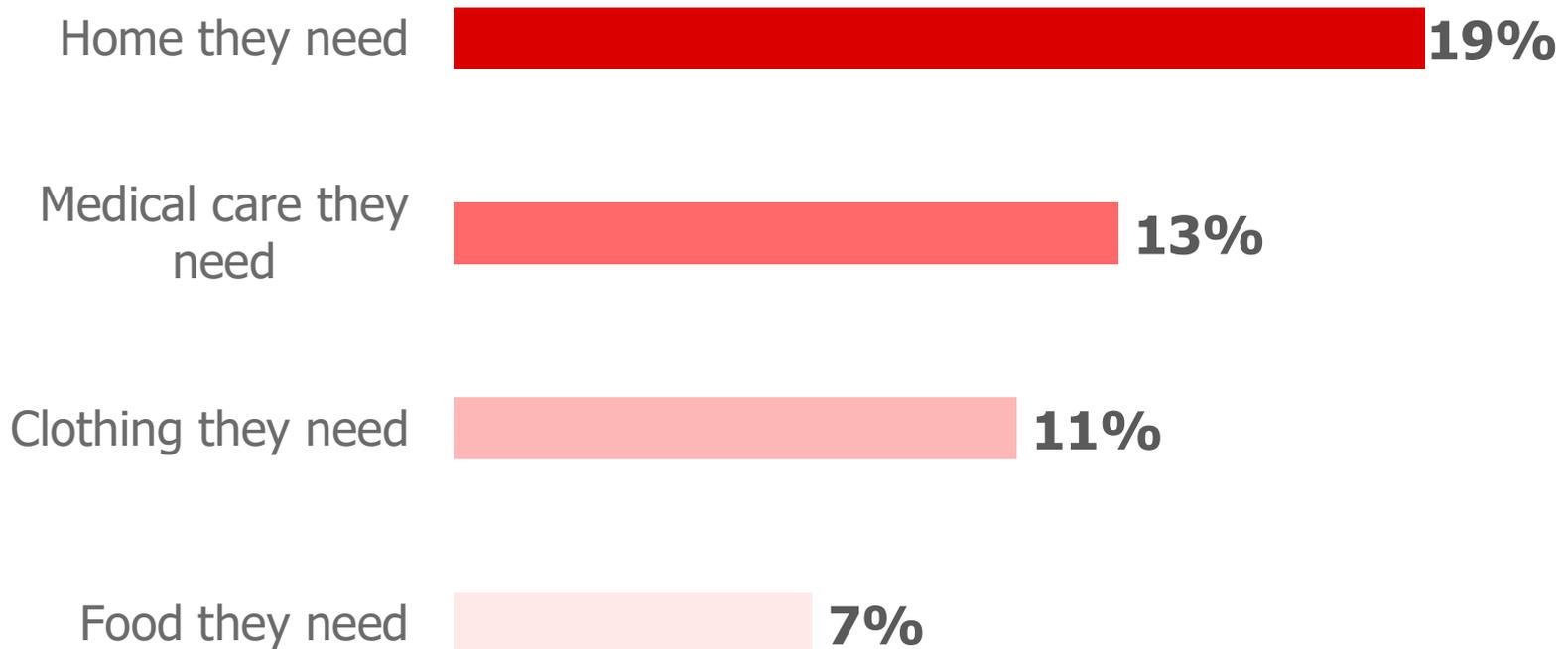
**of Region XI Head Start children live in a single-parent household where the parent is working full-time.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.5.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Parents include both biological and adoptive parents. Households that do not include a mother and/or father are not included.

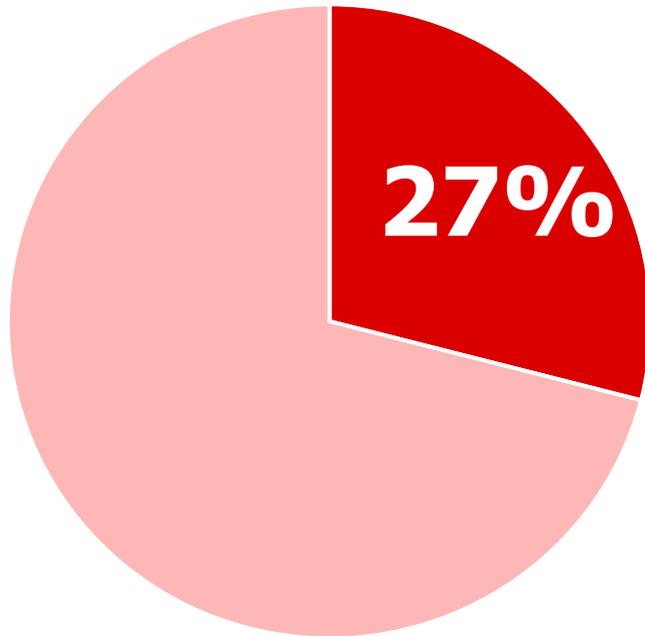


# Region XI Head Start children's parents report being unable to afford the:



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.11.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Estimates are reported among all children, not just among those whose parent reported a financial strain.



**of Region XI Head Start children's parents report one or more financial strains in the past 12 months.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.11.

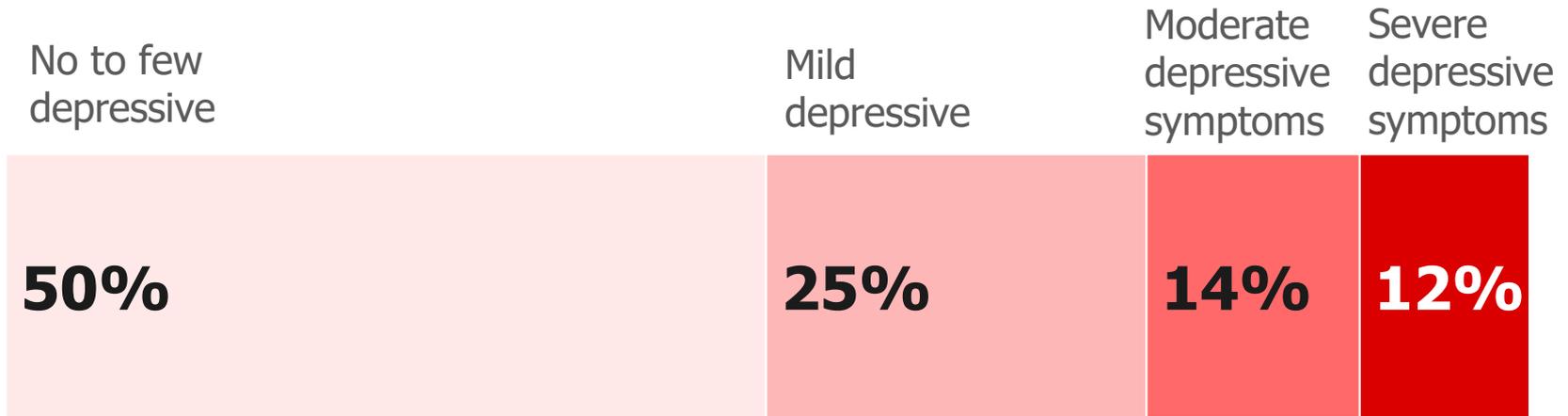
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. The financial strain scale includes four items that measure the extent to which a family feels they have enough money to afford the kind of home, clothing, food, and medical care they need. A family "reported a financial strain" if they disagree or strongly disagree that they have enough money to afford a home, clothing, food, or medical care.

# The majority of Region XI Head Start's children's parents report high or marginal food security.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.13.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. The food security scale uses guidelines from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Guide to Measuring Household Food Security, Revised 2000 and the USDA's 2006 updates to the security labels. According to USDA guidelines, households are considered food secure if they fall in the high or marginal range. A household is defined as food secure if they have no or minimal indications of food-access problems or limitations, suggesting little anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house with little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake. Low food security is defined as reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet, but little or no indication of reduced food intake. Very low food security is defined as reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.



**About half** of the children in Region XI Head Start were living with a parent who reported some symptoms of depression.

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.10.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Scores do not sum to 100 due to rounding. The total depressive symptom score is the total score on the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) short form (12 items on a 4-point scale for frequency in the past week). Total scores range from 0 to 36. Total depressive scores are categorized as no to few depressive symptoms (0 to 4), mild depressive symptoms (5 to 9), moderate depressive symptoms (10 to 14), and severe depressive symptoms (15 and above). The publisher reports that depressive symptoms scores have been correlated with clinical diagnosis, but the CES-D is a screening tool and not used to formally diagnose depression.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **2.7** in approaches to learning (ECLS-K) in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment, Teacher Child Report, Assessor Rating, and Parent Survey, Table C.3.  
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start in fall 2019. Approaches to learning are drawn from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS-K). Higher scores indicate the child exhibits positive approaches to learning behaviors more frequently.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **16.0** in social skills in fall 2019.

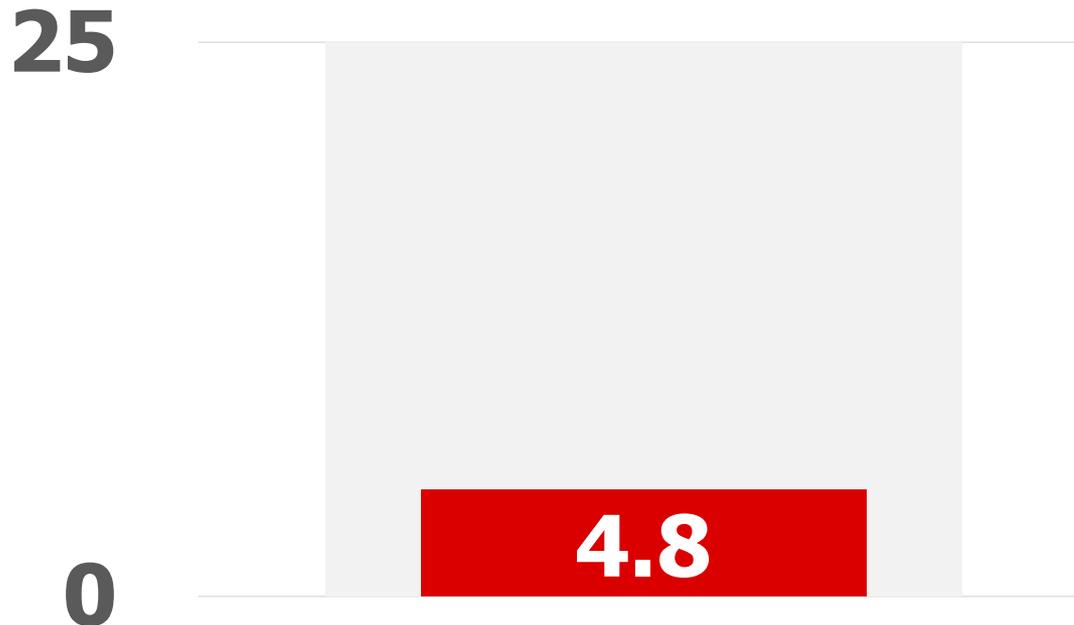
Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment, Teacher Child Report, Assessor Rating, and Parent Survey, Table C.3.  
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Social skill items are drawn from the Personal Maturity Scale and the Social Skills Rating Scale. Social skills score is a sum score of 12 items with 24 possible points related to children's cooperative behavior and social skills. Higher scores indicate the child exhibits cooperative behavior more frequently.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **4.8** on problem behaviors in fall 2019.

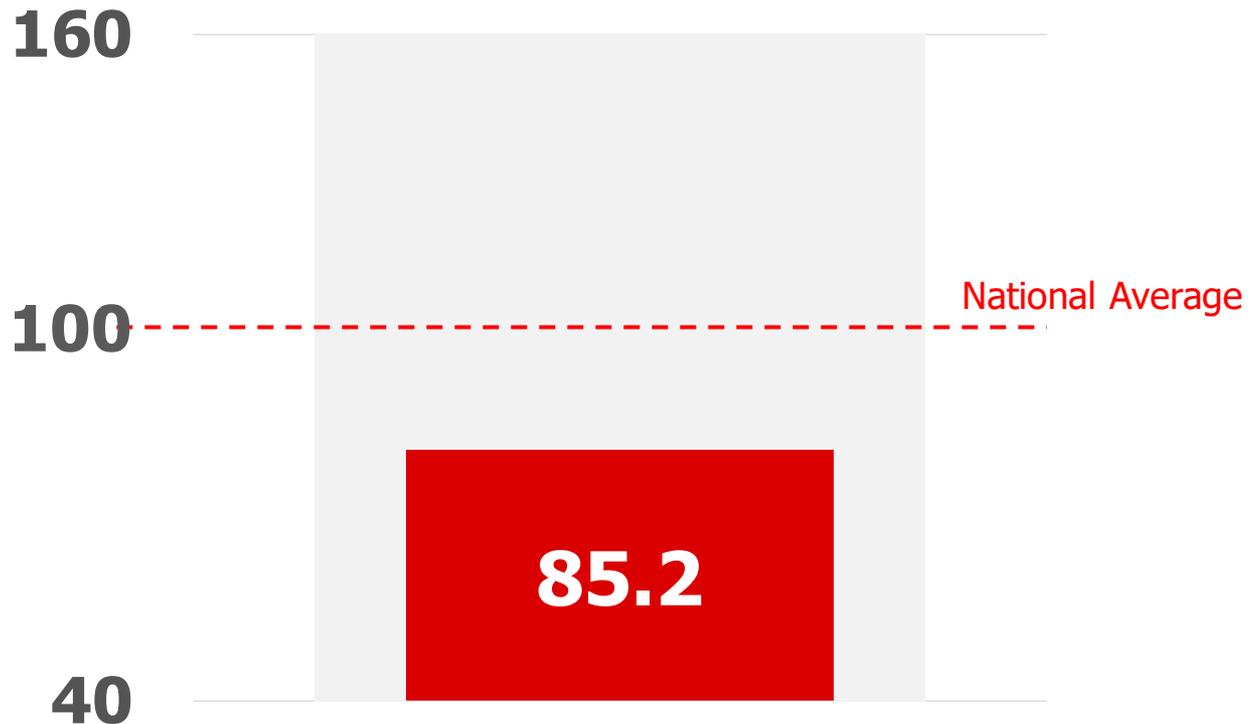
Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment, Teacher Child Report, Assessor Rating, and Parent Survey, Table C.3.  
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Problem behavior items are drawn from the Behavior Problems Index and the Personal Maturity Scale. Problem behaviors total score is a sum score of 14 items that contains three subscale scores—Aggressive Behavior (4 items), Withdrawn Behavior (6 items), and Hyperactive Behavior (3 items).

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **85.2** on receptive vocabulary in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.

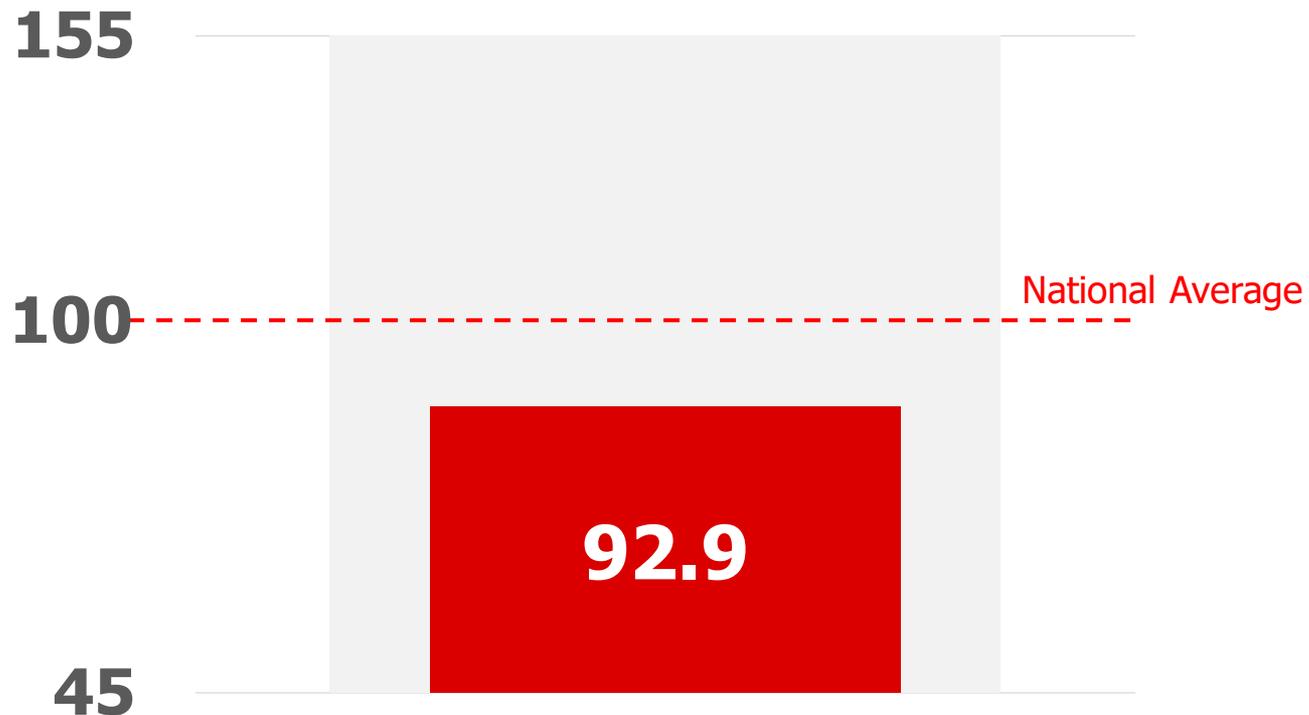


Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table B.3.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Receptive vocabulary was assessed using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test Fifth Edition (PPVT-5). Standard scores in this table reflect an individual's performance relative to English-speaking children of the same age nationally unless otherwise noted. These scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **92.9** on expressive vocabulary in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.

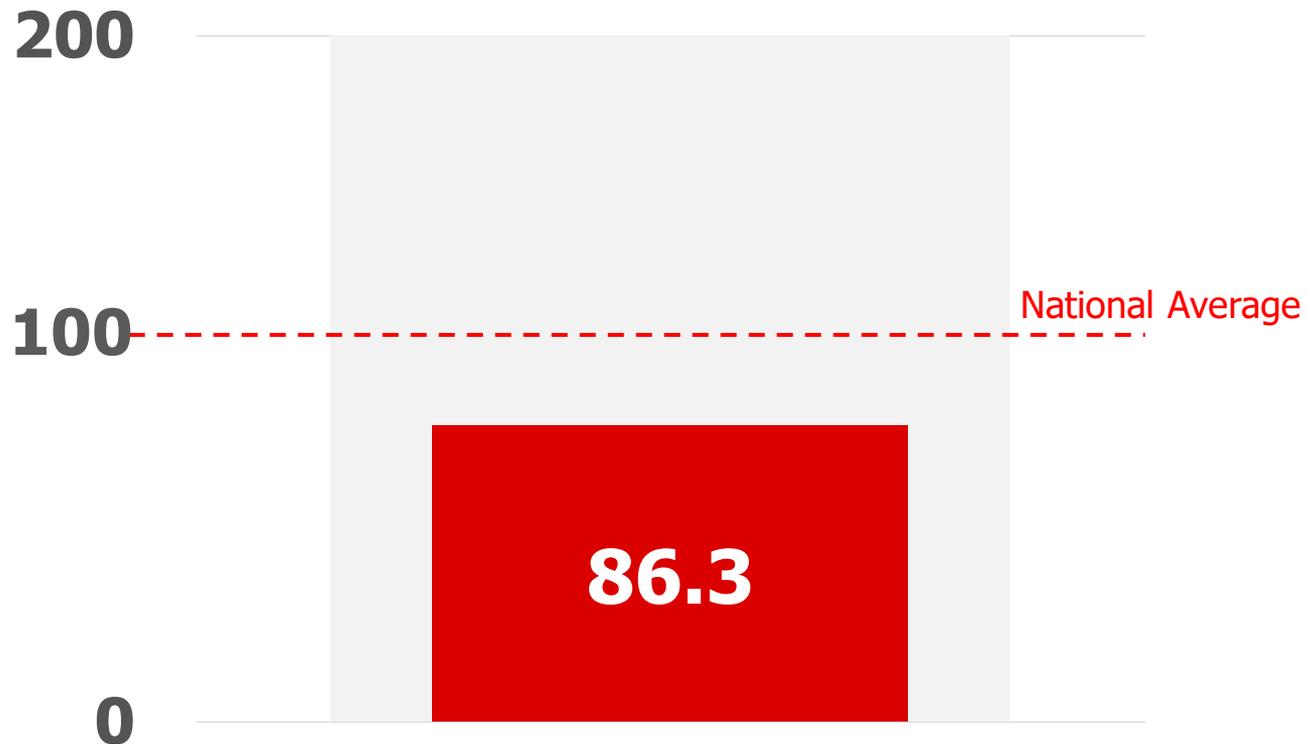


Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table B.3.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Expressive vocabulary was assessed using the Expressive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test – Fourth Edition (EOWPVT-4). Standard scores in this table reflect an individual's performance relative to English-speaking children of the same age nationally unless otherwise noted. These scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. IRT-based scores provide information on children's absolute performance at a specific point in time. The publisher provides a range of <55 to >145, but in AIAN FACES we assign scores outside this range as 45 or 155, respectively.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **86.3** on letter-word knowledge in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table B.5.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Letter-word identification was assessed using the Woodcock-Johnson IV Letter Word Identification. Standard scores in this table reflect an individual's performance relative to English-speaking children of the same age nationally unless otherwise noted. These scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. IRT-based scores provide information on children's absolute performance at a specific point in time.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **96.0** in early writing in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table B.5.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Early writing was assessed using the Woodcock-Johnson IV Spelling. Standard scores in this table reflect an individual's performance relative to English-speaking children of the same age nationally unless otherwise noted. These scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. IRT-based scores provide information on children's absolute performance at a specific point in time.

# Region XI Head Start children scored an average of **80.8** on early math in fall 2019.

Colored bar represents the average score. Gray area represents the possible range of scores.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table B.7.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Early math was assessed using the Woodcock-Johnson IV Applied Problems. Standard scores in this table reflect an individual's performance relative to English-speaking children of the same age nationally unless otherwise noted. These scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. IRT-based scores provide information on children's absolute performance at a specific point in time.

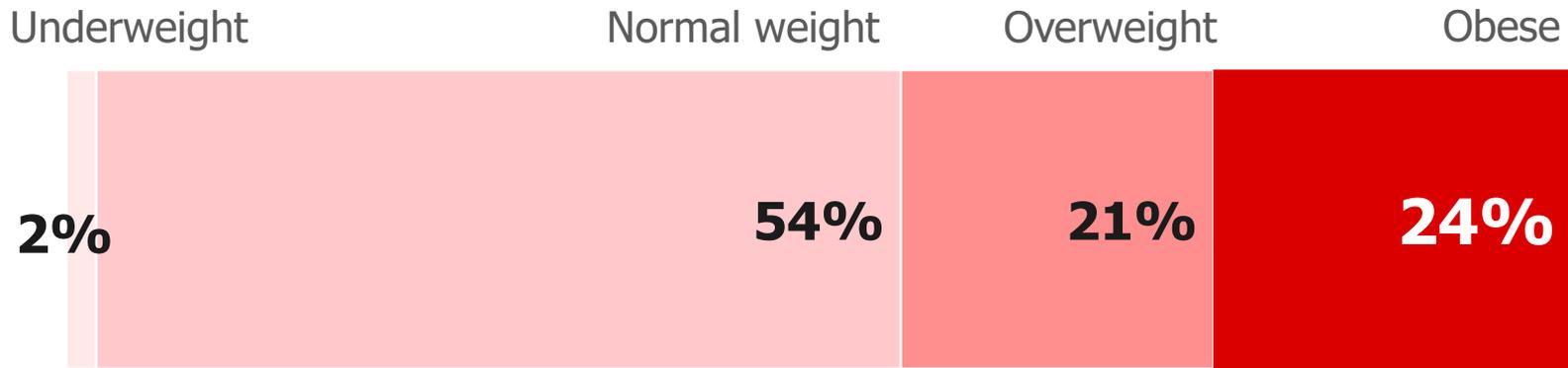
# Region XI Head Start children's parents report that **most** children are in excellent/very good health.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table D.2.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start in fall 2015. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

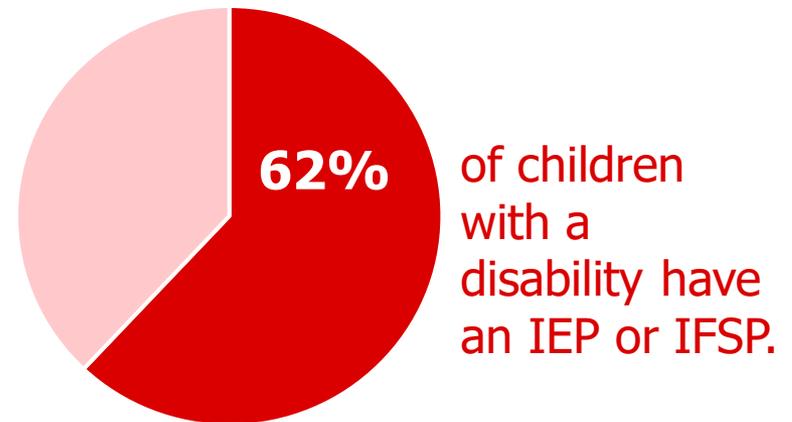
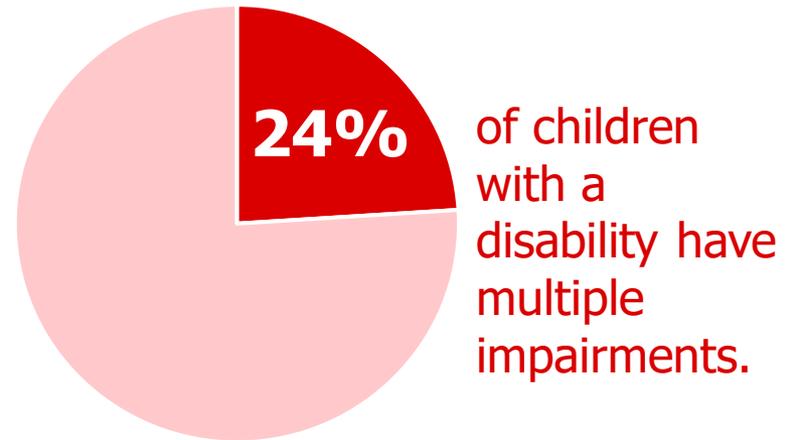
# More than 1/2 of Region XI Head Start children are normal weight.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Direct Child Assessment and Parent Survey, Table D.3.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start in fall 2019. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a child is considered to be underweight when his/her BMI score is below the 5th percentile for his/her age and gender, normal weight when his/her BMI score is at or above the 5th percentile and below the 85th percentile for his/her age and gender, overweight when his/her BMI score is at or above the 85th percentile and below the 95th percentile for his/her age and gender, and obese if his/her BMI is at or above the 95th percentile for his/her age and gender.

**15%**  
of children in  
Region XI  
Head Start  
have a teacher  
reported  
disability.



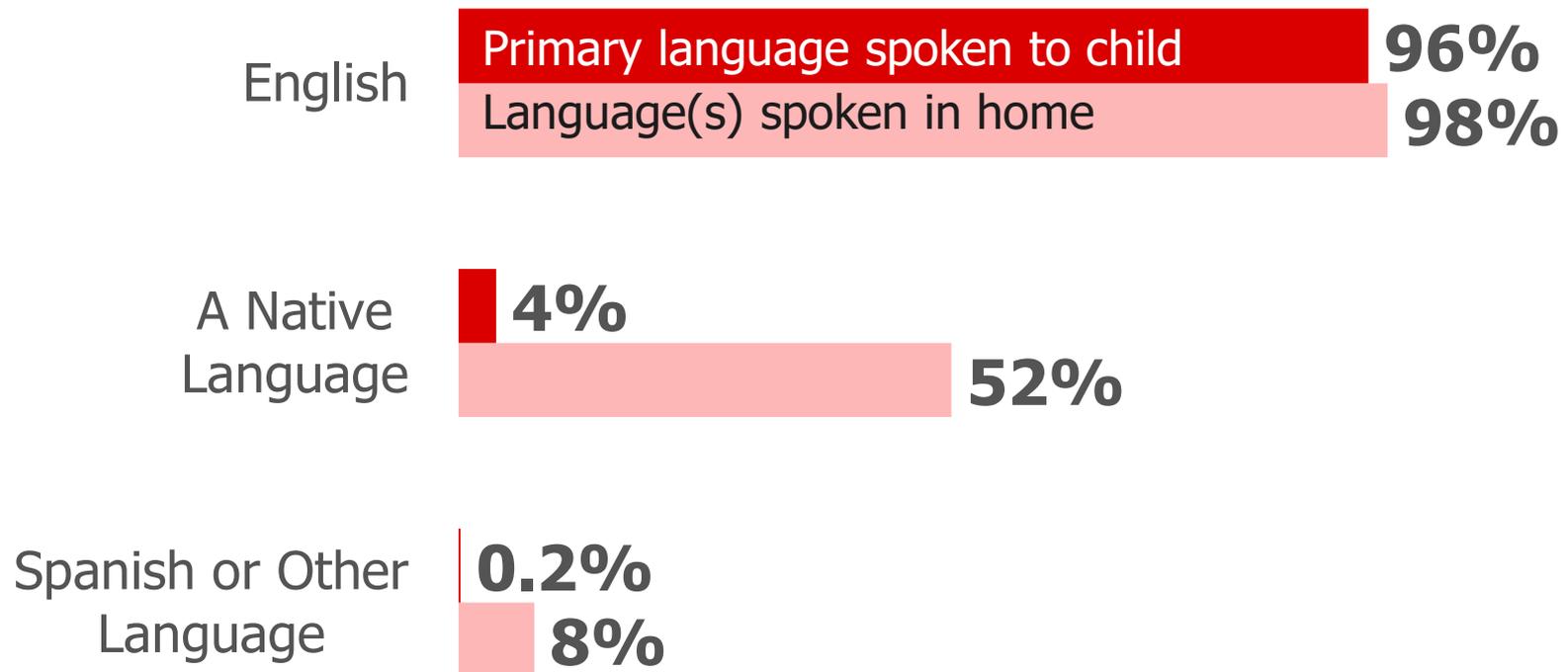
Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Teacher Child Report and Parent Survey, Table D.1.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start in fall 2019. Teachers were asked whether a professional had indicated that the child had a developmental problem, delay or other special need, and if so, to indicate the specific need or disability. IEP = Individualized Education Program. IFSP = Individual Family Service Plan.

# Findings for AIAN Children Only

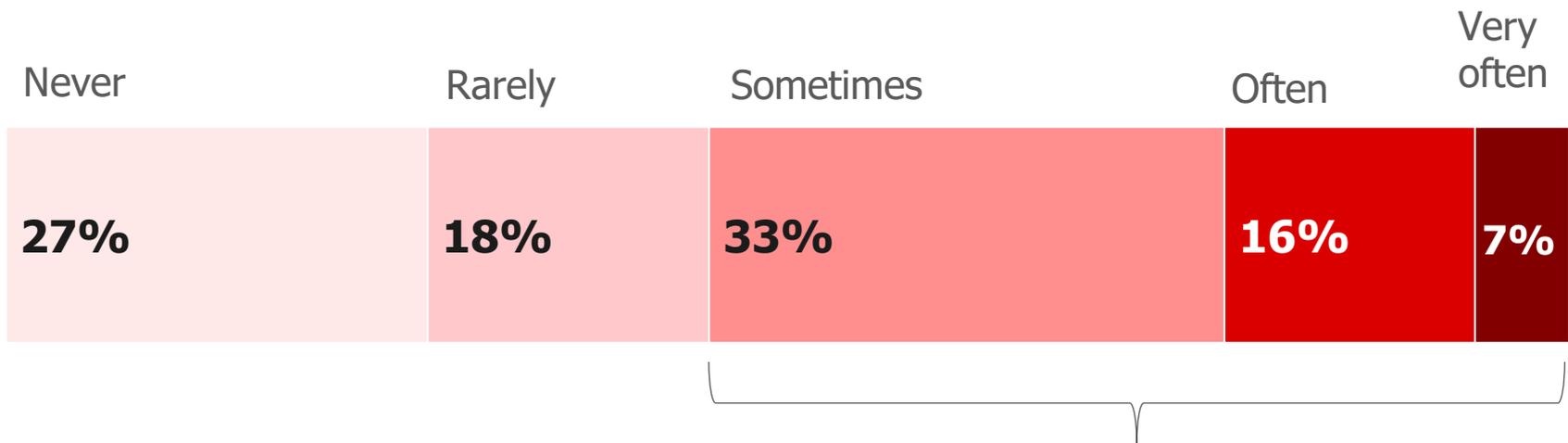


# Most AIAN children are primarily spoken to in English in their homes. A Native language is spoken to children in **more than 1/2** of homes.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.2.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding. American Indian and Alaska Native children includes children whose parents reported they were American Indian or Alaska Native only or in combination with another race or Hispanic ethnicity. The characteristic of "Language(s) spoken in home" is based on the parent's report of any languages spoken in the home, and therefore may sum to greater than 100 percent if more than one is spoken.

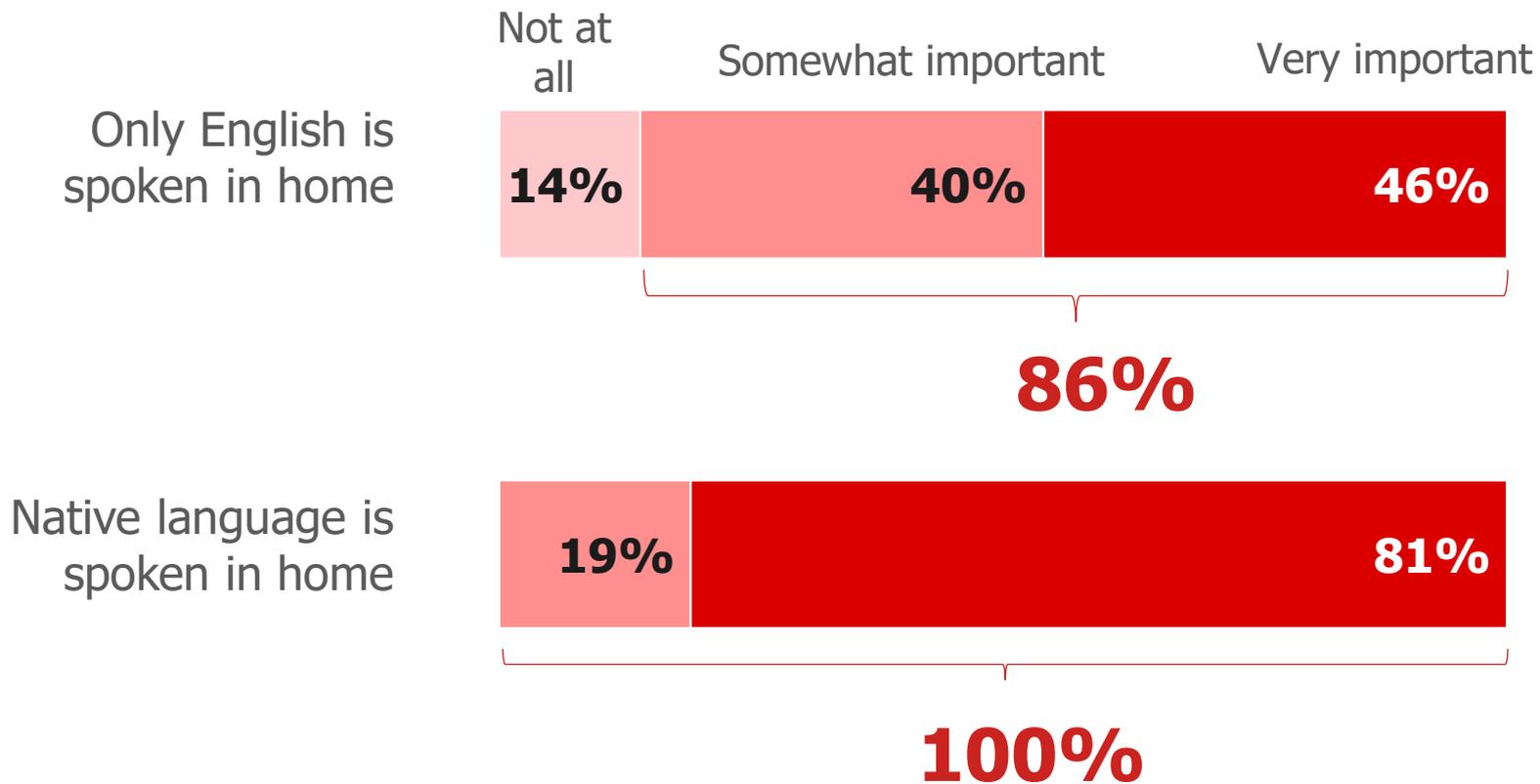


**Over half (56%) of AIAN children’s parents speak with their child in a Native language at least sometimes.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.8.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Households that do not include a biological/adoptive mother and/or biological/adoptive father are not included in the relevant percentage calculations for Native language use. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. American Indian and Alaska Native children includes children whose parents reported they were American Indian or Alaska Native only or in combination with another race or Hispanic ethnicity.

# **Most** AIAN children's parents say that it is somewhat or very important that their child learns a Native language regardless of the language spoken at home.

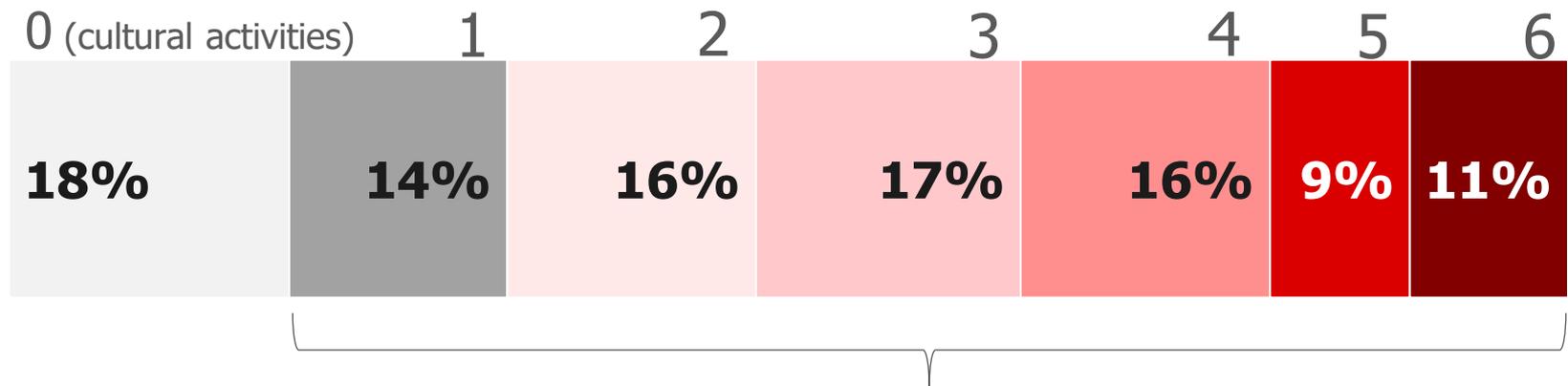


Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.8.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. AIAN children includes children whose parents reported they were AIAN only or in combination with another race or Hispanic identity.

# Findings for All Region XI Head Start Children



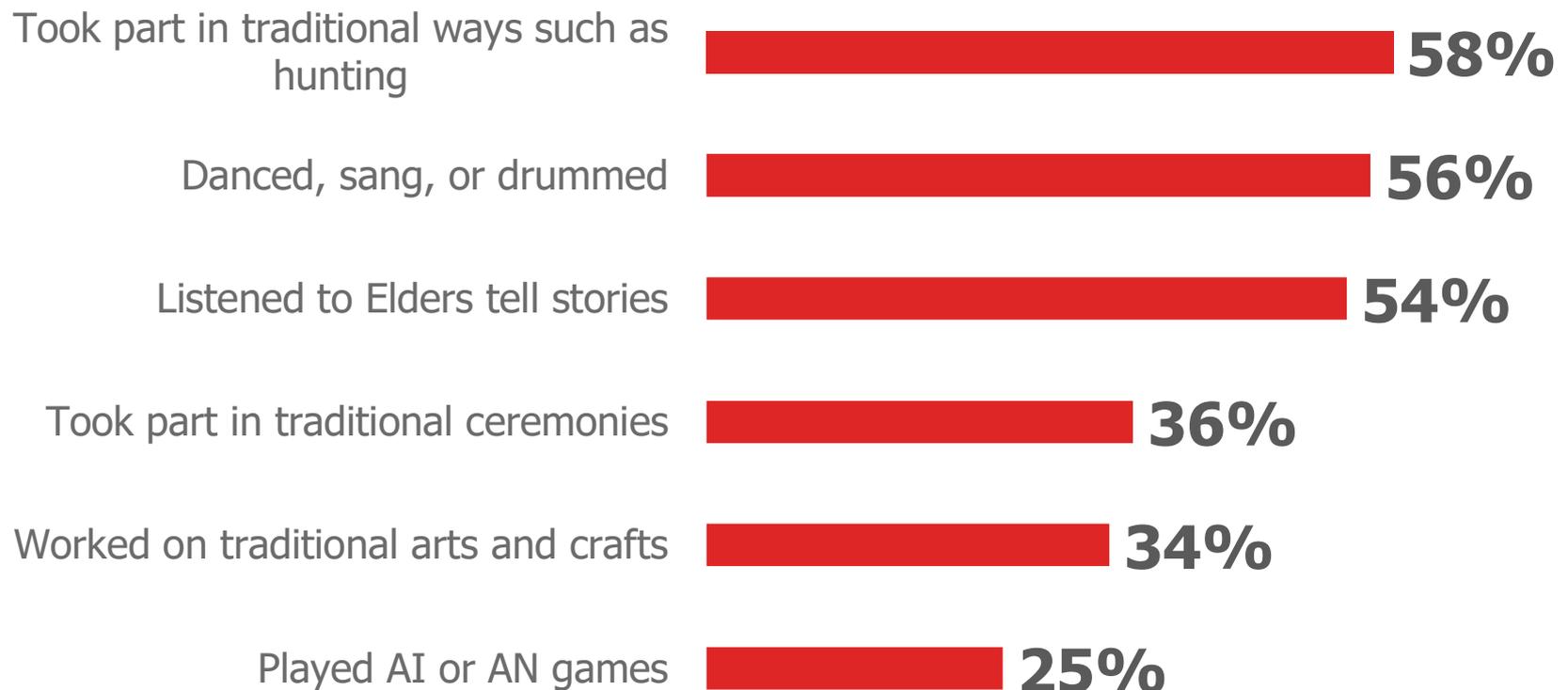


**A majority (83%) of Region XI Head Start children have engaged in at least one community cultural activity in the past 12 months.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.20.

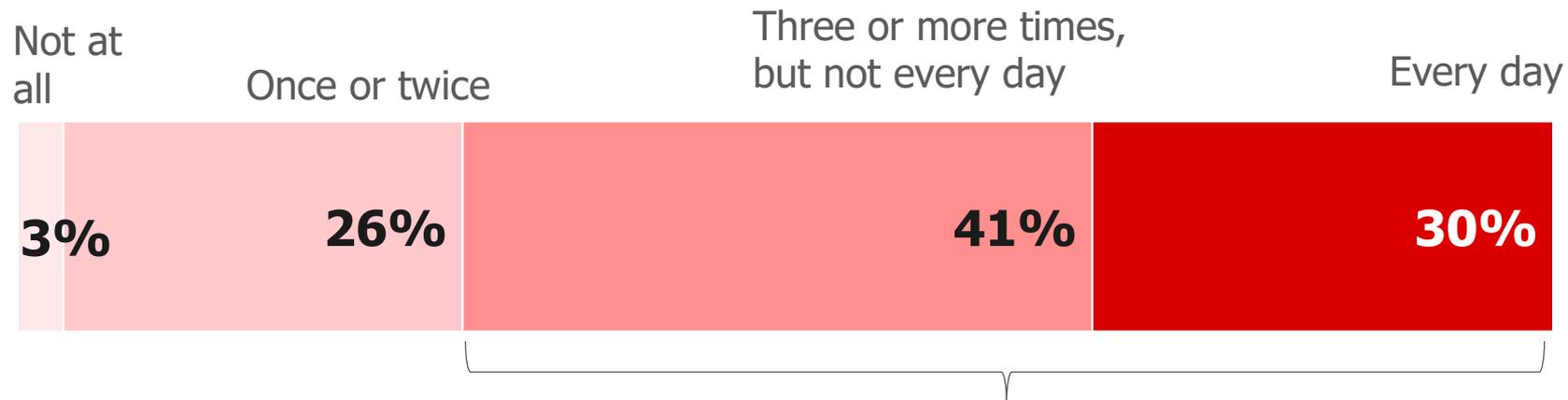
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding. Community cultural activities refers to activities with community members outside of the immediate family.

# In the past 12 months, **more than 1/2** of Region XI Head Start children took part in traditional ways such as hunting, carving, harvesting, collecting, and fishing.



Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.19.

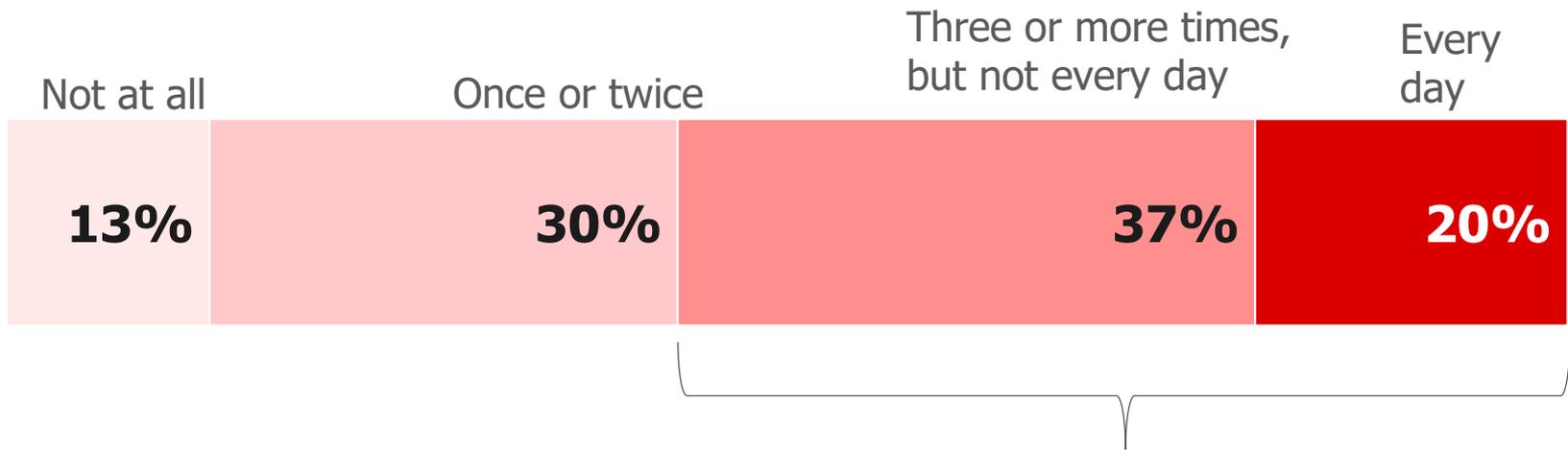
Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019.



**In the past week, a majority (71%) of Region XI Head Start children were read to by a family member three or more times.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.21.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019.



**In the past week, more than ½ (57%) of Region XI Head Start children were told stories by a family member three or more times.**

Source: AIAN FACES Fall 2019 Parent Survey, Table A.21.

Note: Statistics are weighted to represent all children enrolled in Region XI Head Start programs in fall 2019.

## For more information

- To learn more about the study and study reports, see the AIAN FACES study page on the ACF website:
  - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>
- To learn more about the data and apply for access, see the AIAN FACES 2015 study page on the Research Connections:
  - <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/36804>



# AIAN FACES 2019 Contacts

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These slides were prepared by Allison Walker, a Contract Associate Analyst to the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) with VPD Government Solutions.

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For additional information visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/american-indian-and-alaska-native-head-start-family-and-child-experiences-survey-faces>

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