

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities Evaluation

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**Contemporary
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Summary of the Presentation

- The evaluation design and the data available.
- The parenting courses.
- Who attended the courses – their ethnic and social mix.
- Course attendance.
- Impact of the course – participants' comments.
- Impact of the course – statistical measures.
- Conclusions.

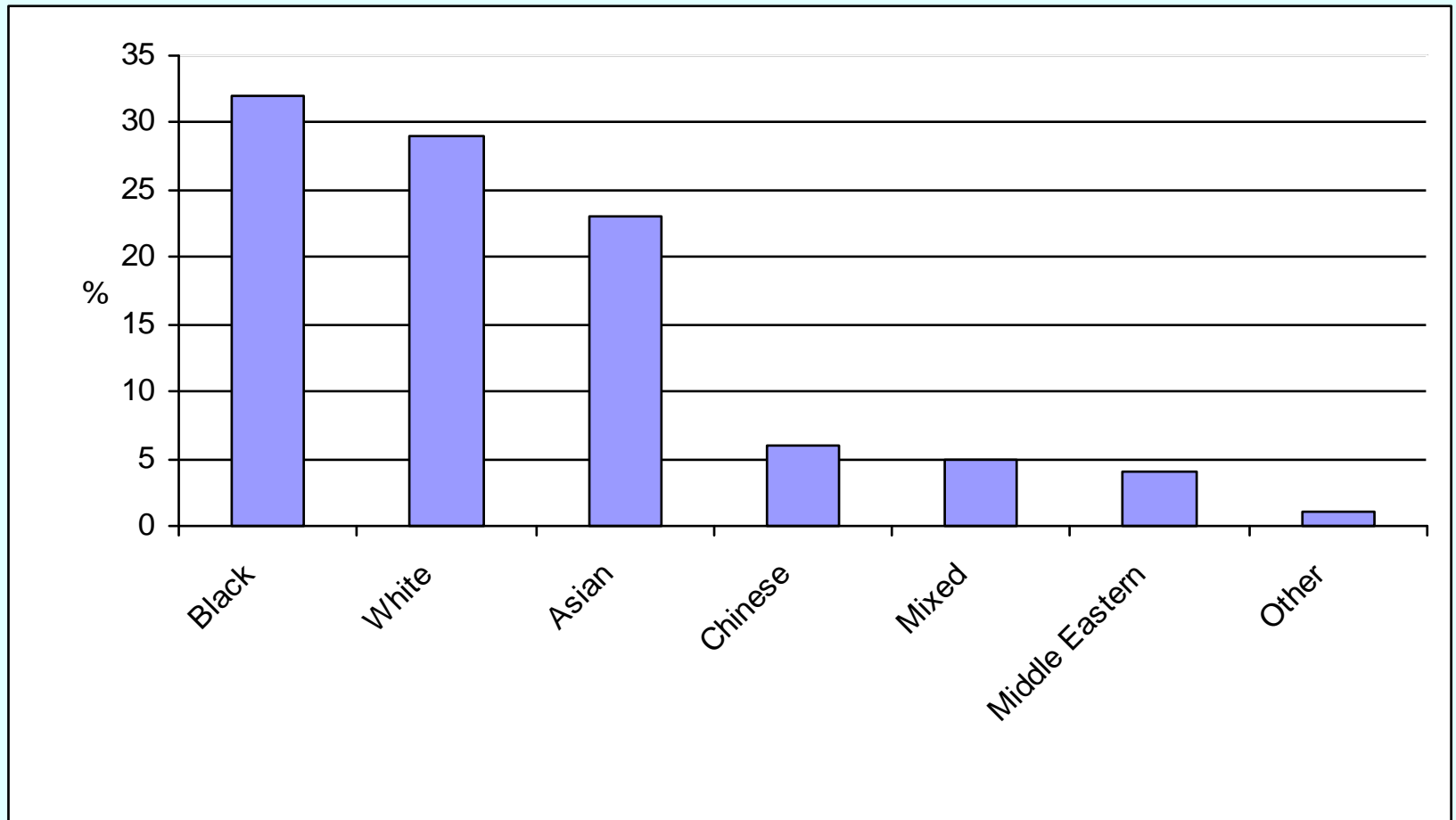
Data available for the evaluation

- Information was provided on 82 courses.
- Course Summary Report (CSR) for 76 of the courses.
- Forms on a total of 973 individual participants:
 - Registration forms for 831 participants
 - All three forms for 400 of the participants
 - An additional 45 participants had both the pre and post course form, but no registration form.
- Strengths of the data but also some limitations.

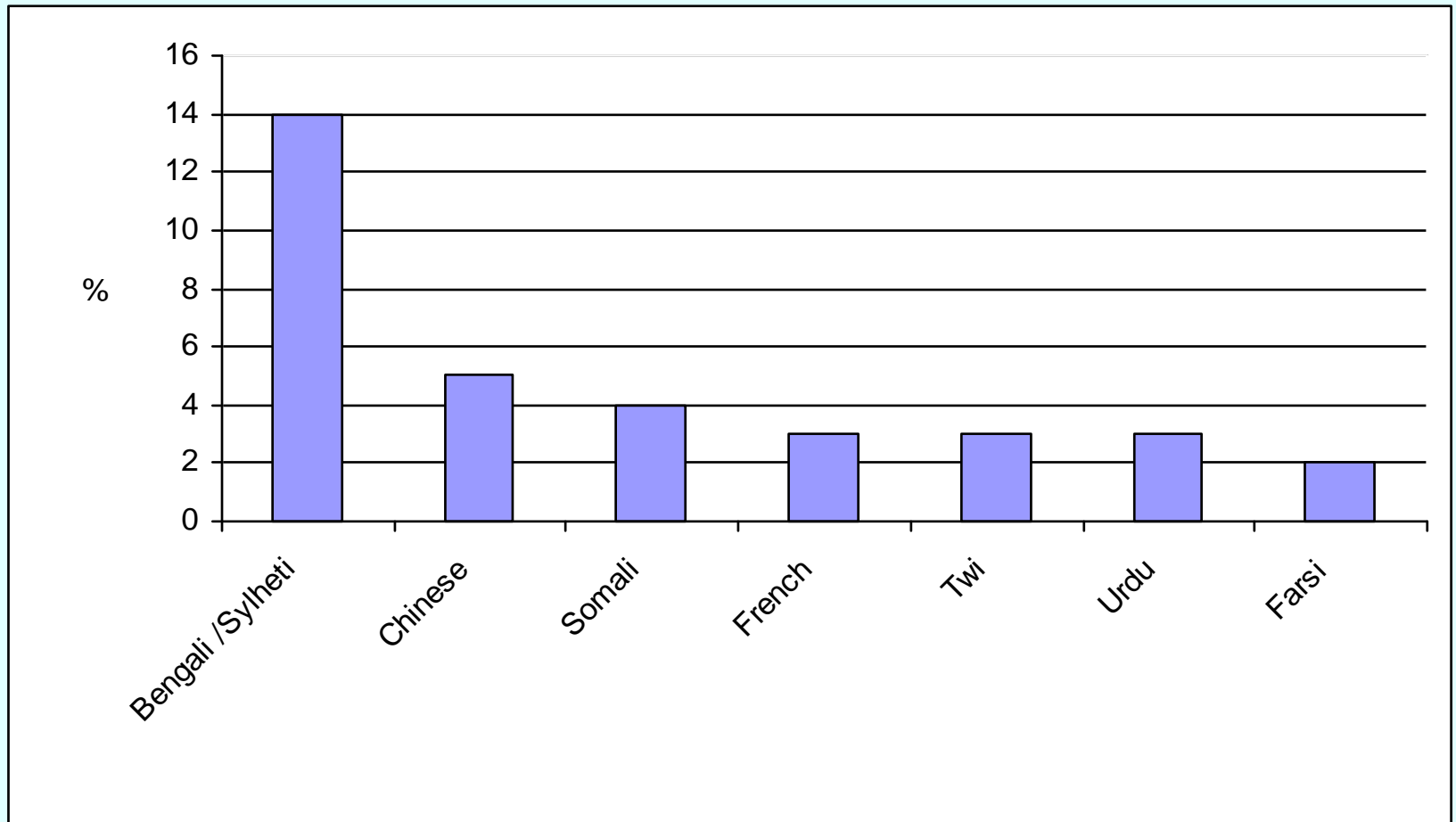
The parenting courses

- Two thirds of the courses were in London, others in the North of England, the South West and the Midlands.
- Run by a wide range of agencies.
- Some courses were targeted at specific ethnic groups and other types of groups.

Broad ethnic background of the participants



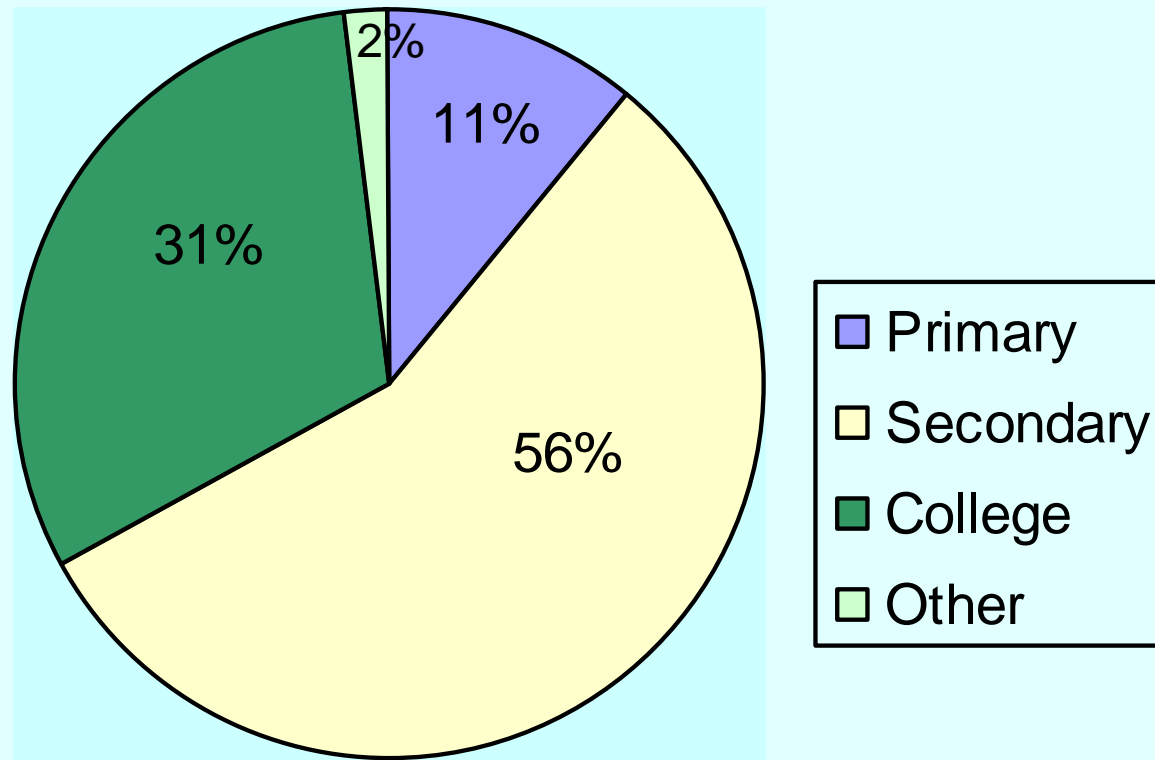
Main first language of the participants, excluding English



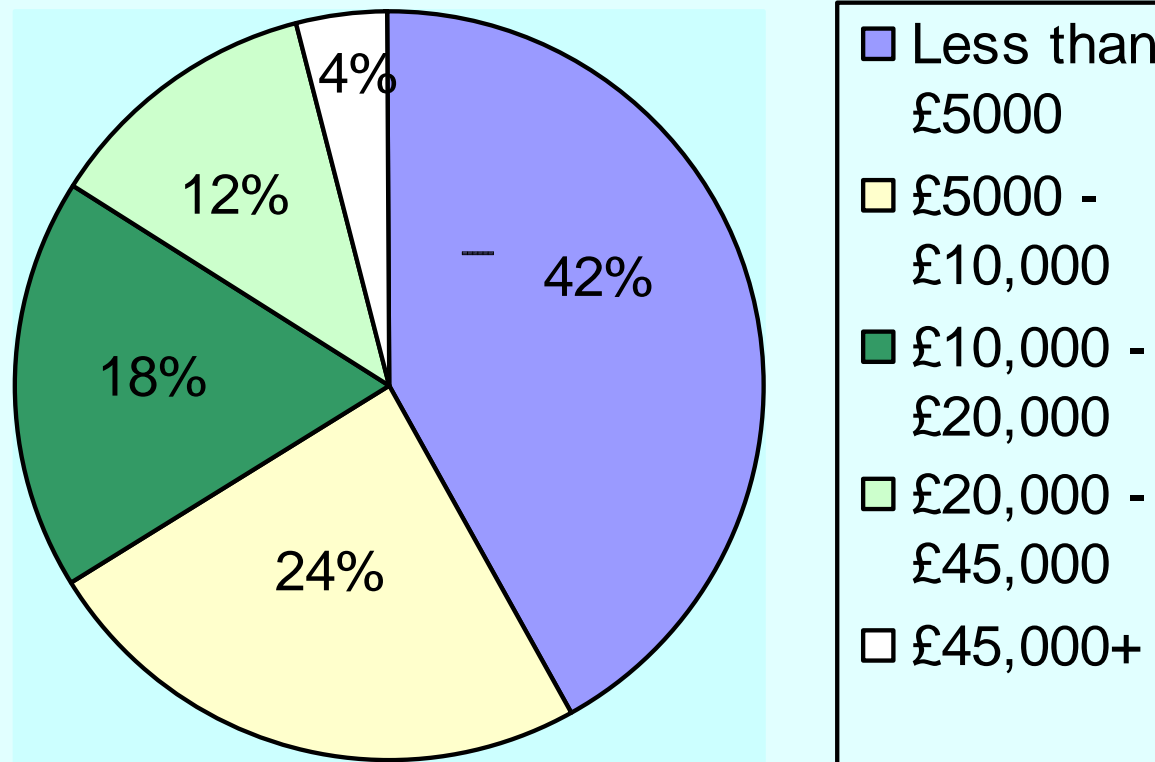
Other characteristics of the participants

- 11% of the participants were male and 39% of the courses had at least one male participant.
- 40% of the participants were aged between 30 and 39 years.
- 38% were single parents.
- 3% were grandparents.

Education level of the participants



Annual household income of the participants



Course attendance

- Attendance information for 48 of the 82 courses.
- 77% of those who attended at least two sessions also completed / graduated from the course.
- A further 8% attended at least half the sessions but did not graduate.
- The drop out rate was 15%.

How participants rated the course

- The participants rated the course very highly:
 - Over 80% of the participants rated all aspects of the information presented in the curriculum as ‘Very good’ or ‘Good’.
 - Over 80% of the participants rated all aspects of the way that the course was conducted as ‘Very good’ or ‘Good’.
 - Nearly all the participants (99%) said that they would recommend the course to their family and friends.

Impact of the course – participants' comments

- Learnt new techniques to help with their children, especially positive discipline and alternatives to smacking.
- Valued the concept of 'special time' and the charts.
- Improved their communication skills and benefited from discussing issues with the other participants.
- The course also had a positive effect on other areas of their life.
- Felt calmer / less angry and / or were more confident.

Impact of the course – outcome measures

- 445 pre and post assessment questionnaires completed.
- These covered:
 - Community involvement
 - Family activities and discussions
 - Positive discipline and communication strategies
 - Negative discipline and communication strategies
 - Participants' and children's competence.
- Positive change in all areas apart from the community involvement.

Conclusions

- Quantitative and qualitative evidence that the course:
 - Successfully reached people from a range of ethnic and social groups
 - Achieved a good attendance rate
 - Increased use of positive discipline techniques
 - Developed other parenting skills
 - Increased the participants' and the children's competence.
- Qualitative evidence only on increased community involvement.

Finally

“Very good mix of people from different cultures, found similar parenting experiences and concerns amongst us all.”

“Apparently, I thought that coming to this class meant “I was a bad parent” but instead I've learned a lot and am so grateful.”

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