

Health and Health Care of New Brunswick's Children

Findings from the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey

April 26, 2006



Rutgers Center for
State Health Policy



An Initiative of the Healthier New Brunswick 2010 Campaign

Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

in collaboration with

New Brunswick's Community Health Leadership

Funded by Johnson & Johnson through New Brunswick Tomorrow

Additional contributions by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Project Team

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- Carl Schneider & Jose Nova, Data Analysts
- Peter Guarnaccia & Denise Davis, Contributing Faculty
- Teresa Vivar, Juancy Rodriguez, & others, Community Field Staff
- Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc., Survey Research Firm

About the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey

- **Representative sample of local families**
 - *Excludes* those here mainly to attend universities
 - *Includes* New Brunswick and bordering Somerset neighborhoods

About the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey

- **Interviews conducted July-December, 2004**
 - Tested and validated questions
 - Professional, trained interviewers
 - By telephone; cell phones provided to families without landlines
 - Most knowledgeable respondent
 - 40 minute average length
 - English and Spanish

About the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey

- **Participation strong**
 - \$10 respondent payment (\$20 for cell phone cases)
 - Extensive follow-up to maximize participation
 - 52.3% response rate, 4% “refusal” rate
- **595 families including 1,572 individuals**
- **Comparison to NJ overall & urban areas from 2001 NJ Family Health Survey**
 - Urban areas defined as municipalities with at least 25,000 people and population density of at least 9,000 per square mile

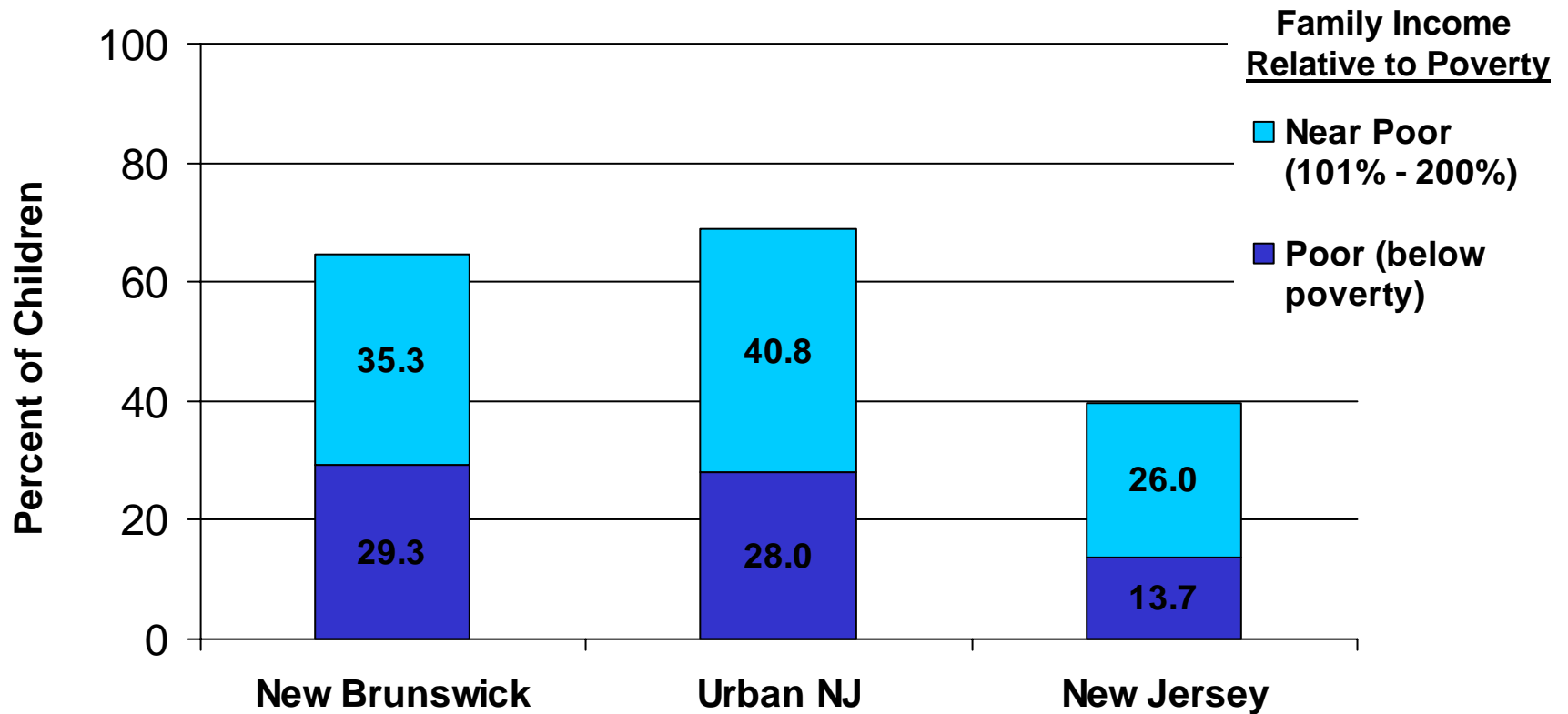
Community Context & Health Status

Family and Community Context

- Many low-income families
 - Over 60% in families below 200% of the federal poverty line
- Rich ethnic and racial diversity
 - 31% Mexican
 - 25% African American (non-Hispanic)
 - 10% Dominican
 - 7% Puerto Rican
 - 15% Other Hispanic/Latino

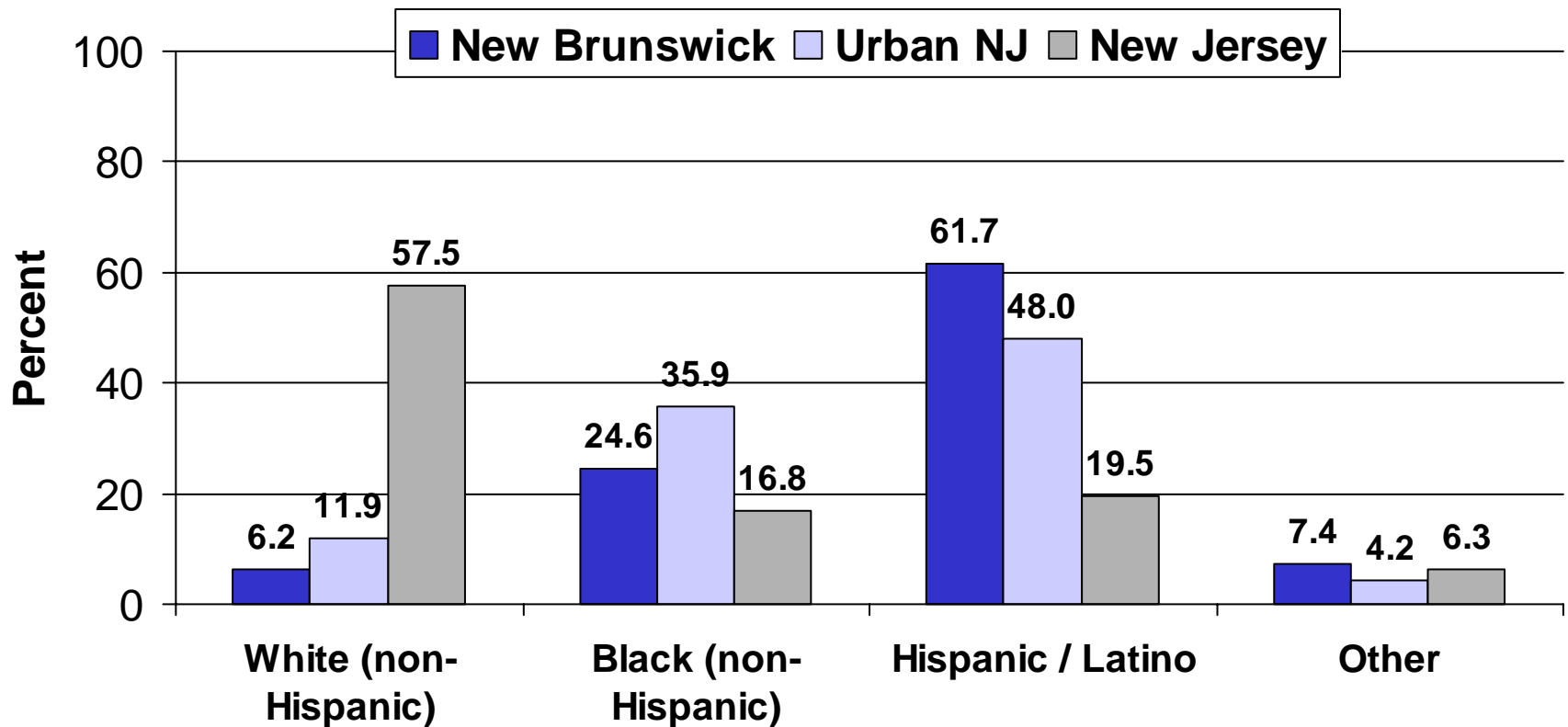
 - 55% live with at least one immigrant
 - 56% in families that do not speak English at home

Many Poor and Near-Poor Children in New Brunswick and Urban NJ



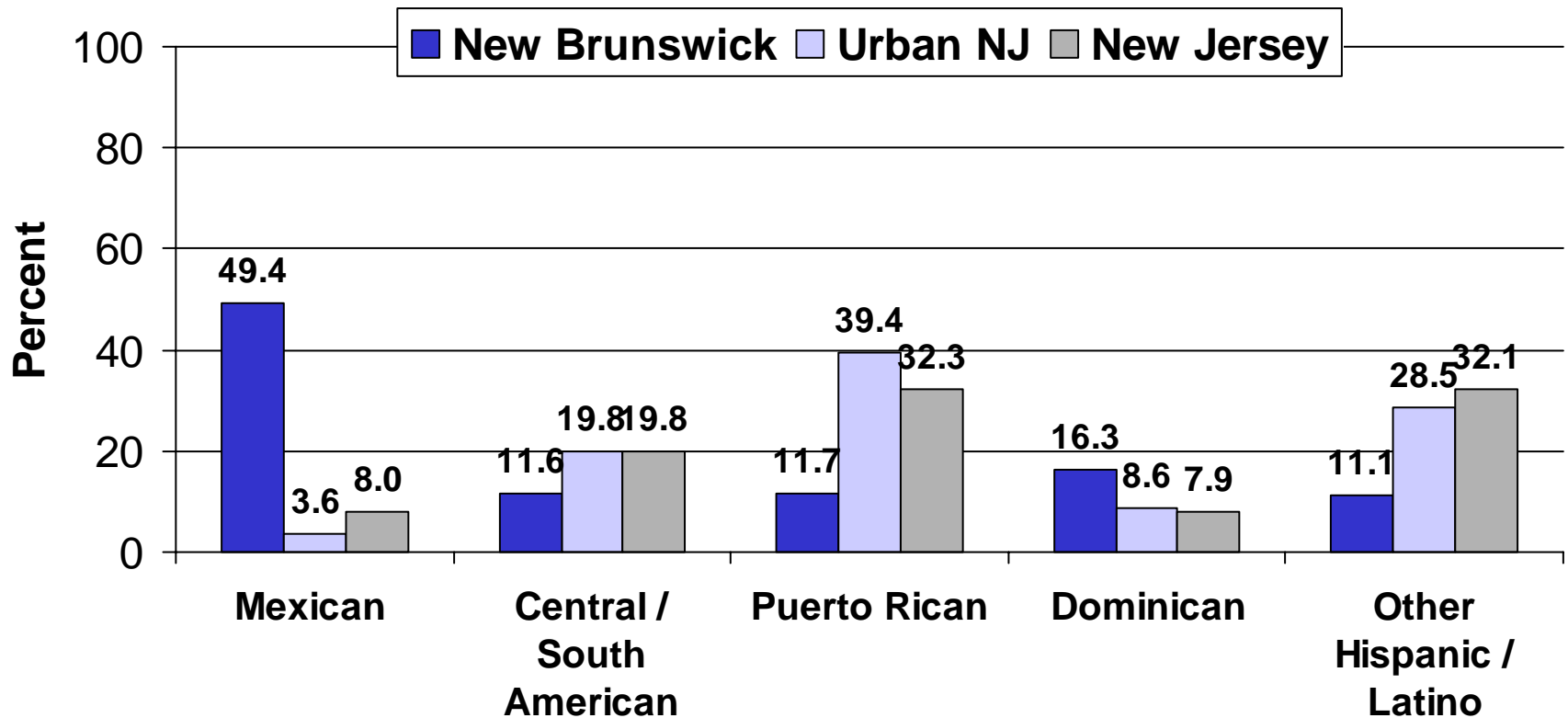
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Nearly Two-Thirds of New Brunswick Children are Hispanic/Latino and One-Fourth are Black



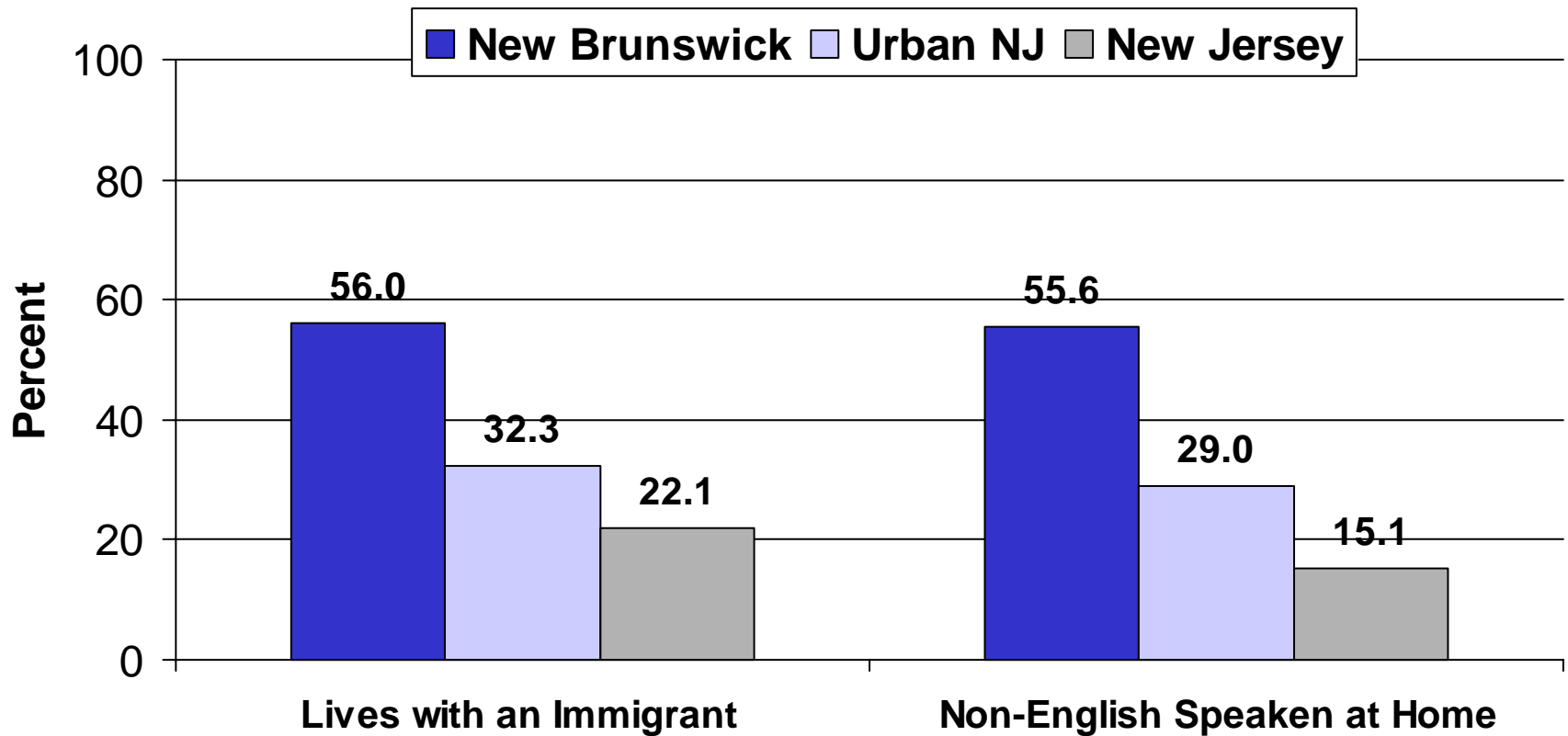
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Nearly Half of New Brunswick Hispanic/Latino Children are Mexican



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Many Children in New Brunswick Live in Families with Immigrants and Do Not Speak English at Home

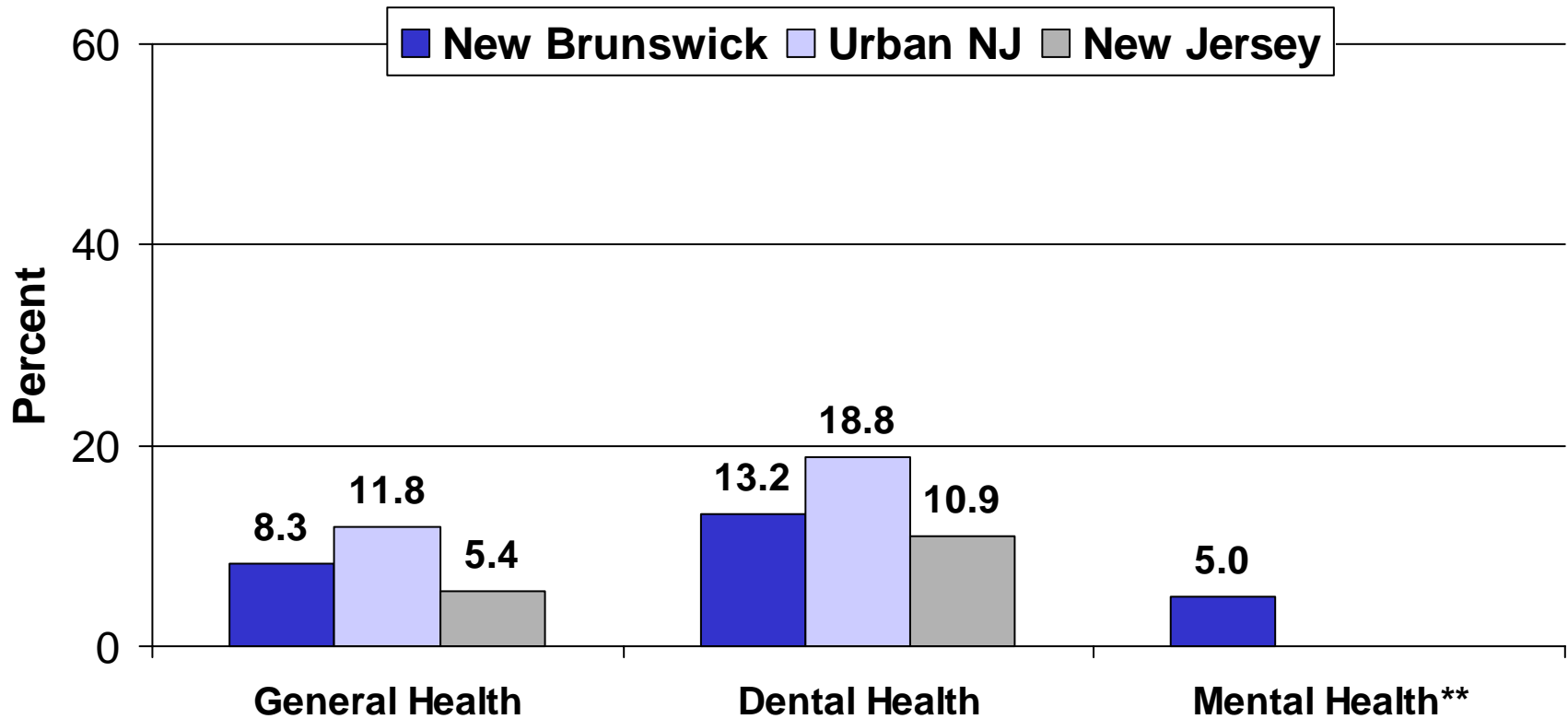


Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Child Health Status

- Perceived General, Dental, and Mental Health
 - “Would you say [*family member's*] health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?”
 - Poor, Mexican, low education in family, and uninsured children at greatest risk
- Chronic Conditions
 - 10% with asthma, African American children at greater risk
 - Few children with other serious conditions

Percent of *Children* Reported with “Fair or Poor”* Health Lower in New Brunswick than Urban NJ

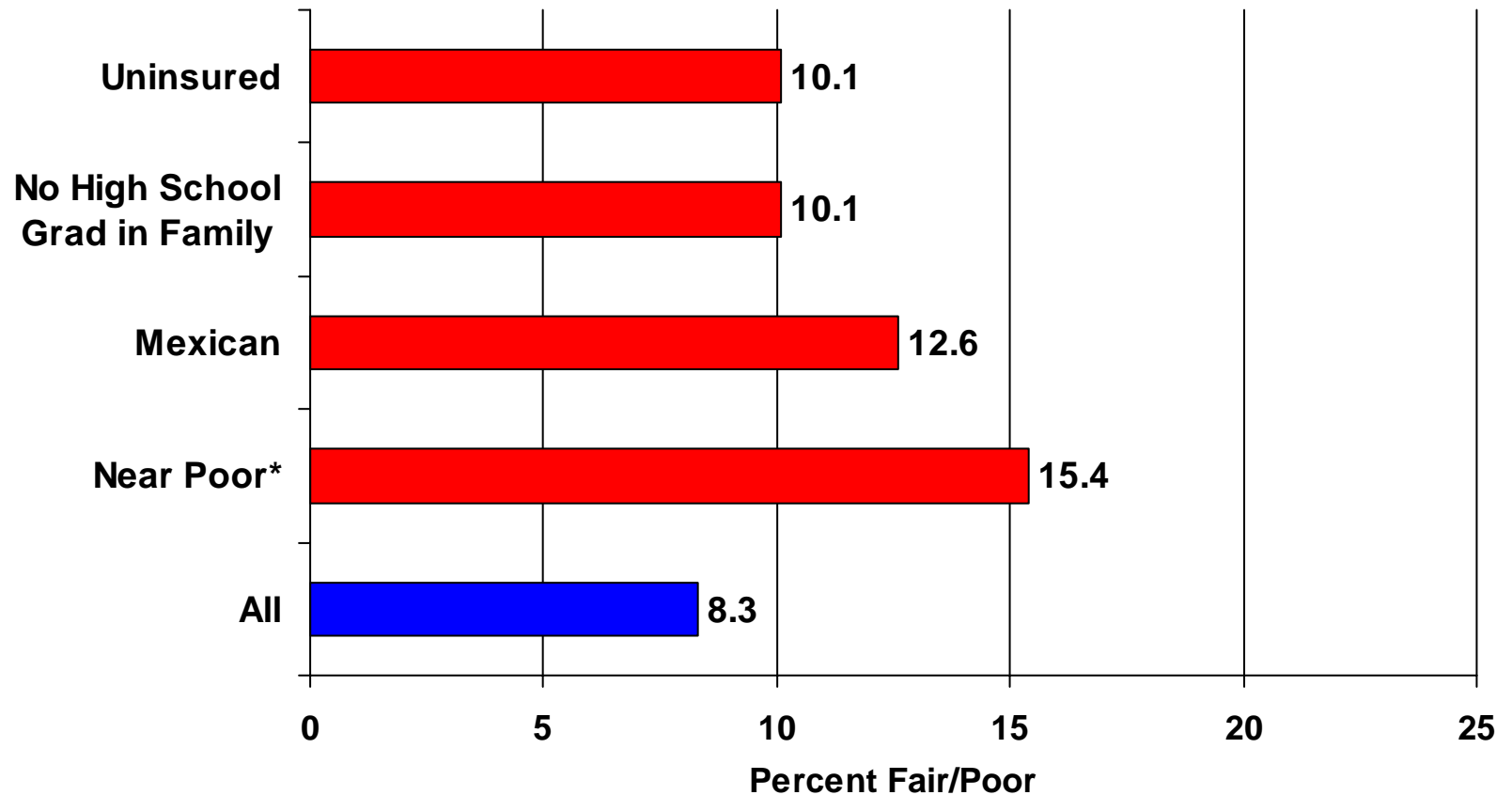


Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

*Based on scale: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor

**Not available for Urban NJ or New Jersey

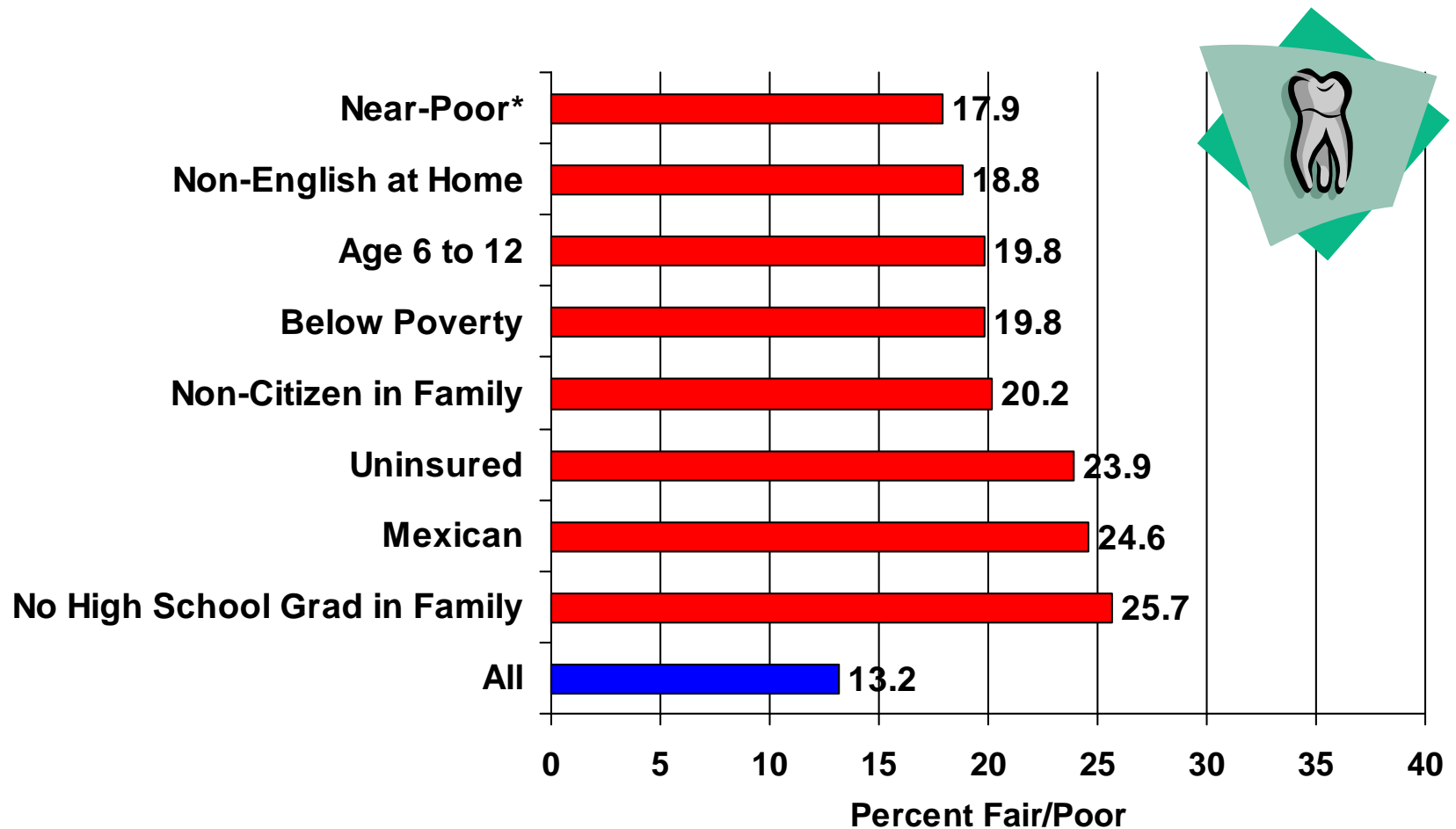
Children in Fair or Poor General Health



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

*101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

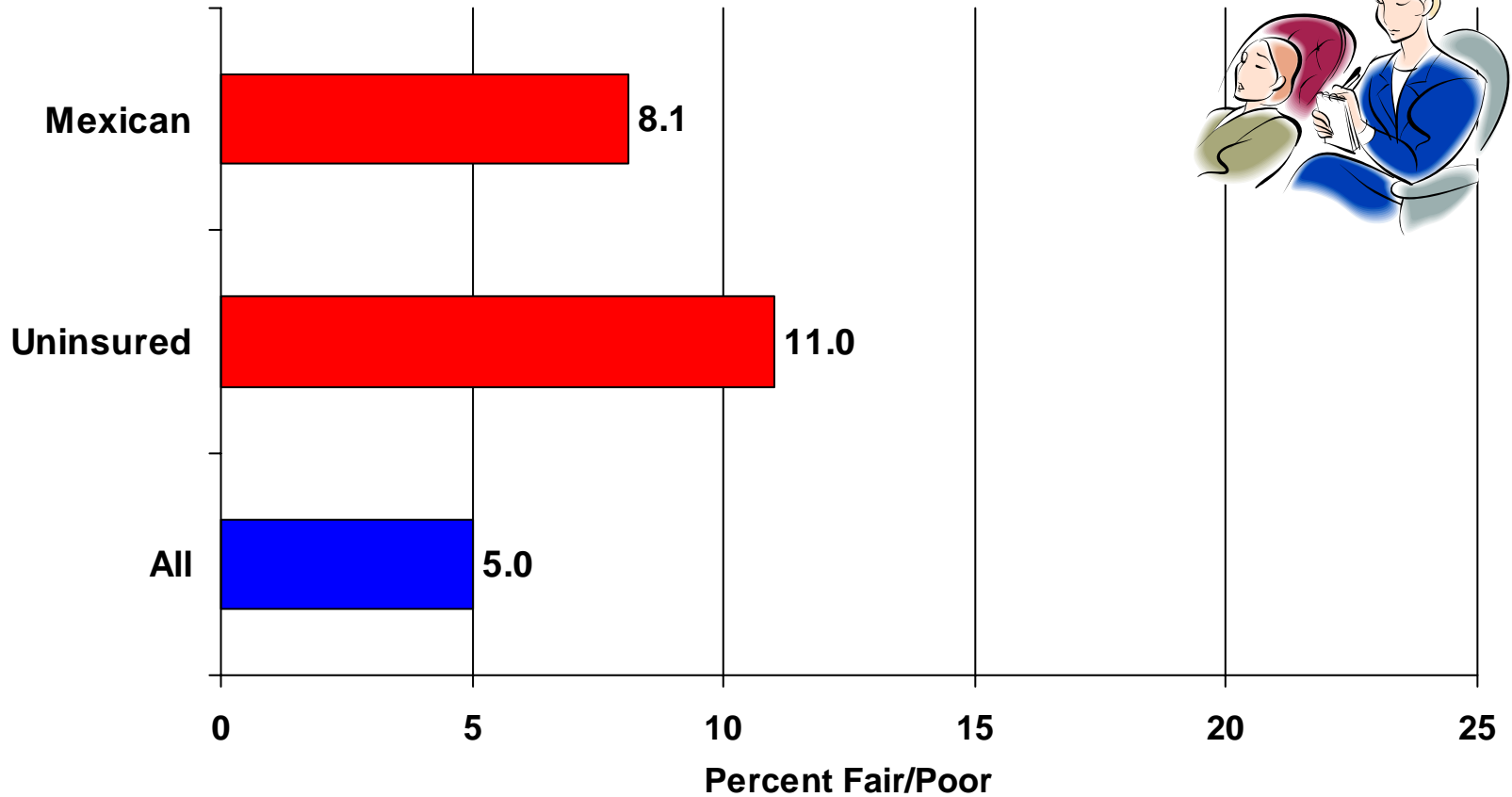
Children in Fair or Poor Dental Health



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

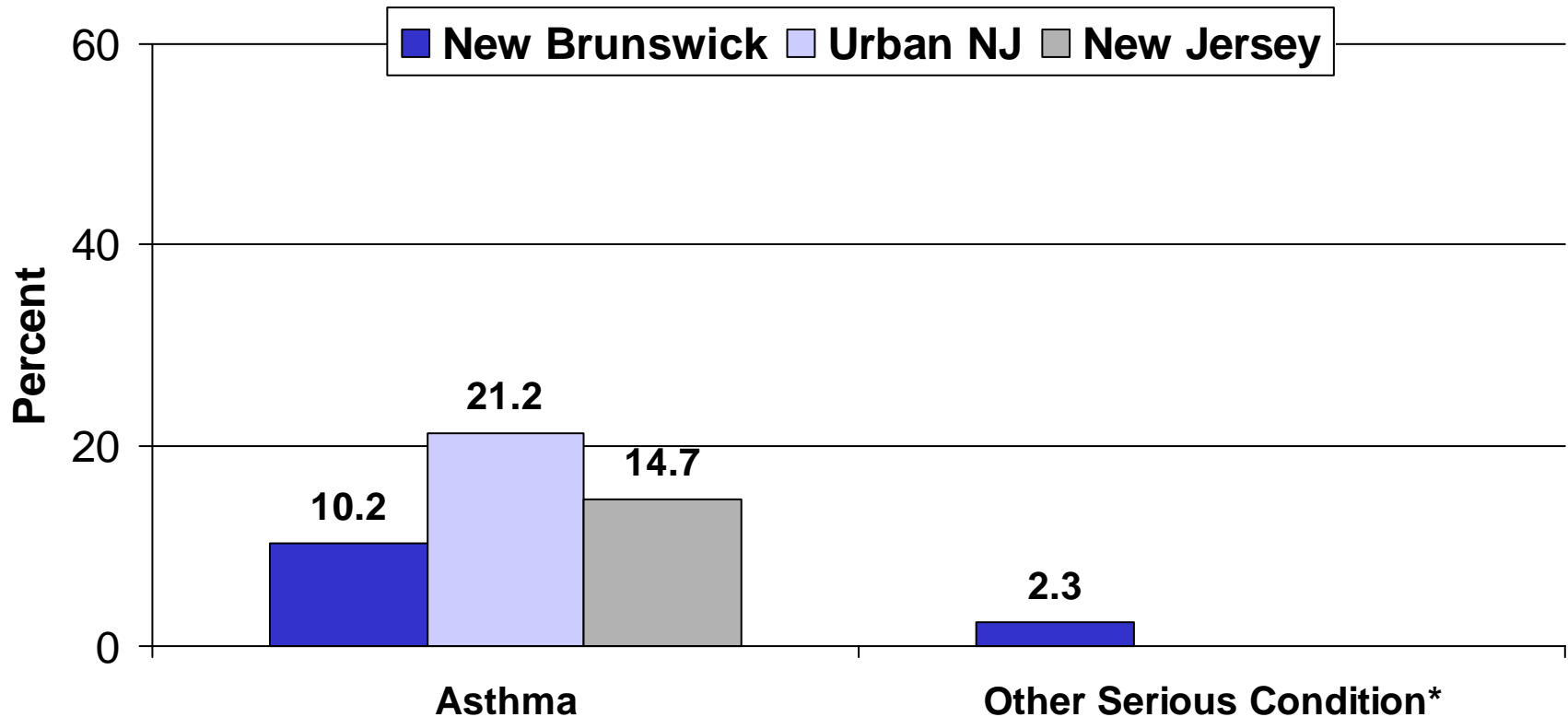
*101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

Children in Fair or Poor Mental Health



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

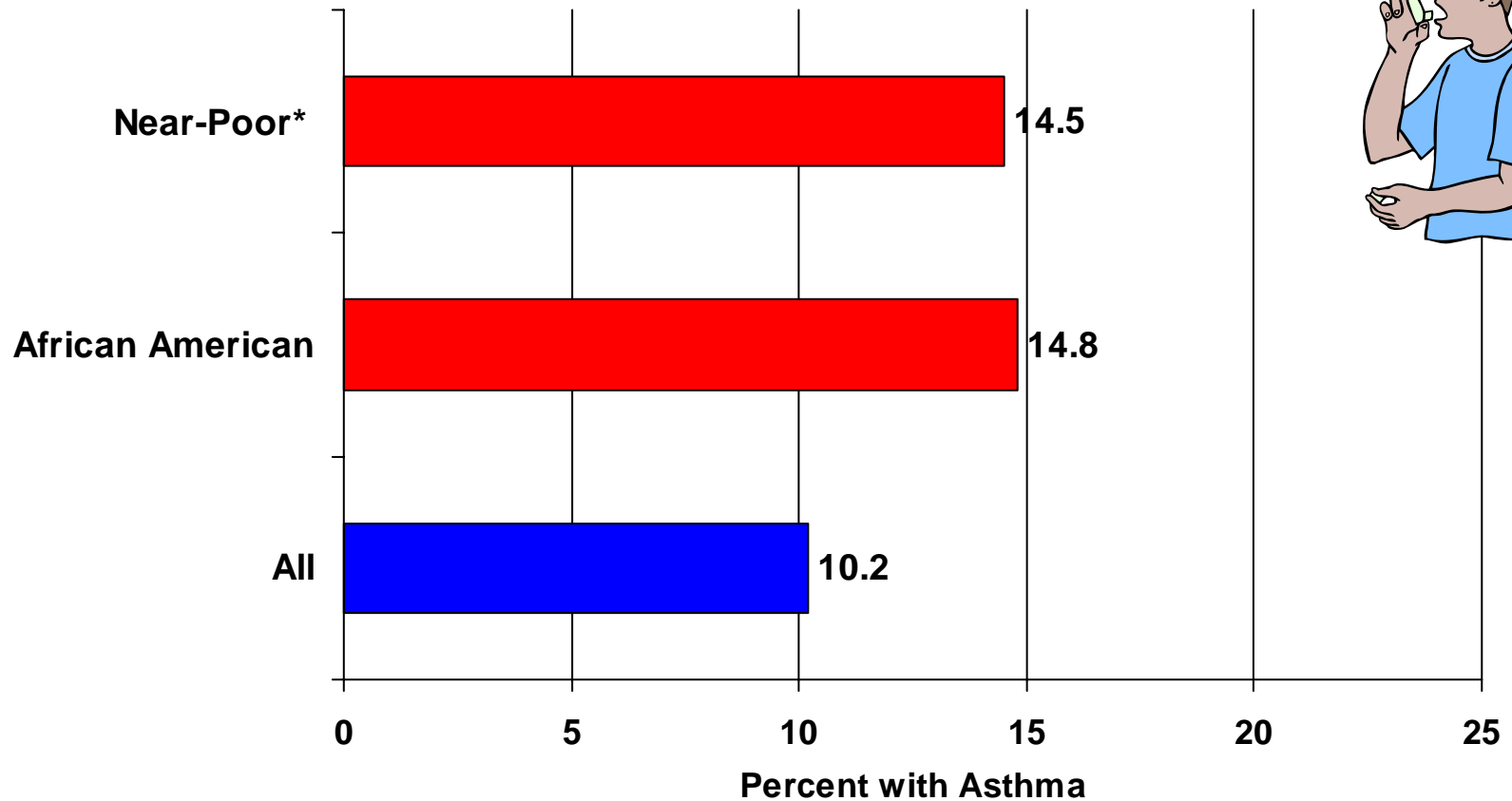
Percent of Children Reported with Asthma Lower in New Brunswick than Urban NJ



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

*Not available for Urban NJ or New Jersey

Children with Asthma



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

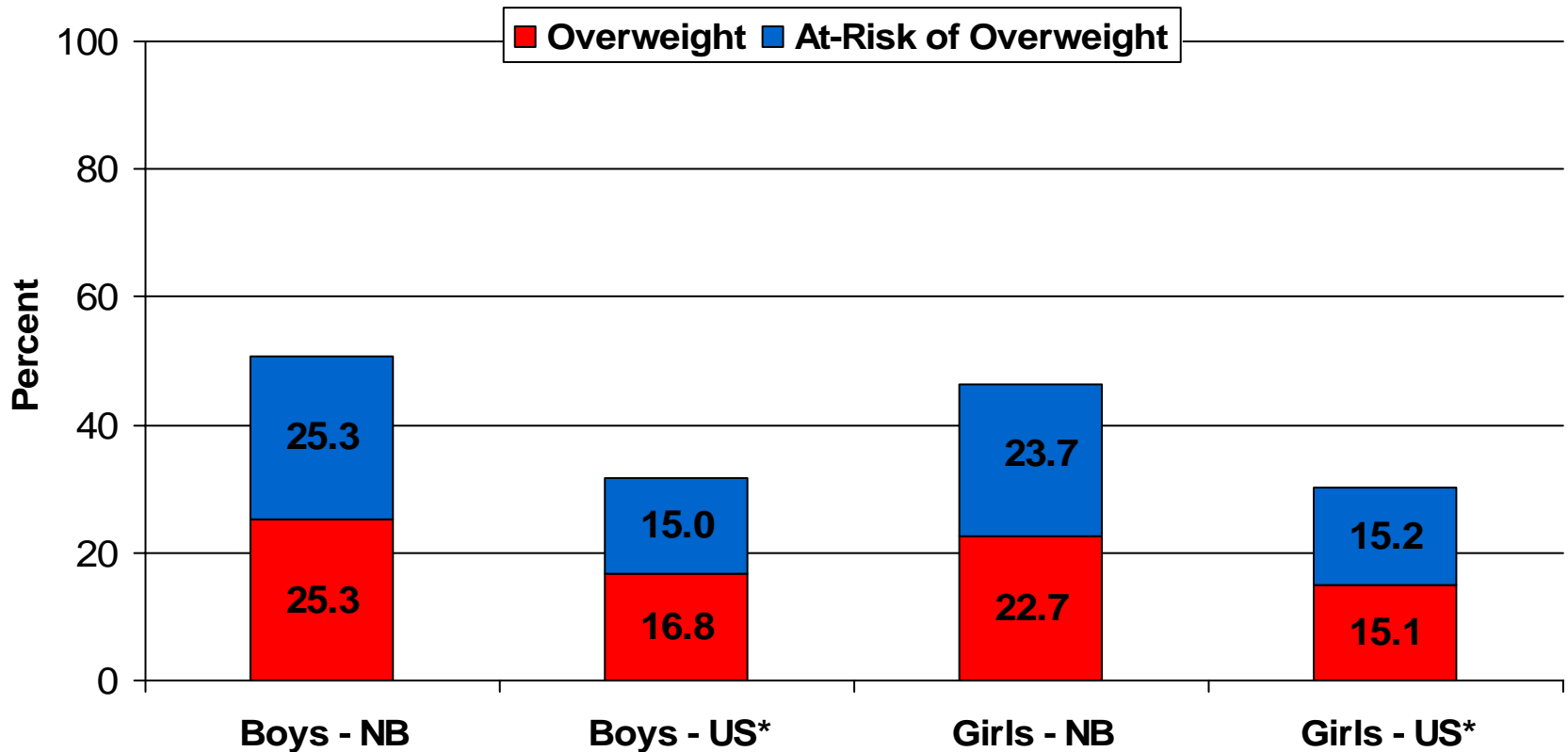
Note: "Other" race/ethnicity not shown due to small sample size. *101% and 200% of the federal poverty level.

Child Health Risk

- **Weight and Fitness**
 - Overweight more prevalent in New Brunswick
 - Many children do not get adequate physical activity
- **Smoker in Household**
 - More than 1 in 3 children
 - Sick kids more likely to live with smoker
- **Household Lead Risk**
 - Few children reported at risk, but many families are unaware

Percent of *Children* Overweight and At-Risk for Overweight in New Brunswick is Higher than National Average

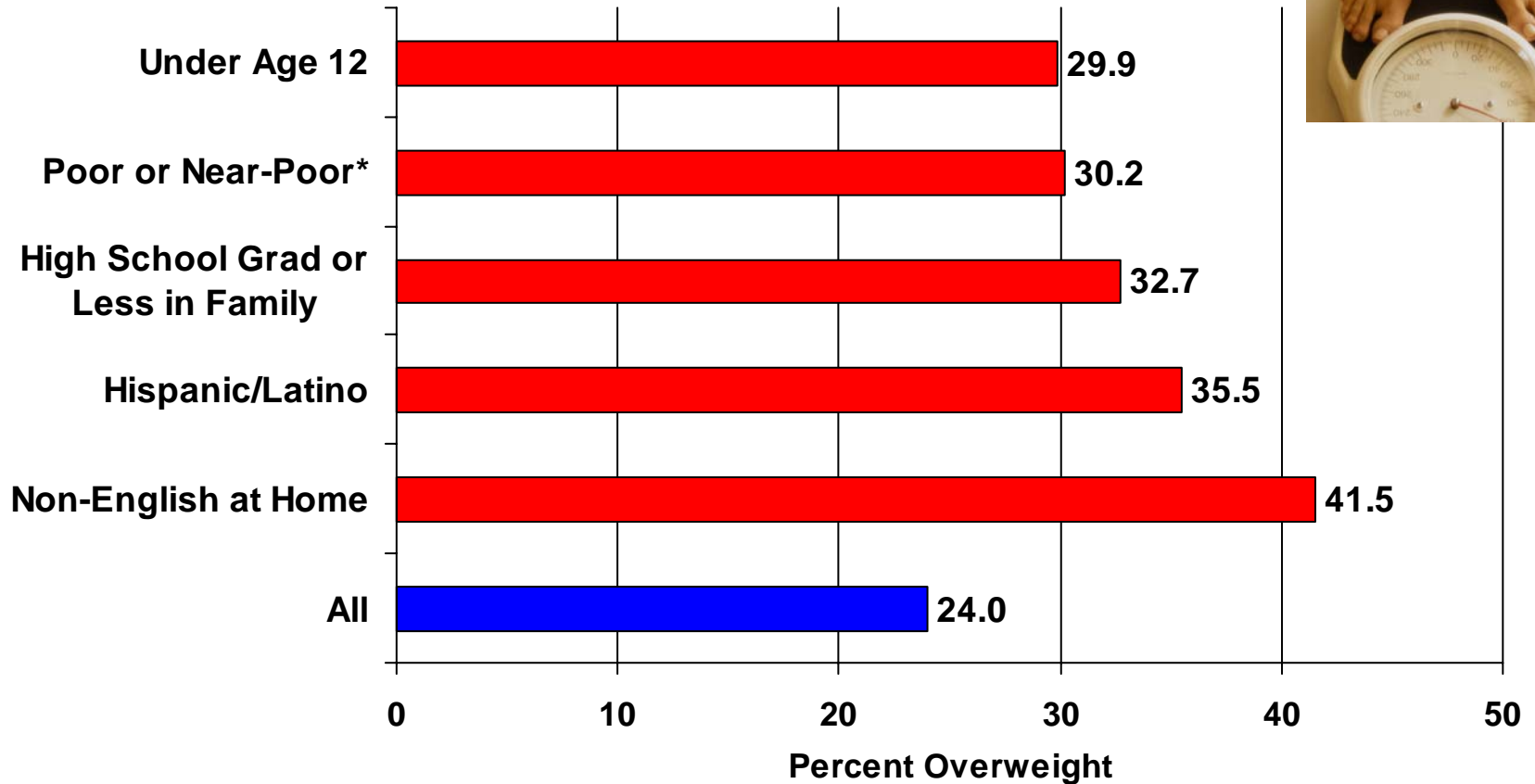
National data based on examination, New Brunswick based on proxy report



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004.; Children ages 2 to 18.

*Hedley, AA, et al., JAMA., Vol. 291, No. 23, p. 2848, Table 2.; Children ages 6 to 19. NJ benchmark unavailable.

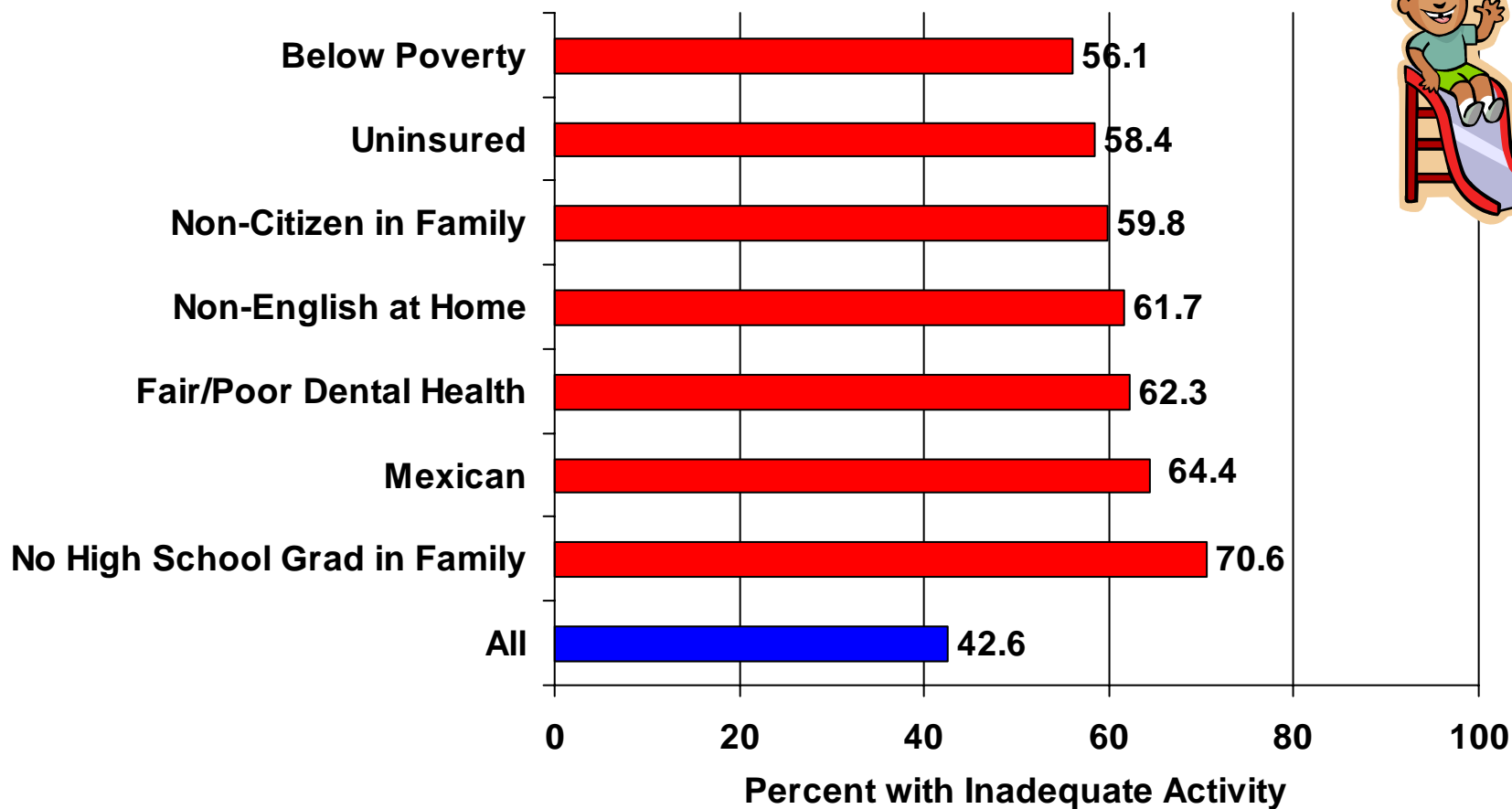
Overweight Children



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

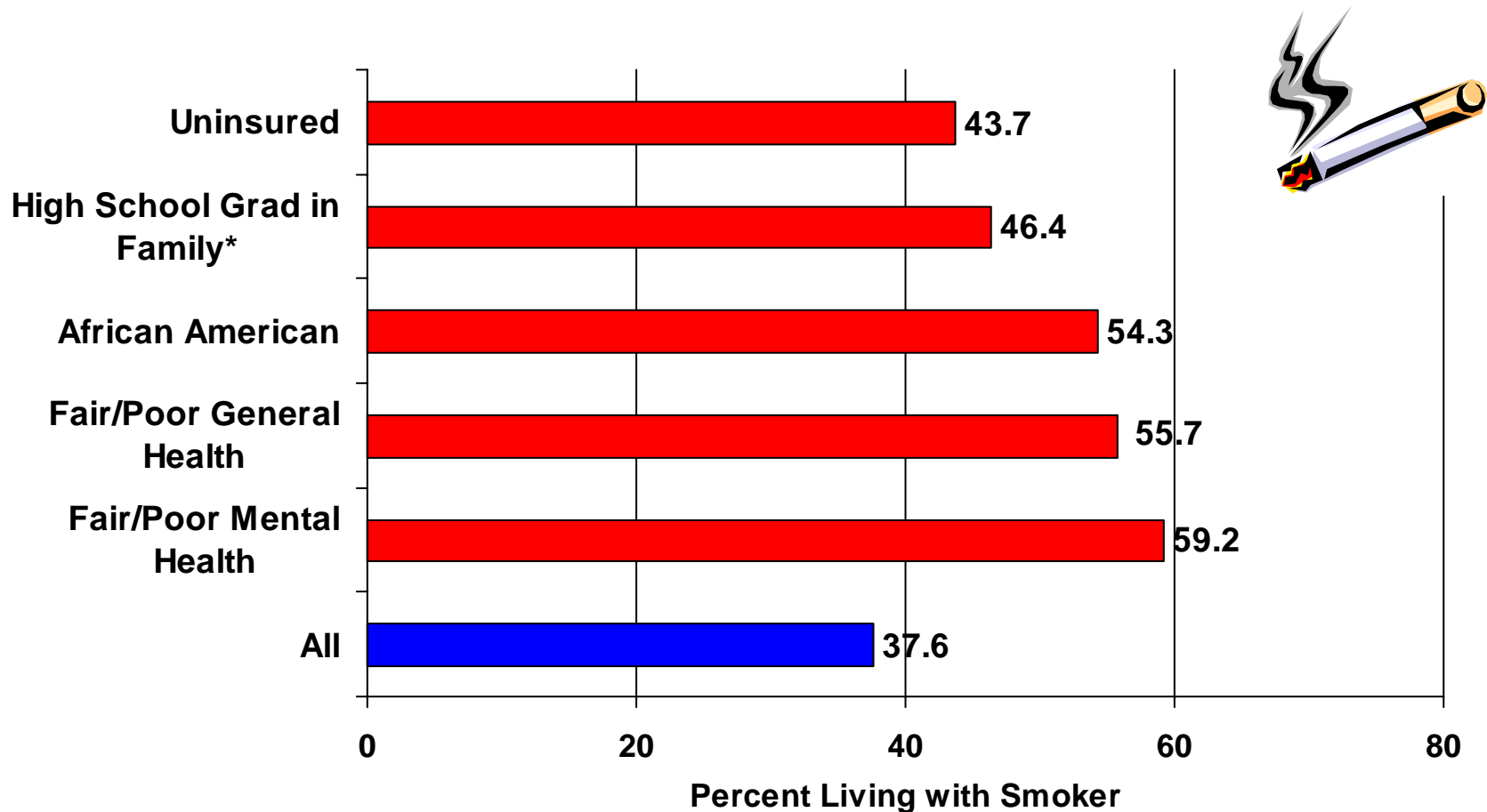
*Up to 200% of the federal poverty level

Children (age 5+) at Risk of Inadequate Physical Activity or Exercise (less than 60 minutes per day)



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

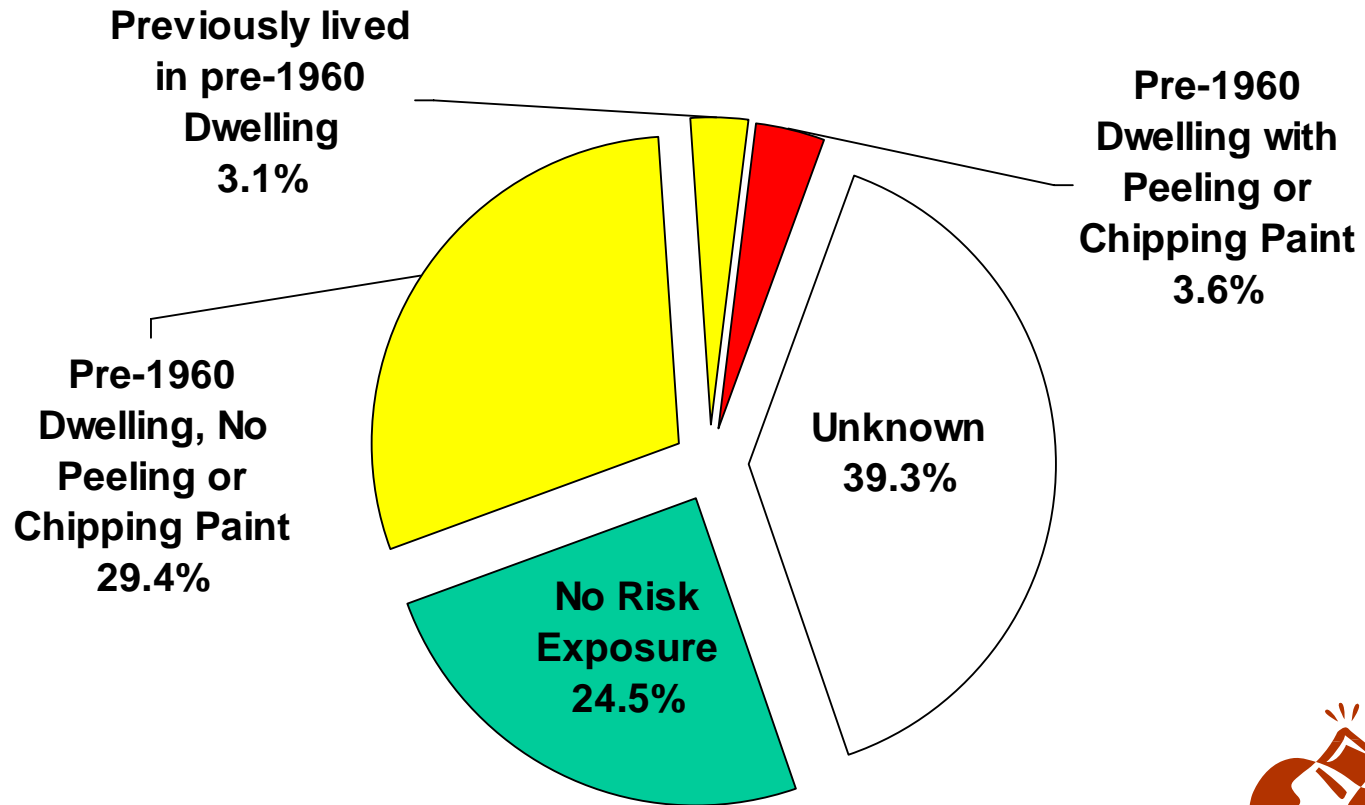
Children Living with a Smoker



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

*but no member with greater than HS education

Children at Risk of Exposure to Household Lead Paint



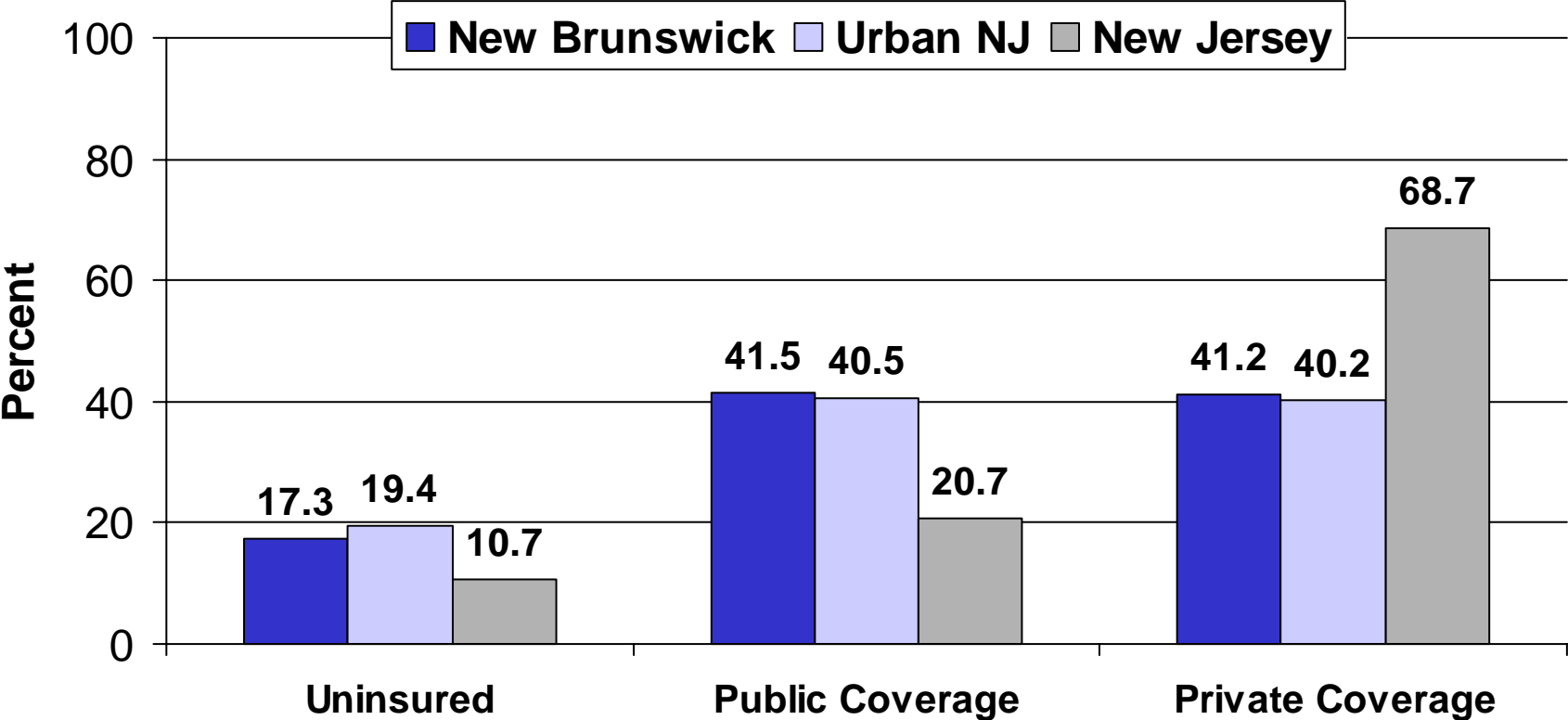
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Health Coverage & Access to Care

Child Health Insurance Coverage

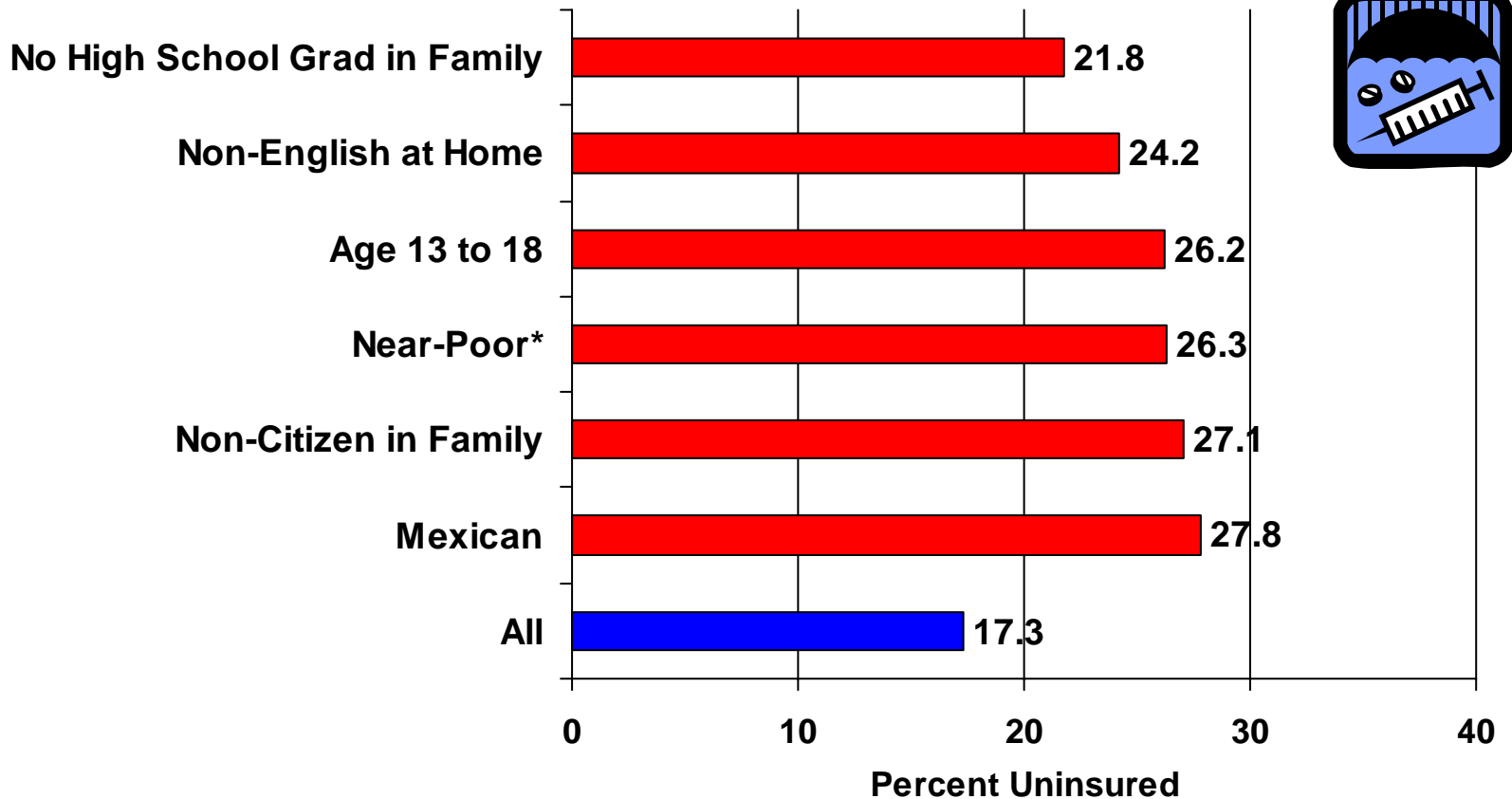
- New Brunswick children are at high risk for uninsurance (many low-income, Hispanic, and immigrant children)
- One in 6 children uninsured
 - Not higher than urban NJ, despite greater risk
 - Nearly half live with at least one uninsured family member
- Most at risk...
 - Mexican, immigrants in family, near-poor, teens, and low parental education
 - Children in fair or poor health

Health Coverage of *Children* in New Brunswick is Similar to Urban NJ Overall; 1 in 6 is Uninsured



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

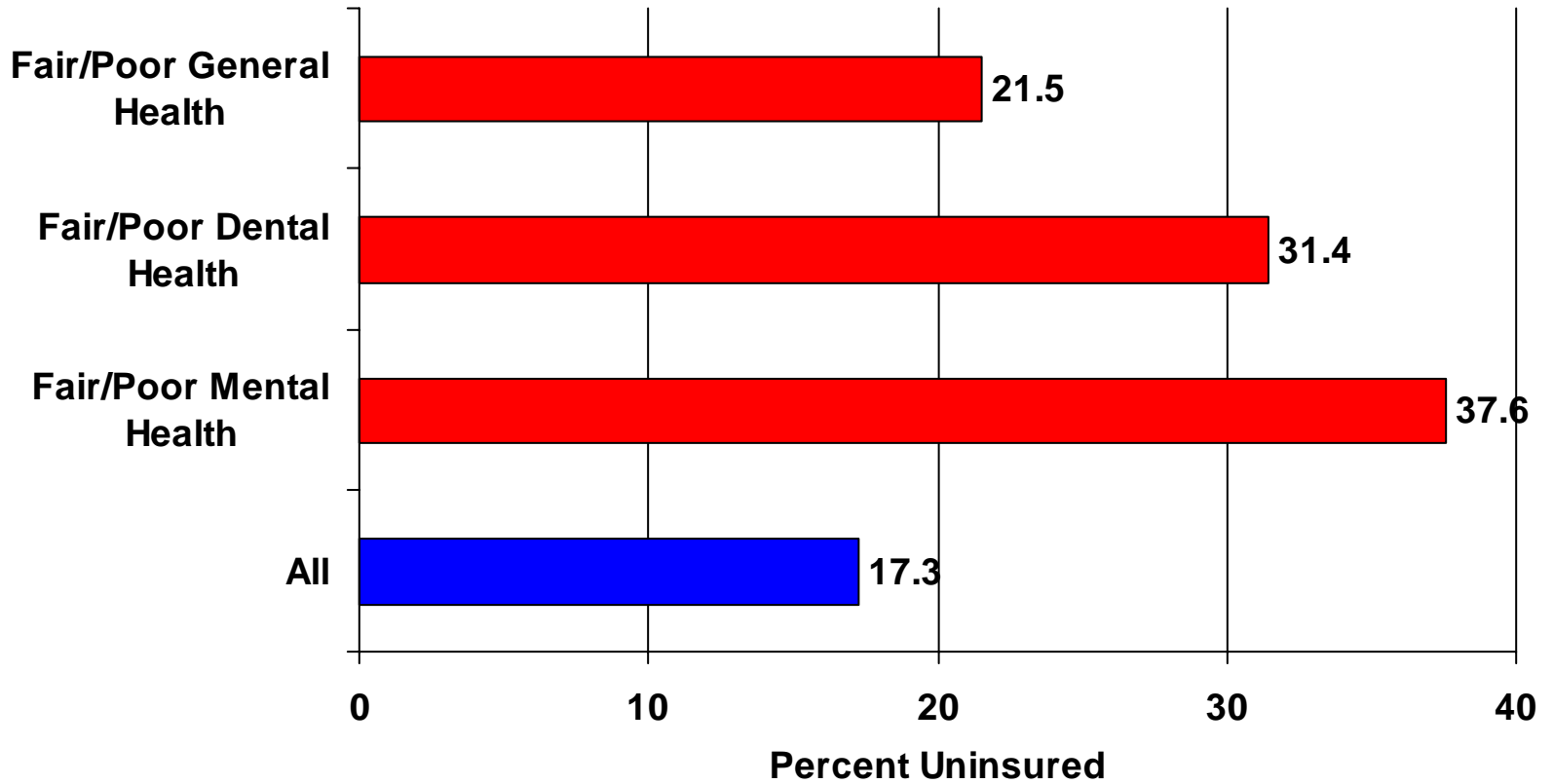
Uninsured Children



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

*Between 101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

Uninsured Children (continued)

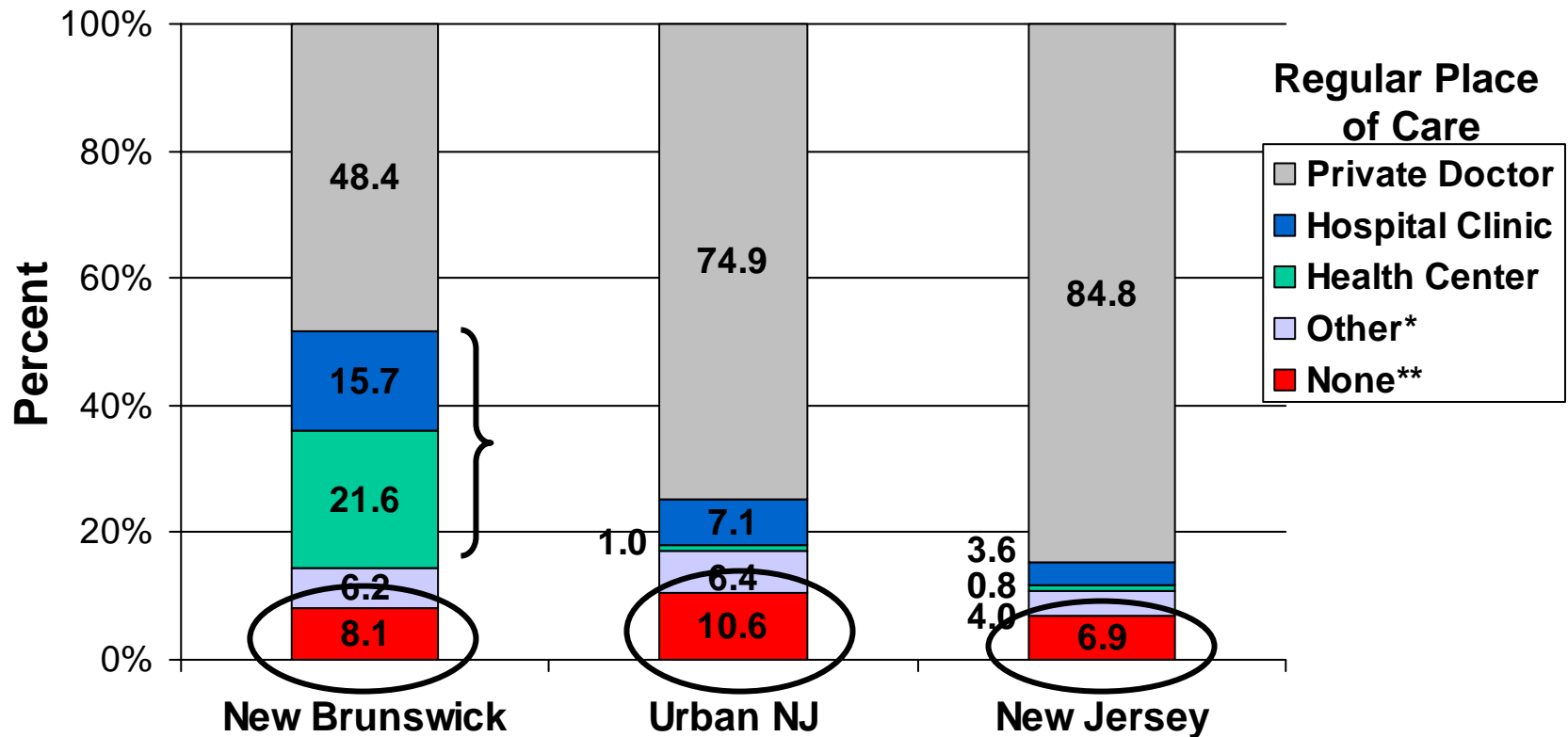


Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Regular Source of Care

- A regular source of care, sometimes called a “medical home”, is important for access to and continuity of care
- New Brunswick health care institutions play a *very* large role in providing access
- Uninsured and near-poor children are two to three times more likely to *lack* a regular source of care

Few Children Lack a “Regular Place of Care”; Many in New Brunswick Rely on Hospitals and Health Centers

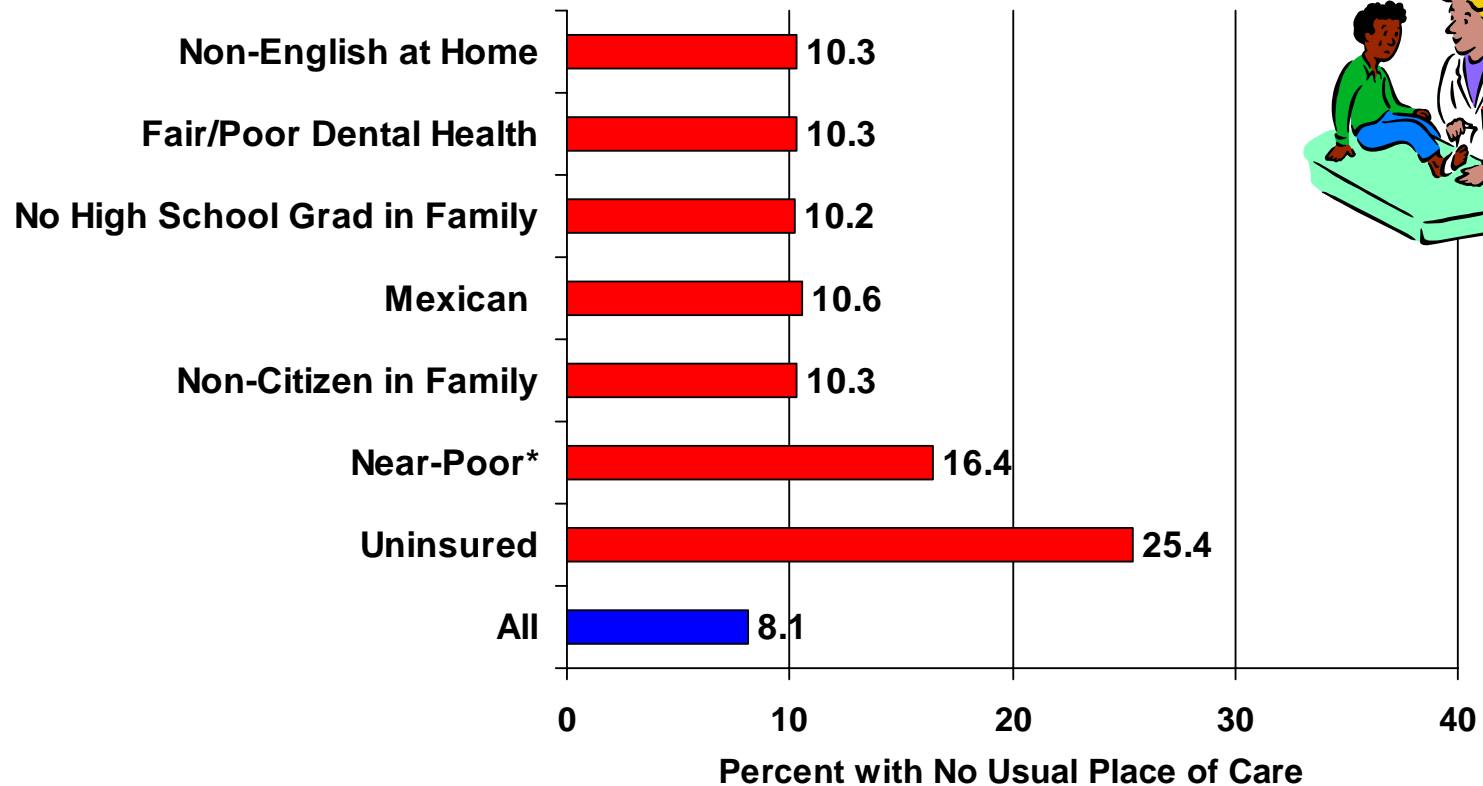


Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

*Includes those stating they have a regular place but do not know what type of place it is.

**Includes a small number reporting the emergency department as their regular place, or stating that they do not know whether they have a regular place.

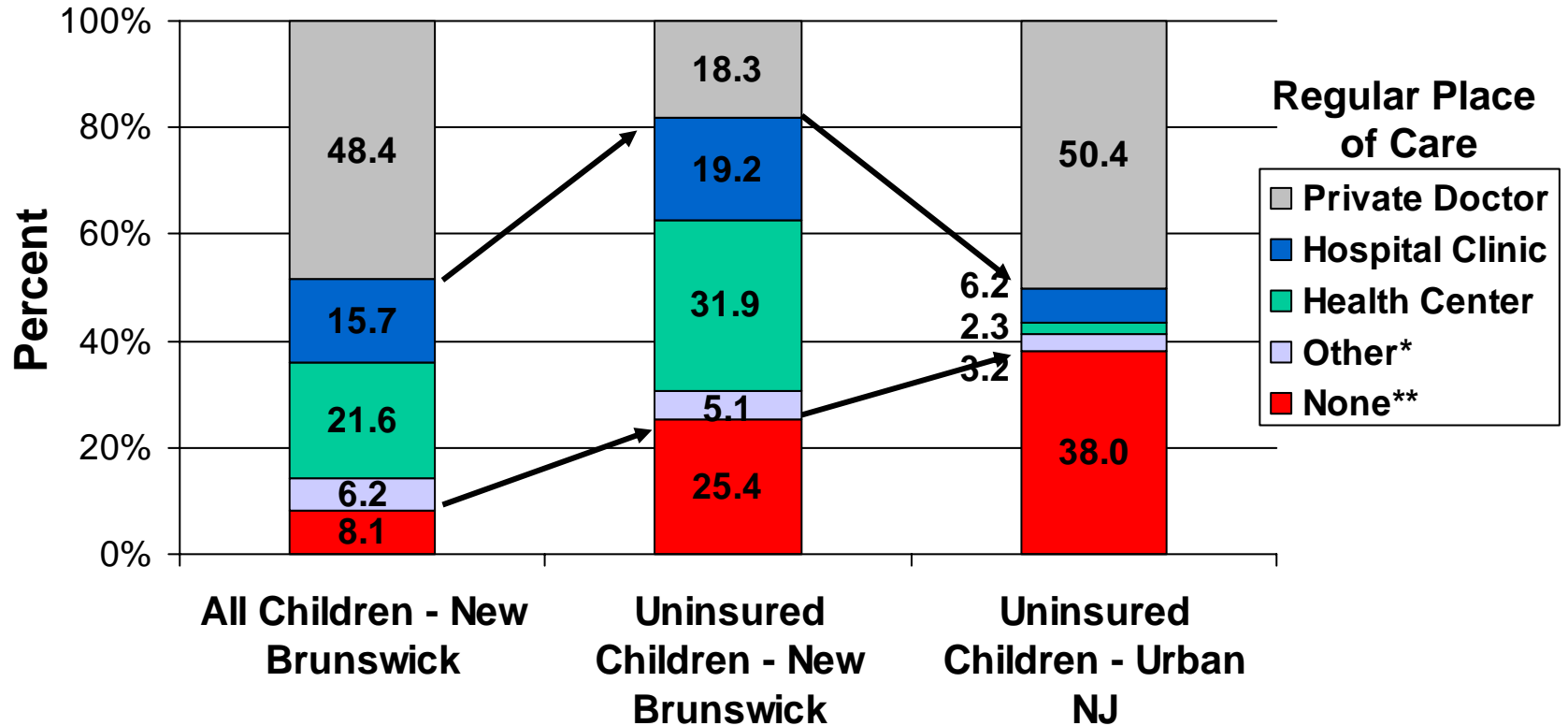
Children Without a Regular Place of Care



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Note: Includes a small number reporting the emergency department as their regular place or stating that they do not know whether they have a regular place. *Between 101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

Uninsured Children in New Brunswick More Likely to Lack a “Regular Place of Care” or Rely on Hospitals and Clinics



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

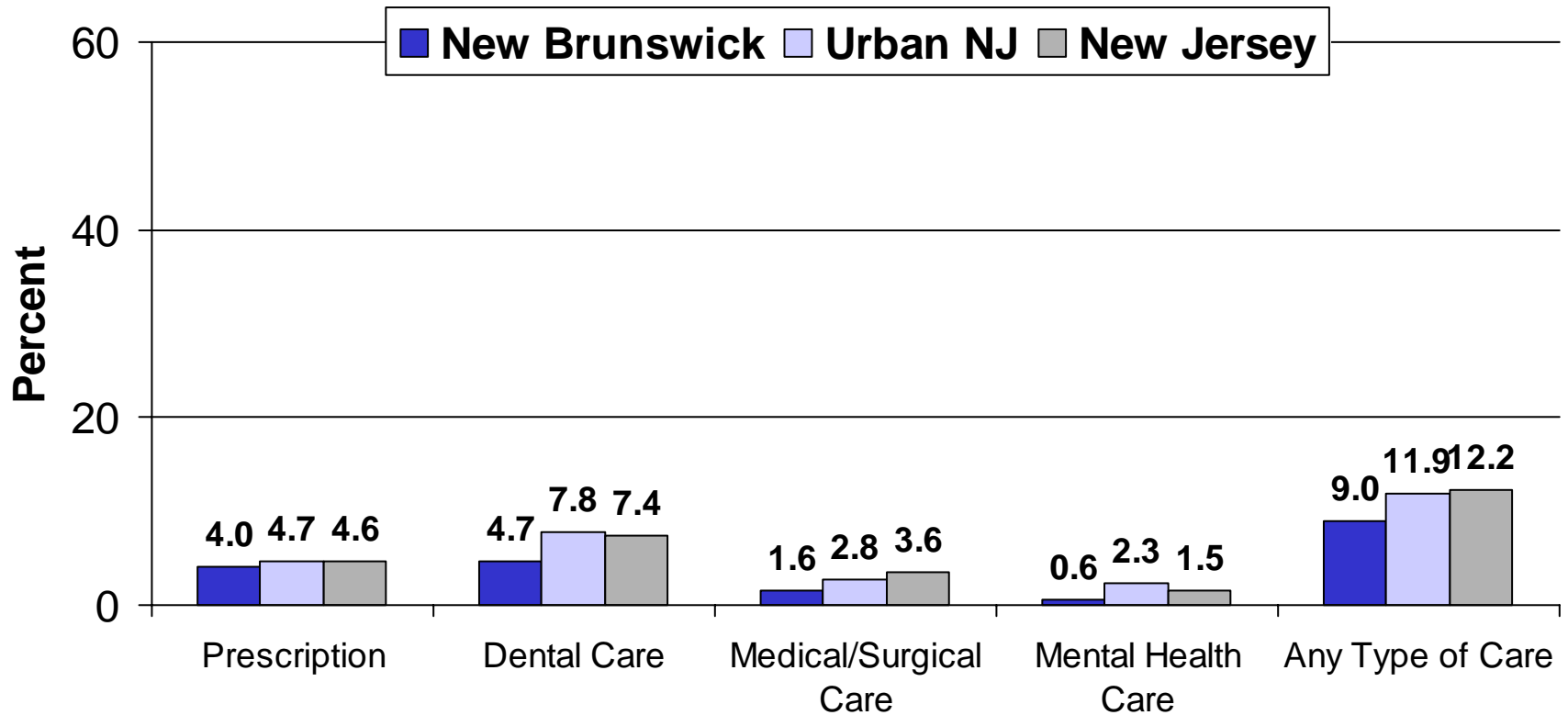
*Includes those stating they have a regular place but do not know what type of place it is.

**Includes a small number reporting the emergency department as their regular place, or stating that they do not know whether they have a regular place.

Access to Care

- Few children lack a regular place of care overall, but 1 in 4 *uninsured* kids lack a medical home
- New Brunswick hospitals & health centers provide much more access compared to other urban areas
 - Regular place of care for 50% of uninsured area children
- Failure to get needed care reported by few, but sick kids most often reported as lacking care
- Evidence of stressed capacity in New Brunswick’s “safety net”
 - Appointment and in-office waiting time problems

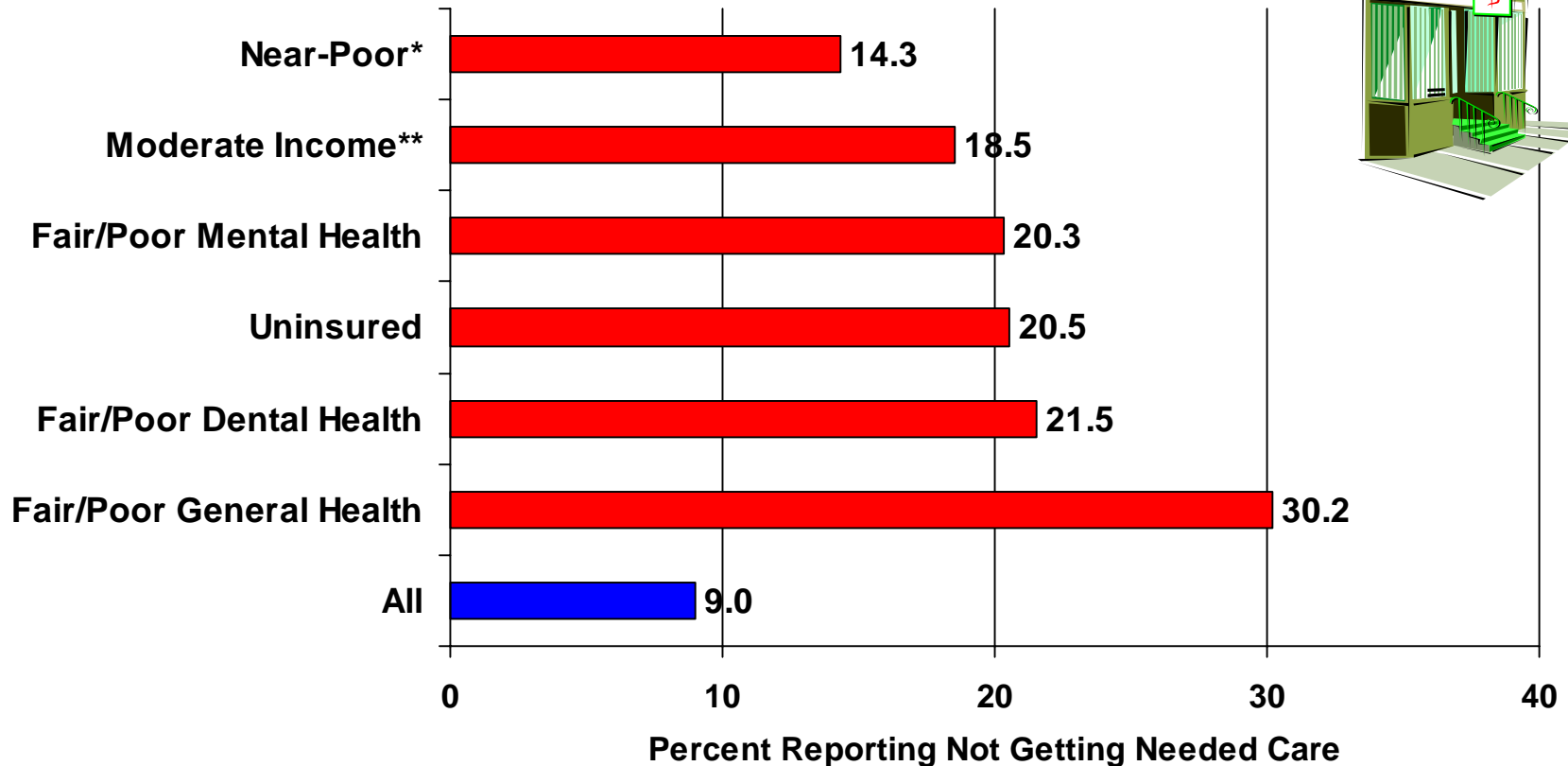
Nearly 1 in 10 Reported Not Getting Needed Care for New Brunswick Children



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Children with reported Not Getting Needed Care

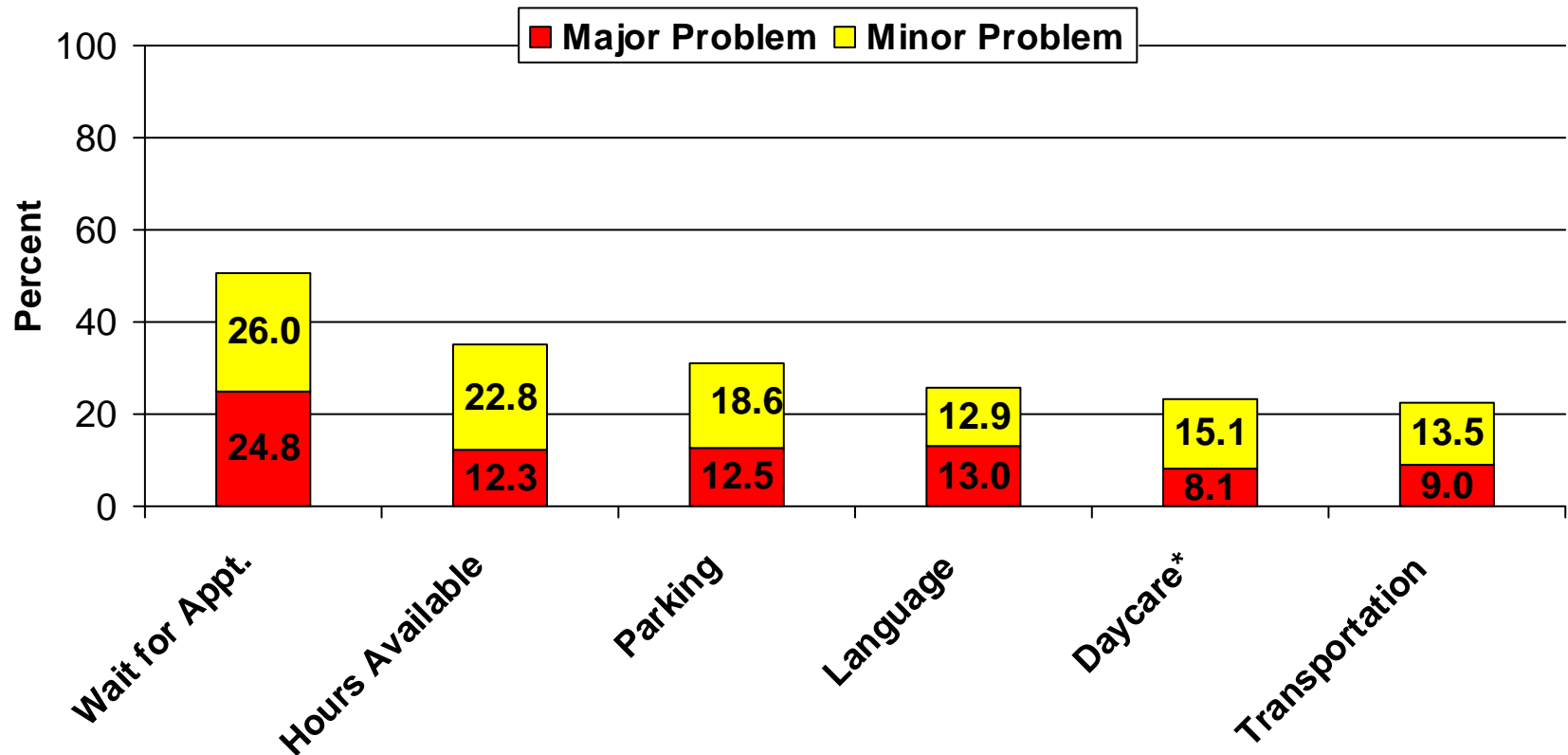
Any type of care



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

*101% and 200% of the federal poverty level; **201% to 350% of the federal poverty level

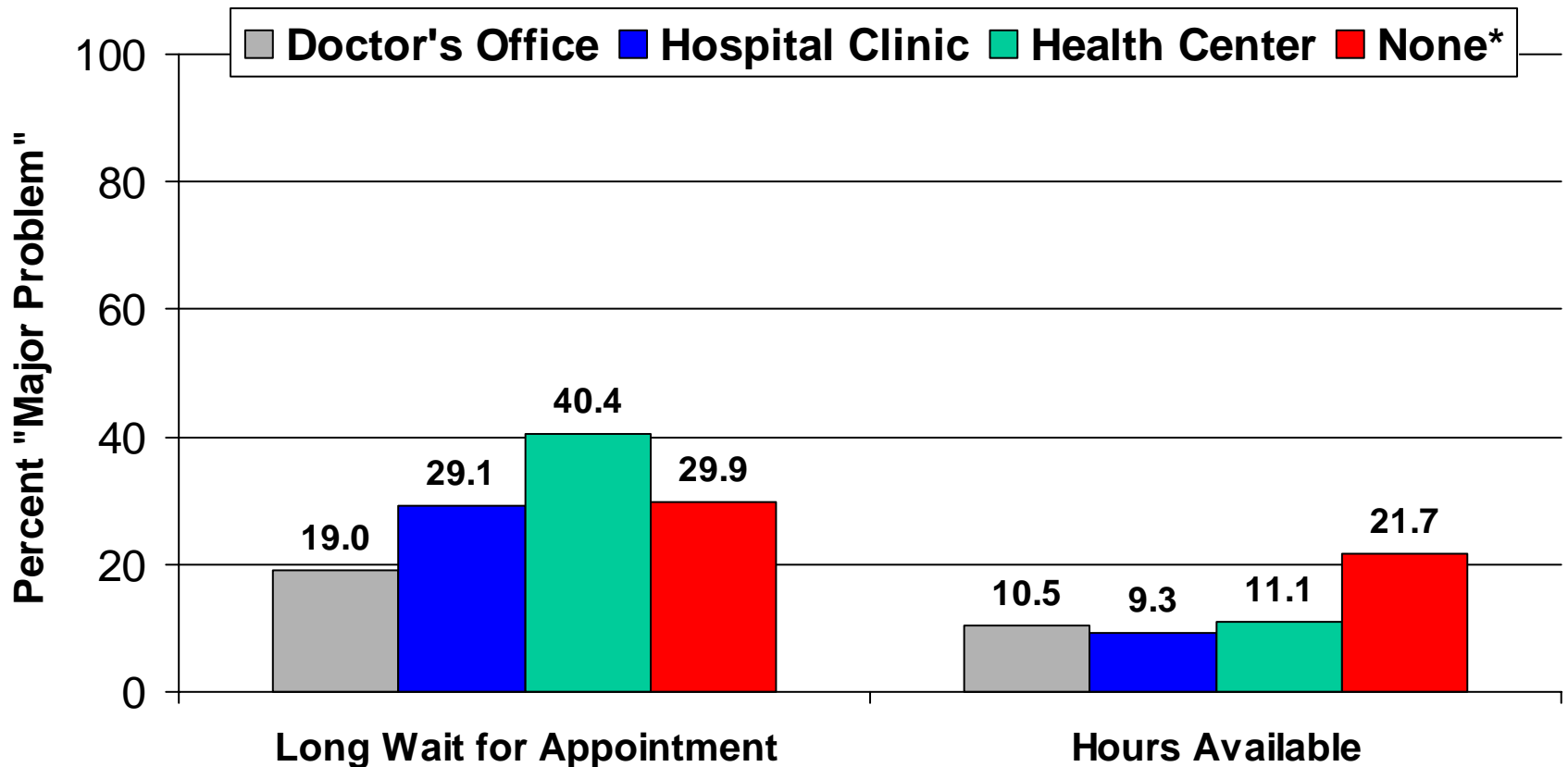
Percent of Families Reporting Access Problems



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Note: Asked of one adult respondent per family. *Among respondents with young children.

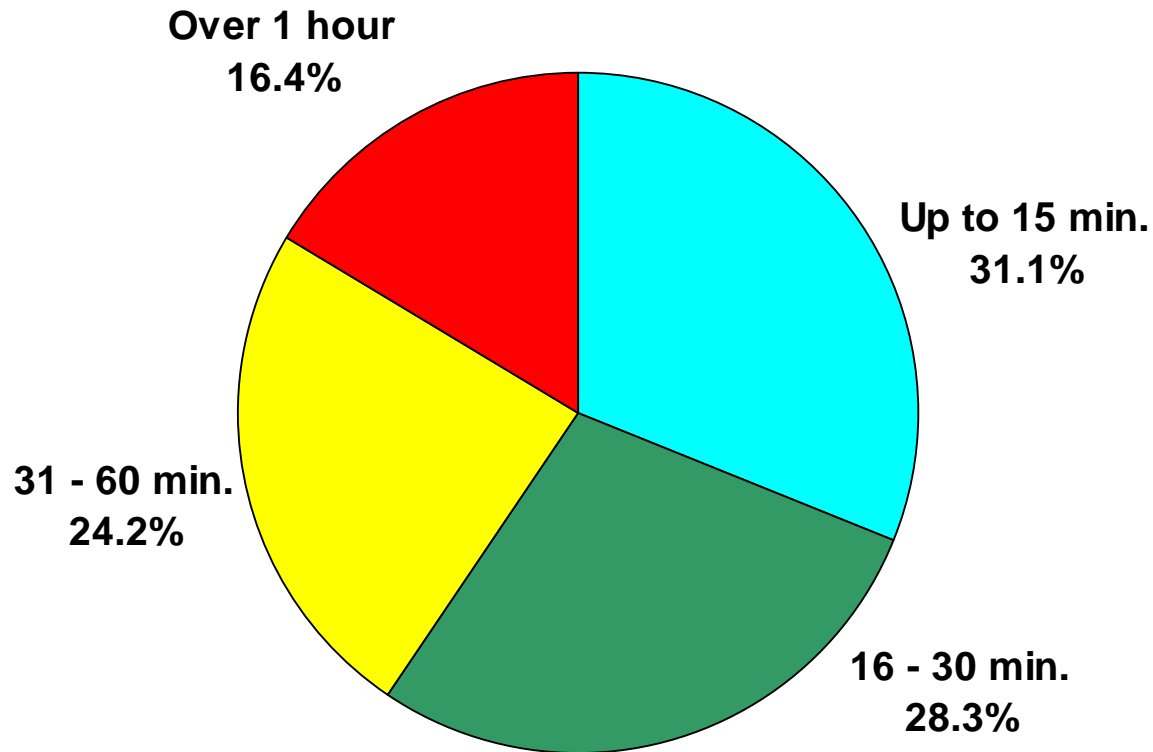
“Major Problem” Waiting for Appointment Most Often Reported by Health Center Users; Hours Less of a Problem



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

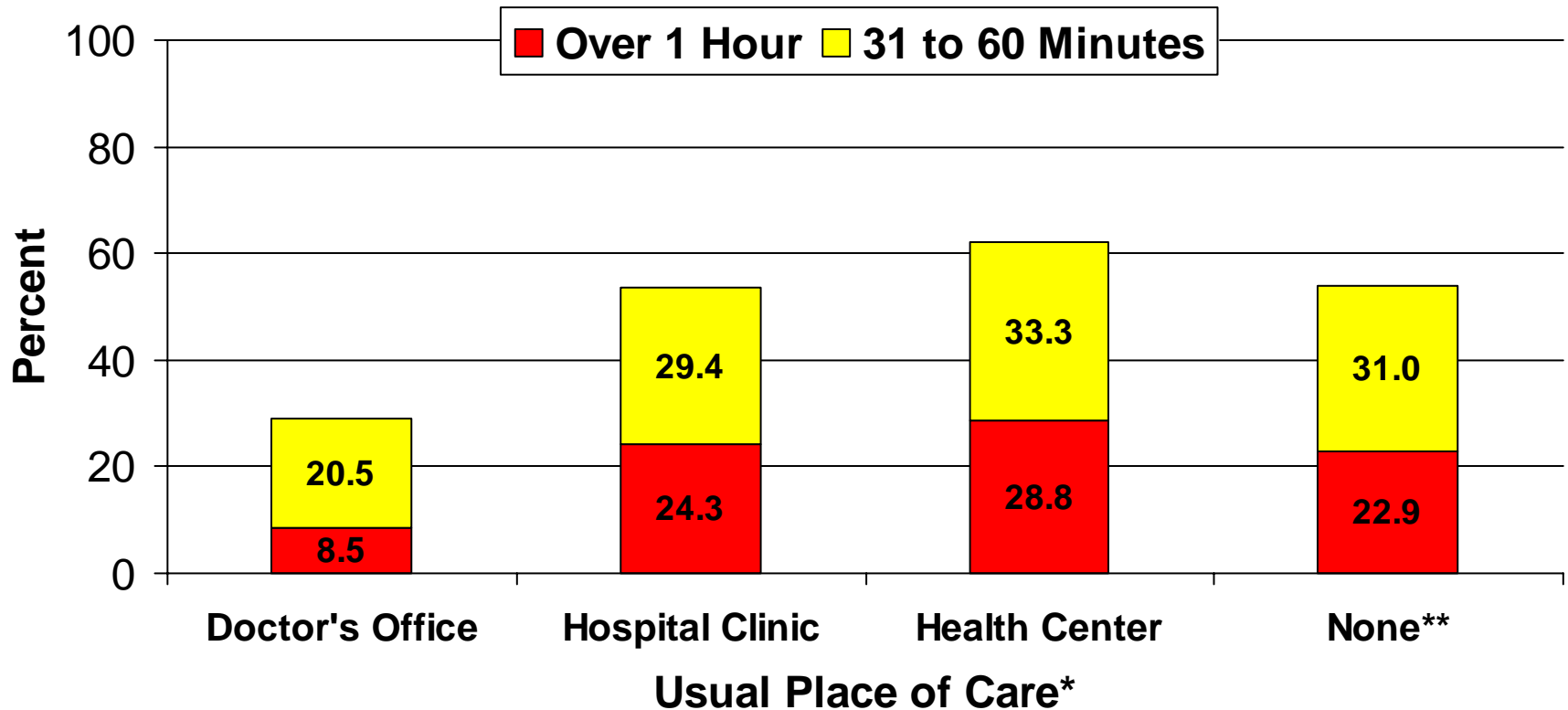
Notes: Based on adult respondent's usual place of care. "Other Place" not shown due to small sample size. *Includes a small number reporting the emergency department as their "usual place", or stating that they do not know whether they have a "usual place."

Percent of New Brunswick Residents with Long In-Office Waiting Times



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Hospital and Health Center Users Report Long In-Office Waiting Times



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

* "Other Place" not shown due to small sample size. **Includes a small number reporting the emergency department as their "usual place", or stating that they do not know whether they have a "usual place."

Conclusions

Demographic Challenges

- New Brunswick is rising to the challenge of diversity

Health Challenges

- Over 1 in 10 children reported with dental problems
- 1 in 10 reported with asthma
- 1 in 3 children exposed to cigarette smoke at home
- Many are overweight and engage in inadequate physical activity

Conclusions

Health Care Challenges

- Despite higher risk for lacking health insurance, New Brunswick children are covered at the same rate as those in other NJ urban areas
- Hospitals and health centers play much larger role in providing access
- Nevertheless, signs that New Brunswick ‘safety net’ capacity is under stress



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NEW BRUNSWICK 2010**
"Working Together, Living Healthier"
Trabajando juntos, vivimos más sanos