

# *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Home Intellectual Lifestyles*

**Ronald F. Ferguson, Ph.D.**

**Faculty Co-Chair and Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative**

**Lecturer in Public Policy and Sr. Research Associate**

**Wiener Center for Social Policy**

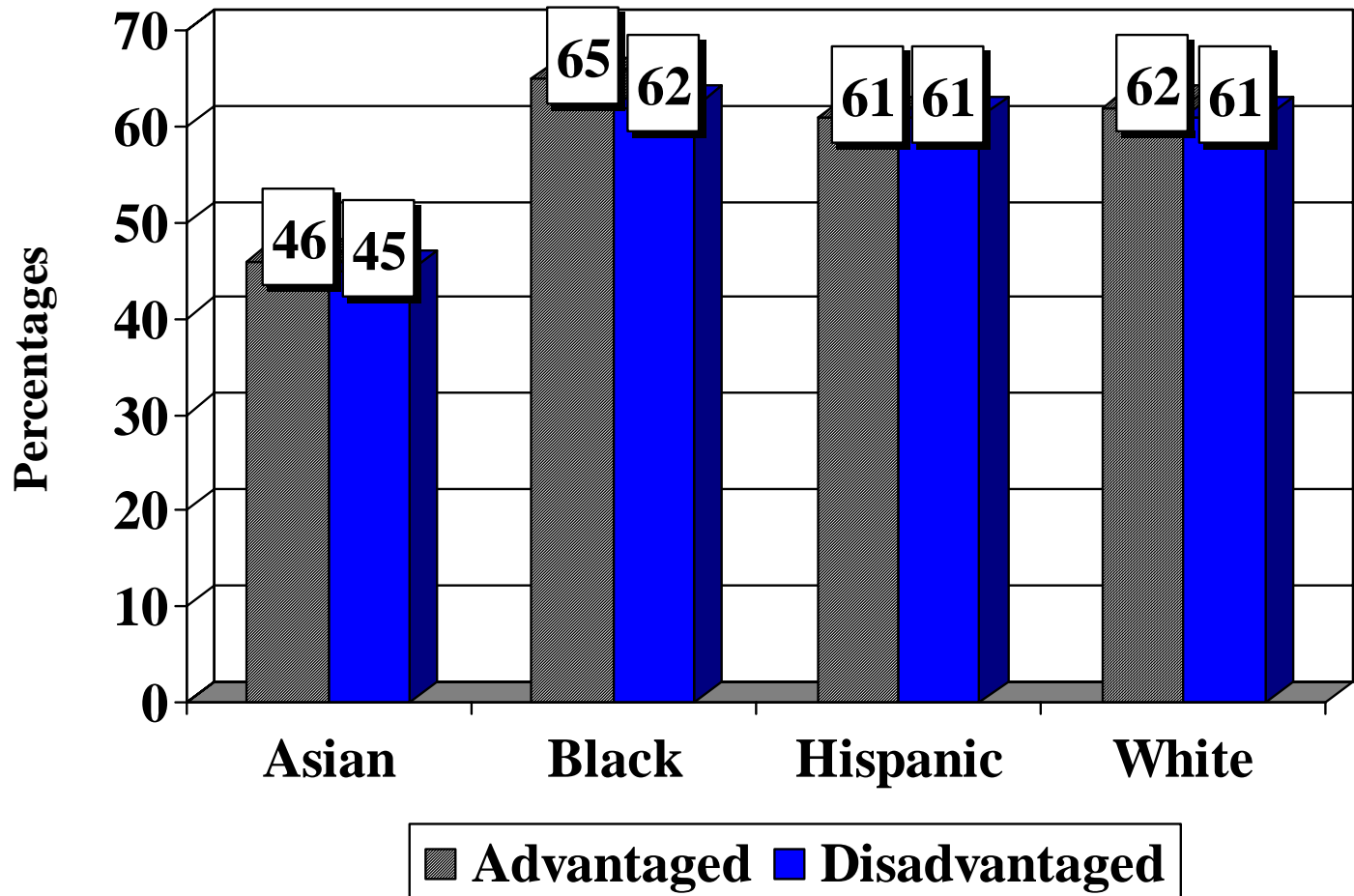
**John F. Kennedy School of Government**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Achievement Gap Initiative**

**at Harvard University**

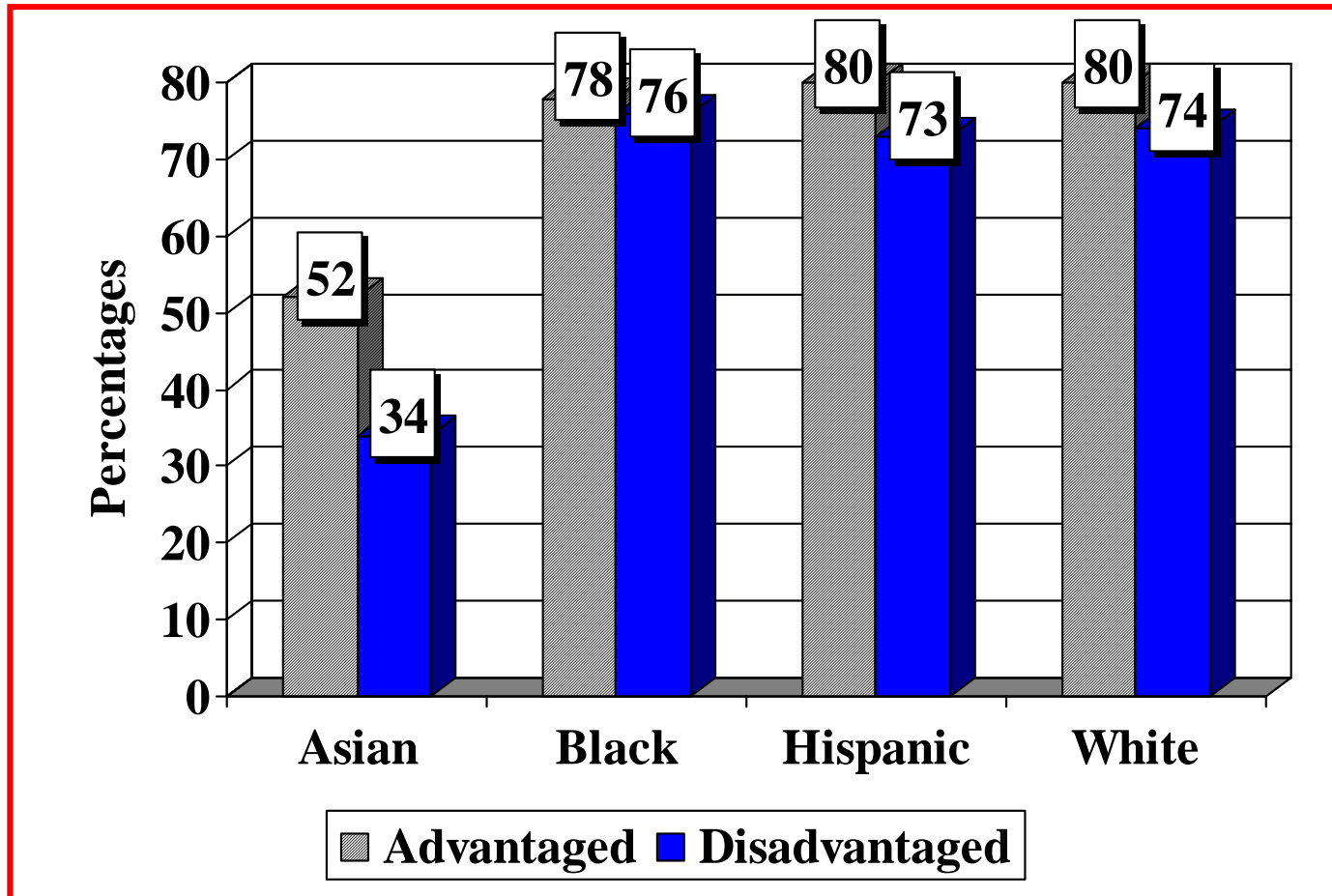
**June 19, 2006**

# My parents want me to tell them what I learned in school. ("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)



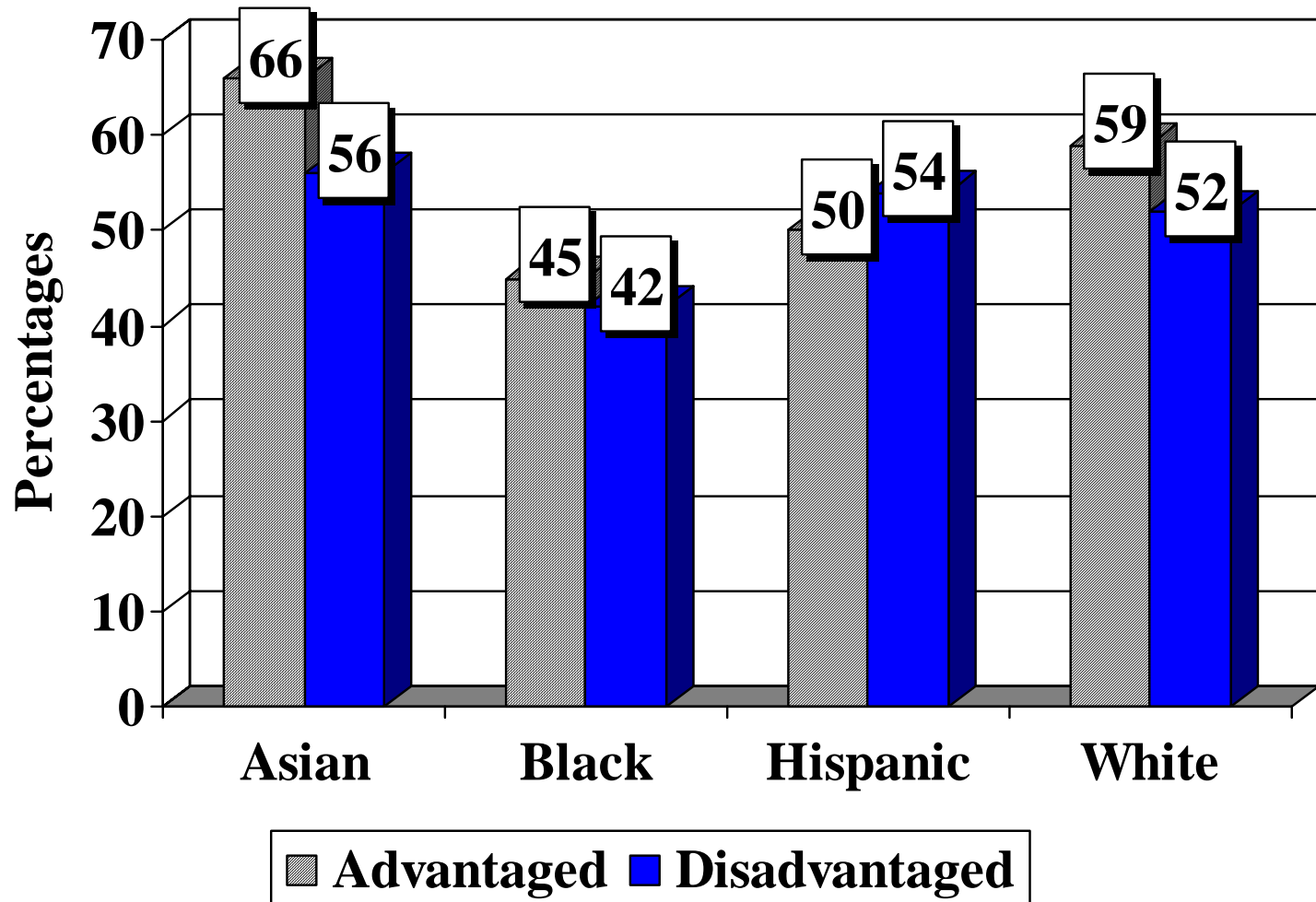
Source: Calculations by Ron Ferguson, using Tripod Project data for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders collected spring 2004 & '05 from 45 elementary schools in NJ, CT, OH, NM, IA, MA, MI and CA. **"Advantaged"** students have (by our definition) *at least one computer in the home AND are not from single parent households; others are labeled "Disadvantaged."* Advantaged: Asian, N=458; Black, N=659; Hispanic, N=152; White, N=1364. Disadvantaged: Asian, N=63; Black=409; Hispanic=71; White=187.

At home, someone is always there  
to help me with my homework if I need it.  
("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)



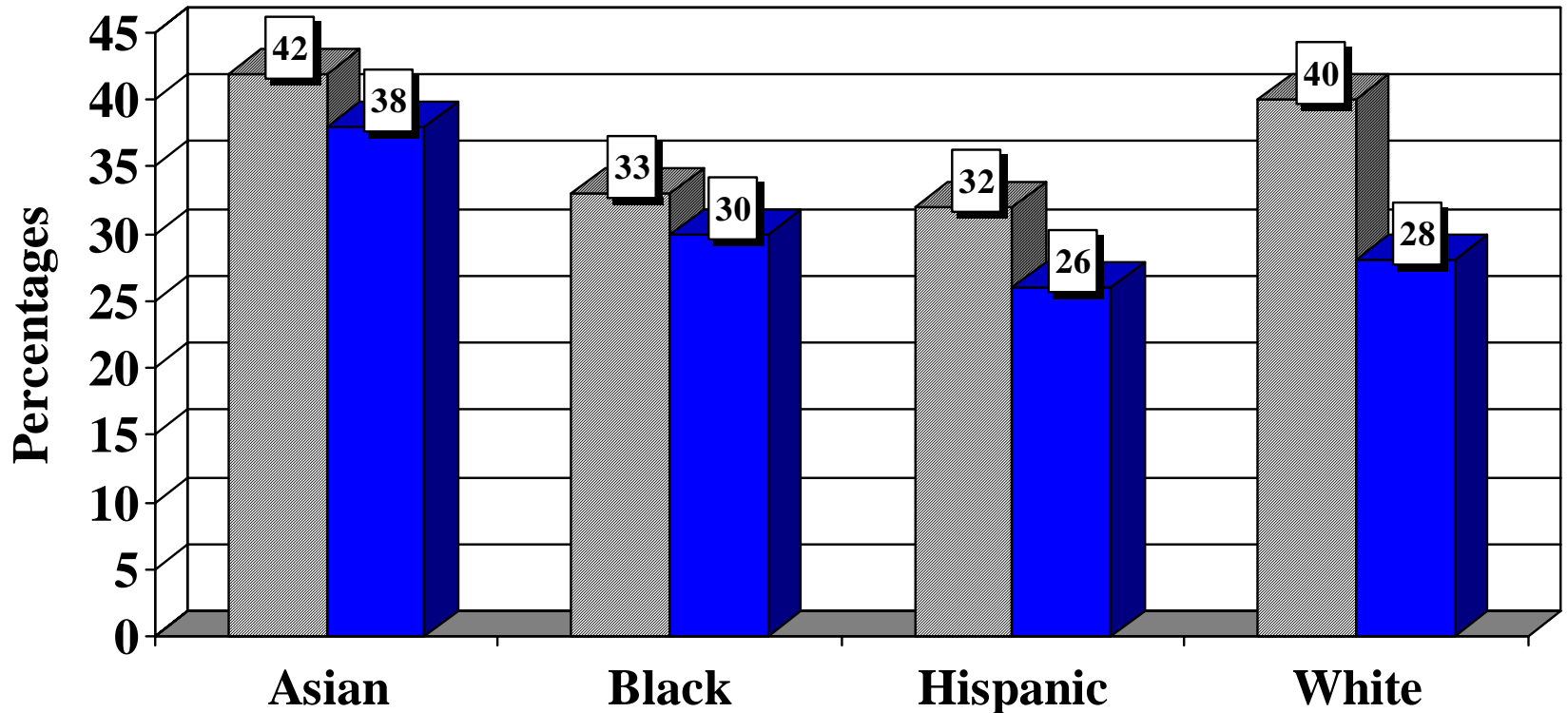
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# I read almost everyday at home. ("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)



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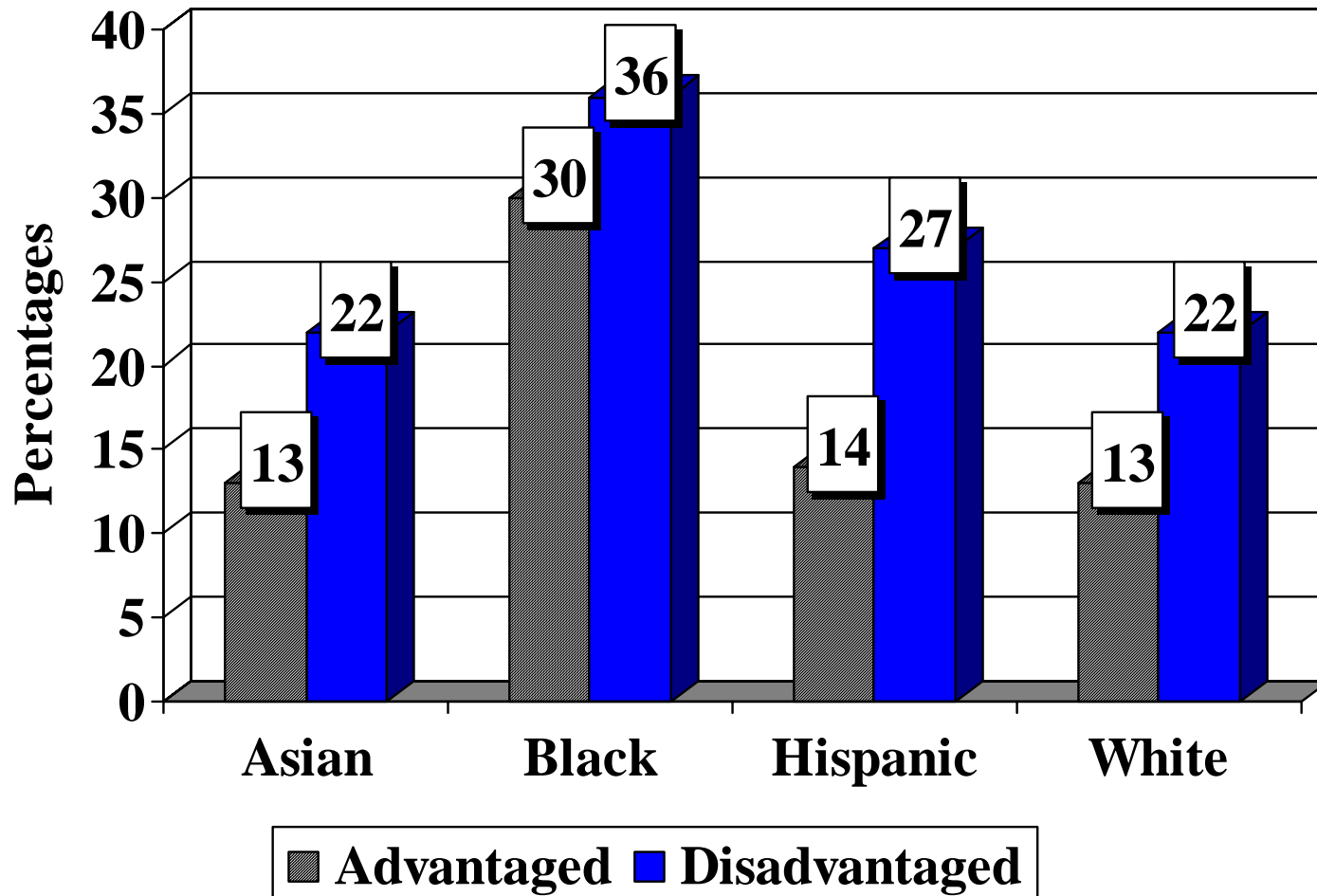
Percentages of students from 20 high schools responding “usually” or “always” to the statement, “On a typical day, I read a paper, magazine or book just for fun or pleasure.” Shown by mother’s years of schooling.



■ Mother 16+ Years Schooling

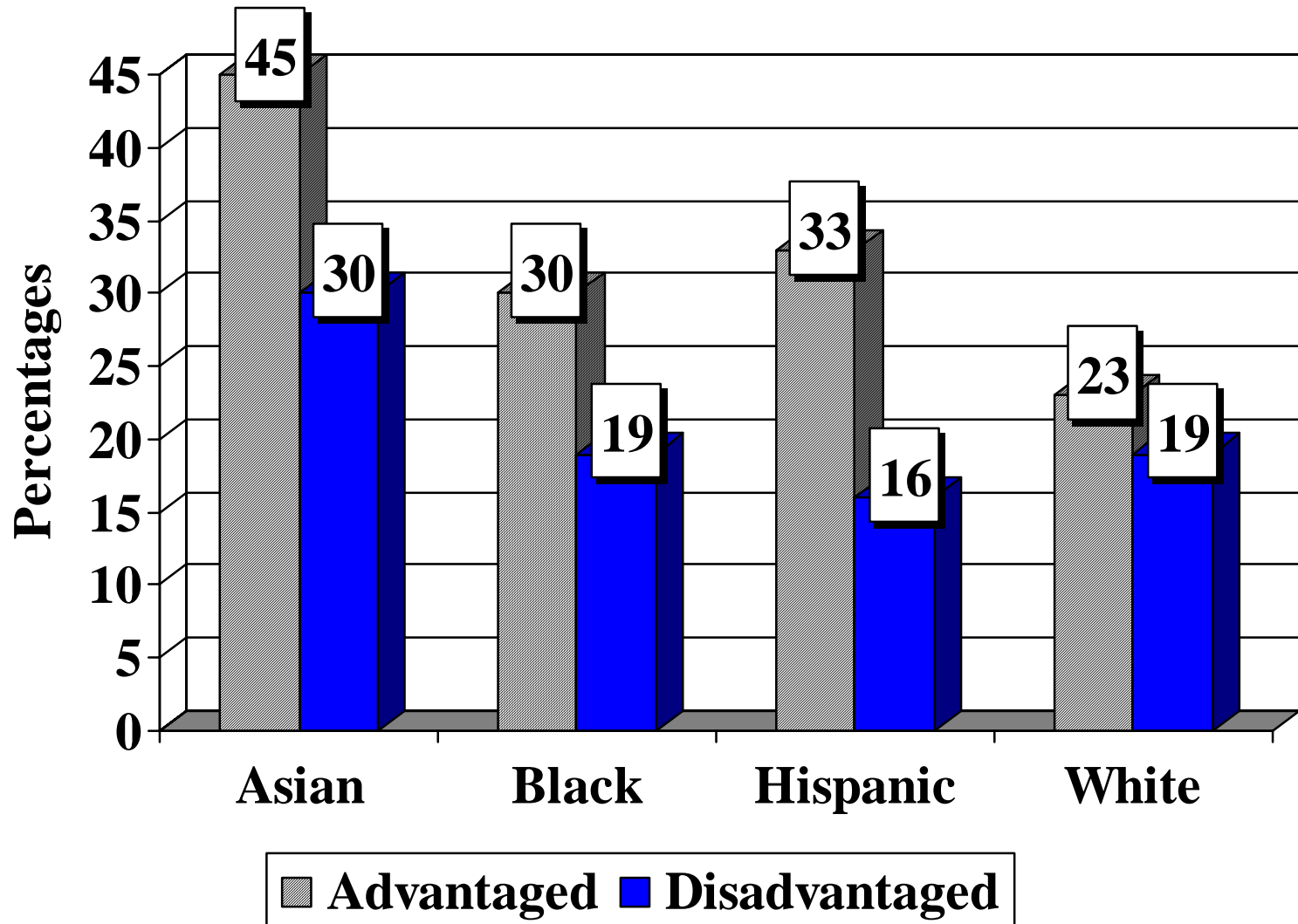
■ Mother Less than 16 Years Schooling

At home, I watch television more than I do anything else.  
("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)



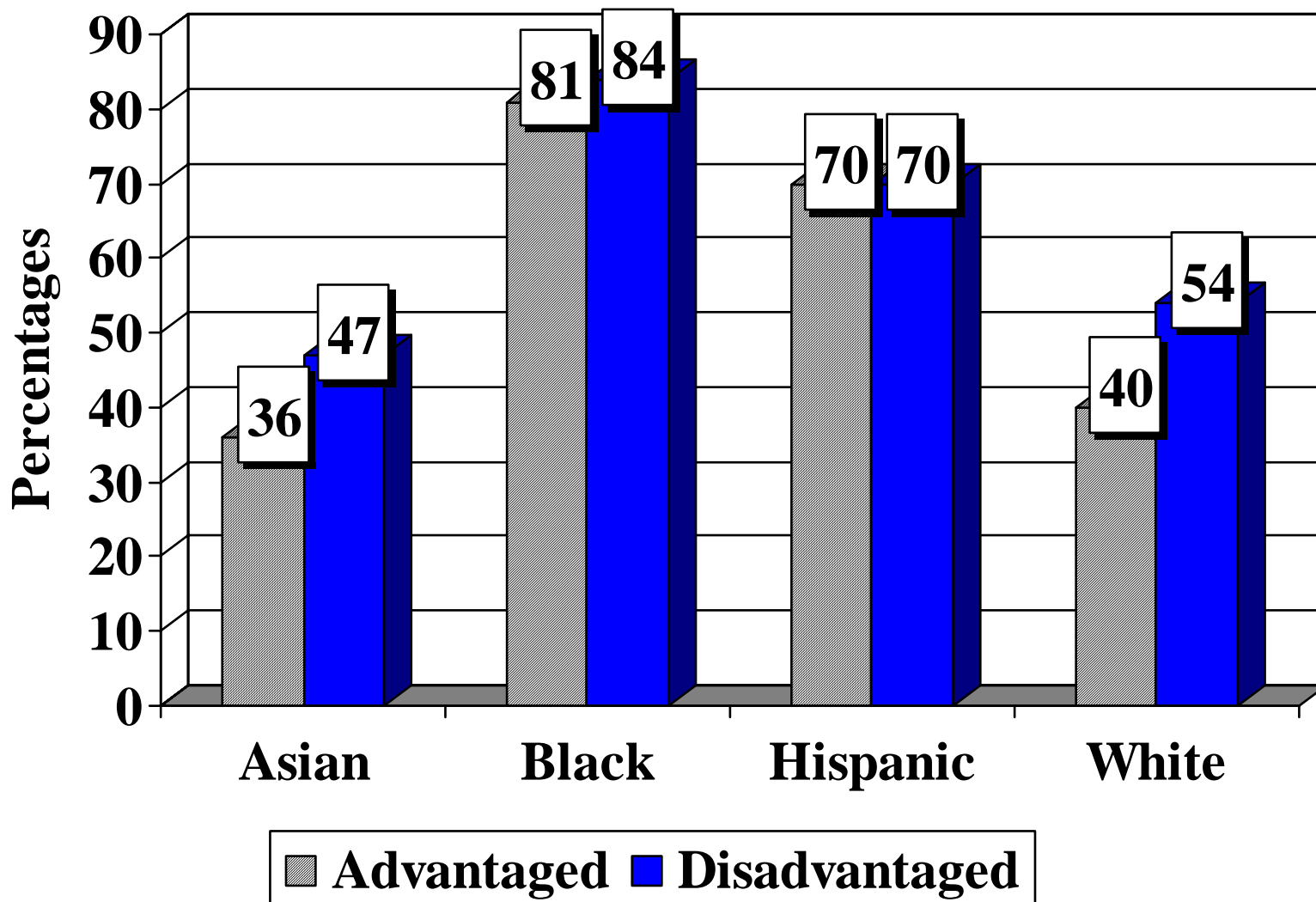
Source: Calculations by Ron Ferguson, using Tripod Project data for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders collected spring 2004 & '05 from 45 elementary schools in NJ, CT, OH, NM, IA, MA, MI and CA. "Advantaged" students have (by our definition) *at least one computer in the home AND are not from single parent households; others are labeled "Disadvantaged."* Advantaged: Asian, N=458; Black, N=659; Hispanic, N=152; White, N=1364. Disadvantaged: Asian, N=63; Black=409; Hispanic=71; White=187.

# Percentages with computers in their bedrooms. (Grades 1-6)



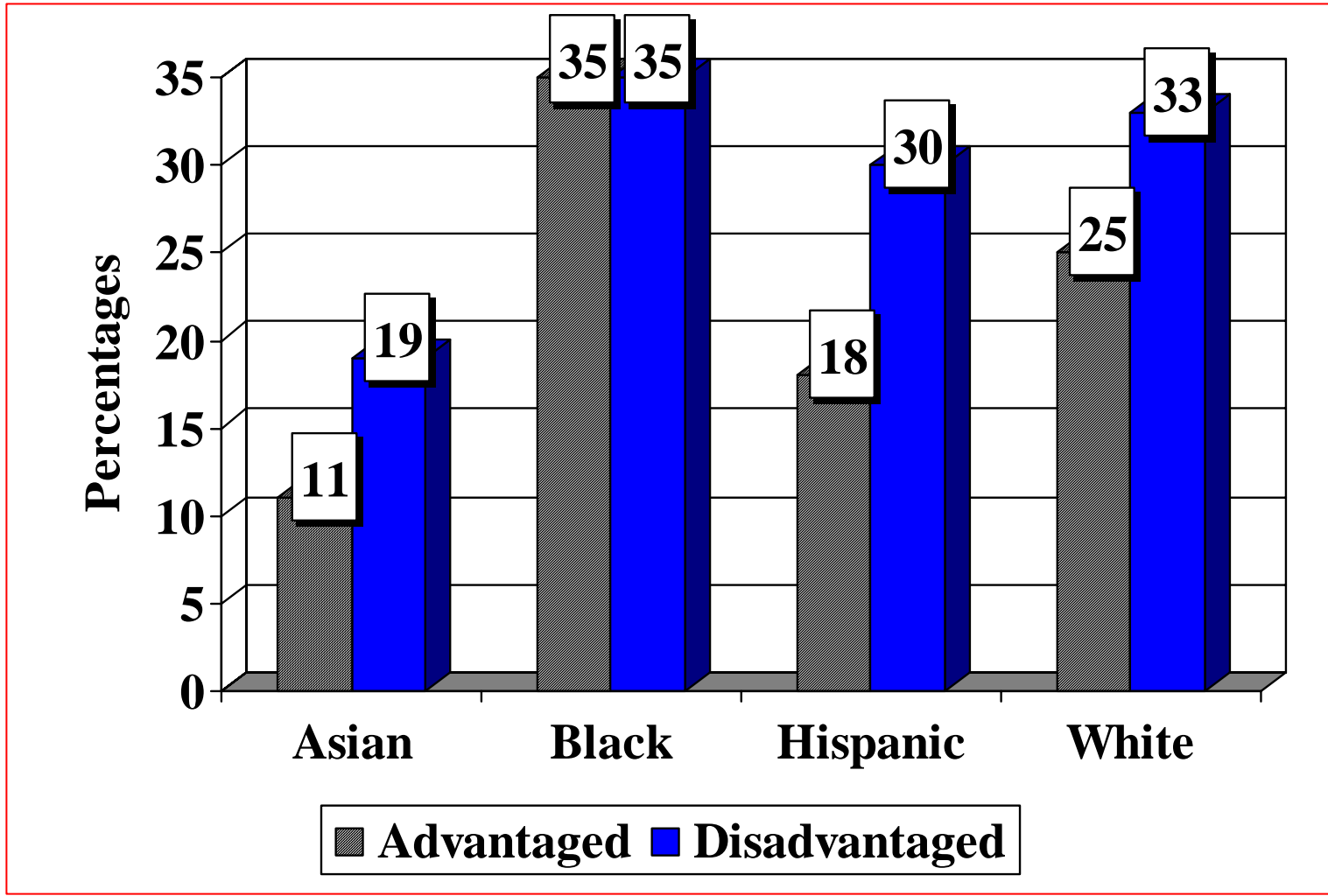
Source: Calculations by Ron Ferguson, using Tripod Project data for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders collected spring 2004 & '05 from 45 elementary schools in NJ, CT, OH, NM, IA, MA, MI and CA. **“Advantaged”** students have (by our definition) *at least one computer in the home AND are not from single parent households; others are labeled “Disadvantaged.”* Advantaged: Asian, N=458; Black, N=659; Hispanic, N=152; White, N=1364. Disadvantaged: Asian, N=63; Black=409; Hispanic=71; White=187.

# Percentages with televisions in their bedrooms. (Grades 1-6)



Source: Calculations by Ron Ferguson, using Tripod Project data for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders collected spring 2004 & '05 from 45 elementary schools in NJ, CT, OH, NM, IA, MA, MI and CA. **“Advantaged”** students have (by our definition) *at least one computer in the home AND are not from single parent households; others are labeled “Disadvantaged.”* Advantaged: Asian, N=458; Black, N=659; Hispanic, N=152; White, N=1364. Disadvantaged: Asian, N=63; Black=409; Hispanic=71; White=187.

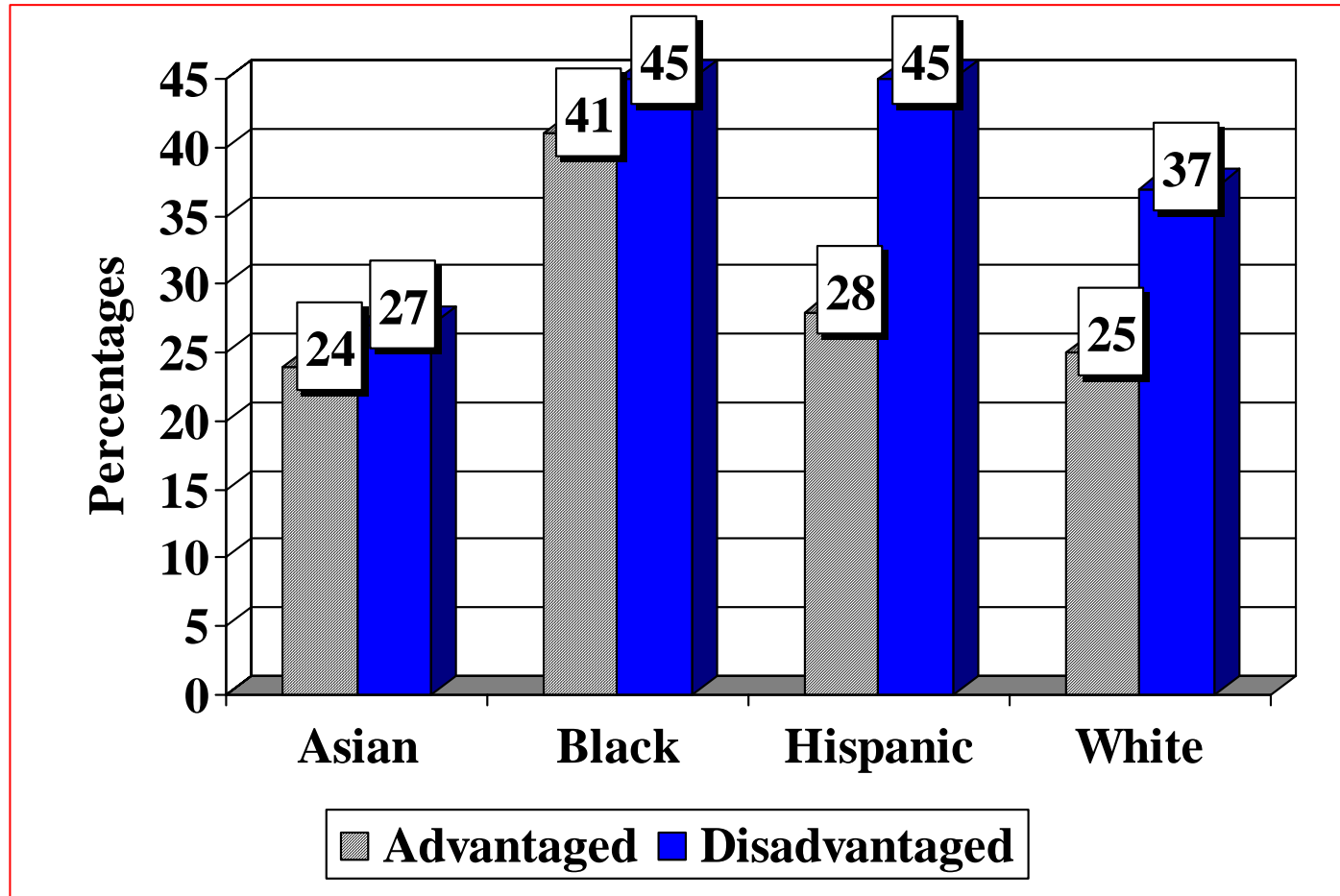
# On many days, I get very sleepy at school. ("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)



Source: Calculations by Ron Ferguson, using Tripod Project data for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders collected spring 2004 & '05 from 45 elementary schools in NJ, CT, OH, NM, IA, MA, MI and CA. "Advantaged" students have (by our definition) *at least one computer in the home AND are not from single parent households; others are labeled "Disadvantaged."* Advantaged: Asian, N=458; Black, N=659; Hispanic, N=152; White, N=1364. Disadvantaged: Asian, N=63; Black=409; Hispanic=71; White=187.

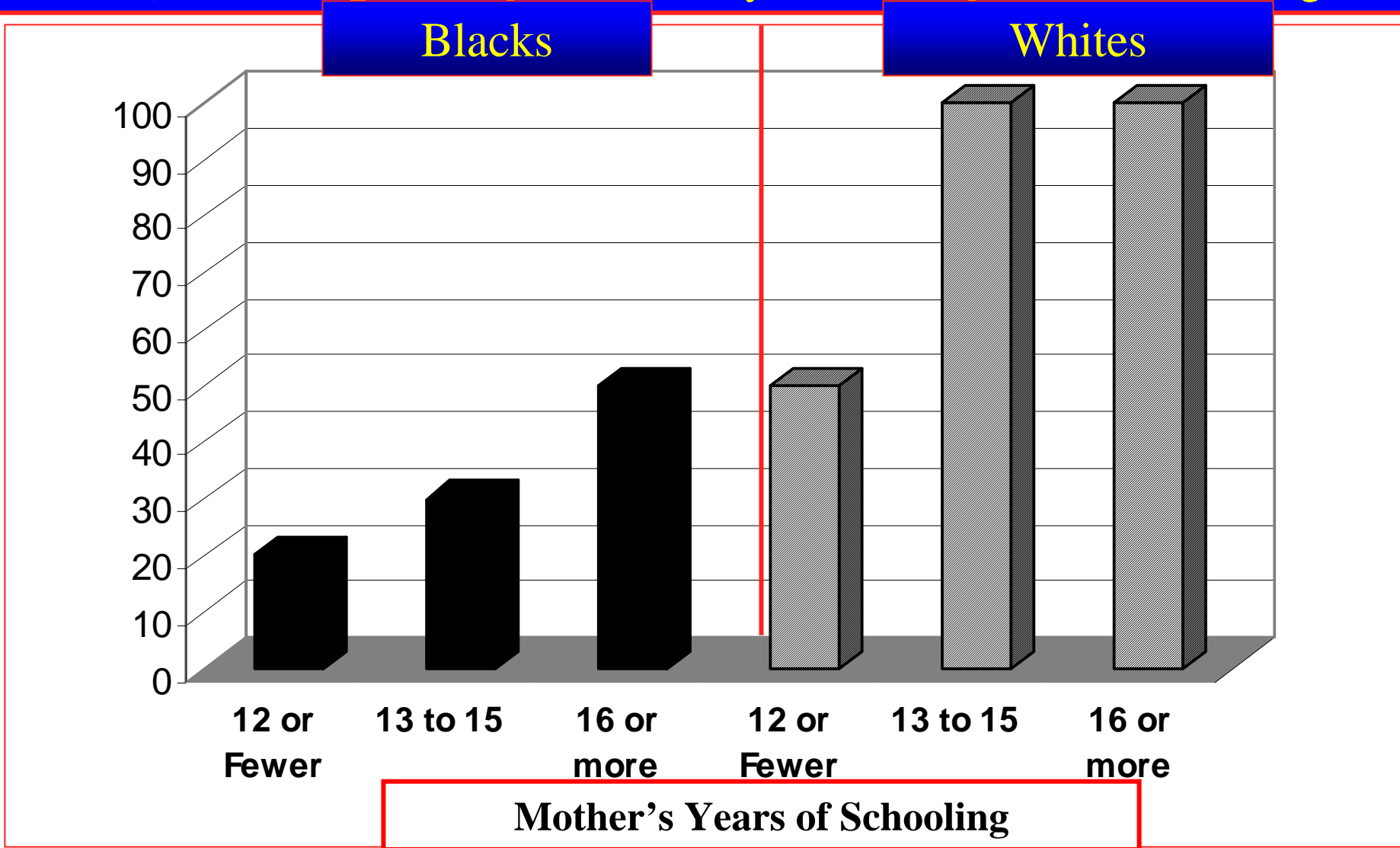
Sometimes my teacher says that I don't  
pay attention like I should.

("Yes," instead of "Maybe" or "No.") (Grades 1-6)

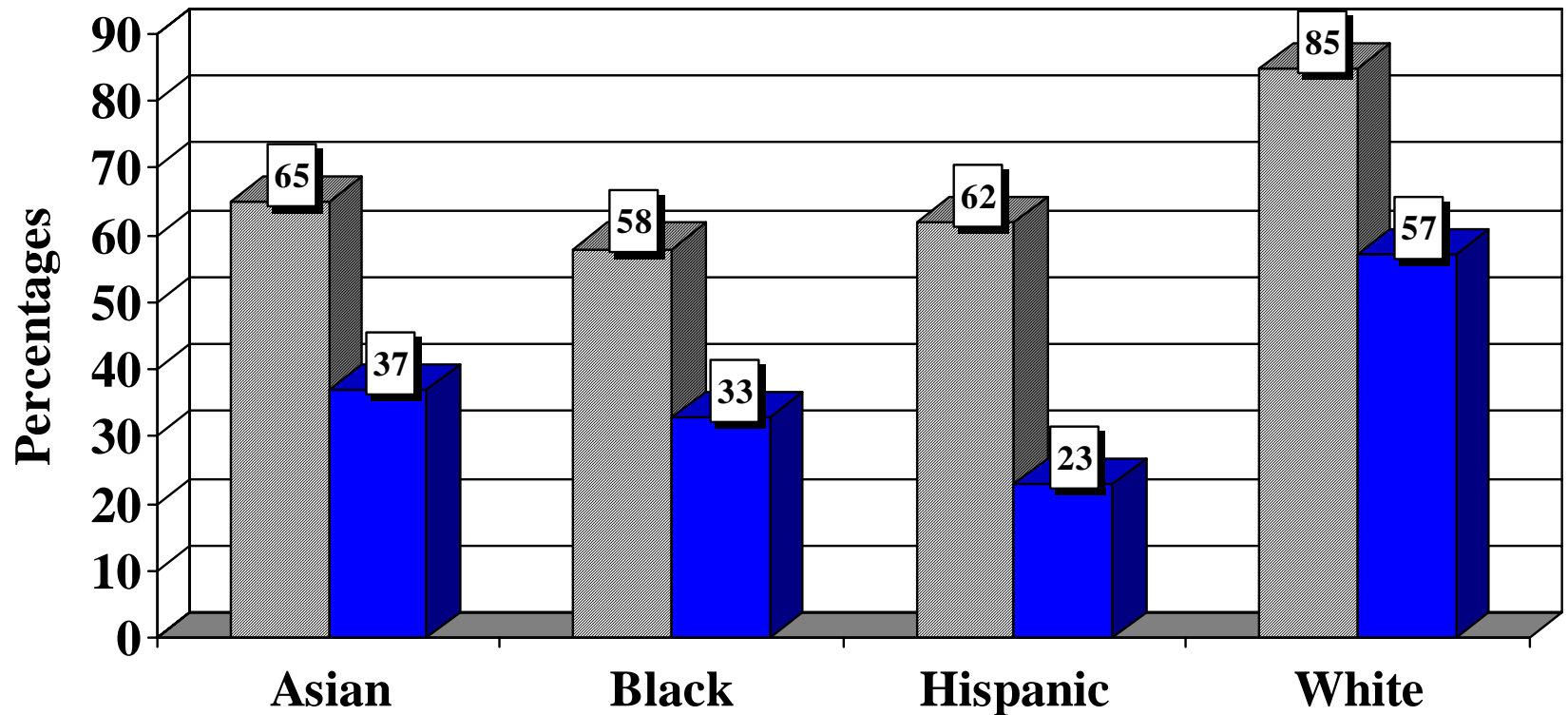


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Within-race median parental responses in 1998 to: **How many children's books does your [kindergarten] child have in your home now, including library books?** By mother's years of schooling.



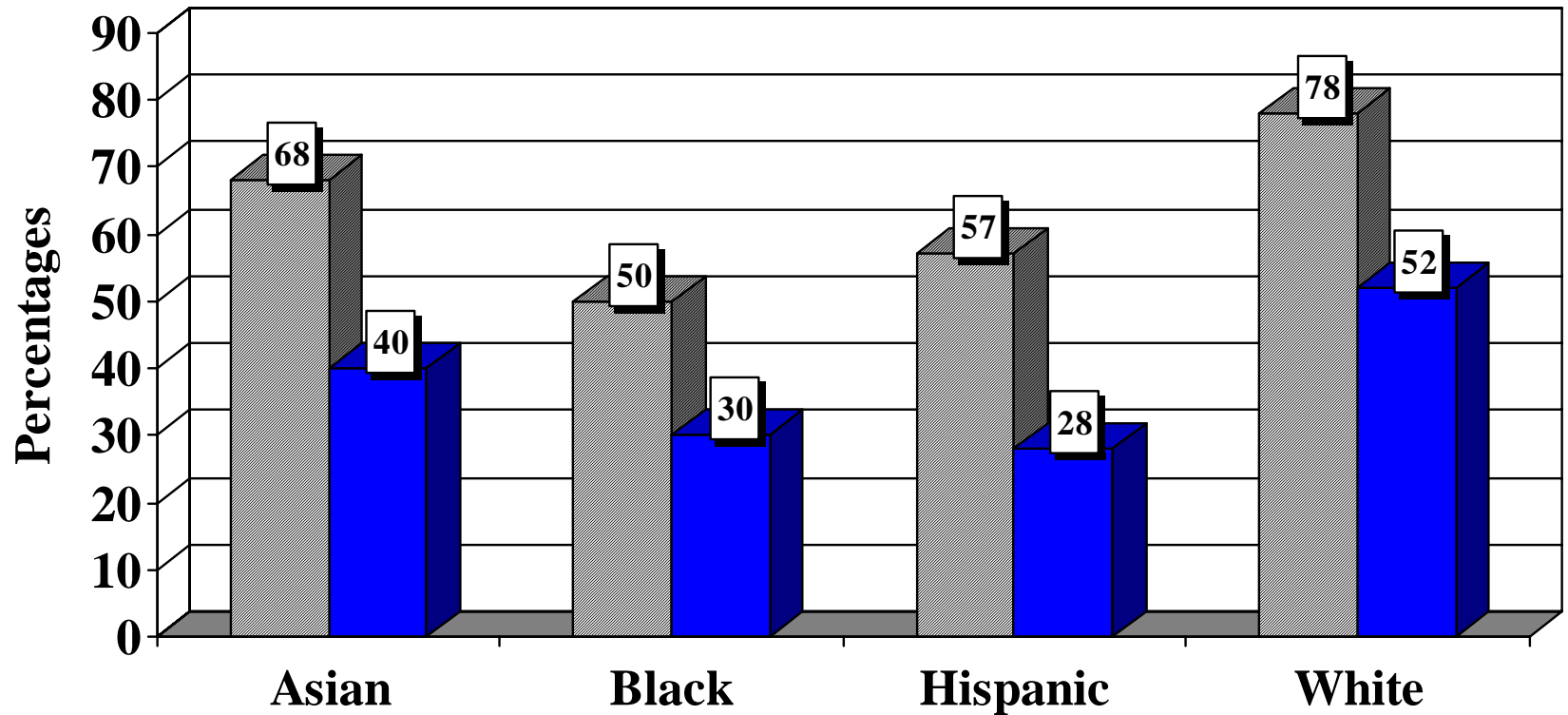
Percentages of students from 20 high schools across five states responding that there are at least 100 books in their home, from surveys conducted fall 2003. Shown by mother's years of schooling.



■ Mother 16+ Years Schooling

■ Mother Less than 16 Years Schooling

Percentages of students from 30 high schools across seven states responding that there are at least 100 books in their home, from surveys conducted 2004 & 2005. Shown by mother's years of schooling.



■ Mother 16+ Years Schooling    ■ Mother Less than 16 Years Schooling

Achievement gaps are often largest between children of highly educated parents of different racial and ethnic groups. Parenting, especially by highly educated parents, is frequently a neglected topic in achievement-gap discourse. Along with other issues, it should be higher on our agenda as we search together for ways of helping all children to reach their full potential.