

Women and Public Policy Planning Session



**APA National Planning Conference,
April 27, 2004**

National Urban League Institute for Opportunity and Equality
1101 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 810
Washington, DC 20036

Kenya L. Covington, PhD
Kcox@nul.org



The National Urban League

- The mission of the Urban League movement is to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power and civil rights.
- The National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the nonprofit, nonpartisan movement, while Urban League affiliates operate in more than 100 cities in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

The logo graphic consists of a vertical black line intersecting a horizontal black line. To the left of the intersection, there are three overlapping squares: a yellow one at the top, a red one in the middle, and a blue one at the bottom. The text 'National Urban League' is positioned to the right of the vertical line, in a blue serif font.

National Urban League

- Our three-pronged strategy for pursuing the mission is:
 - Ensuring that our children are well-educated and equipped for economic self-reliance in the 21st century;
 - Helping adults attain economic self-sufficiency through good jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation; and
 - Ensuring our civil rights by eradicating all barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream of America.



Programs

- Senior Services
- Education Services
- Employment and Training Services
- Housing and Economic Development
- Head Start
- Assessing Transportation Needs
- Civic Engagement



Advocacy

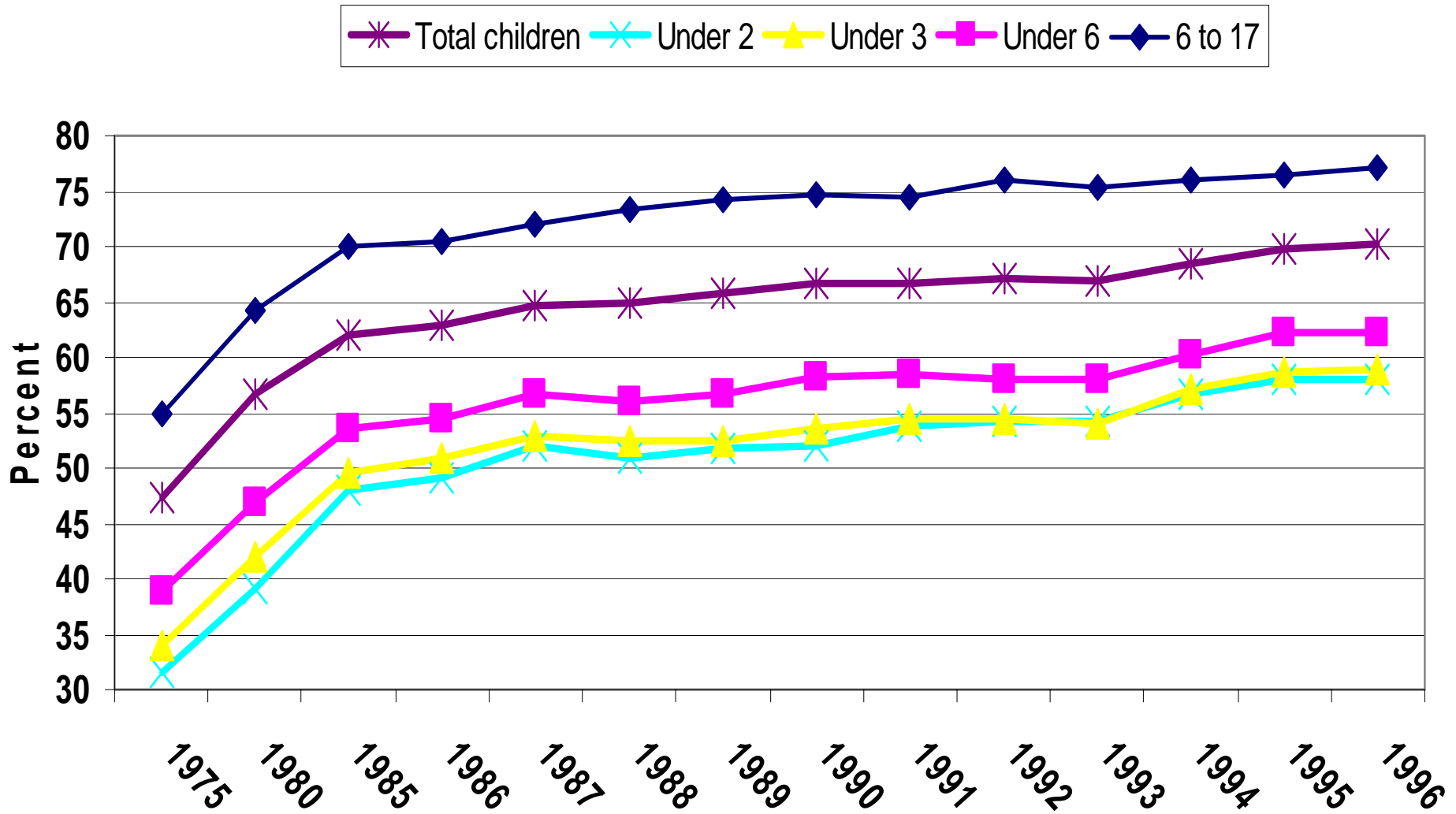
- Follow policy movement,
- Engage policy makers by clearly stating the policy implications to constituents,
- Build Coalitions,
- Research:
 - Policy Briefings
 - Fact Sheets
 - Empirical Research



A Research Example

Child Care Accessibility: Impact on Working Opportunities for Mothers

Labor Force Participation of Mothers By Child Age



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1998

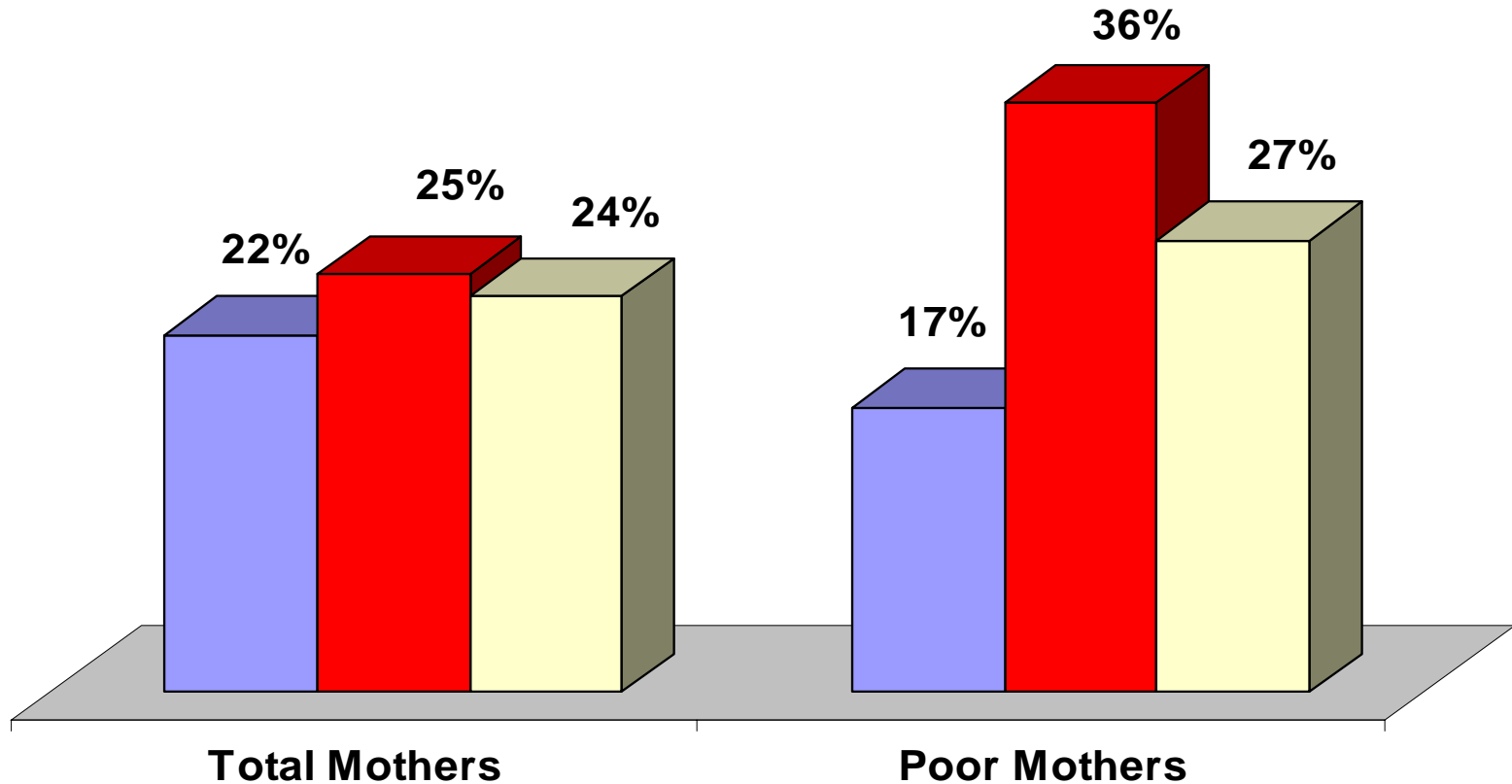


Increased Demand for Child Care

- Preschoolers who have mothers participating in the labor force
 - 1975 (4M) and 1997 (>10M)
- Growth of single parent families
 - From 1975 to 1996 female headed families grew by 12 million
- TANF Work Participation Rates

In 1997 12.1M children <5 had a regular child care arrangement. (63% of all children <5)

Organized Facilities Relatives Parental Care





Problem

- Insufficient Child Care Supply
- Great Variation in Child Care Access by Community



What is an optimal level of child care supply?

- Where accessibility in child care no longer negatively affects the decision to participate in the labor force.



Child Care Accessibility

- 1) Dissimilarity Index (segregation)
- 2) Exposure Index (diversity)

Both consider the Proportion of preschoolers to the
Proportion of providers

$$\left| \frac{\text{children} < 7_i}{\text{children} < 7_s} - \frac{\text{providers}_i}{\text{providers}_s} \right|$$



Data

Data Sources

- Census of Service Industries, 1997
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1998
- U.S. Census, 2000
- Urban Institute, 1997
- National Survey of America's Families
- Assessing New Federalism



Variables

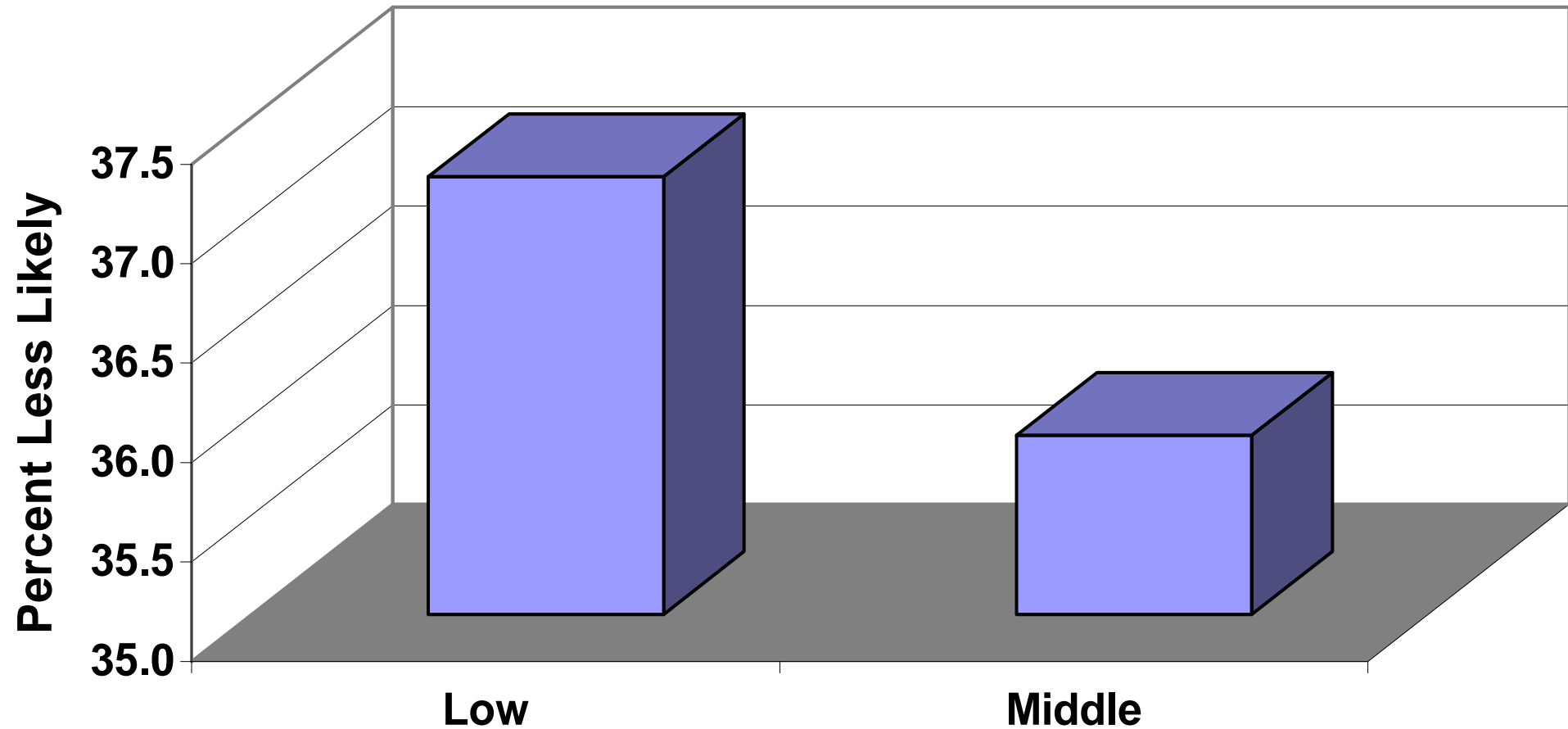
Dependent

- Labor Force Participation

Independent

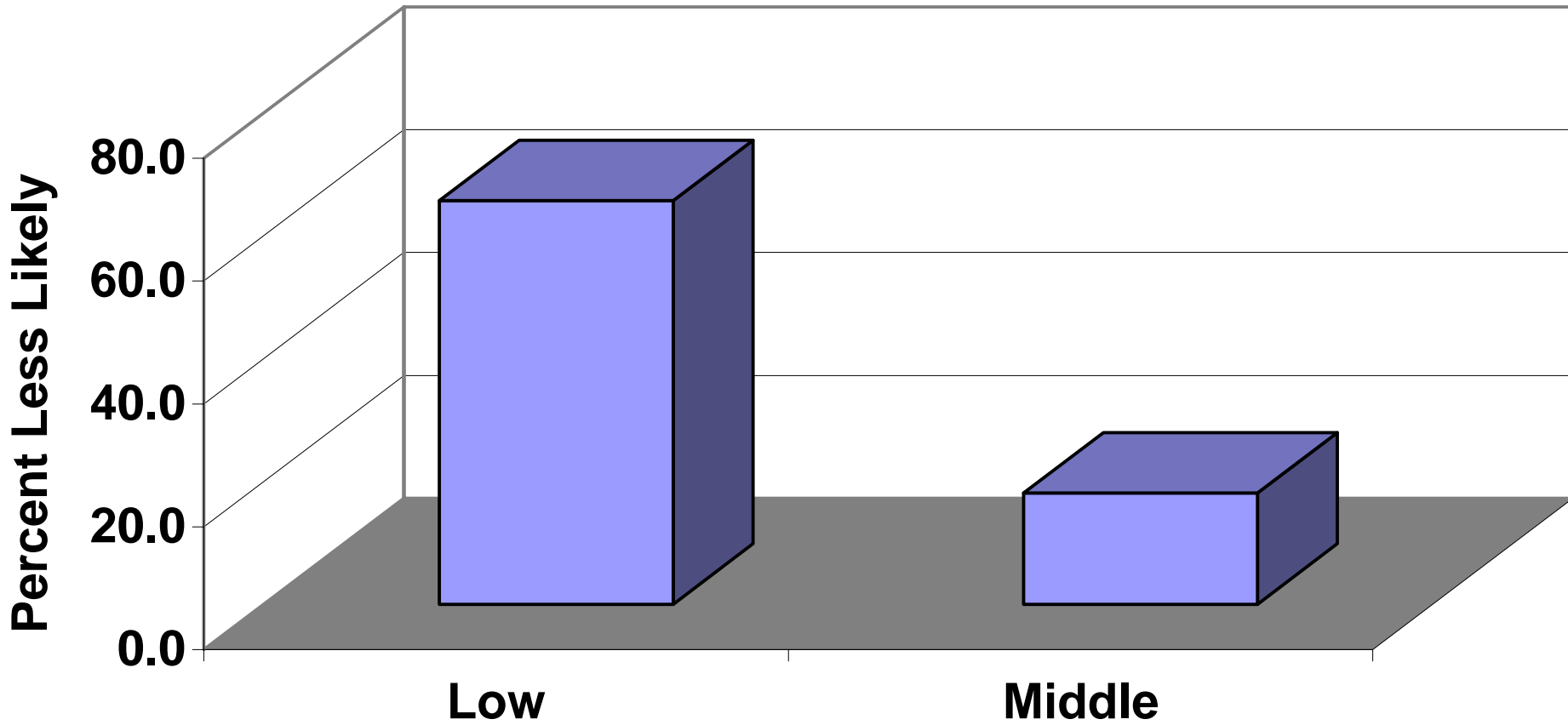
- Child Care Accessibility
- Child Care Costs
- Access to Transportation

Effect of Child Care Accessibility on Labor Force Participation (as compared to high child care accessibility)



Low = Prob.<.10, Middle = Prob.<.05

Effect of Child Care Accessibility on the Labor Force Participation of Mothers in Highly Urban-Poor Counties (as compared to high child care accessibility)



w = Prob.<.10

	Decrease Cost of Child Care For Low-income Families	Increase the National Supply of Child Care	Increase Child Care Access in “Highly Urban-Poor” Counties	Establishment of Child Care Centers at transportation nodes	Decrease Commute time to Work	Cost
Child Care Development Block Grant	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	+
Social Services Block Grant	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	+
Head Start	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	-
Child Care Growth Zones	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Universal Child Care	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	+
Do Nothing	No	No	No	No	No	-



Conclusions

- Implemented child care policies are not adequately boosting the child care supply
- A package of policies emerge as the most effective policy approach that will have the most positive outcomes.
 - Child Care Growth Zones, Universal Child Care and the existing Child Care Development Block Grant.



Thank You!!!!!!
