



Outcomes of Participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension Parent Education Programs in Suffolk County 2014-2015

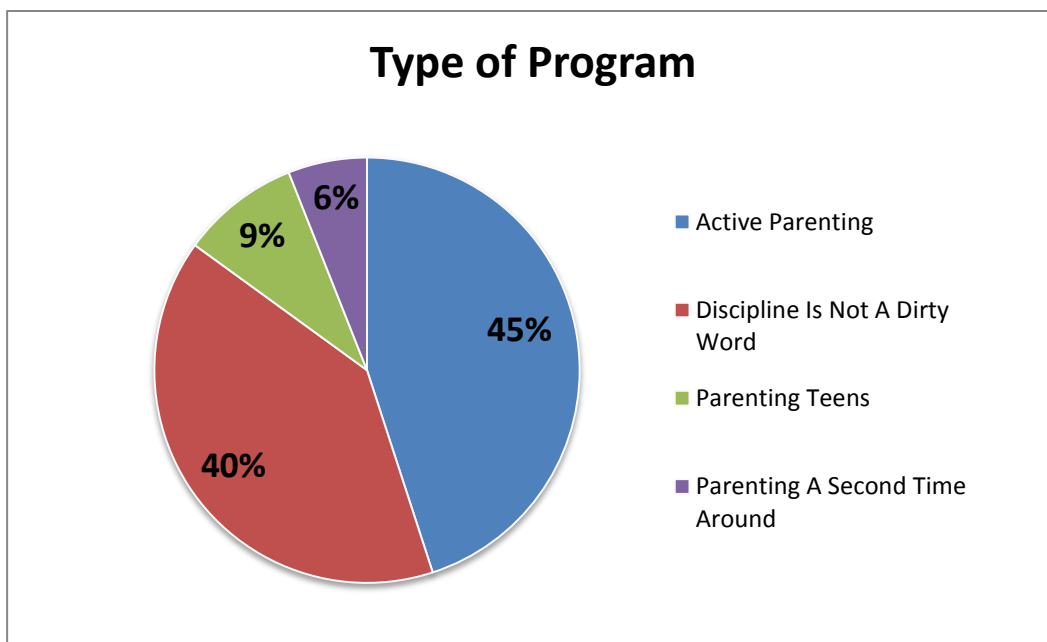
By Eliza Lathrop Cook & Kimberly Kopko

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Suffolk County offers a variety of programs for parents and caregivers. These programs reach a wide range of families and seek to promote positive parenting and, ultimately, healthy family and child development. This research brief presents data collected from participants in Suffolk County CCE parent education programs from July 2014 to July 2015. Participants included parents and caregivers who participated in programs that comprised of at least six hours of

content delivery. Data were collected from participants at the first session (a pre-test) and at the last session (a post-test). Results of the analysis of these data are shown below.

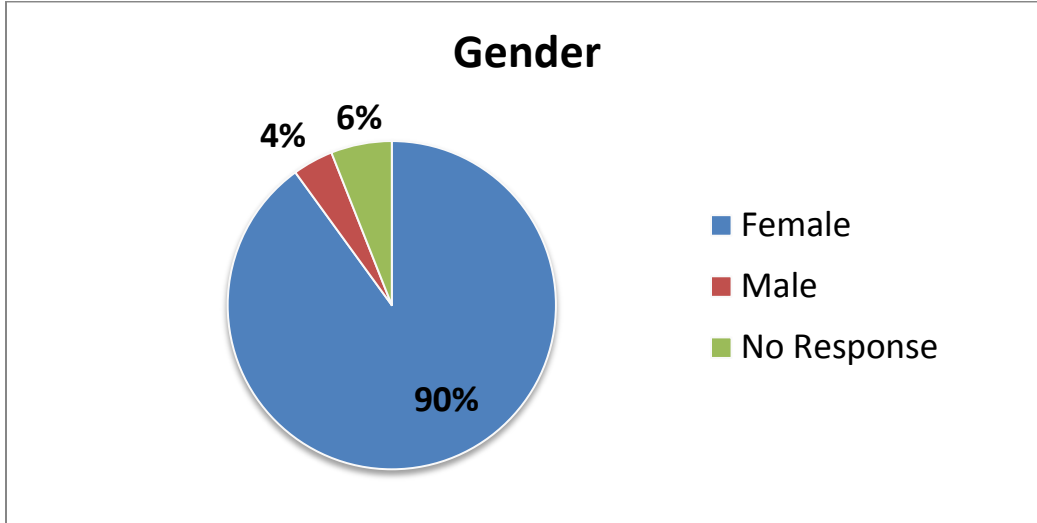
Demographics of Participants in Programs in Suffolk County, New York

A total of four programs were evaluated in Suffolk County, with the largest number of participants involved Active Parenting (45%).



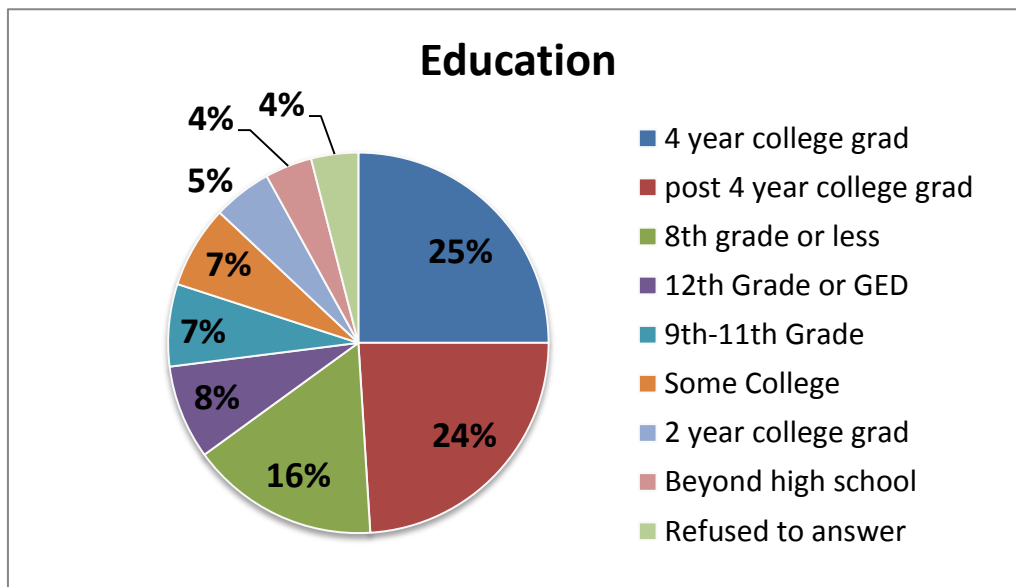
The following summaries use data from 100 participants who completed a pre-test survey given at the first session of their parent education class.

The majority of participants in the Suffolk County CCE parenting classes were females (90%).



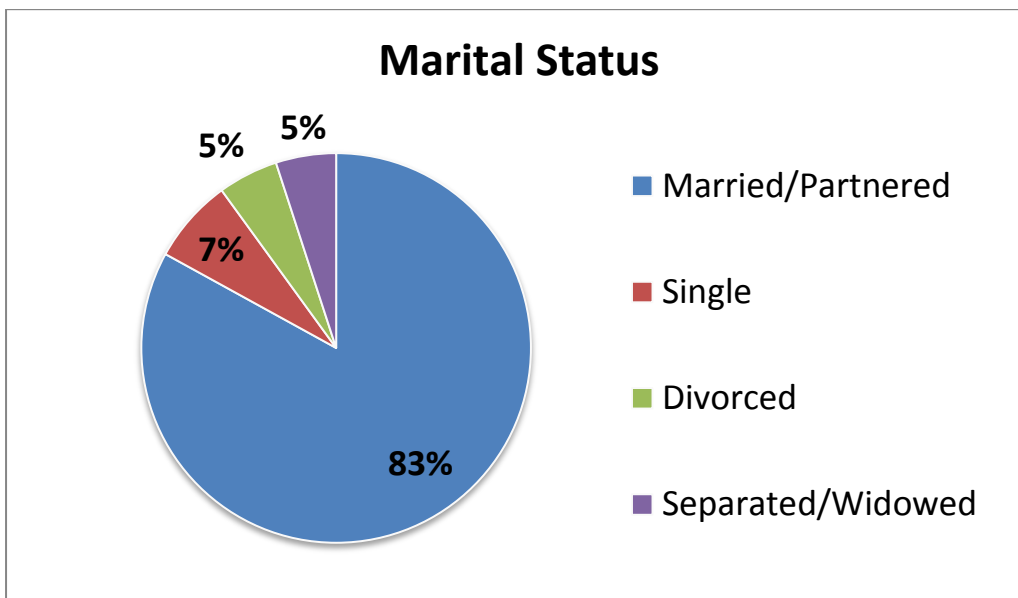
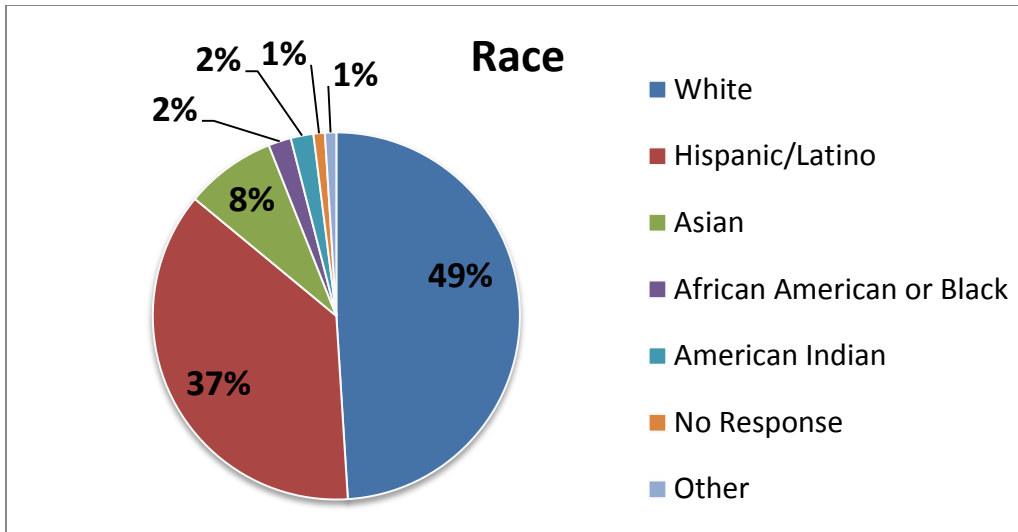
Educational attainment among the participants varied widely, with the greatest number of participants having graduated with a four-year college

degree (25%), followed by those who completed a degree beyond a four-year college program (24%).



The majority of the participants in Suffolk County CCE parent

education classes were white (49%) and 83% were married or partnered.



Pre-Post Survey Results

This evaluation used a pre- and post-test in which the participants were asked to answer two identical surveys—one given at the first class session and another given after the completion of the last parenting class. The survey included ten questions about parenting attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge designed to capture

some of what was taught in the class. The pre- post-study design allows researchers to see if attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge change during the course of the workshop. Using this type of research design does not allow one to determine whether taking part in the parent education class *caused* a change in attitudes, behaviors and knowledge;

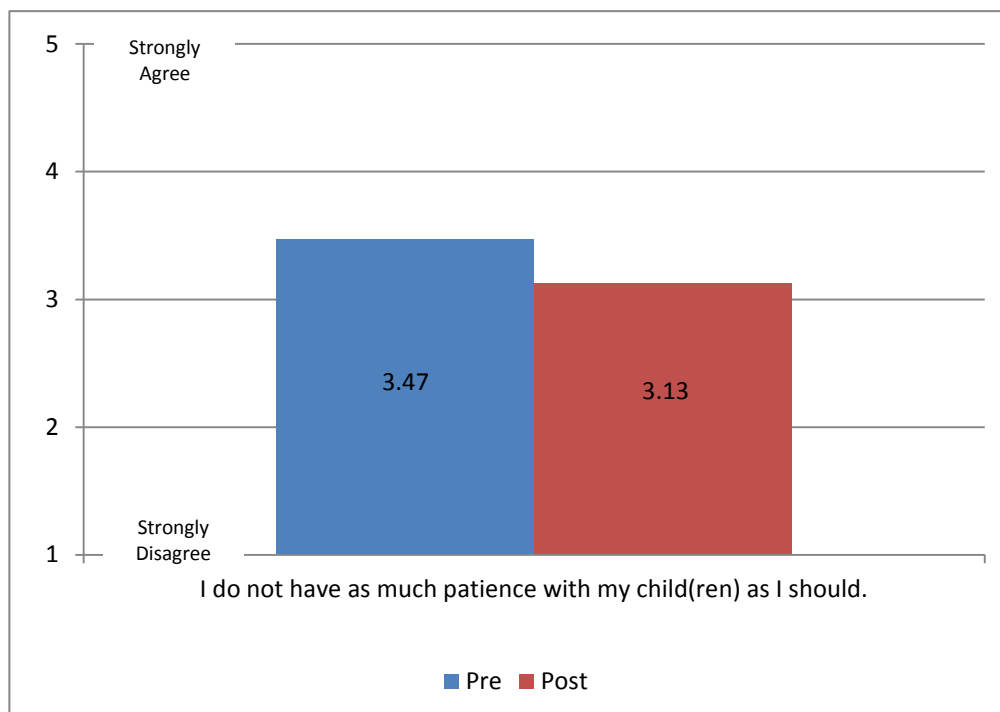
such changes could occur for other reasons outside of the workshop. However, it is possible that any significant pre-to-post changes in parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge that are observed may have resulted from taking part in the program.

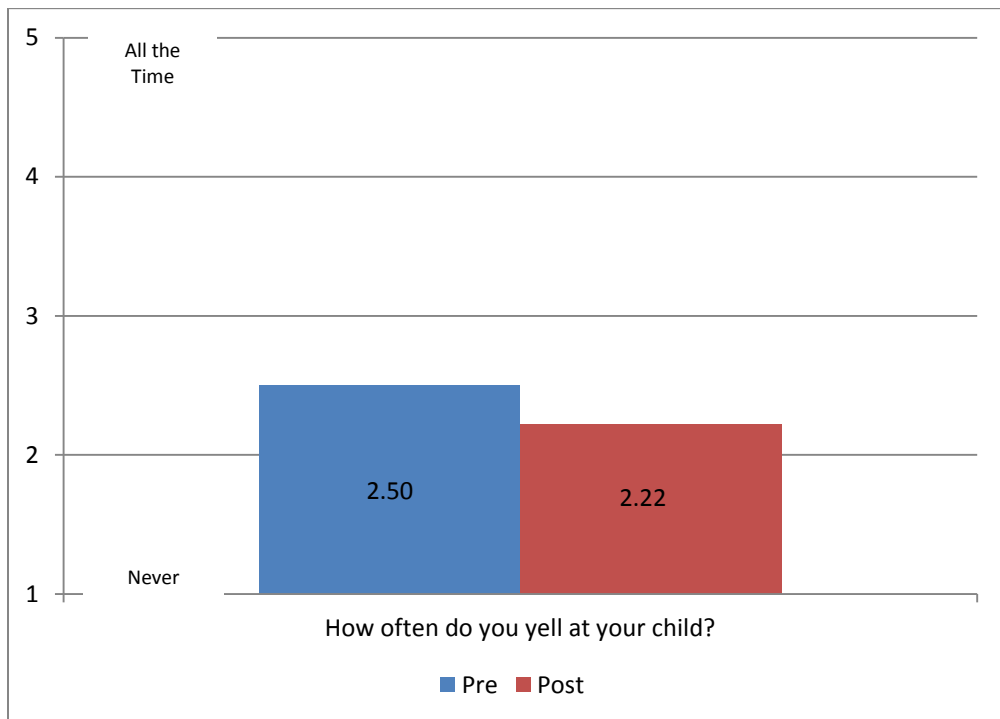
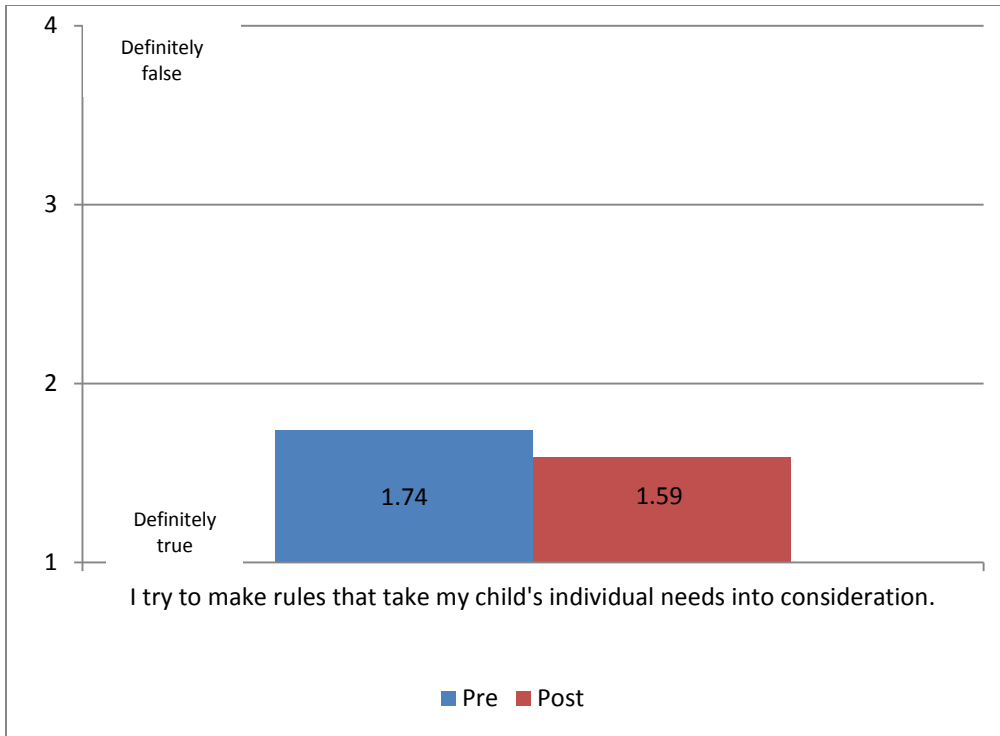
The following evaluation is based on information provided by 63 participants who completed their program and completed both a pre- and a post-test survey. Five of the ten measures tested showed significant improvements from the pre- to the post-test. Specifically, CCE parent education participants reported increases in: patience with their child, making rules that take their child's

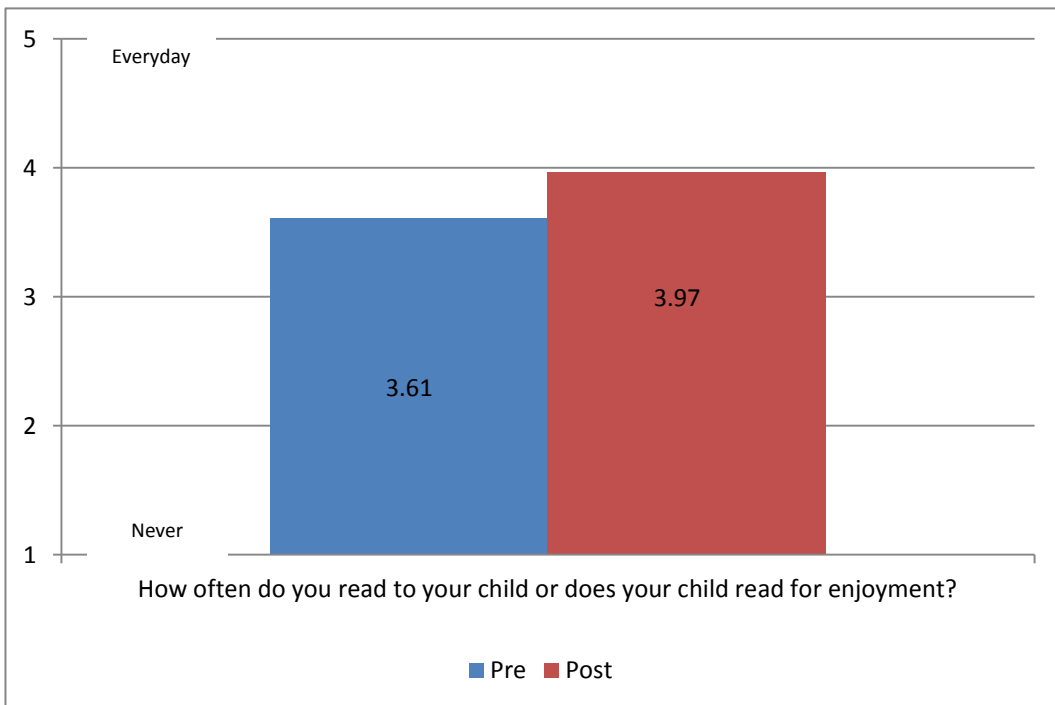
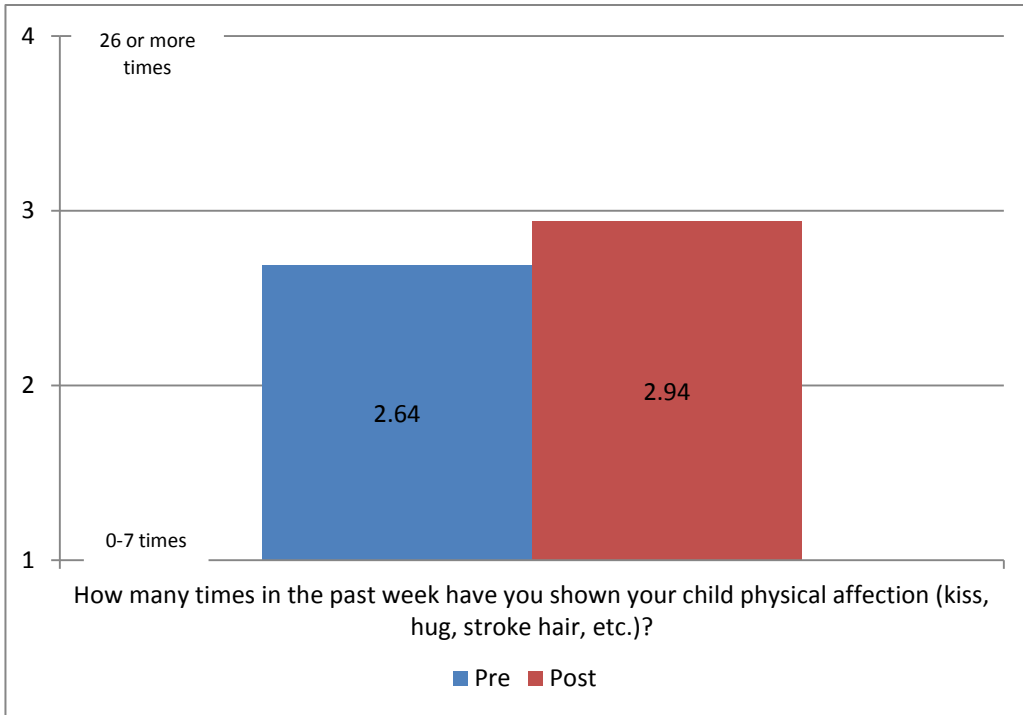
needs into consideration, physical affection towards their child, and time spent reading with their child. Participants reported decreases in how often they yell at their child.

A p-value generated from a paired t-test was used as a statistical measure to determine whether a change in a given survey question between the pre- and post-test was significant. A p-value of .10 or less was considered statistically significant, and means that we can be 90% certain that the pre-to-post changes in participant responses are not due to chance.

In comparing participants' pre- and post-test survey results, the following questions showed statistically significant changes.







These results indicate that five out of ten measures of parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge improved significantly from the pre- to the post-

test, highlighting areas in which CCE Suffolk County parent education programs may have had a positive impact on their participants.

Visit the *Parenting in Context* project at:

<http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/parenting/>

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