



Young Hispanic Children: Early Learning Needs and Opportunities

National Summit on Hispanic Early Learning

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RUTGERS

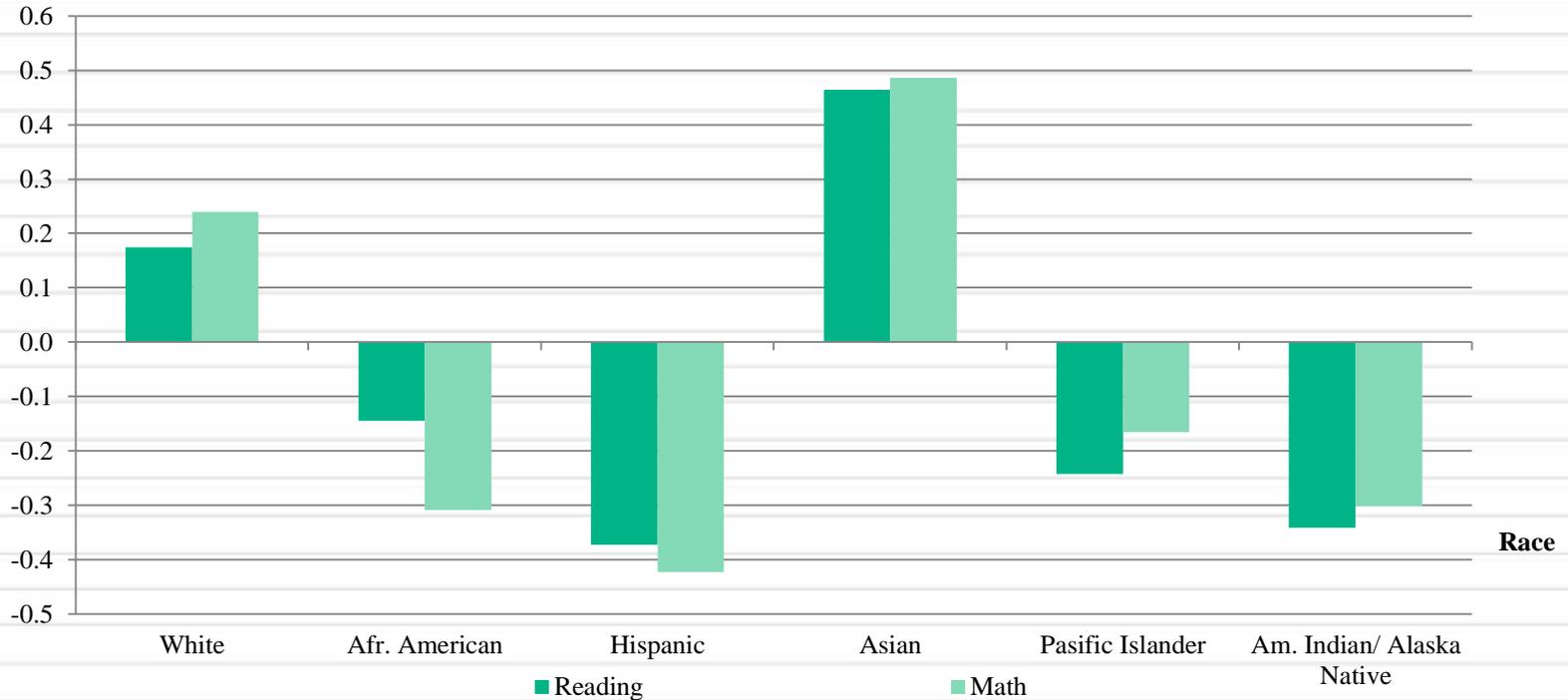
Graduate School of Education





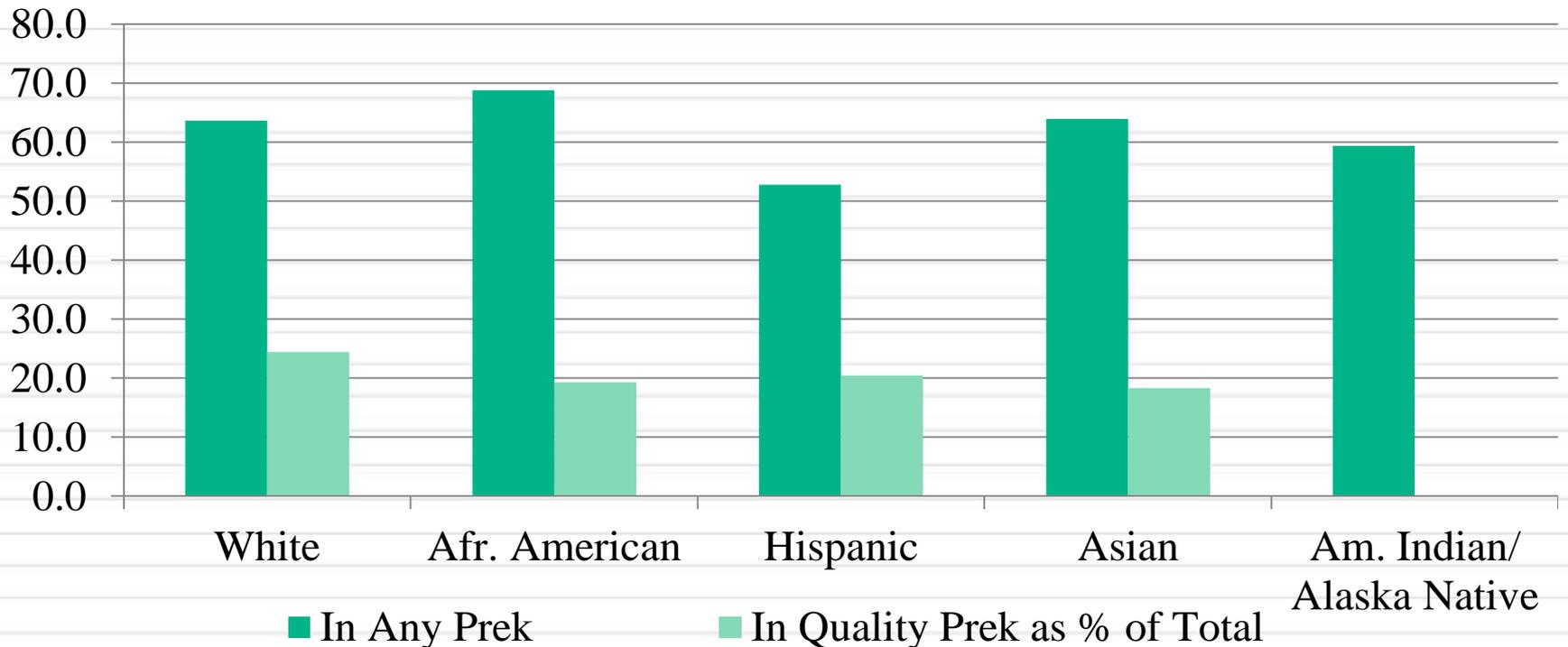
Hispanic Children Have the Largest Achievement Gaps at Kindergarten Entry

Abilities
Scores





Hispanic Children Have the Least Access to Preschool Education



NIEER calculations based on ECLS-B. Am. Indian sample on quality too small to report



Why Are Hispanics Less Likely to Attend Pre-K?

- High cost of quality
- Lack of transportation
- Limited access to public programs
- Low standards in states where most Hispanic children live--including CA, FL, TX
- Inadequate outreach, particularly in Spanish
- Few dual language programs
 - Spanish speaking children least likely to attend pre-K



How Would Hispanic Children Benefit from Pre-K for All?

- Hispanic children make large gains in high quality pre-K
 - School readiness in language, literacy, and math
 - Long-term achievement
 - Reduced grade repetition and special education, which predict high dropout rates
- Hispanic children are more likely to attend if Pre-K is not means-tested and is high quality



Dual Language Pre-K is Essential

- Rigorous research finds dual language pre-K can produce large gains in English and Spanish
 - Children lose in Spanish without formal education
- Bilingualism has cognitive benefits
- Bilingualism has economic and social benefits
- Need to invest in good bilingual teachers
 - Enable the pre-K teachers we have to attend higher education
 - Provide adequate salaries to all pre-K teachers



Conclusions

- Hispanic children are least likely to attend quality pre-K
 - Most children in Spanish dominant families do not attend pre-K
- Limited English proficiency at K entry significantly contributes to low achievement and high dropout rates
- Pre-K can prevent these problems & dual language pre-K can produce both English and Spanish proficiency
- Most dual language learners (DLL) do not have a bilingual teacher and few teachers have been trained to teach DLLs
- US must increase access to *high quality* pre-K, especially pre-K that meets the needs of young Hispanic children



Additional Information

Two Policy Briefs at **nieer.org**

- Preparing young Hispanic dual language learners for the knowledge economy
- Is public pre-K preparing Hispanic children to succeed in school?