



AGENDA ITEM: 7

DATE OF MEETING: October 24, 2013

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION:     X    

## **CARES PLUS PARTICIPANT SURVEY**

### **SUMMARY**

An online survey was conducted by First 5 California for participants in the CARES Plus program during Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13. The survey provides useful information about participant characteristics, satisfaction with the program, and suggestions for improvement.

### **BACKGROUND**

Key aspects of the online survey method include the following:

- Approximately 6,000 participants were invited by email to take the survey.
- Response was optional and anonymous.
- Survey text was provided in English and Spanish for all 24 questions.
- The response rate was 26%: 1,574 participants took the survey.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

The majority of participants across CORE and Components A, B, C, and D:

- Completed requirements (more than 92%).
- Indicated a high level of program satisfaction (84% very positive).
- Attributed to CARES Plus the likelihood of staying in the field of early education and care.
- Said they are a better teacher as a result of participating.

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Better access to and preparation of advisors.
- Better access to online training materials.
- More communication from county programs to participants.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- CARES Plus Participant Survey Results, FY 2012-13

# **CARES Plus Participant Survey Results, FY 2012-13**

**Informational Agenda Item  
Children and Families Commission Meeting, October 24, 2013**

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Outline

- Program and Evaluation
- Participant Characteristics
- Program Participation
- Participant Satisfaction
- Summary of Findings

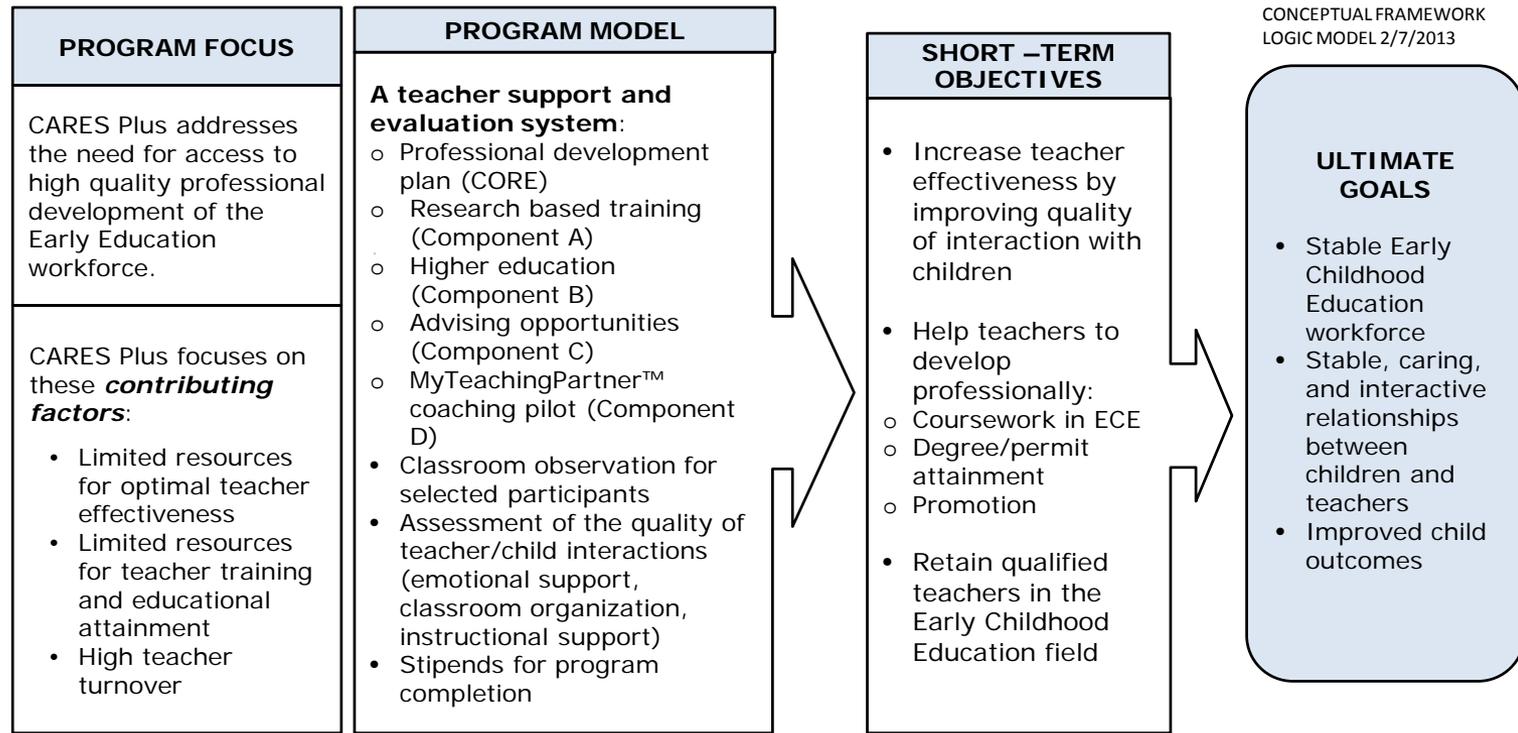
# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Program and Evaluation

# CARES Plus Logic Model

## Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Plus

*Promoting high quality interaction between teachers and children in pre-school\**



- GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- Interventions based on research and scientific theory (developmental psychology, neuropsychology).
  - Curriculum meeting standards of California Department of Education: *California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning Foundations* and *California Preschool Curriculum Framework*
  - First 5 Principles on Equity*: Inclusive governance and participation, access to services, legislative and regulatory mandates, results-based accountability.
  - Cost-effective quality improvement of preschool learning environments.
- \* Teacher effectiveness is one of the most important factors for quality of early learning programs. "The relationship a child has with a teacher or caregiver...is the central most critical component of child care quality" (US Department of Education).

# CARES Plus Program

## Requirements: CORE and One Component or More

CORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the CLASS™</li><li>• Looking at CLASSrooms™</li><li>• CARES Plus Tobacco Training: Kids and Smoke Don't Mix</li><li>• Annual meeting with a CARES Plus Advisor, completion a Professional Growth Plan, approved component requirements (elective, identified below), and completion of an annual participant survey.</li></ul>
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Component A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 21 hours of CDE-approved professional growth training</li><li>• CLASS observation (if randomly selected)</li></ul>
Component B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of six units of higher education towards a degree in ECE, CD or related field</li><li>• CLASS observation (if randomly selected)</li></ul>
Component C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve as CARES Plus Advisor</li></ul>
Component D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My Teaching Partner (MTP™) one-on-one professional growth coaching</li><li>• Required to participate in CLASS™ observation</li></ul>

# CARES Plus Program Evaluation: Three Views of the Program

- Lead Agency View: Quality Performance Report (QPR)
  - Purpose: Qualitative assessment of program successes and challenges from Lead Agency point of view
- Research-Based Assessment View: Observations with Classroom Assessment Scoring System (*CLASS*<sup>™</sup>)
  - Purpose: Structured observation to assess quality of teacher-child interaction (validated instrument)
- Participant View: Online Survey
  - Purpose: Quantitative and qualitative assessment of satisfaction, successes, and challenges of the program from participants' point of view

# CARES Plus Participant Surveys: Three-Year Overview

Fiscal Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (Planned)
Number of Questions	7	24	24
Languages	English and Spanish	English and Spanish	English and Spanish
Required?	Voluntary	Voluntary	Required
Participants Contacted	3,775	5,950	5,000 +
Respondents	967	1,574	5,000 +
Response Rate	26%	26%	Near 100%

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Participant Characteristics

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Participant Characteristics

### Gender

- 98% Female

### Setting Type

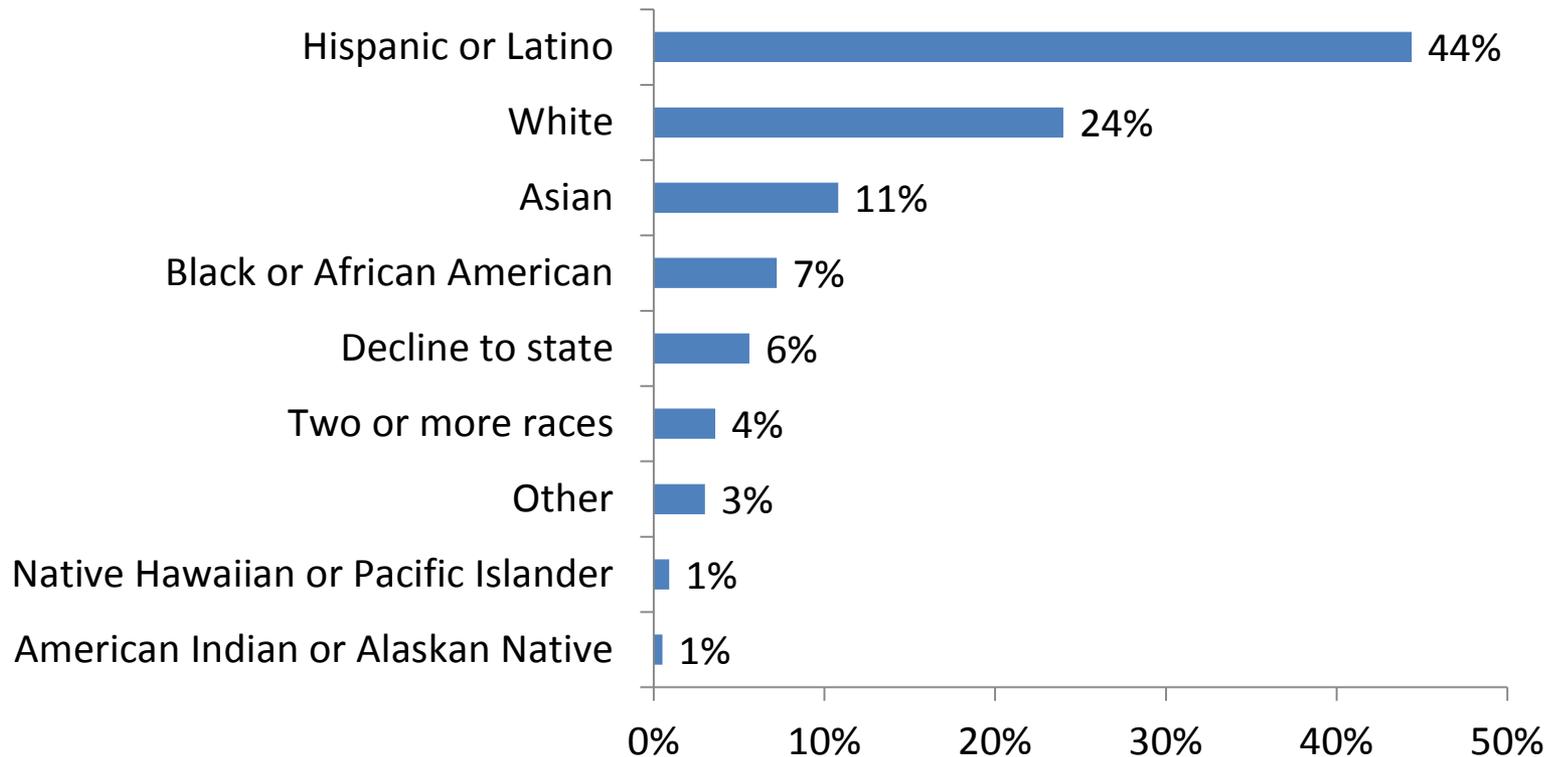
- 83% in center-based setting
- 17% in family child setting

### Age of Children in Classroom

- 58% preschoolers
- 27% toddlers
- 15% infants

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

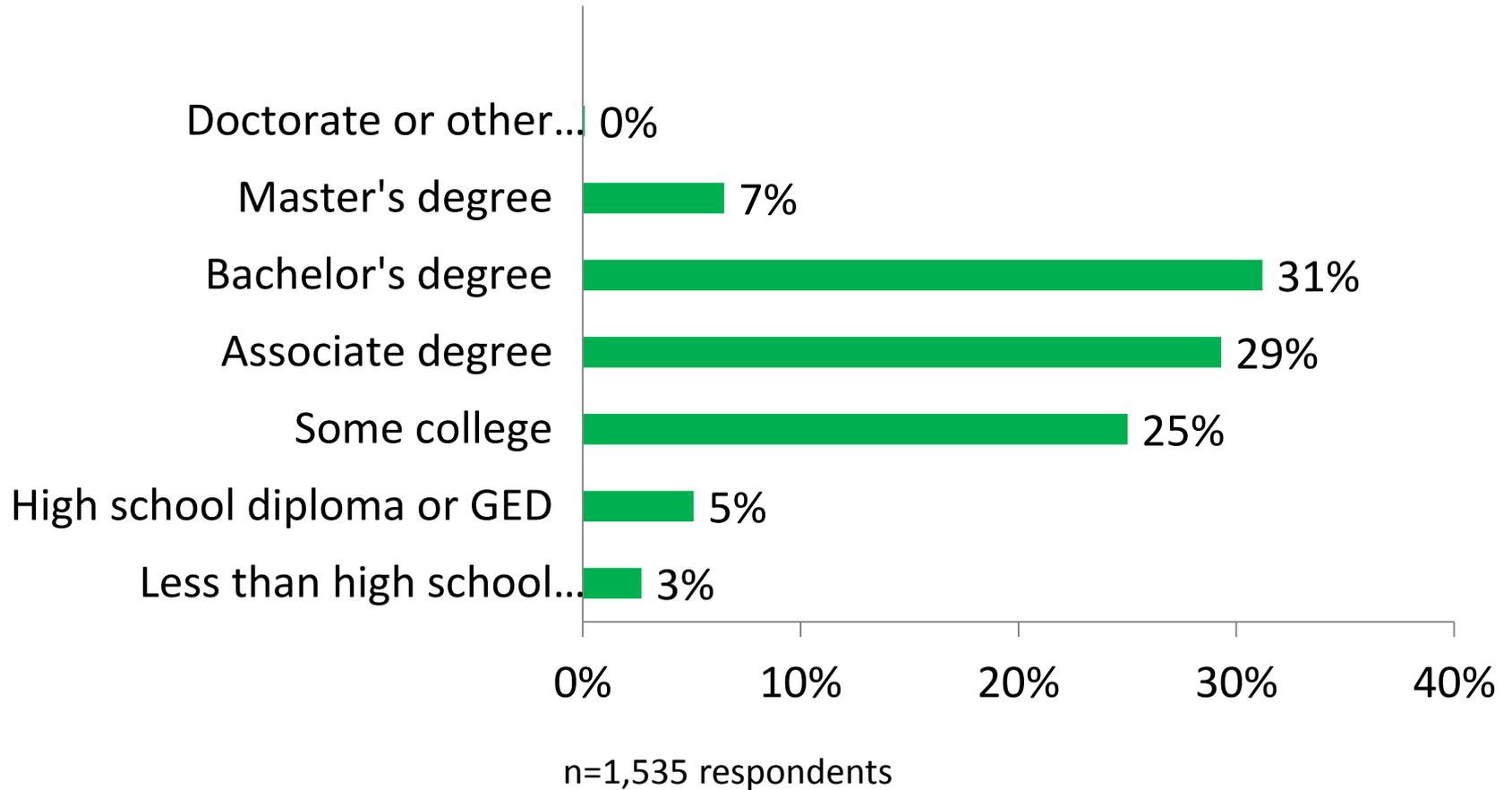
Which racial and/or ethnic category do you most identify with?



n=1,536 respondents

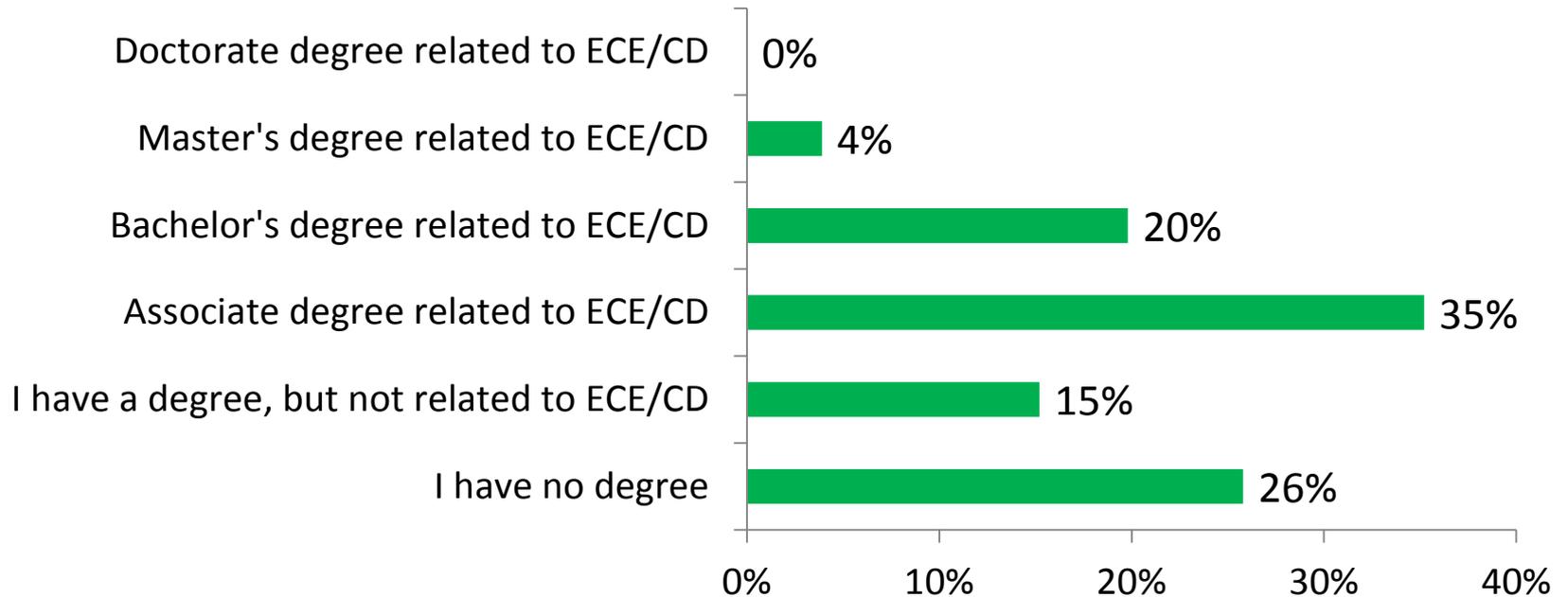
# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## What is your highest level of education?



# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

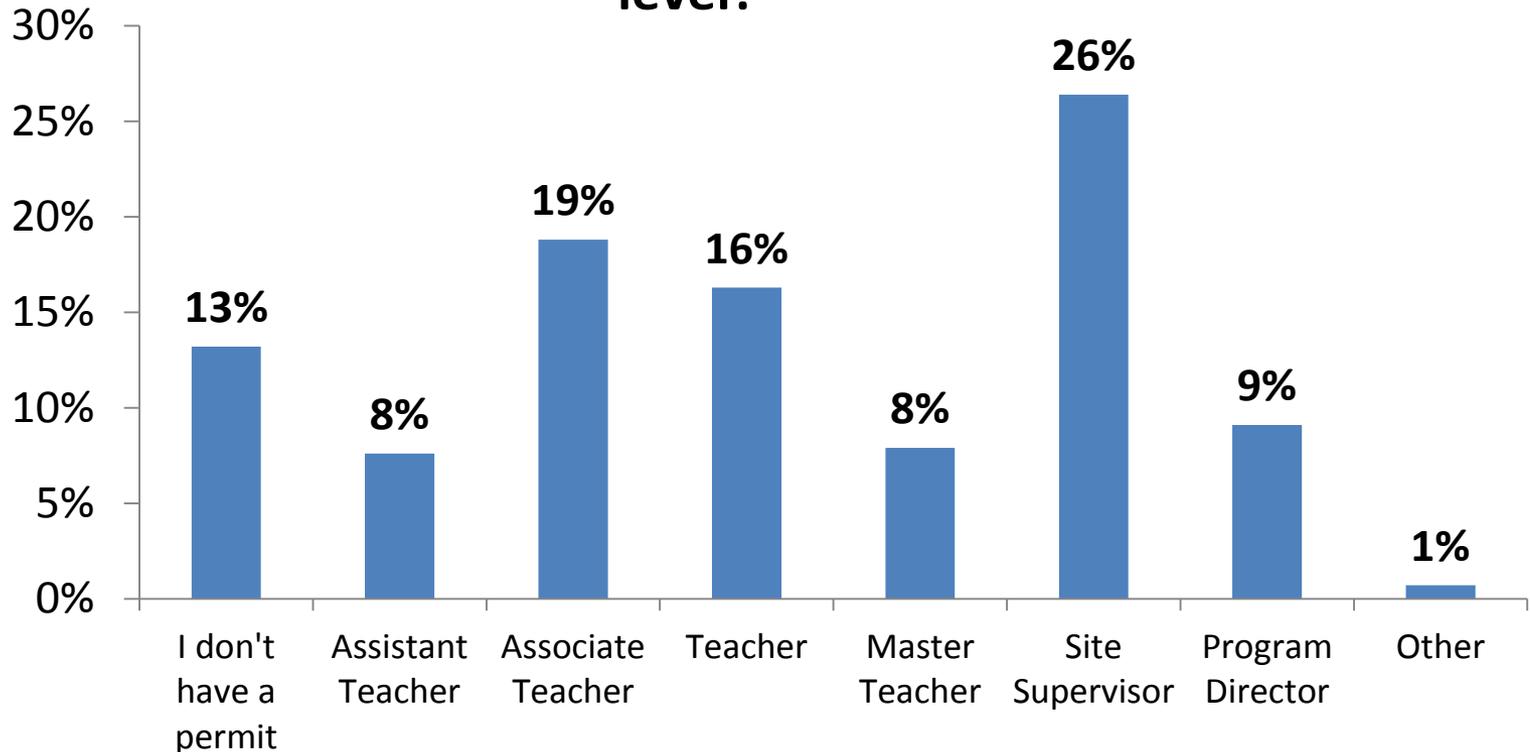
**Which degrees have you obtained that are related to Early Childhood Education or Child Development?  
(Check all that apply)**



n=1,672 responses

# Cares Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

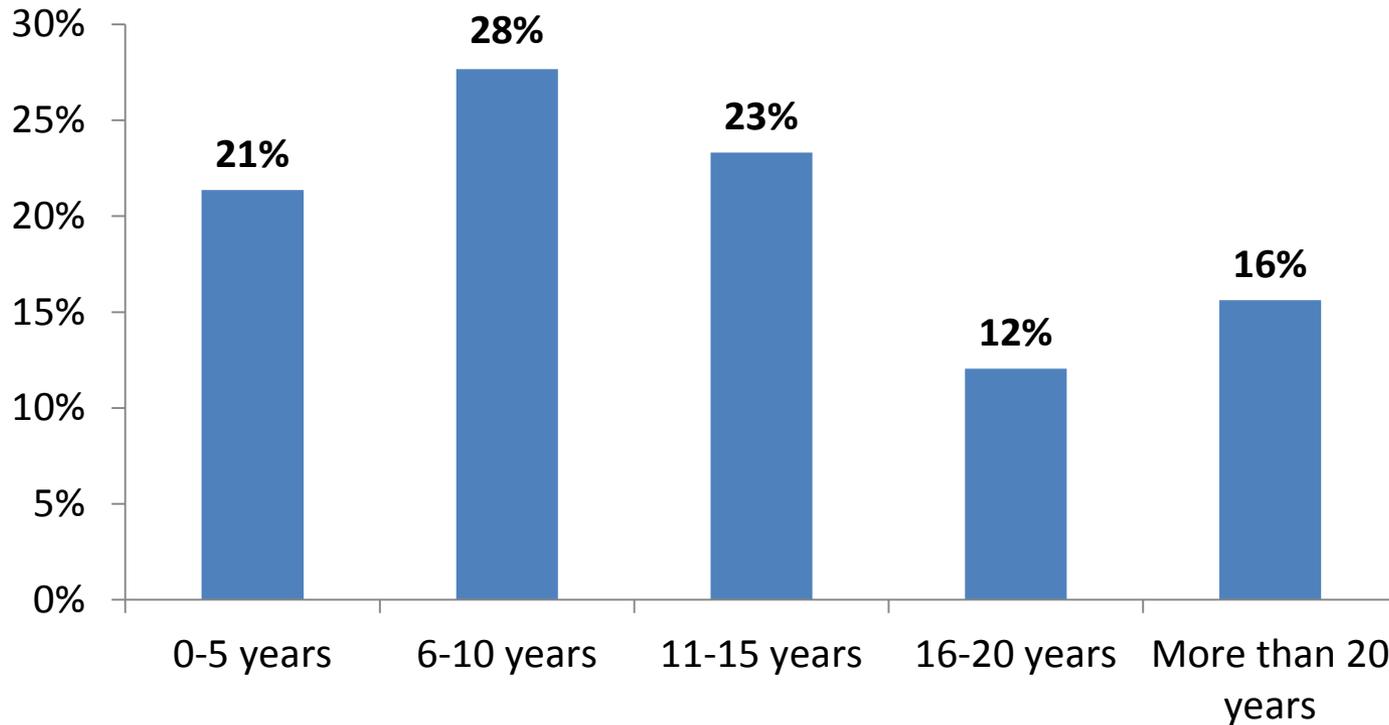
What is your current California Development Permit level?



n=1,525 respondents

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

How many years have you worked in the early care and educational field?



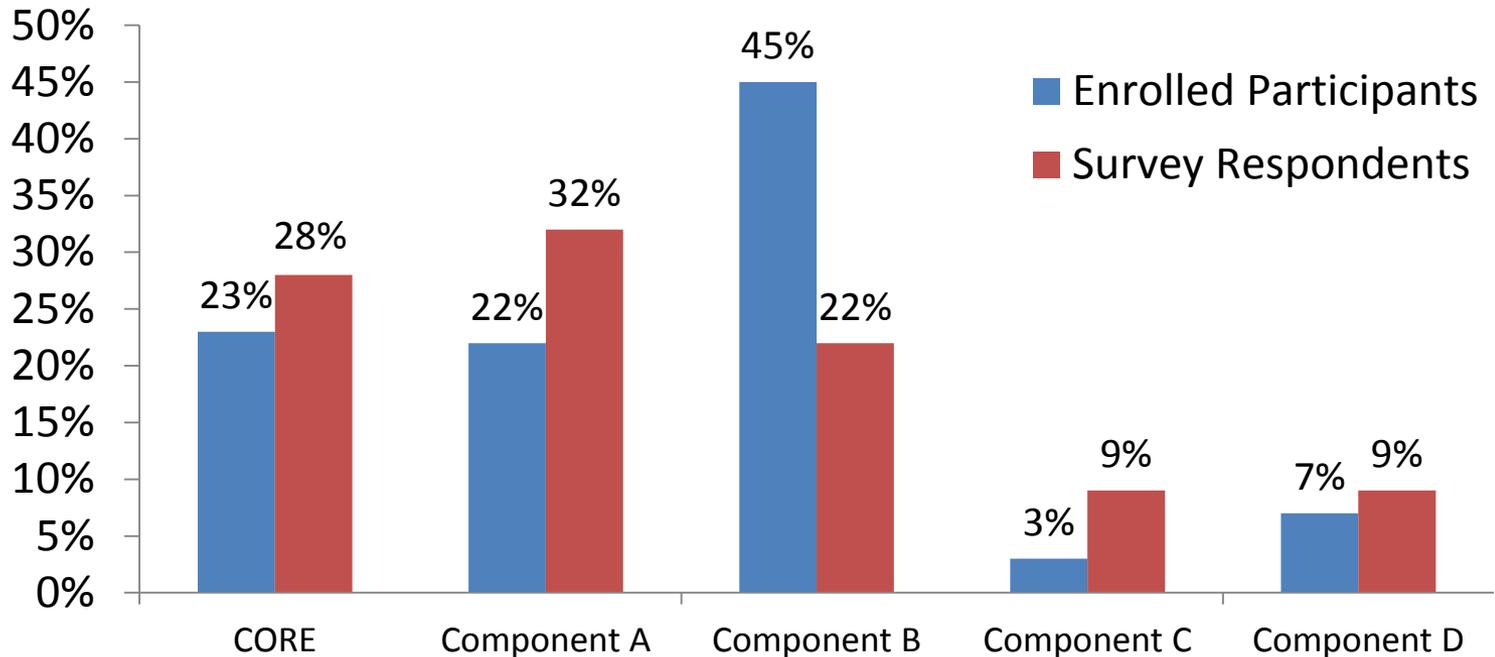
n=1,536 respondents

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Program Participation

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

Which CARES Plus component(s) did you participate in this school year?  
(Check all that apply)

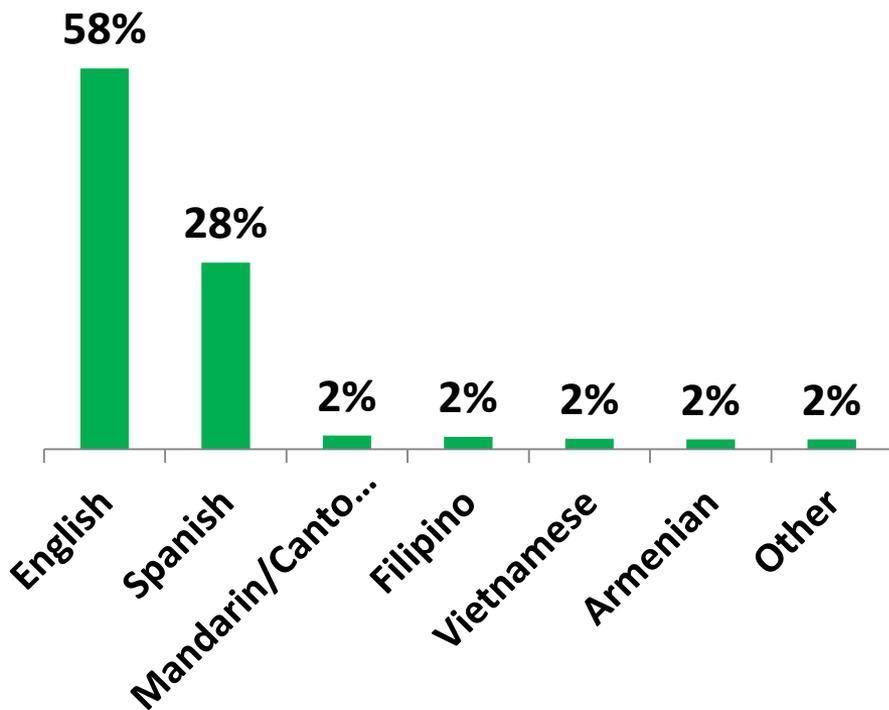


Enrolled participant responses n=4,931. Survey responses n=1,964.

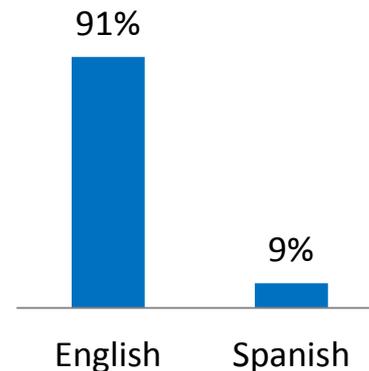
# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Language

What is your primary language?



In which language did you receive most of your CARES Plus training during the past school year?\*



\*Additional languages offered to participants for MTP™ coaching included: Farsi, Hebrew, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Filipino (Visaya). Both graphs, n=1,536 respondents.

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Were Participants Able to Complete the Program?

- 95% of participant completed (or were scheduled to complete) all program requirements
- Reasons for non-completion include:
  - Schedule conflicts
  - Family conflicts
  - Access issues

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Expectations for Future Work in Early Care and Education

- 93% of participants expect to be working in ECE in the next 5 years
- 79% think the CARES Plus program has “very much” helped them continue working in this field (with another 18% saying program participation has helped them ‘somewhat’)

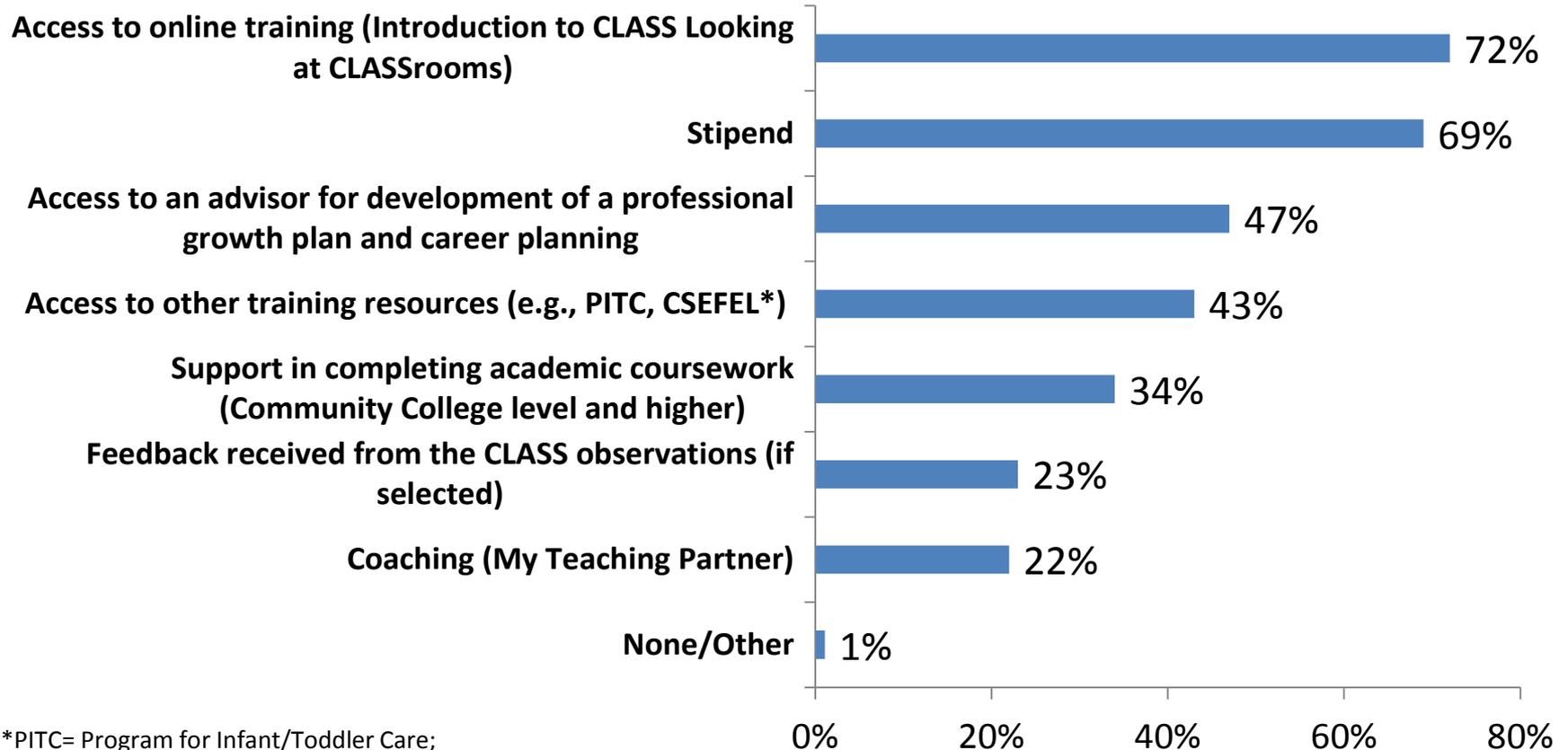
n=1,536 respondents

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Participant Satisfaction

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Which features of CARES Plus did you find beneficial? (Check all that apply)

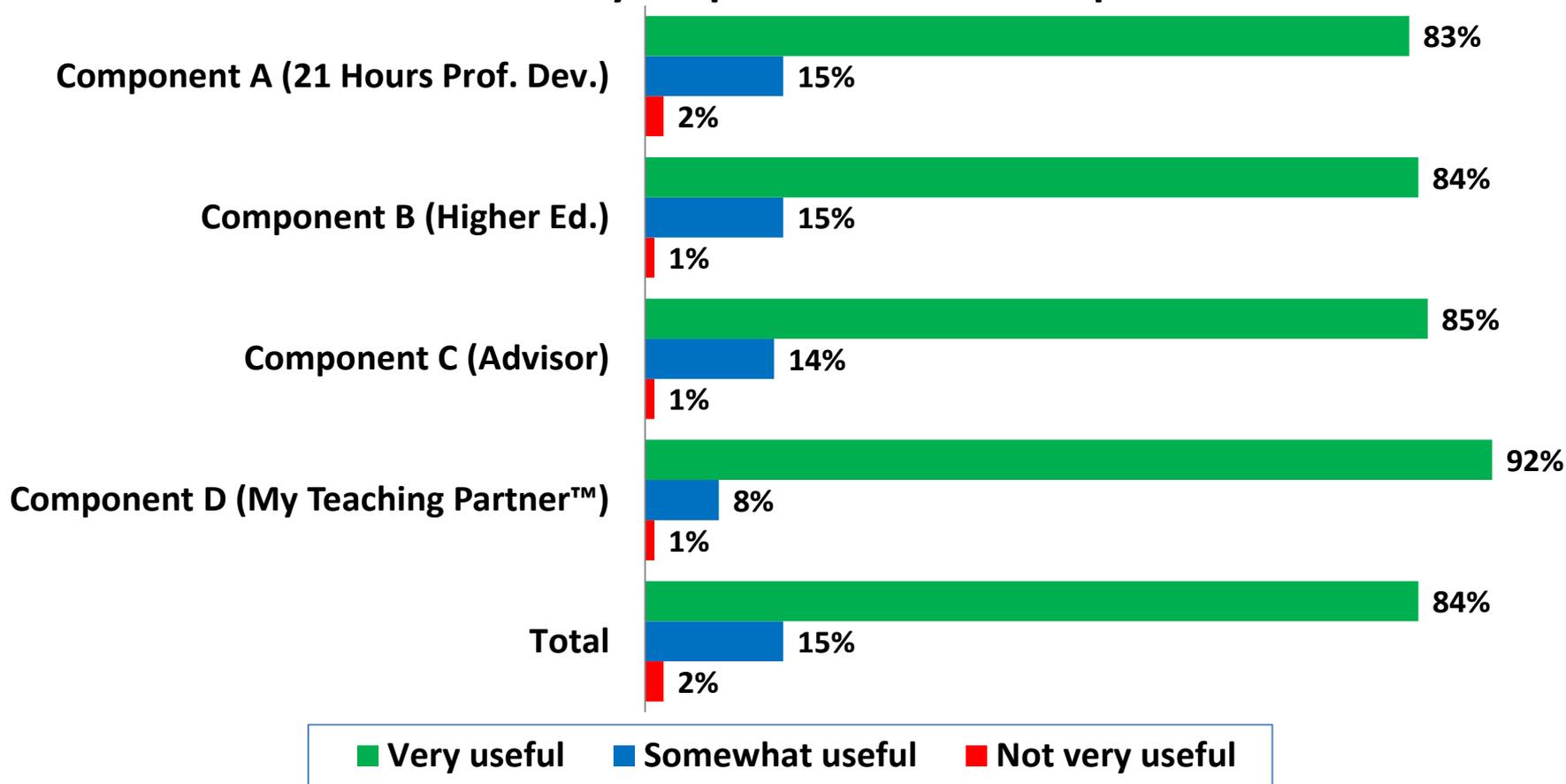


\*PITC= Program for Infant/Toddler Care;  
CSEFEL=Center on the Social and Emotional  
Foundations for Early Learning

n=1,574 respondents

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

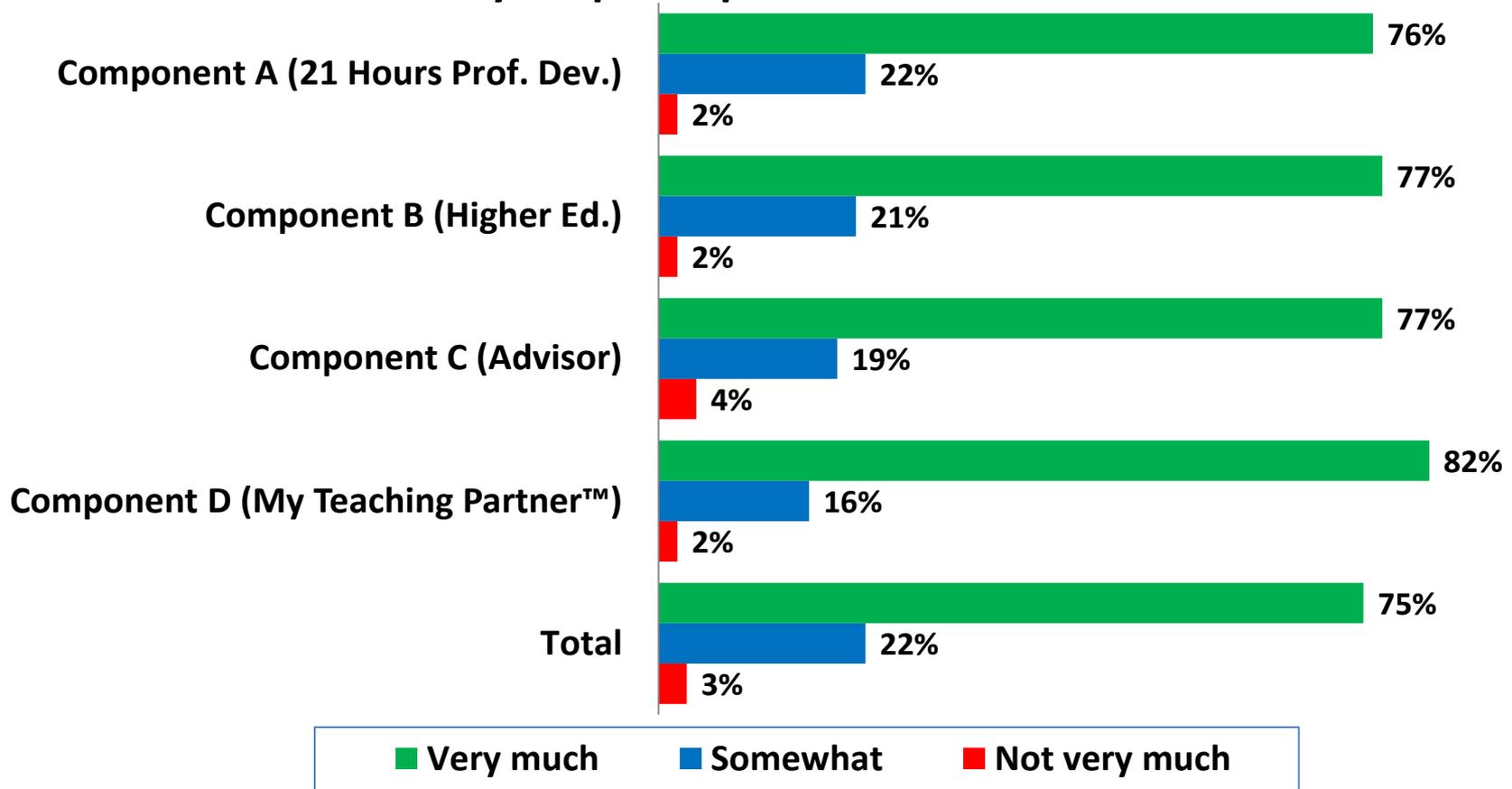
How useful was your CARES Plus learning experience in terms of your professional development?



Respondents: A n=622, B n=425, C n=185, D n=179, Total n=1,574

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

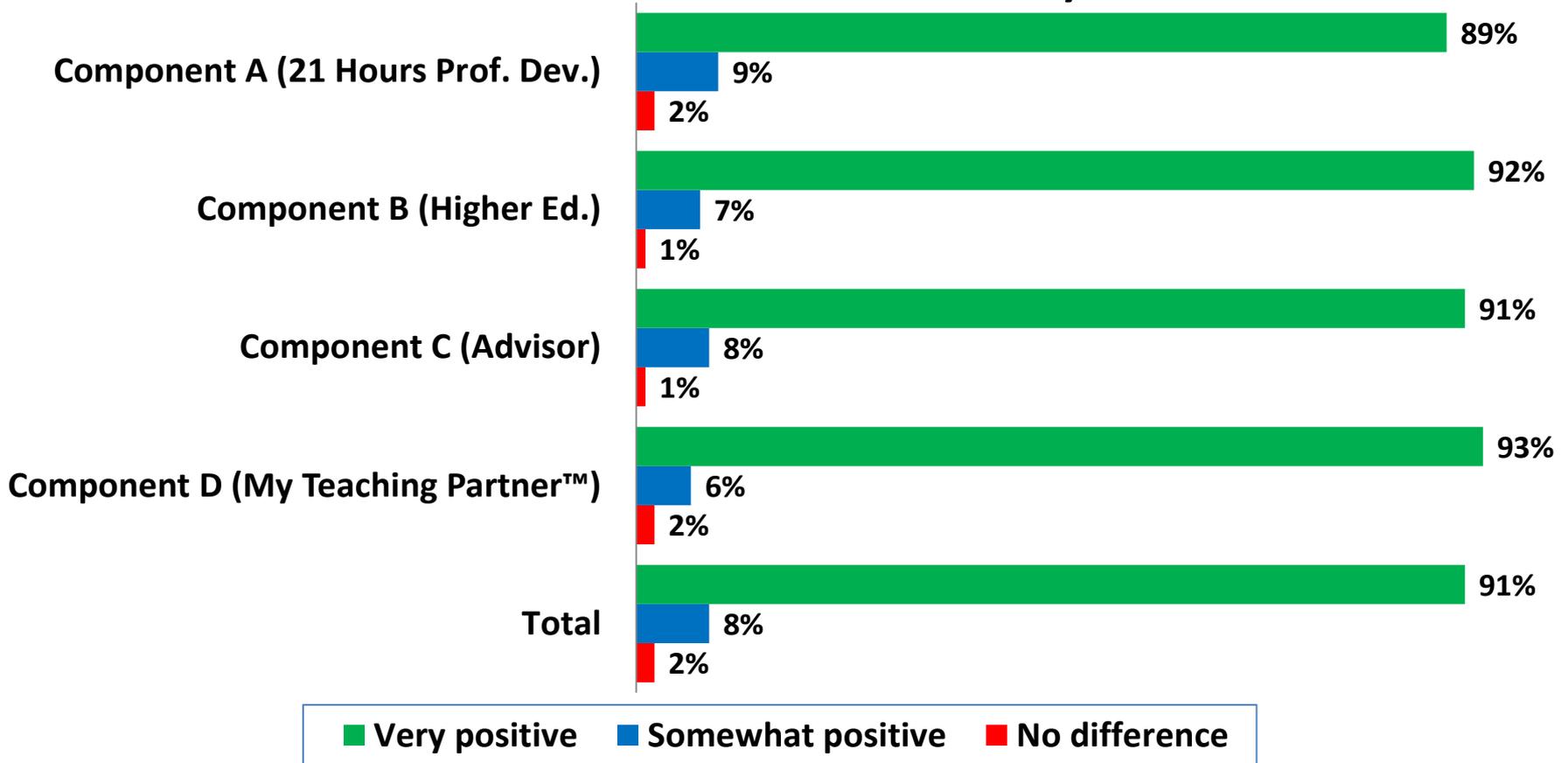
Do you feel that you are a better teacher because of your participation in CARES Plus?



Respondents: A n=622, B n=425, C n=185, D n=179, Total n=1,574

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

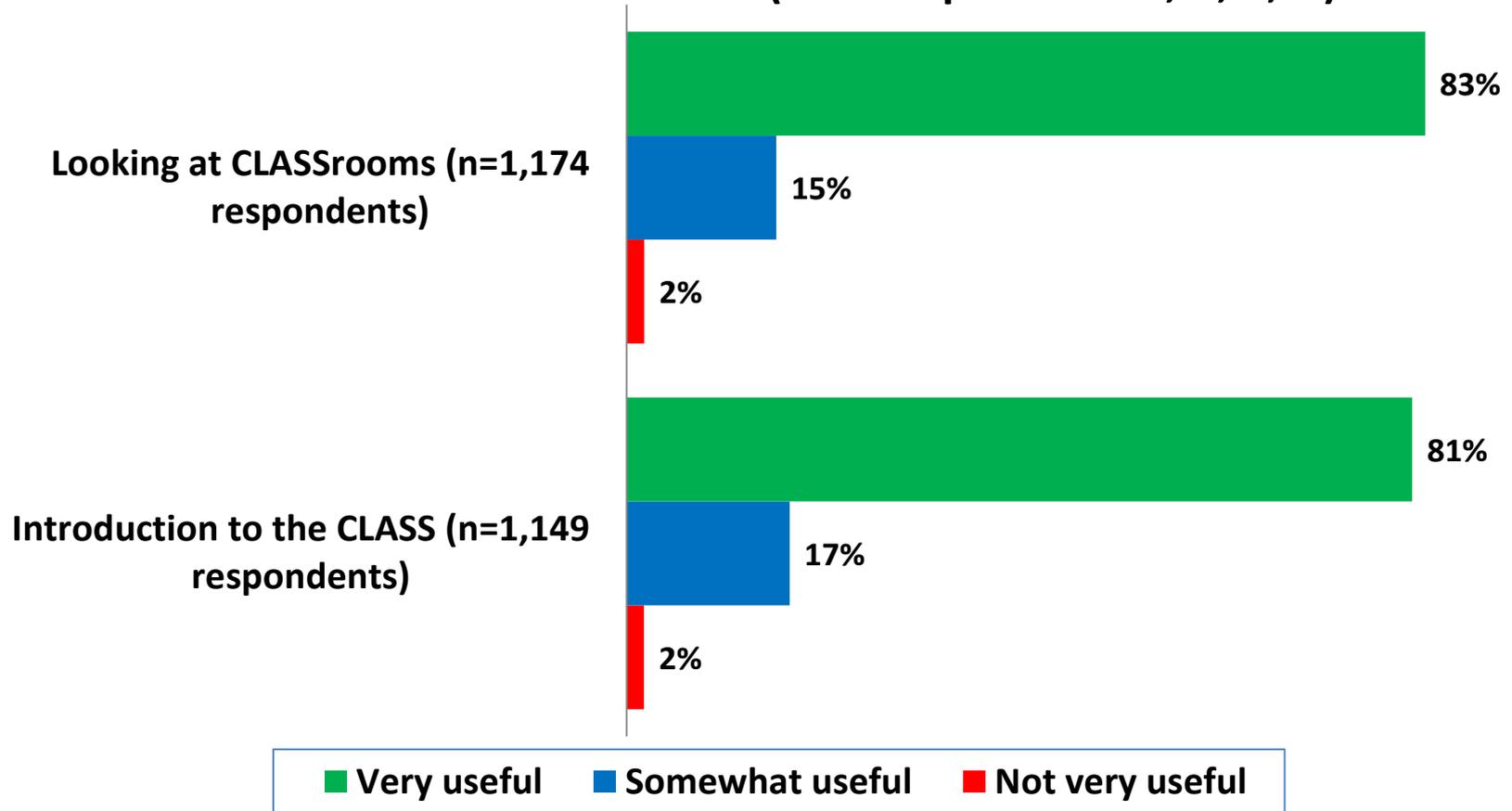
What effect do you think your CARES Plus experience will have on the children in your care?



Respondents: A n=622, B n=425, C n=185, D n=179, Total n=1,536

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

If you participated in CORE this school year, how useful did you find these online courses? (All Components: A, B, C, D)



Respondents: LAC n=1,174, Intro to the CLASS n=1,149

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

**Narrative Comments: Do you have additional comments or suggestions you would like to share about CARES Plus?**

- 673 of the 1,574 respondents provided written comments that could be coded for *tone* and *theme*
- Tone:
  - 84% positive, 16% negative
- Themes for program improvement:
  - Advisors (participant access, limited training)
  - Online access
  - County communications with participants

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Summary of Findings

The majority of participants across CORE and Components A through D:

- Completed requirements (>92%)
- Indicated a high level of program satisfaction (>84% very positive)
- Attributed likelihood of staying in ECE to CARES Plus
- Said they are a better teacher as a result of participating

# CARES Plus Participant Survey, FY 2012-13

## Acknowledgments First 5 California Staff

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