

Outcomes of Participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension Parents Apart Parent Education Program 2016-2017

By Julia Chapman & Kimberly Kopko

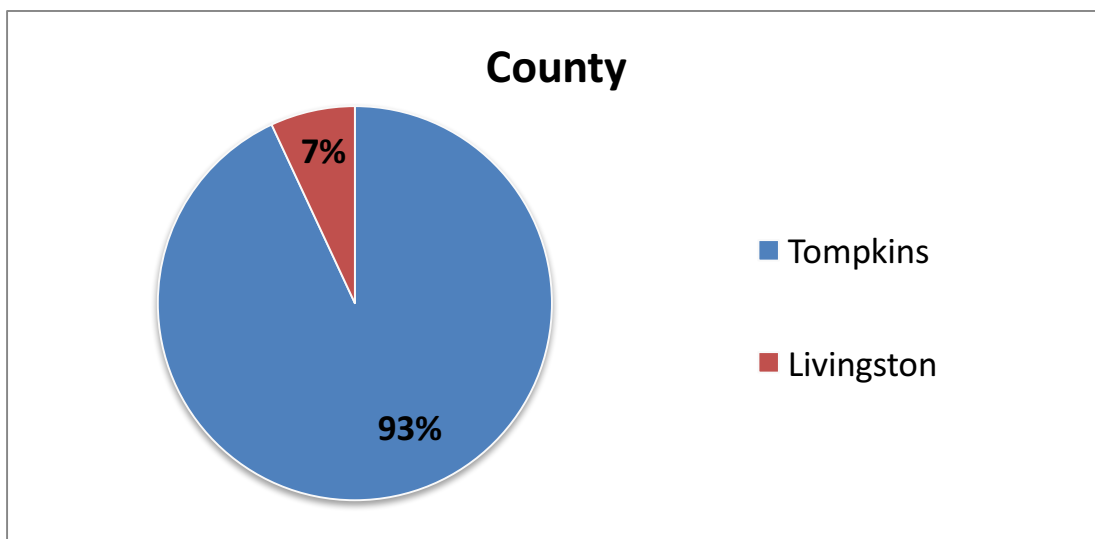
Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) offers a variety of programs for parents and caregivers. These programs reach a wide range of families and seek to promote positive parenting and, ultimately, healthy family and child development. This report presents data collected from participants in the Parents Apart parent education program from July 2016 to July 2017. Participants included parents and caregivers who participated in programs 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 attending Parents Apart

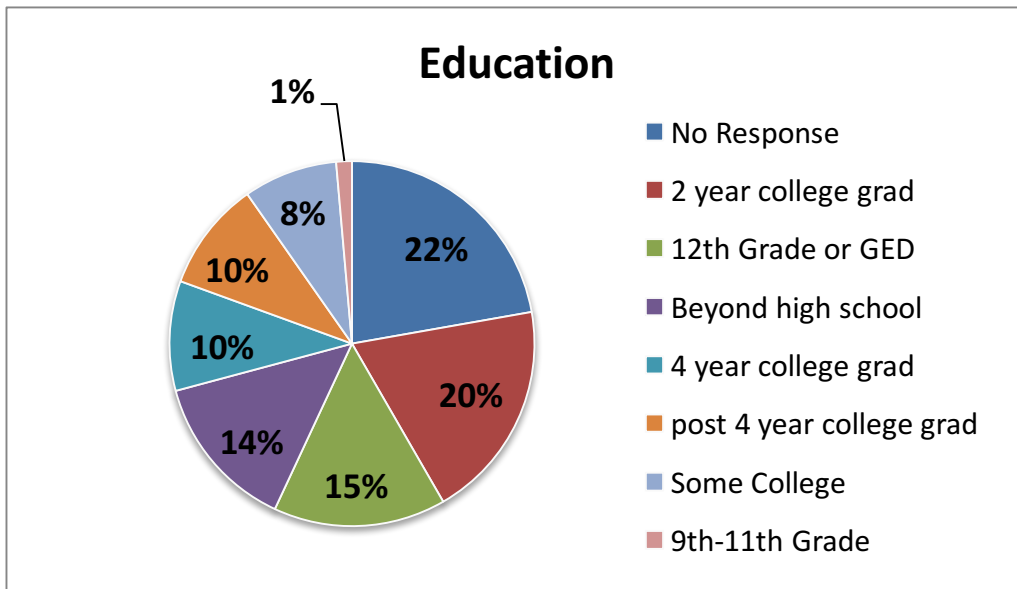
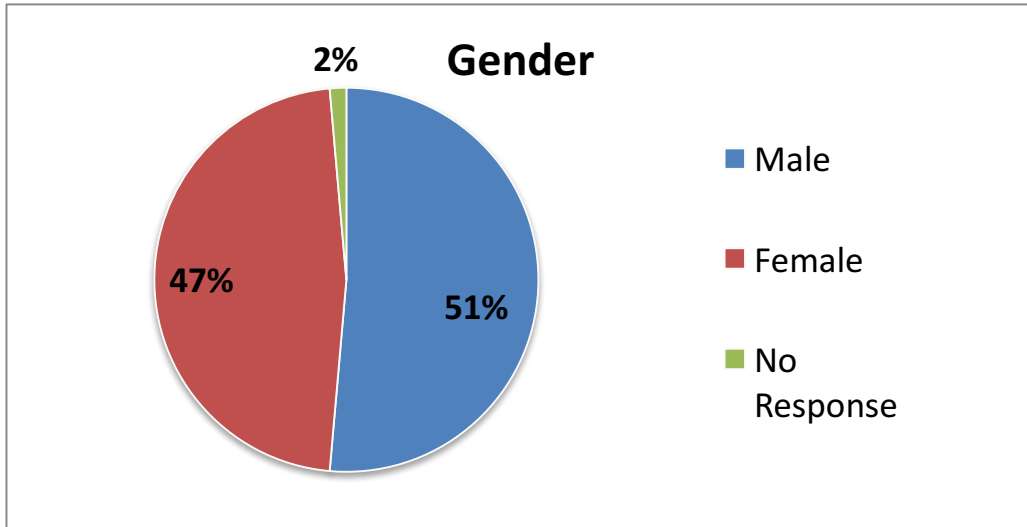
The following summaries use data from 72 participants who completed a pre-test survey given at the first session of their parent education class.

Most participants in the Parents Apart program were from Tompkins County (93%).



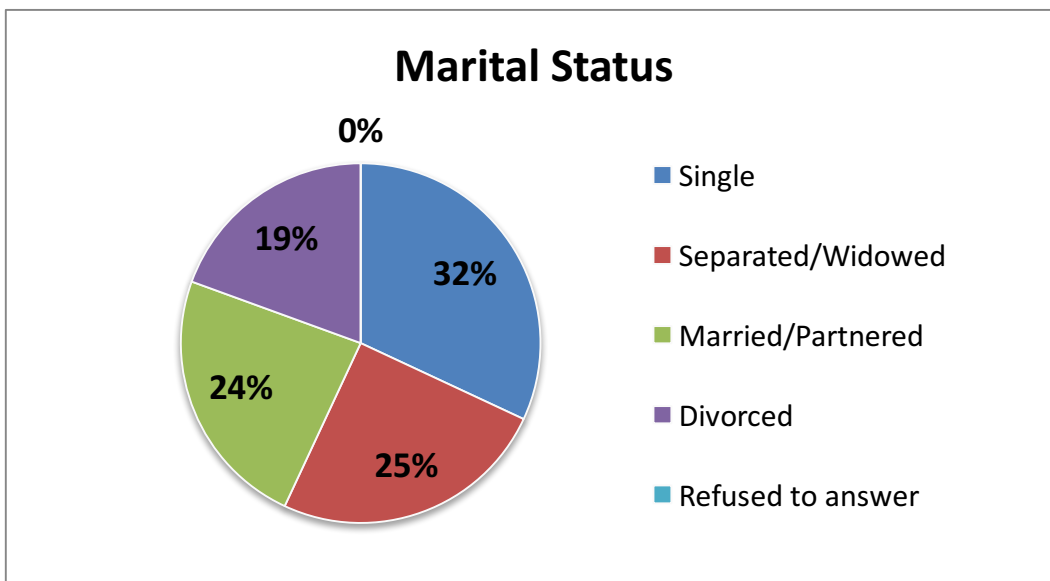
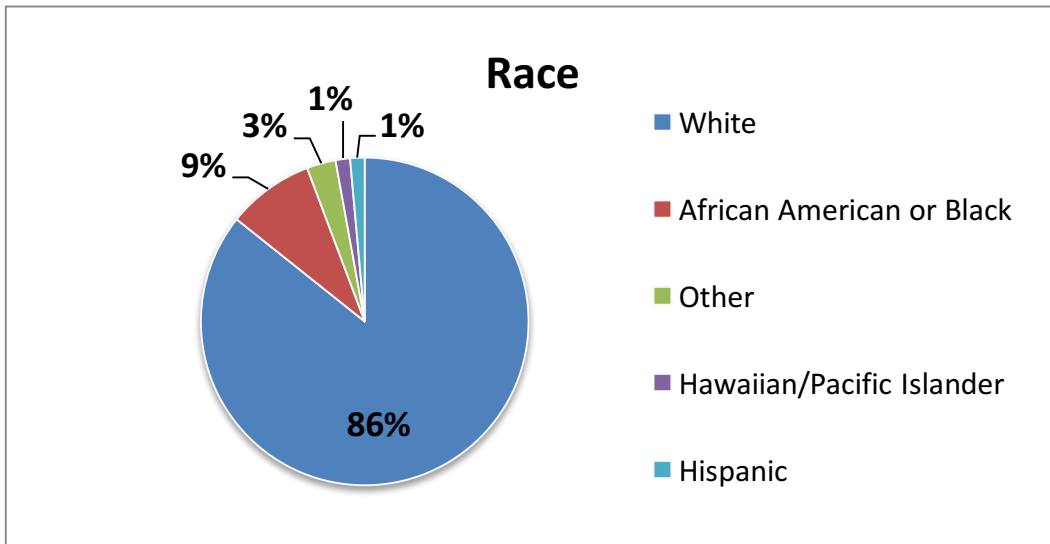
Fifty-one percent of the participants in the program were male. Educational attainment among the participants varied widely, with

20% of participants having graduated from a 2-year college and those who had finished 12th grade or completed their GED (15%).



The majority of participants in the Parents Apart parent education class were white

(86%) and single (32%).



Pre-Post Survey Results

This evaluation used a pre- and post-test, in which 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;

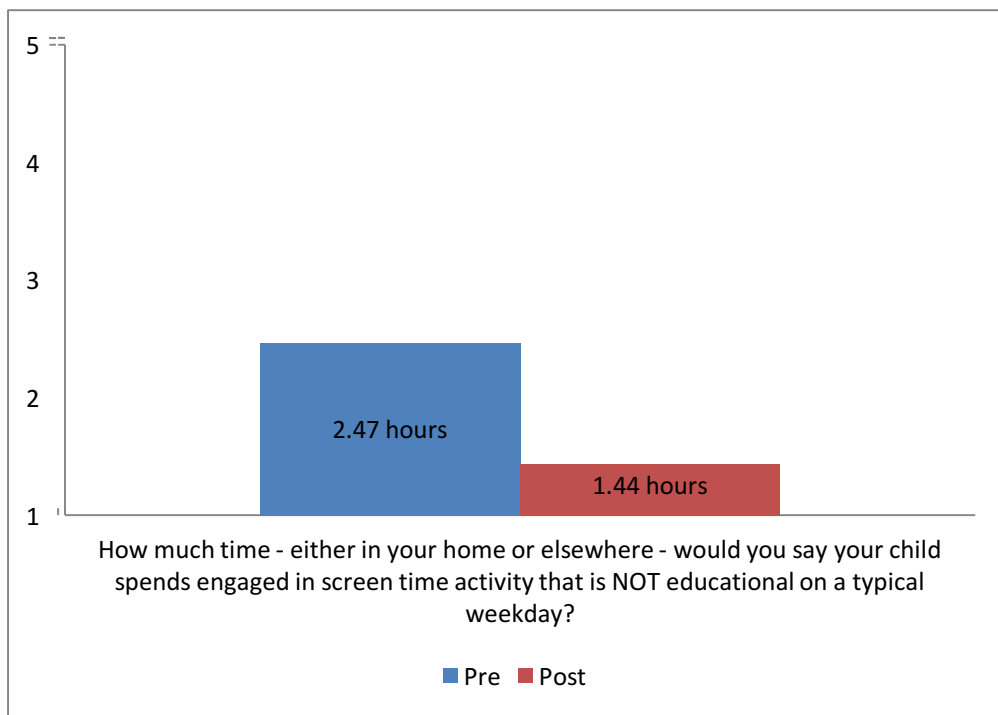
such changes could occur for other reasons outside of the workshop. However, it is possible that any significant pre-to-post changes in parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge that are observed may have resulted from taking part in the program.

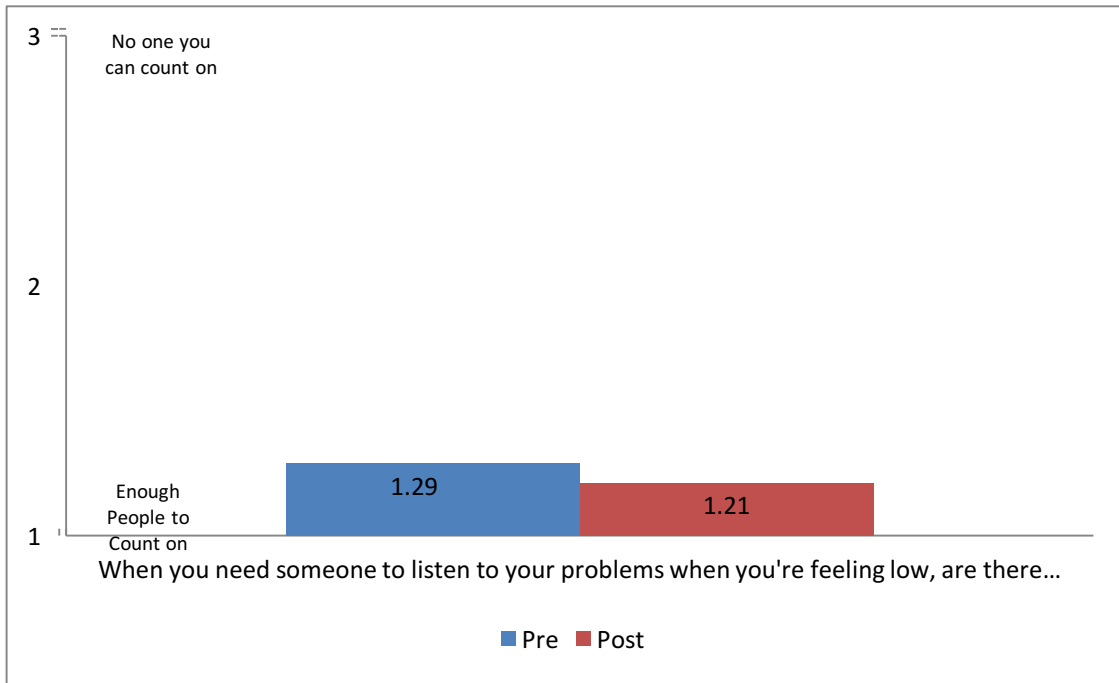
The following evaluation is based on information provided by 43 participants, who completed their program and completed both a pre- and a post-test survey. Two of the ten measures tested showed a significant improvement from the pre- to the post-test. Specifically, CCE parent education participants reported a decrease in the number of hours their

child spent engaged in non-educational screen time activity and an increased sense of support from people around them.

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 two out of ten measures of parenting attitudes, behaviors and knowledge improved significantly from the pre- to the

post-test, highlighting an area in which the Parents Apart parent education program may have had a positive impact on participants.

Visit the *Parenting in Context* project at:

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

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