

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Research on the education and social
benefits of preschool

TYPES OF RESEARCH

1. Developmental
2. Genetic
3. Achievement
4. Educational Intervention
5. Child Care
6. Neurological development
7. Literacy

1. DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH

Characteristics of the developmental process

- Dynamic
- Flexible intelligence
- Affected by human relationships
- Importance of timing
- Individual and cultural variations

2. GENETIC RESEARCH

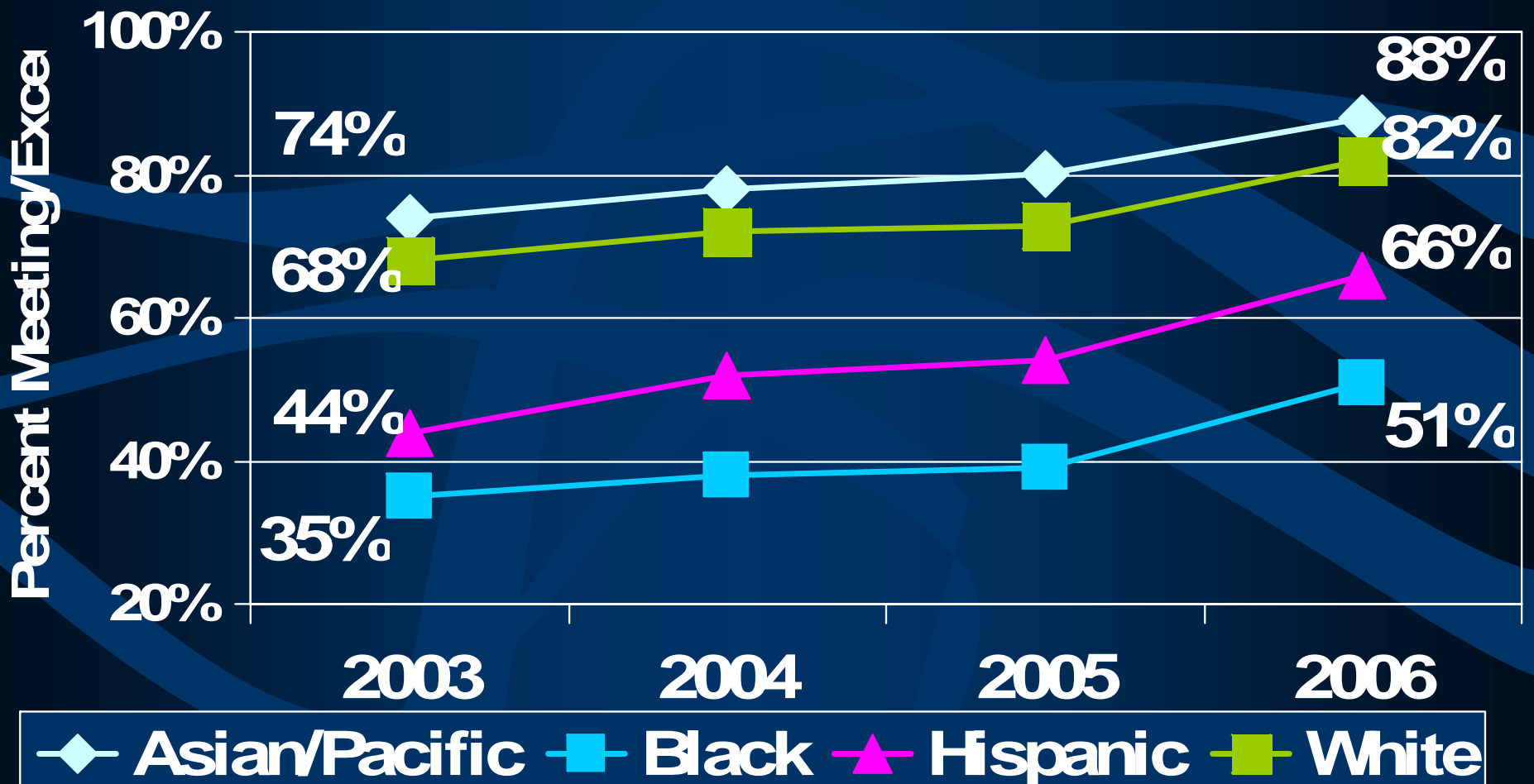
- Developmental capabilities are blueprinted
- Race is a social descriptor not a biological one
- Intelligence not tied to a single hereditary unit
- Intellectual characteristics distributed across populations
- Intelligence shaped by experience

3. ACHIEVEMENT RESEARCH

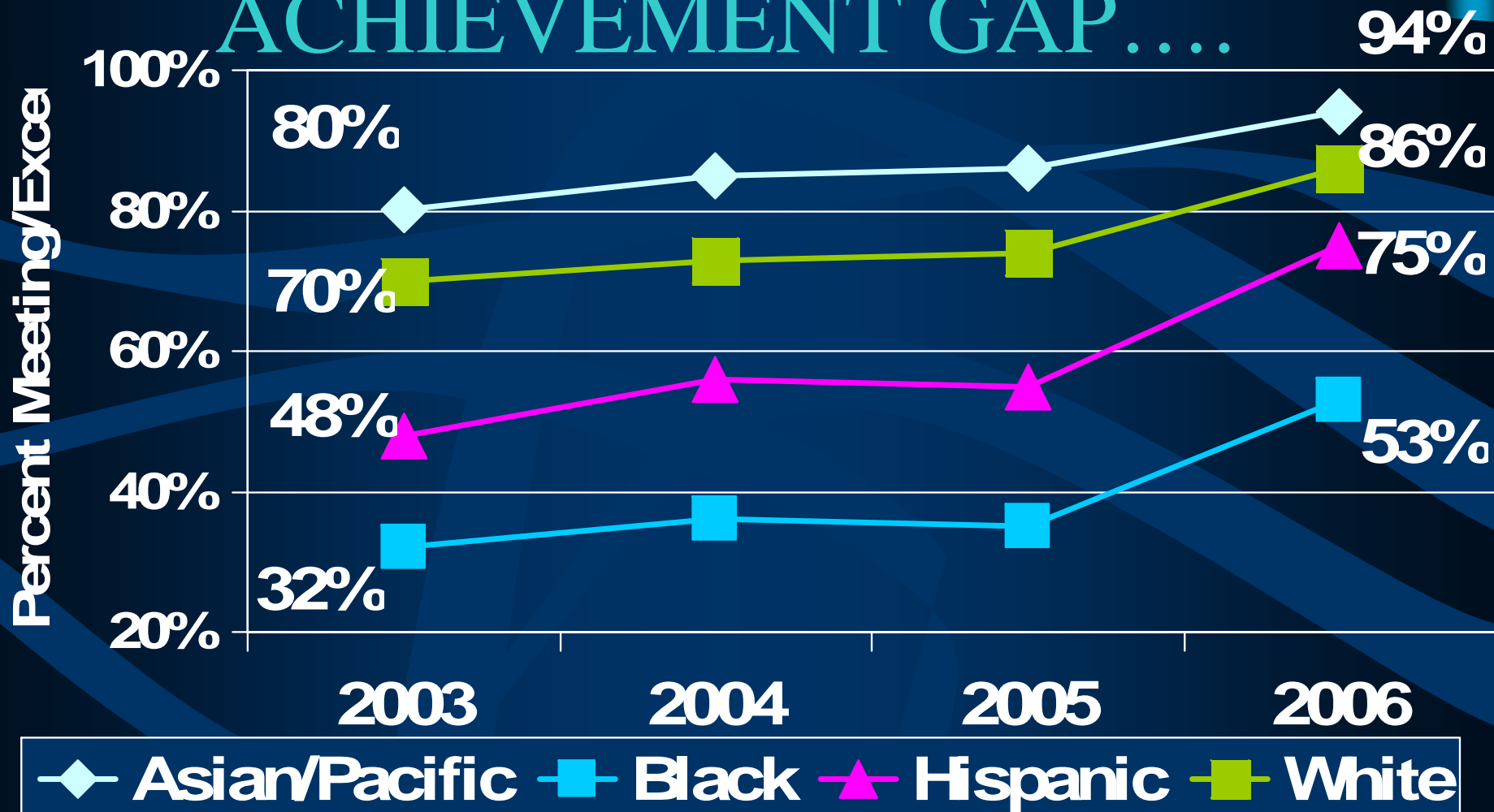
Gaps in school achievement between

- African American, Native American, Latinos and whites
- Children living in poverty and other children
- Children living in low achieving communities

READING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS...



MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT GAP....



Percentage of First-Time Kindergarteners Passing Each Reading Proficiency Level

Characteristic	Letter Recognition	Beginning Sounds	Ending Sounds	Sight Sounds	Words in Context
Total	66	29	17	2	1
Mother's Education					
Less than high school	38	9	4		
High school diploma or equivalent	57	20	11	1	
Some college, including vocational/technical	69	30	17	2	1
Bachelor's degree or higher	86	50	32	6	2
Family Type					
Single mother	53	18	10	1	
Single father	58	21	11	2	1
Two parent	70	33	19	3	1
Welfare recipient					
Utilized AFDC	41	11	5	1	
Never utilized AFDC	69	31	18	4	1
Primary Language in Spoken Home					
Non-English	49	20	12	3	2
English	67	30	17	2	1
Child's Race/Ethnicity					
White, non-Hispanic	73	34	20	3	1
Black, non-Hispanic	55	19	10	1	
Asian	79	43	29	9	5

From *Eager to Learn*

EARLY PERFORMANCE PREDICTS LATER FAILURE

- Children who do not read and write well by 3rd grade are at greatly enhanced danger of later school failure and dropping out
School failure and dropping out are also correlated with delinquency and early pregnancy

4. INTERVENTION RESEARCH

High quality early intervention can help

- Preschooler succeed better in school and in later life.
- Highly stressed and developmentally delayed infants and toddlers self-right.
- Children with handicaps and disabilities find alternative pathways to learning

5. CHILD CARE RESEARCH

Young children in child care

- Are not harmed by good quality child care
- Can be harmed by poor quality care
- Learn more in group programs than in home-based programs
- Have somewhat different (but not necessarily enduring) skills, knowledge, vulnerabilities, and resources than home reared children.

6. NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH

During early childhood

- Rapid brain growth
- Sensitive periods for certain types of brain development
- Brain shaped by experience

7. LITERACY RESEARCH

- Learning to read and write well depend on
 - Language: vocabulary, phonemic awareness
 - Alphabet and alphabetic principle
 - Fluency
 - Motivation and interest
 - Good teaching

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Greater intellectual development
- Better preparation for kindergarten
- Greater school achievement
- Less frequent referral to special education
- Fewer adolescent social problems
- Greater participation in higher education
- Continuing benefits into adulthood

SOCIETAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PREK MOVEMENT

- Higher educational standards
- Rise in number of working parents
- Smaller and older families

ISSUES

- Achievement Gap
- Curricula
- Infants and toddlers