

KIPS

A Parenting Assessment That Helps You Help Parents



Marilee Comfort & Phil Gordon
PA-AIMH Conference
Pittsburgh, PA
October, 2012

Agenda

- Introductions
- Why Parenting Is Important
- Does KIPS Fit Your Needs?
- KIPS Features and Format
- KIPS Validation In Brief (we promise)
- Discussion

Early Benefits of Effective Parenting

School Readiness

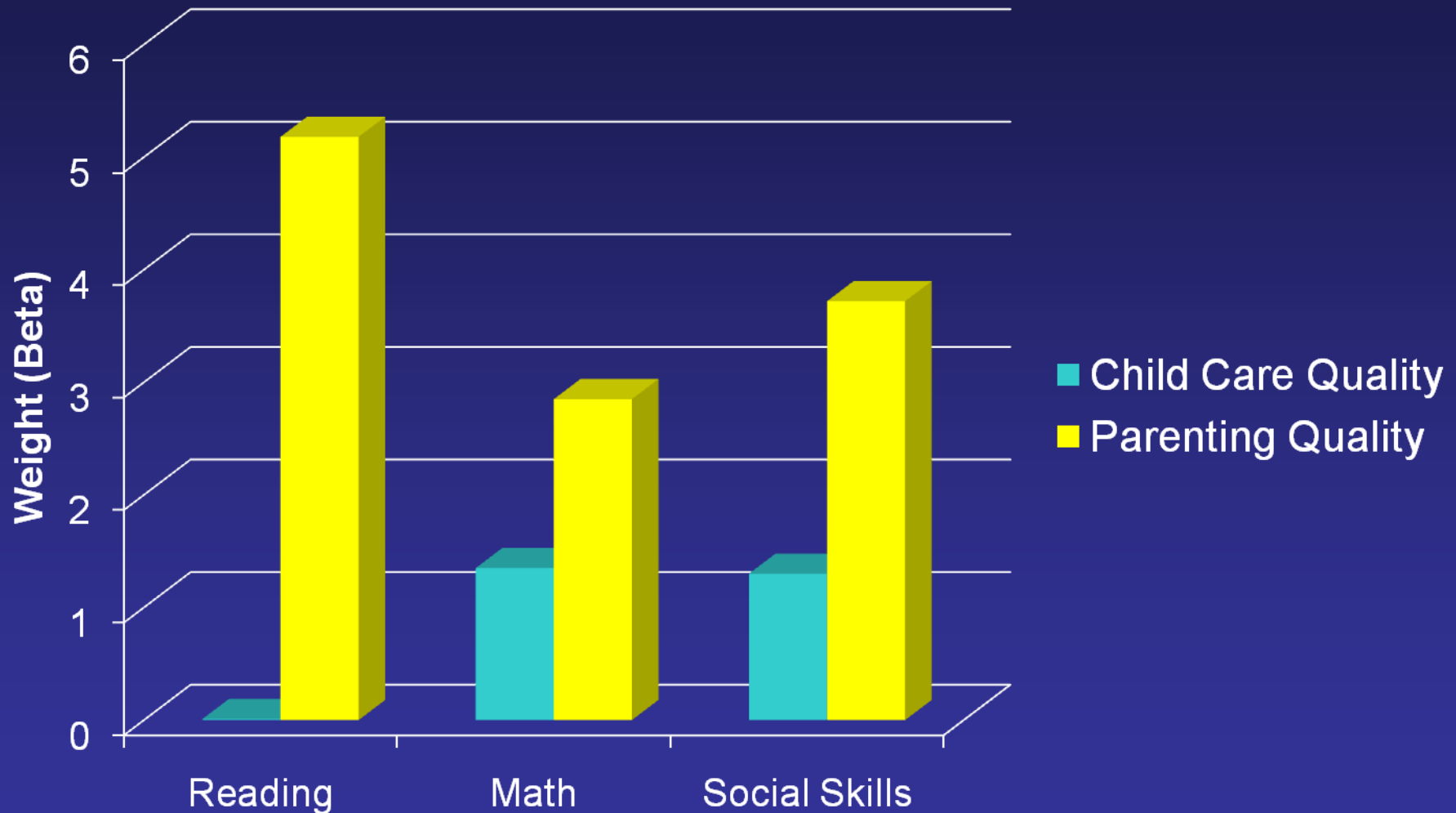
Positive
Social &
Emotional
Development

- ✓ Pay Attention
- ✓ Cooperate
- ✓ Get Along w/ Others
- ✓ Confident to Explore
- ✓ Learn From the World

Supportive Early
Relationships

Kaufman Foundation (2002). *Set for Success: Building a Strong Foundation for School Readiness Based on the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children.*

Early Parenting Predicts Children's Learning & Development



Belsky et al., NICHD Early Child Care Network (2007). *Child Development* 78,681-701.

Parenting Is a Key Factor In Children's Early Learning

“Parenting quality proved to be a far stronger and more consistent predictor of tested achievement and teacher-reported social functioning than was child-care experience.”

Belsky et al., NICHD Early Child Care Network
Child Development (2007) vol 78, 681-701.

Effective Parenting Pays Off !!

Successful Adults

Increases School
Achievement

Promotes Child
Development

Promotes Child
Health & Safety

Effective Early
Parenting

- ✓ Strong Families
- ✓ Employed
- ✓ Drug/Alcohol-Free
- ✓ Responsible Citizens

Emmy Werner, Zero to Three, v20 (4), 2000.

KIPS:

A Tool to Observe Parenting Behavior

- Not What Parents Say They Do
- Not What Parents Wish They Had Done
- Not What Others Tell Parents To Do

BUT,

WHAT THEY ACTUALLY DO!

KIPS Focuses on Behaviors That Matter to Children

- Behaviors = What Parents Do
 - actions,
 - words, tone of voice
 - gestures, facial expressions

Rather than:

- What Parents Believe
- How Parents Feel

Why Observe Parent-Child Play?

- It's An Activity That Children Do Often
- Play Offers a Wide Range of Parenting Behaviors to Observe
- Free Play Allows Caregiver & Child to Do What Comes Naturally
- Natural Opportunity for Parents to Help Children Learn

American Academy of Pediatrics

“**Playtime is bonding time** for families. . . .
Parents from across the economic spectrum need to understand that it is their presence and their attention that enrich their children and that one-on-one play is a time-tested, effective way of being fully present.”

The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds: Focus on Children in Poverty
AAP, Pediatrics Vol. 129 No. 1 January, 2012, e204-e213.

Which Parent Behaviors Would You Choose to Observe During Play?



List 5 Parent Behaviors

12 KIPS Parenting Behaviors

Building Relationships

- Sensitivity of Responses
- Supports Emotions
- Physical Interaction
- Involvement in Child's Activities
- Open to Child's Agenda

12 KIPS Parenting Behaviors

Promoting Learning

- Language Experiences
- Reasonable Expectations
- Adapts Strategies to Child
- Limits and Consequences

12 KIPS Parenting Behaviors

Supporting Confidence

- Supportive Directions
- Encouragement
- Promotes Exploration/Curiosity

12 Facets of the Quality of Parenting

Sensitivity of Response

Supports Emotions

Physical Interaction



Involvement

Agenda

Language Experiences

Reasonable Expectations

Adapts Strategies to Child

Limits & Consequences

Supportive Directions

Encouragement

Exploration/Curiosity

KIPS IS A MULTI PURPOSE TOOL

Assess Parenting
Strengths & Needs



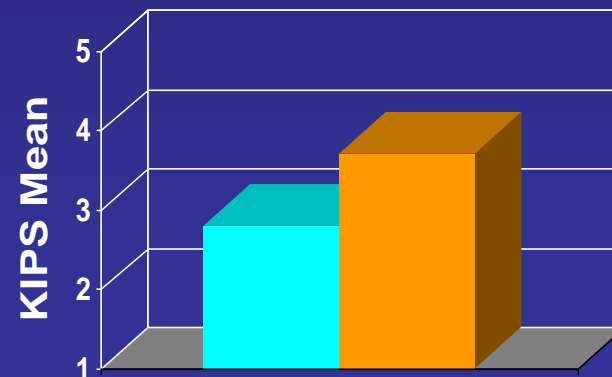
Staff Training



Enhance Supervision



Program Evaluation



Pre

Post

www.Comfort Consults.com

Does KIPS Fit with My Program?



KIPS Features

- For Caregivers of Children 2 mos-5 yrs
- 12 Caregiver Behaviors during Play:
 - Research-Based
 - Meaningful to Intervention
 - Strength-Based
 - Rated in Context of Child's Needs
- Fast - 20 min to Observe/10 min to Score
- Onsite and Online Training
- Online Library of Resources

KIPS Format

Item 5. How Open is the Caregiver to the Child's Agenda?

NOB

1

2

3

4

5

Caregiver:

- usually chooses the activities, or
- shows little flexibility whether or not C cooperates.

Caregiver

- sometimes chooses activities, and
- Child sometimes chooses activities.

Caregiver often:

- follows Child's choice of activities, and
- supports Child in making and pursuing his/her own choices of activities.

Note: Give examples of the strengths and needs that you observed.

Topics Menu

KIPS Reliability

Validity with Diverse Families

KIPS Shows How Parents Grow

Outcomes from KIPS Users

Score a KIPS Item

KIPS Training & Supports

Voices from the Field

Is KIPS Reliable?

KIPS Field Test

- 20 Family Service Providers
 - 10 Parents As Teachers
 - 10 Early Head Start



- 95 Families (45 PAT, 50 EHS)

SBIR Grant # 1 R43 HD048135-01A1 funded by the
National Institute on Child Health and Human Development.

Comfort, Gordon & Unger (2006). Zero to Three, 26(5), 37-44.

Field Test Reliability: Scoring their Families

Agreement with Experts 92.4%

PAT 91.2%

EHS 93.5%

Professionals vs. Paraprofessionals

Professionals 91.0%

Paraprofessionals 94.9%

(No Significant Difference)

Can KIPS Be Used With Diverse Families?

KIPS Validation Study

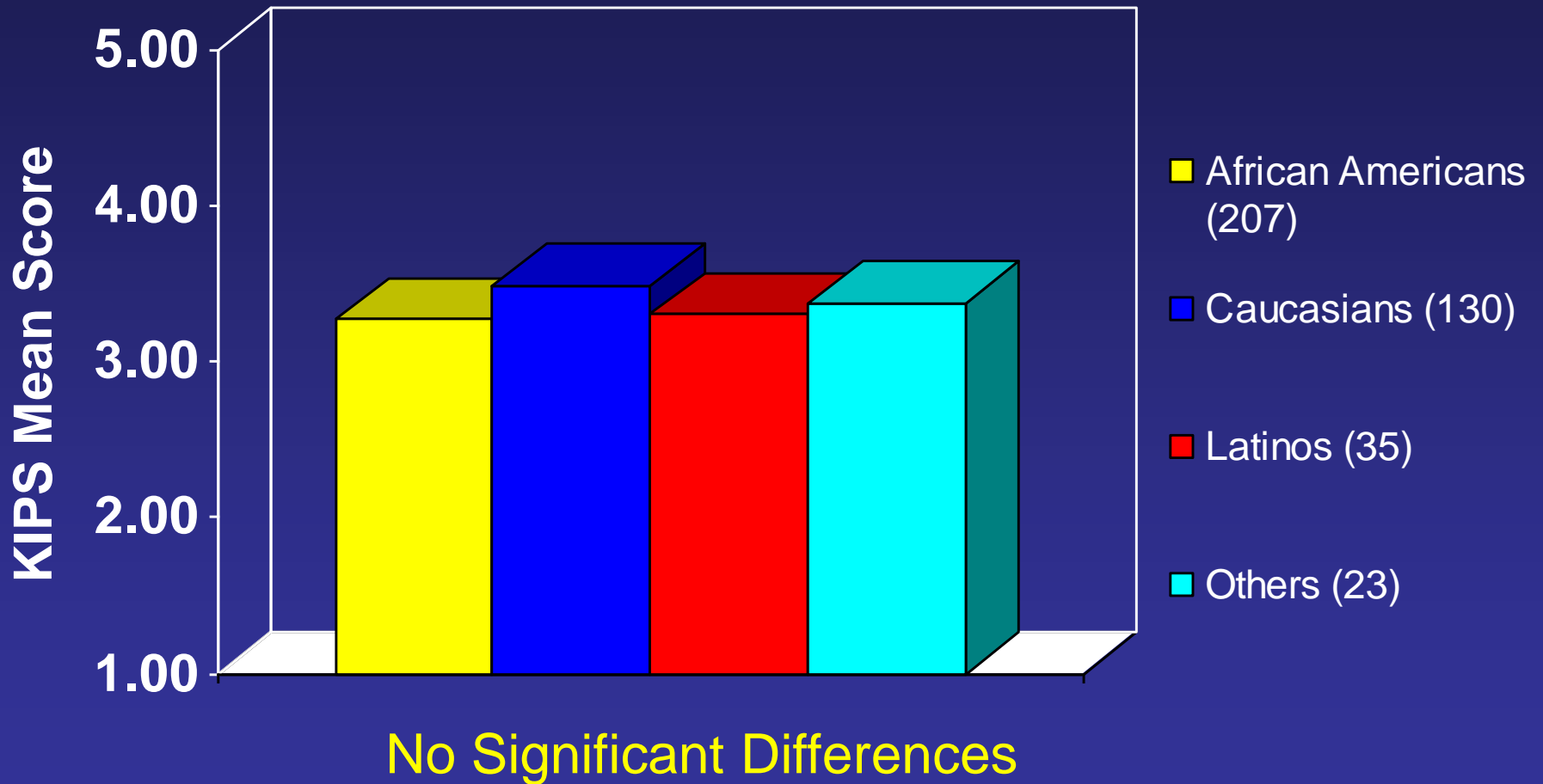
- Healthy Families Virginia
- 11 Community Program Sites
- 67 Home Visitors
- Random Selection of 397 Families
- 6 Measures Collected



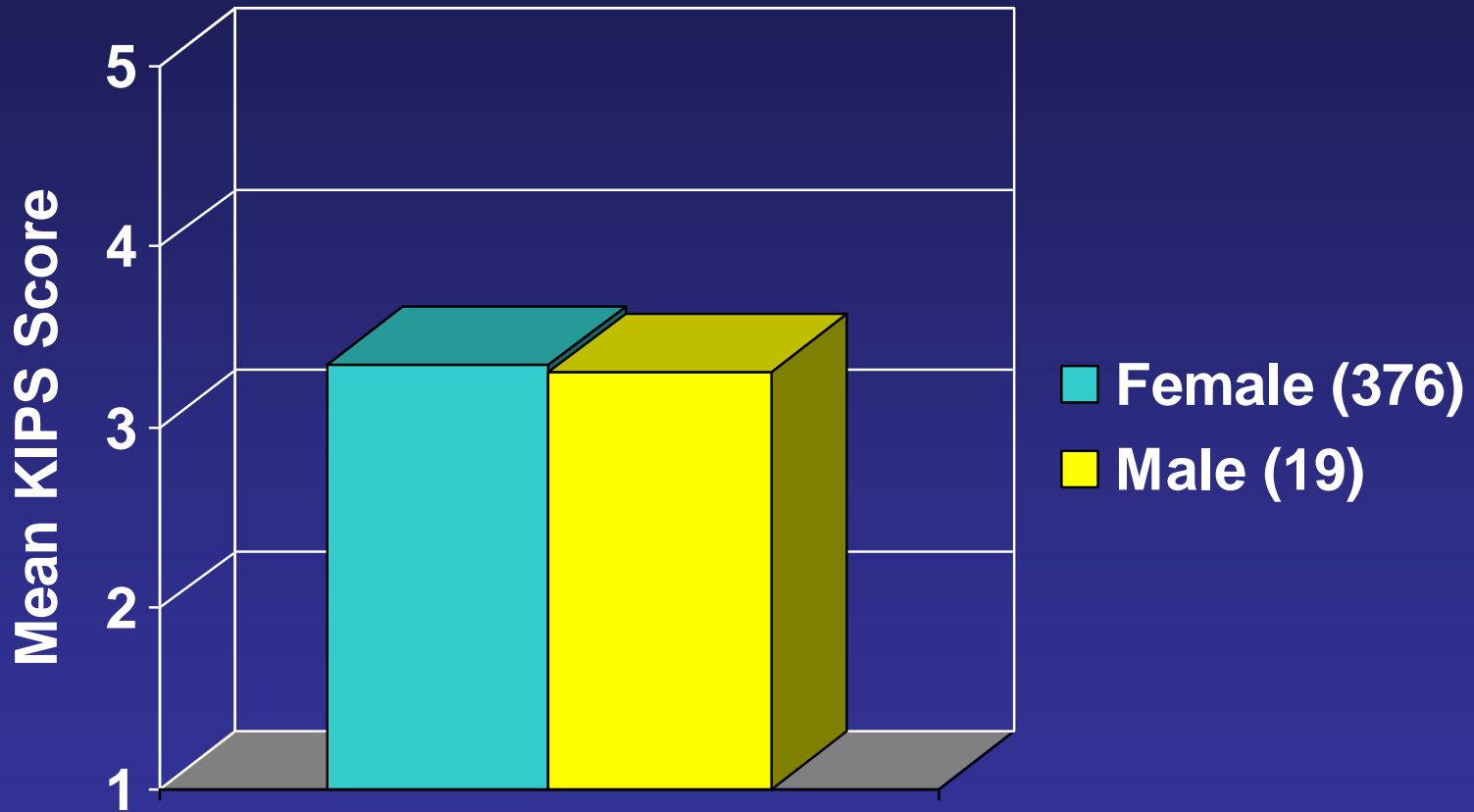
SBIR Grant # 1 R43 HD048135-02 funded by NICHD

Comfort, Gordon & Naples (2011). *Infants & Young Children*, 24(1), 56-74.

KIPS Scores for Diverse Families (n=395)



KIPS Scores and Gender (n=395)



No Significant Difference

Key Findings of KIPS Validation Study

- Valid for Diverse Parents
- Correlates with NCAST and HOME Observational Measures
- Correlates with Parent Engagement in Services

Does KIPS Show How Parents Grow?

KIPS Longitudinal Study Participants

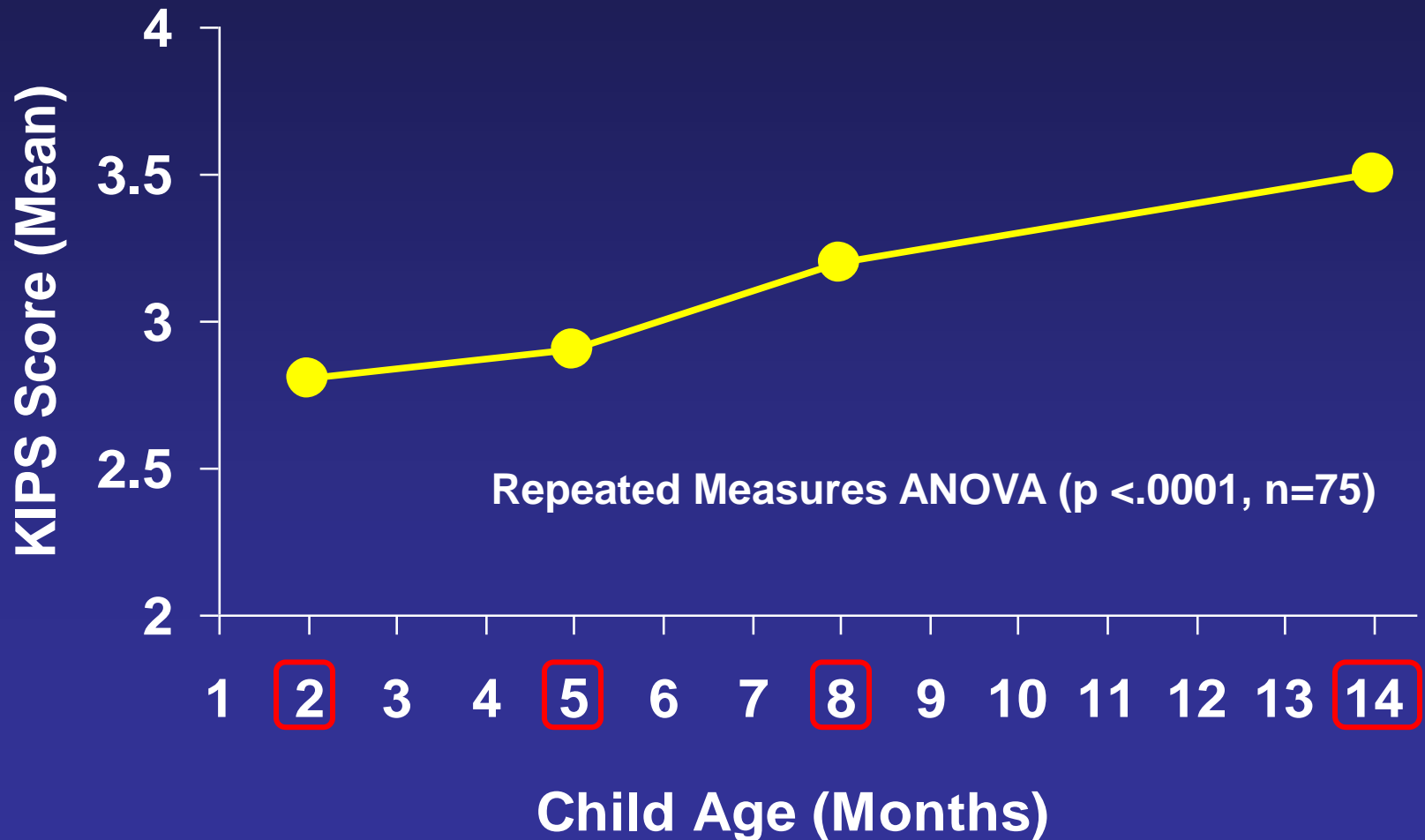
- 3 HANDS Sites
 - Cumberland Valley
 - Gateway
 - Lexington
- 30 Home Visitors
- 107 Parents and Their Children



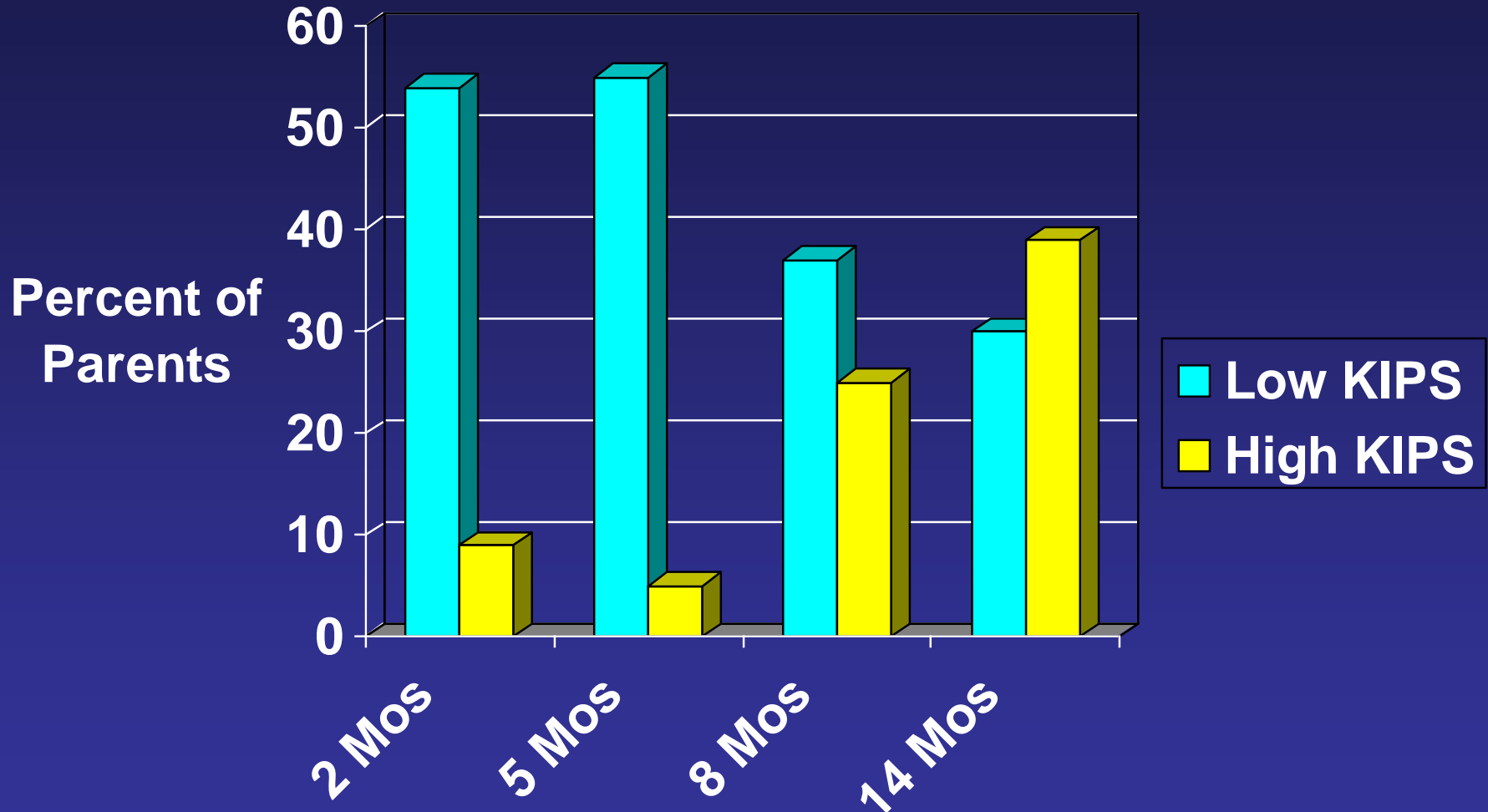
SBIR Grant # 1 R43 HD048135-03 funded by NICHD

Comfort, et al. (2010). *Zero to Three Journal*, 30(4), 33-39.

Kentucky HANDS: KIPS Outcomes



Shift From Low to High Quality Parenting



(Low KIPS <3.0 High KIPS ≥4.0)

Key Findings

Longitudinal Study

- KIPS Detects Improvements in Parenting for HANDS Families
- Parent Engagement in Services Predicts Nurturing Parenting
- Nurturing Parenting Predicts Children's Social Behavior

KIPS Helps You Help Parents

KIPS

Nurtures
Insights

Proves
Outcomes





KIPS

Nurturing
Insights

Proving
Outcomes

Marilee Comfort & Phil Gordon
Comfort Consults
info@ComfortConsults.com
www.ComfortConsults.com