

Kindergarten Transition

Importance of Literacy

- The ability of children from 9 months to 4 years to absorb information is unparalleled-the desire to learn is higher than it ever will be throughout development
 - The size of a child's vocabulary at the age of 4 predicts 11th grade reading comprehension
 - It takes four times as much assistance to improve a child's reading skills in 4th grade versus Kindergarten
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Importance of Literacy

- 75% of the variance in academic achievement is attributable to how well a student can read
 - Children who are not reading at grade level in Kindergarten are at higher risk for depression and aggression
 - Unless we address the literacy gap among children, the economic gap between social classes will only increase.
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4 out of 10

children enter kindergarten not ready to read



Missoula County Schools' reading screening data

13 books per child

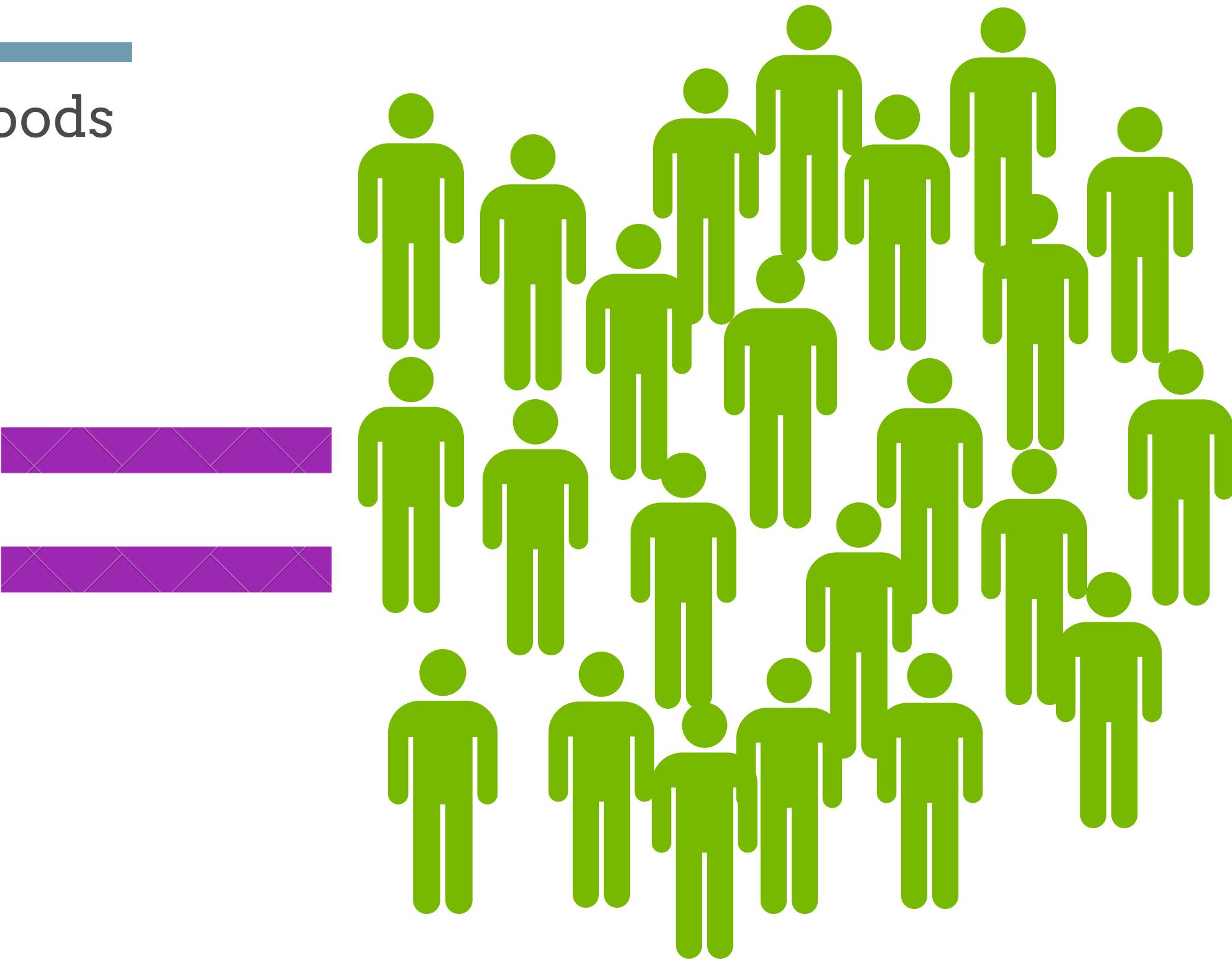
in middle class families



Neuman & Clenano, 2001; Krashen, 2012

1 book per 300 children

in low income neighborhoods

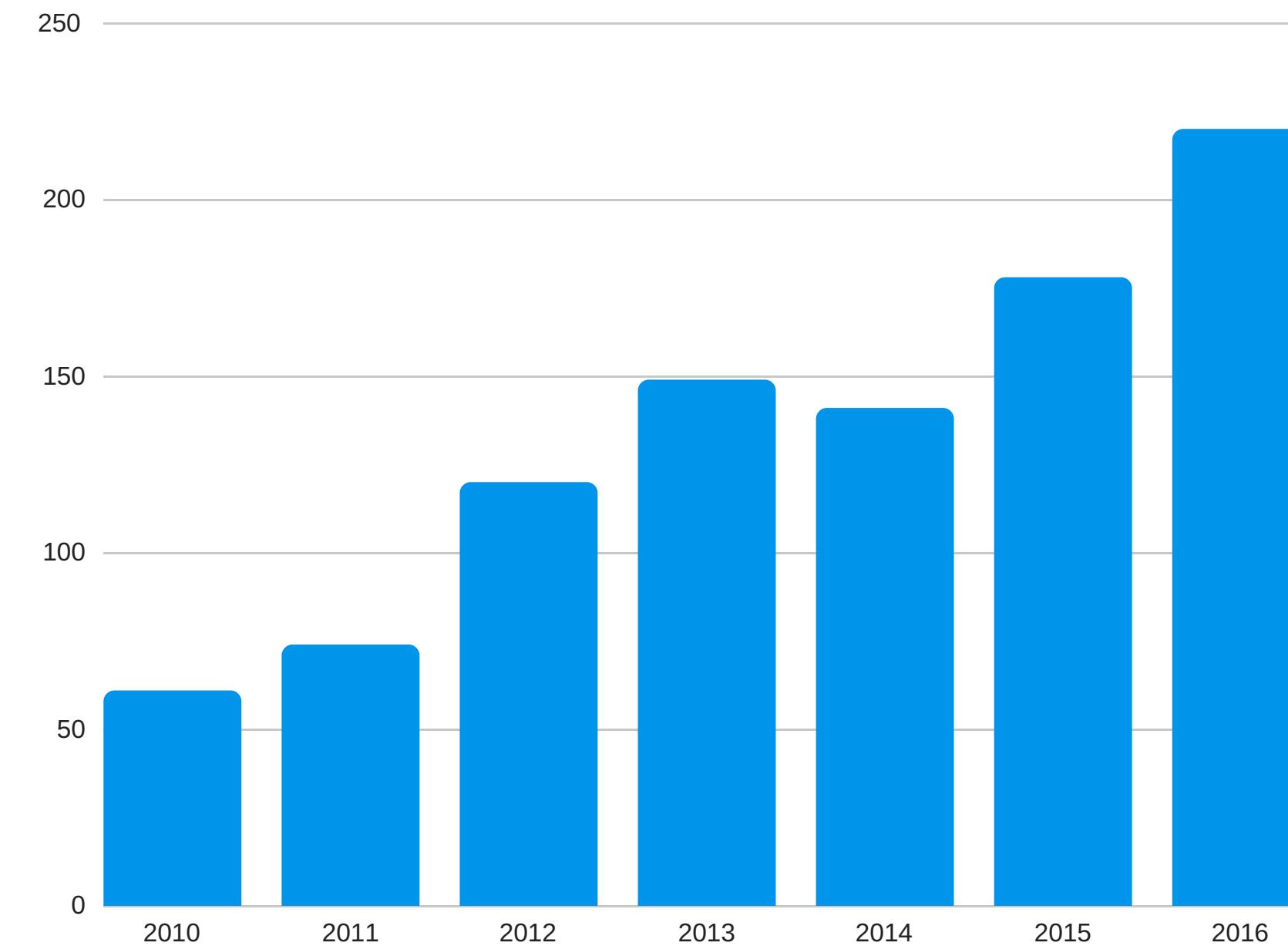


Neuman & Clenano, 2001; Krashen, 2012

Thriving Families/ Building Connectivity

200% Increase

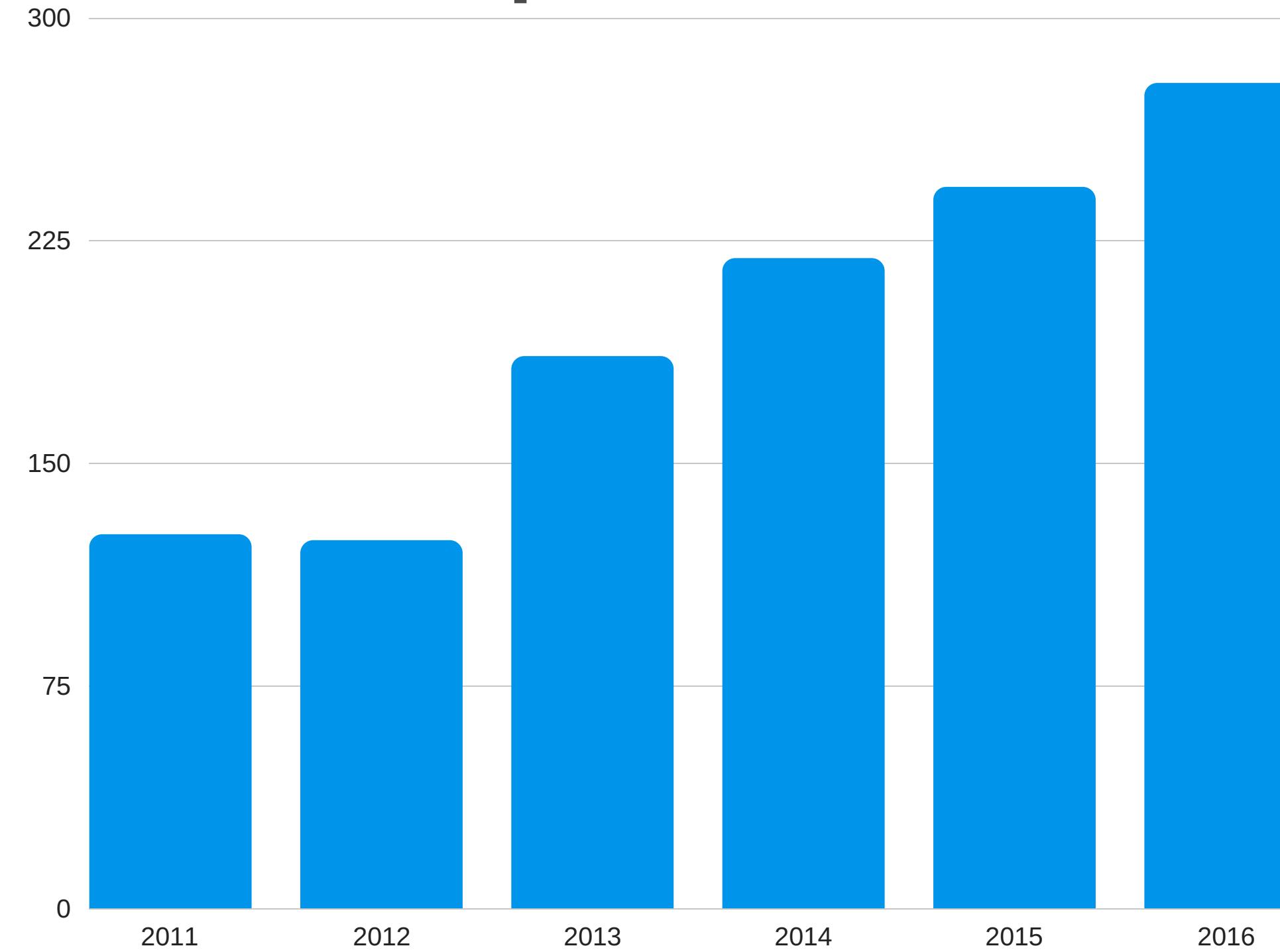
in legal child abuse cases filed in the last 5 years in Missoula County



Missoula County Community Health Assessment

100% Increase

of children in foster care in the last five years
in Missoula County.

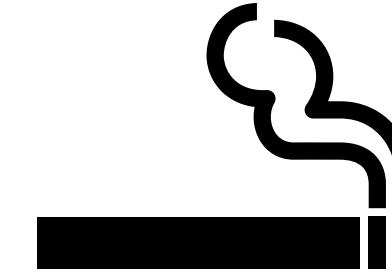


Impacts of Trauma

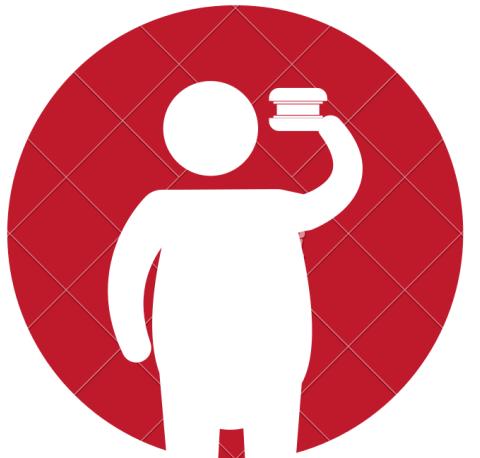
Complex childhood trauma increases risk for:



Heart Disease



Smoking



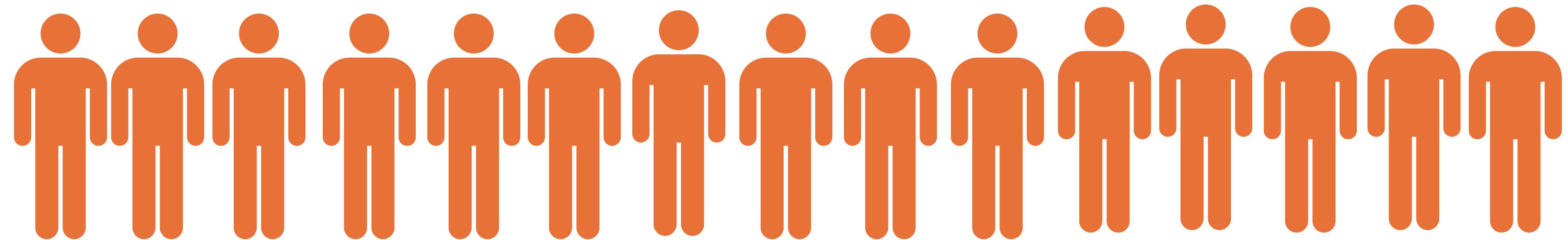
Obesity



Substance Abuse

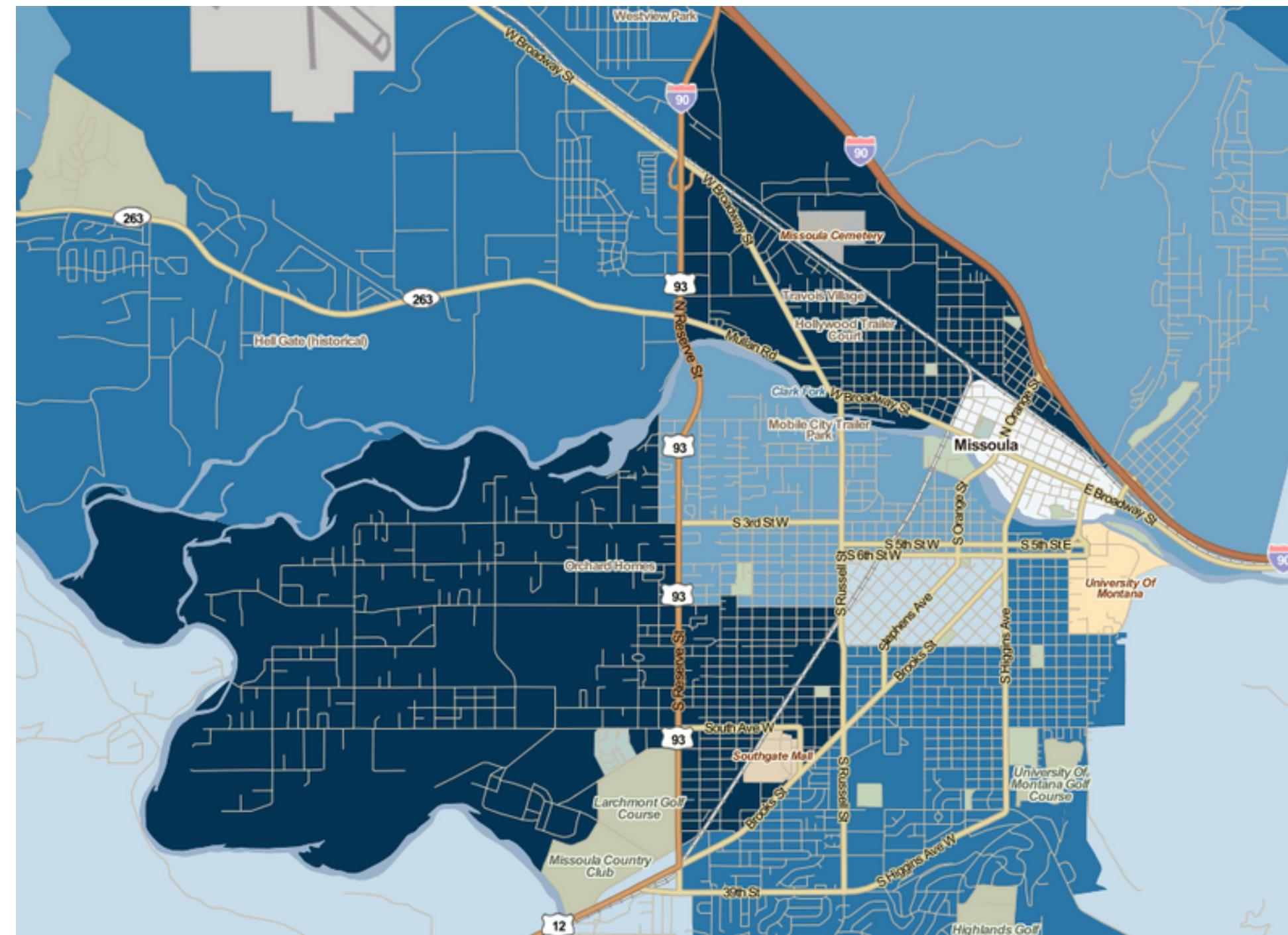
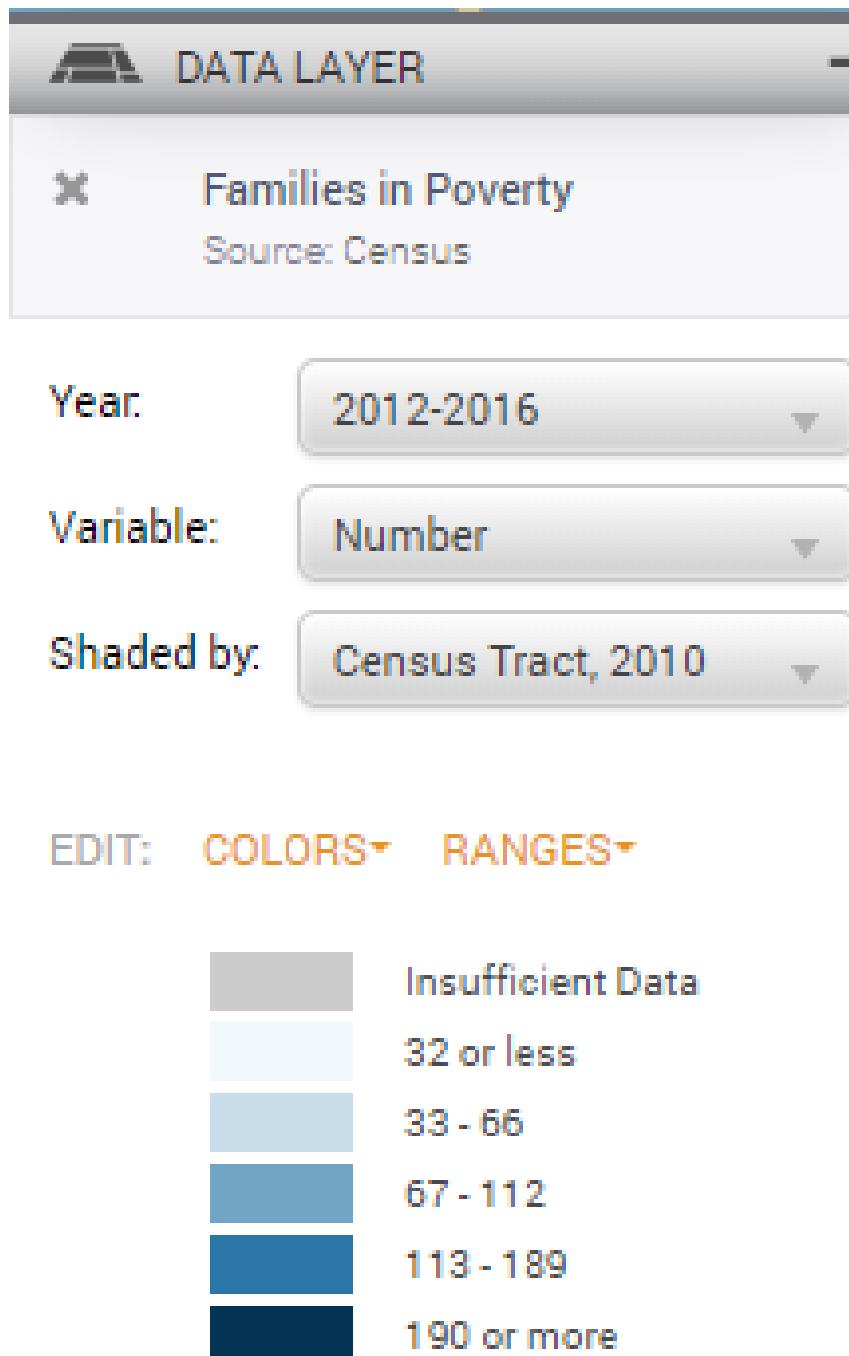
Adverse Experiences in Montana

17 out of 100 Montanans experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences



Families in Poverty

Some Missoula neighborhoods are more impacted by poverty than others.



US Census, Policy Map

Early Childhood Services

Early childhood systems are often disconnected

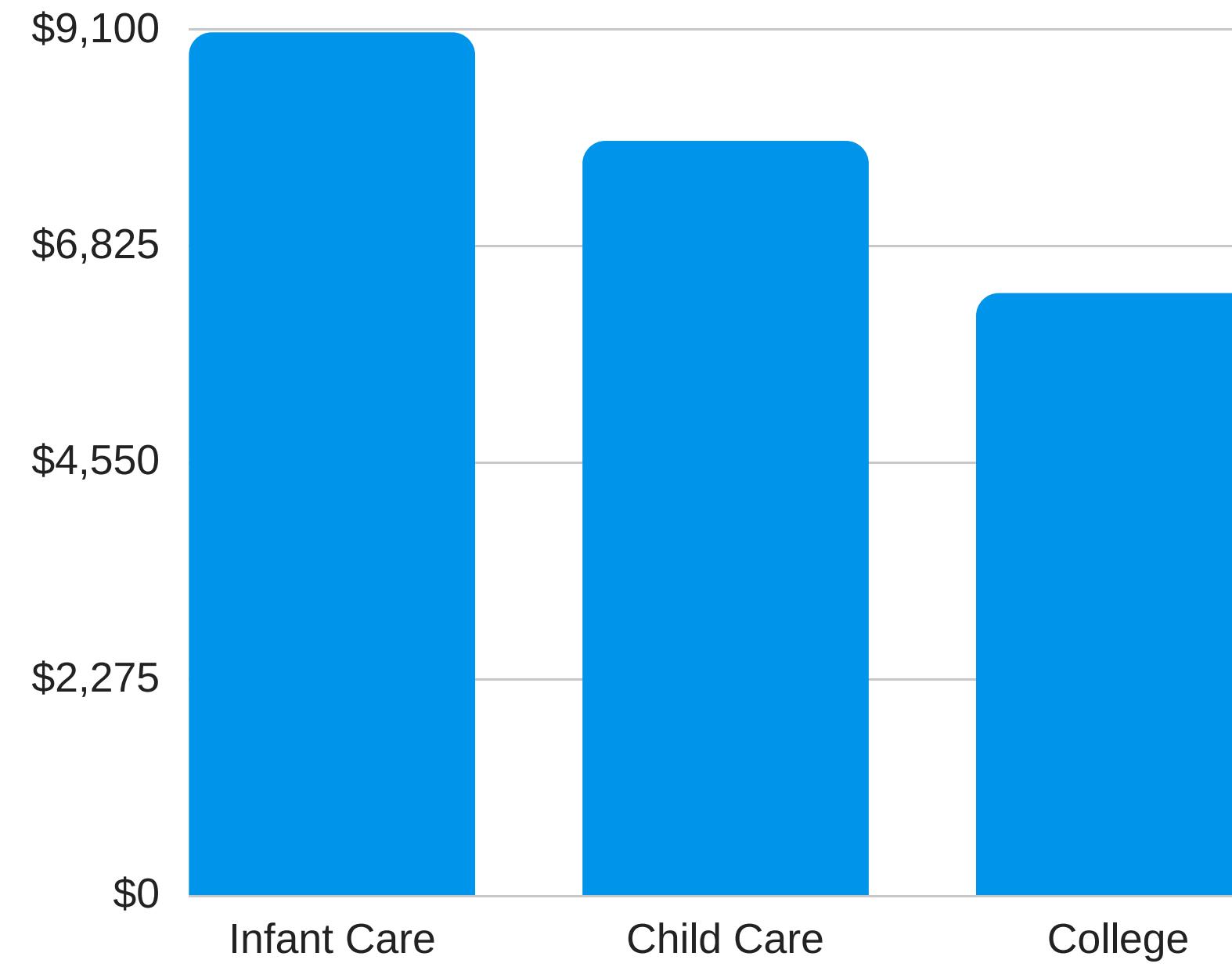
"Their families take them to one place to get their well-child checks by a physician. They go to another place for child care and early learning. If they have a dentist, they go somewhere else for that, and if they get extra help for physical or behavioral needs, they go yet somewhere else.

...As a result, professionals who work in these specific fields – what we call domains – of early childhood, are often isolated from each other and disconnected from resources that can serve a child's learning, health and support to the family."

Access to Early Care and Education

Cost of Child Care

Child care costs more than college tuition in Missoula



Parent Quote

Missoula child care challenges

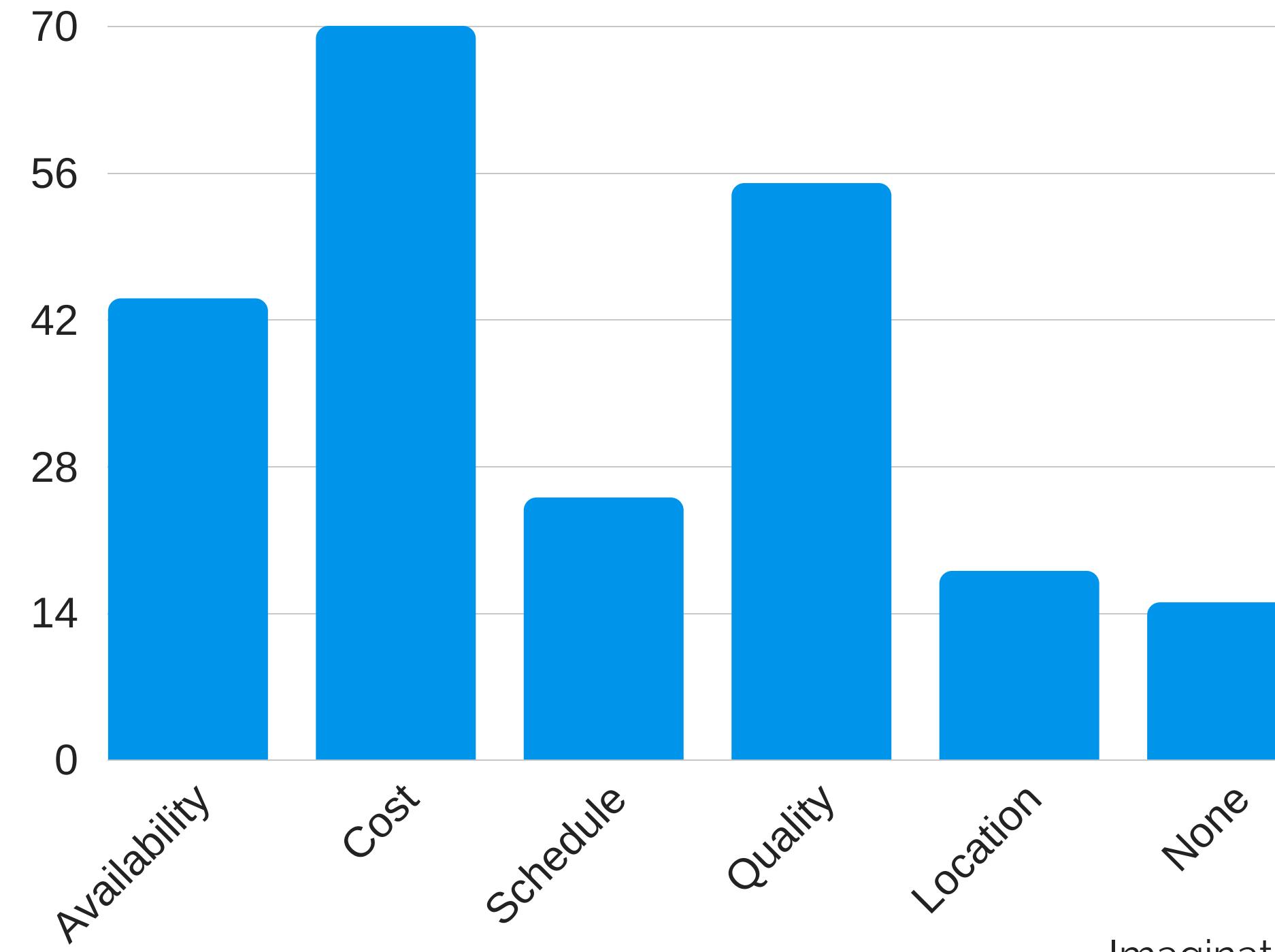


“I own a trailer, but with all the bills, I still am down to zero in the bank at the end of the month. I've tried to get a job, but the cost of daycare eats my entire paycheck.”

Imagination Library Parent Survey, 2017

Child Care Challenges

Most parents surveyed experienced child care challenges



Imagination Library Parent Survey, 2017

Parent Quote

Missoula child care challenges



“ It affects my income, my stress, my ability to care for my kids. It has been the worst part about working, and the worst part about parenting thus far. ”

Imagination Library Parent Survey, 2017

Parent Quote

Missoula child care challenges



“ I do not think that the child care workers are paid an appropriate wage and therefore are easily willing to leave which is very hard on the children ”

Imagination Library Parent Survey, 2017