

Tots 'n Tech Research Institute: What We Have Learned from Part C Coordinators

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<http://tnt.asu.edu>

TnT Mission

The mission of TnT is threefold:

(1) to study prevalence, policy and resources, individualized decision making, training and support and other factors related to use of assistive technology (AT) devices and services in early intervention.

(2) to disseminate current knowledge and research findings in timely ways to families, multidiscipline EI providers, administrators, educators and policymakers using a variety of methods and approaches.

(3) to partner with parents of children with disabilities, with individuals with disabilities, in the design and implementation of the national research program.

TnT Research Plan

- ◆ The work of the Institute focuses on (a) AT use, (b) policy and resources, (c) decision making and practices, (d) training and support and (e) dissemination and products. In order to address these five topic areas, TnT's research agenda includes:
 - Examining the potential for well-timed AT devices and services to contribute to children's learning and participation within natural settings
 - Identifying critical factors associated with positive outcomes for families and their infants and toddlers
 - Identify and implement strategies to infuse the “best of research into common practices

Part-C Coordinators Survey

- ◆ A survey was developed to explore a broad range of issues regarding AT use and availability for infants and toddlers. Data for this poster focuses on:
 - AT services or devices that are addressed through state or local policies, guidelines, or regulations
 - Availability of AT services for infants and toddlers
 - Recording of AT services and devices on the IFSP
 - Family and early interventionists access to information of AT services and devices
 - Perceived barriers to use of AT services and devices for infants and toddlers

Participants and Methods

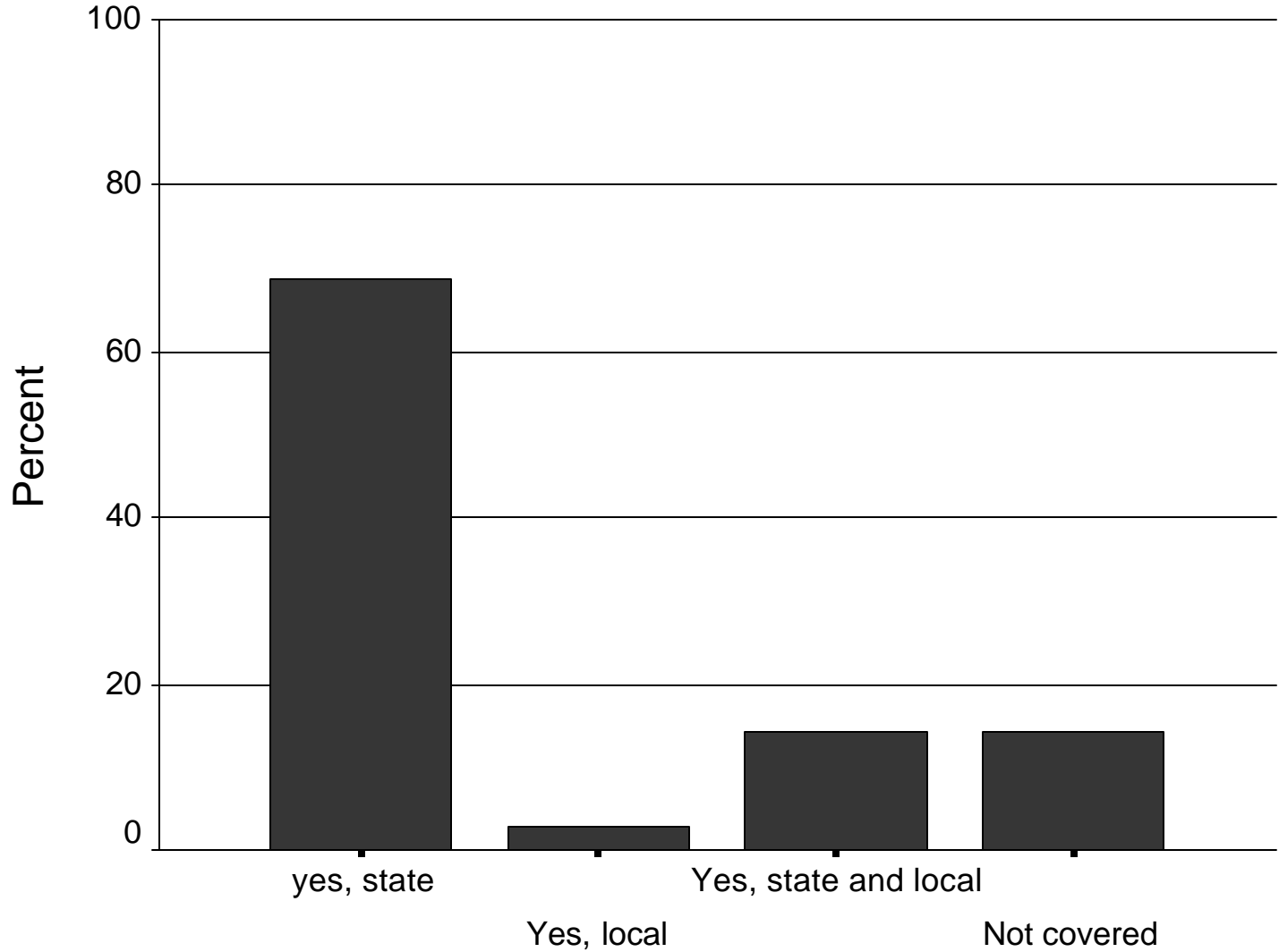
- ◆ 36 (71%) Part C Coordinators completed the survey
- ◆ Surveys were originally distributed at the 2002 OSEP/NECTAC meeting. State coordinators who were not able to complete the survey at the meeting were contacted via email or phone and asked to fill out the survey through the TnT website.

State and Local policies, Guidelines, and Regulations

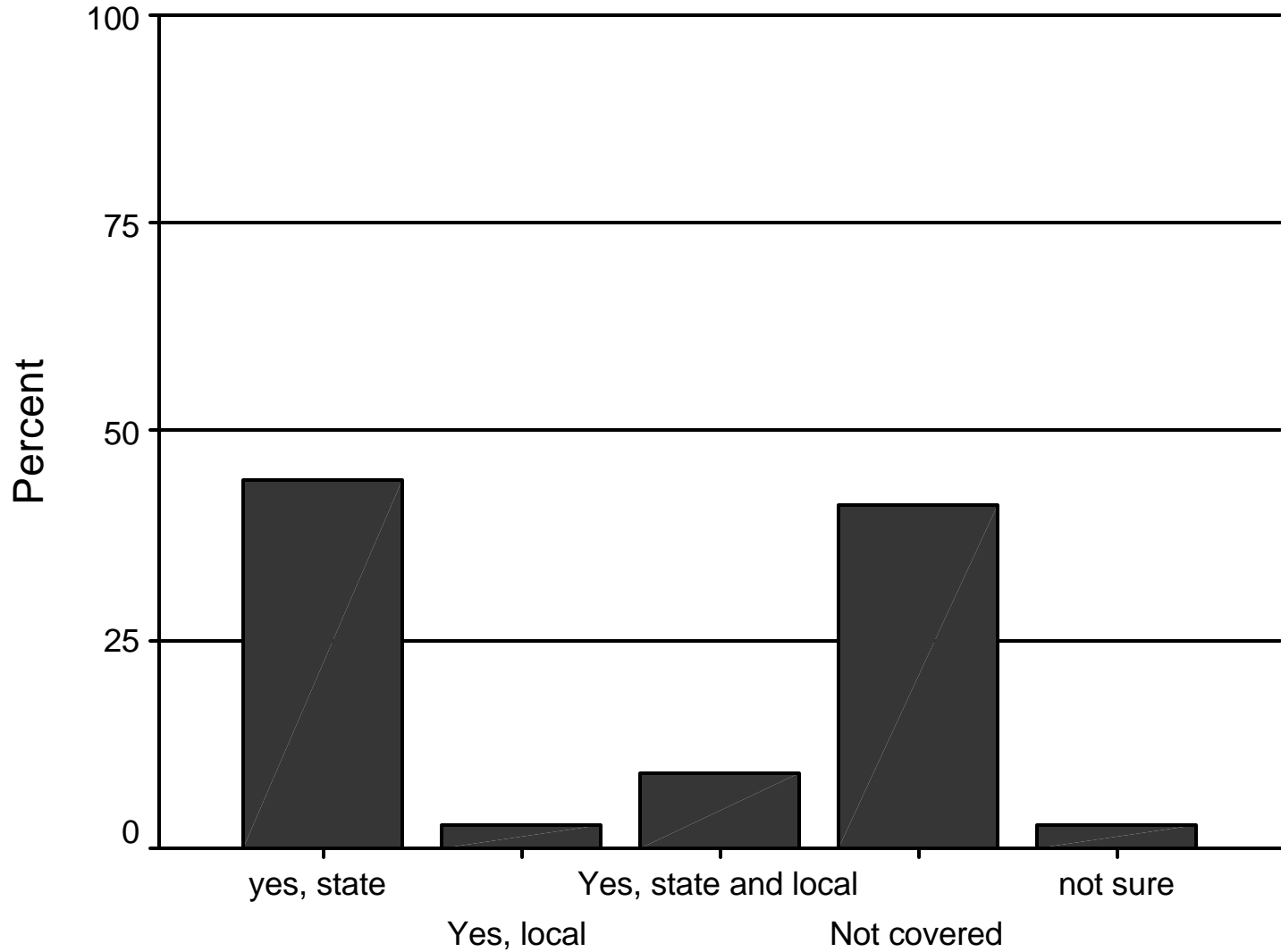
Part C Coordinators reported the following sources for AT policy in their states:

- State Statute -- 17 states (47%)
- State Regulations -- 20 states (56%)
- Written State Policies -- 26 states (72%)
- Written State Guidelines -- 21 states (58%)
- Locally Developed Policies -- 6 states (17%)
- Locally Developed Guidelines -- 6 states (17%)

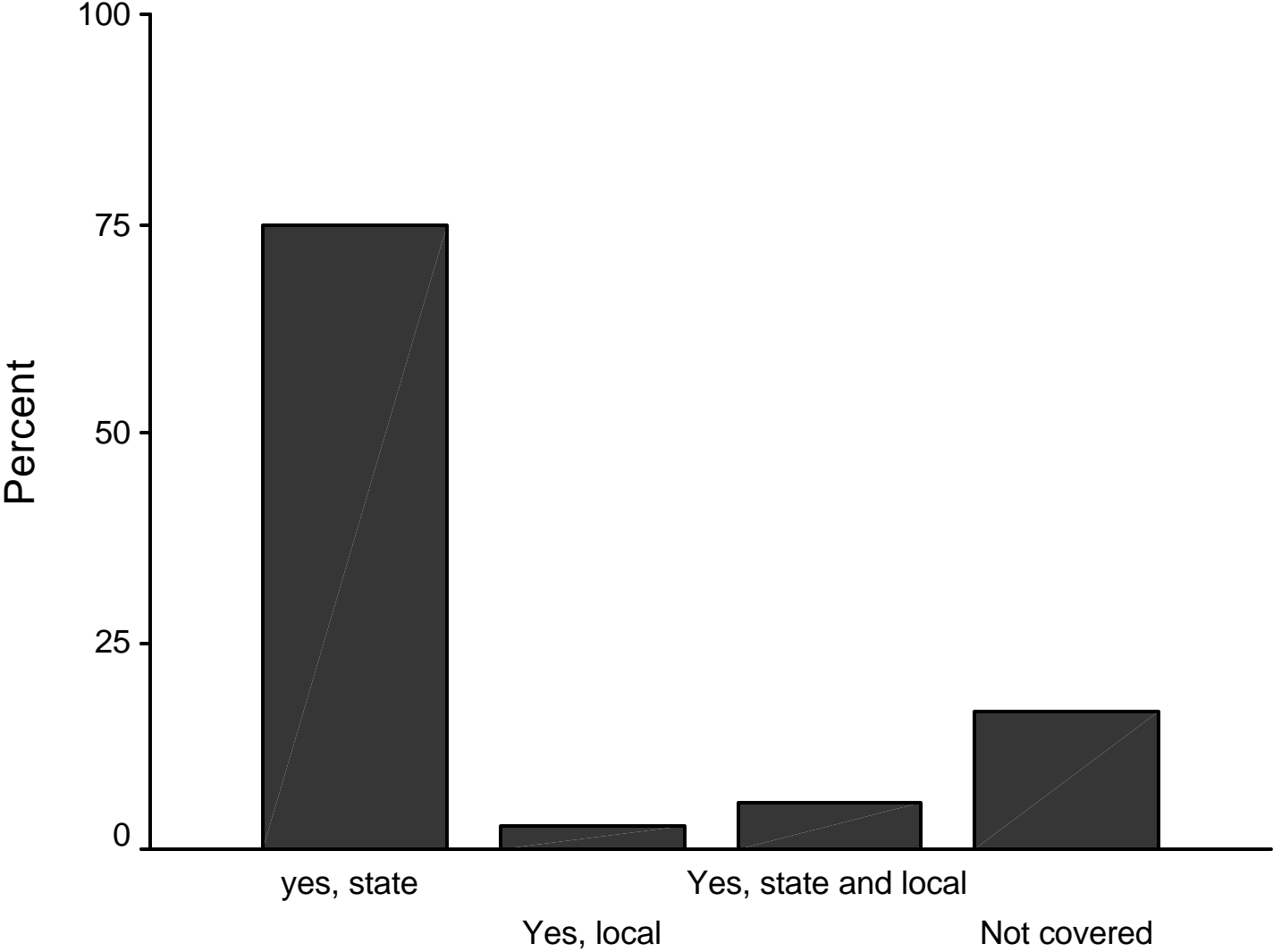
Policy: Payment for Services/Devices



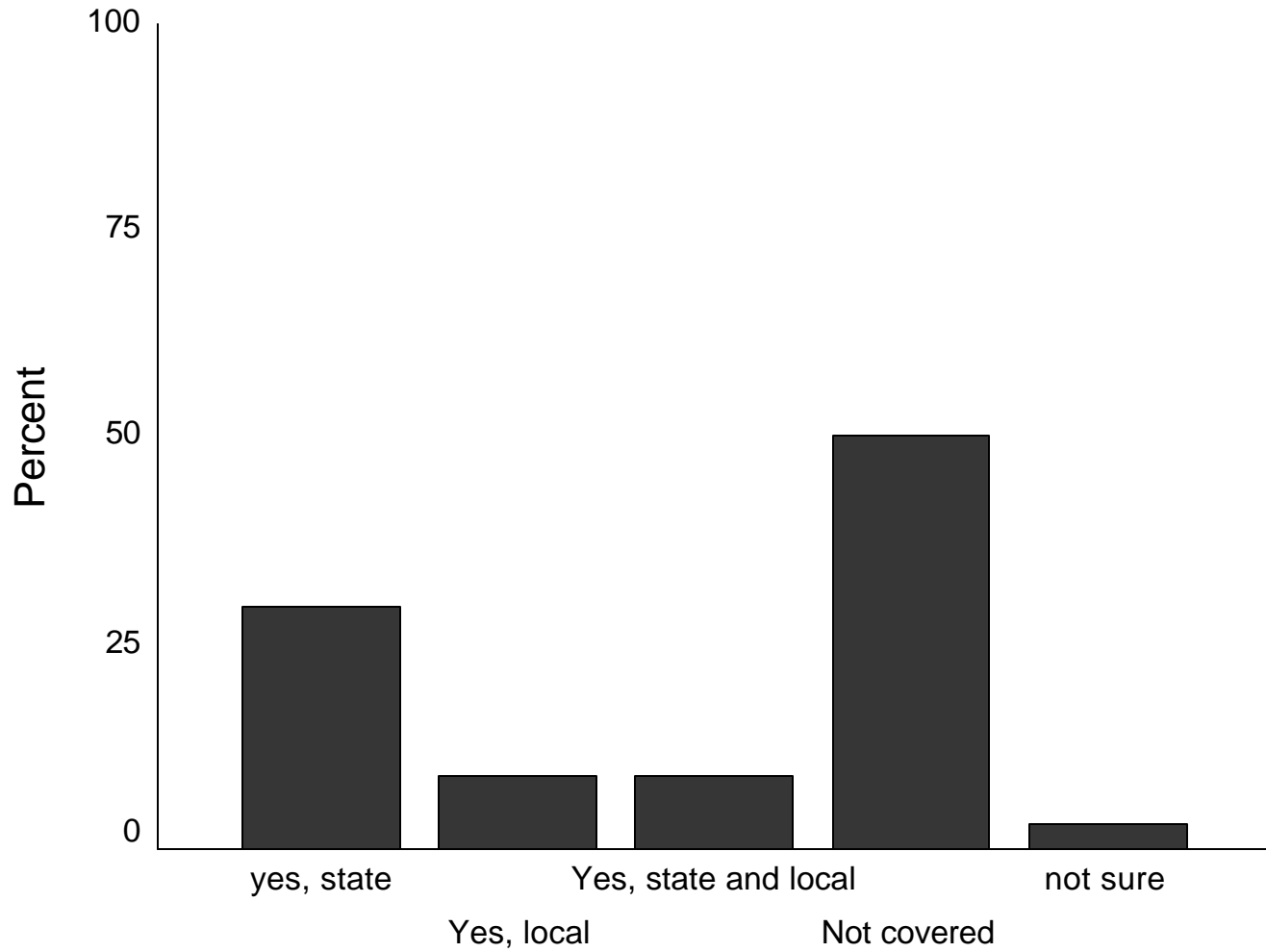
Policy: Ownership of AT devices



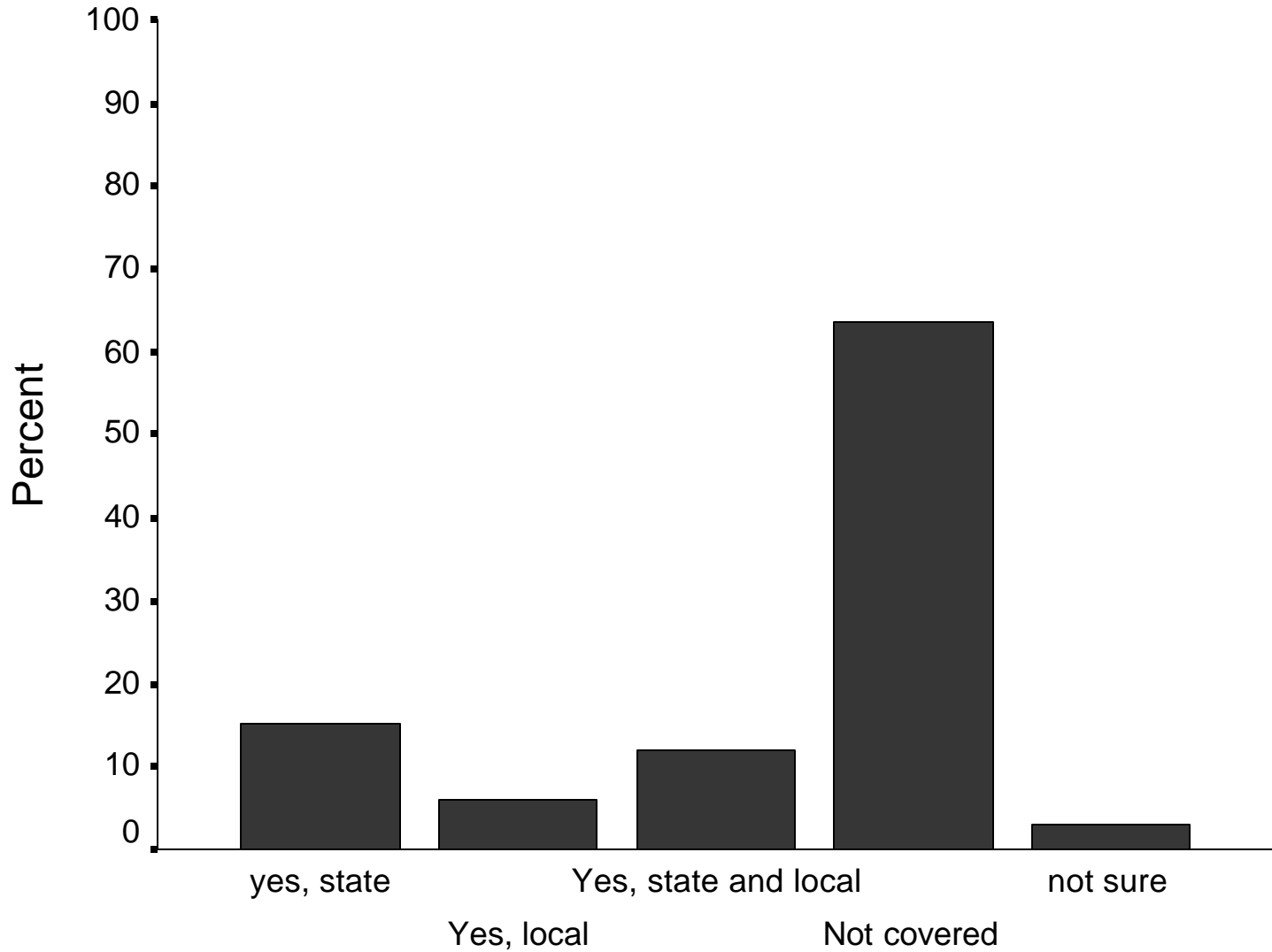
Policy: Eligibility & Access



Policy: Maintenance & Repair

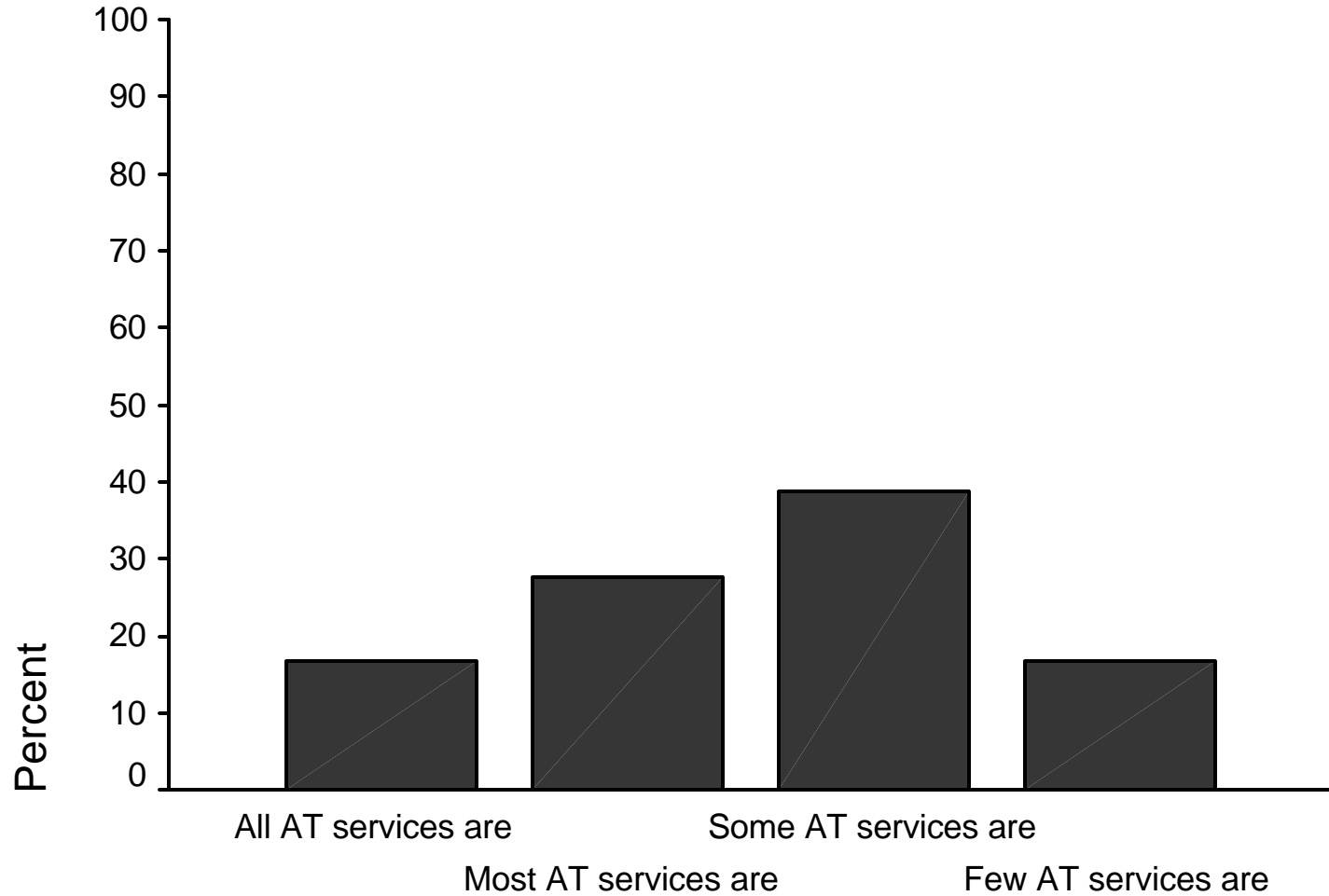


Policy: Recycling of AT devices

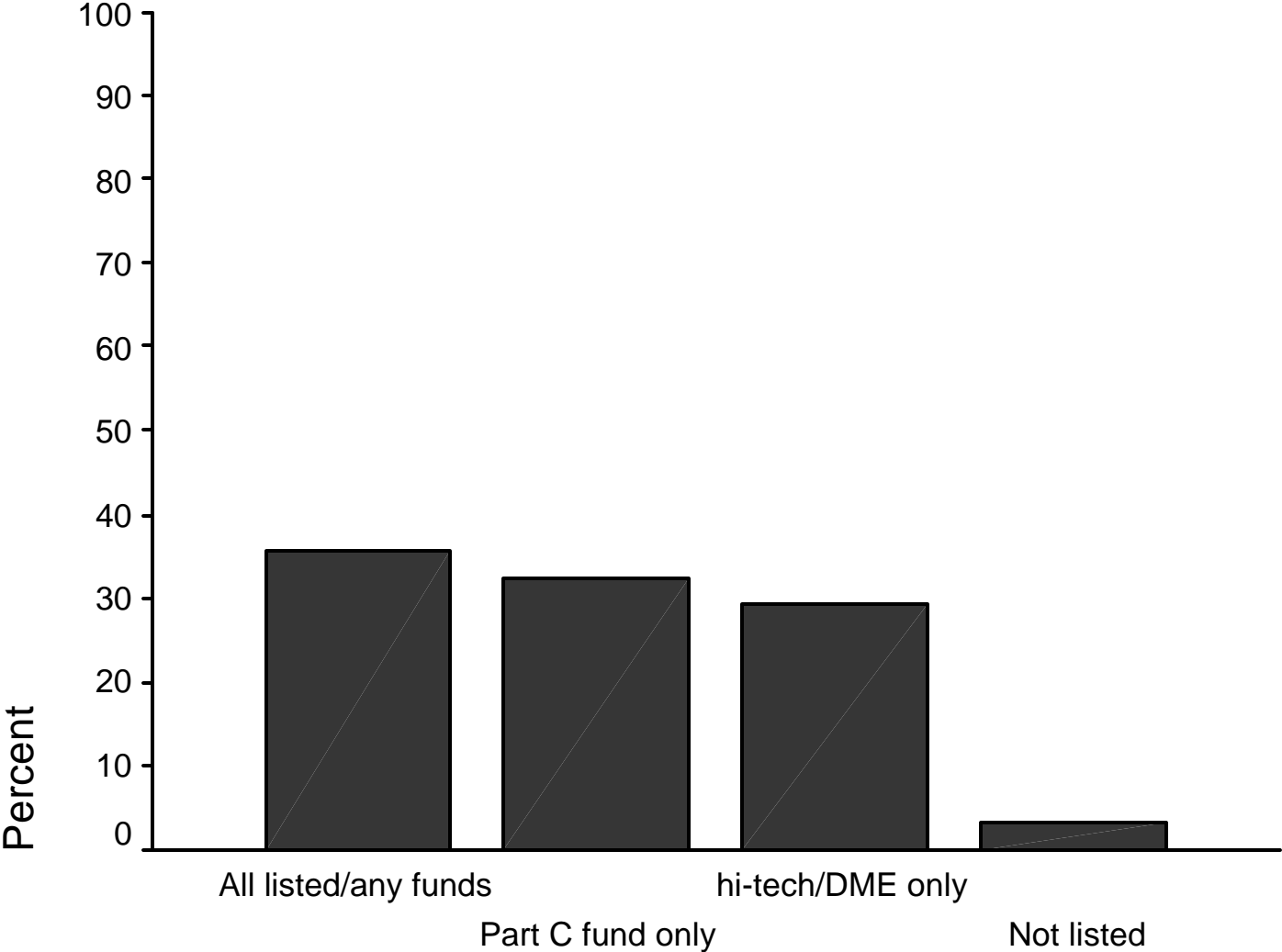


How AT services for infants and toddlers are recorded

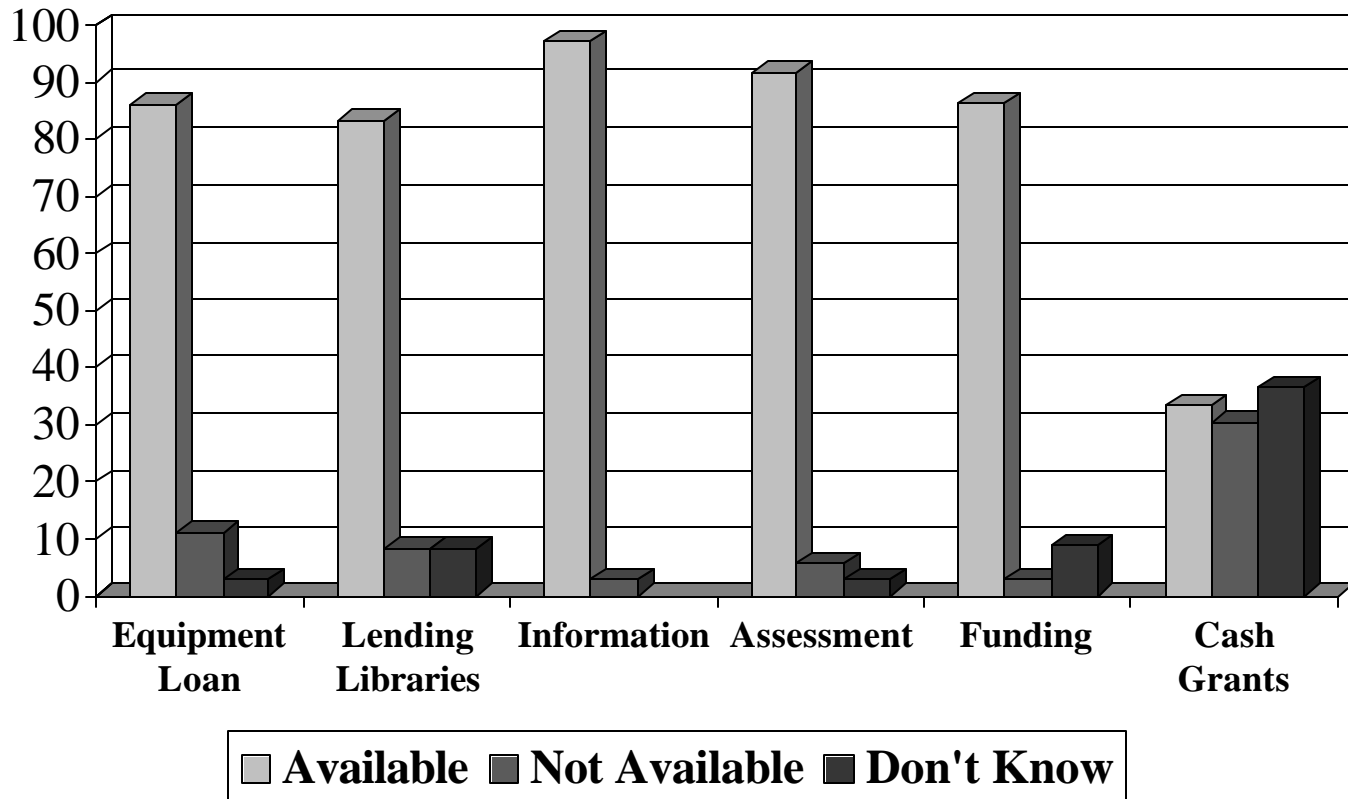
On the IFSP



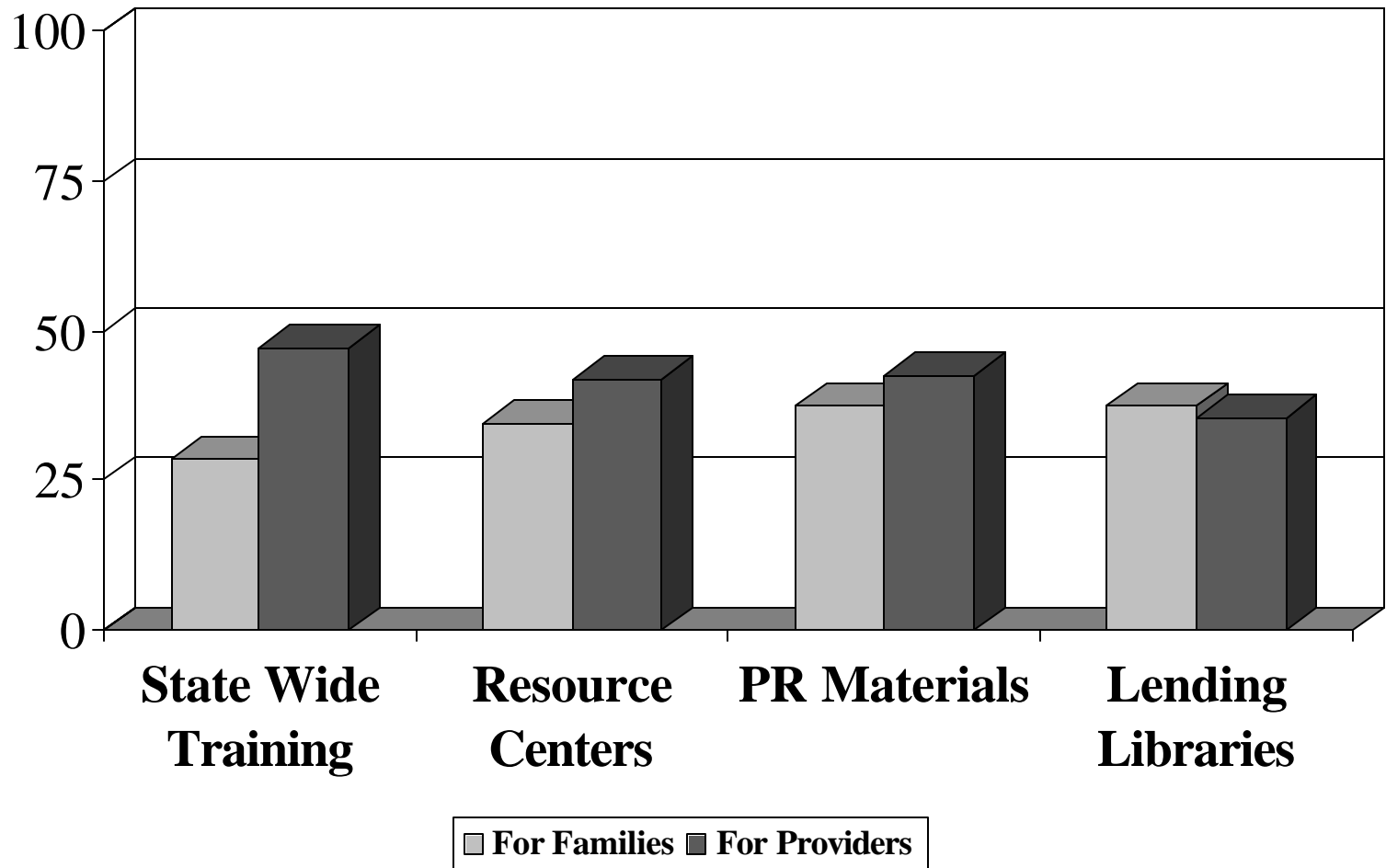
How AT device is recorded on the IFSP



Availability of AT Services



Use of Methods to Learn About AT



Barriers to Providing AT Services and Devices

- ◆ Inter-Agency collaboration (4 states)
- ◆ Funding issues (14 states)
- ◆ Geographical barriers (4 states)
- ◆ Lack of resources (5 states)
- ◆ Early Interventionist knowledge & understanding of AT services and devices (23 states)