A grayscale photograph of a Grady Memorial Hospital helicopter on the ground. A person in a dark uniform with "EMORY FLIGHT" on the back and a white cap is standing near the helicopter. Another person in a white lab coat is also visible. The helicopter has "Grady" written on its side. The background shows the "Grady Memorial Hospital" sign on a building.

# **DENTAL HEALTH AND ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE IN GEORGIA: A PART OF WHAT WE KNOW AS GEORGIANS**

David A. Reznik, D.D.S.  
Chief, Dental Service  
Grady Health System



# We Have A Very Real Emergency in Georgia!

- Grady Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department averages between 70 and 105 dental emergencies per week!



A Costly Dental Destination:  
Hospital Care Means States Pay Dearly  
The Pew Charitable Trusts 2.28.12

- “In Georgia, the approximately 60,000 emergency hospital visits for non-traumatic dental problems or other oral health issues cost more than \$23 million (2007).”
  - Andy Miller, “Fight over Georgia dental rules flares again,” Georgia Health News, 9.7.11

## A Costly Dental Destination: Hospital Care Means States Pay Dearly The Pew Charitable Trusts 2.28.12

- For patients, ERs are an expensive source for treatment, and care from these facilities is unlikely to provide lasting relief.
  - Generally, hospitals can provide only short-term relief, such as medication to treat an infection or temporarily relieve pain. 80% needed subsequent care from a dentist.
  - Most emergency rooms are not staffed with dentists, and their physicians and other staff are not trained to treat underlying oral health problems leading to a high rate of repeat visits.



# Georgia Mission of Mercy

- The GDA and the GDA Foundation for Oral Health hosted their inaugural outreach program August 12-13, 2011 at The First Baptist Church of Woodstock in Woodstock, Georgia.
- 2,179 patients and providing over \$1.7 million in free dental services.



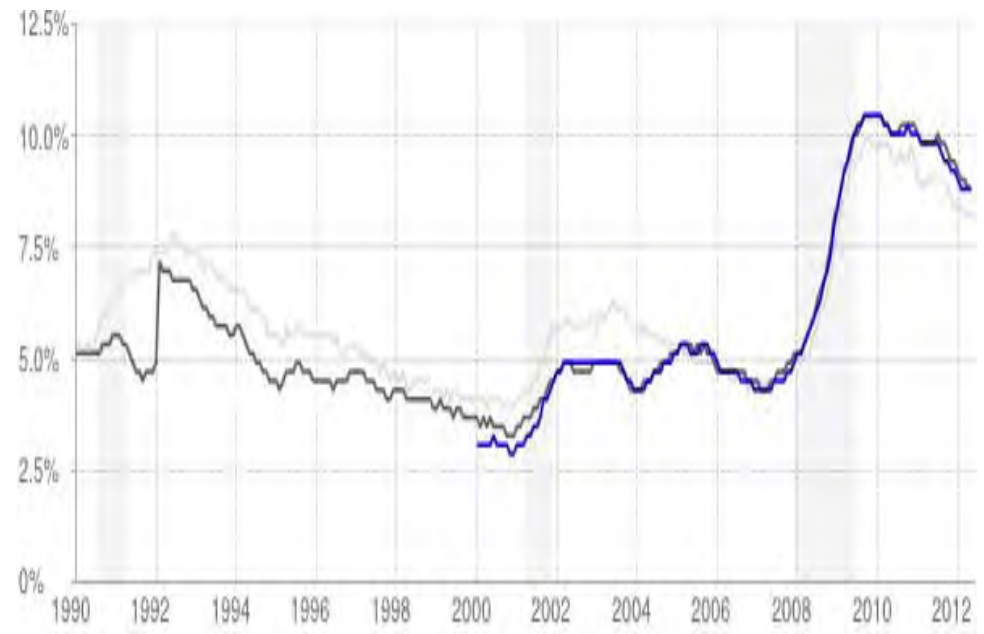
# What are a few of the causes of this emergency?

- In 2009, more than 16 million Medicaid enrolled children **(56 percent)** did not receive any dental care—not even a routine exam.
- Many Americans face access challenges because they lack dental insurance and cannot afford care or because they do not live near a CHC or free clinic offering affordable dental services.
- According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, **dental expenses are the second highest out-of-pocket health expenditure for consumers in the U.S.** second only to prescription medications.



# The Great Recession in GA...

- Persons at or below FPL by % 06-10:  
**22.6% ATL 15.7%(GA)**
- Median household income change Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Marietta  
**- 11.6% (2007 - 2010)**



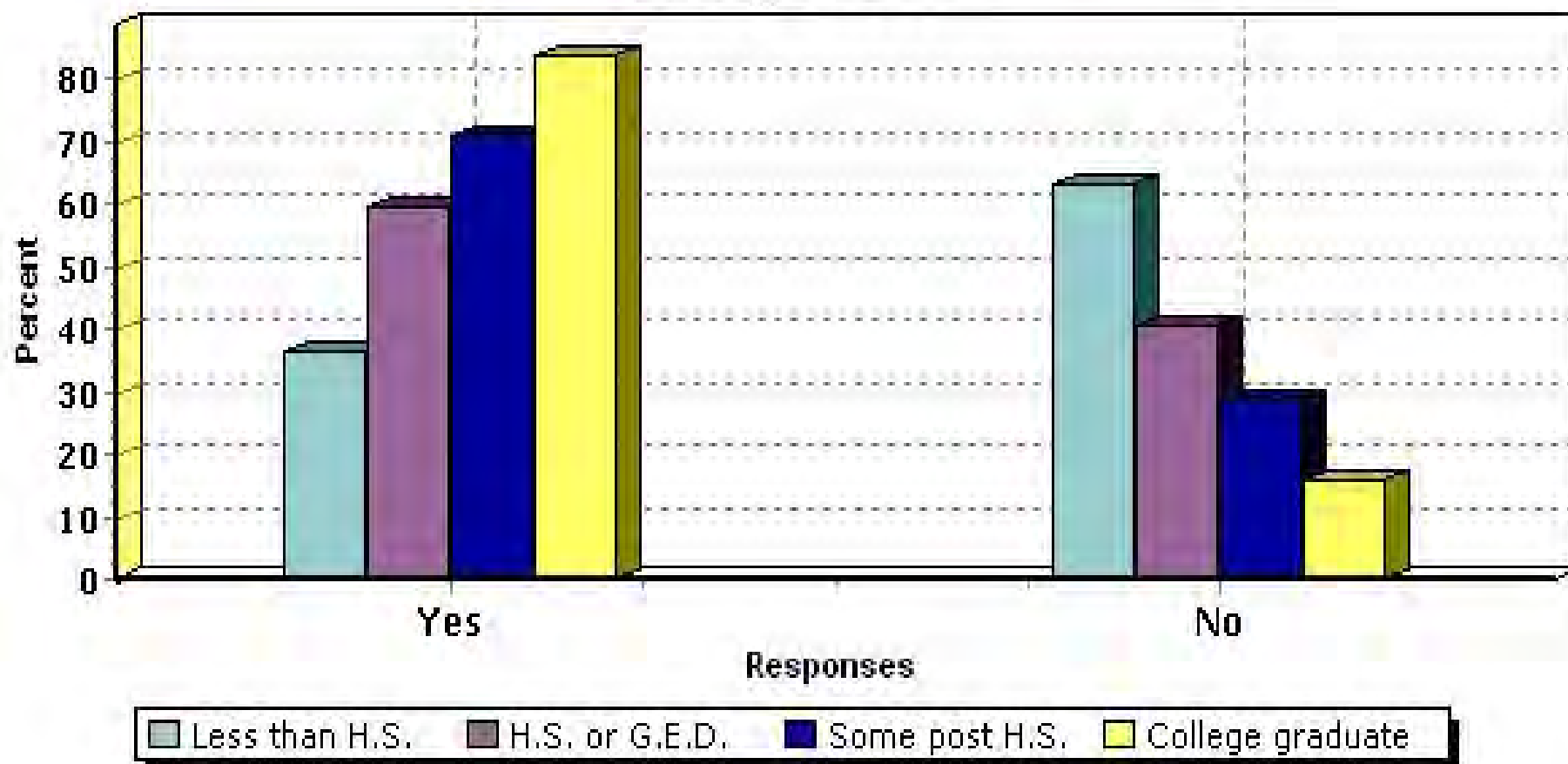
# Oral Health Literacy

- “The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions” (Healthy People 2010)
- “Oral Health Literacy is an essential component of achieving health equity” (Ralph Fuccillo, President DentaQuest Foundation U.S. National oral Health Alliance 3<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium - 6/12 – San Francisco)
- “A person’s ability to access oral health care is associated with factors such as education level, income, race and ethnicity” (IOM - Oral Health Literacy Workshop – 3.29.12 RADM William Bailey DDS, MPH Acting Director, CDC Division of Oral Health)



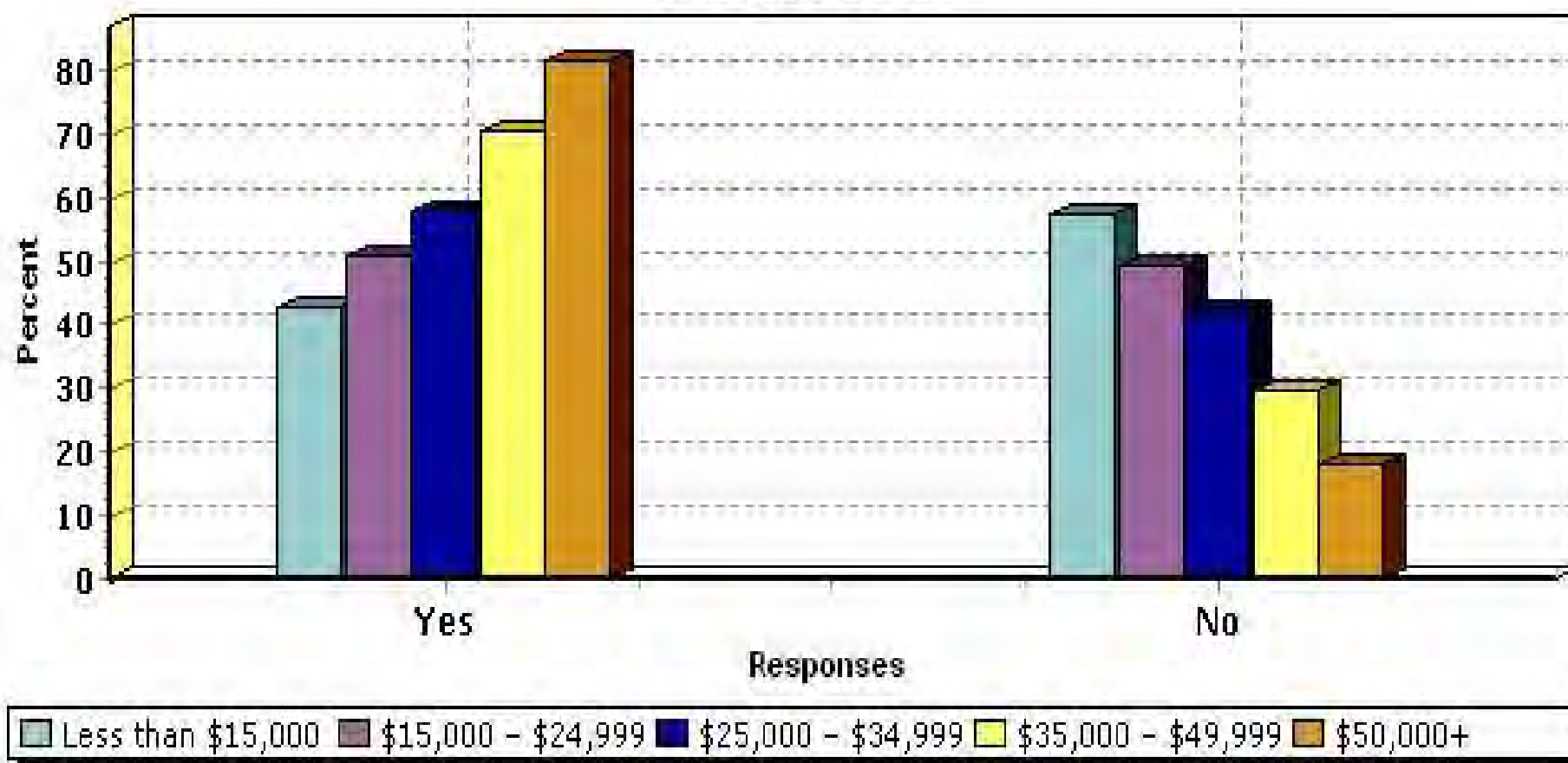
# National Oral Health Surveillance System -Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – By Education

## Teeth Cleaning (ages 18+) in the past year Georgia 2008



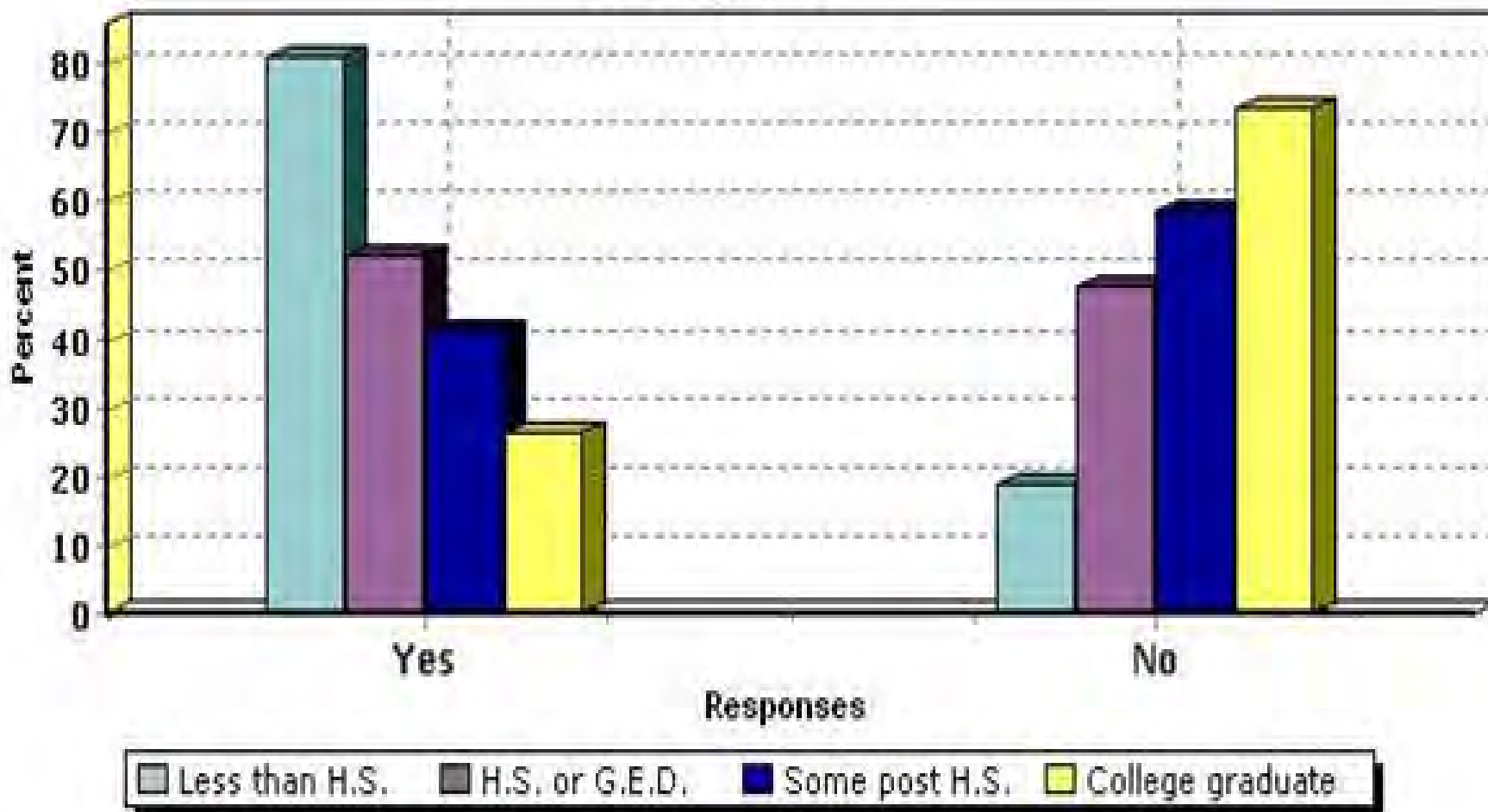
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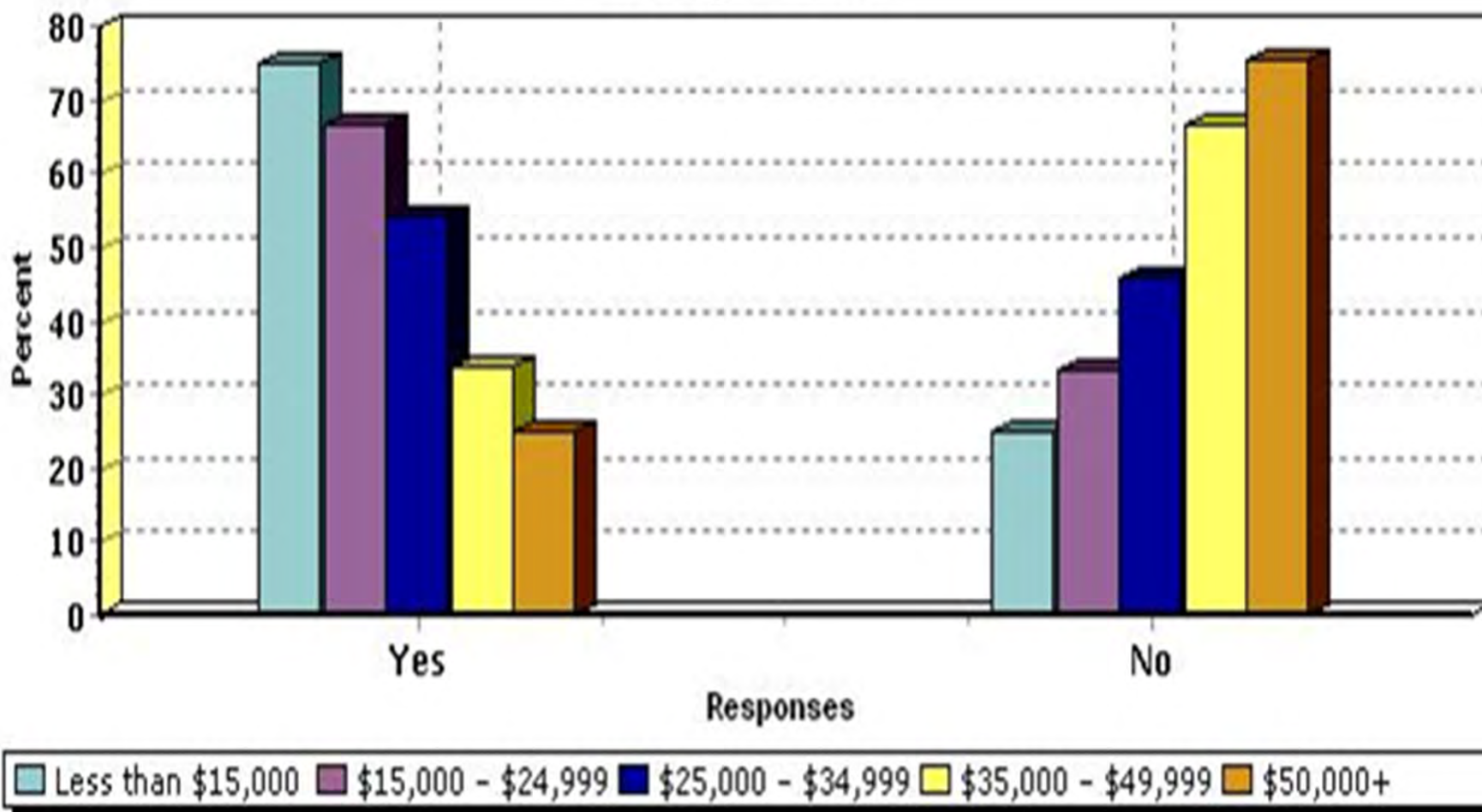
# National Oral Health Surveillance System -Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – By Education

## Lost 6 or More Teeth (ages 65+) Georgia 2008



# National Oral Health Surveillance System - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System – By Income

## Lost 6 or More Teeth (ages 65+) Georgia 2008



# Grady Health System's infectious Disease Program



- The most comprehensive program for people living with advanced HIV disease in the US.
- In CY11, 1,861 uninsured and under-insured PLWA received comprehensive oral health care services including: molar endodontics, oral surgery, restorative care, complete and partial dentures, with an emphasis on prevention.
- Funded via the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

# How the Grady Health System Can Make a Difference

- Establish a general practice residency program with Lutheran Medical Center
- Partner with Dr. Charles Moore and the HEALing Community Center
- Goal: to increase access to Atlanta's most vulnerable and underserved populations by addressing oral disease and promoting oral health.



# Social Justice

- “When an entire community suffers from a health concern, that concern becomes a social justice issue.”

– U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA/HAB, Going the Distance: The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 20 Years of Leadership, a Legacy of Care, August 2010