

Equity in COVID-19 Vaccinations: Understanding and Addressing Gaps

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Racial Equity and Health Policy
KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation)



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- Public health information campaigns (Greater Than COVID)

The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed during this event are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent the opinion, views or policies of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement.

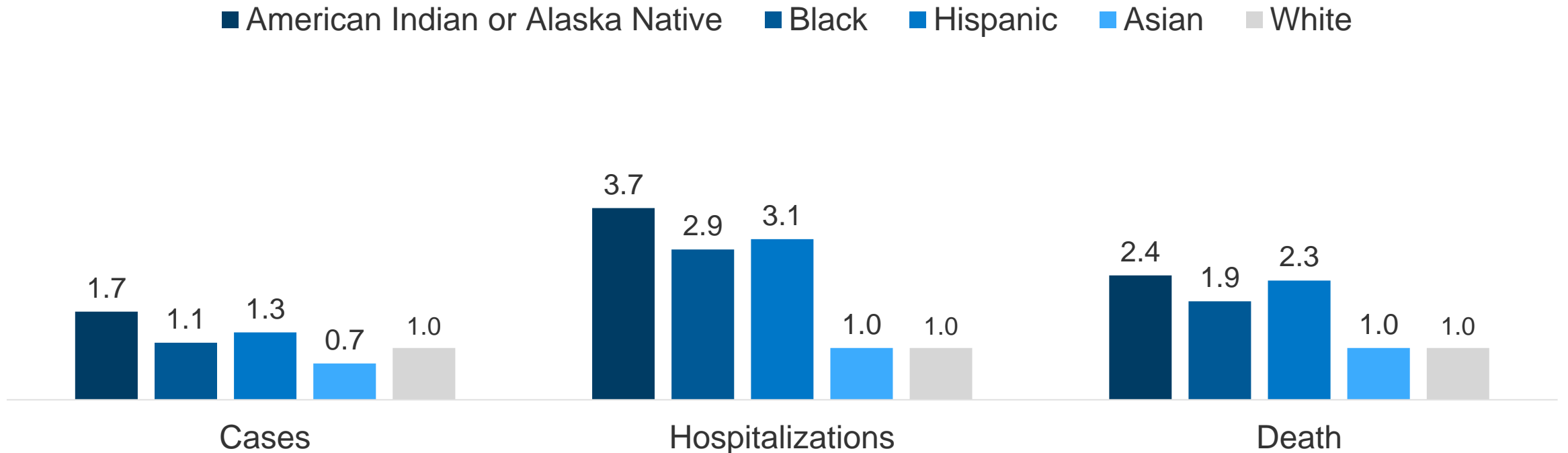
No conflicts of interest to disclose.



Figure 3

People of color have had higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19.

Risk of infection, hospitalization, and death compared to White people in the U.S., adjusted for age:



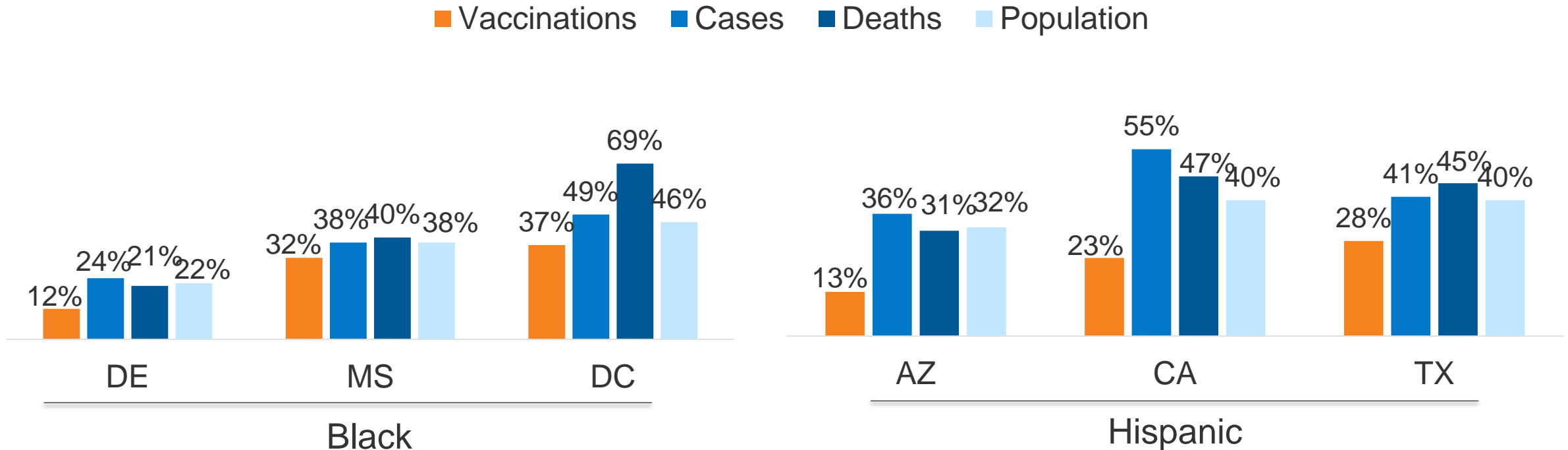
NOTE: Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic; other groups are non-Hispanic.

SOURCE: CDC, Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death by Race/Ethnicity, as of 3/12/2021, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html, accessed 4/6/2021.

Figure 4

Black and Hispanic people have received smaller shares of vaccinations across states as of April 5, 2021.

Black and Hispanic People as a Share of COVID-19 Vaccinations, Cases, Deaths and Total Population:

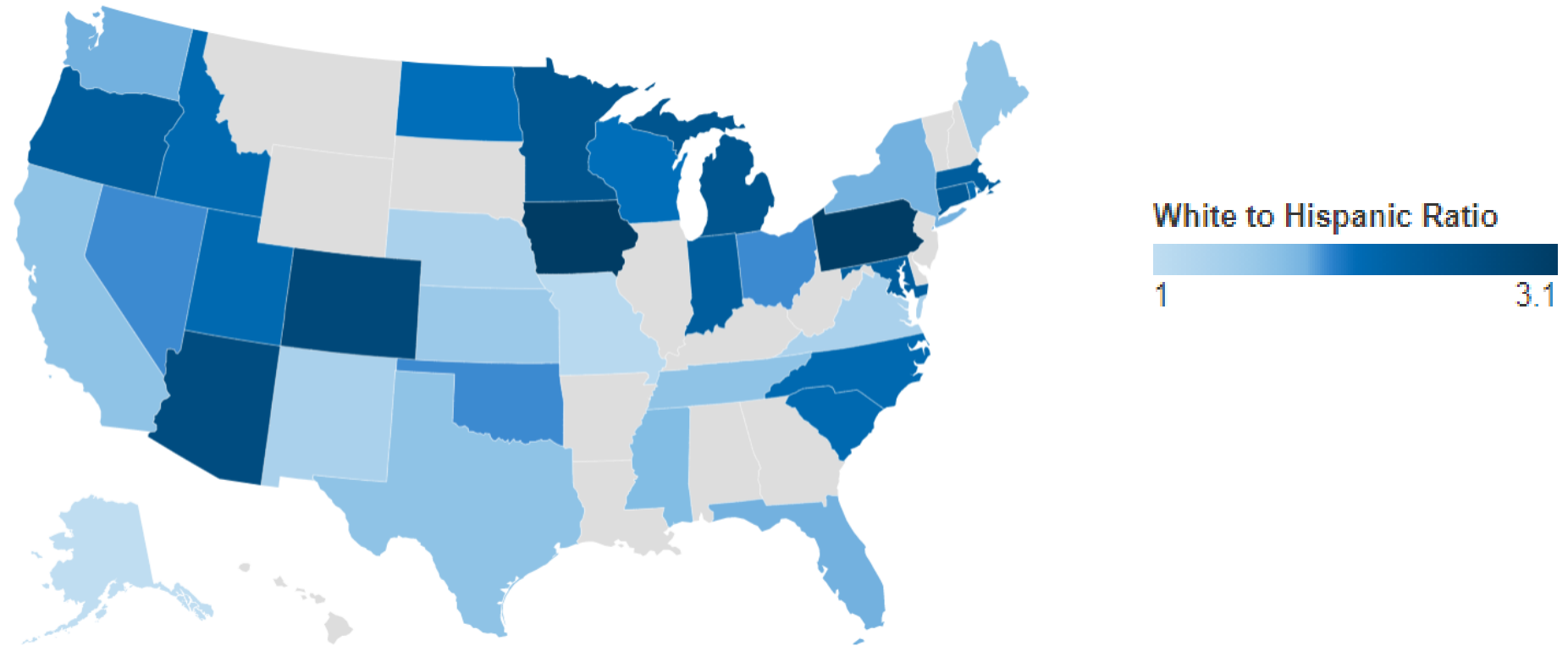


SOURCE: *Vaccinations*: KFF analysis of publicly available data from state websites. Data retrieved on April 5, 2021. *Cases* KFF analysis of The COVID Tracking Project, COVID Racial Data Tracker. CTP data is current as of March 7, 2021. *Deaths* KFF analysis of Provisional Death Data from National Center for Health Statistics released on March 31, 2021. Total state population distribution by race/ethnicity based on KFF analysis of 2019 American Community Survey.

Figure 5

White people were 1.8 times as likely to be vaccinated as Hispanic people (28% vs. 16%) as of April 5, 2021.

Ratio of White Vaccination Rate compared to the Hispanic Vaccination Rate:

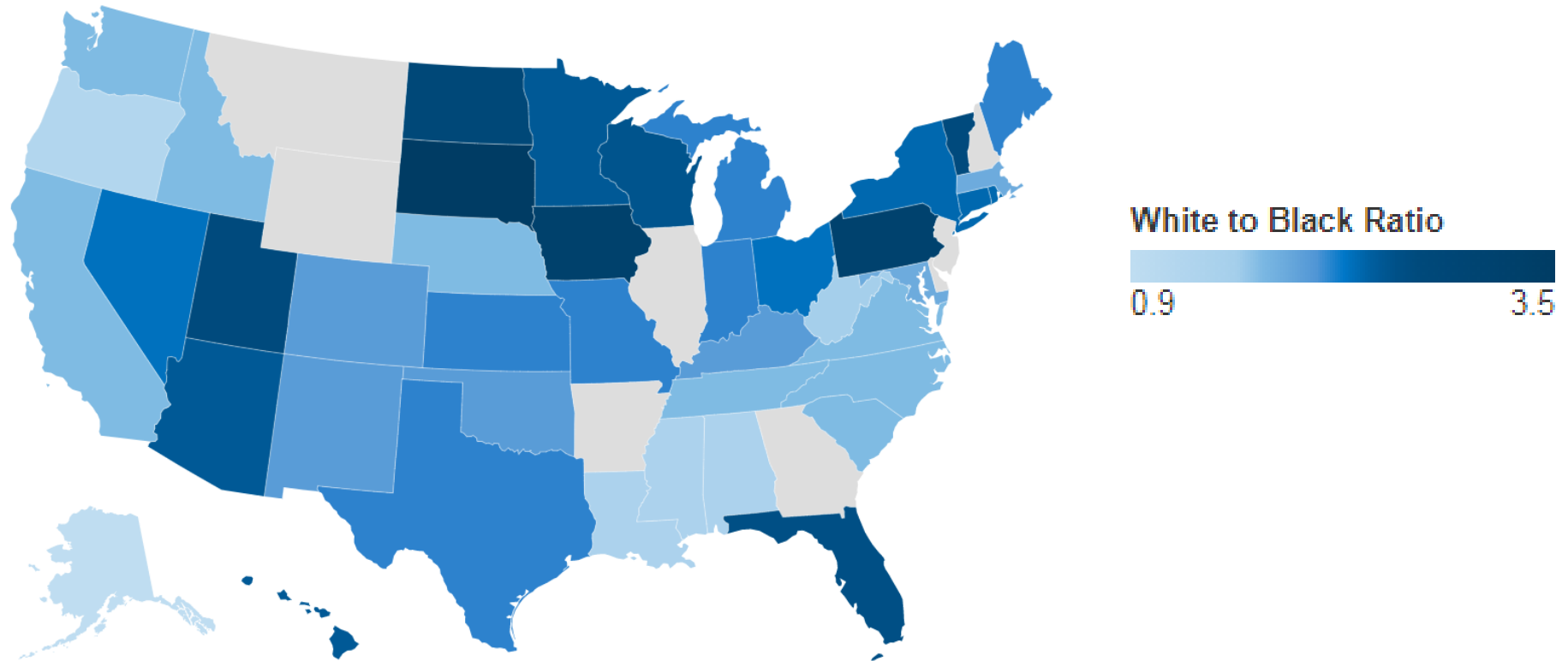


Notes: Percent vaccinated includes people who have received at least one vaccine dose. Data may not be comparable across states due to differences in reporting periods and racial/ethnic classifications. Total population data used to calculate rates is matched to each states' racial classification approach. SOURCE: KFF analysis of publicly available data from state websites. Data retrieved on April 5, 2021.

Figure 6

White people were 1.6 times as likely to be vaccinated as Black people (28% vs. 17%) as of April 5, 2021.

Ratio of White Vaccination Rate compared to the Black Vaccination Rate:

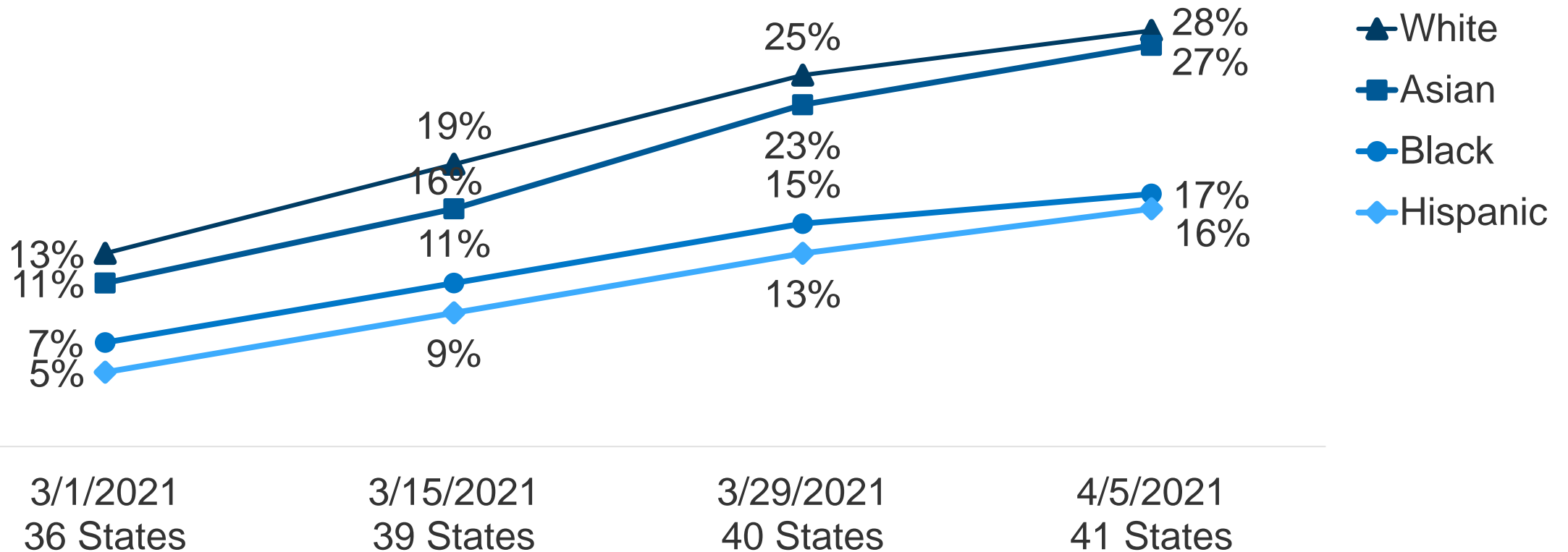


Notes: Percent vaccinated includes people who have received at least one vaccine dose. Data may not be comparable across states due to differences in reporting periods and racial/ethnic classifications. Total population data used to calculate rates is matched to each states' racial classification approach.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of publicly available data from state websites. Data retrieved on April 5, 2021.

Figure 7

Percent of Total Population that Has Received a COVID-19 Vaccine by Race/Ethnicity, March 1 to April 5, 2021

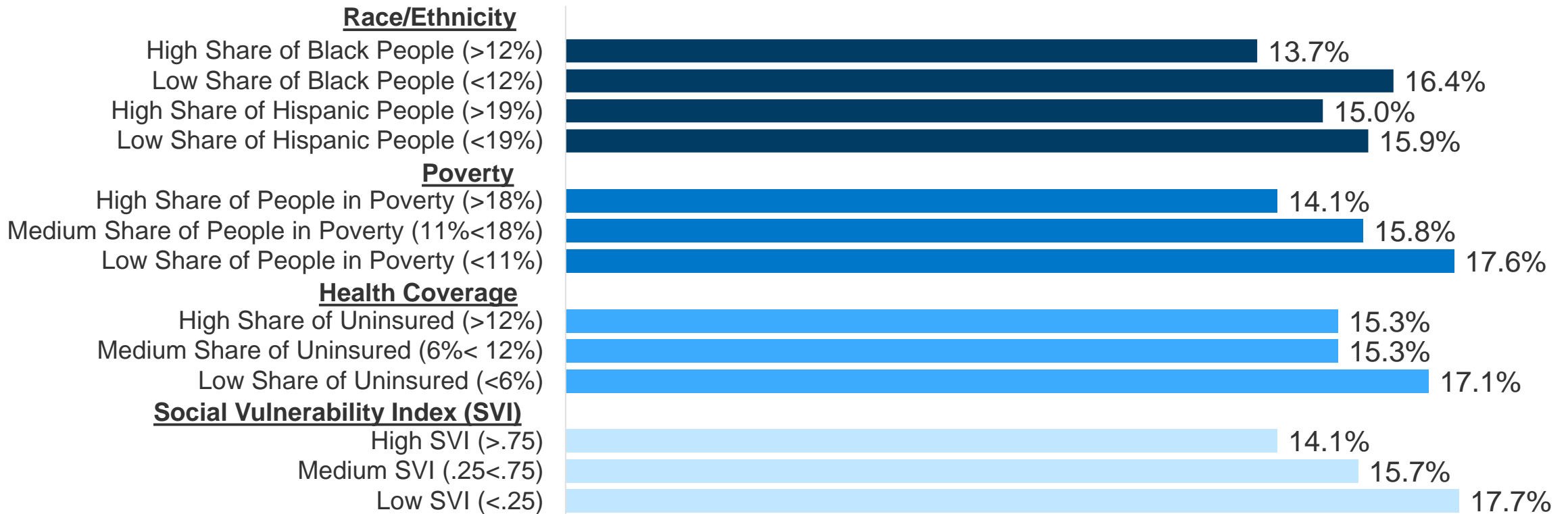


SOURCE: Vaccination data based on KFF analysis of publicly available data on state websites; total population data used to calculate rates based on KFF analysis of 2019 American Community Survey data.

Figure 8

Vaccination rates are lower in counties with higher shares of people of color, poverty, uninsured rates, and a high SVI.

Average Fully Vaccinated Rates Across Counties by Key Characteristics, as of March 28, 2021



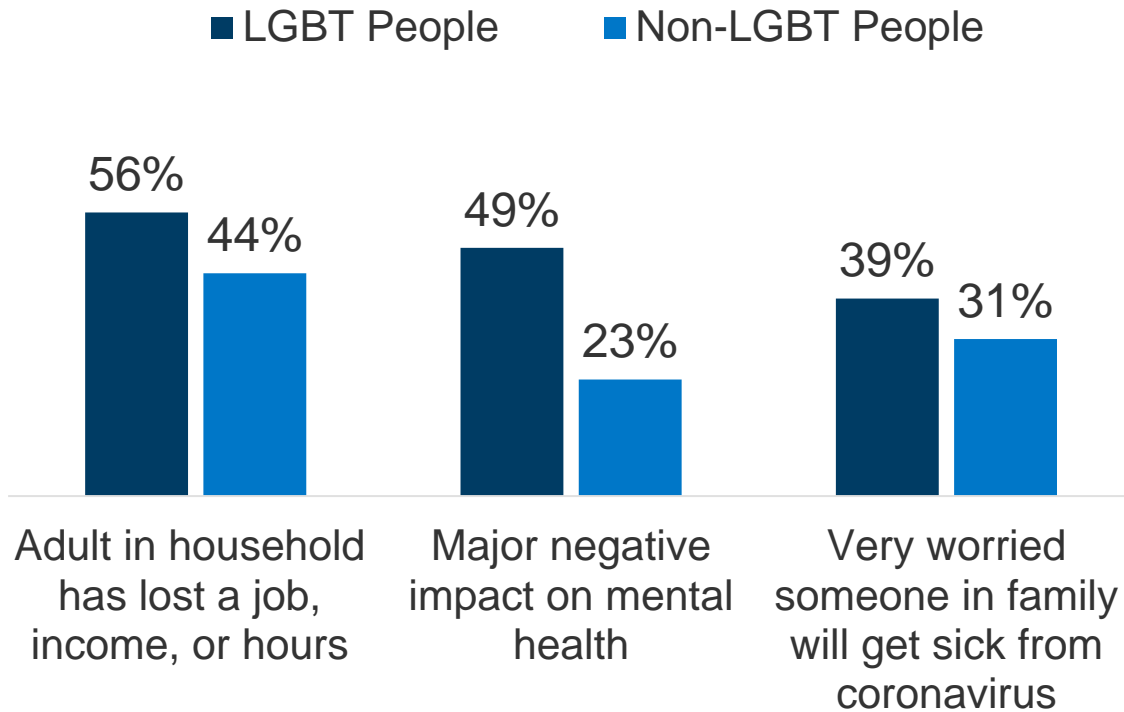
SOURCE: KFF Analysis of CDC's COVID-19 Integrated County data and 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates by county.



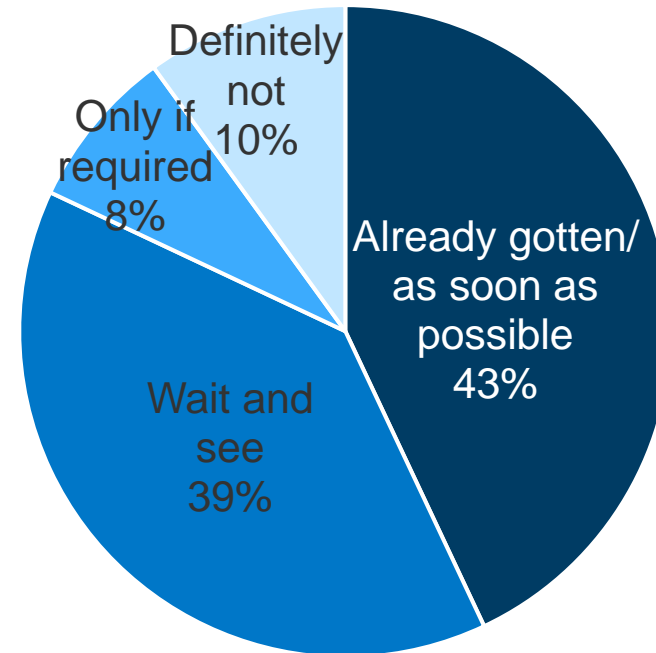
Figure 9

LGBT people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic; most plan to get or are open to getting vaccinated.

Reported impacts of COVID-19 pandemic:



COVID-19 vaccine plans among LGBT people:

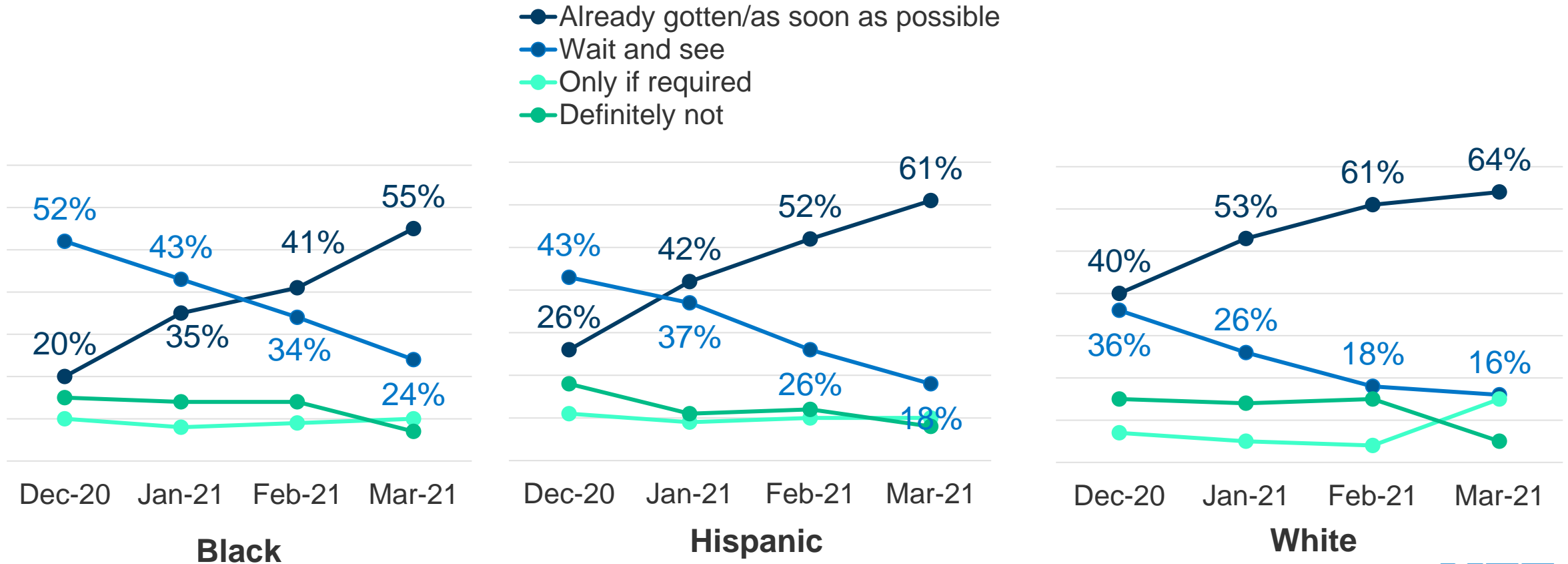


SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor. See topline for full question wording. Excludes don't know/refused responses.

Figure 10

Over half of people report they have gotten a COVID-19 vaccine dose or that they will get one as soon as possible.

Percent who say they will get a COVID-19 vaccine:



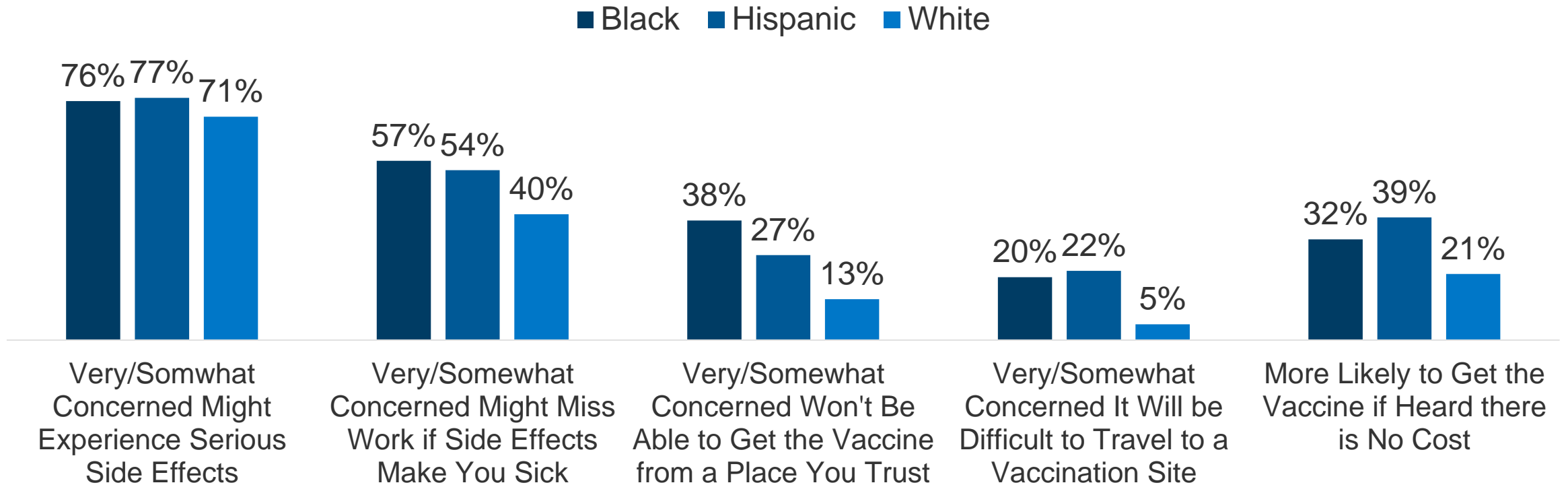
SOURCE KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor. See topline for full question wording.

Underlying inequities create increased barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

- More limited resources to navigate online sign-up processes
- Limited transportation options
- Less flexibility in work and caregiving schedules
- High uninsured rates contribute to more cost concerns and less connection to the health care system
- Lack of information and linguistic barriers
- Confusion about eligibility or fears of potential impacts on immigration status
- Challenges providing proof of identity or residence

Figure 12

Concerns among Black and Hispanic adults about getting the COVID-19 vaccine reflect these underlying inequities.



NOTE: Based on those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 and do not want to get the vaccine as soon as possible. See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (March 15-22, 2021)



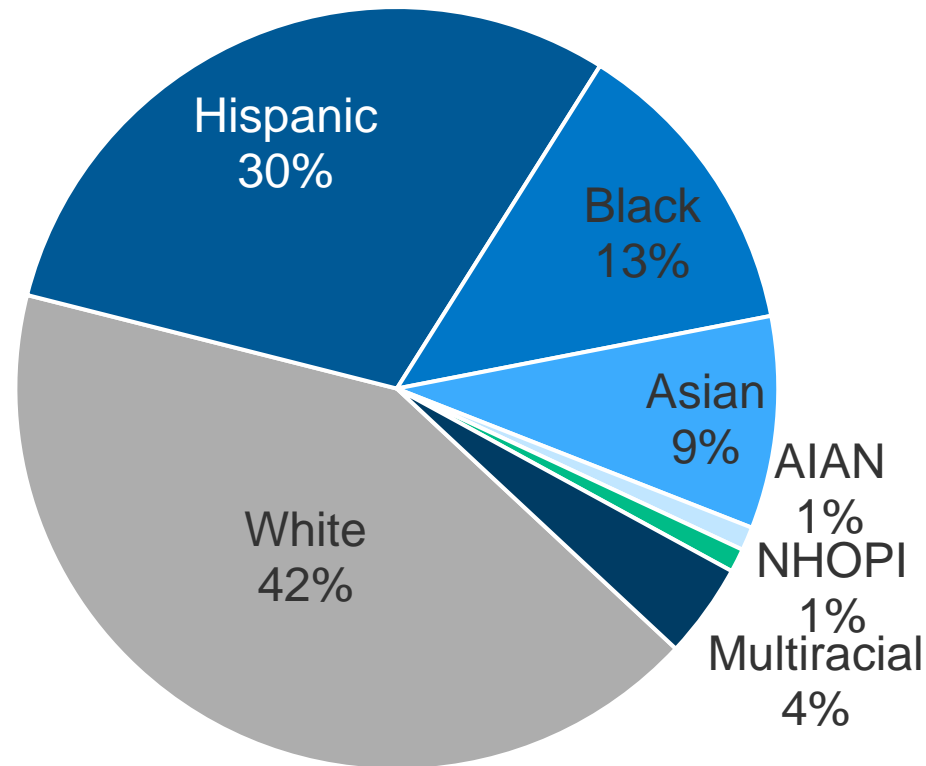
A range of actions are being implemented to address disparities in COVID-19 vaccinations.

- Making more doses available and locating more clinics in harder hit and underserved communities
- Prioritizing vaccine appointments or eligibility for certain groups or areas
- Providing alternative sign-up options for people without internet access (e.g., phone, walk-up)
- Collaborating with and supporting community-based organizations and health centers
- Minimizing information and documentation requirements
- Launching focused outreach and communications campaigns
- Collecting, reporting, and utilizing data to measure against and work toward equity goals

Figure 14

Most people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine through a community health center are people of color.

Race/Ethnicity of Health Center Patients Receiving 1st Vaccine Dose, as of March 26, 2021



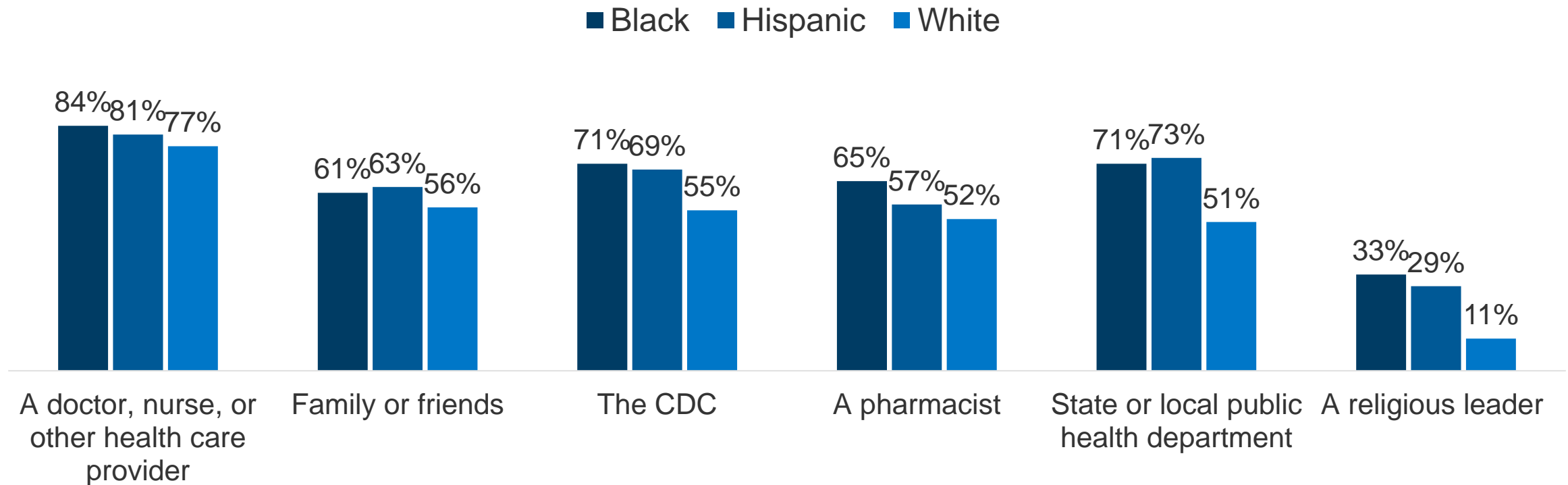
NOTE: Based on known race/ethnicity. AIAN is American Indian or Alaska Native and NHOPI is Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. White and Black racial categories include non-Hispanic individuals; Asian, AIAN, and more than 1 race category include Hispanic and Non-Hispanic individuals.

SOURCE: KFF Analysis of Health Center COVID-19 Survey, HRSA.

Figure 15

Health care providers are a top trusted source for COVID-19 vaccine information across groups.

Percent who say that, when deciding whether to get a COVID-19 vaccine, they are very or somewhat likely to turn to each of the following for information:



Among those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19. See topline for full question wording
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Jan 11-18, 2021).

Figure 16

THE CONVERSATION: #BetweenUsAboutUs campaign dispels misinformation and provides accessible facts about vaccines.



Prioritizing equity in COVID-19 vaccinations will be key as vaccine rollout continues.

- Comprehensive high-quality data is central to efforts to advance equity
- Equity is important for mitigating the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on people of color and other underserved groups and preventing against widening disparities in health.
- Reaching high vaccination rates across individuals and communities is necessary to achieve broad population immunity.
- Deliberate, intentional actions are key for addressing inequities built into underlying systems and structures.
- Efforts can support and build upon existing community resources and strengths.



Department of Population Health

Section for Health Equity

Center for the Study of Asian American Health

Achieving Health Equity for Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities: **If not now, when?**

April 9th, 2021

Nadia Islam, PhD

Associate Professor

Disclaimer

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Disclosures

- Dr. Islam's effort is supported by grants from the National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and NY State Department of Health

Figure 20



OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Asians: Too Smart for Their Own Good?

By CAROLYN CHEN

Published: December 19, 2012

Evanston, Ill.

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To get into elite colleges, some advised to 'appear less Asian'

As lawsuits allege racial quotas at elite colleges, high-achieving applicants call on consultants to help win admission — and receive guidance on minimizing their ethnicity



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF



Figure 21

NEWSFEED • LANGUAGE

The Scripps National Spelling Bee Has Co-Champions, Again



BY KATY STEINMETZ MAY 28, 2015 11:02 PM EDT

In a dramatic, flawless final round, two eighth-graders proved to be joint

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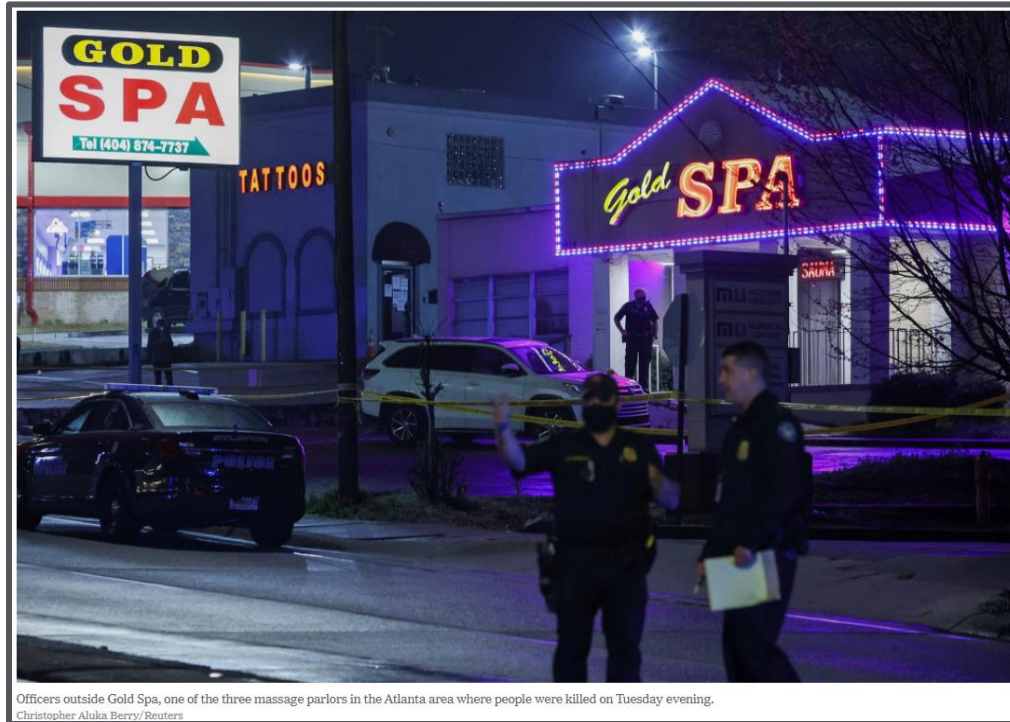
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← ↻ 6 ★ 2

8 People Killed in Atlanta-Area Massage Parlor Shootings

Six of the victims were Asian, the authorities said, raising fears that there may have been a racial motivation to the crimes.

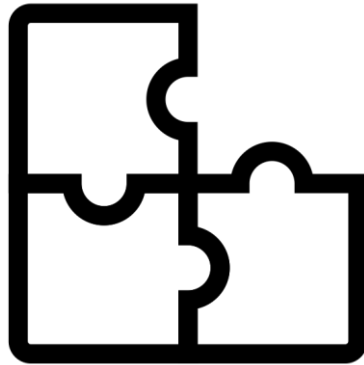


Officers outside Gold Spa, one of the three massage parlors in the Atlanta area where people were killed on Tuesday evening.
Christopher Aluka Berry/Reuters

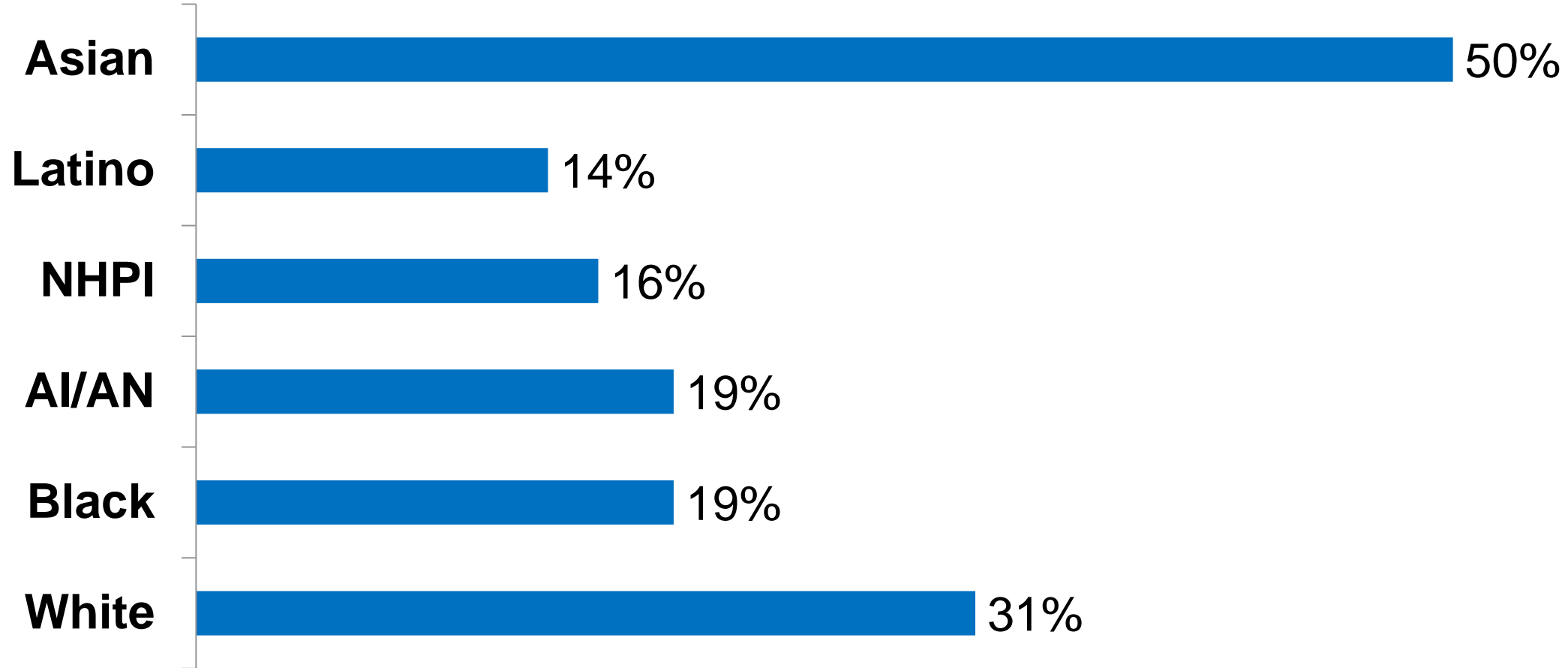
By **Richard Fausset** and **Neil Vigdor**

Published March 16, 2021 Updated March 17, 2021, 11:07 a.m. ET

Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders Remain Invisible Due to Data Aggregation

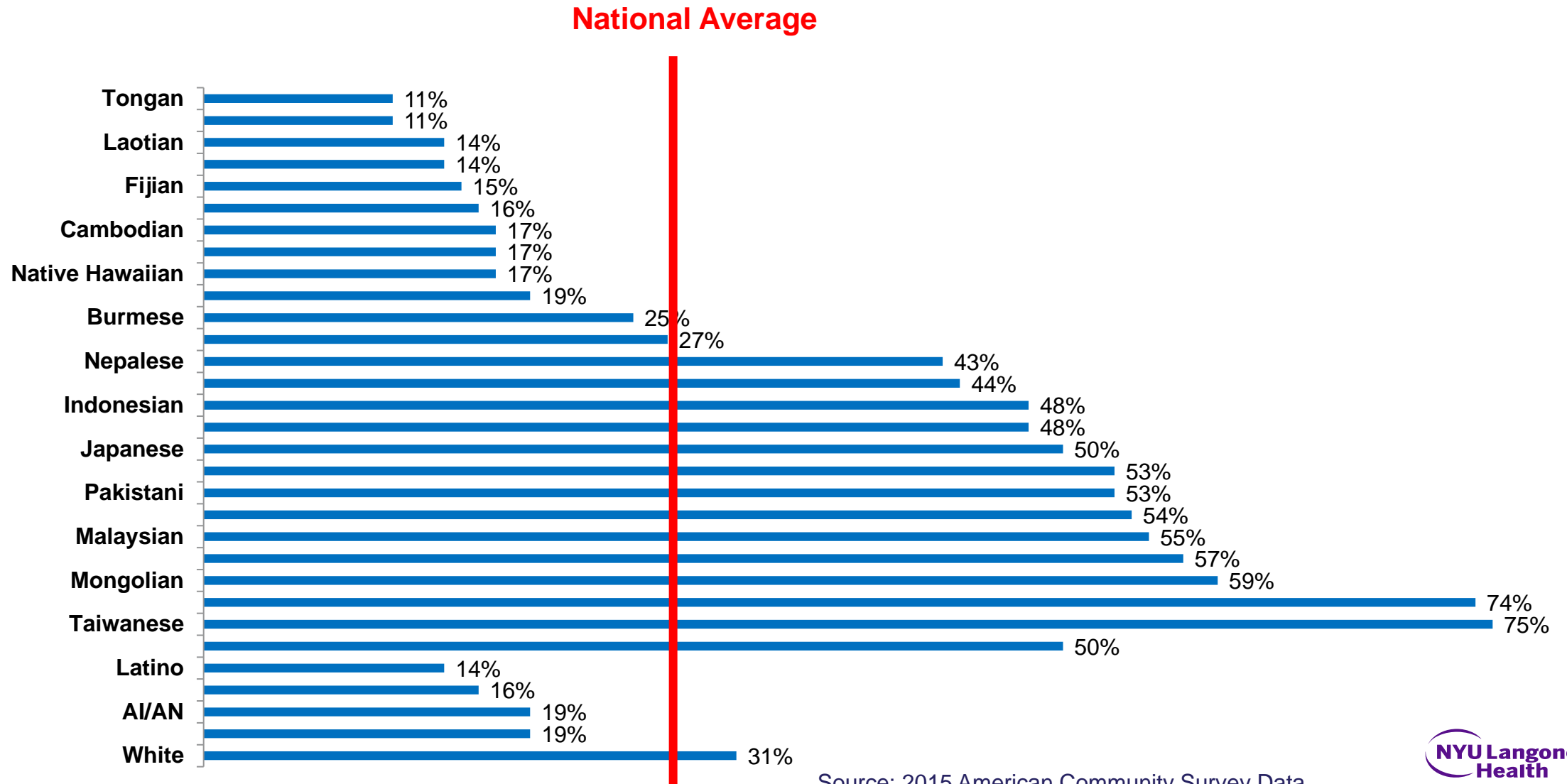


Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Aggregated Data

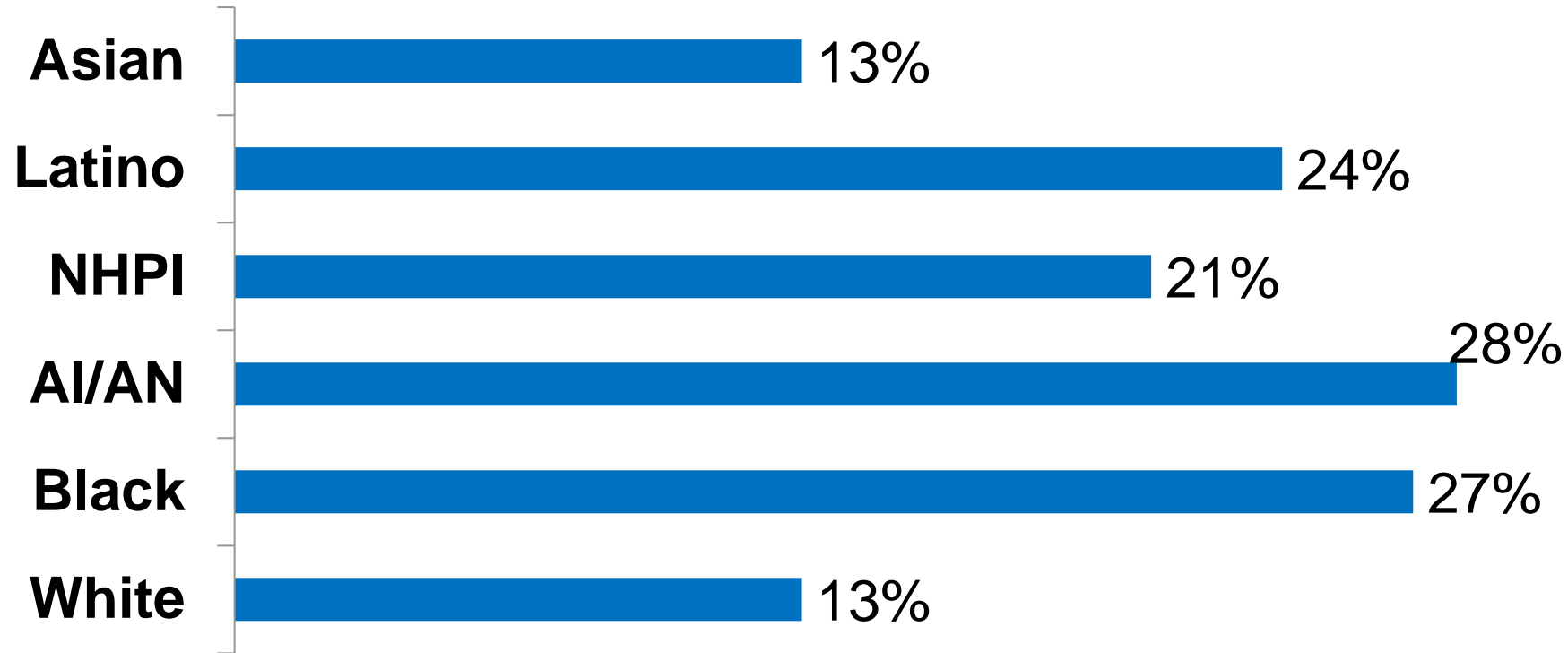


Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Disaggregated Data

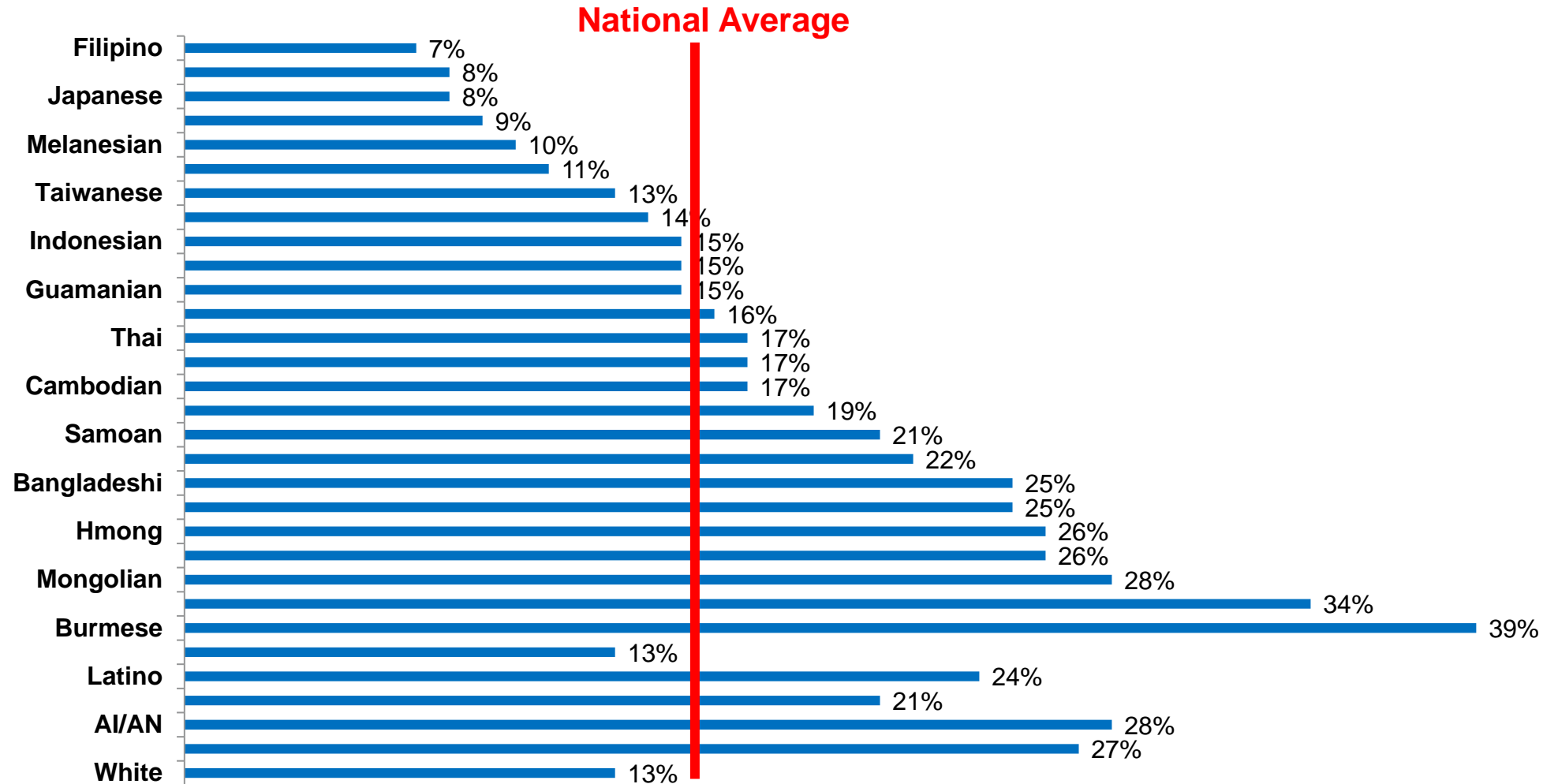


Below Poverty: Aggregated Data



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

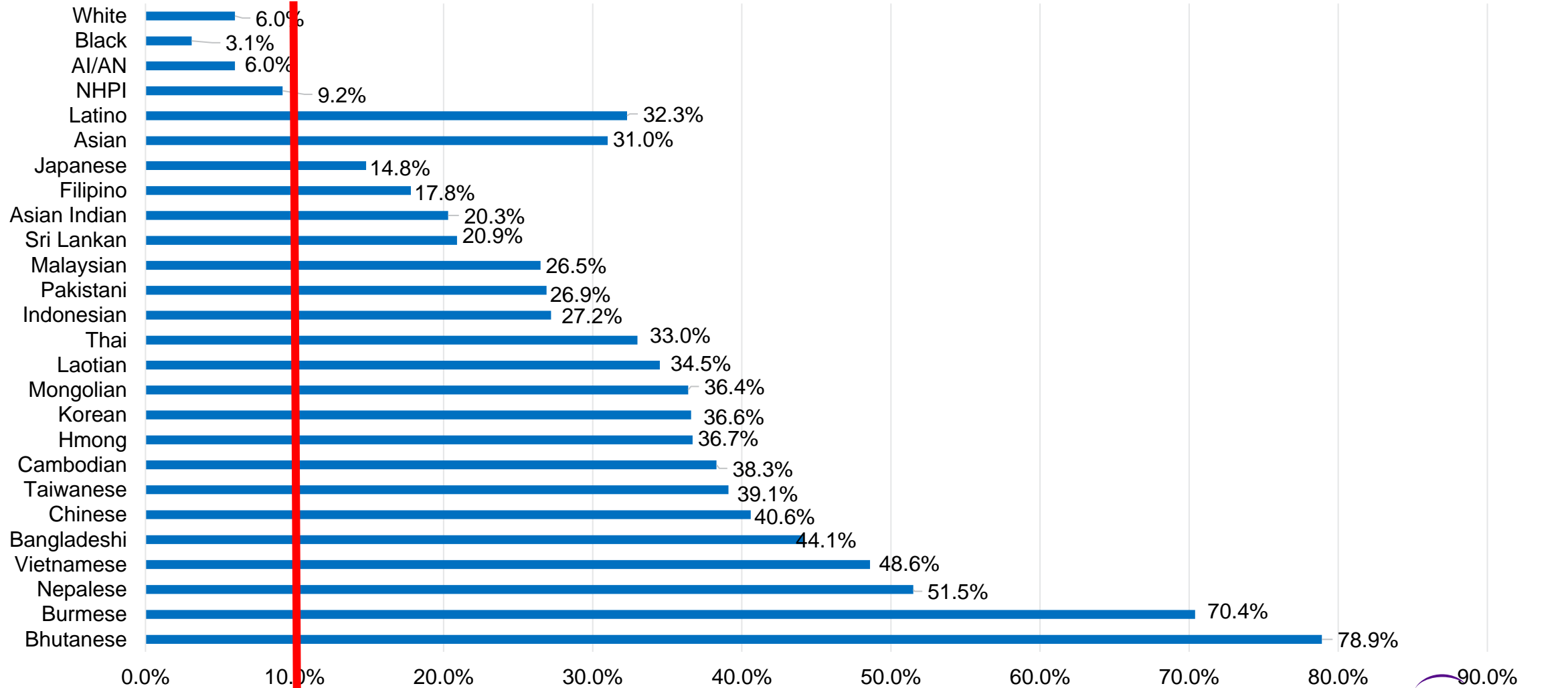
Below Poverty: Disaggregated Data



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

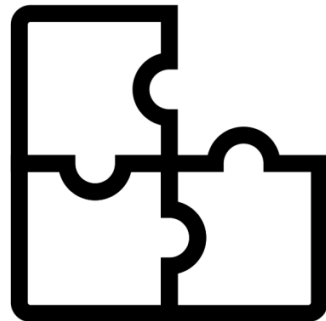
Limited English Proficiency Among Asian Americans

National Average



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data


Invisibility is **Killing our Communities**



National COVID-19 Efforts Leave out Asian Americans

NIH @NIH · Sep 30

#NIH's #RADx-UP is investing \$234M to improve testing in groups disproportionately affected by #COVID19 (African Americans, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Latinos, Native Hawaiians, older adults, pregnant women & those who are homeless or incarcerated).



NIH to assess and expand COVID-19 testing for underserved communiti...
RADx-UP program will support projects designed to rapidly implement testing strategies.
nih.gov

5 102 100

NASEM Health @NASEM_Health · 18h

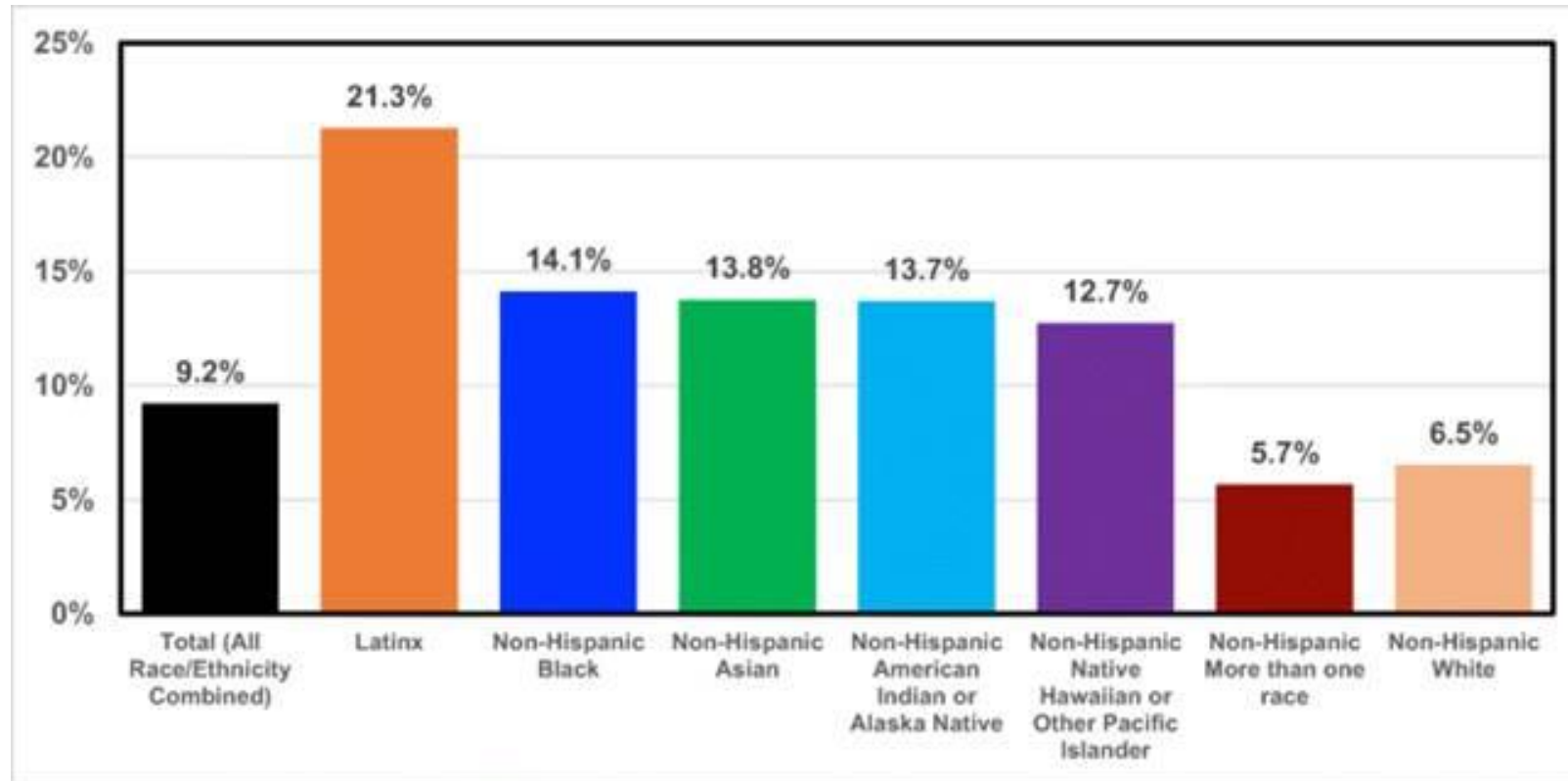
Our new report includes a framework for allocation of #COVID19 #vaccine that promotes #healthequity in the allocation process. Read the report highlights: bit.ly/3nueUP8



Read about health equity in COVID-19 vaccine allocation
nap.edu

- Partner with diverse stakeholders (e.g., health care providers, Historically Black Colleges and Universities research centers, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities research centers, social marketing firms and other groups with specific expertise reaching underserved communities) and prioritize promoting the vaccine to Black, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, Hawaiian Native and Pacific Islander, and other communities in which vaccine hesitancy and skepticism have been documented.

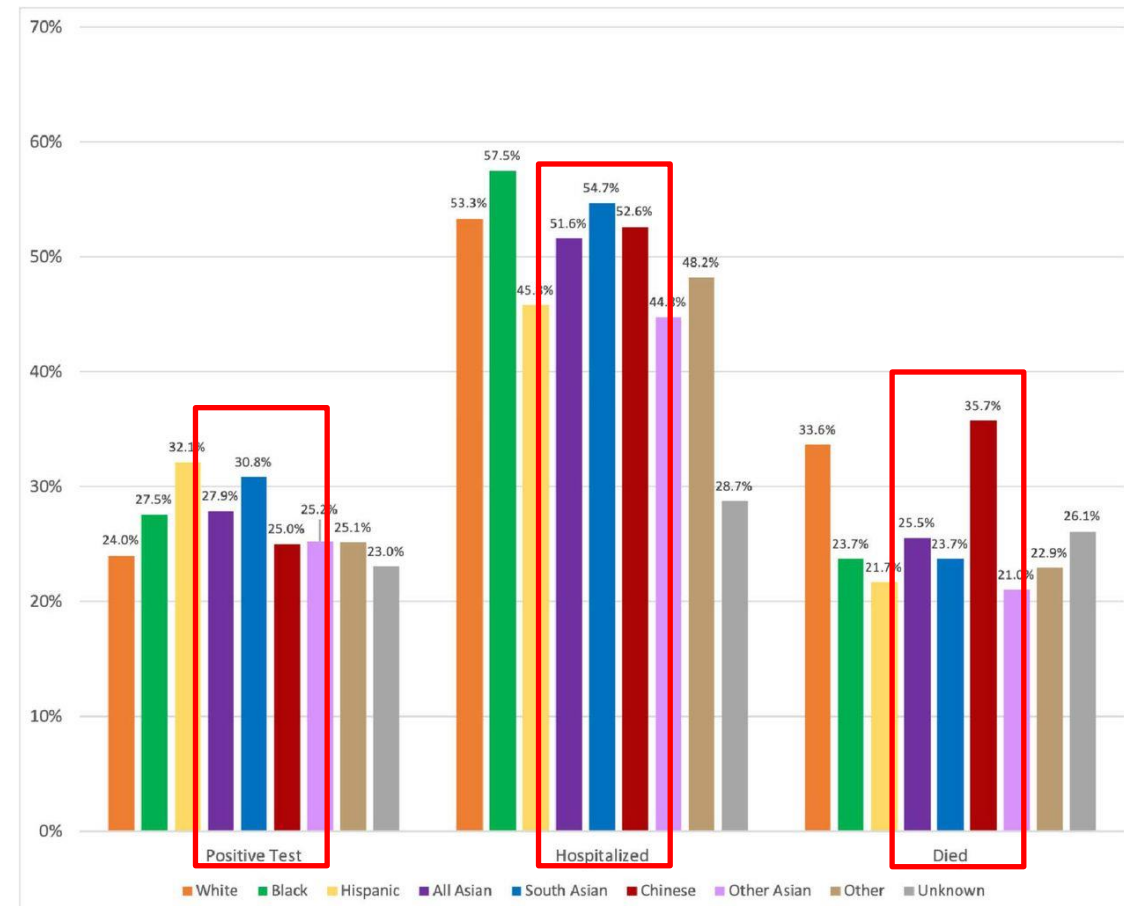
Attributable mortality of COVID-19 in the US by race/ethnicity groups



Source: Chu, J.N., Tsoh, J.Y., Ong, E. *et al.* The Hidden Colors of Coronavirus: the Burden of Attributable COVID-19 Deaths. *J GEN INTERN MED* (2021).

Disaggregating Asian Race Reveals COVID-19 Disparities among Asian Americans at NYC's Public Hospital System

- Patients tested for SARS-CoV-2 at NYC Health and Hospitals (H+H)
 - March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020, n=85,328
- Applied surname matching
 - Sample size of Asian Americans nearly doubled from 5,601 to 9,893
- Results
 - South Asians: high rates of positivity and hospitalization
 - Chinese: highest mortality

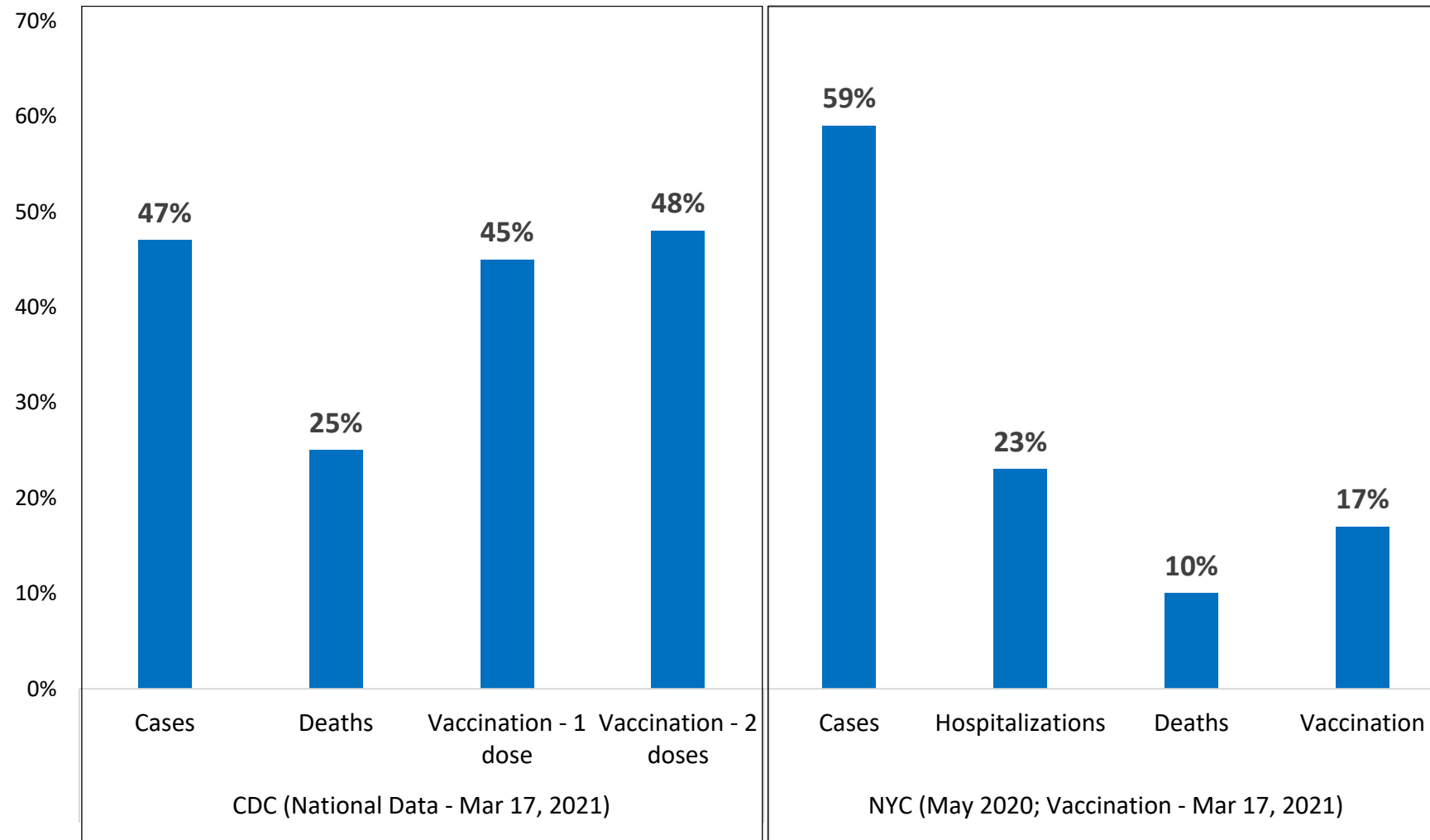


Vaccine Uptake among Asian Americans

Percentage of U.S. residents who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, by race/ethnicity, across all states with available data

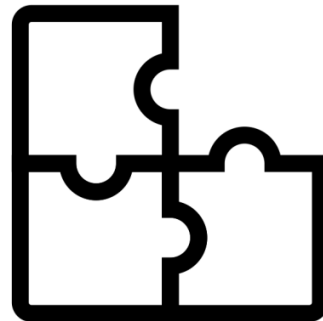


COVID-19 Data on Race/Ethnicity is Missing at National and Local Levels



Sources: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>; <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-deaths-race-ethnicity-05142020-1.pdf>

One size does **not** fit all



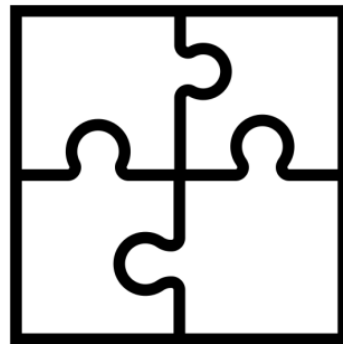
COVID-19 Experience by Asian American Subgroup

What we know now based on best available published literature, news media, and social media :

	Chinese	Indian/South Asian	Korean	Vietnamese	Filipino
Outcomes	Highest mortality (NYC H+H)	Highest case/hospitalization rate (NYC H+H)	Disproportionate death rate in California	Disproportionate case rate in Santa Clara County, CA	Disproportionate deaths in California and nationally among nurses
Exposure	Food service essential workers; multigenerational housing	Healthcare essential workers; taxi drivers; multigenerational housing	Multigenerational housing	Nail/hair salons; multigenerational housing	Nurses; healthcare workers; multigenerational housing
Comorbidity	Diabetes; smoking among men	Diabetes; heart disease	Diabetes; smoking	Diabetes; smoking; hypertension	Diabetes, obesity, smoking, asthma, hypertension
Barriers to Care	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge
Livelihood	Businesses disproportionately affected; xenophobia/racism	Increased domestic violence; food insecurity (Asian Indians),	Xenophobia/racism	Xenophobia/racism; food insecurity	Xenophobia/racism; food insecurity

Sources: Stop AAPI Hate; <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/01/918834644/overlooked-asian-american-jobless-rate-surges-but-few-take-notice>; Rummo et al., Under review.; Wyatt et al., NYU CSAAH Health Atlas 2020; Khan R, Shih H. Asian American Federation. Impact of COVID-19 on Asian American Employment in New York City. Asian Americans Face Record Job Losses. 2020.; Chin et al., Health Affairs Blog, In press.

**Engaging Trusted Messengers and Gatekeepers is Key:
Community Health Workers (CHWs) & Community
Based Organizations (CBOs)**





The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Perspective

Community Health Workers and Covid-19 — Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Times of Crisis and Beyond

Patricia J. Peretz, M.P.H., Nadia Islam, Ph.D., and Luz Adriana Matiz, M.D.

As the United States navigates the uncertainties of Covid-19 and begins a long-overdue process of confronting systemic racism, the communities most affected by poverty, racism, and

language barriers and those with the largest populations of immigrants continue to have the worst health outcomes. In the weeks immediately after the pandemic spread to the United States, disadvantaged communities were faced with reduced access to care, a widening digital divide, and inadequate supplies, such as food and diapers. Investing in com-

cess to health care systems, and provide psychosocial support.¹

CHWs are trusted members of local communities who share lived experiences with their neighbors and peers, and they are experts in navigating complex systems of care, serving as a link between clinical and community-based services and the people who need them most.² When

eases and to improve their ability to manage their own conditions.¹ They are also well positioned to address the misinformation, fear, and stigma surrounding Covid-19 by providing timely, accurate information about Covid-19 transmission, precautions that people can take to protect themselves and their families, and tools for obtaining access to care and support.

In New York City, where Covid-19 struck early and hard, it didn't take long for the relationship between infection risk and ZIP Code to be uncovered. The city's data revealed that 8 of the 10 ZIP



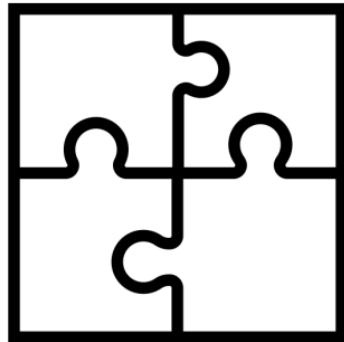
Community health workers and field staff assisting with food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City's South Asian community. (Courtesy of Nadia Islam)

South Asian CHWs in NYC bundle outreach efforts related to social needs to reach community members for vaccine uptake with in-language town virtual town halls, mitigating language access, digital divide, and misinformation issues.

A screenshot of the website for the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) in New York City. The header features the CPC logo and the tagline 'ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITY'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'About Us', 'Programs', 'Events', 'News', 'Contact', and 'Support Us'. The main content area displays a news article titled 'CPC Hong Ning Housing Residents Receive Vaccinations' dated February 27. The article includes a photograph of a healthcare worker in a white coat and face shield administering a vaccine to an elderly person seated in a chair, with another person assisting. The text below the photo describes the partnership with Mannings/Confucius Pharmacies and the MMS Group to provide in-home vaccinations for seniors. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Sign Up' section and a list of other community programs.

Chinese American Planning Council in NYC links community pharmacies with their home care program to vaccinate homebound seniors vaccinated. They have also implemented a “chaperones” program to accompany seniors to their vaccine appointment due to the rise in anti-Asian violence.

Key Recommendations





All states must collect, analyze, and report disaggregated data –separately for AAs and NH&PIs, and for AA subgroups



Prioritize language access for AA and NH&PI communities across COVID-19 efforts



Provide direct, financial support to community-based organizations and community health workers to facilitate safe access to COVID-19 related services for AA and NH&PI communities

Acknowledgements



- Faculty, staff, and partners of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH)
- Stella Yi, PhD, Director, Applied Research & Evaluation Unit, NYU CSAAH
- Lan Doan, PhD, NYU CSAAH
- Shinu Mamen, MPH, NYU CSAAH
- AA NHPI COVID-19 Research & Policy Team
- Jo-Ann Yoo, Asian American Federation
- Wayne Ho, Chinese American Planning Council

Funding Sources:

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Center for Excellence
U54-MD000538-15-6822

Contact:

nadia.islam@nyulangone.org

 @nadiaislamnyc
@NYU_CSAAH



Equitable Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities



Disclaimers

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Disclosures

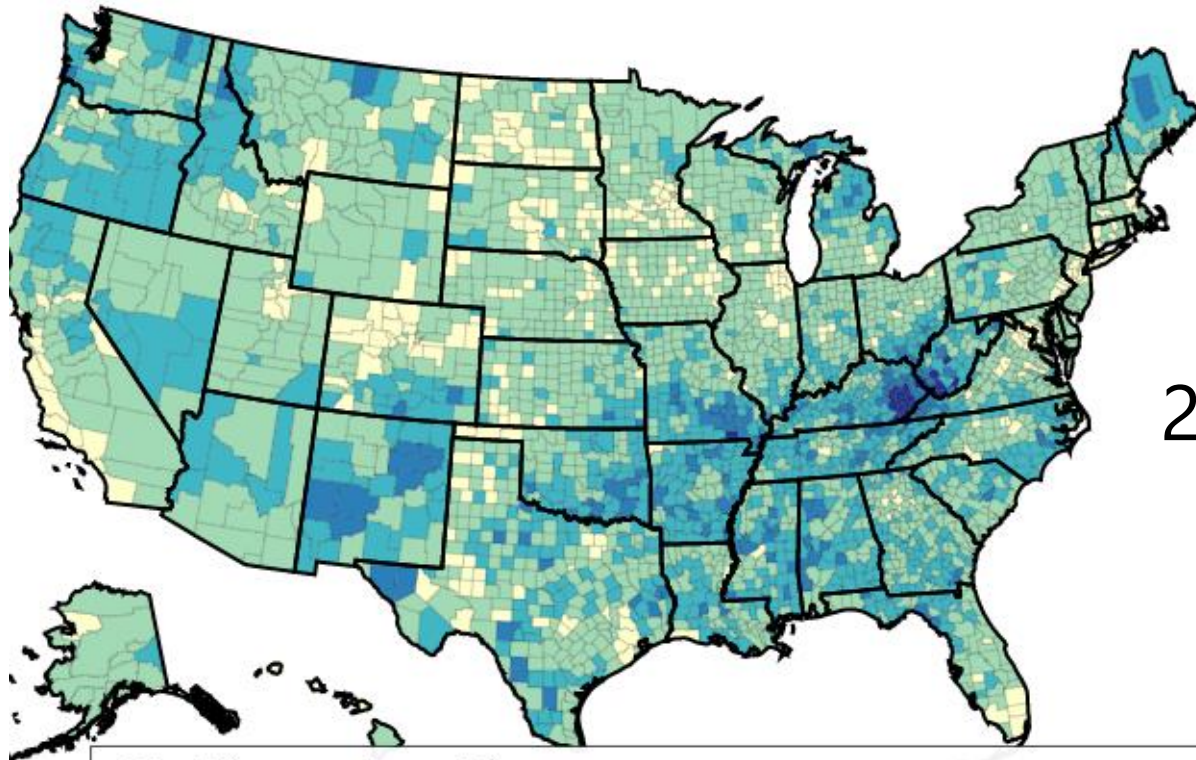
I am a salaried faculty member of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The majority of my work is funded by the Administration in Community Living under HHS (HHS-2017-ACL-AOD-DDUC-0195). I am also funded as the Principal Investigator for a Project of National Significance (90DNHC0001). Lastly, I am a member of the PCORI Board of Governors. I do not foresee a conflict of interest with these roles and what I share today.

Kara Ayers, PhD

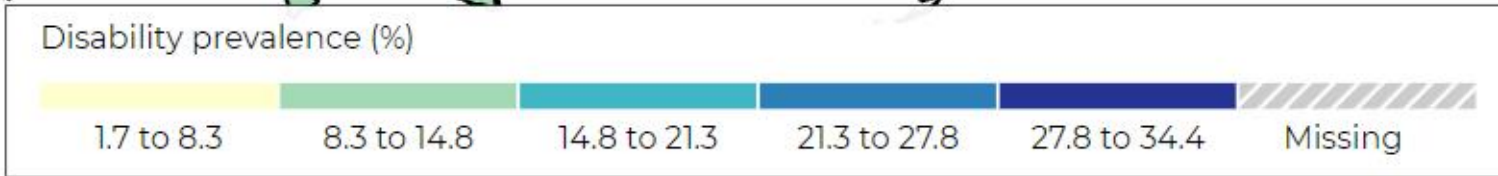
- Professor/Research
- Associate Director of University of Cincinnati UCEDD
- Director of the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities



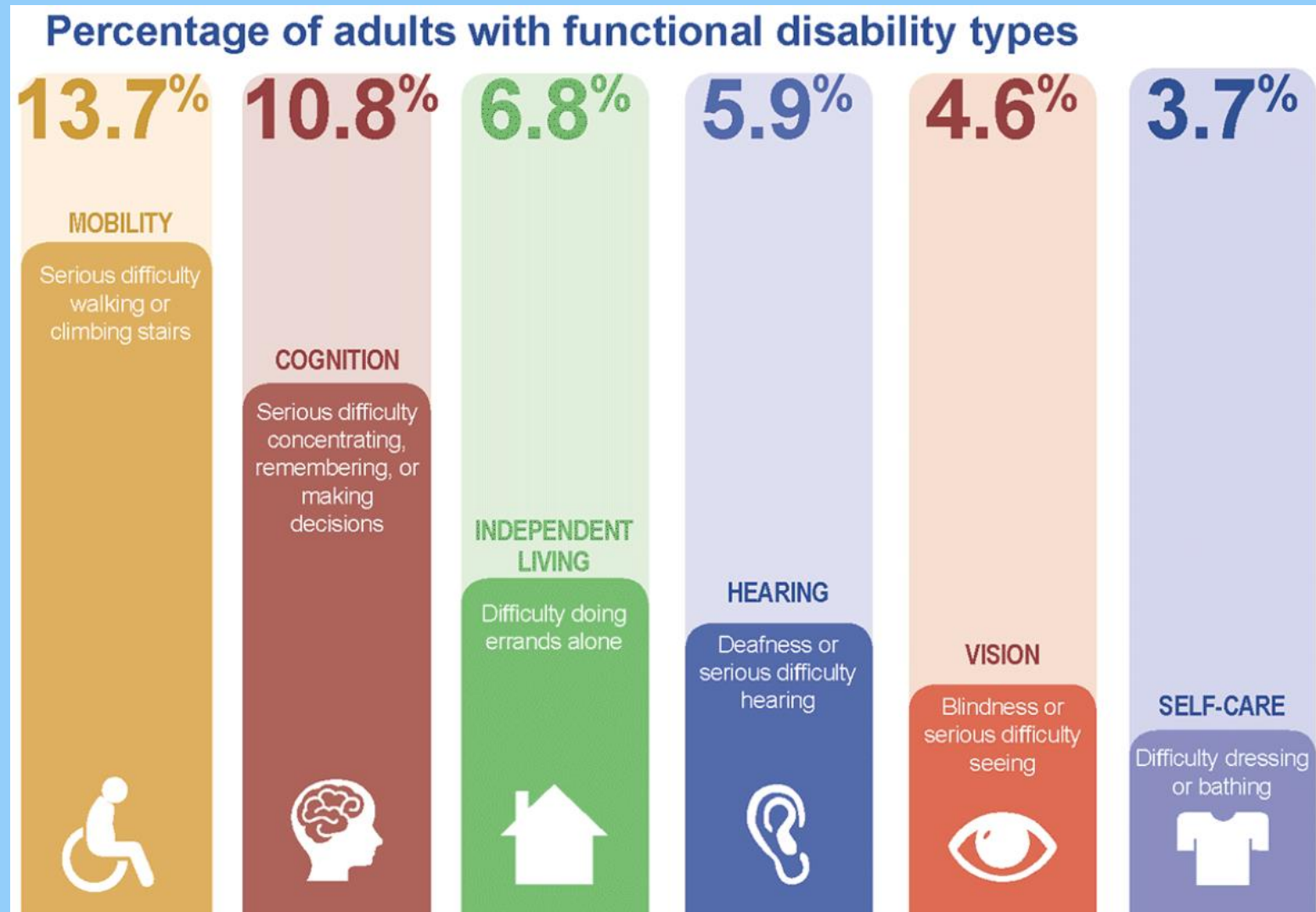
United States Disability Prevalence



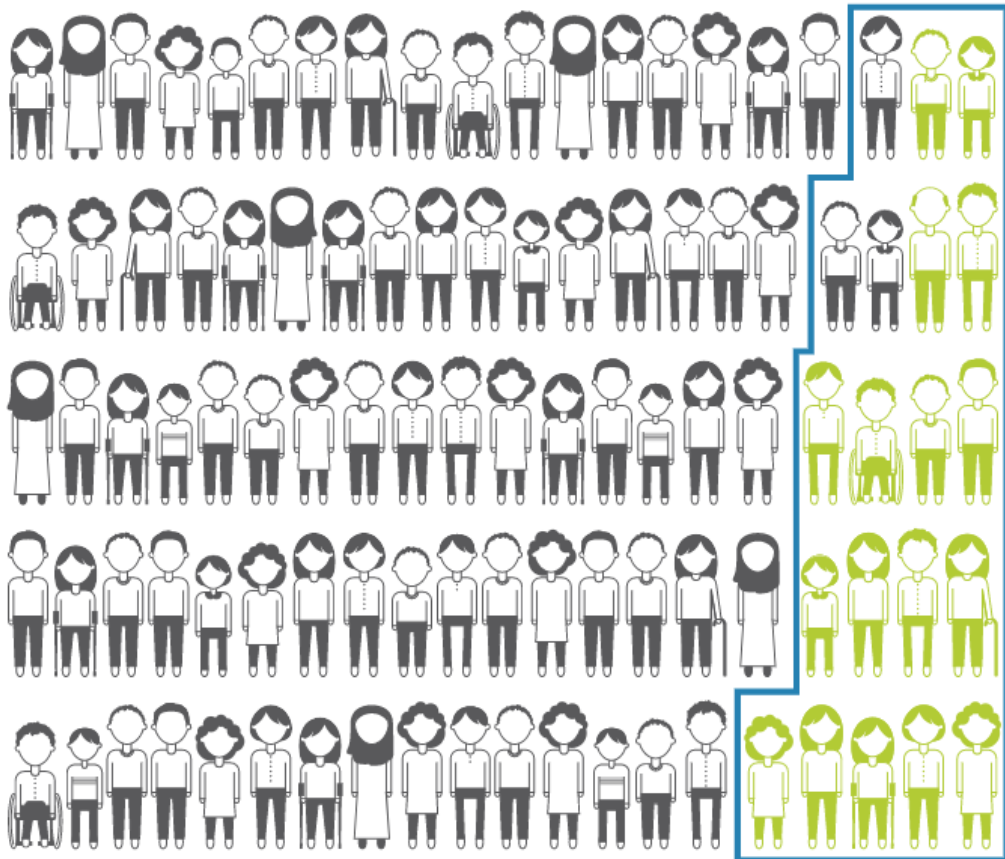
26% of adults in the United States have some type of disability



Percentage of adults with functional disability types



7.38 million people in the United States had Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in 2017



20%

**1.48 MILLION PEOPLE WITH IDD
KNOWN TO OR SERVED
BY STATE
IDD AGENCIES**



Illustration by Barbara Kelley

People with IDD

**3.5 times
more likely**
**TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH
COVID-19**

15% higher
MORTALITY RATES

We have a
disability data
problem.



We have an
equity problem.



COVID-19 Vaccine Disability Prioritization Dashboard

Updated every Wednesday



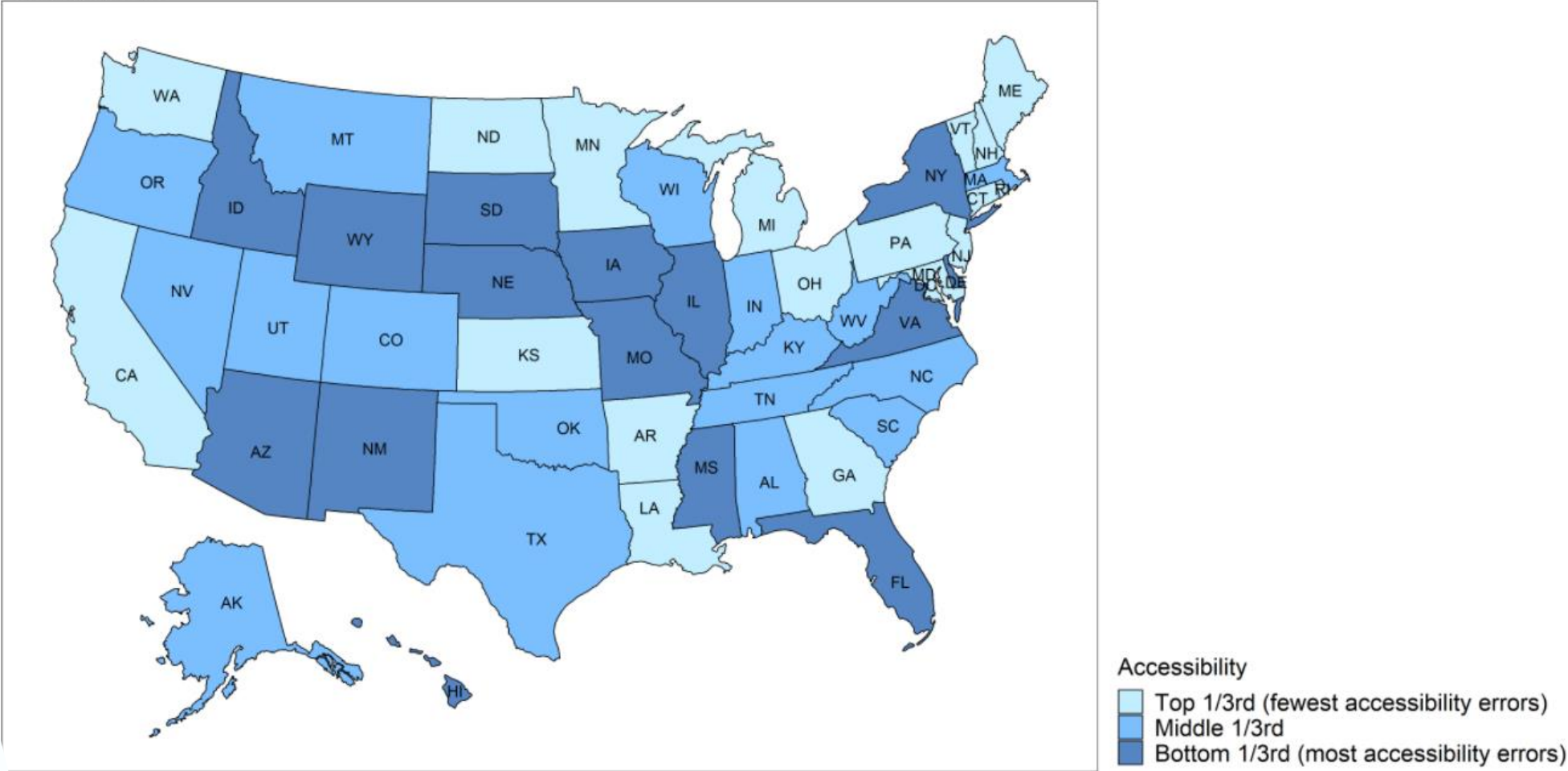
Disability Health Research Center



Supported by the American Association of People with Disabilities.

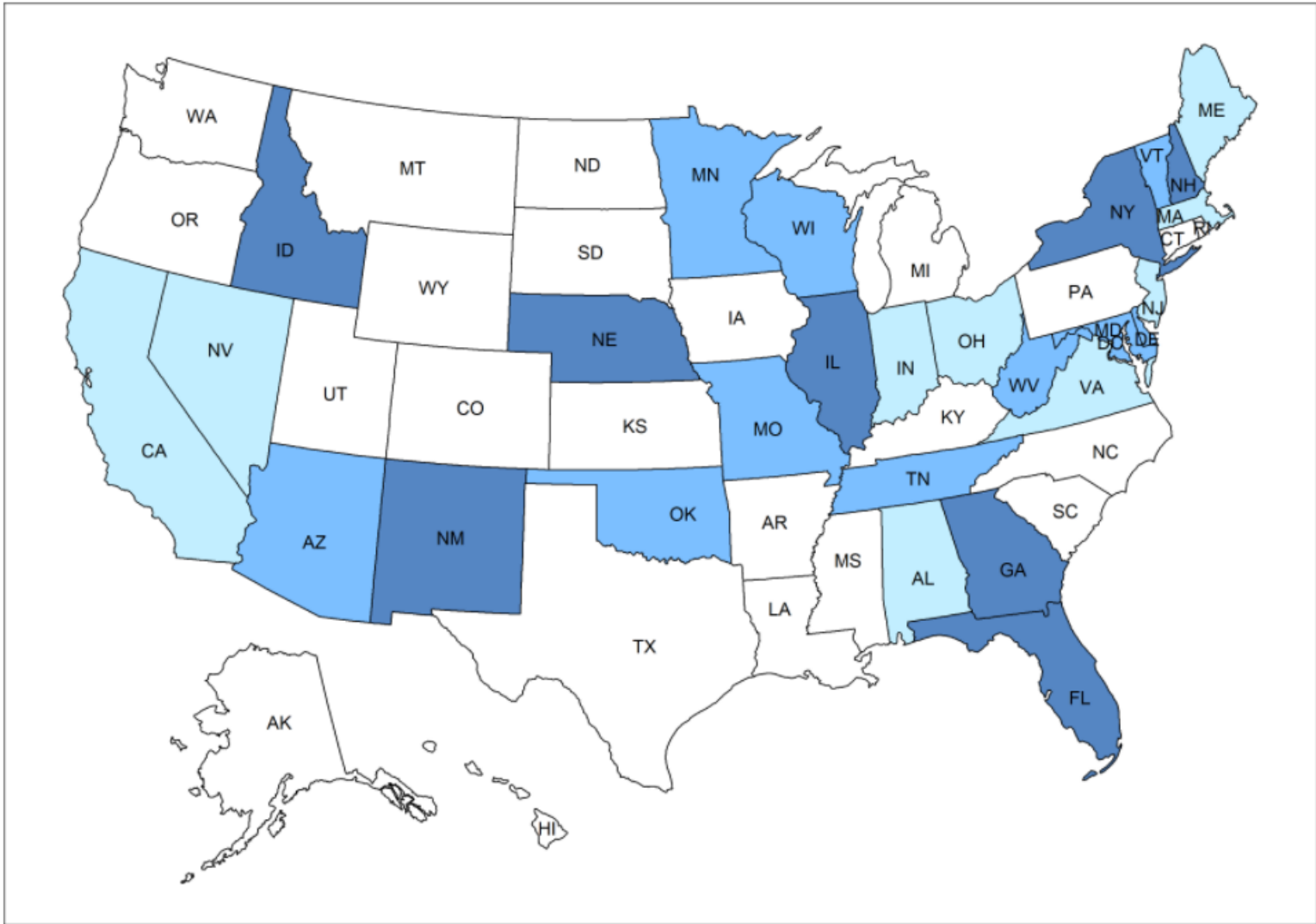
COVID-19 Vaccine State Information Website Accessibility Ratings

State Information Sites



COVID-19 Vaccine State Registration Website Accessibility Ratings

State Registration Sites



- Accessibility**
- Top 1/3rd (fewest accessibility errors)
 - Middle 1/3rd
 - Bottom 1/3rd (most accessibility errors)
 - No state website

**SCIENCE +
DATA+POLICY
FOR EQUITABLE VACCINE
DISTRIBUTION TO PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

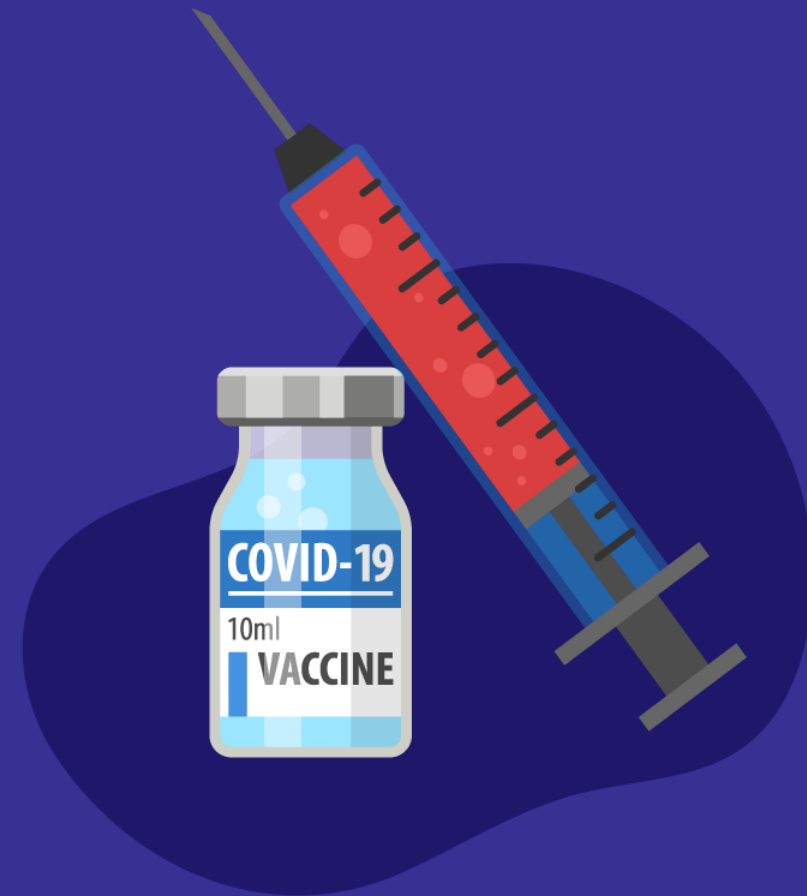


VACCINE ACCESS PLANS MUST CONSIDER:

- **People with disabilities who live in the community**
- **People who are and are not connected to DD or other state services**
- **Access needs at vaccination sites**
- **Overcoming barriers before, during, and after registration**
- **Planning for pediatric distribution**

BEST PRACTICES FOR EQUITABLE VACCINATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- **Accessible websites for information AND registration**
- **Self-attestation**
- **Options for provider involvement**
- **Phone registration available**
- **Transportation considerations**
- **Creative strategies**



People with disabilities need:

REPRESENTATION

Advisory committees and ethics committees must have representation from people who understand disability beyond a medical outcome.

BETTER DATA

COLLECTION

States and the federal government must collect and share data that better describes people with disabilities and their health outcomes.

EQUITABLE CARE IN

HOSPITAL

Threat of rationing of care has not ended. OCR issued memo advising hospitals that support people must be allowed during visitor bans.

TO LIVE IN THE

COMMUNITY

We must support more people with disabilities to move out of congregate settings and into their communities.

Advocacy that helps move us towards health equity



Employment



Accessibility



Housing



Transportation



**Opportunity to
work towards
health equity for
people with
disabilities extends
beyond COVID-19
response.**



TWITTER

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[@DrKaraAyers](#)



FACEBOOK

[@ThinkEquitable](#)



WEBSITE

[www.centerfordignity.c](http://www.centerfordignity.com)
[om](http://www.centerfordignity.com)

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our COVID-19 Disability Prioritization Dashboard team: Bonnie Swenor, Sabrina Epstein, Jessica Campanile, Caroline Cerilli, Sarah Phillips, Leah Smith, Maureen van Stone, and Tracy Waller; Sarah Lineberry for outcomes/mortality research summary.