

# The Fire This Time: Inequalities in the Time of COVID-19

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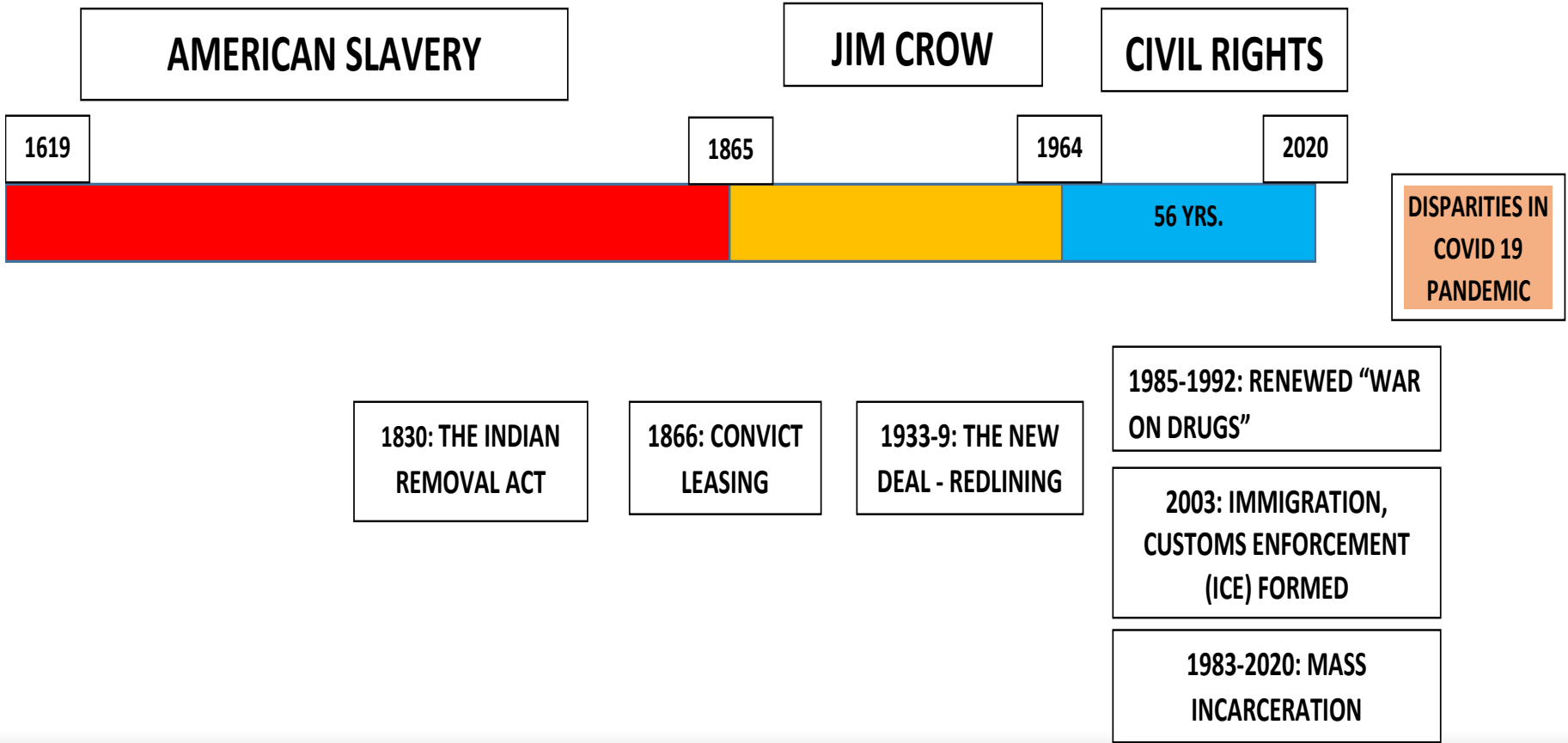
**“Color is not a human or a personal reality;  
it is a political reality”**

–James Baldwin. The Fire Next Time



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# Inequalities is the Foundation of Disparities - Timeline



# The Fire This Time: Inequalities in the Time of COVID-19

- **Social Determinants of Health**
- **Public Health and Healthcare Approach**
  - A Tale of Two Cities
  - Ethno-racial Disparities to COVID 19 Prevention



Figure 1

# Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

## Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

- <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/10/discrimination-in-america--experiences-and-views.html>
- Chin, T. et al. (2020) U.S. county-level characteristics to inform equitable COVID-19 response



# Public Health and Healthcare Approaches A Tale of Two Cities

## Seattle, WA

688,245 pop.

7,137 cases, 513 deaths\*

## New York City, NY

8,560,072 pop.

185,206 cases, 14,881 deaths\*



\*As of May 13, 2020

Seattle's Leaders Let Scientists Take the Lead. New York's Did Not. April 26, 2020. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/05/04/seattles-leaders-let-scientists-take-the-lead-new-yorks-did-not>



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# Ethno-racial Disparities in COVID 19 Prevention

- Barriers to Testing

- Accessibility & ethno-racial bias in testing provision
- Gateway provider
- Costs of testing and care
- Behavioral factors



- Barriers to Prevention

- Safe water access
- Multigenerational “crowded” housing; high-density residential settings
- Homelessness
- Congregate facilities: prisons, nursing homes



Adapted from APHA COVID 19 Conversation webinar, by Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director, April 2020



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# Ethno-racial Disparities and The Essential Worker

- Occupational Vulnerability
  - Occupational exposure
  - Community exposure
- Inadequate workplace protections
  - Physical environment
  - Benefits



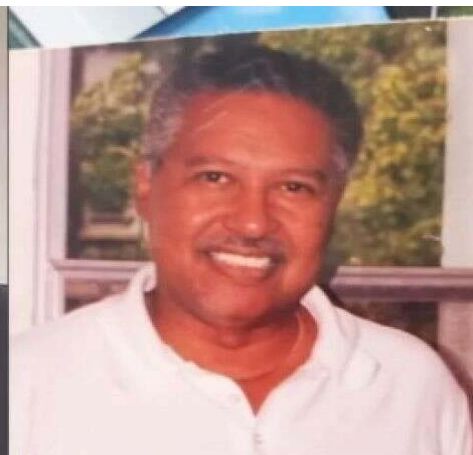


# Delayed COVID Care Renders Disparity in Mortality?

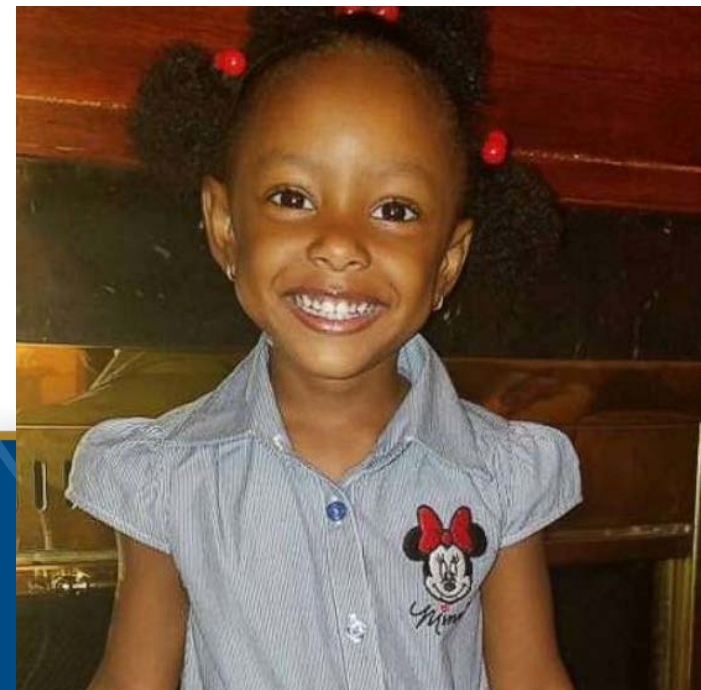


Rana Zoe Mungin, 30 y.o.  
April 27, 2020, NYC, NY

David Fowler, 76 y.o. & Gary Fowler, 56 y.o.  
April 6, 2020 Detroit, MI



Deborah Gatewood, 63 y.o.  
April 19, 2020 Detroit, MI



Skylar Herbert, 5 y.o.  
April 19, 2020  
Detroit, MI



*“We can’t unsee what we now know.”*

**-Nina Turner, fmr Senator (Ohio)**



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# The Fire Next Time: The Pandemic as a Portal

- Prioritize Equity
- Support Efforts Toward Innovation
- The Health and Death of People





# Prioritize Equity in Targeted COVID 19 Testing Exemplar Philadelphia, PA March 2020



<https://abcnews.go.com/US/philadelphia-doctor-takes-streets-black-communities-tested-covid/story?id=70405257>



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# Prioritize Equity in Healthcare and Resource Allocation

## VIEWPOINT

A Framework for Rationing Ventilators and Critical Care Beds During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

## SOUNDING BOARD

### Fair Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources in the Time of Covid-19

Ezekiel J. Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D., Govind Persad, J.D., Ph.D., Ross Upshur, M.D., Beatriz Thome, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Michael Parker, Ph.D., Aaron Glickman, B.A., Cathy Zhang, B.A., Connor Boyle, B.A., Maxwell Smith, Ph.D., and James P. Phillips, M.D.

Proposed allocation of scarce resources may exacerbate existing morbidity and mortality in Black, Hispanic, First Nation People and other marginalized communities.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsb2005114>

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2763953>



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# Prioritize Equity in Public Health



We cannot underestimate the power of labor unions and support and protections they bring to the essential worker.

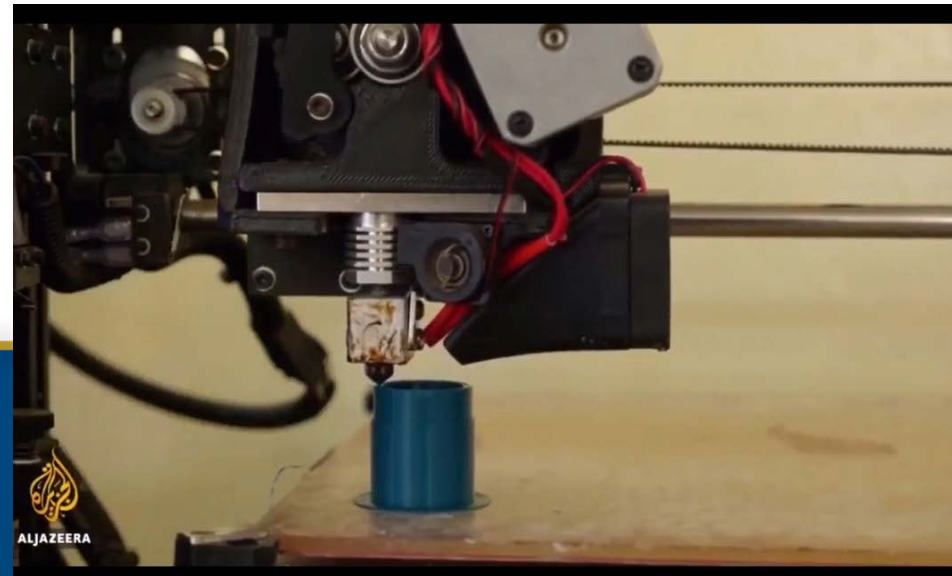
The CEO of Albertsons Companies and Kroeger Co. have teamed up with United Food and Commercial Workers International (UFCW) union to call on government officials to protect grocery workers by reclassifying them as extended first responders” or “emergency personnel.”



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# Support Efforts toward Innovation



# The Health and Death of People

- Black and Brown people are NOT inherently diseased – there is NO “mass of imperfections”
- Legacy of harm, violence, exclusion and inequality underlie persistent health disparities esp. in COVID morbidity and mortality
- The legacy of inequality manifests in the social determinants of health





# The Pandemic as a Portal

- Humility, Empathy and Awareness
- Public Health and Healthcare Reform
- Inclusive Social and Fiscal Policies
- Reimagining of Self and Society

“

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different

ARUNDHATI ROY, NOVELIST



# Selected Resources

- Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative's: Racial Equity Toolkit to Assess Policies, Initiatives, Programs, and Budget Issues:  
[https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/RSJI/Racial%20Equity%20Toolkit\\_FINAL\\_August2012\\_with%20new%20cncl%20districts.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/RSJI/Racial%20Equity%20Toolkit_FINAL_August2012_with%20new%20cncl%20districts.pdf)
- Government Alliance on Race and Equity's:  
<https://www.racialequityalliance.org/tools-resources/S>



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# Extra Slides



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# Cases, Deaths, and Testing in All 50 States

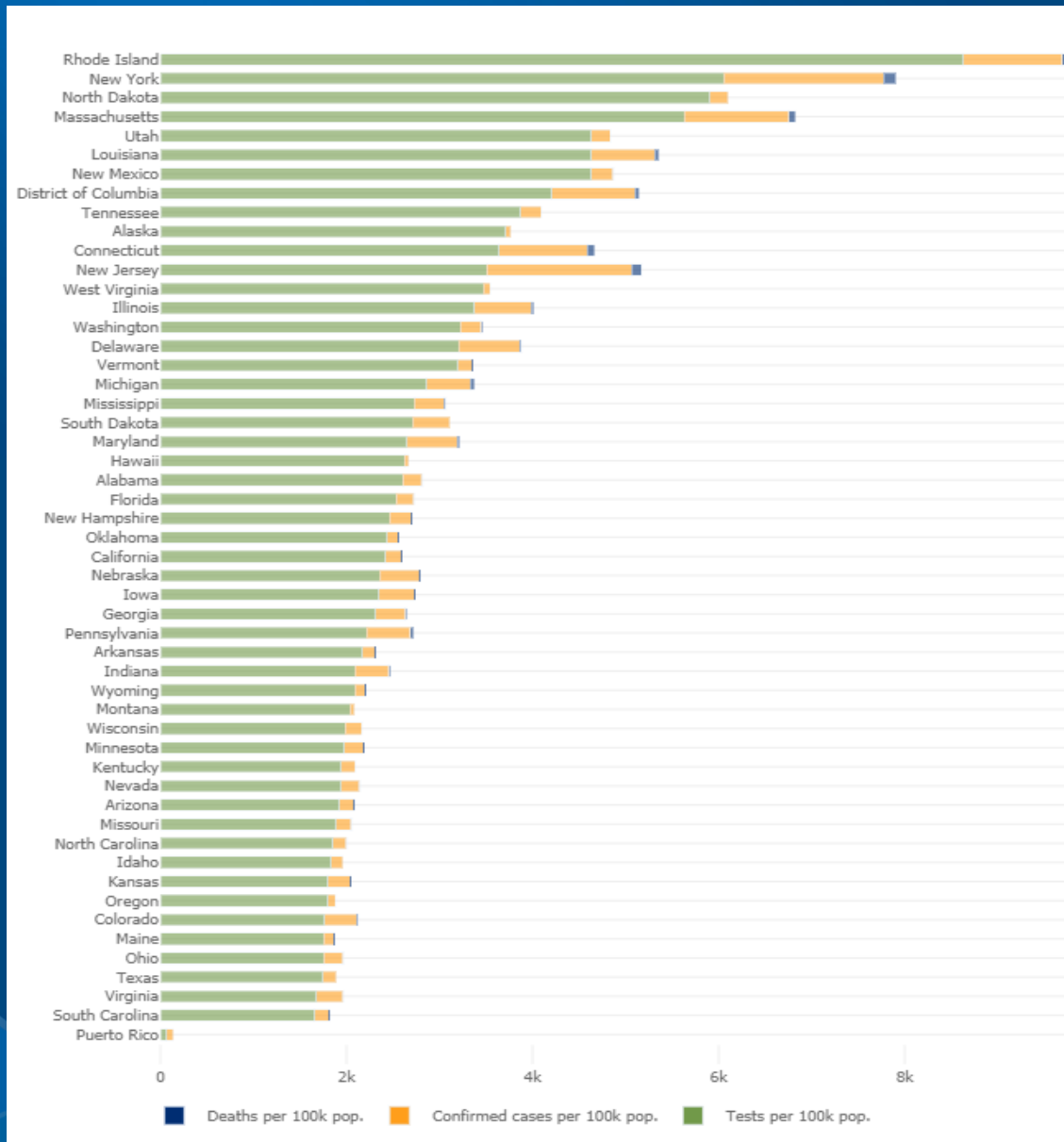
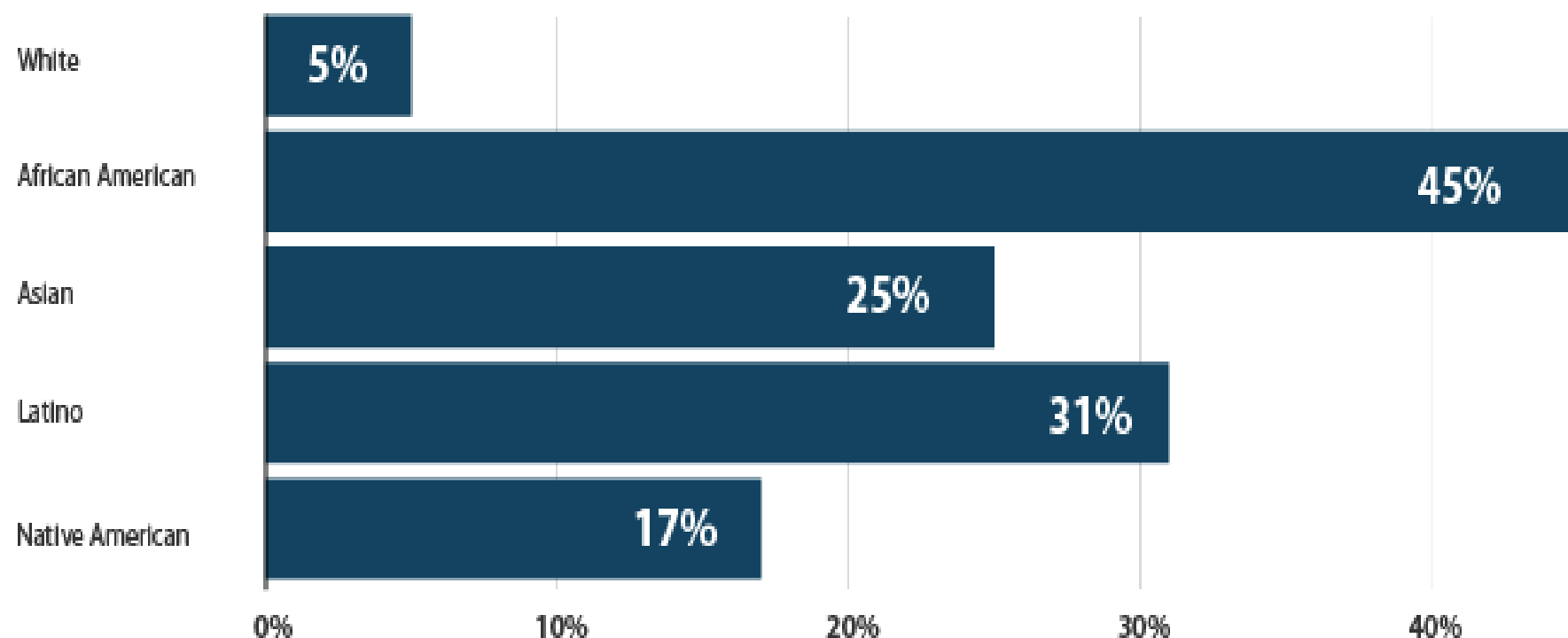


FIGURE 4

## People of color are more likely to report racial discrimination when trying to rent or buy housing

Likelihood of experiencing racial discrimination when trying to rent or buy housing by race/ethnicity, 2017

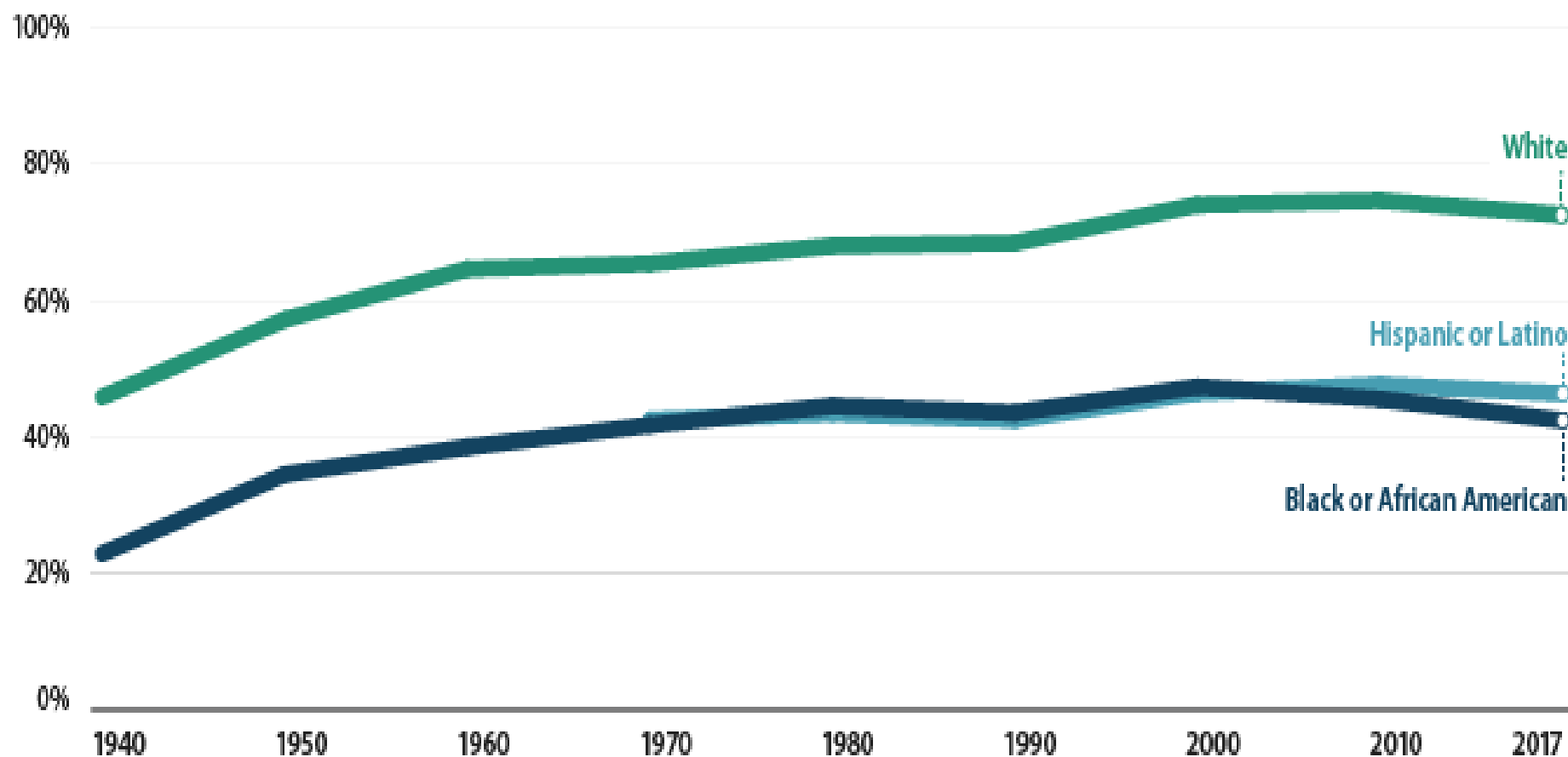


Source: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and NPR, "Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views on Affects of Discrimination Across Major Population Groups in the United States" (Boston; Princeton, NJ; and Washington: 2017), available at <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/10/discrimination-in-america--experiences-and-views.html>.

FIGURE 2

## People of color have experienced lower homeownership rates for decades

Homeownership rate by race/ethnicity, 1940–2017



Sources: F. John Devaney, "Tracking the American Dream: 50 Years of Housing History from the Census Bureau: 1940 to 1990" (Washington: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1994), available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-7775.pdf>; U.S. Census Bureau, "Table 22. Homeownership Rates by Race and Ethnicity of Householder: 1994 to 2017," available at [https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/annual17/ann17t\\_22.xlsx](https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/annual17/ann17t_22.xlsx) (last accessed June 2019).



Figure 7

## Black and white incarceration rates

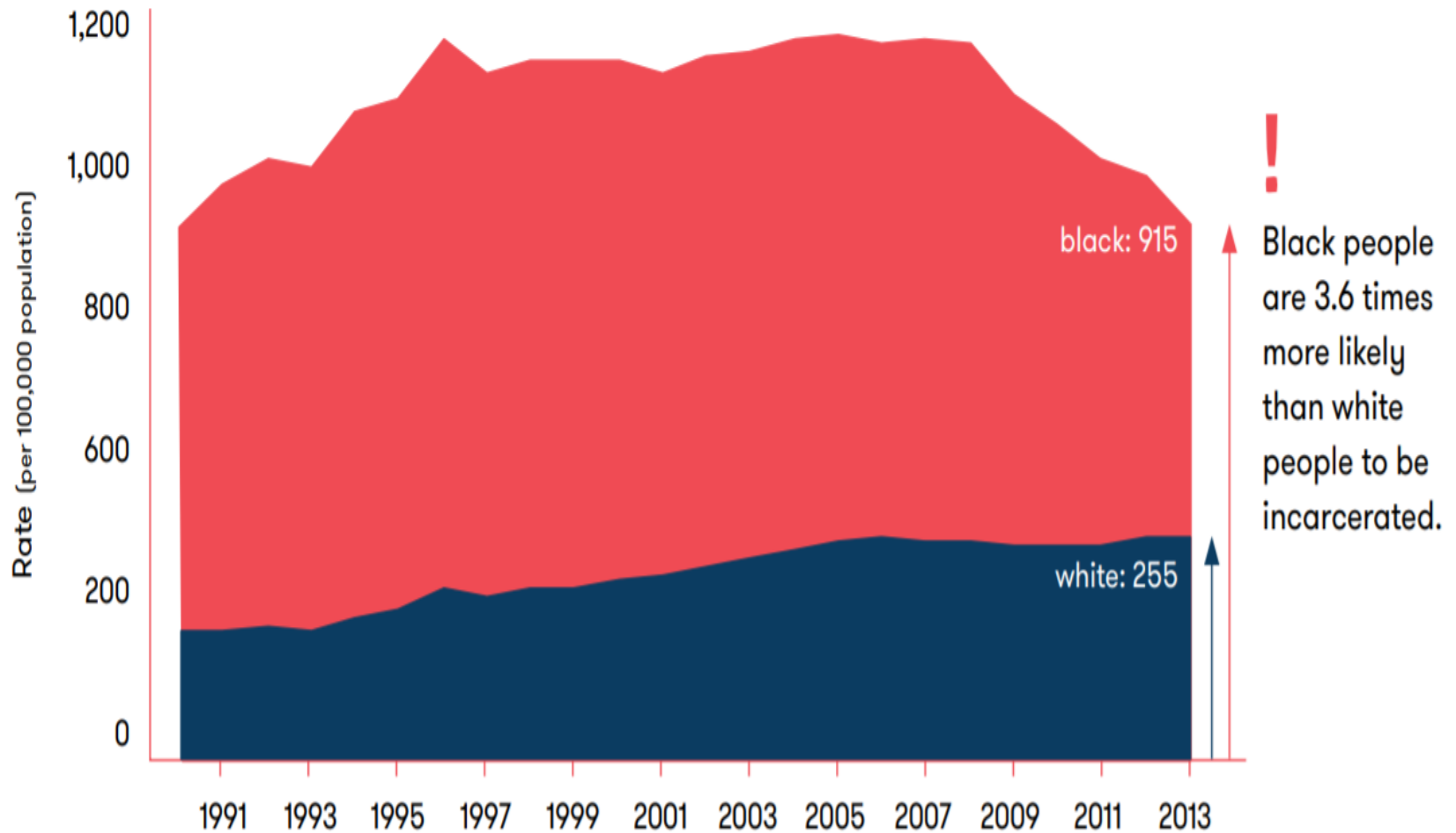


Figure 2

## Blacks make up a greater share of the population in the South, where most states have not expanded Medicaid.

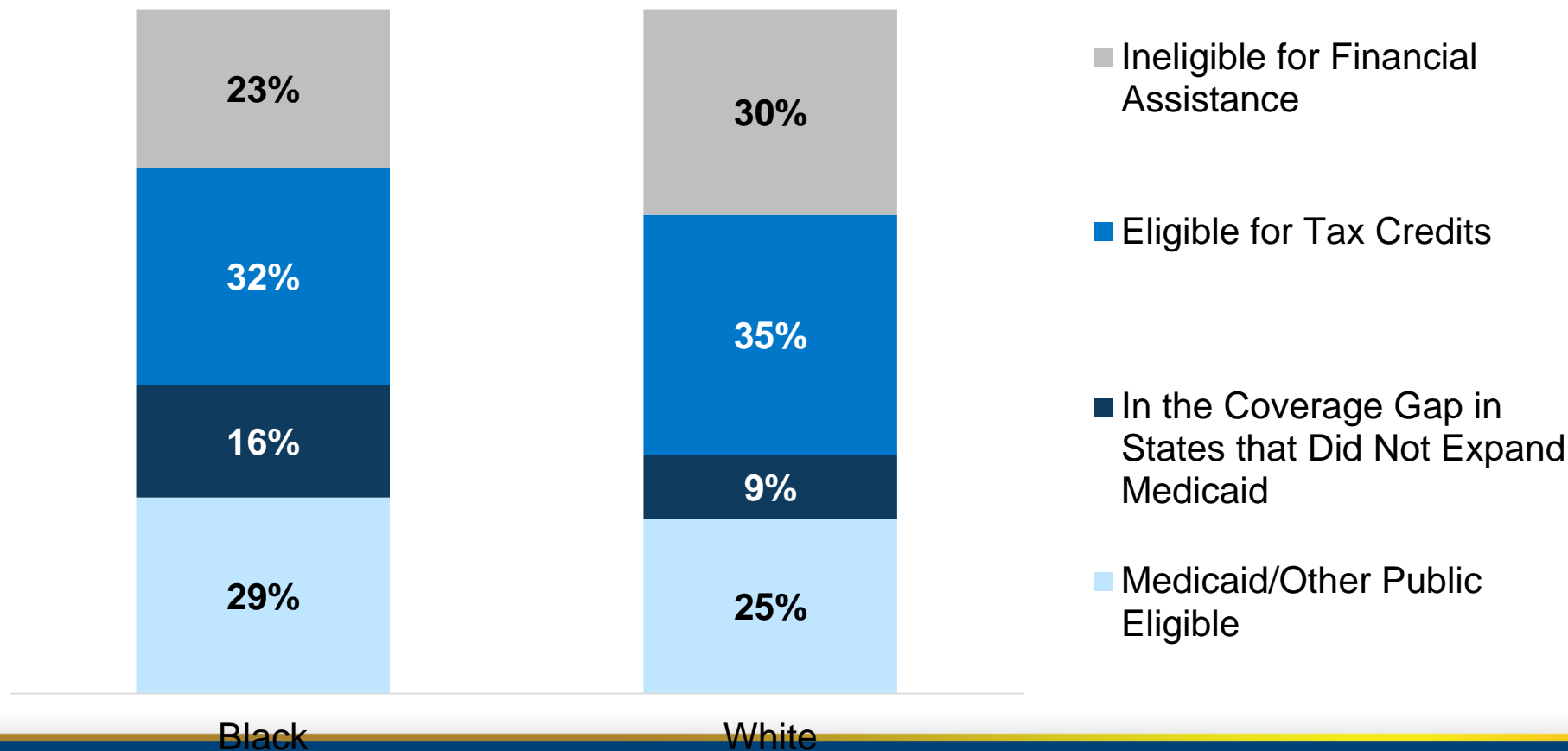
SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION THAT IS BLACK BY STATE, 2017



Note: Blacks are non-Hispanic and exclude individuals of mixed race. States outlined in black have not adopted Medicaid expansion as of May 2019.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates and Kaiser Family Foundation, Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision, as of April 26, 2019, <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-and-local-state-action-around-expanding-medicare-under-the-affordable-care-act/>.

# Uninsured Blacks are significantly more likely to fall into the coverage gap than Whites, earning too much for Medicaid but not enough for tax credits.



Note: Blacks and Whites are non-Hispanic and exclude individuals of mixed race. Includes nonelderly individuals 0-64 years of age. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding. All values have a statistically significant difference from the White population at the  $p < 0.05$  level.

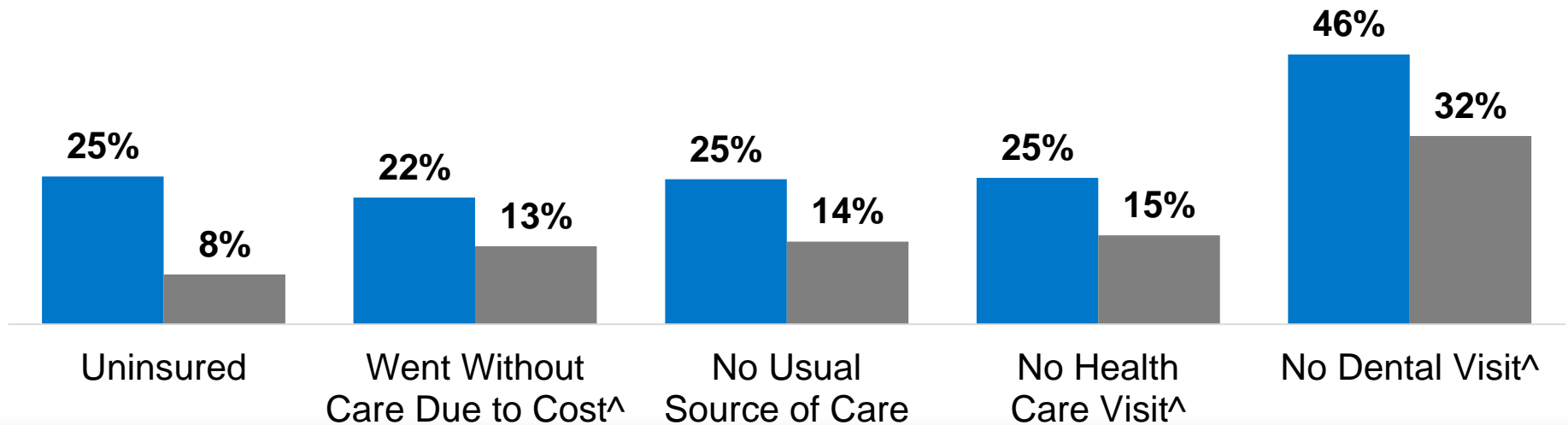


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# Hispanics face greater barriers to accessing care and receive less care than Whites.

■ Hispanic ■ White



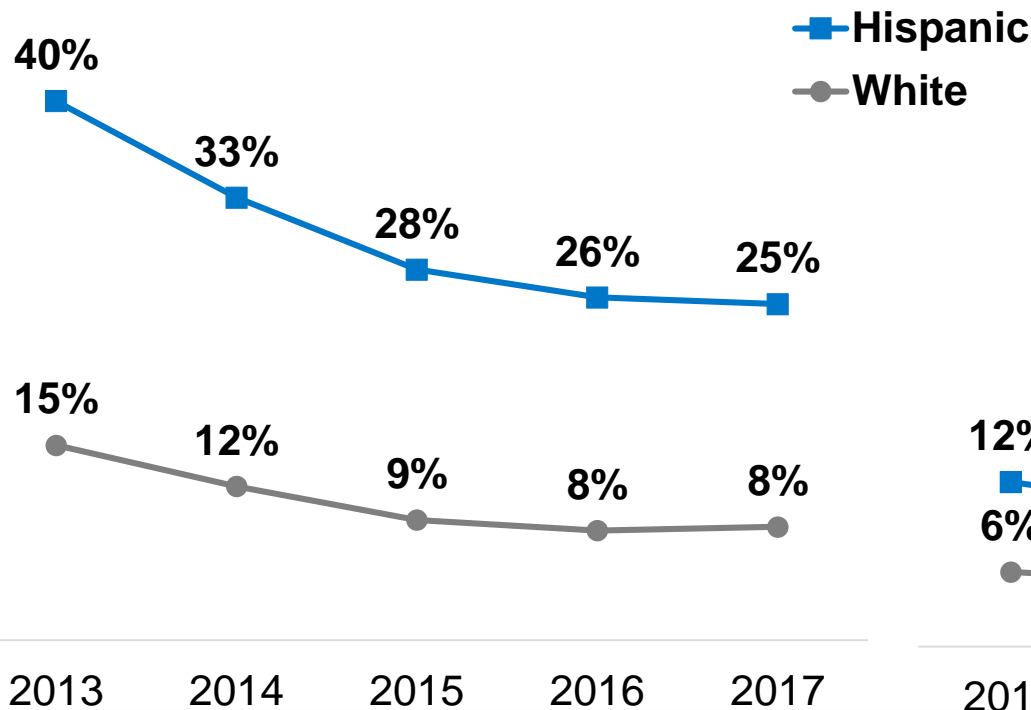
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Note: <sup>^</sup> Indicates in the past 12 months. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race; Whites are non-Hispanic and exclude individuals of mixed race. Includes nonelderly individuals 18-64 years of age. Data for uninsured includes nonelderly adults 19-64 years of age. All values have a statistically significant difference from the White population at the  $p < 0.05$  level.

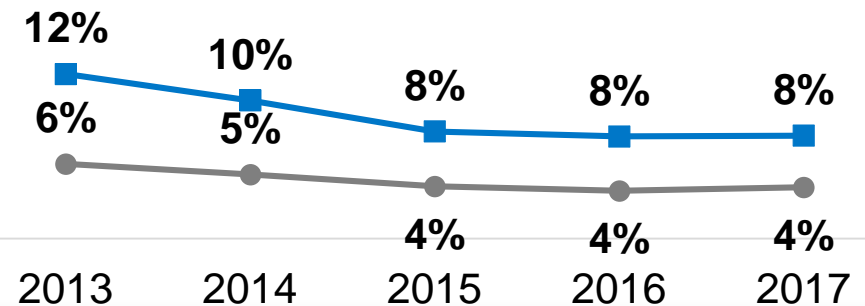
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), 2017 National Health Interview Survey

# Uninsured rate for Hispanics declined under the ACA, but they are still more likely to be uninsured than Whites.

### Uninsured Rate Among Nonelderly Adults 2013-2017



### Uninsured Rate Among Children 2013-2017



Note: Nonelderly adults are 19-64 years of age. Children are ages 0-18 years. Whites are non-Hispanic and exclude individuals of mixed race. All values have a statistically significant difference from the White population at the  $p < 0.05$  level.

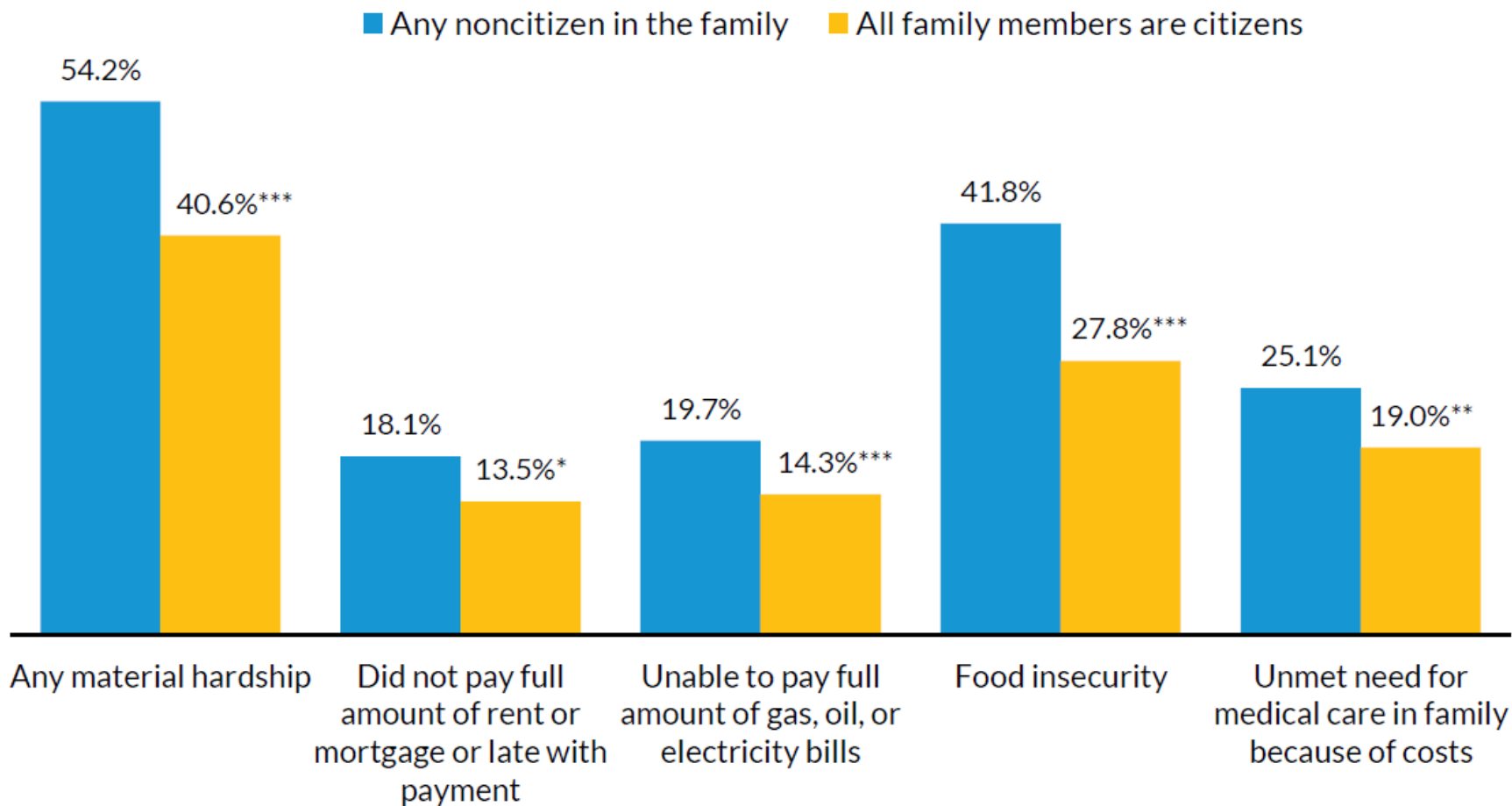


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Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 3

### Material Hardship in the Last 30 Days Reported by Hispanic Adults Ages 18 to 64, by Family Citizenship Status, March/April 2020

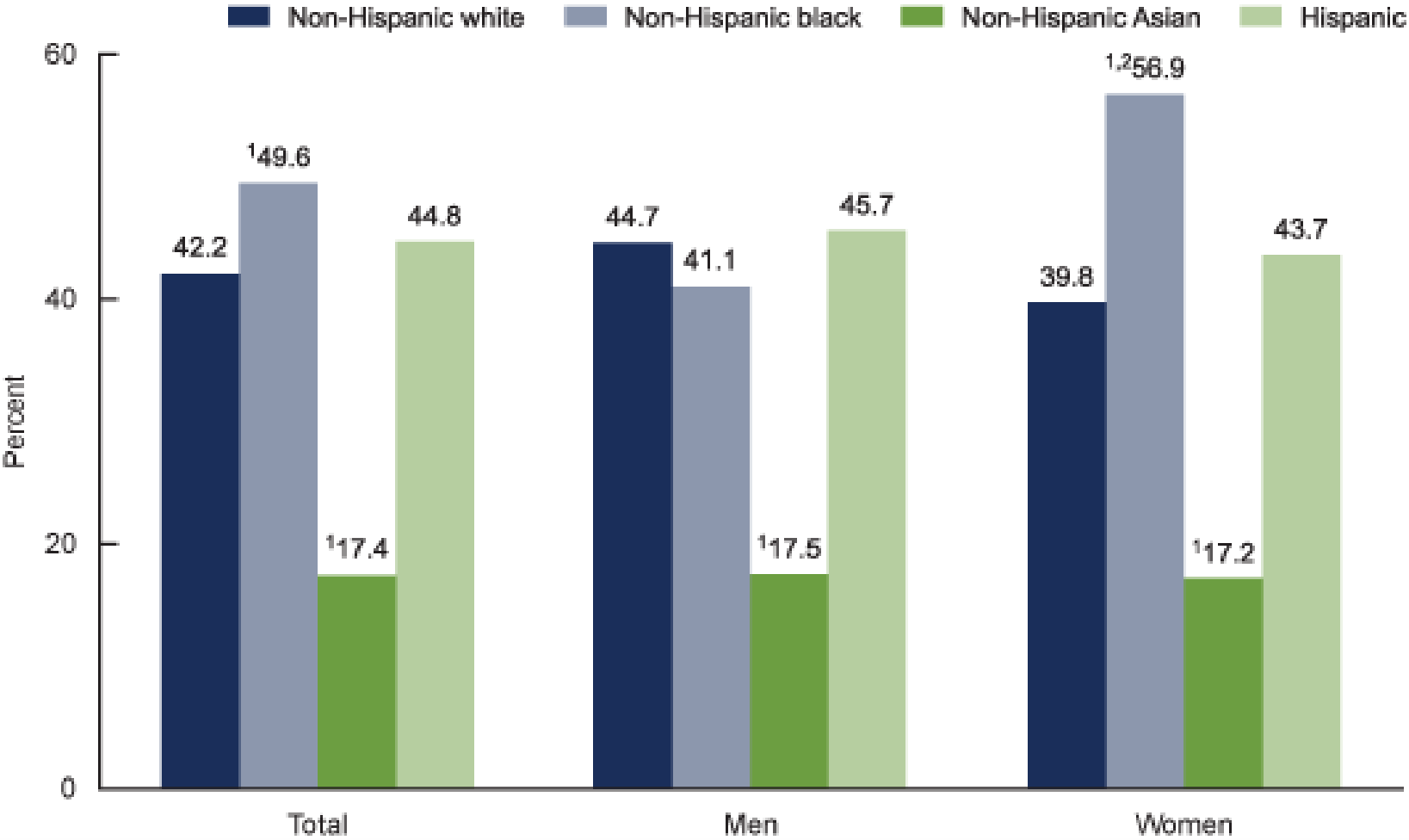


Hispanic Adults in Families with Noncitizens Disproportionately Feel the Economic Fallout from COVID 19. Urban Institute & RWJ, 2020



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# Age-adjusted Prevalence of Obesity among US Adults, 2017–2018

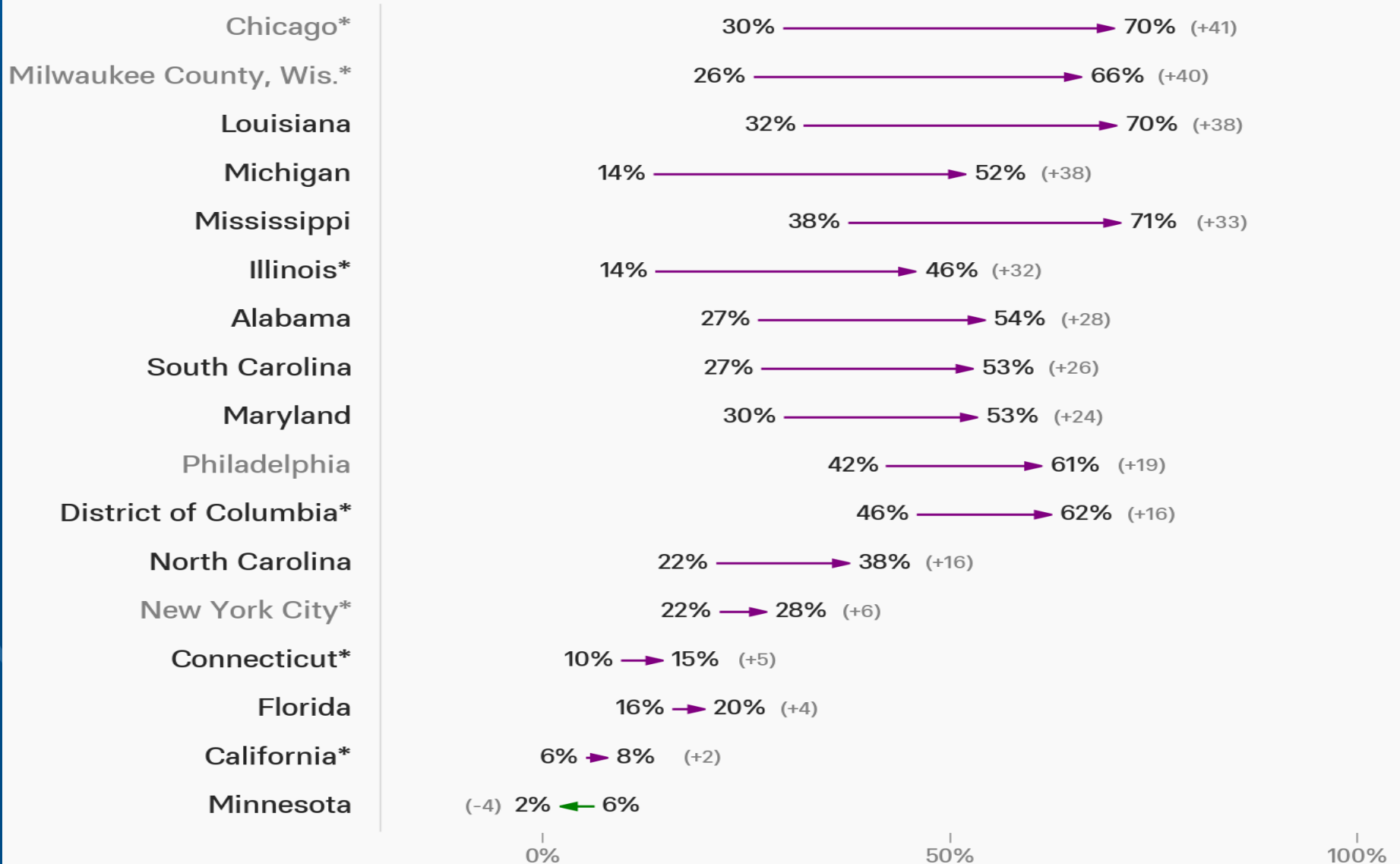


<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db360.htm>



# As of April 2020

## Black % of Population → Black % of COVID-19 Deaths



# Black Workers By Area Of Employment

The percentage share (%), shown across occupational groups.

■ Share of black workers ■ Share of total workers

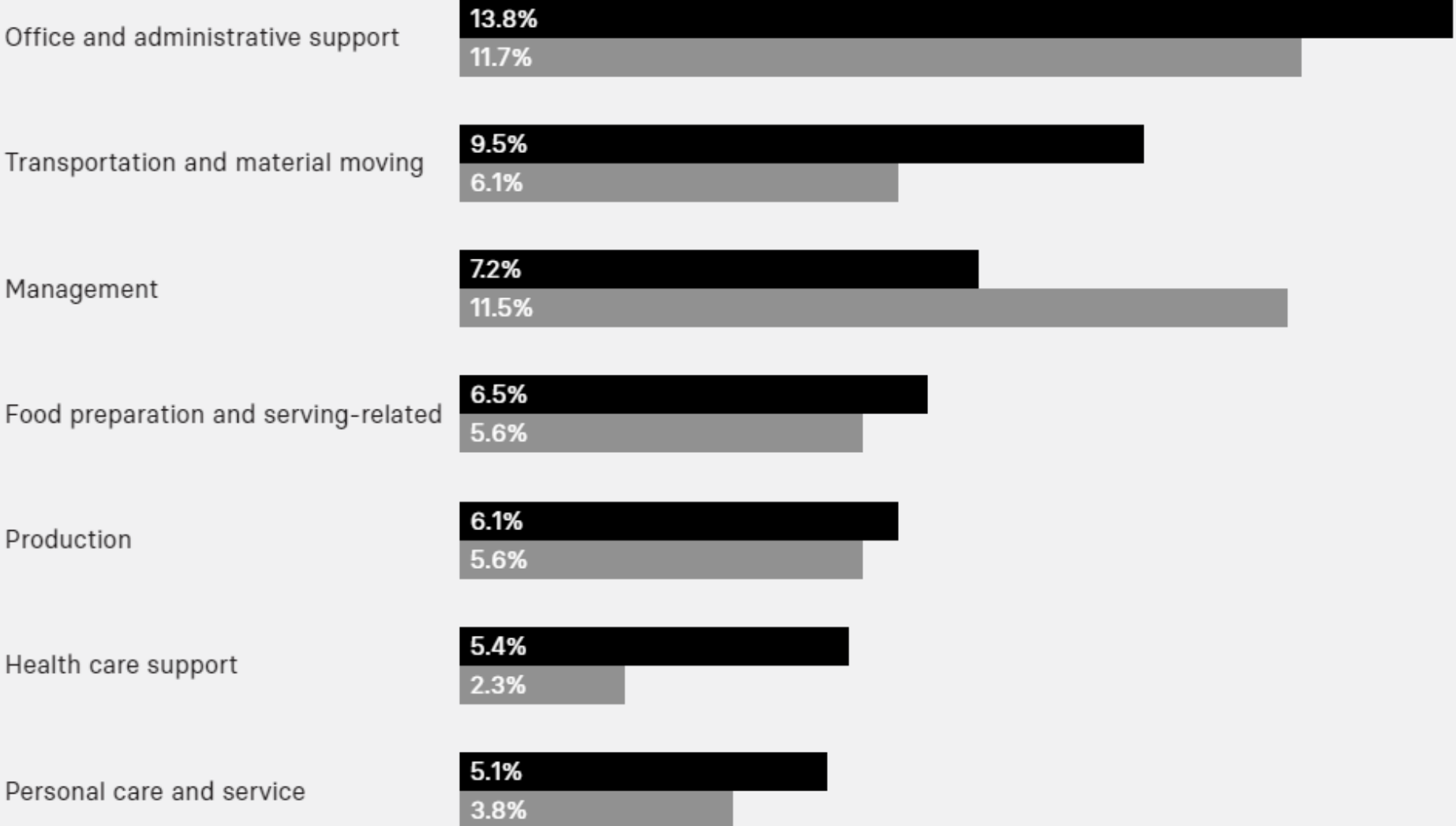
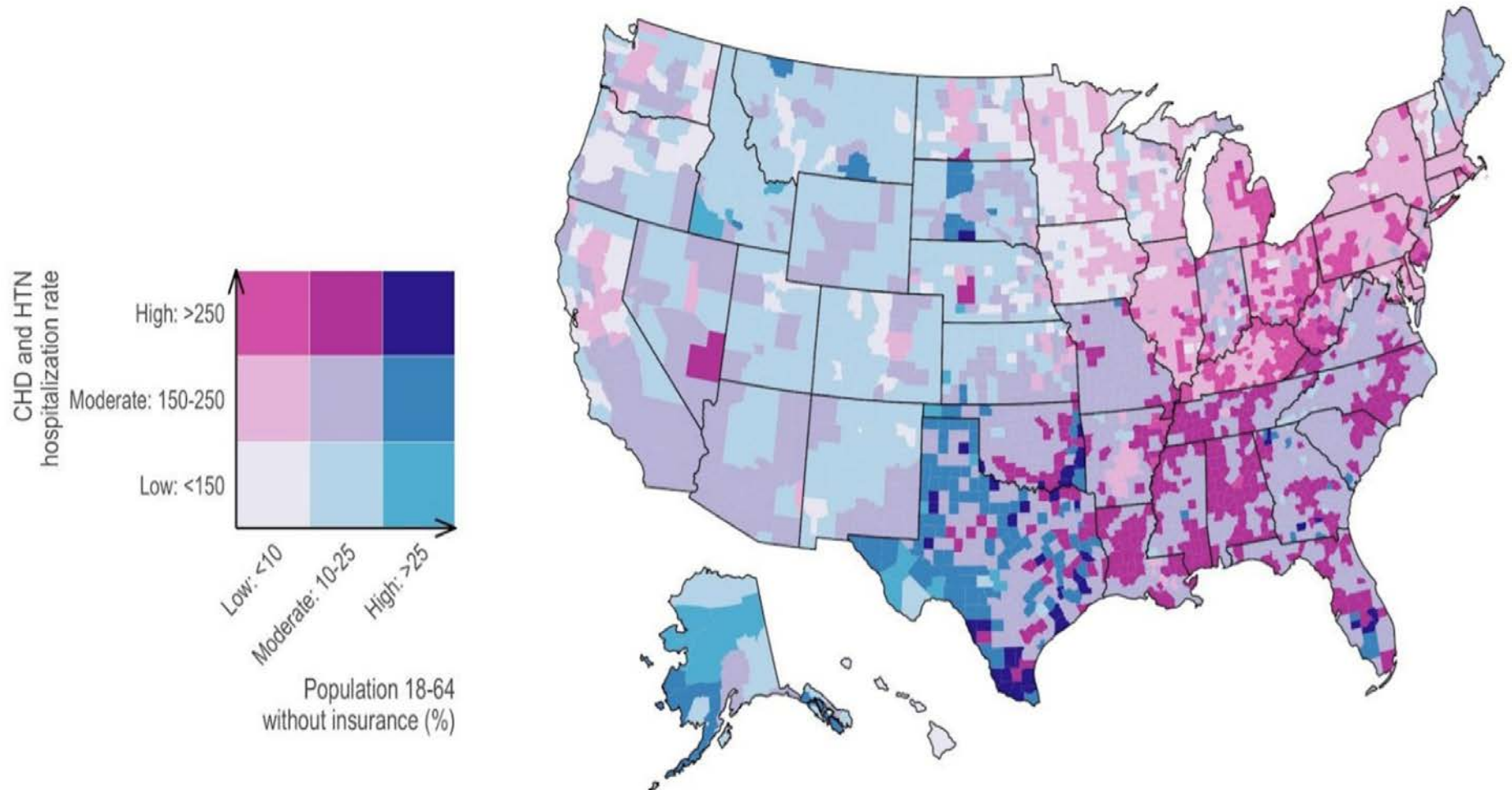


Chart: BuzzFeed News / Vergano • Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey](#).

# Structural Vulnerabilities: CHD, HTN and the Uninsured



Chin, T. et al. (2020) U.S. county-level characteristics to inform equitable COVID-19 response



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# Systemic Racism in the Food System: Food Swamps, Food Desert, Food Insecurity

