



Effective Strategies – Equitable Systems – Strong Communities



Promoting Immigrant Health: New Survey Data and Policy Engagement

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Today's Takeaways

1. New survey data is available on immigrant experiences related to their health and well being.
2. Public health and health care researchers can support advocacy for policy improvements.
3. A copy of our guide: *Tips for Using Data to End Health Disparities and Strengthen Communities*.



Agenda

Introductions and Background

Data: KFF & LA Times
Immigrant Experience Survey

Advocacy: Protecting Immigrant
Families Coalition

Q & A

Meet Community Science

Effective Strategies. Equitable Systems. Strong Communities.

Community Science is an award-winning research and development organization that works with governments, foundations, and non-profit organizations on solutions to social problems through community and other systems changes fostering learning and improved capacity for social change.



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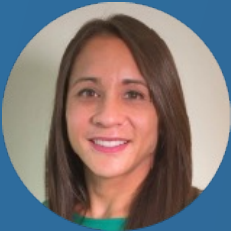
Welcome



Your Host & Practitioner:

Maysoun Freij, Ph.D., MPH
Senior Associate
Community Science

Your Panel:



Samantha Artiga, MHSA
Vice President, Racial Equity and
Health Policy Program
KFF



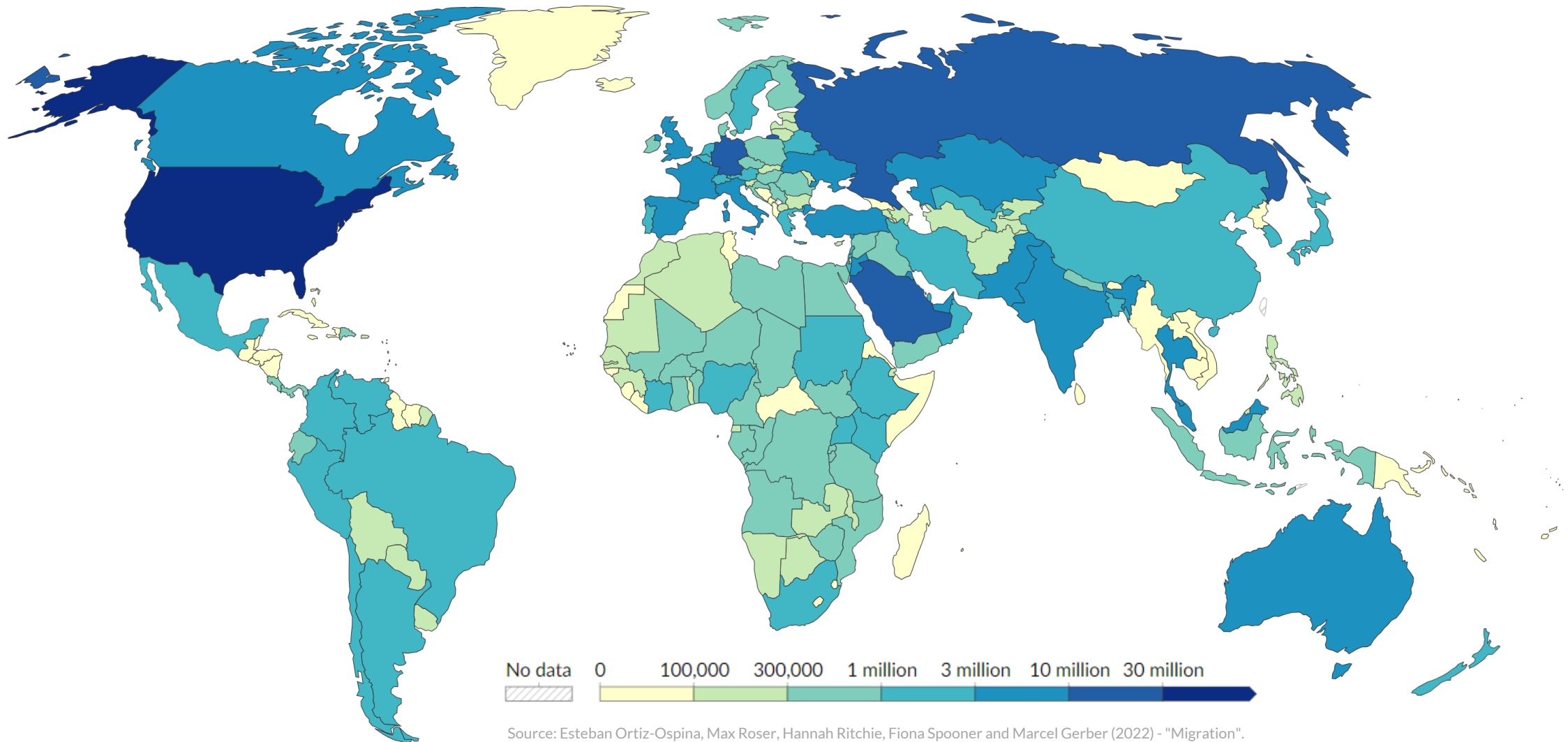
Drishti Pillai, Ph.D., MPH
Director of Immigrant Policy
KFF



Cheasty Anderson, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF)
Coalition

Total Number of International Immigrants, 2020

The total number of people living in a given country that were born in another country. This measures the cumulative migrant stock.



Source: Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, Max Roser, Hannah Ritchie, Fiona Spooner and Marcel Gerber (2022) - "Migration".
Published online at OurWorldInData.org. Retrieved from: <https://ourworldindata.org/migration> [Online Resource]

Six Questions to Ask About Health Disparities

To understand the health disparities and use the data for strategy development and improvement, we ask:

1. What is the starting point?
2. What is the disparity compared to which other populations?
3. What are the social determinants of health that affect that disparity?
4. Where are the data gaps and what do you do to fill the gaps?
5. What is the story you can tell to describe the situation?
6. How can you use data to build a healthier community?

“We encourage you to become not just good data collectors and analysts, but strong critical thinkers about the data you uncover, how it can be interpreted, and how it can be used to create positive outcomes for the many groups that make up your community rather than a source for division, perpetuation of stereotypes and myths, and unequal distribution of resources.”

Source: Community Science. *What do the Numbers and Text Really Mean: Using Data to End Health Disparities and Strengthen Communities*. December 2013.





Uplifting Immigrant Voices and Experiences: The KFF/LA Times Survey of Immigrants

Samantha Artiga and Drishti Pillai
November 15th, 2023



Overview of the KFF Immigrant Survey Project

- A **series of large-scale surveys** to be conducted every 1-2 years to fill gaps in data on the immigrant experience in the U.S.
 - Social and economic circumstances
 - Health and access to health care
 - Experiences with unfair treatment and discrimination
- Attitudes on key social and policy issues
- Initial round conducted in partnership with the **LA Times**
- Part of a **broad effort** to uplift experiences of marginalized and underrepresented groups
- Informed by **community experts**
- Accompanied by focus groups: **13 groups with 80 participants in 5 languages**

Survey Sample

- Field Period: April 7-June 12, 2023
- Probability-based sampling, with ~3,300 respondents that allows reporting by:
- Key characteristic
 - Length of time in the U.S.
 - Citizenship and immigration status
 - English proficiency
 - Geography
- Standard Demographics
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Educational attainment
 - Income

Some countries and regions of origin

Countries of Origin	Regions
Mexico	East and Southeast Asia
China	Central/South America
Philippines	Sub-Saharan Africa
India	Middle East/North Africa



Most immigrants feel they are better off in the U.S. but face substantial challenges

- A majority of immigrants say they are **better off** because of moving to the U.S.
- But many face **substantial challenges**:
 - Making ends meet: **Affording basic needs** and paying monthly bills
 - At work and in their communities: **Job discrimination** and anti-immigrant **harassment**
 - Accessing and using health care: **High uninsured** rates and **lack of culturally competent** and/or language accessible health services
 - Immigration-related **fears and confusion**
- Some subgroups consistently report experiencing greater challenges:
 - **Black and Hispanic** immigrants
 - Immigrants with **Limited English Proficiency** (LEP)
 - **Undocumented** immigrants
- Despite their hardships, most immigrants say they **would come to the U.S. again**



In Their Own Words: What is the best thing that has come from you moving to the U.S.?

Educational and employment **opportunities** for myself and my children

Better job, education, and economic **opportunities**

Best education for my kids. Professional job. Healthy environment. Good system. The **opportunities** everywhere!

Stability, freedom, better finance[s], having the **opportunity** to have a family

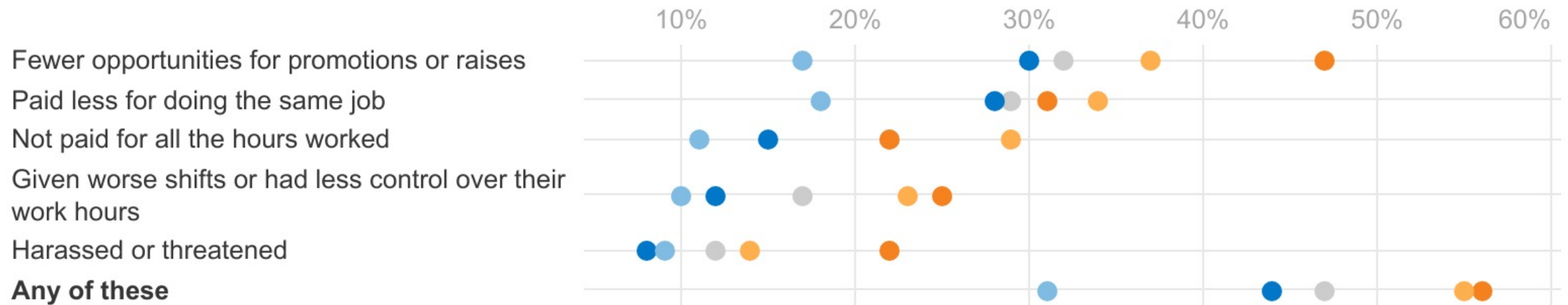
Educational **opportunities**, economic opportunities, political and human rights, housing, food and basic needs, neighborhood safety, lower crime rates

Education and **improved quality of life** in terms of obtaining basic needs

About Half Of Working Immigrants Say They Have Ever Experienced Workplace Mistreatment In The U.S.

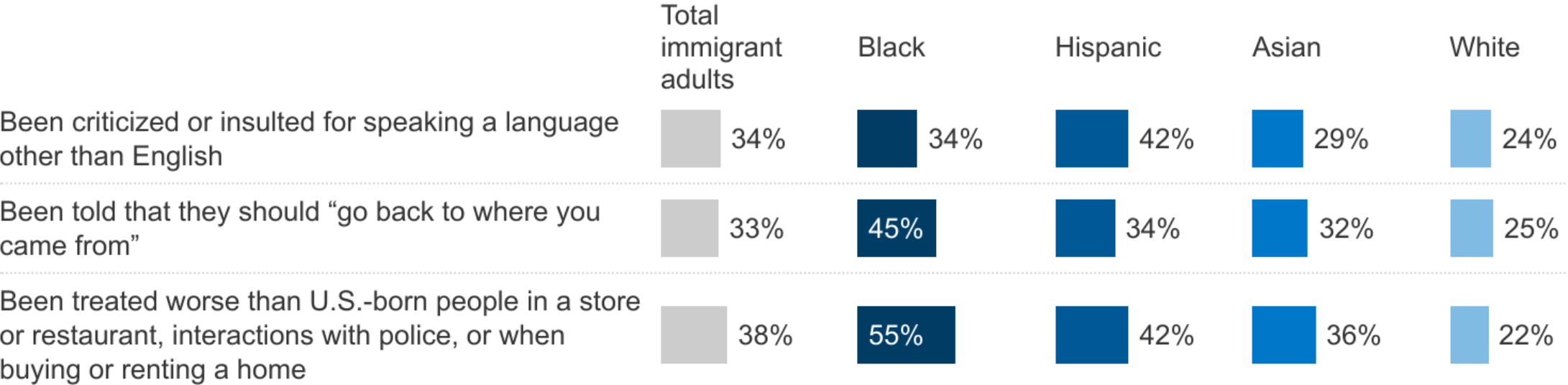
Percent of employed immigrant adults who say the following have ever happened to them at ANY job they have held in the U.S.:

● White ● Asian ● Total employed immigrant adults ● Hispanic ● Black



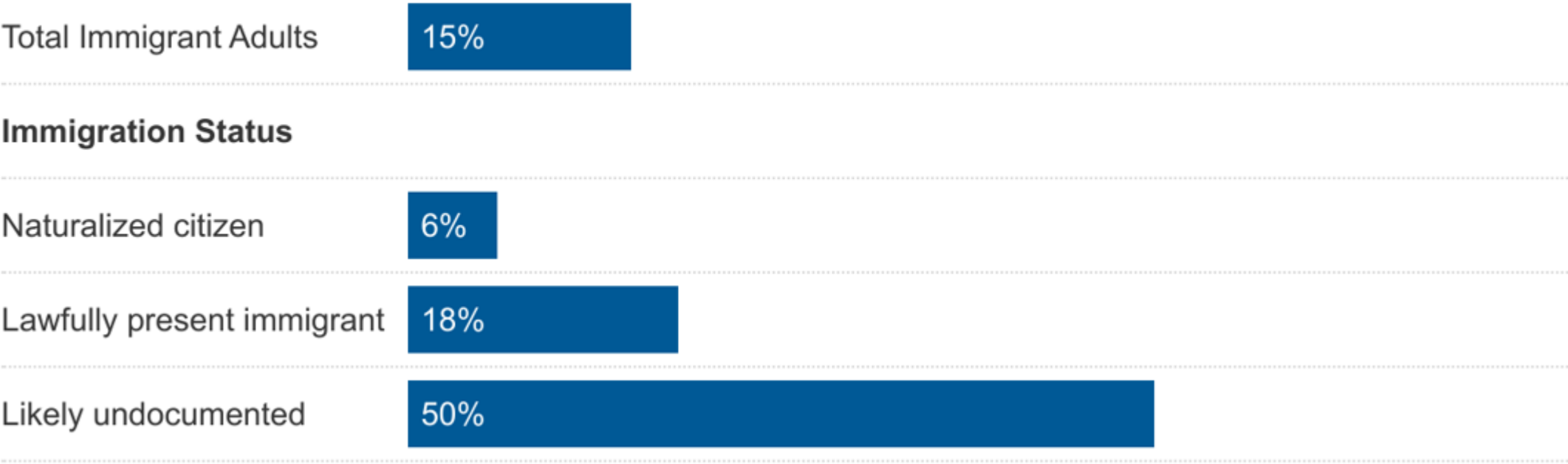
Many Immigrants Have Experienced Anti-Immigrant Harassment And Mistreatment Since Moving To The U.S

Percent of immigrant adults who have ever experienced worse treatment than people born in the U.S. in at least one of these situations:



More than One in Seven Immigrant Adults Report Being Uninsured, Including Half of Likely Undocumented Immigrant Adults

Percent of immigrant adults (ages 18+) who say they do not currently have health insurance:



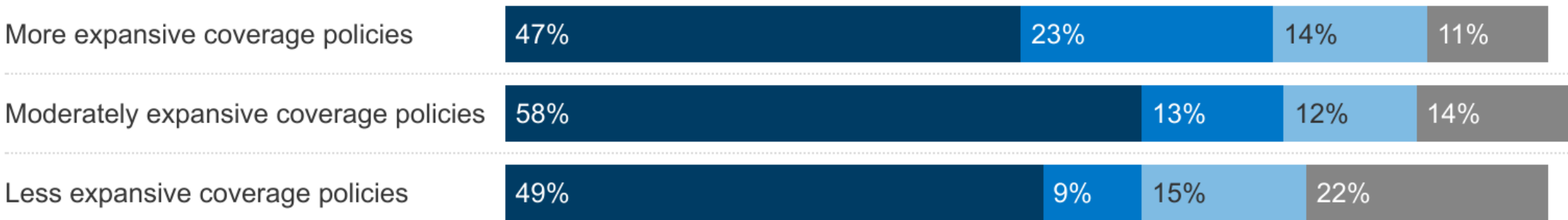
State Coverage Policies Make a Difference in Coverage Rates for Immigrants

Which of the following is your main source of health coverage, if any?

■ Private ■ Medicaid ■ Medicare ■ Uninsured

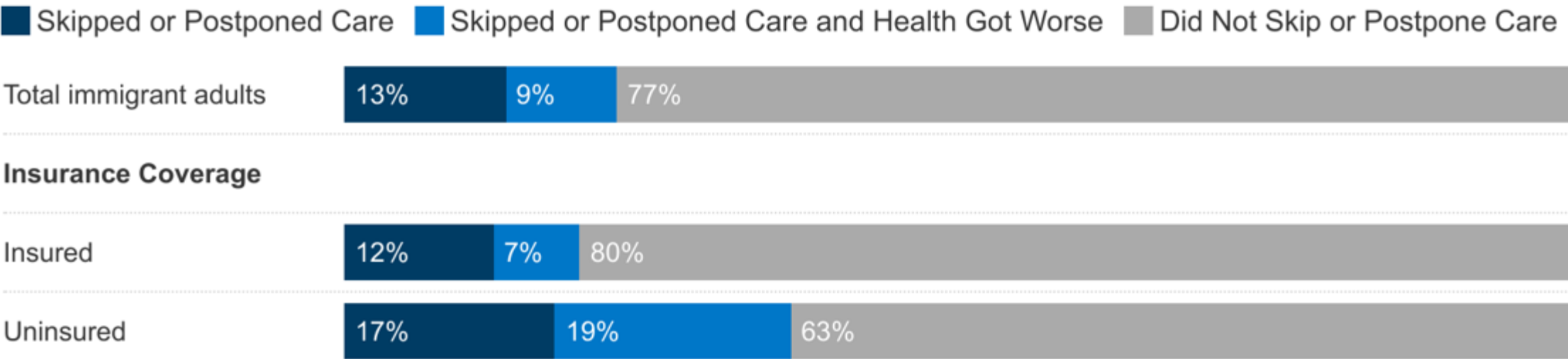


State Coverage Policies



About One in Five Immigrant Adults Says They Skipped or Postponed Health Care in the Past Year, With One in Ten Saying their Health Got Worse

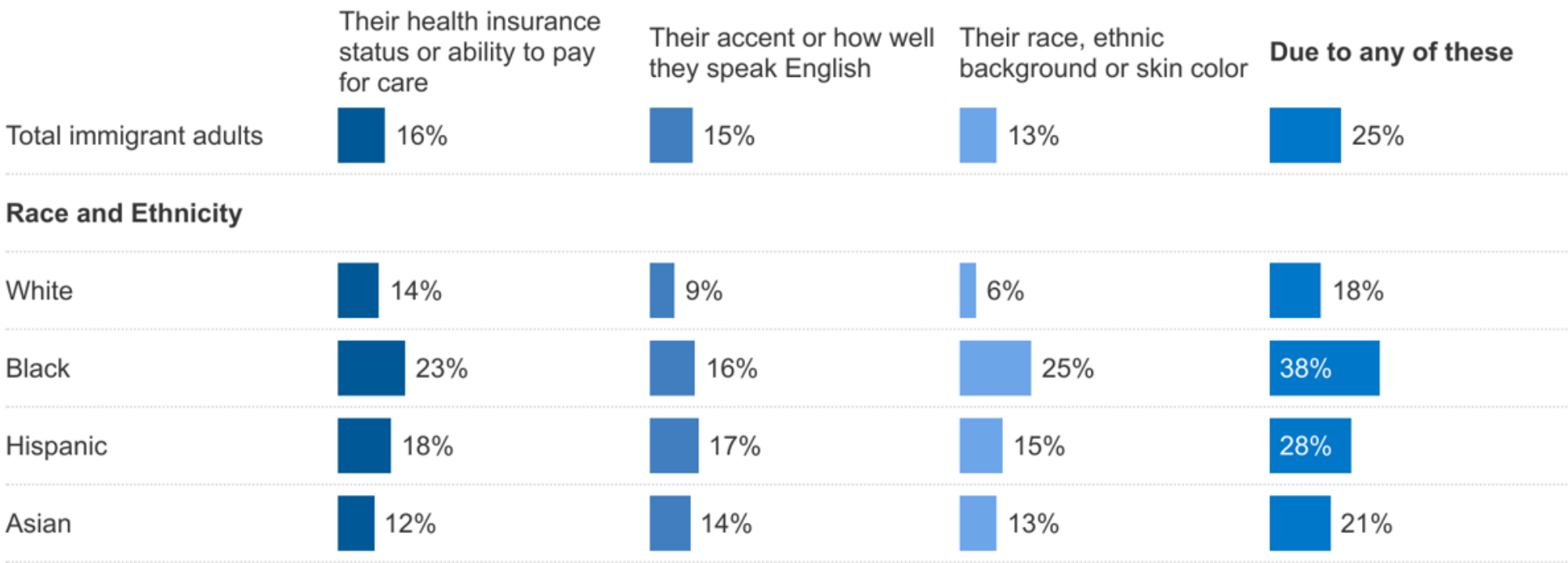
Percent of immigrant adults who say they skipped or postponed getting health care for any reason in the past 12 months and who say their health got worse because they skipped or postponed care:



NOTES: "Health got worse as a result of skipping/postponing care" asked of those who report having skipped or postponed care in the past 12 months.

One in Four Immigrants Says they Have Been Treated Unfairly in a Health Care Setting Since Coming to the U.S.

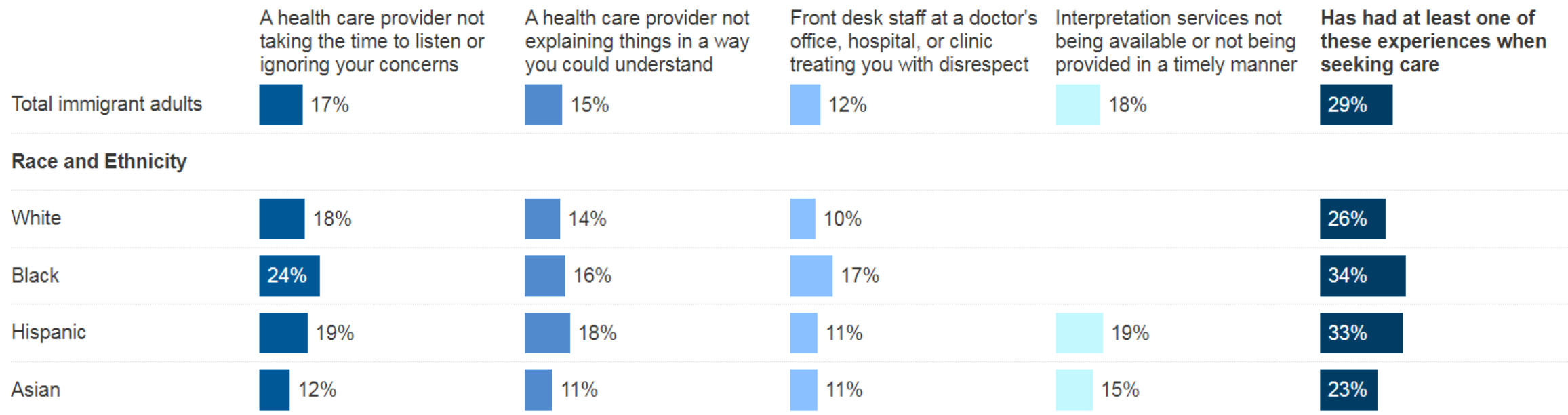
Percent of immigrant adults who say that since coming to the U.S. a doctor or health provider has ever treated them differently or unfairly because of each of the following:



NOTES: Among those who have sought or received care in the U.S. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; all other groups are non-Hispanic.

About Three in Ten Immigrant Adults Report Challenges Obtaining Respectful and Culturally Competent Health Care

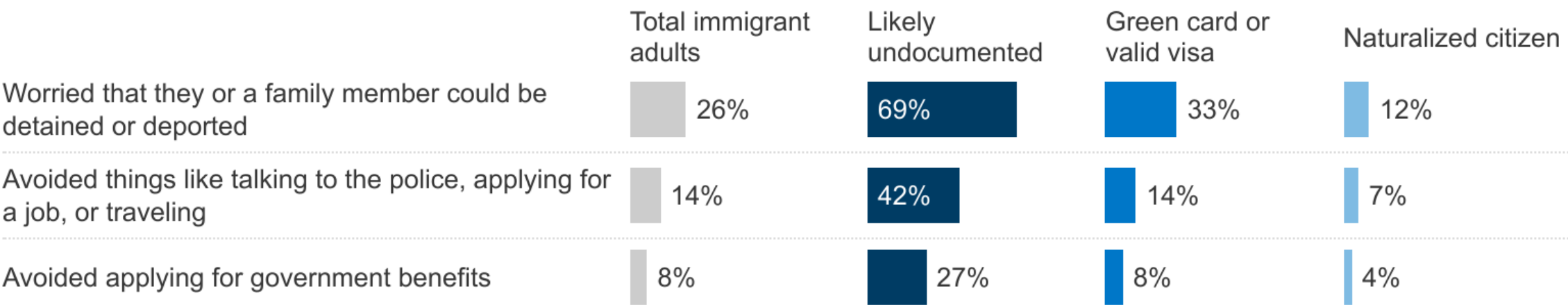
Percent of immigrant adults who say they have had any of the following experiences when getting or attempting to get health care in the U.S.:



NOTES: Among those who have sought or received care in the U.S. Interpretation services not being available asked of those who completed the survey in a non-English language. Data for some groups not shown due to sample size. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; all other groups are non-Hispanic..

Seven In Ten Immigrants Who Are Likely Undocumented Say They Have Ever Feared Detention Or Deportation

Percent of immigrant adults who say they have ever:



A Majority of Immigrant Adults Regardless of Immigration Status Say They are "Not Sure" about Public Charge Rules

As far as you know, if someone who is an immigrant uses government programs that help pay for health care, housing, or food, will this decrease their chances of being approved for a green card?

■ Not Sure ■ Yes ■ No



NOTES: The use of assistance for health care, food, and housing is not considered in public charge determinations, except for long-term institutionalization at government expense.



Importance and Implications of the Survey

- At a time when there is strong anti-immigrant rhetoric, the survey highlights the resilience and optimism of immigrants in the U.S. today
- The survey centers the voices of immigrants and provides a richer and more nuanced picture of the immigrant experience
- Provides increased understanding of their experiences at work, in their communities, and in health care settings, including experiences with unfair treatment and discrimination
- This increased understanding can help inform initiatives and policy interventions to address the challenges they face
- Represents one piece of our ongoing focus at KFF to use data and surveys to uplift the experiences of marginalized and often unheard groups and ensure the research is informed by the communities included in the research



Research and Advocacy

Harnessing Data for Programmatic Work

Cheasty Anderson
Deputy Director
November 15th, 2023

About The PIF Coalition

- **Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF)**
- **PIF Mission:** Unite to protect and defend access to health care, nutrition programs, public services and economic supports for immigrants and their families at the local, state and federal level.
- **Active Members:** 650+ organizations in 43 states
- **Working Groups:** Communications, Community Education, Federal Advocacy, Research, State Policy



Working Group History

- 2017: Public Charge leaked draft
- PIF forms our Research Working Group, filling immediate need to connect data and advocacy
- Challenges and opportunities





Data and Advocacy

- Problems: 1) traditional research and advocate timelines misalign, 2) mutual invisibility
- Solution: open channel of communication, relationship building, cross-promotion, idea sharing



What Success Looks Like

- New Culture: collegial, sharing, and supportive
- New collaboration opportunities:
 - Quick turnaround on new data needs (Urban WBNS, Medicaid unwinding)
 - Administrative advocacy (CMS letter)
- Future possibilities: needed data (MU disparate impact, LTBA impact), summary publications, convenings



Q & A

Community
Science

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KFF

**PROTECTING
IMMIGRANT
FAMILIES**

Get In Touch

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THANK YOU



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