

Coronavirus: racial disparities

An overview of early data that highlights how the coronavirus is affecting racial and ethnic groups across the country

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Producer

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Roadmap

- Impact on personal health
- Impact on personal finances

Despite limited data, recent studies show that racial minorities are being disproportionately affected by the coronavirus outbreak



An analysis conducted by The Atlantic and the Antiracist Research and Policy Center found that as of April 12, **38% of the cases analyzed across 29 states lacked racial data.** Therefore, despite statistics showing wide racial disparities there is still an incomplete picture of the coronavirus' impact across racial groups.



A CDC analysis of **1,500 hospitalizations in 14 states** showed that **African Americans made up a third of hospitalizations**, despite representing only **18%** of the population of the areas included in the analysis.



In early April, **more than 70% of deaths in Louisiana** were of African Americans victims, despite them being only **33%** of the state's population.



63% of coronavirus cases with demographic data in Illinois were **non-white individuals.** Hispanics make up **17%** of the state's population and African Americans make up **14%.** Of the state's victims with racial data, **32.5% were African American.**



In Michigan, **41% of deaths** were African American victims, despite them representing only **14%** of the state's total population.



In California, Latinos represent **53% of the state's positive coronavirus cases** as of May 18, despite only representing **39%** of the state's population.

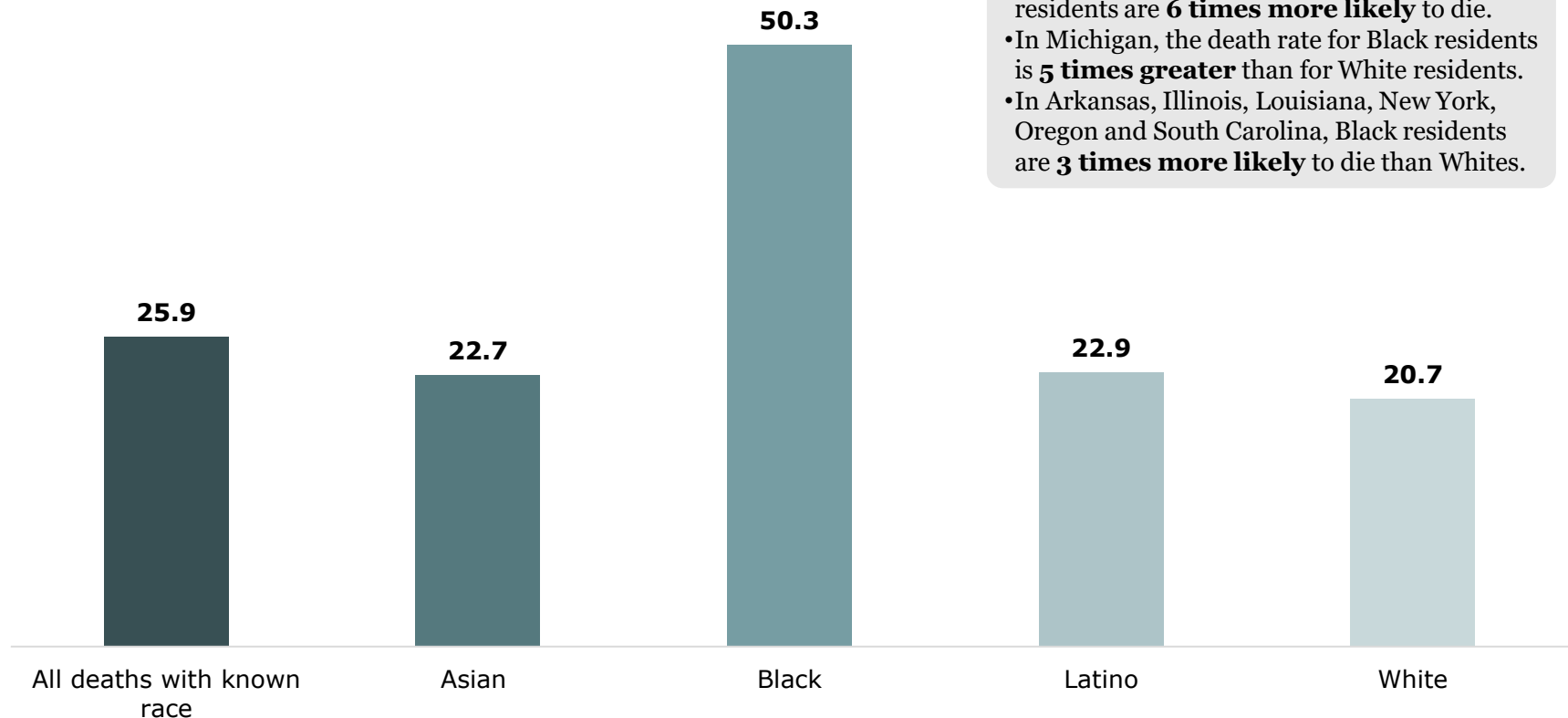


As of early April, **34% of coronavirus deaths in New York City were Hispanic victims**, despite them representing only **29%** of the state's total population. **28% of deaths were African American victims**, despite them representing only **22%** of the state population.

In 40 states and DC, Black residents are more likely to die from coronavirus

Coronavirus death rates per 100,000 people of each group

DATA FROM 40 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



State spotlights:

- In Kansas, Black residents are **7 times more likely** to die than White residents.
- In Missouri, Wisconsin and DC, Black residents are **6 times more likely** to die.
- In Michigan, the death rate for Black residents is **5 times greater** than for White residents.
- In Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Oregon and South Carolina, Black residents are **3 times more likely** to die than Whites.

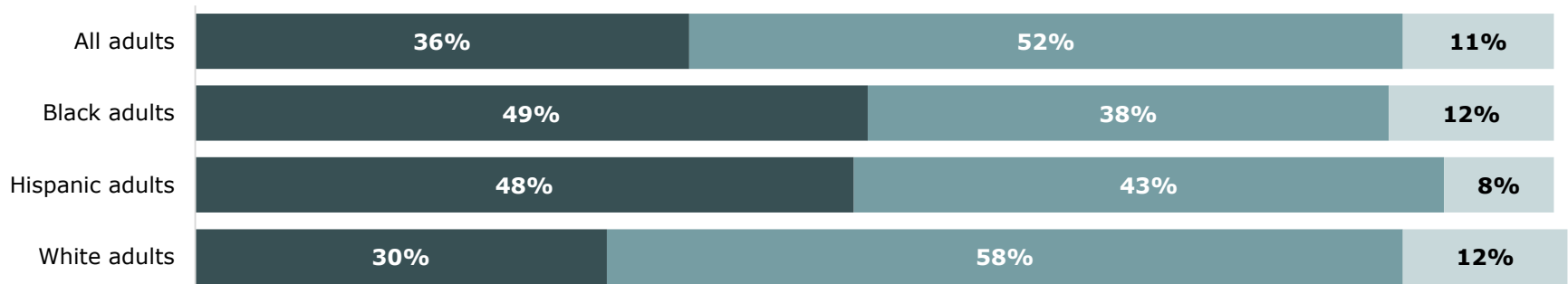
Sources: APM Research Lab.

Hispanic and Black adults express higher concern for their personal health

Is the coronavirus outbreak a threat to your personal health?

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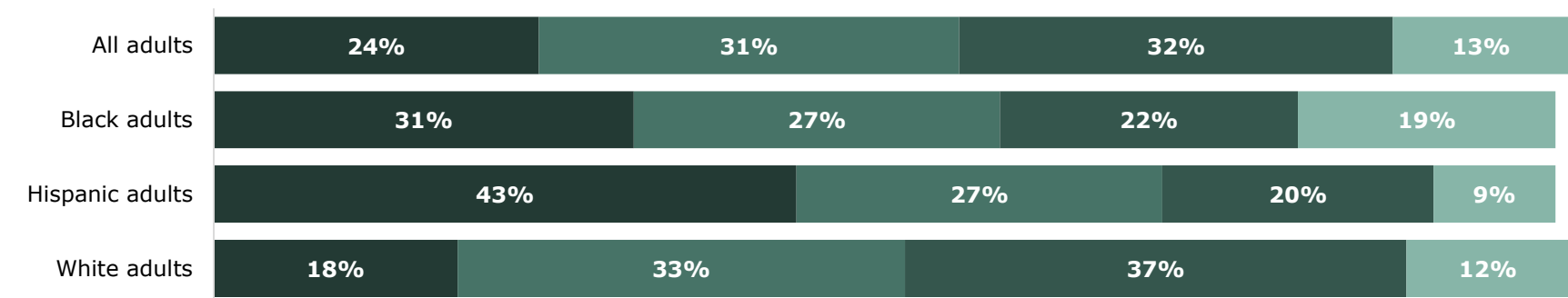
■ Major threat ■ Minor threat ■ Not a threat



How concerned are you that you may get the coronavirus and require hospitalization?

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■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not too concerned ■ Not at all concerned



Sources: Pew Research Center.

Black Americans are being disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and dying at higher rates than any other race

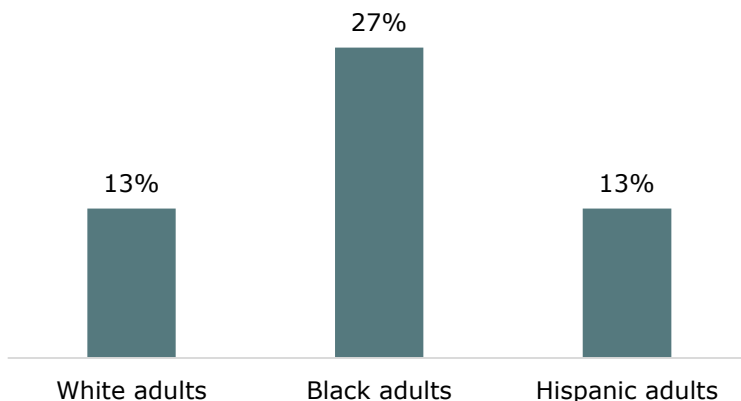
Numbers at a glance

For every 100,000 Black Americans, 50 have died from coronavirus. Their mortality rate is **more than double** the rate for Asians, Latinos and Whites.

A recent study conducted across 39 states and the District of Columbia found that collectively Blacks represented **12.9% of the population but 25.1% of deaths.**

Do you know someone who has been hospitalized or has died as a result of having COVID-19?

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Racial health disparities to consider



Redlining and housing discrimination have forced many black adults into “**food deserts**” where healthy food options are limited or non-existent.



Only **55.5%** of black Americans had **access to private health insurance** in 2017, compared to **75.4%** of white Americans. **43.9%** relied on public health insurance and almost **10%** lacked health insurance.



54% of black Americans are employed in low wage jobs that often lack benefits. Many of these jobs have become essential during the pandemic which has increased the risk of exposure for all workers.



Implicit bias in healthcare has developed mistrust for black Americans because their **health concerns are sometimes ignored or treated differently** than other patients. The issue is more prevalent for black women due to the black maternal health crisis.

Latinos are becoming the second most affected racial group in the country

Numbers at a glance

For every 100,000 Latinos, 23 have died from coronavirus. Their mortality rate is the **second highest** in the country alongside the Asian mortality rate.

A recent study conducted across 40 states and the District of Columbia found that collectively Latinos represented **18.5% of the population but 16.4% of deaths.**



State spotlight: Oregon

In Oregon, Latinos were found to be **20 times as likely** as other screened patients to have the coronavirus. As a result, the state has **expanded their testing criteria to prioritize Latinos and other minorities.**

The state welcomes around **160,000 Latino seasonal farmworkers** during crop picking season. They work near each other and often live in crowded shared spaces, which could facilitate the spread of the virus.

Racial health disparities to consider



Many Latinos tend to live in **multigenerational homes where social distancing and isolation are impossible.** Many farmworkers live in barrack-style housing where they are unable to self-isolate if they are ill.



Due to their inability to receive unemployment benefits, **undocumented Latinos are pressured to continue working** even when falling ill which contributes to the spread of the virus.



63% of Latino workers are employed in low wage jobs that often lack benefits. Many of these jobs have become essential during the pandemic and require face-to-face interaction which increases the risk of exposure for all workers.



17.8% of Latinos lacked health insurance in 2017, compared to **5.9%** of white adults. Only **49%** had access to private insurance and **38.2%** had public health insurance.

The Navajo Nation has now reached the highest per-capita infection rate in the country

Numbers at a glance

The Navajo Nation spans parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and reported a population of 173,667 on the 2010 census.

As of May 18, Navajo Nation reported **4,071 positive cases and 142 deaths**. The penetration rate of COVID-19 for the Navajo population is **2.3%**, compared to **1.8%** for New York state.

The fatality rate in Navajo Nation indicates that the region has suffered **more fatalities than 13 other states**.

The region has implemented a range of **strict preventative measures**, such as:

- Required face masks/coverings in public
- 57-hour lockdowns during the weekends
- Closure of the region's borders
- Essential workers must have documentation with company letterhead and contact information in order to be allowed to leave their home



As of April 12, almost **one-third of positive cases in New Mexico were Native American individuals**, despite them representing only about 11% of the population.



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez stated that as of May 16, **more than 23,000 members of Navajo Nation have been tested for the virus**, accounting for about 11% of the total population.



There are **only five hospitals** under the Navajo Area Indian Health Service. Due to the limited hospital infrastructure, **Doctors Without Borders dispatched two teams** to the region last month. Both teams are expected to remain in the region until June.



Only **30%** of the region's population has **access to running water** which poses challenges to proper sanitation and handwashing. Additionally, the **limited number of grocery stores in the region** have increased risk of exposure for individuals shopping for essentials.

Roadmap

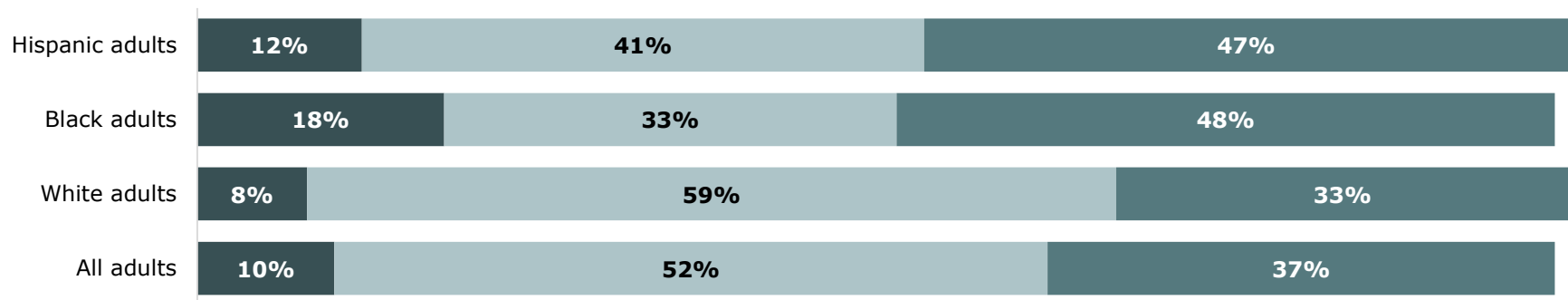
- Impact on personal health
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Hispanic adults are the most impacted by job losses and pay cuts

The coronavirus has hurt your personal finances...?

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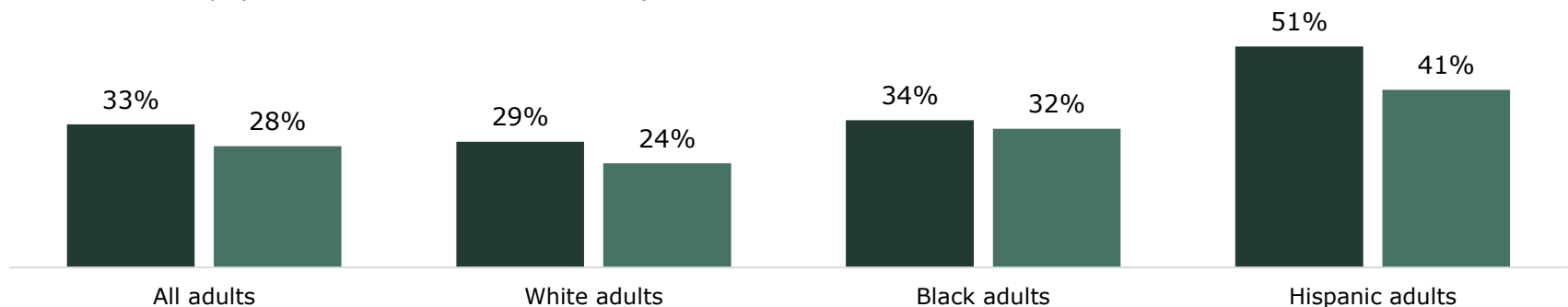
■ More than most other people ■ Less than most other people ■ About the same as most other people



Because of the coronavirus outbreak, have you or anyone in your household...?

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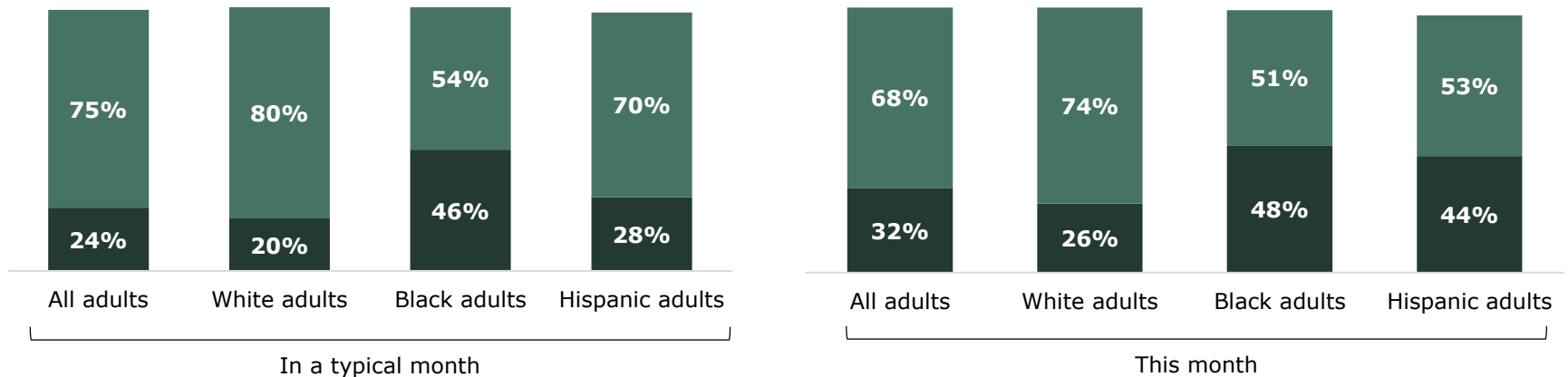
■ Had to take a pay cut ■ Been laid off or lost a job



Hispanic adults are struggling to pay their bills and many adults do not have emergency funds to cover expenses

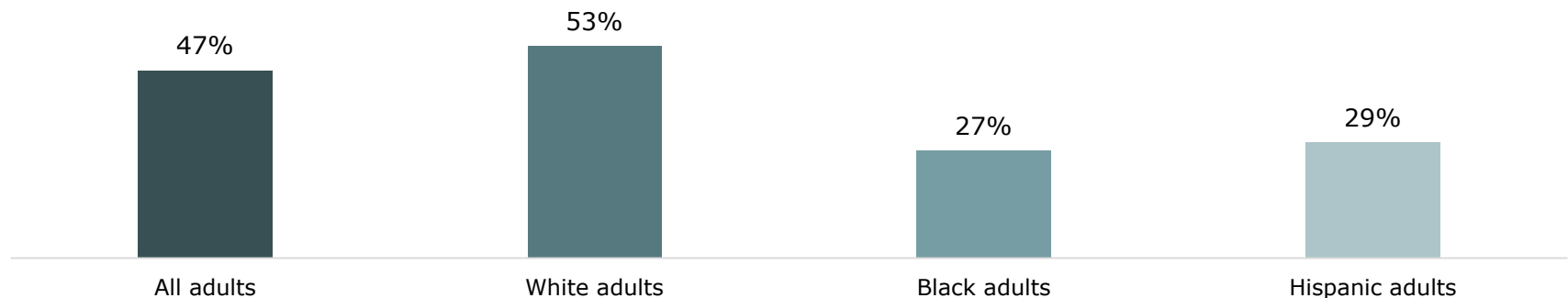
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■ Cannot pay some of their bills ■ Can pay all of their bills in full



Individuals who have emergency funds that would last at least three months, by race

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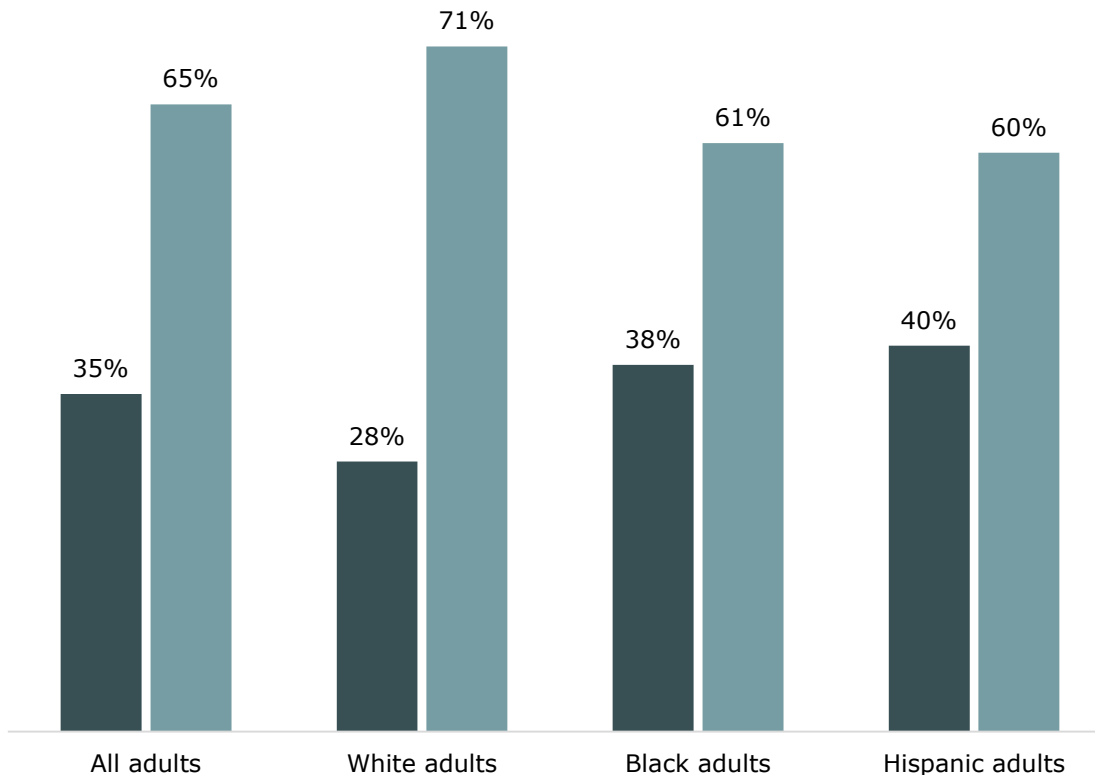
Sources: Pew Research Center

Childcare responsibilities have become more difficult for Black and Hispanic parents

Adults with children under 12 who responded that handling childcare responsibilities during the outbreak has been...

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■ Very/Somewhat difficult ■ Very/Somewhat easy



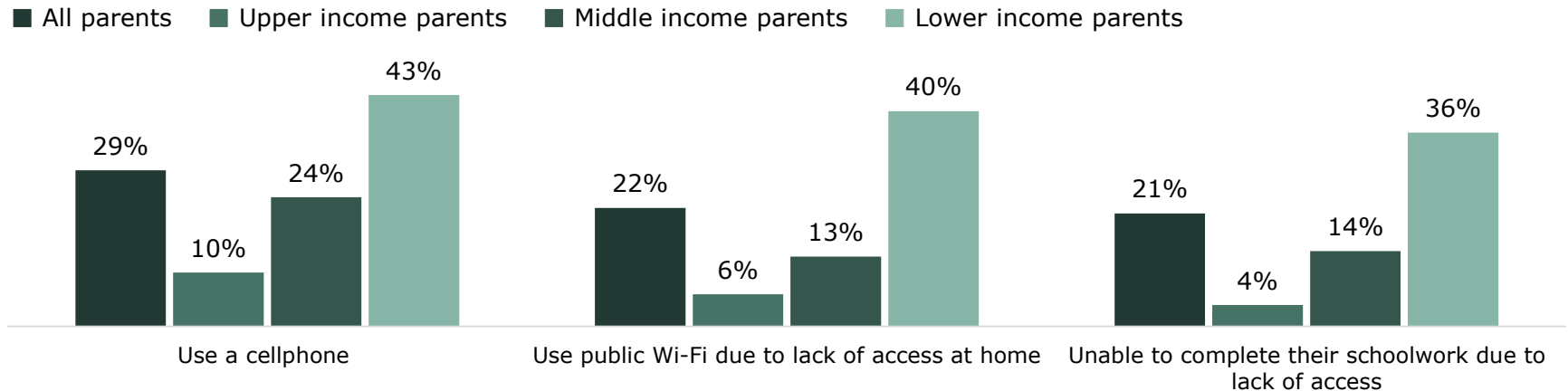
41% of lower income parents are very concerned about **their children falling behind in school**, compared to **21%** of middle income parents and **17%** of upper income parents.

38% of lower income parents said their children have received **“a lot of online instruction from their school,”** compared to **44%** of middle income parents and **51%** of upper income parents.

School closures have become a challenge for lower income families due to lack of access to broadband

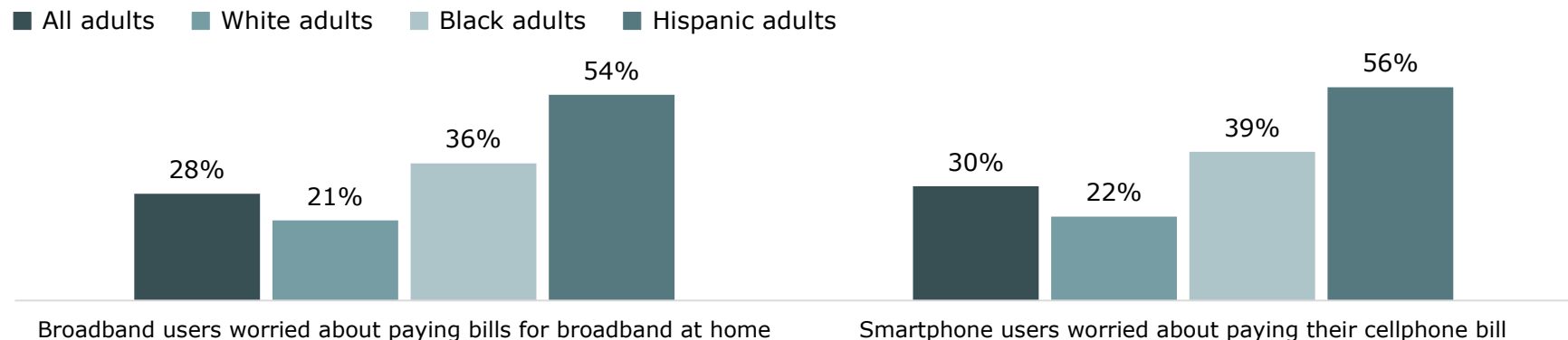
To complete schoolwork at home, your child must...?

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Worries about being able to afford home broadband and smartphone bills

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Sources: Pew Research Center