

COVID Impact on the Massachusetts Latino Community: Developing a Path For Recovery

Findings from a survey of Latinx residents of Massachusetts

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Survey Background

- Statewide survey results based on a statewide survey of 622 Latinx residents of Massachusetts.
- Conducted July 3-13, 2020 via live telephone and online interviewing in English and Spanish.
- Data was weighted to known population parameters on age, gender, education, nationality background, and region.

Topical outline

- Voting: Barriers to participation
- Census: Current completion rates
- COVID: Where impacts have been greatest
- Issues: What issues & policies are of greatest urgency
- Education: The remote learning experience
- Economics: The size and shape of economic challenges

Young people describe barriers to voting

- Young people identify more barriers to participating in elections when compared to older people.
- Language barriers are the least common barrier, and do not pose greater challenges to young people.

Young people identify more barriers to participation

% who say _____ has made it more difficult for them to try to vote in Massachusetts

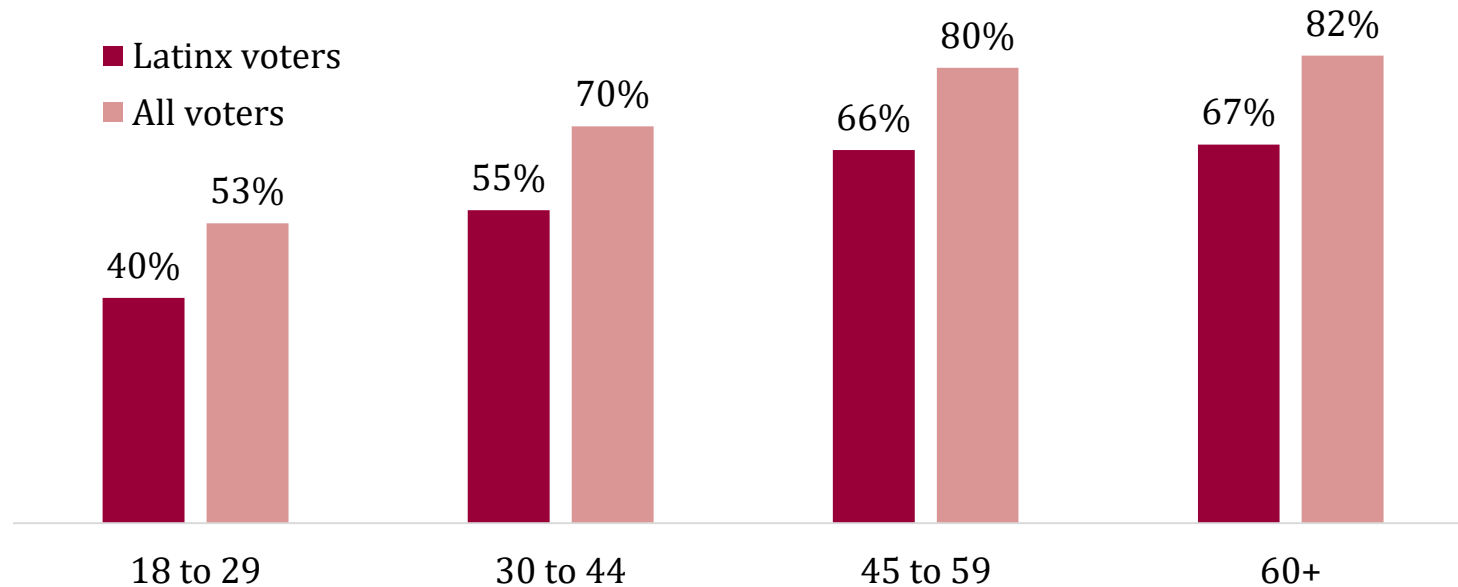
	Time off work	DK where/ when to vote	Inconvenient polling location	Language barrier
Overall	20%	18%	14%	7%
18-29	29%	27%	24%	6%
30-44	21%	18%	12%	6%
45-59	10%	10%	5%	7%
60+	7%	9%	11%	10%

Turnout varies by age

- Among registered voters in 2016, voter file analysis finds turnout rates varied greatly by age, both for Latinx voters and voters overall.

Young voters less likely to turn out to vote in 2016 presidential election

% casting a ballot in the 2016 Presidential General Election, per state voter file

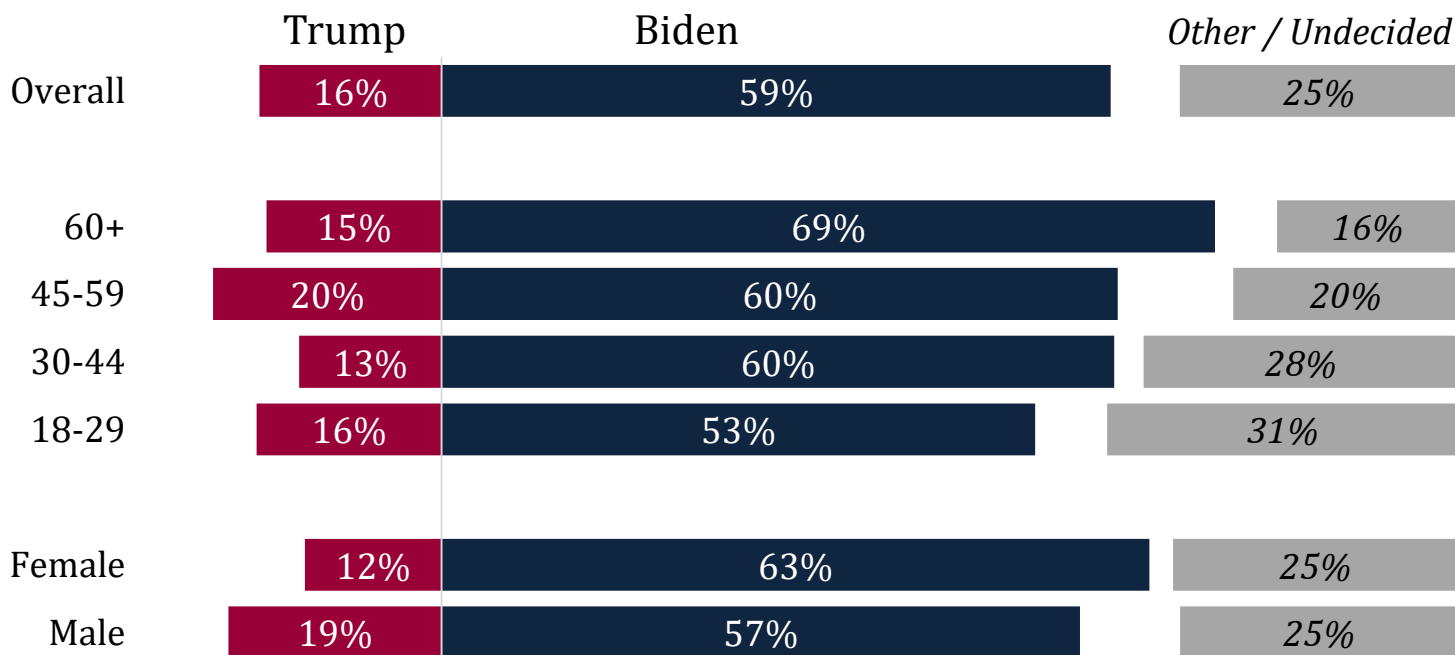


Biden is overwhelming choice

- Biden with very large lead over Trump among registered voters. Younger voters less certain of their vote.

Majority of Latinx registered voters say they support Biden for President

% of Latinx residents who say they would vote for _____

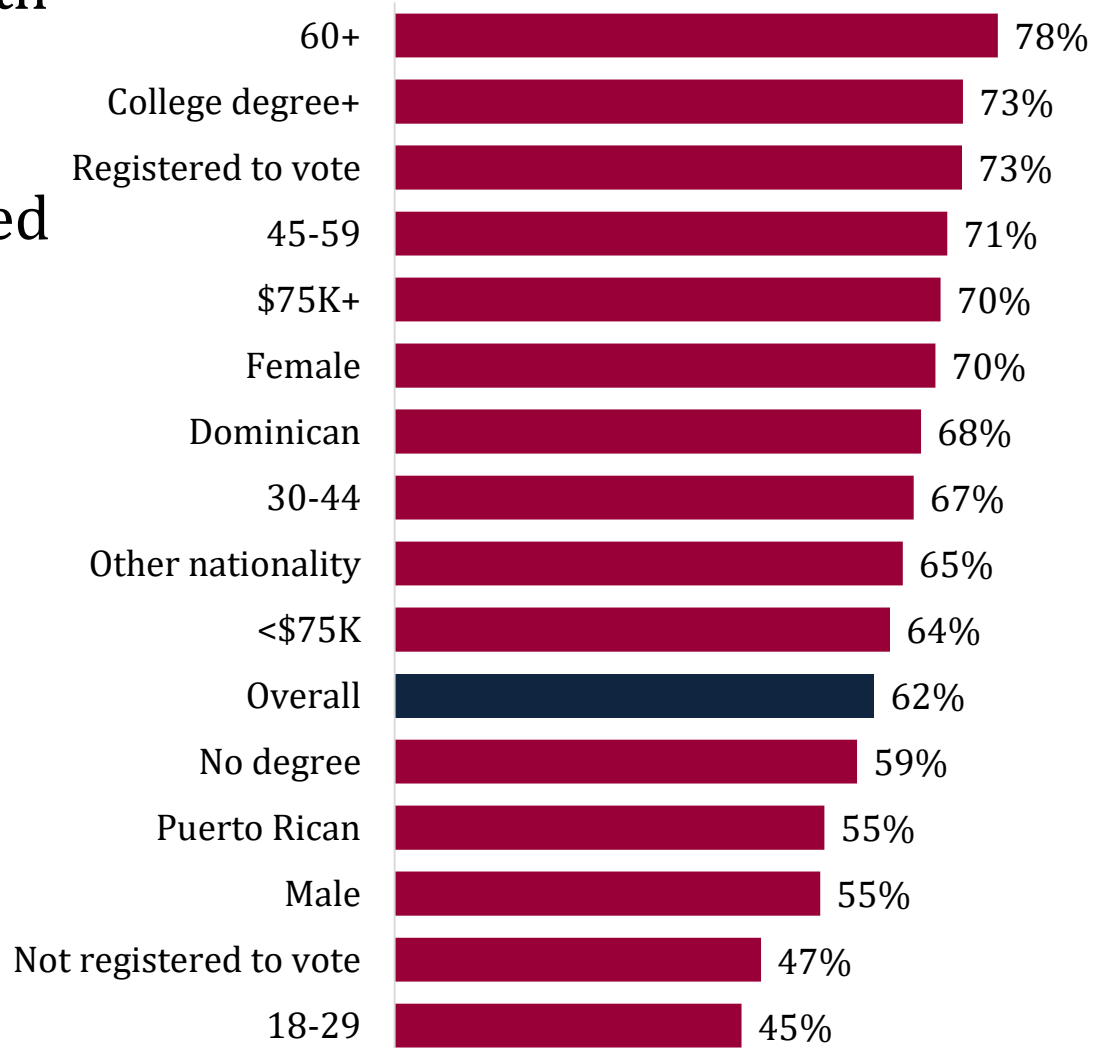


Different census participation rates

- Older people, those with higher levels of education and income more likely to have filled out the Census.
- Less than half of younger people, those not registered to vote have participated.

Different rates of 2020 census participation

% who report filling out the 2020 census



Education tops open-end issue priority

- In an open-ended format, education (26%) is the top issue that Latinx residents say the Mass. state legislature should focus on.
- Jobs/economy (23%) and COVID-19 (21%) are close behind.
- The survey was fielded during the nationwide protests - 14% named BLM, the protests, and race relations as issue priorities.

Education, jobs, and COVID-19 important issues
% who say ___ is one of the most important issues for the MA legislature to address over the next year

	Issue priority
Education	26%
Jobs and the economy	23%
COVID-19	21%
Black Lives Matter / race relations	14%
Health care	12%
Immigrant rights	7%
Police reform	6%
Transportation	4%
Climate change	3%
Child care	3%
Other	39%
Don't Know / Refused	10%

Many issues jockey for top priority

- Jobs, health care, and education top the list of issue priorities in a closed-ended format, although many items are closely bundled together.

Jobs, health care, education top priority list for Latinx residents

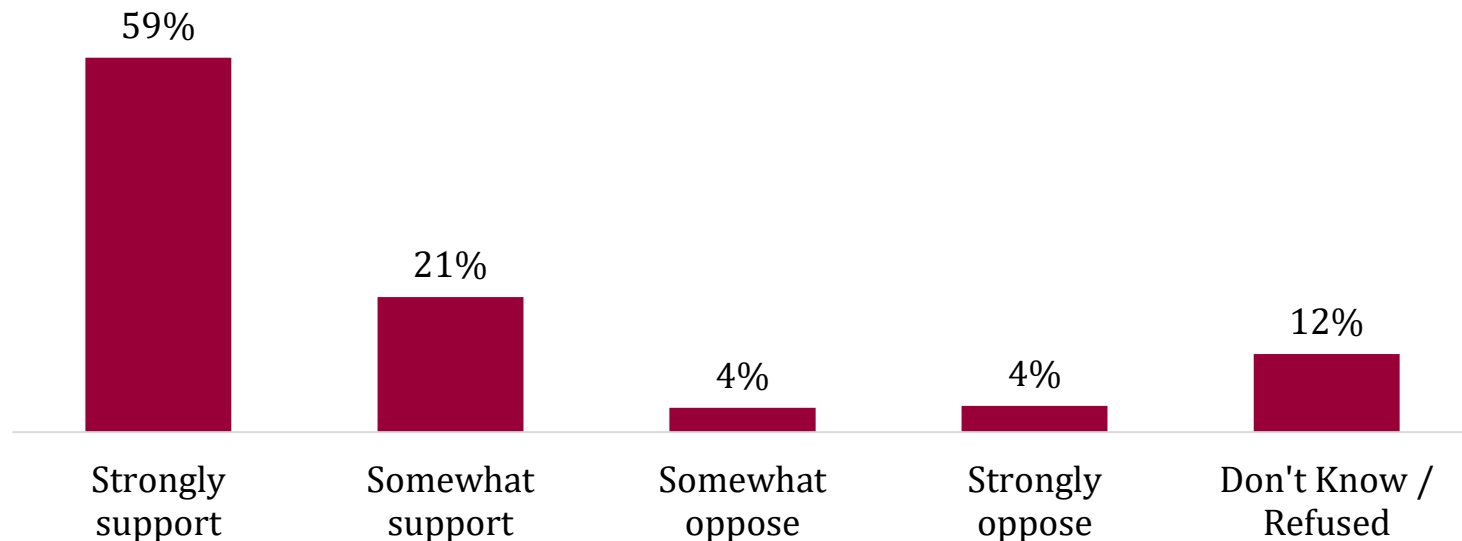
% who say ____ should be a "high priority"

	Statewide
Creating jobs / reducing unemployment	80%
Making health care more affordable	79%
Ensuring access to high quality education	78%
Women's rights / domestic violence protection	77%
Making child care more affordable	75%
Protecting immigrant rights	75%
Improving wages and income	74%
Improving race relations in MA	72%
Creating more affordable housing	68%
Increasing Latino representation in govt.	63%
Reforming police funding and practices	59%
Protecting the state against climate change	57%
Improving public transportation	47%

Broad support for BLM movement

- Most Latinx residents (59%) say they “strongly” support the Black Lives Matter movement, 80% total support.

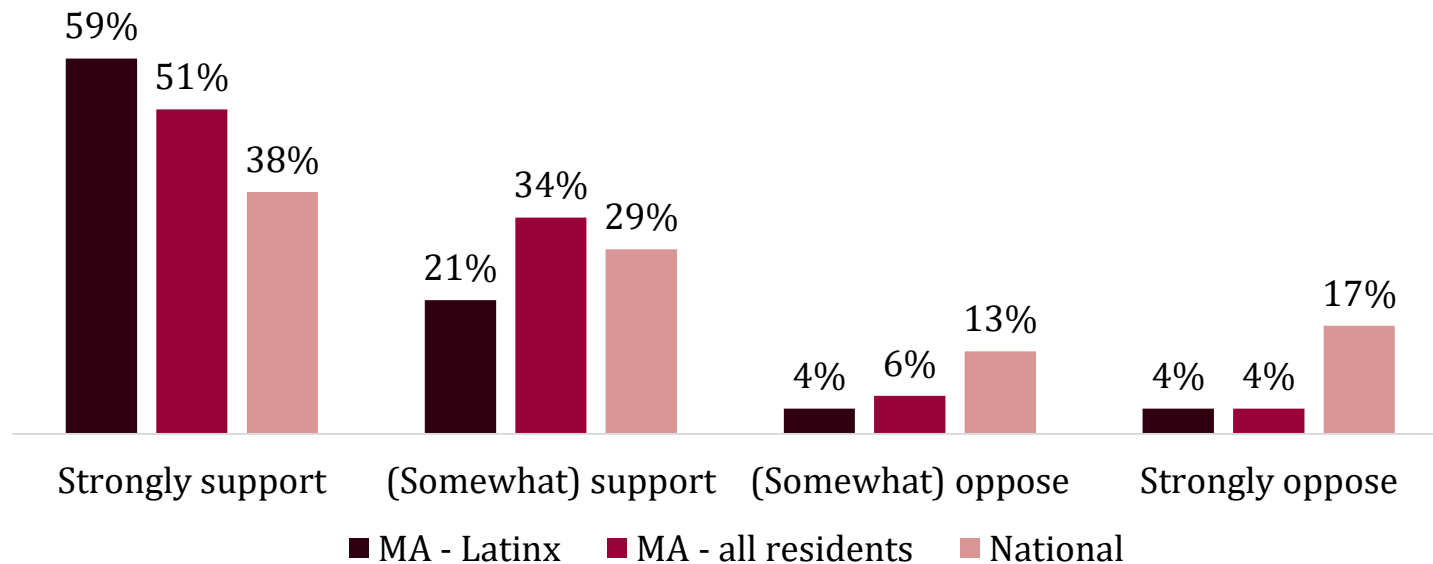
Latinx residents express broad support for Black Lives Matter movement
% who say they _____ the Black Lives Matter movement



Comparing support for BLM

- Compared to the state as a whole and the country, support for the Black Lives Matter movement is particularly strong among Latinx residents of Massachusetts.

MA Latinx residents demonstrate stronger support for BLM than state, nation
% who say they _____ the Black Lives Matter movement

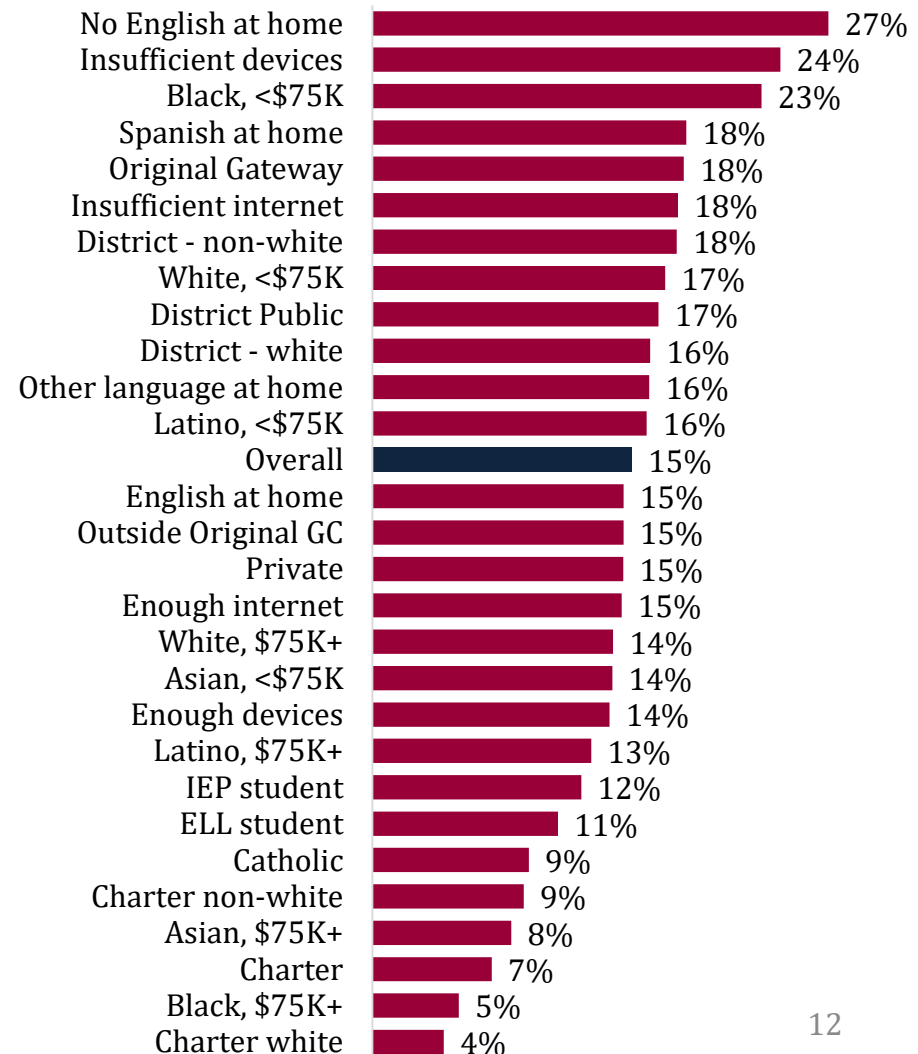


Non-connection rates: online classrooms

- Rates of “non-connection” refer to not reporting regular participation.
- Non-connection rates highest for those with language, tech barriers and those with lower incomes.

Non-connection rates for online classrooms

% of parents who did not report receiving regular participation in online classrooms



Source: MPG education poll, June 4-19, 2020

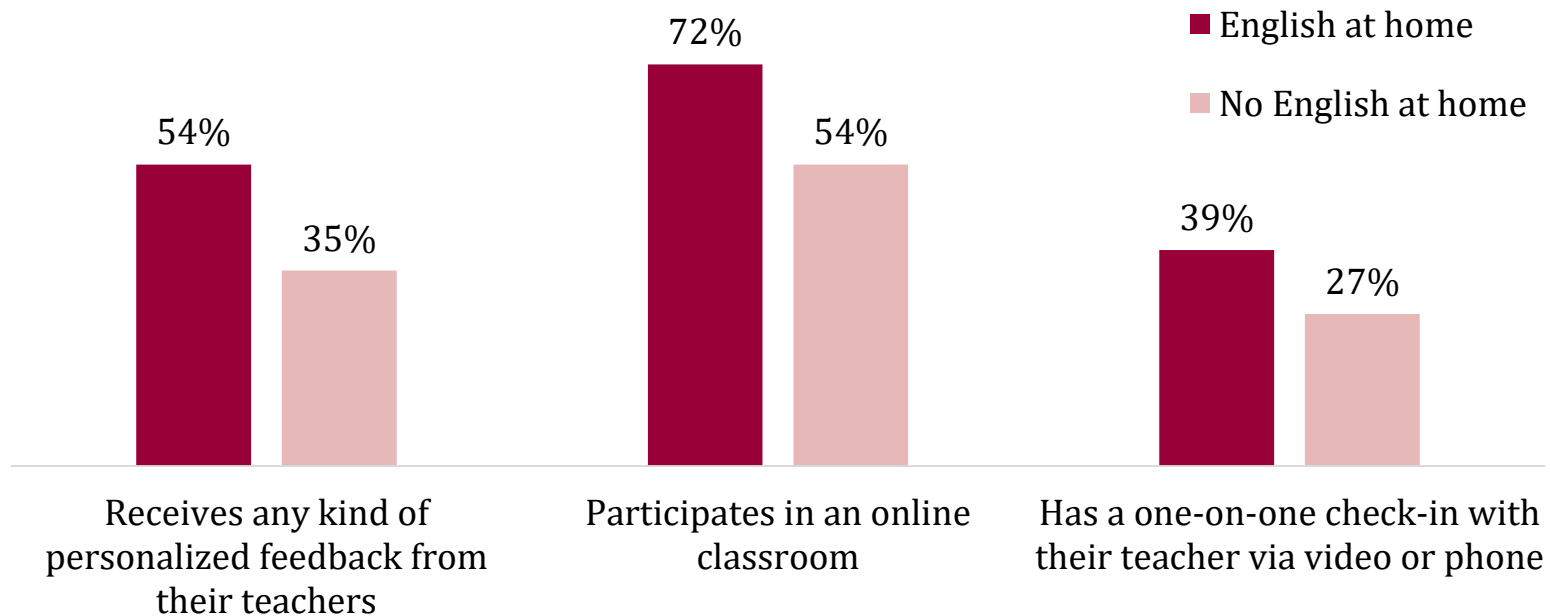
Q: How often would you say your child participates in an online classroom?

Language barriers and remote learning

- Non-English speaking households report less frequent contact, feedback during remote learning.

Non-English speaking households report less frequent contact with teachers

% of parents who say their child _____ at least a few times a week

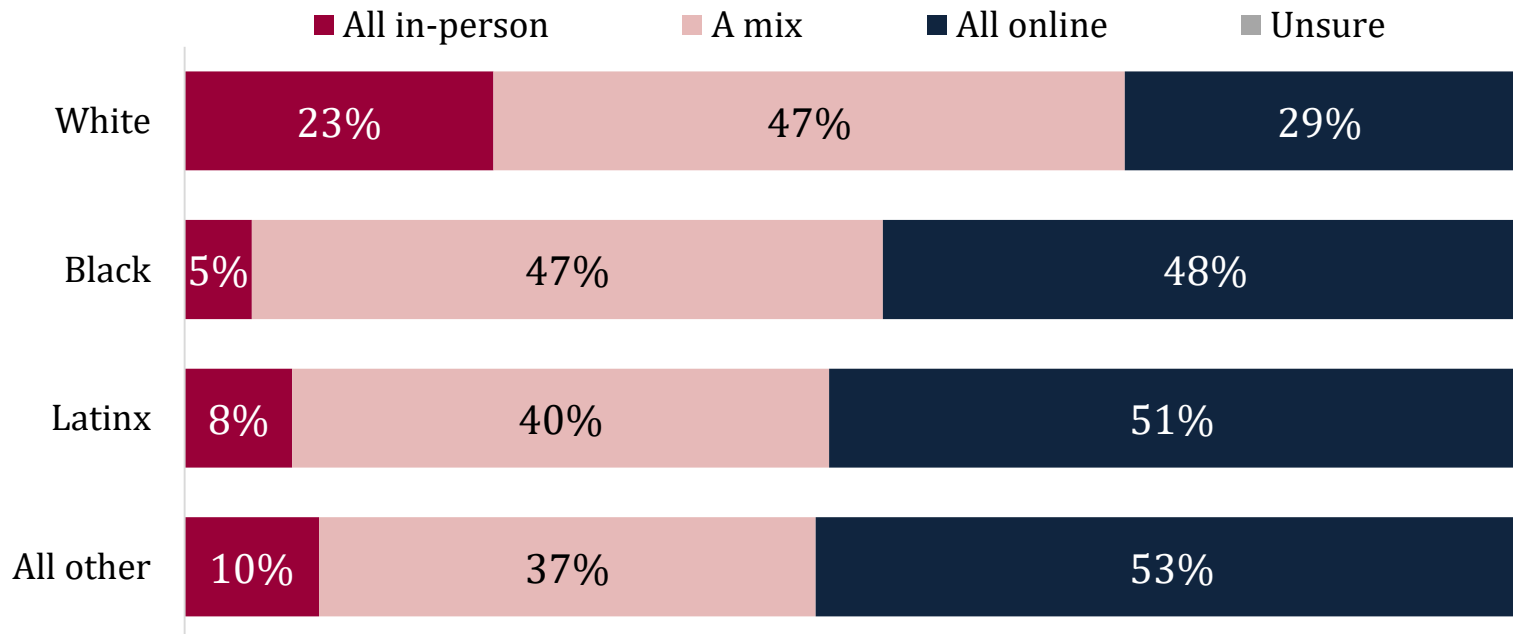


Plans for next school year

- National polling finds sharp differences on preferences for in-person vs. remote instruction for this school year.

Latinx, Black parents more likely to prefer all online instruction

% of parents (nationally) who would prefer each approach next school year



Source: [Washington Post](#) national poll, July 24-31

COVID-19's disparate impact

- COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, though many cases remain unclassified.
- Official counts suggest 3-4.5% of Latinx population has tested positive.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Tuesday, August 11, 2020

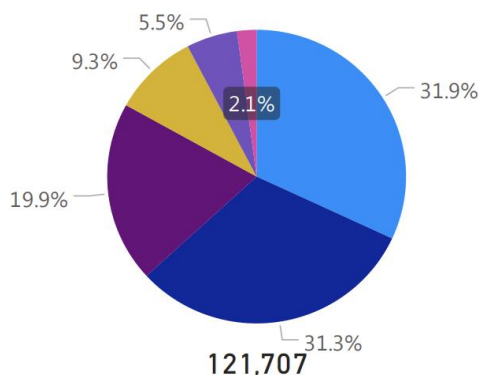
Cases, Hospitalizations, & Deaths by Race/Ethnicity

The following caveats apply to these data:

1. Information on race and ethnicity is collected and reported by laboratories, healthcare providers and local boards of health and may or may not reflect self-report by the individual case.
2. If no information is provided by any reporter on a case's race or ethnicity, DPH classifies it as missing.
3. A classification of unknown indicates the reporter did not know the race and ethnicity of the individual, the individual refused to provide information, or that the originating system does not capture the information.
4. Other indicates multiple races or that the originating system does not capture the information.

Note: COVID-19 testing is currently conducted by dozens of private labs, hospitals, and other partners and the Department of Public Health is working with these organizations and to improve data reporting by race and ethnicity, to better understand where, and on whom, the burden of illness is falling so the Commonwealth can respond more effectively. On 4/8, the Commissioner of Public Health issued an Order related to collecting complete demographic information for all confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients.

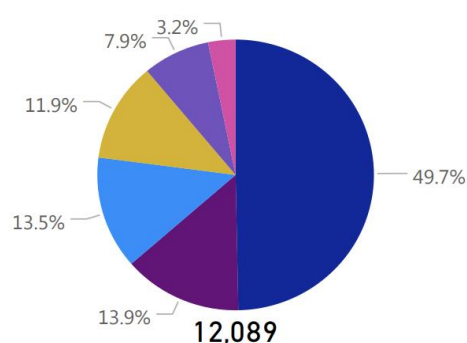
Total Cases by Race/Ethnicity



Total Case Count

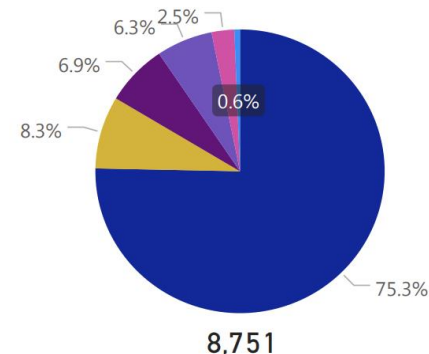
● Hispanic ● Non-Hispanic Asian ● Non-Hispanic Black/African American ● Non-Hispanic Other ● Non-Hispanic White ● Unknown/Missing

Total Cases Reported as Hospitalized* by Race/Ethnicity



Total Cases Reported as Hospitalized

Total Deaths by Race/Ethnicity



Total Deaths

Exposure results - overall

- In all, 12% of all Latinx residents report someone in their household has had COVID-like symptoms, 9% tried to get tested.
- Among those who tried to get tested, 72% said everyone in their household who wanted to was able to do, 23% said only some were able to, while a small minority (3%) said no one was able to get tested.
- Among those who got tested, 49% tested positive (representing 4% of all Latinx residents).

COVID-19 exposure in the Latinx community

% of all Latinx residents in MA who say they...

	Had symptoms	Tried to get tested	Tested, everyone able	Tested, some able	Not able to get tested	Tested positive
Overall	12%	9%	6%	2%	<1%	4%

Q: Have you or anyone else in your immediate household had the symptoms associated with COVID-19?

Q: Did you or anyone in your household try to get tested for COVID-19?

Q: Was everyone in your household who tried to get tested able to do so were some people able to while others were not, or was no one able to get tested?

Q: Did you or anyone else in your immediate household test positive for COVID-19?

Q: Were you or anyone in your household hospitalized for COVID-19?

Exposure results – essential workers

- Essential workers have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis. They are also less likely to have worked from home since the crisis began.
- Essential workers are more likely to have had symptoms.

Essential workers more likely to have had symptoms

% of all Latinx residents in MA who say they...

	Had symptoms	Tried to get tested	Tested, everyone able	Tested, some able	Not able to get tested	Tested positive
Overall	12%	9%	6%	2%	<1%	4%
Essential	14%	8%	5%	2%	1%	4%
Non-essential	7%	6%	5%	1%	<1%	3%

Q: Have you or anyone else in your immediate household had the symptoms associated with COVID-19?

Q: Did you or anyone in your household try to get tested for COVID-19?

Q: Was everyone in your household who tried to get tested able to do so were some people able to while others were not, or was no one able to get tested?

Q: Did you or anyone else in your immediate household test positive for COVID-19?

Q: Were you or anyone in your household hospitalized for COVID-19?

Exposure results –insurance, employment

- Those without health insurance and those unemployed report higher rates of symptoms and testing than the overall Latinx population.

Those without health insurance / unemployed more likely to have COVID-19 symptoms
% of all Latinx residents in MA who say they...

	Had symptoms	Tried to get tested	Tested, everyone able	Tested, some able	Not able to get tested	Tested positive
Overall	12%	9%	6%	2%	<1%	4%
Have health insurance	11%	8%	6%	2%	<1%	4%
Do not have health insurance	19%	13%	7%	4%	0%	5%
Unemployed / furloughed	22%	18%	13%	5%	<1%	12%

Q: Have you or anyone else in your immediate household had the symptoms associated with COVID-19?

Q: Did you or anyone in your household try to get tested for COVID-19?

Q: Was everyone in your household who tried to get tested able to do so were some people able to while others were not, or was no one able to get tested?

Q: Did you or anyone else in your immediate household test positive for COVID-19?

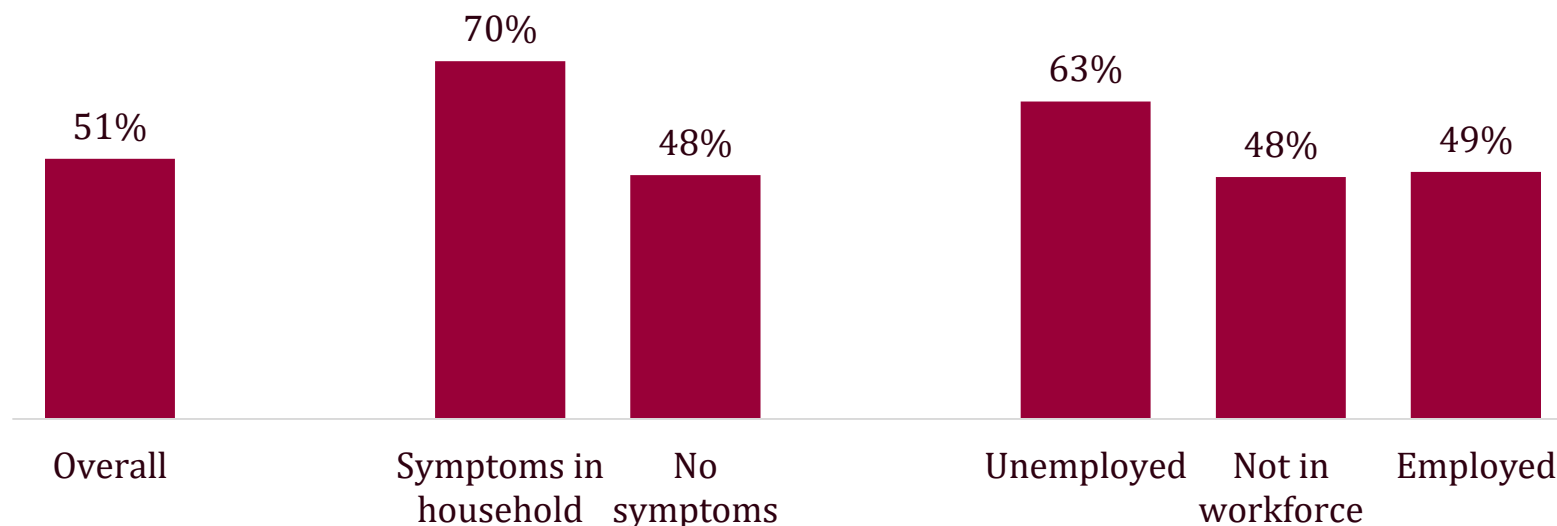
Q: Were you or anyone in your household hospitalized for COVID-19?

Mental health challenges

- Those who are unemployed, and those who have had COVID symptoms in the household are also more likely to describe mental health challenges, compounding the crisis.

More mental health challenges among those dealing with other challenges

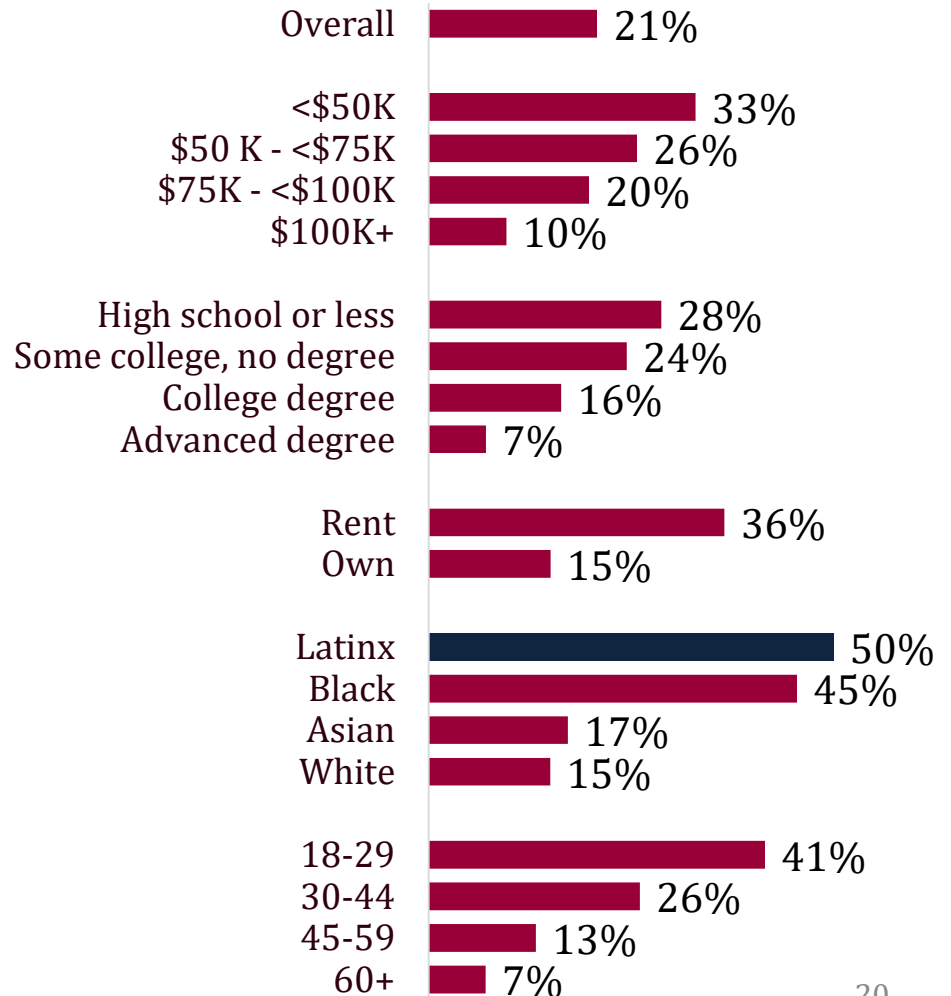
% in each situation who say they have felt more sad, anxious, or depressed



Economic distress since crisis began

- While 21% of the state's population are in the higher distress categories, this jumps to 50% of Latinx residents (from May MPG housing survey).
- Based on missed housing payments, food insecurity, lost pay, and job losses since coronavirus started.

Demographics of economic distress in Mass.
% in the "more distress" or "most distress" categories,
by demographic grouping



Source: MPG housing poll, May 20-25, 2020

Lower-income & employment consequences

- Those who live in lower-income households are more likely to have lost wages and lost a job, while being less likely to have worked remotely.

Lower-income residents face heightened employment consequences of coronavirus

% who say they have ____ since the coronavirus crisis began

	Overall	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$75K	\$75K- <\$100K	\$100K+
Employed: Worked remotely	50%	36%	58%	69%	62%
Lost a job you had before crisis	19%	24%	18%	11%	11%

Lower-income face economic consequences

- The impact on savings is more even across income groups, suggesting many economic consequences are widespread.
- But a very acute consequence – needing food donations – is more likely among the lower-income.

Lower-income residents face heightened economic consequences of coronavirus

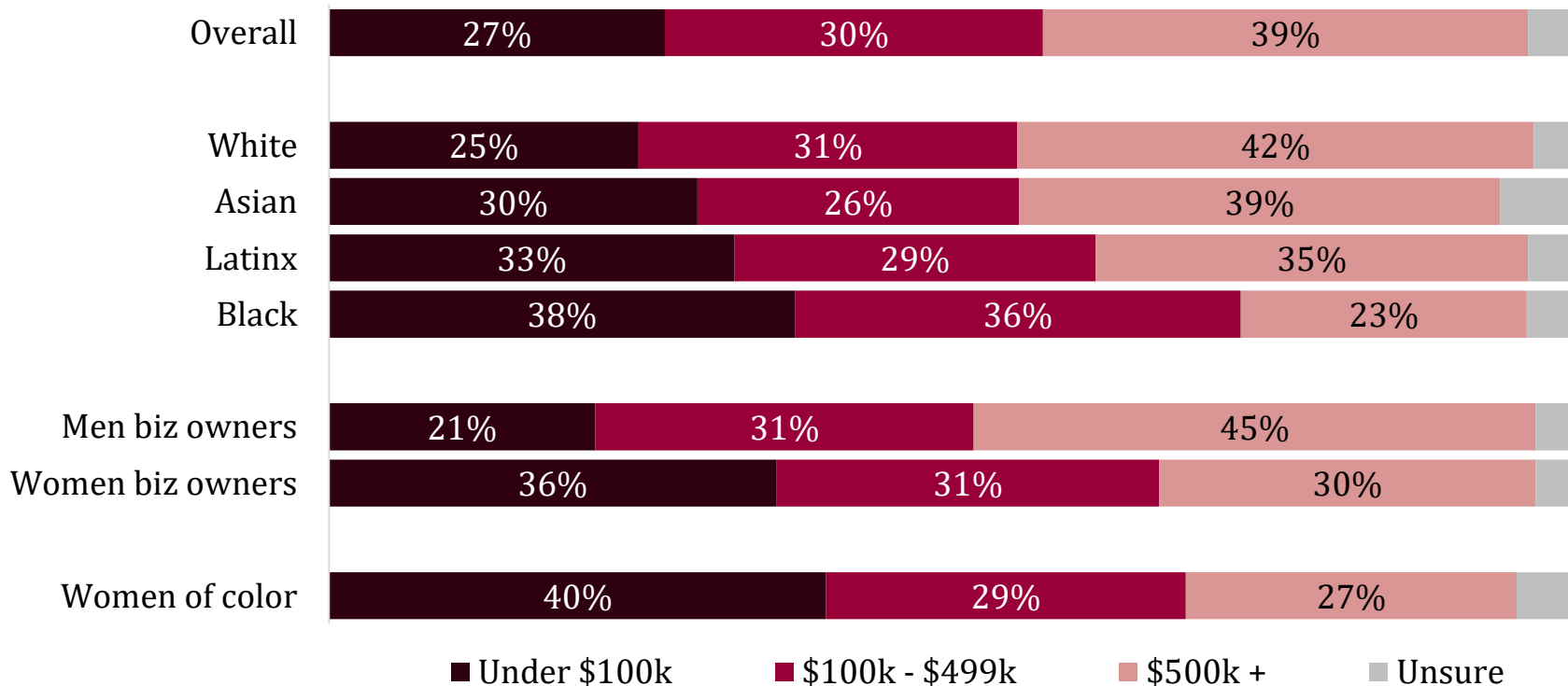
% who say they have ____ since the coronavirus crisis began

	Overall	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$75K	\$75K- <\$100K	\$100K+
Gotten food from food bank	35%	46%	21%	18%	11%
Lost savings / retirement	36%	38%	38%	39%	31%
Missed any rent/mortgage	17%	20%	21%	20%	11%

Business size and demographics

- Different COVID impacts by size exacerbate race and gender disparities for business owners.

Differences in business size by the race/ethnicity, gender of owners/founders
% of companies in each revenue category (2019), by demographics of owners/founders

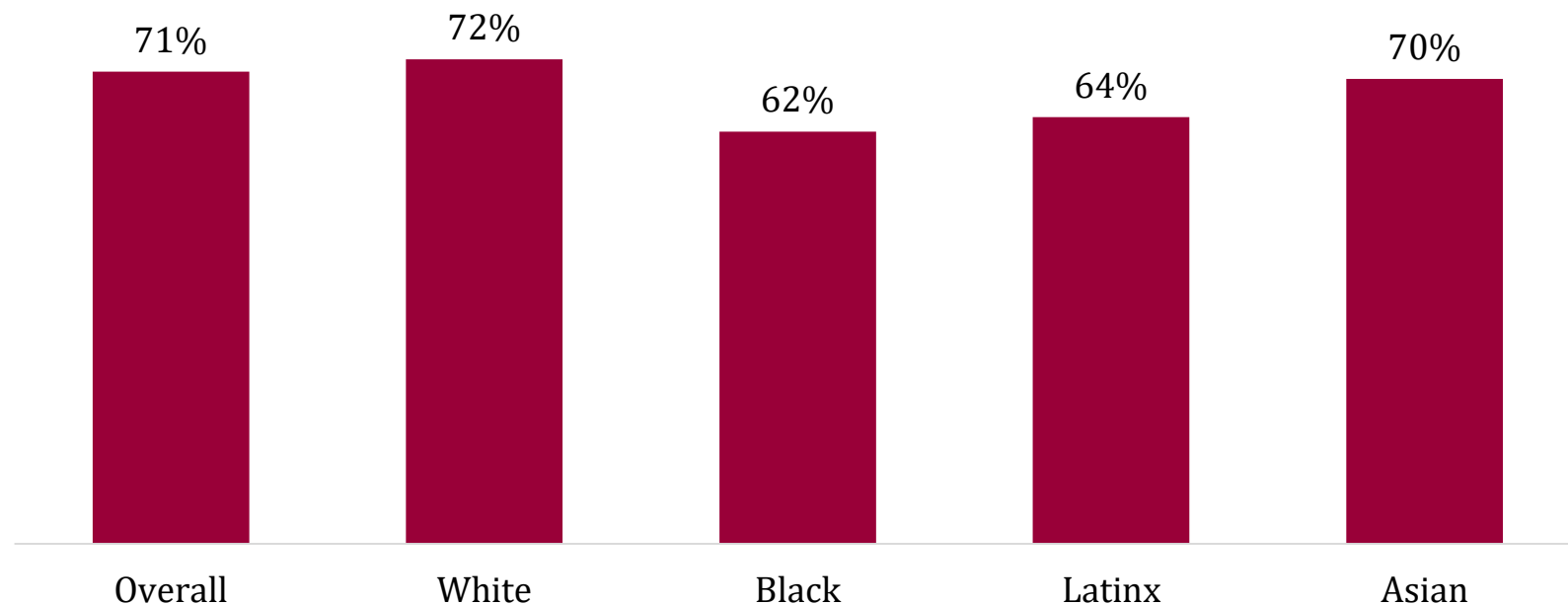


Differences in PPP applications...

- Black and Latinx-owned business were somewhat less likely to report applying for PPP loans.

Black-owned businesses were least likely to apply for PPP loans

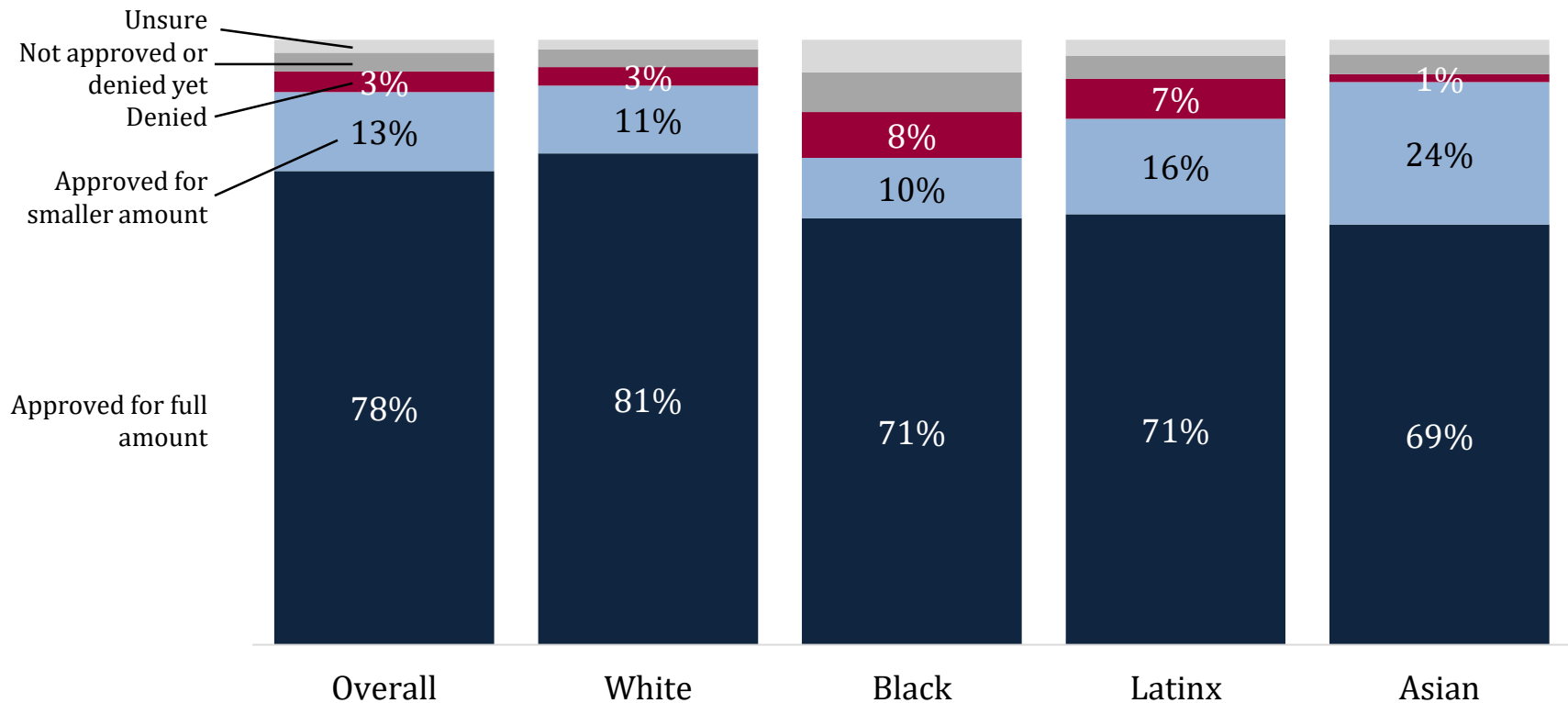
% of MA small business with owners who identify as _____ who applied for a PPP loan



... and in PPP approval outcomes

- Minority-owned businesses less likely to report receiving the PPP loan amount they applied for.

Of those who applied, more white-owned businesses received full application amount
% of MA small with owners who identify as _____ who say their PPP loan was _____.

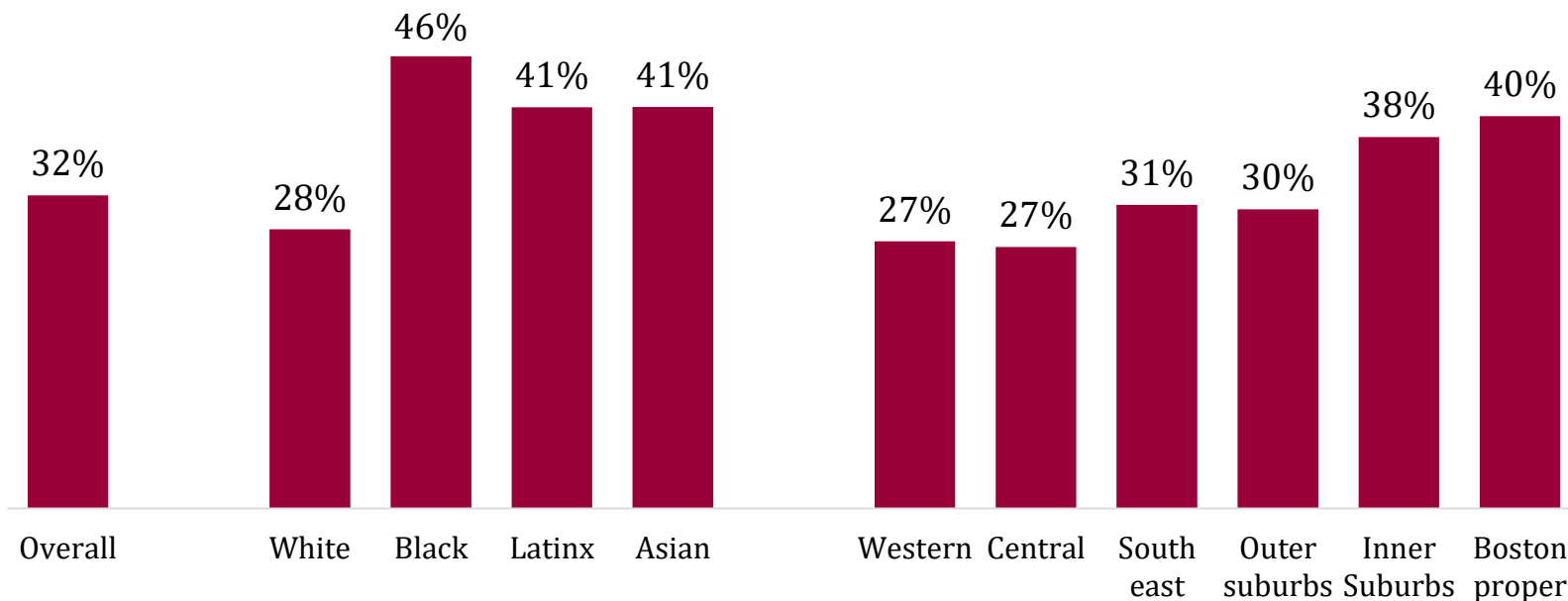


Missed payments vary considerably

- Non-white-owned business more likely to report have missed a payment.
- Businesses closer to Boston are also struggling more with missed payments.

Missed payments higher among non-white-owned business and within Route 128

% who have missed any type of payment, overall and by company owner race and region





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