

COVID-19 Racial & Ethnic Disparities

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Before we begin...

- King County declared racism a public health crisis on June 11, 2020
- Race / ethnicity data is imperfect
- This is the work of many, many people
- *Almost* everything is available at <https://kingcounty.gov/>

Where we are going

- National overview
- Local context
- Local COVID-19 health inequities
- Local COVID-19 economic and social inequities
- Local response
- Questions / discussion



National situation

Unequal protection

American inequality meets covid-19

Some already yawning gaps are being pushed farther apart by the virus

King County has big racial disparities in coronavirus cases and deaths, according to public-health data

May 1, 2020 at 6:28 pm | Updated May 1, 2020 at 6:57 pm



As Coronavirus Deepens Inequality, Inequality Worsens Its Spread

Published March 15, 2020 Updated March 16, 2020

The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus

By [Richard A. Oppel Jr.](#), [Robert Gebeloff](#), [K.K. Rebecca Lai](#), Will Wright and [Mitch Smith](#) July 5, 2020

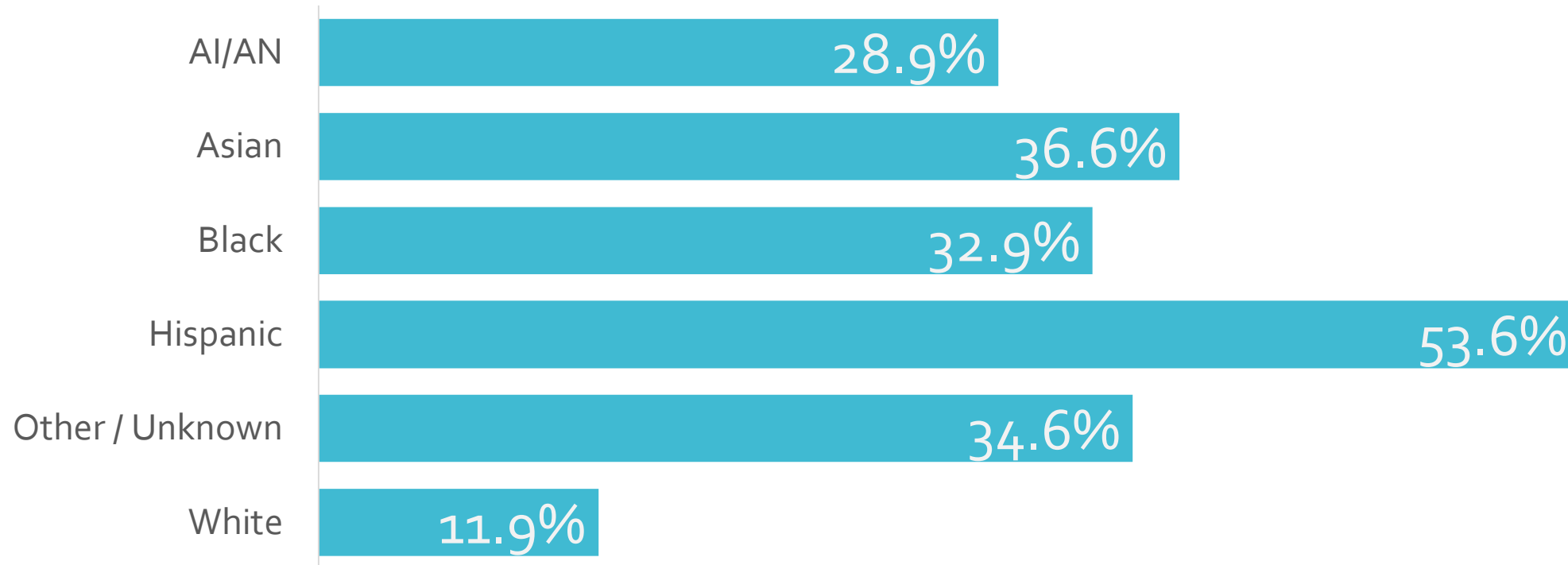
A tale of two New Yorks: pandemic lays bare a city's shocking inequities

The coronavirus has laid bare two societies divided on lines of class and race - a divide reflected in skewed death figures

Fri 10 Apr 2020

Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity — United States, January 26–October 3, 2020

Lauren M. Rossen, PhD¹; Amy M. Branum, PhD¹; Farida B. Ahmad, MPH¹; Paul Sutton, PhD¹; Robert N. Anderson, PhD¹



Why?

- Discrimination / racism
- Healthcare access and utilization*
- Occupation
- Educational, income, and wealth gaps*
- Housing



Local context

King County Health Disparities Dashboard

About: Across 50+ health and socioeconomic indicators, this dashboard computes "relative rate ratios" to compare rates for communities of color to a comparison group (whites or King County average).

For example, a ratio of 2 between Hispanic and the King County average means the Hispanic rate is twice the average rate for King County; a ratio of 1 means both rates are equal; and a ratio below 1 means the comparison rate is higher.

Select comparison group

White

Race (Click on a group to highlight)

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Multiple Race

Data category

- (All)
- ACS
- BRFSS
- Life expectancy
- Deaths
- Cancer deaths
- Cancer incidence
- Maternal/child health
- TB incidence

Gender (not available for all data)

- All
- Female
- Male

Filter results to a significance level

(All)

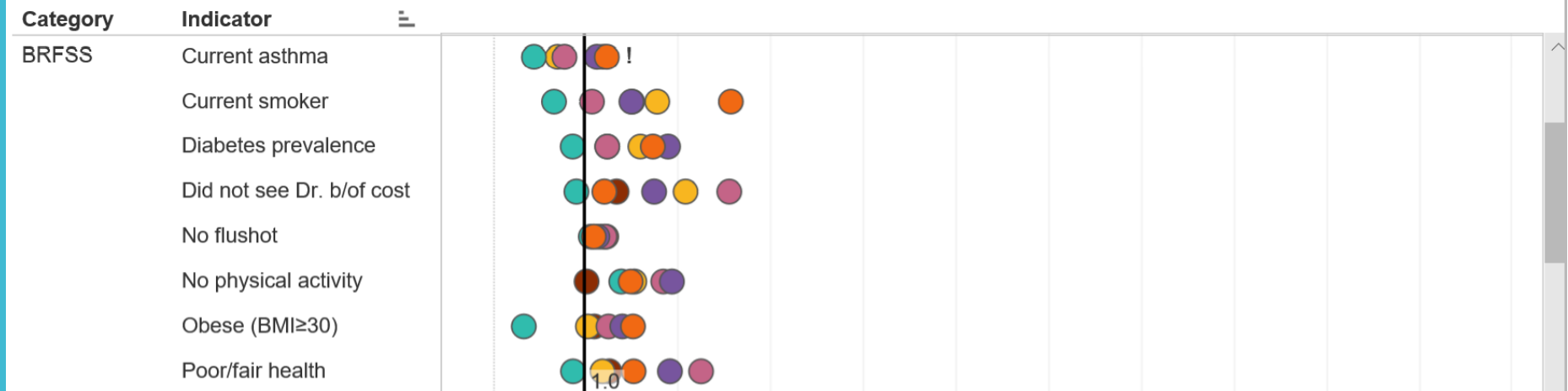
Filter indicators

(All)

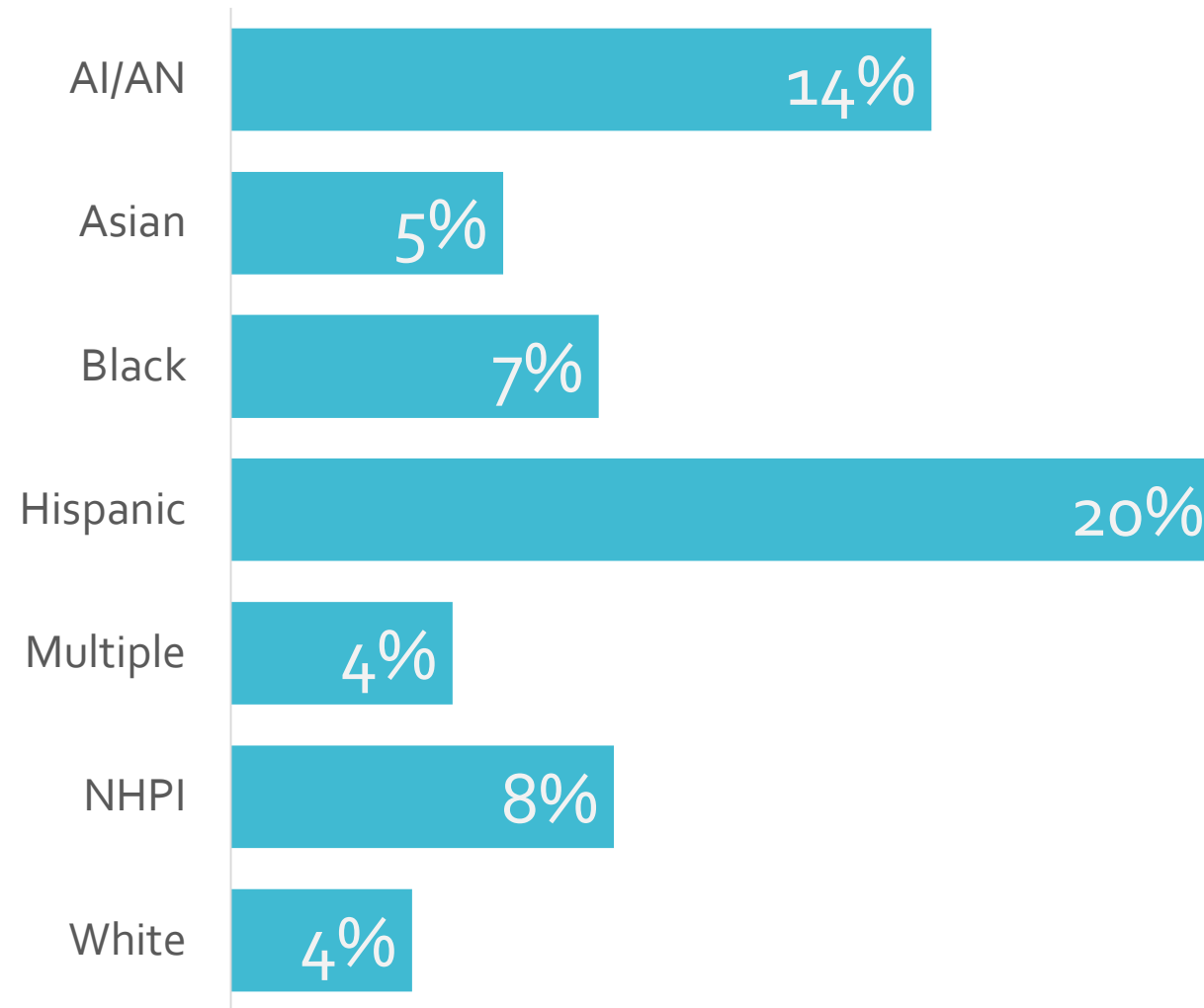
Filter results to a rate ratio level

(All)

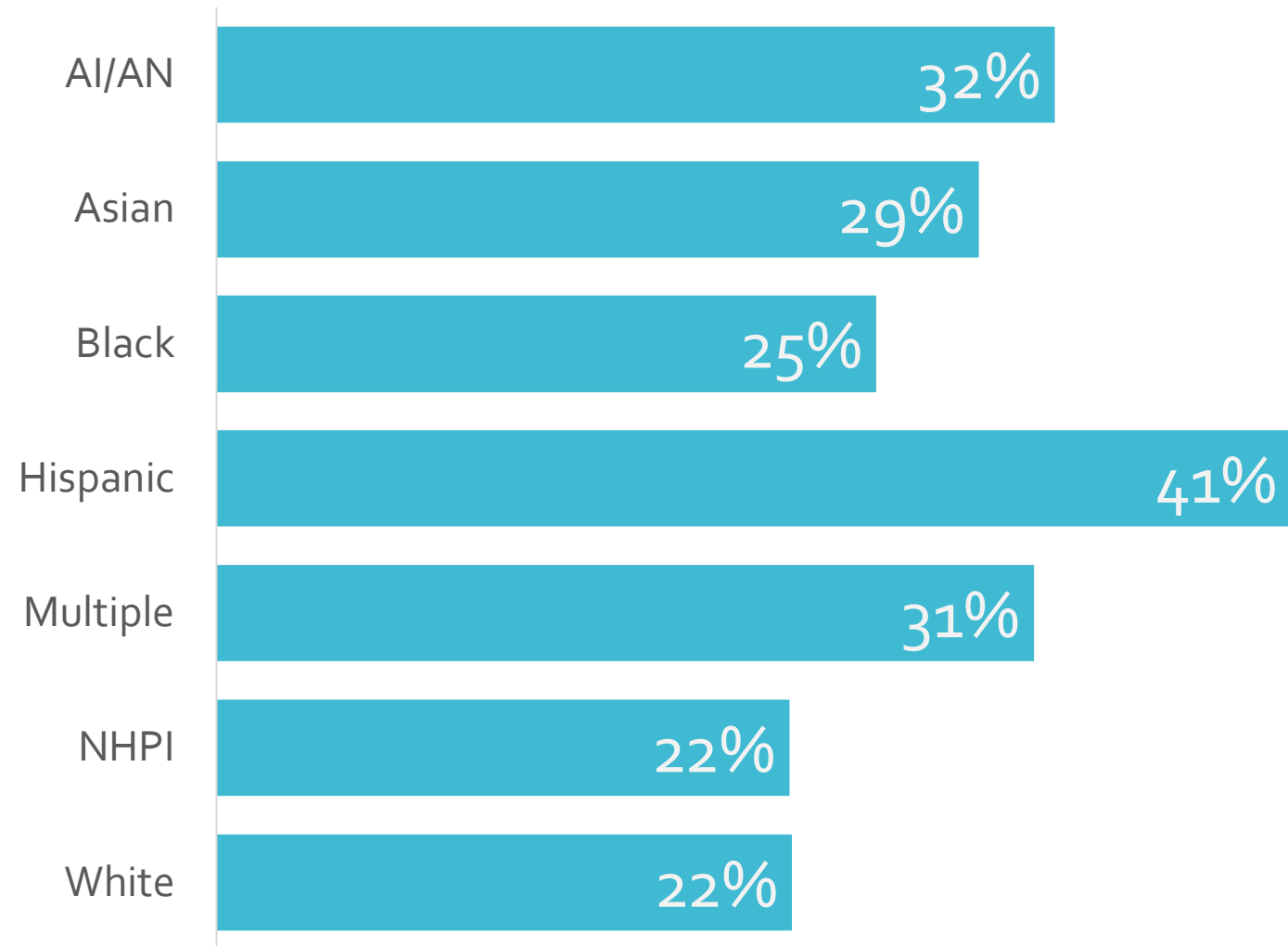
(Hover over or click the dots to see more information about health disparities)



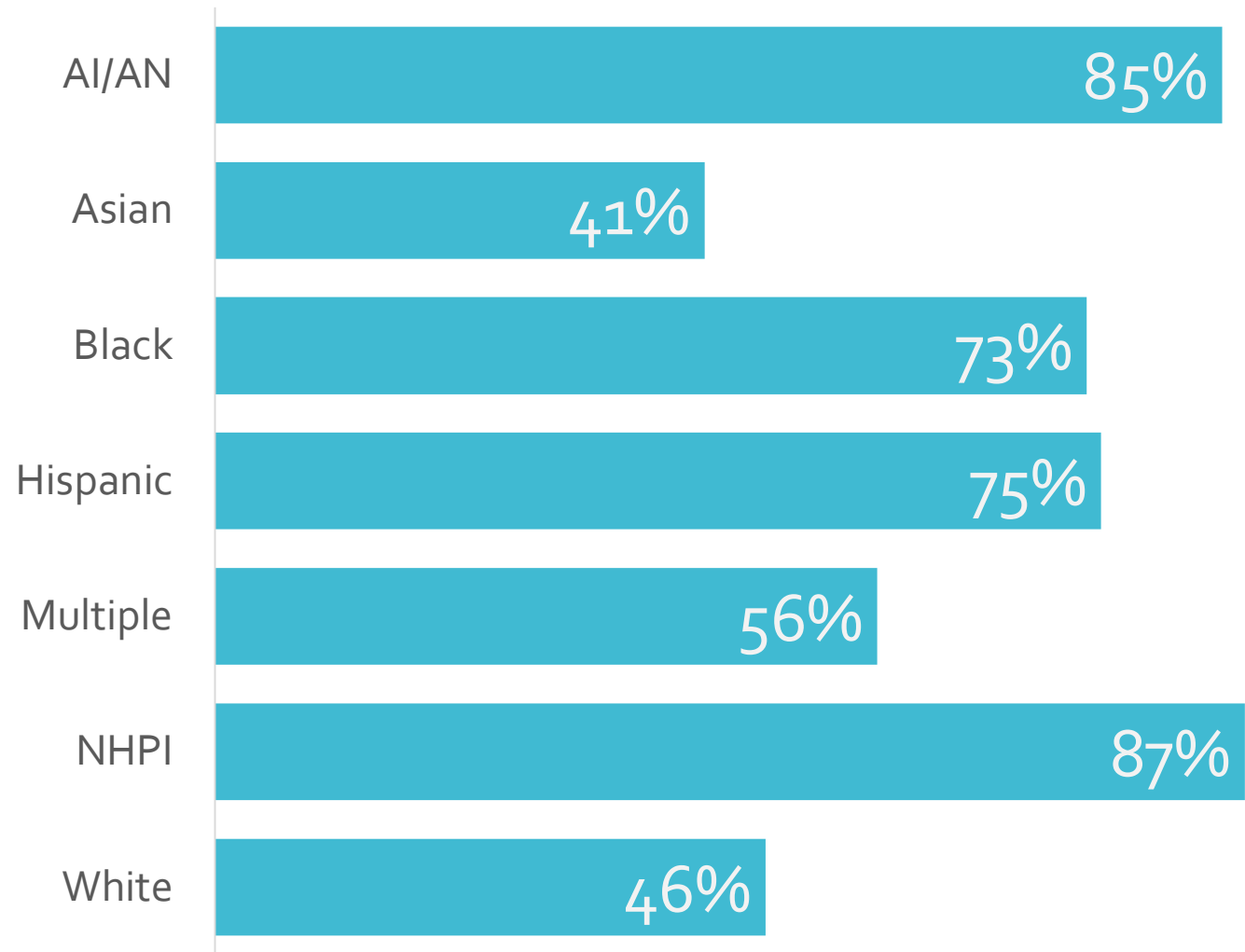
Without health insurance



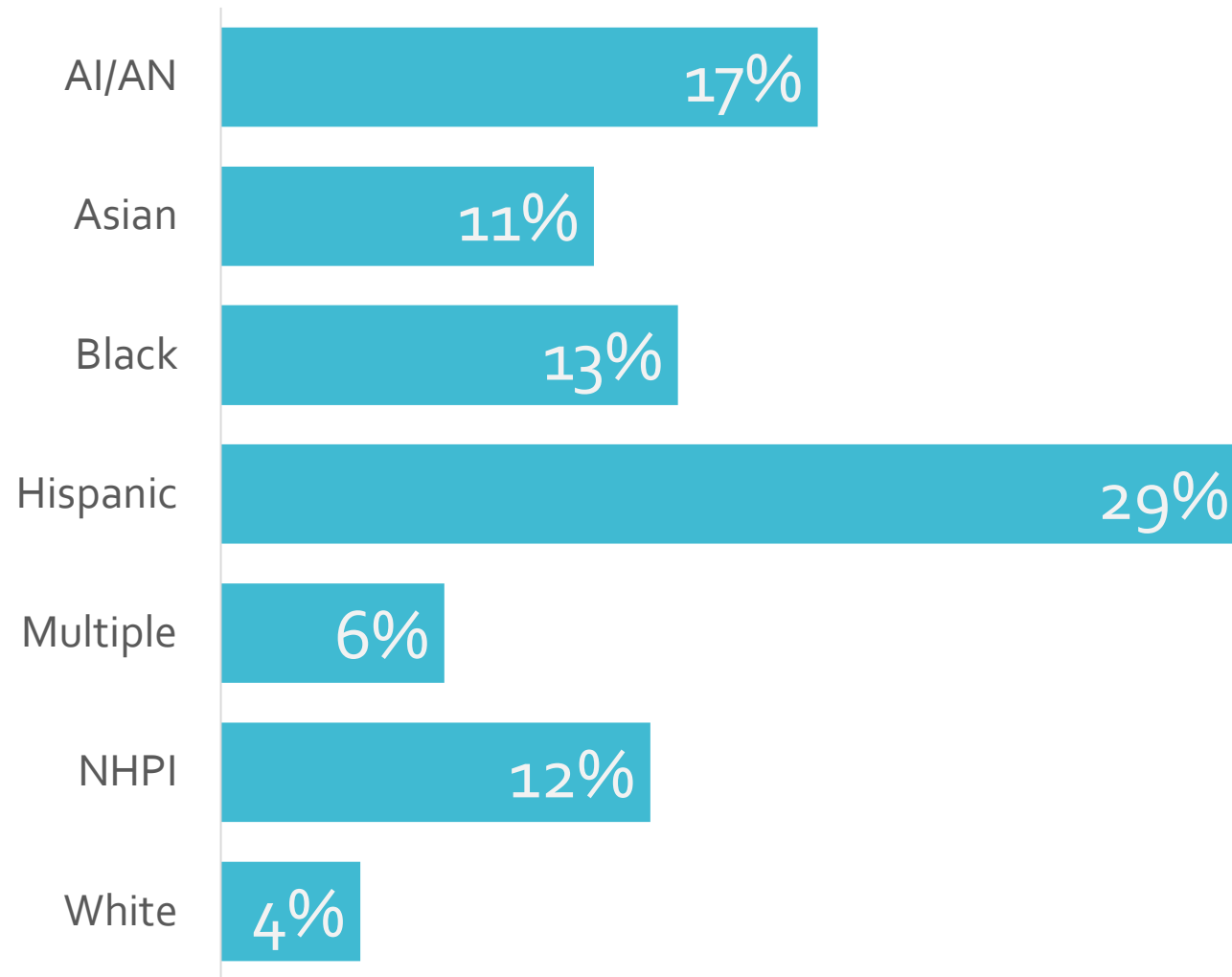
Adults without a usual primary care provider



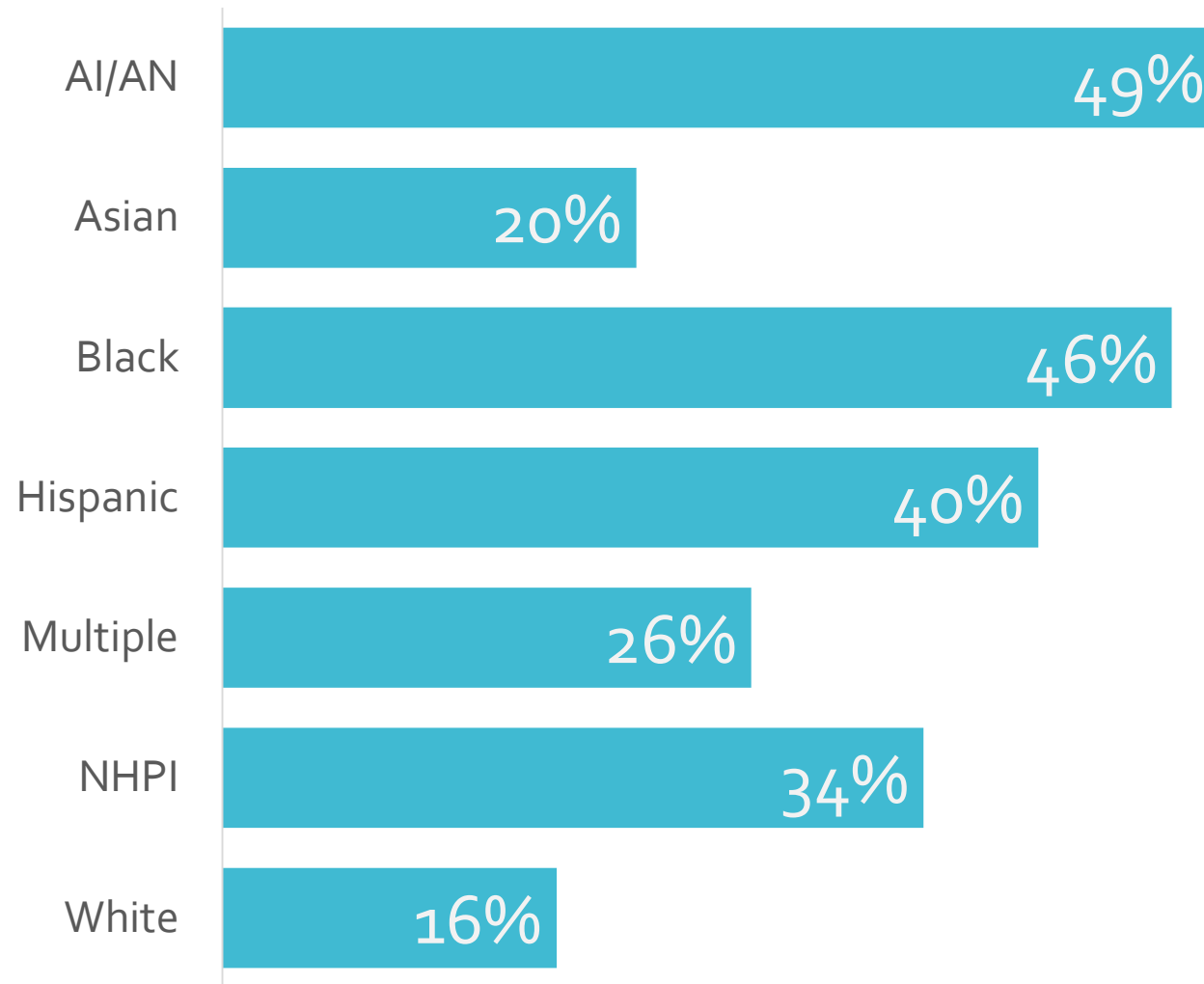
Less than a bachelor's degree (age 25+)



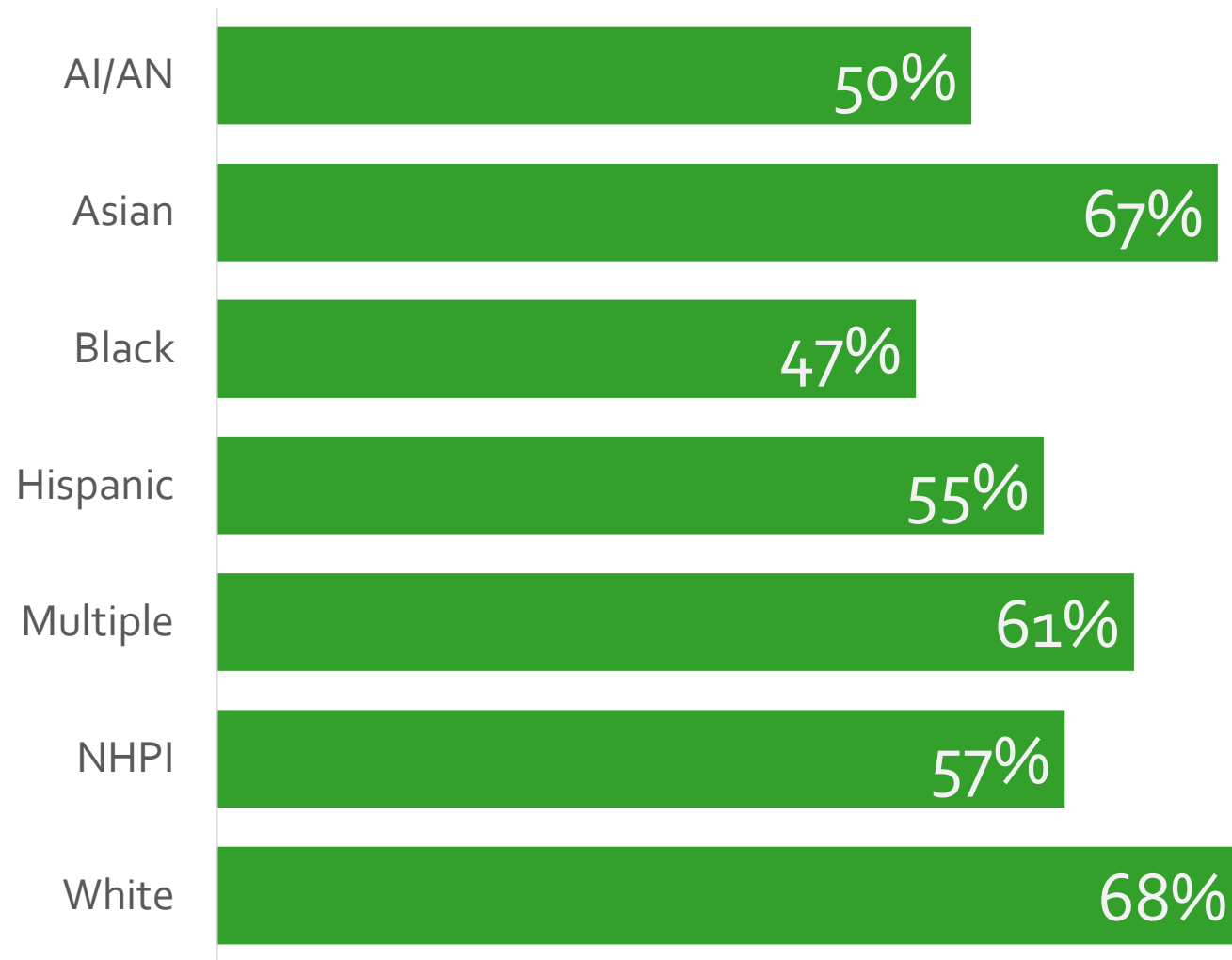
Less than a
high school
diploma (age
25+)



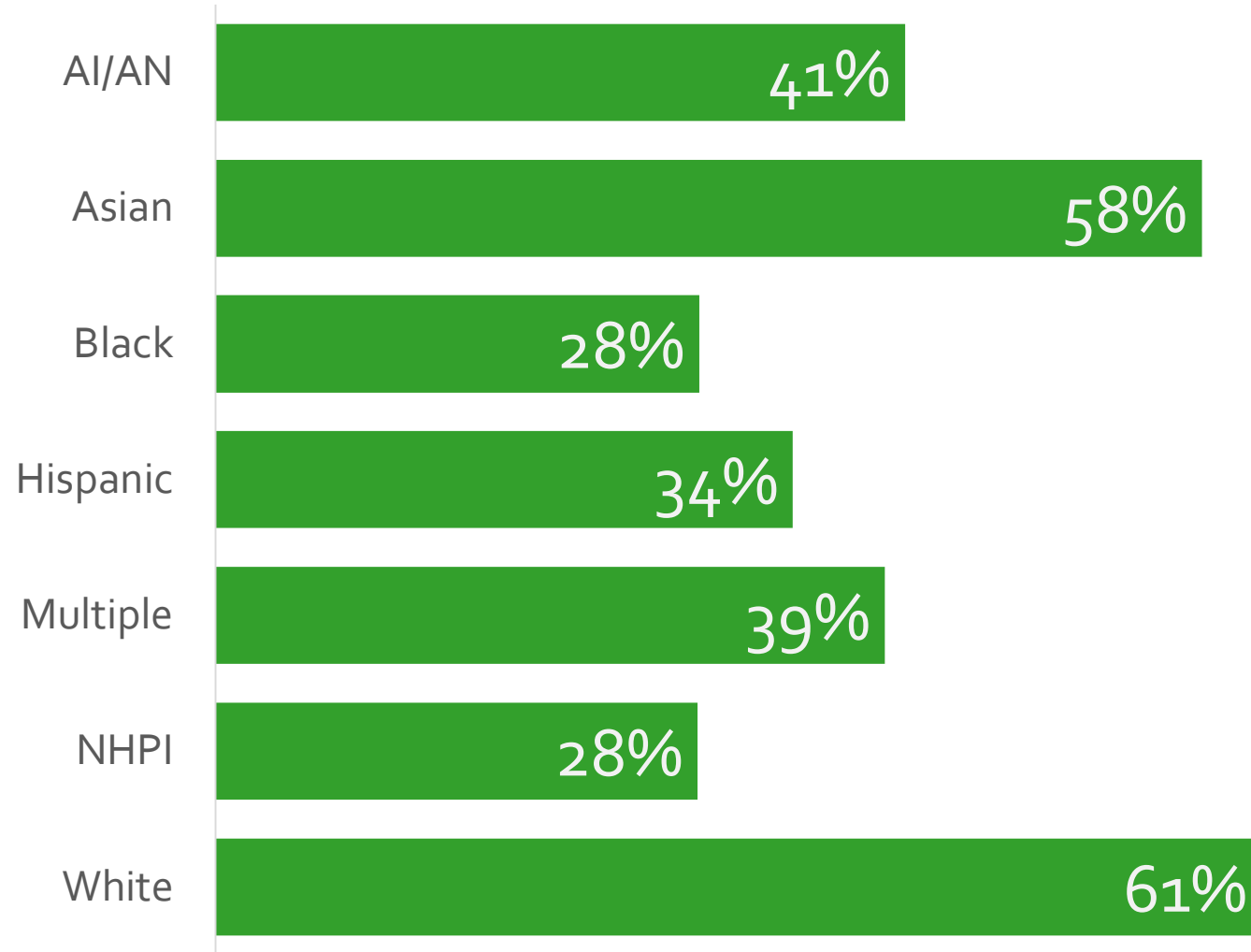
Near poverty & poverty (< 200% FPL)



Not housing
burdened
($<30\%$ of
household
income)



Home ownership



Local context summary

BIPOC communities (with the exception of Asians) did not enter the pandemic on a level playing field

- Less access to care
- Lower levels of education
- Greater poverty burden
- Greater housing burden
- Less wealth



Local COVID-19 health inequities

COVID-19 data dashboards



Case investigation and contact tracing

UPDATED ON WEDNESDAYS

This dashboard displays data on case investigation and contact tracing.



Key indicators of COVID-19 activity

UPDATED DAILY (MON-FRI)

This dashboard displays data on key indicators that track COVID-19 activity.



Economic, Social and Overall Health Impacts Dashboard

UPDATED WEEKLY

This dashboard shows changes in key economic, social, and other health indicators resulting from strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19.



Race/Ethnicity Dashboard

UPDATED ON MONDAYS

This dashboard shows the impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color compared to whites in King County, WA.



Syndromic Surveillance Dashboard

UPDATED ON WEDNESDAYS

This dashboard shows emergency department visits and hospitalizations for COVID-like illness and pneumonia at King County healthcare facilities.



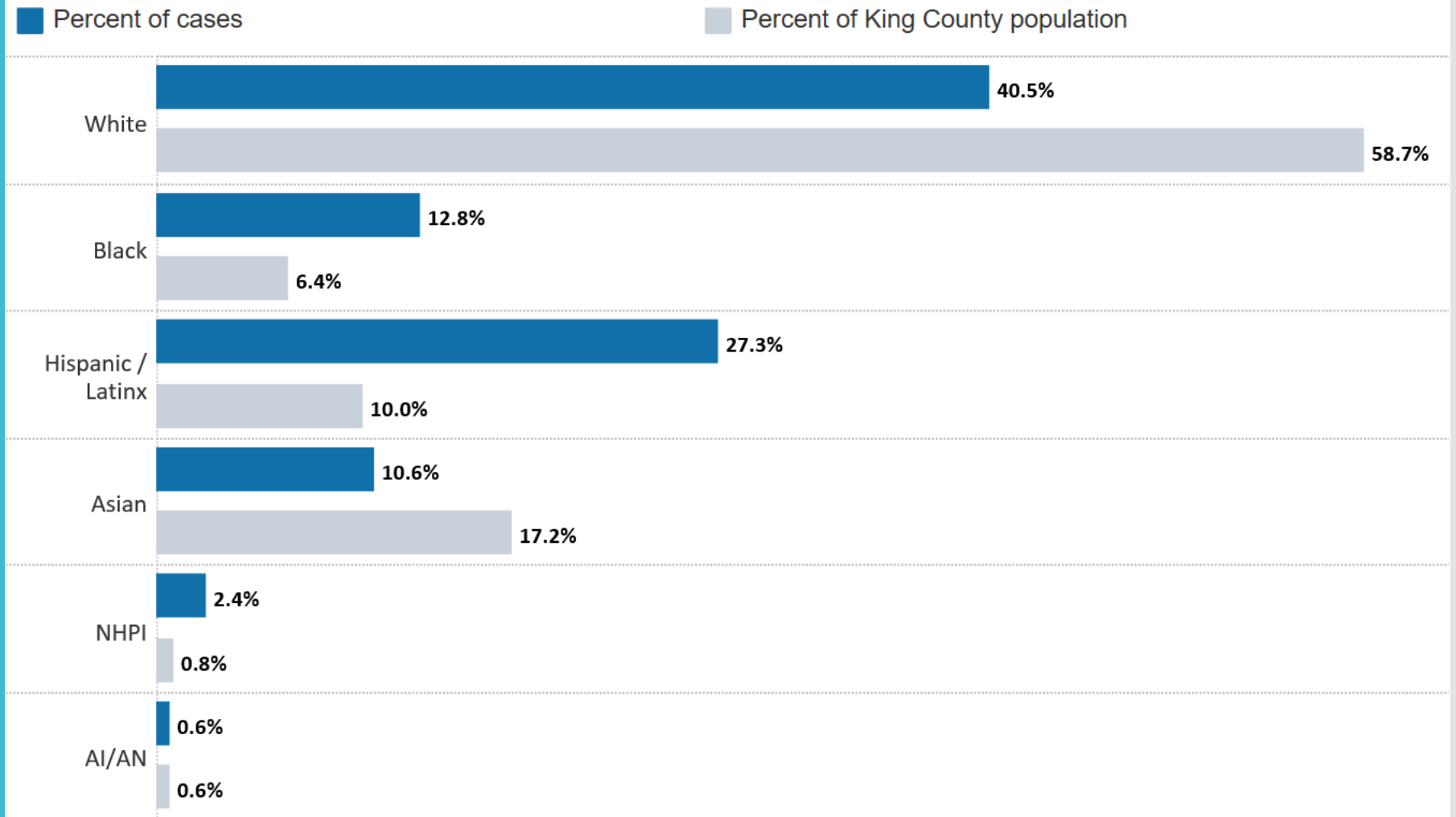
Long Term Care Facility Dashboard

UPDATED ON THURSDAYS

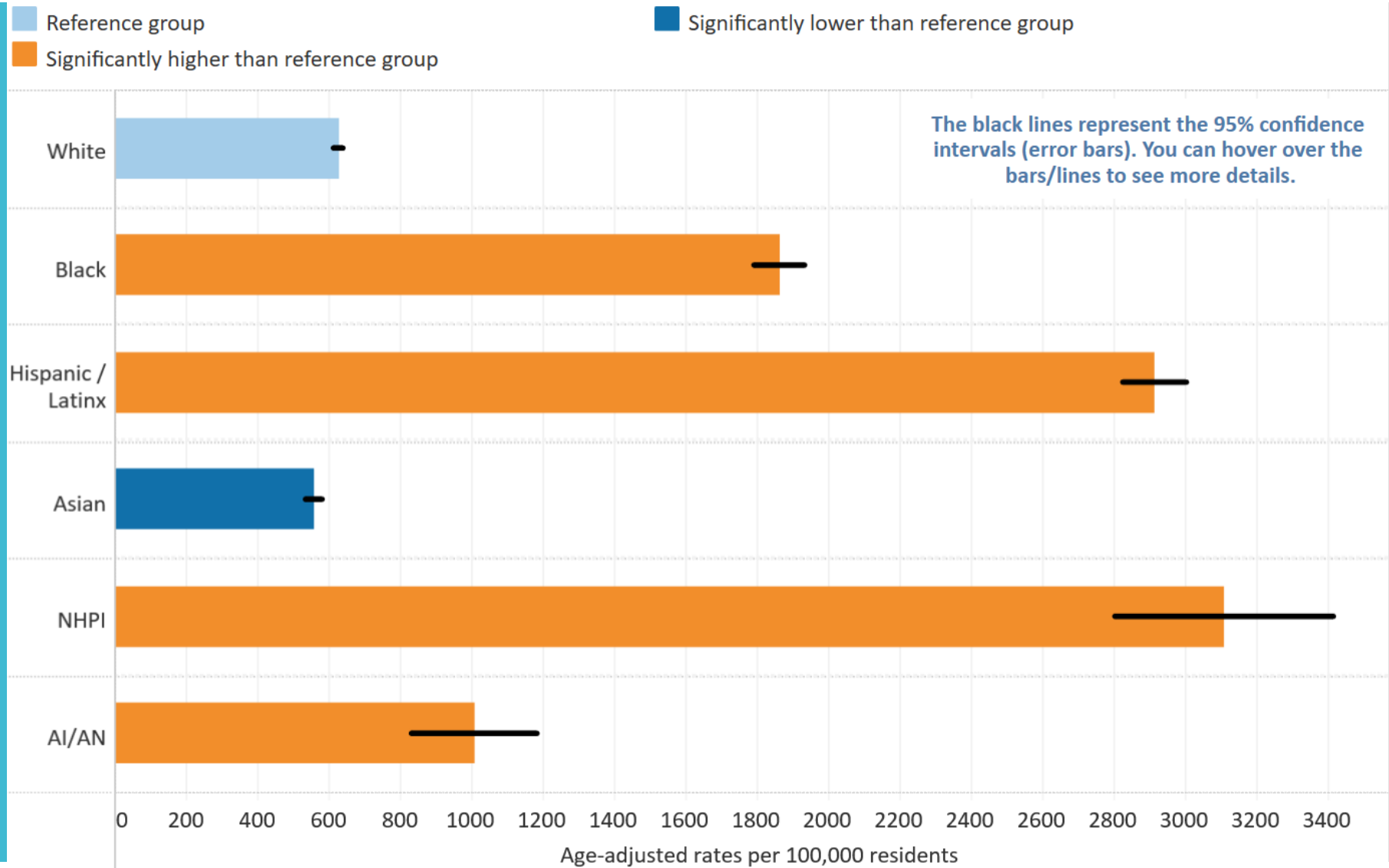
This dashboard shows the impacts of COVID-19 on residents and staff of long term care facilities.



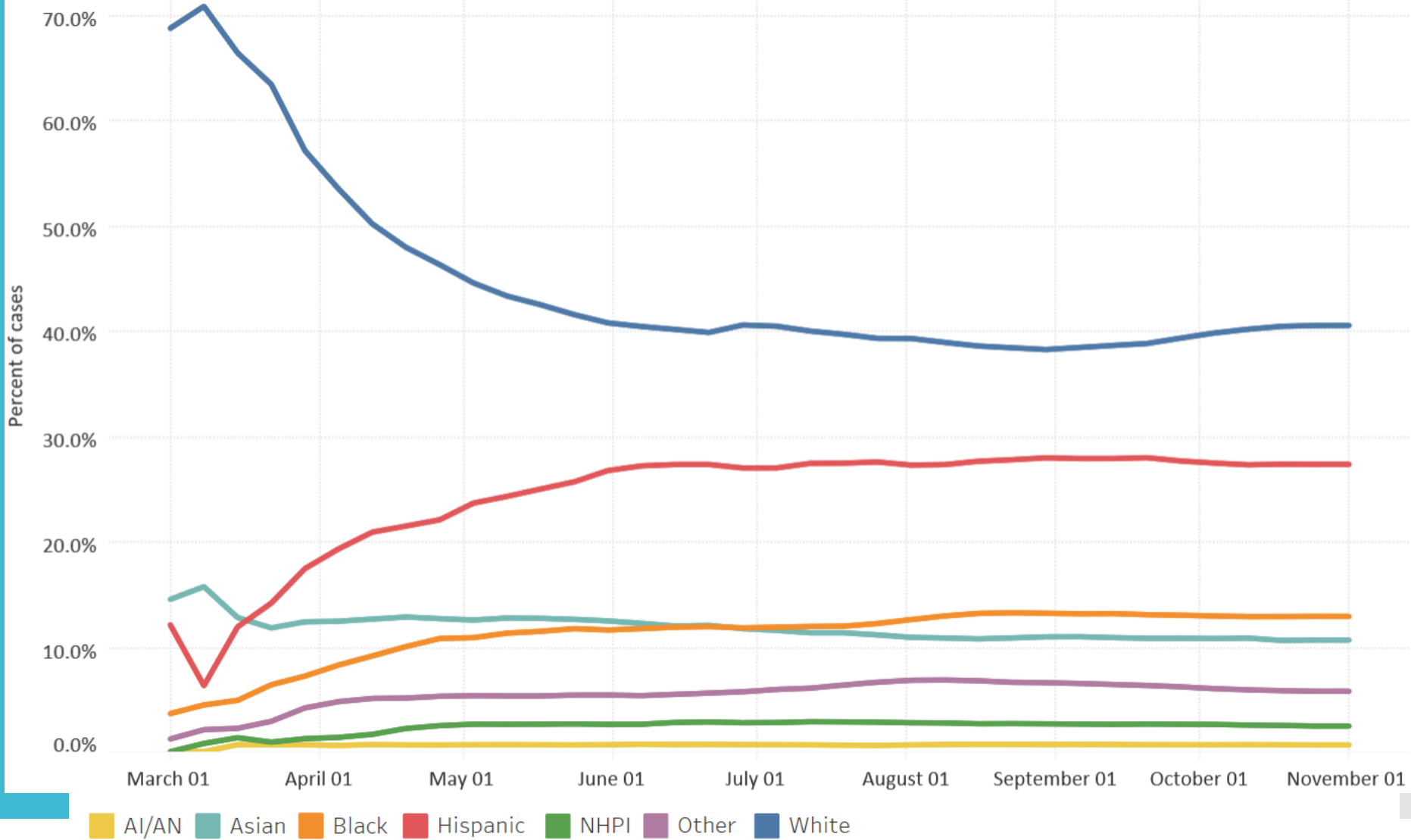
COVID cases vs. 2019 population



COVID age-adjusted case rates

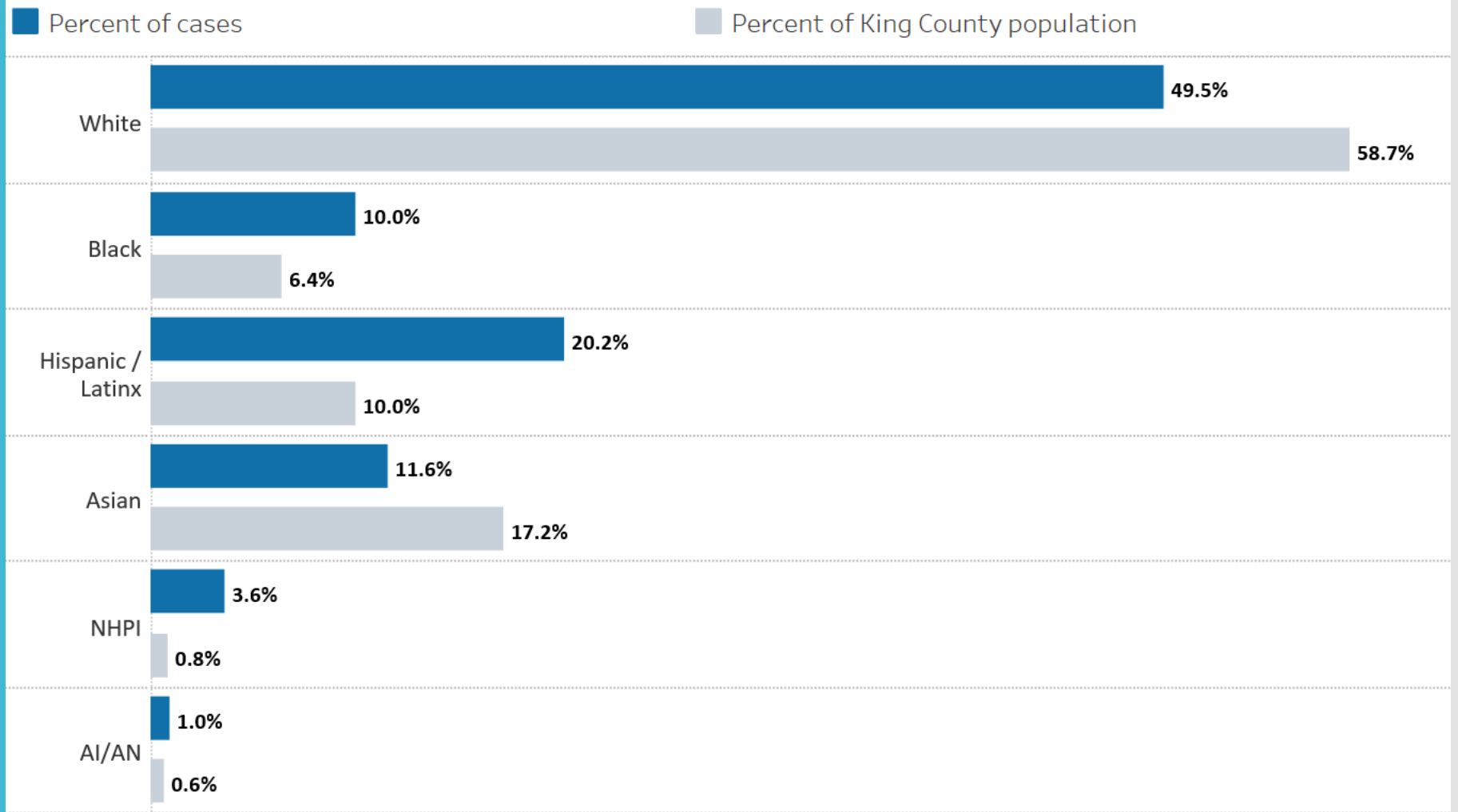


COVID cases over time

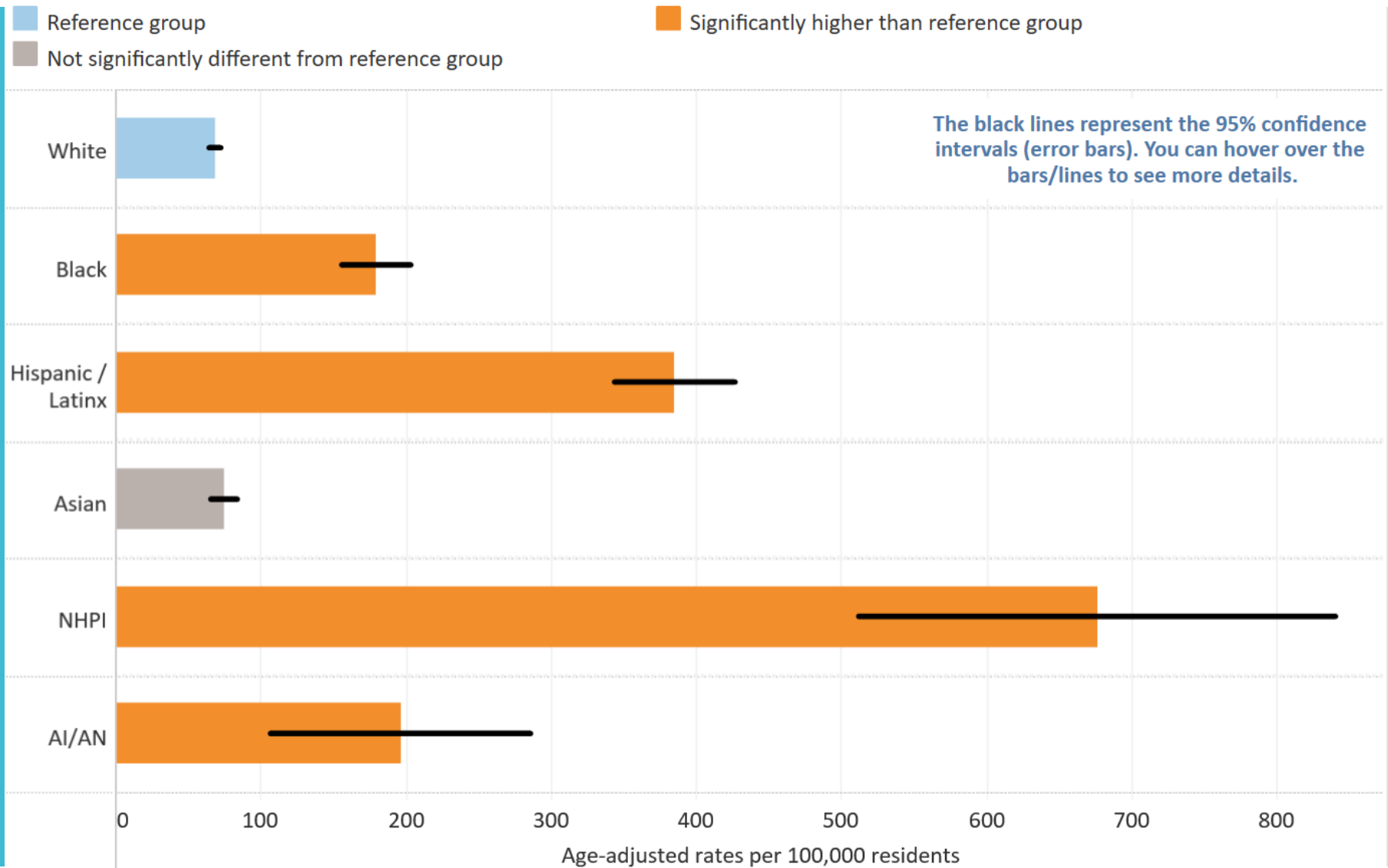


<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/race-ethnicity>, updated 11/2/2020

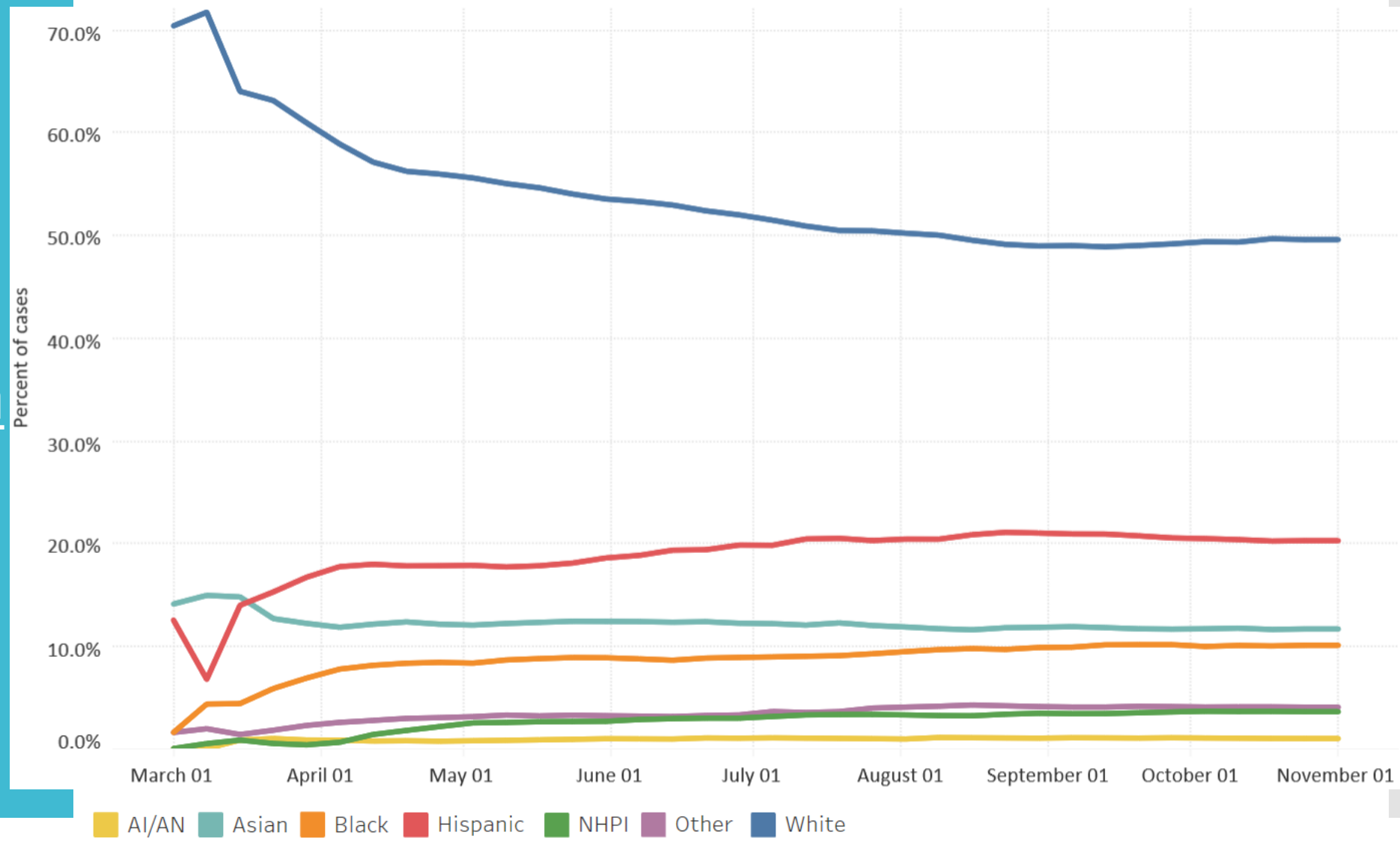
COVID hospitalization vs. 2019 population



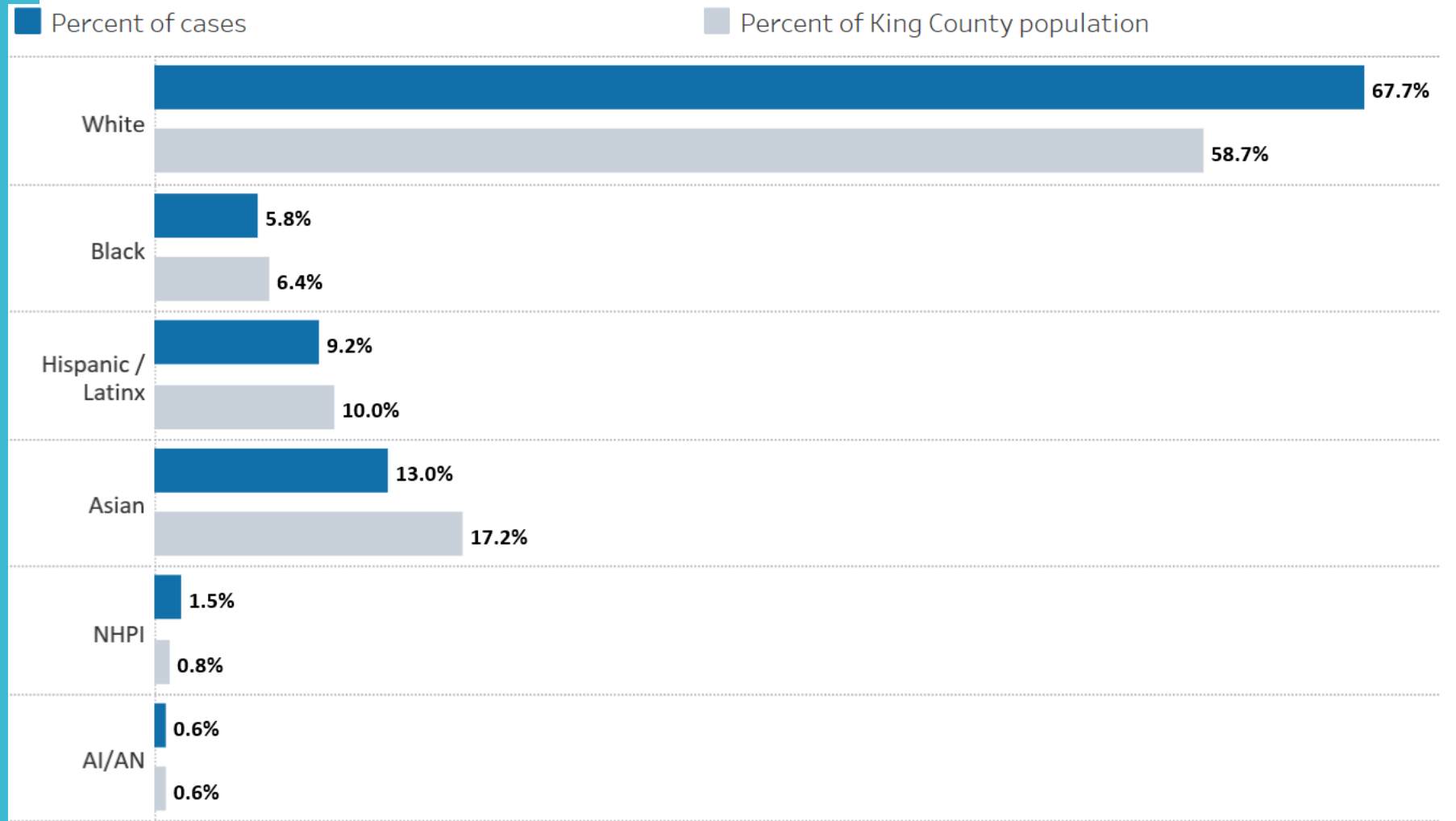
COVID age-adjusted hospitalization rates



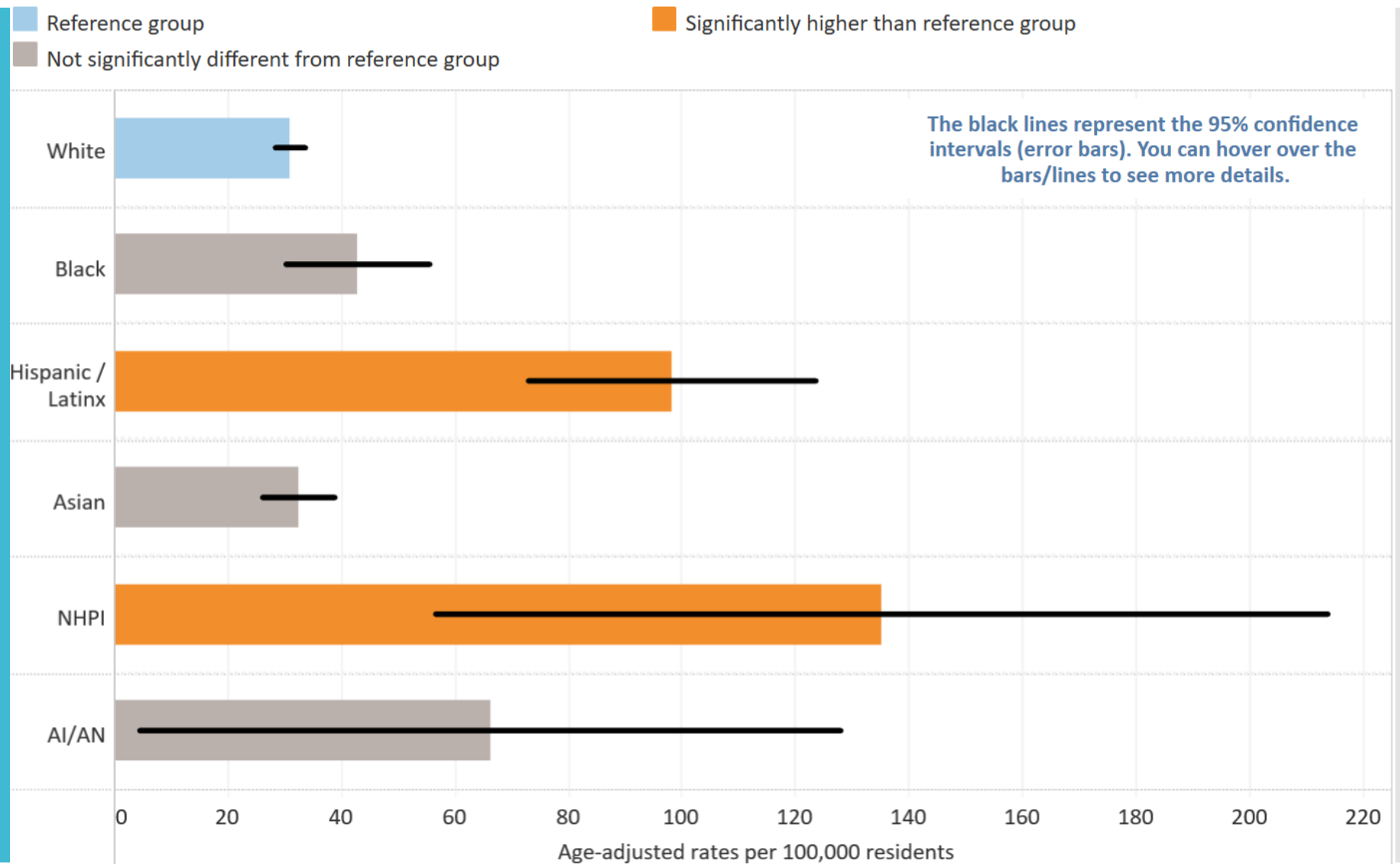
COVID hospitalization over time



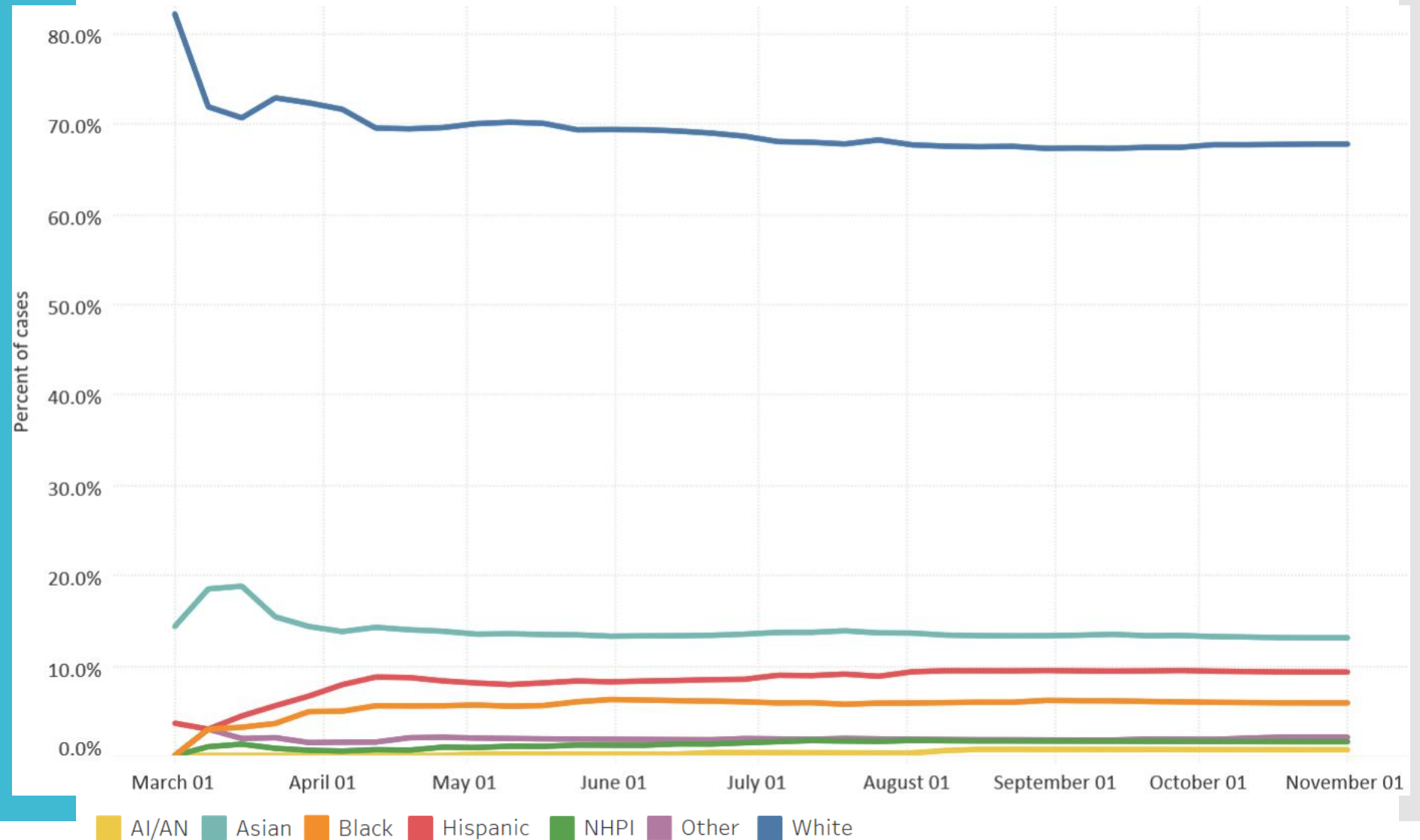
COVID deaths vs. 2019 population



COVID age-adjusted death rates

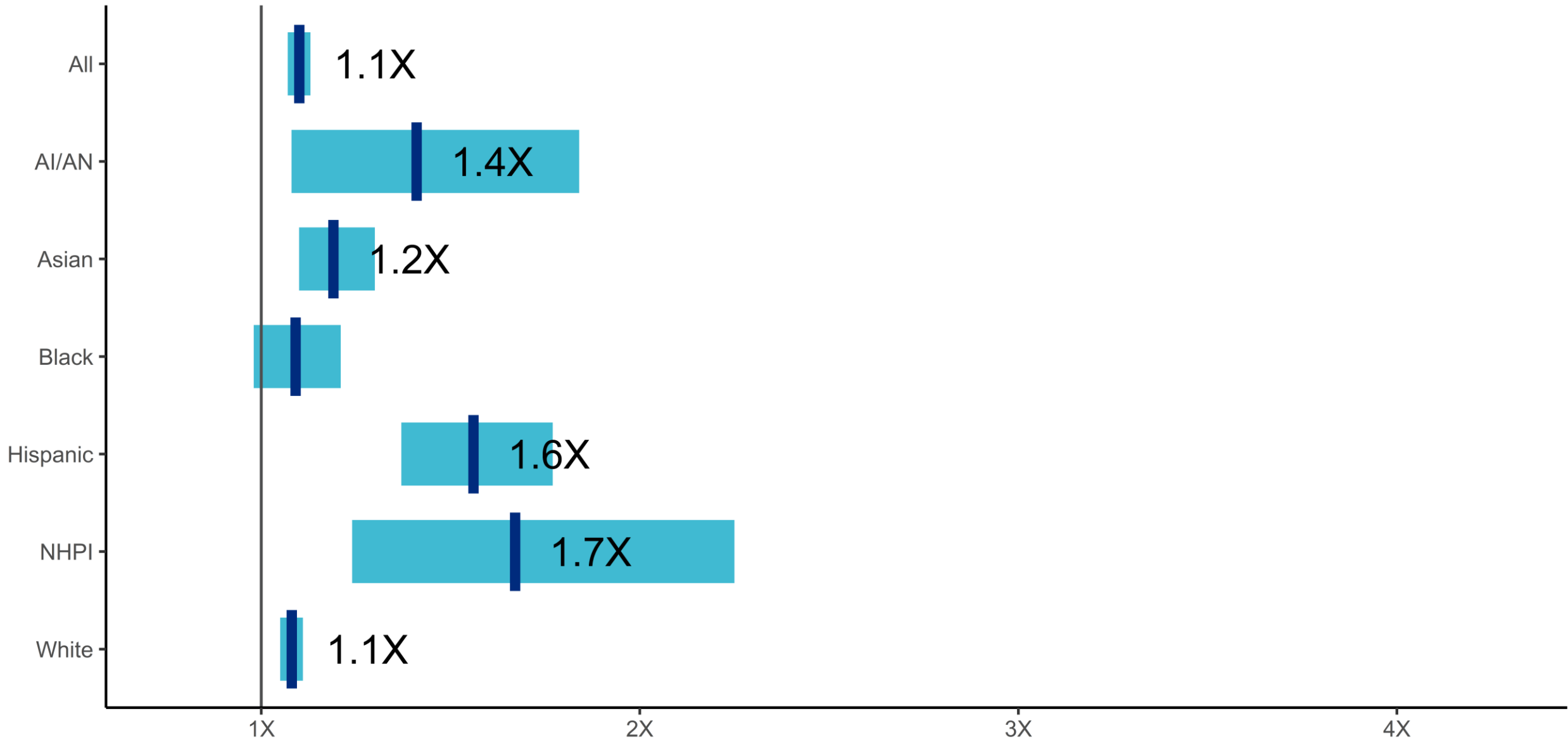


COVID deaths over time



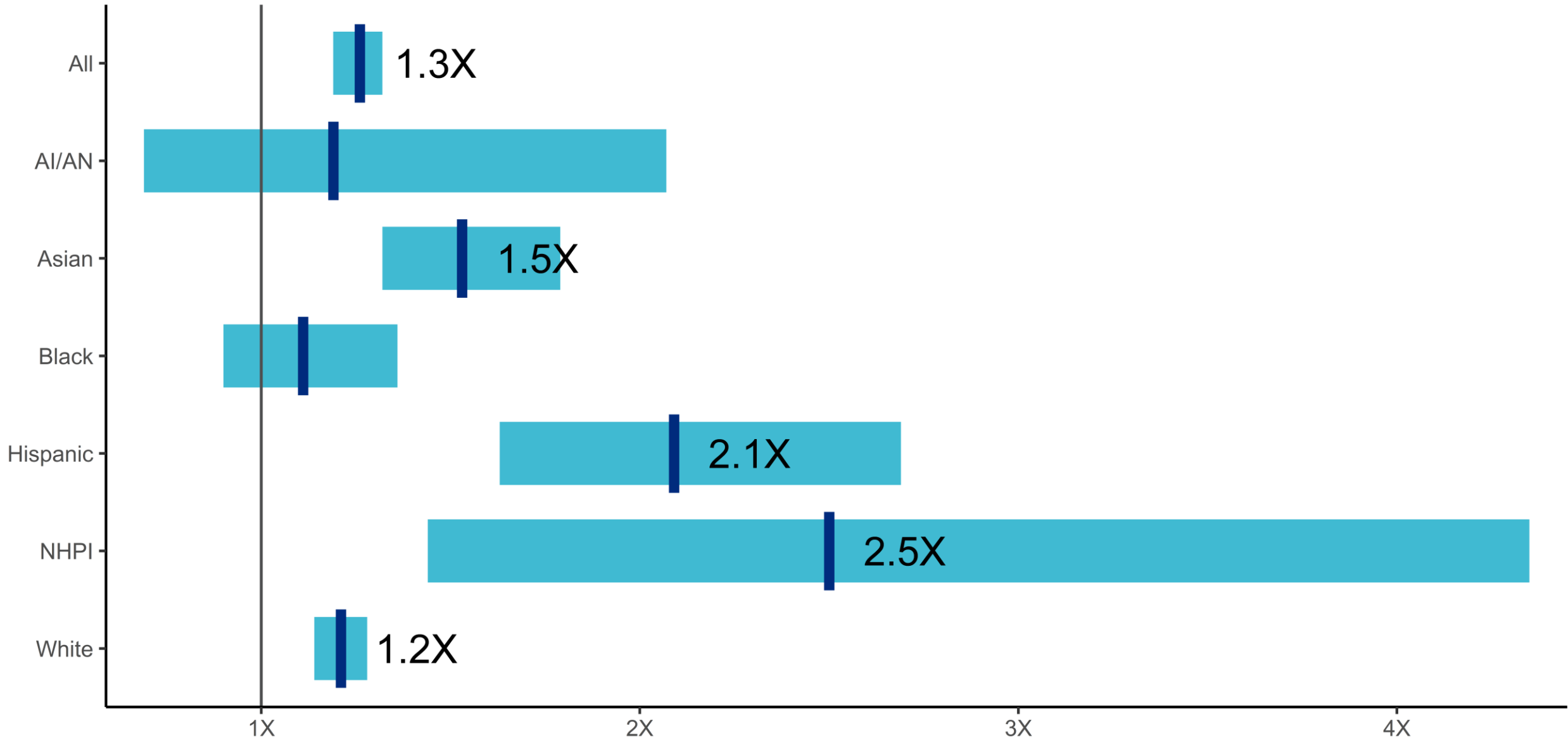
All Cause Death Rate Ratios

2020 vs 2017-2019 age-adjusted death rates, February 15 and August 22



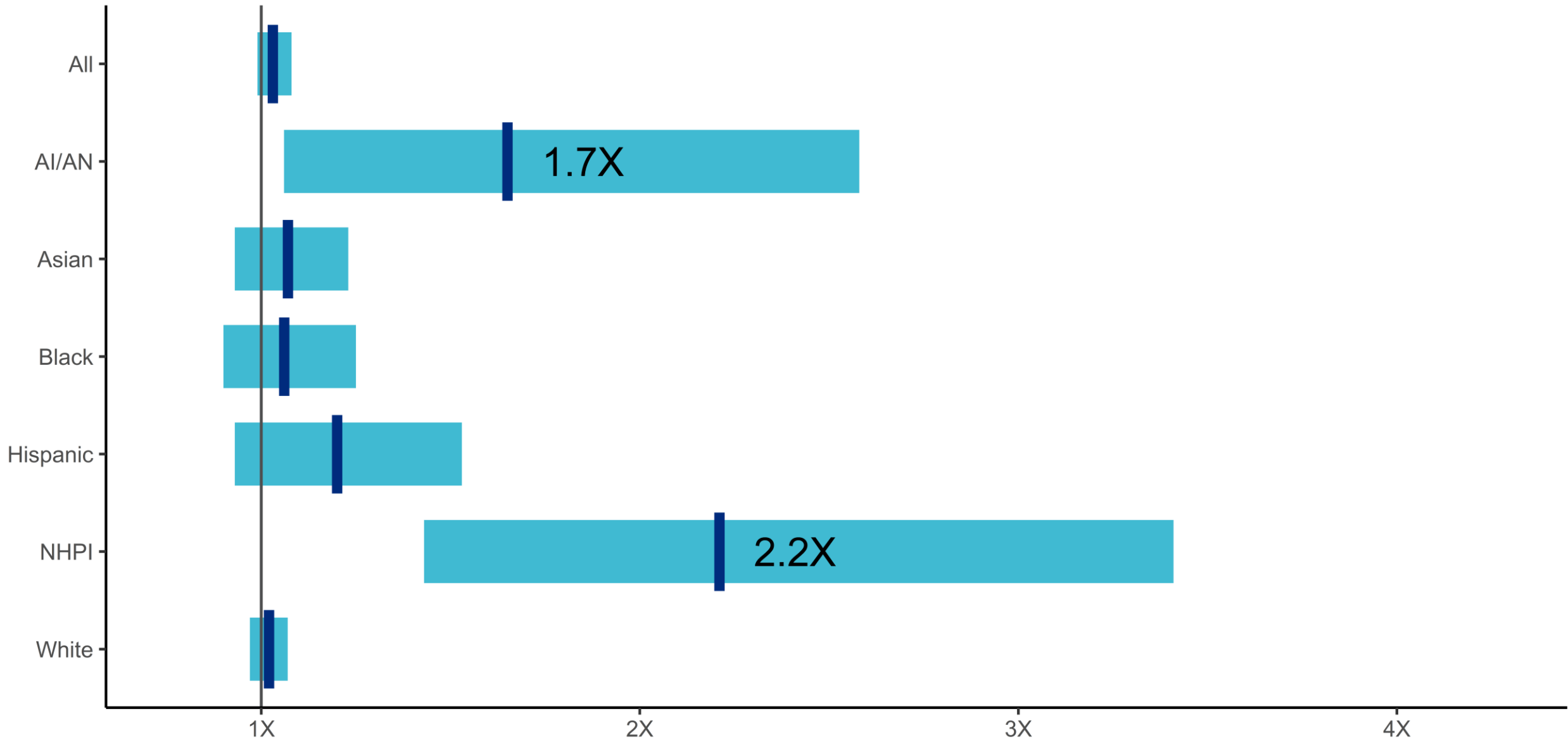
Respiratory Death Rate Ratios

2020 vs 2017-2019 age-adjusted death rates, February 15 and August 22



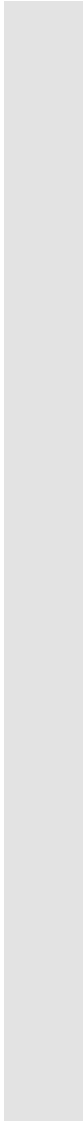

Cardiovascular Death Rate Ratios

2020 vs 2017-2019 age-adjusted death rates, February 15 and August 22



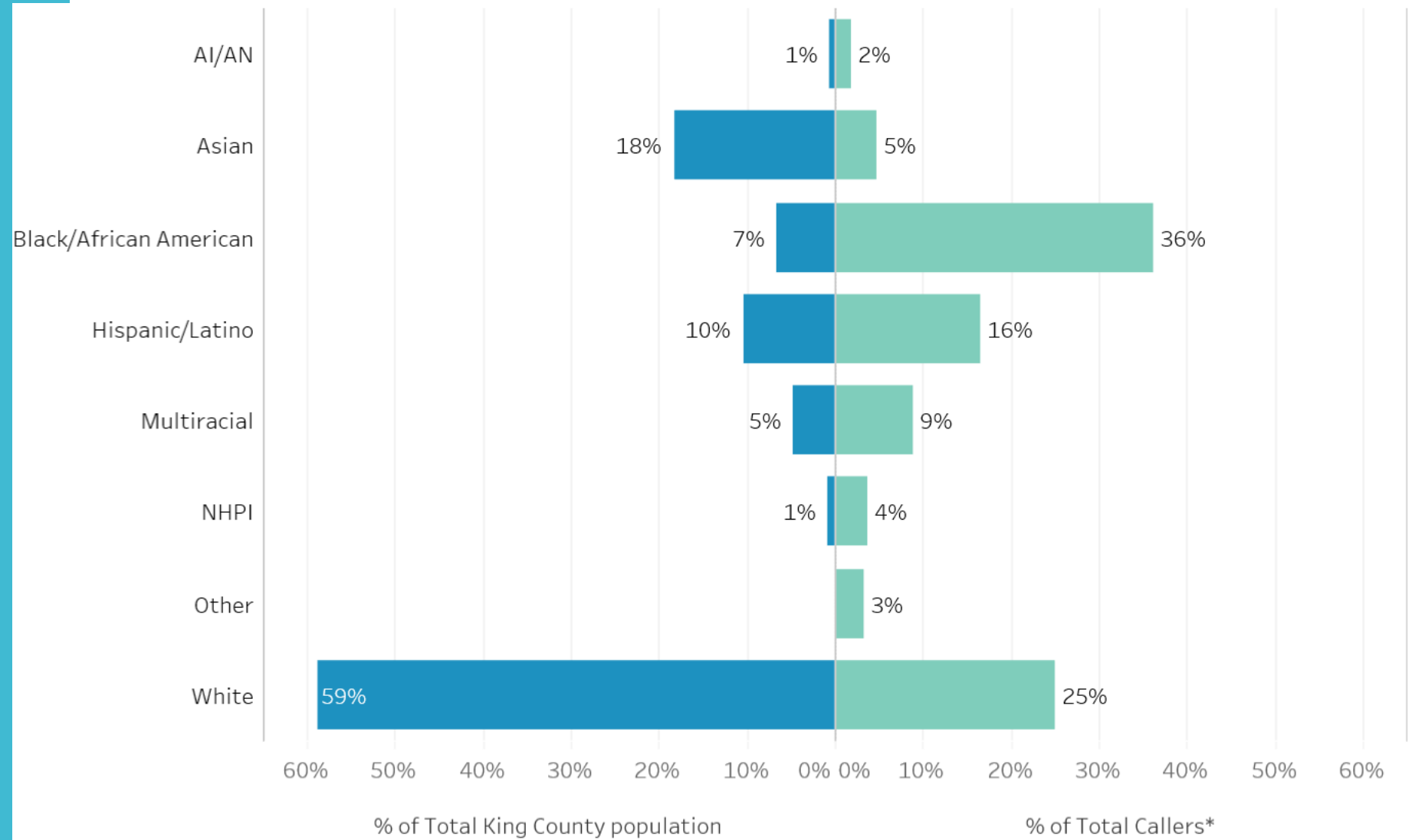
Local COVID-19 health inequities summary

- **Case rates:** lowest among Asians, followed by Whites
- **COVID hospitalization rates:** lowest among Asians and Whites
- **COVID death rates:** elevated among Hispanics and NHPI
- **Rate ratios:** Hispanics and NHPI led others in excess all-cause and respiratory deaths

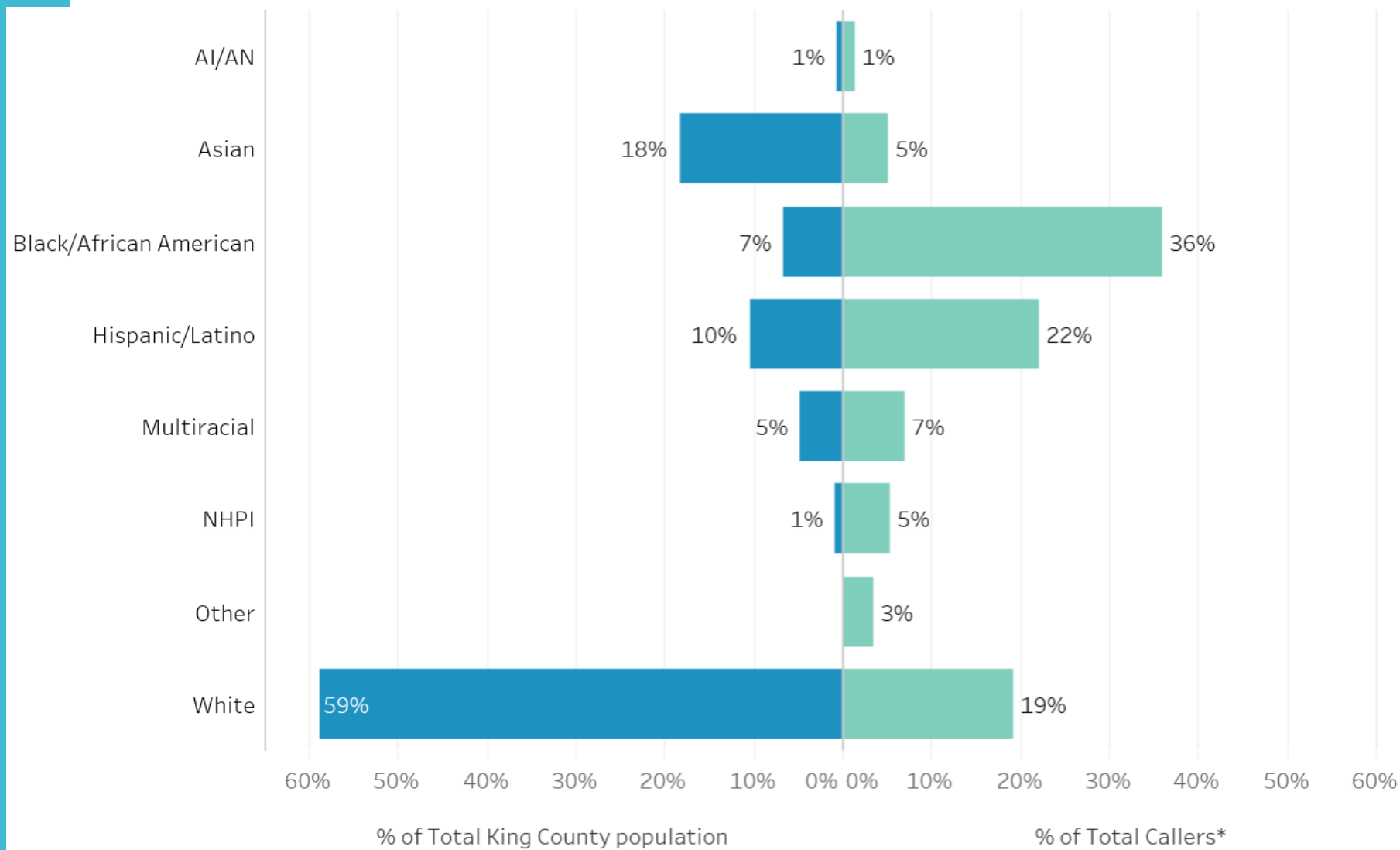


Local COVID-19 economic and social inequities

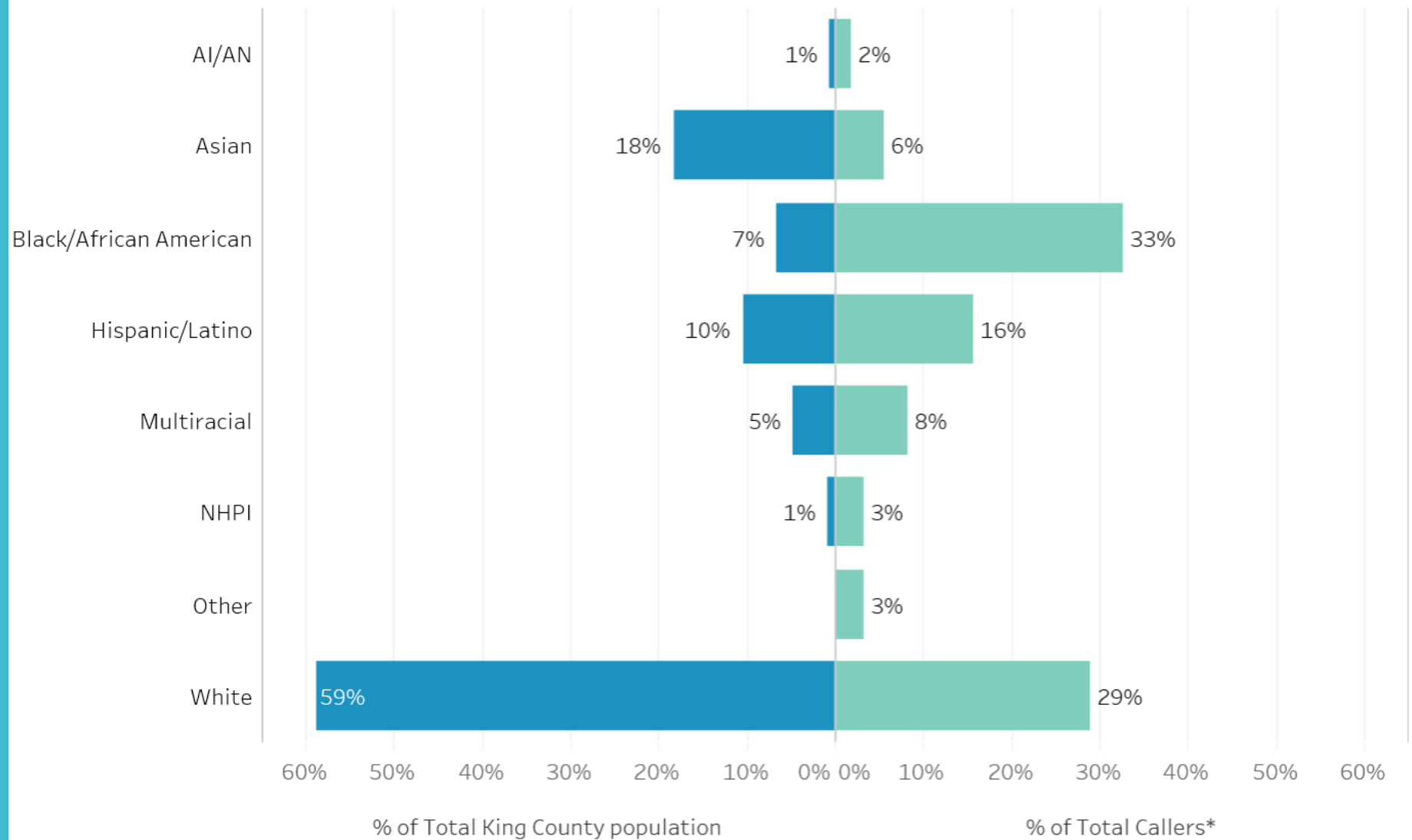
2-1-1 Crisis Connections: housing



2-1-1 Crisis Connections: utility assistance

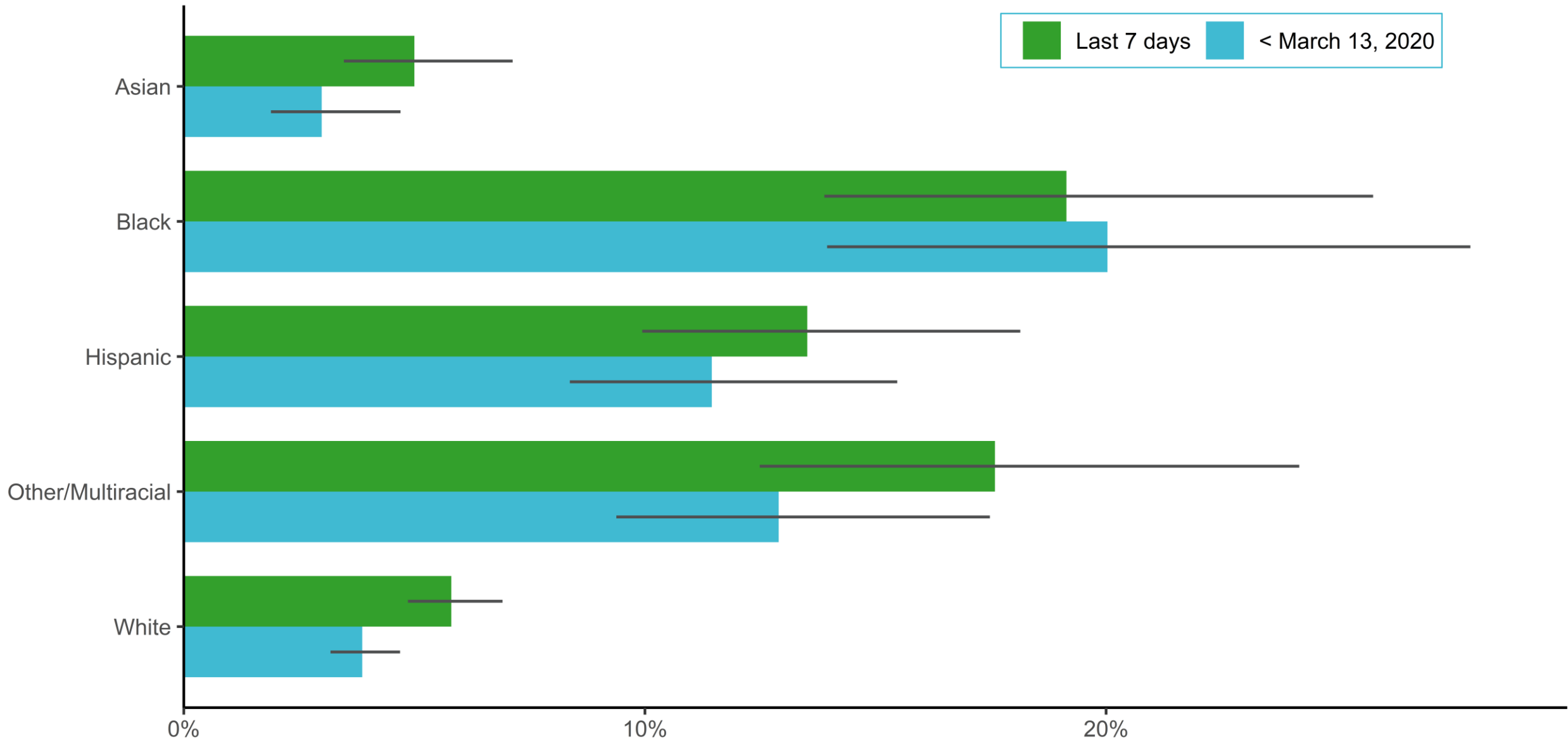


2-1-1 Crisis Connections: all needs combined



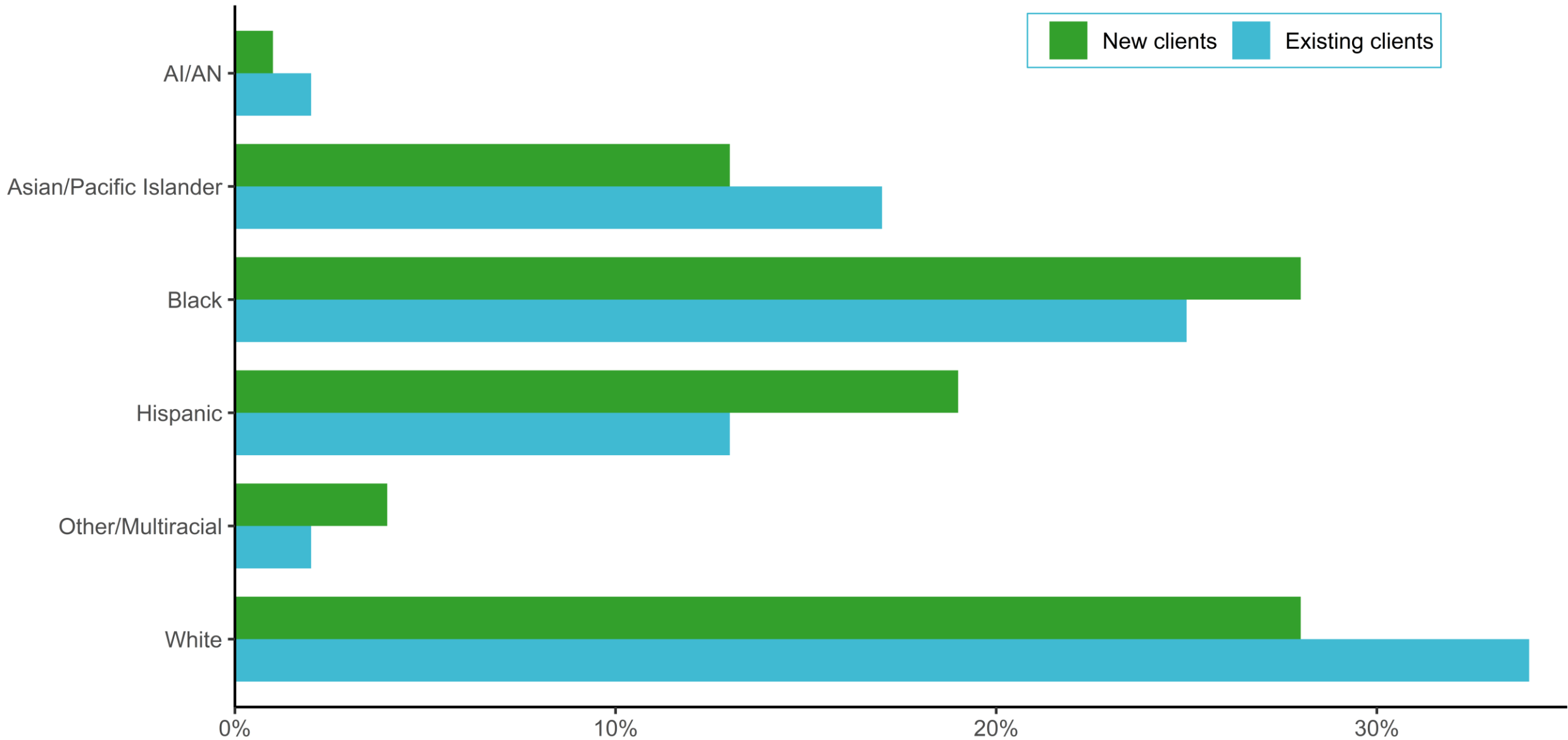
Household sometimes or often does not have enough to eat

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue MSA, April 23 - July 21, 2020



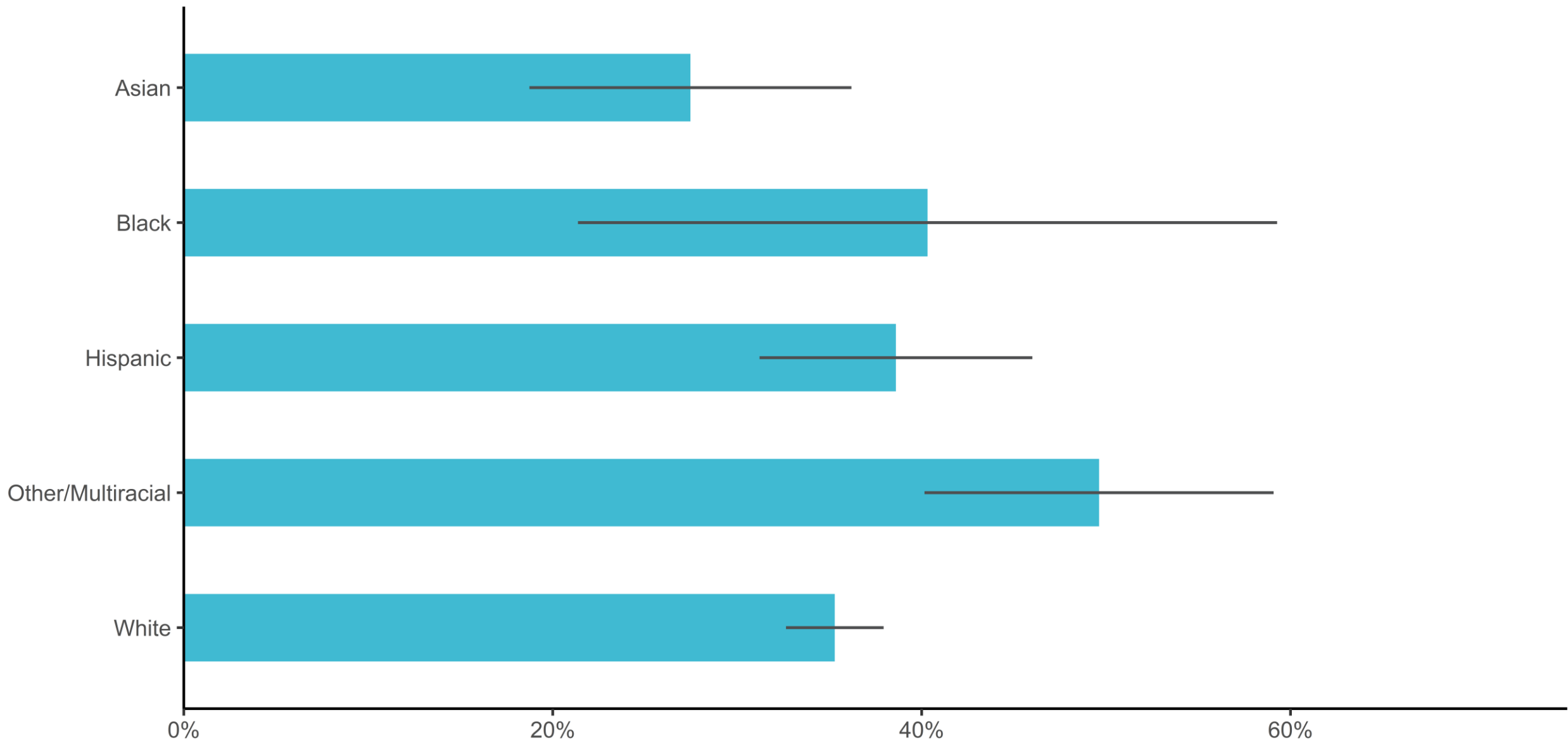
Basic Food (SNAP) Clients

King County September 2020



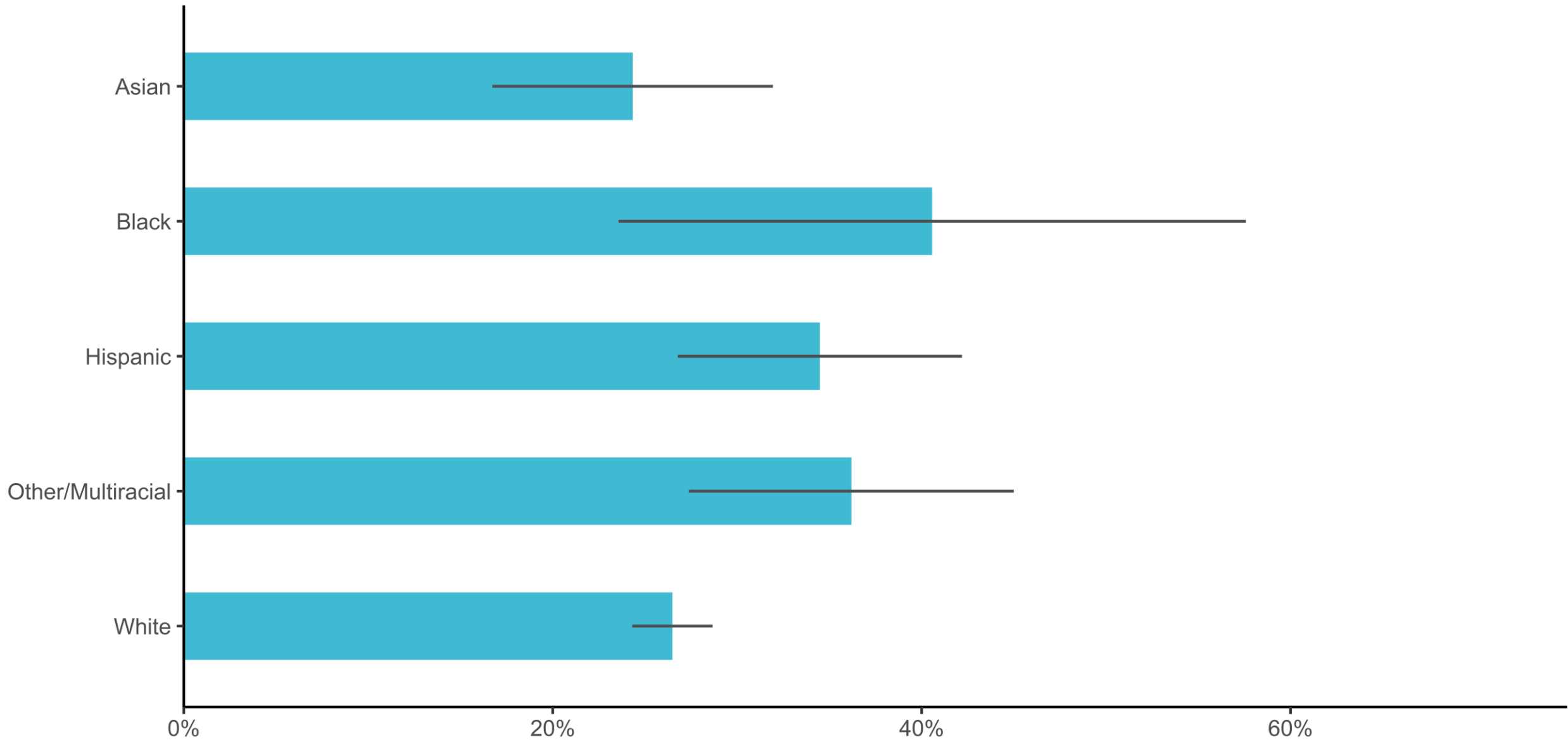
Adults feeling nervous, anxious or on edge for more than half the week

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue MSA, April 23 - July 21, 2020



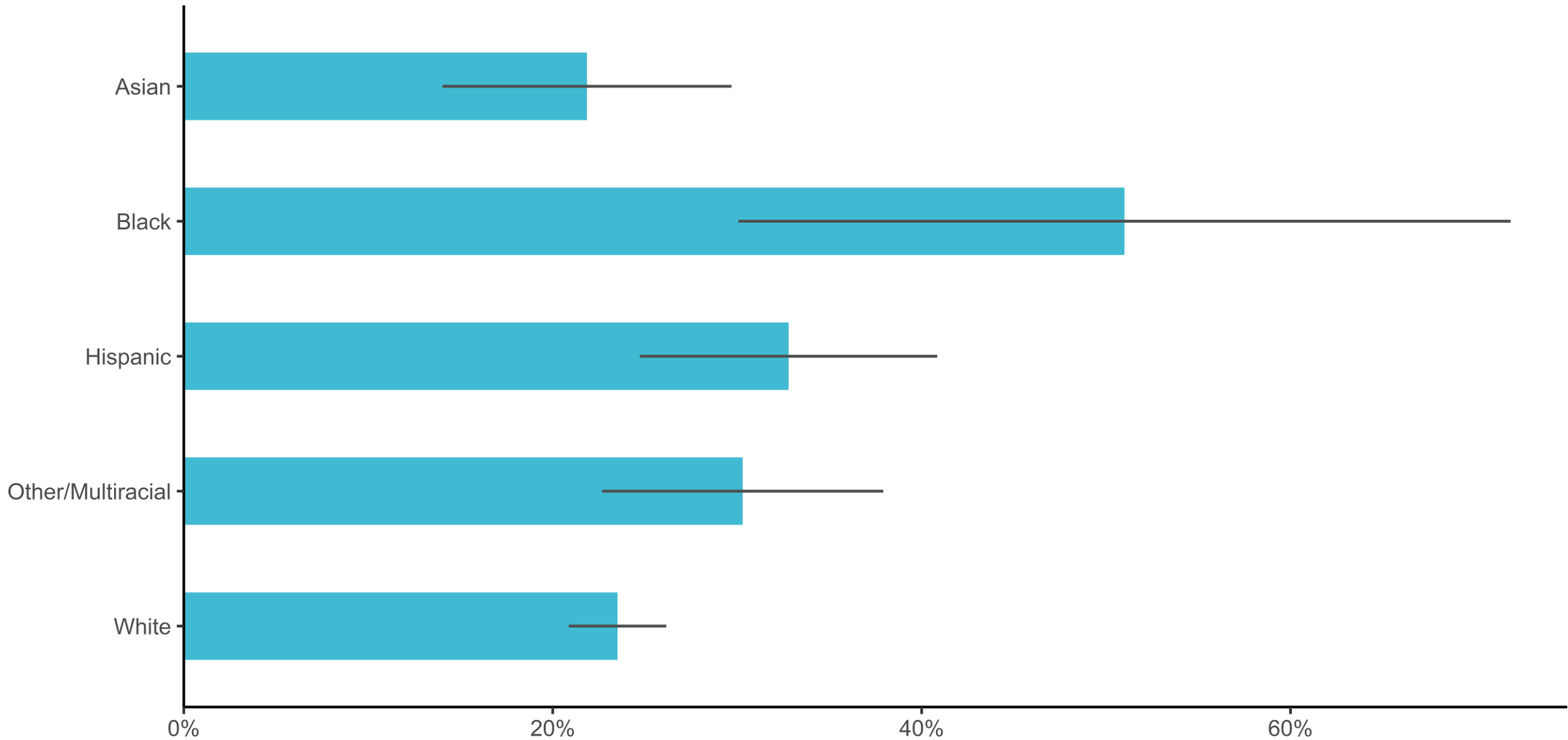
Adults not being able to stop or control worrying for more than half the week

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue MSA, April 23 - July 21, 2020



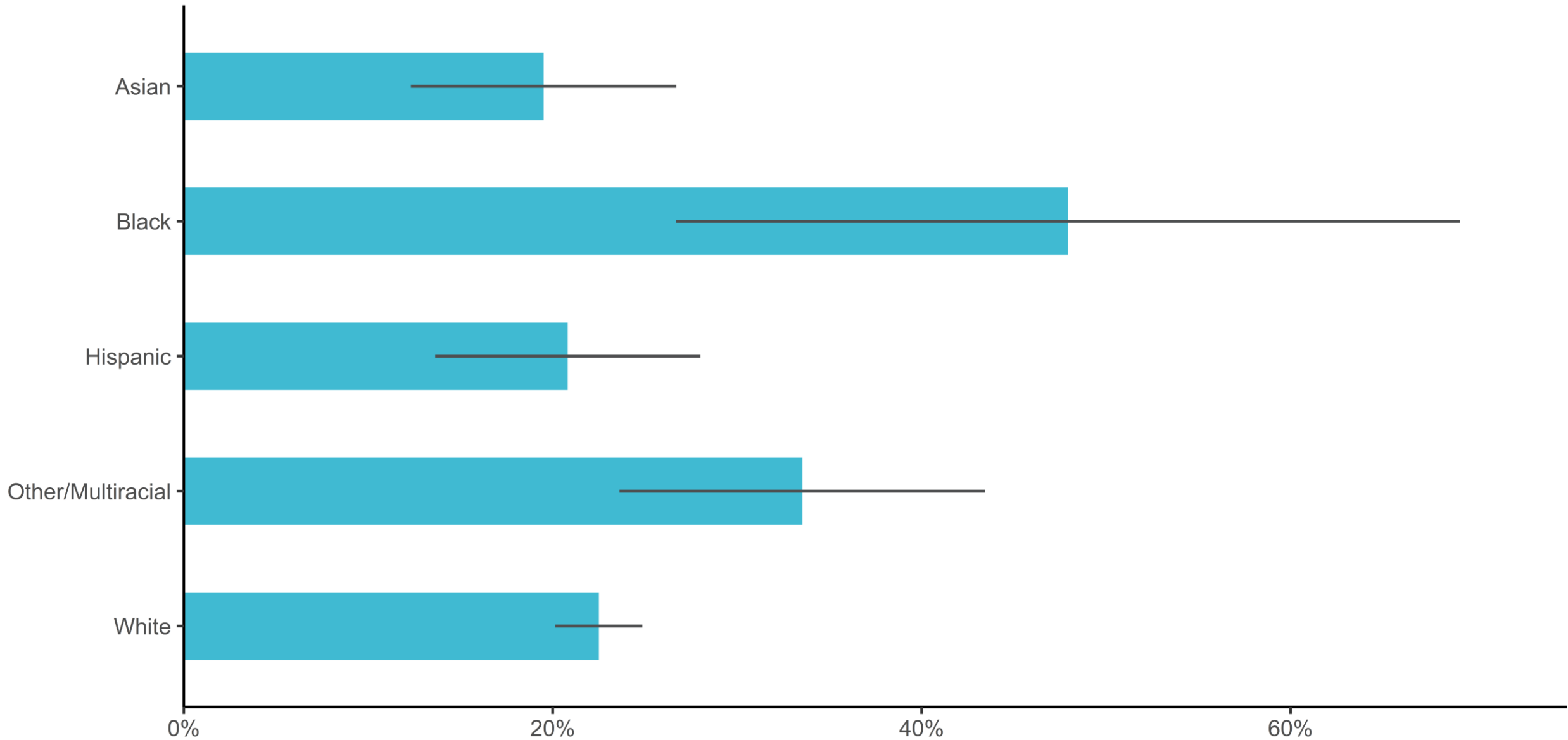
Adults having little interest or pleasure in doing things for more than half the week

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue MSA, April 23 - July 21, 2020



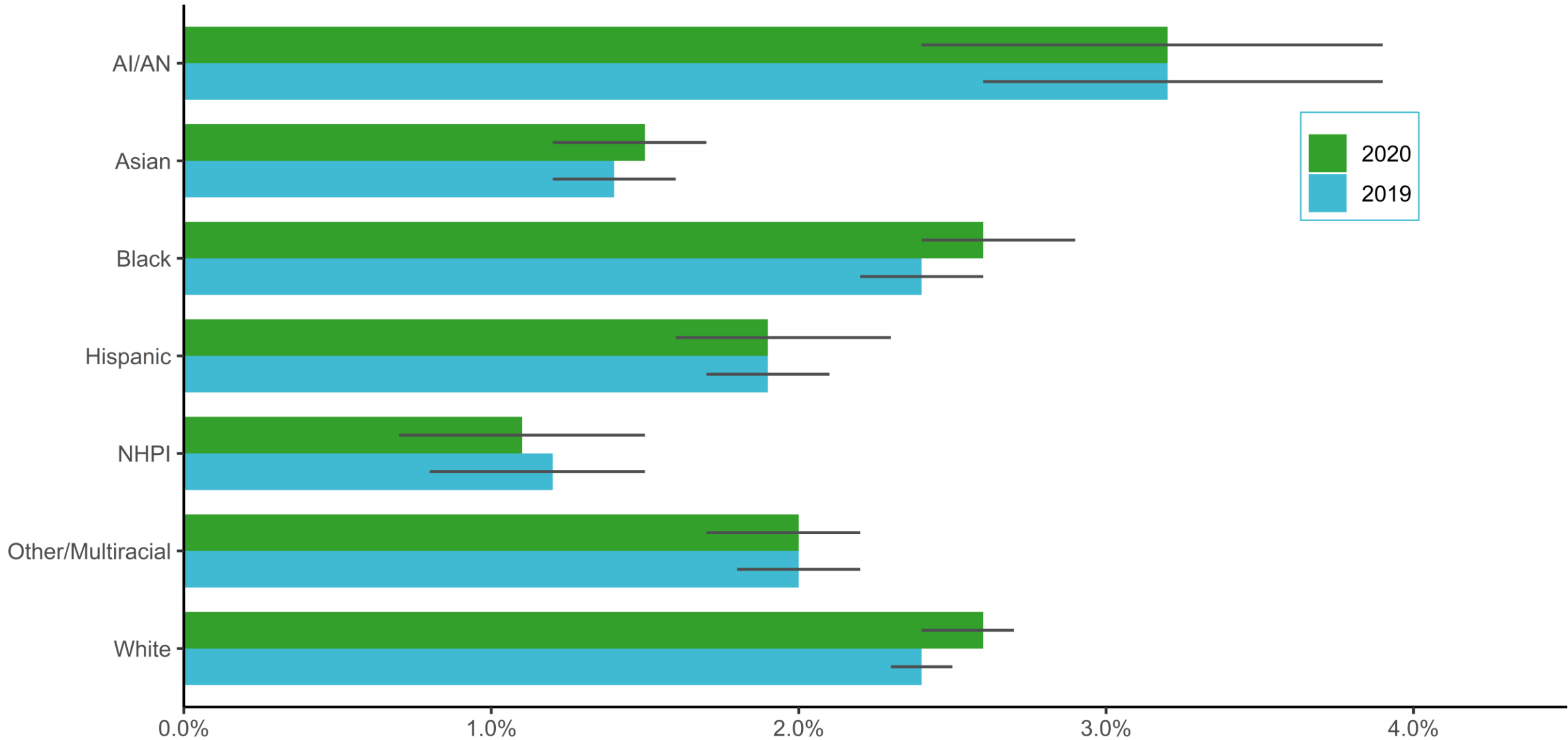
Adults feeling down, depressed, or hopeless for more than half the week

Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue MSA, April 23 - July 21, 2020



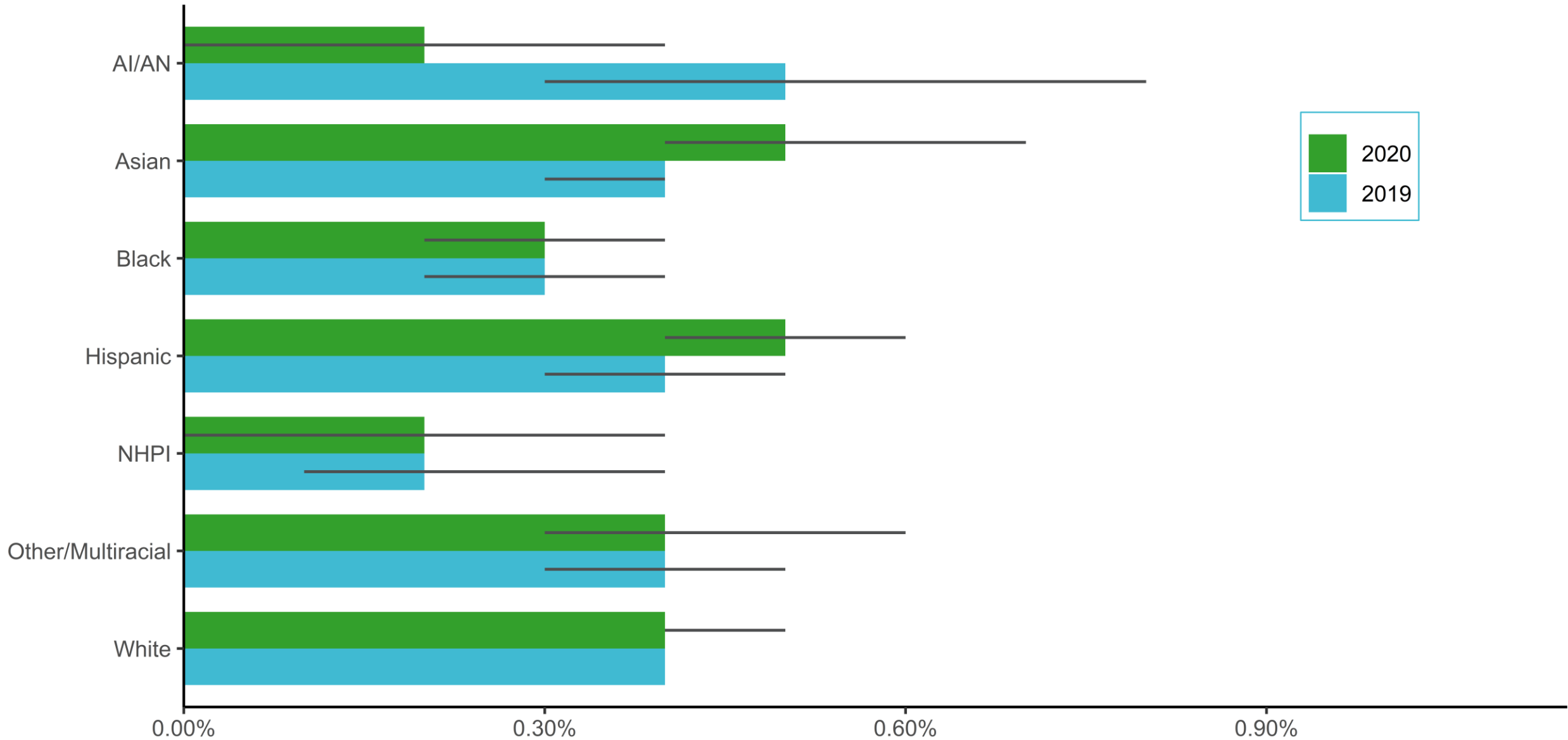
Percent of all ED visits related to suicidal ideation

King County residents 10 years and older, July - September 2020 vs July - September 2019



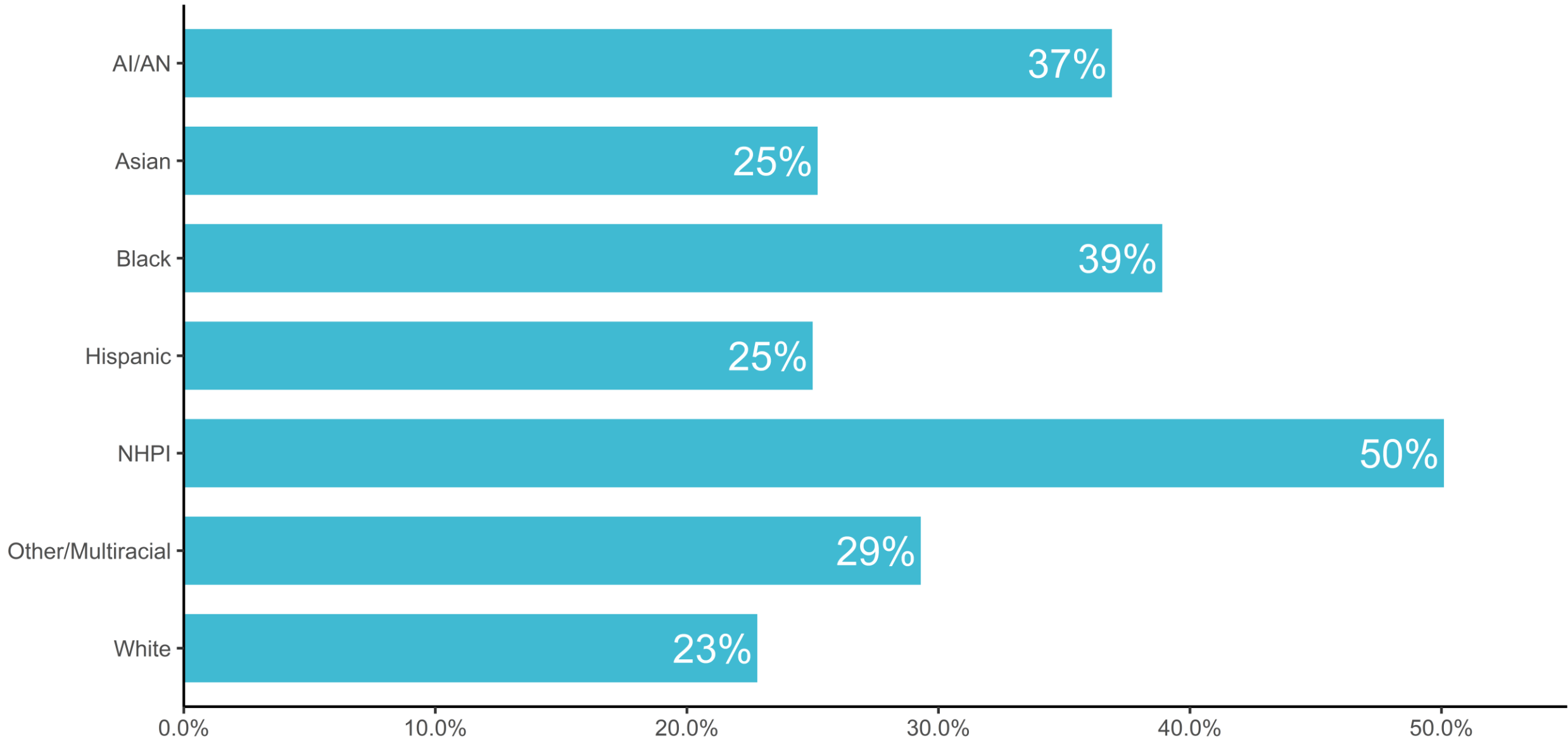
Percent of all ED visits related to suicide attempt

King County residents 10 years and older, July - September 2020 vs July - September 2019



King County workers filing initial unemployment claims (per capita)

March 8 - October 24, 2020



Local COVID-19 economic and social inequities summary

- Communities of color (except Asians) were disproportionately in need of 2-1-1 assistance.
- Food insecurity may have increased among Whites, Blacks and Hispanics
- Some mental health concerns were more common in Black communities (compared to Whites)
- The proportions of ED visits for suicidal ideation were constant did not change between 2019 and 2020.
- The proportion of ED visits for suicide attempt increased among Asians
- Per capita initial unemployment claims were especially high among NHPI, Black, and AI/AN communities



Local response

Local response

- Formation of the Pandemic and Racism Community Advisory Group
- Hiring contact tracers who represent those most negatively impacted
- Hiring community navigators
- Locating new testing sites
- Prioritizing geographies for at-home testing (i.e., SCAN)
- Prioritizing cases for interviews

Local response II

- Tailoring communications re: prevention
 - Regularly have materials in 33 languages
- Distributing over \$500,000 to address racial inequities via engagement and education
 - Specifically among BIPOC communities in south King County
- Providing income support for those with economic challenges for quarantining and isolation



Questions

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Bonus Slides

Racism as a Public Health Crisis in King County



**Public Health, Behavioral Health
and Housing**



Infrastructure and Environment



Economic Development



Criminal Legal System



Internal King County Operations

More information on the policy priorities:

- [Antiracist policy priorities at King County](#)
- [Antiracist policy priorities for advocacy and partnership](#)