

# Children of Immigrants in North Carolina

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in collaboration with the Urban Institute (MPI: Jennifer Haley and  
Hamutal Bernstein)

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CAROLINA  
POPULATION CENTER

CAROLINA  
**DEMOGRAPHY**

# About Carolina Demography: What We Do

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## Data Acquisition

We know where to find relevant data and can translate complex information based on the questions you need to answer. (We can also help you determine what questions to answer.)



## Custom Population Estimates and Projections

Using Stata, SAS and R, we can project populations or school enrollments that give insight into how your community will shift in the coming years.



## Data Analysis and Interpretation

We can identify potential policy responses to demographic change and analyze the impact of current or proposed policies on specific populations.



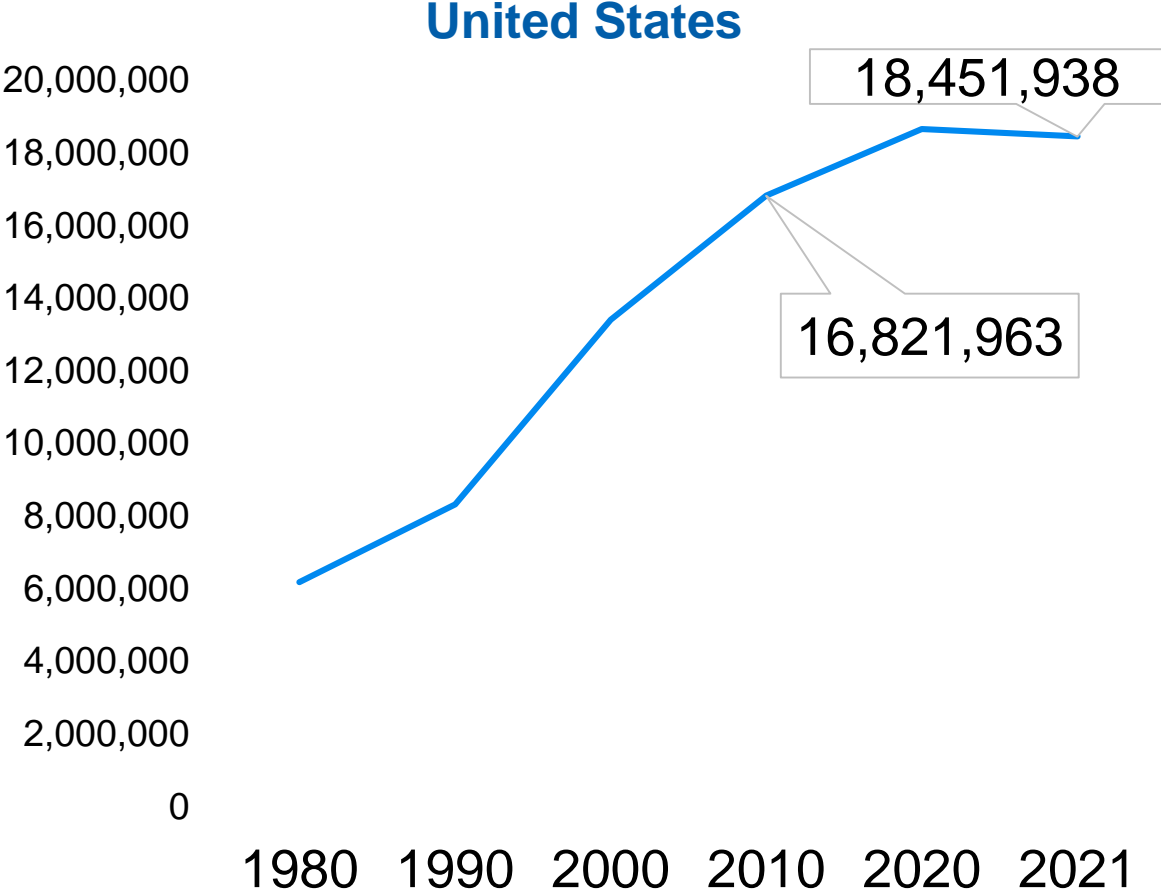
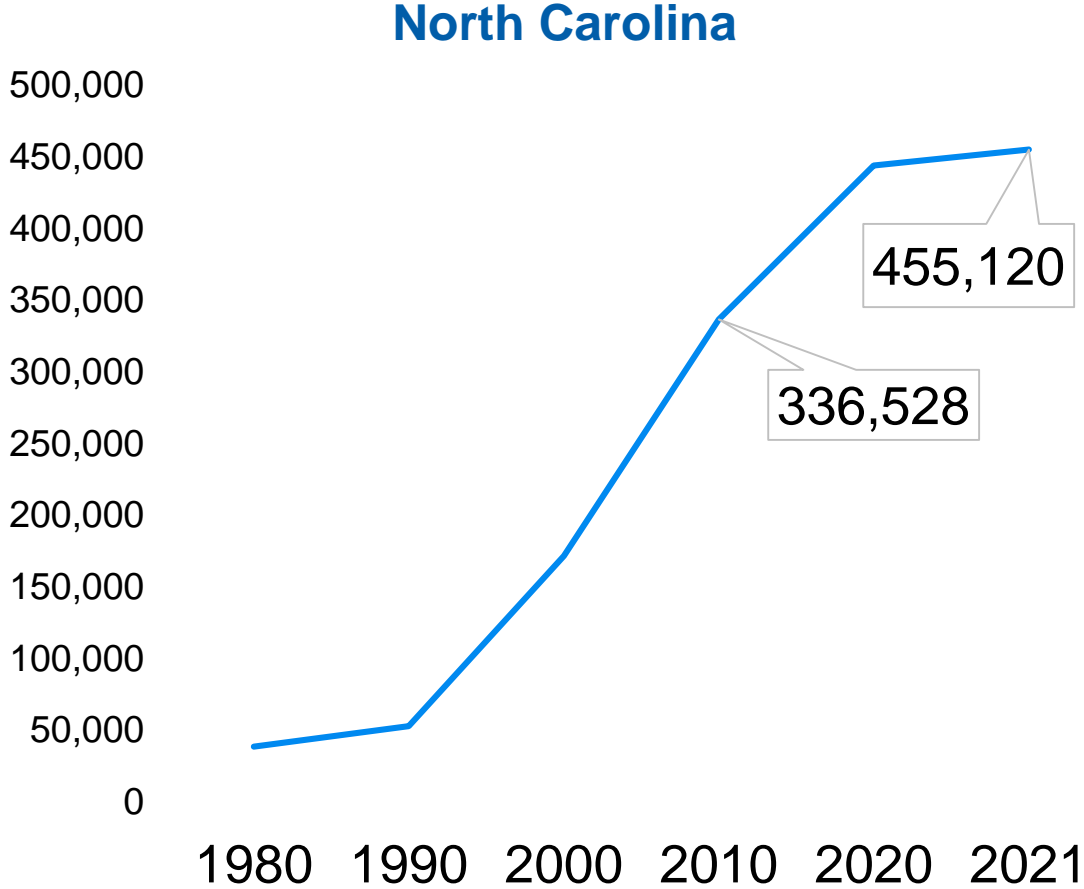
## Workshops, Trainings and Presentations

We convene and engage your stakeholders and decision-makers to facilitate understanding and dialogue and strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.

# **Children of Immigrants, by the Numbers**

# The number of children of immigrants in NC has increased by 36% from 2010-2021

Number of children of immigrants in the U.S. vs. NC over time

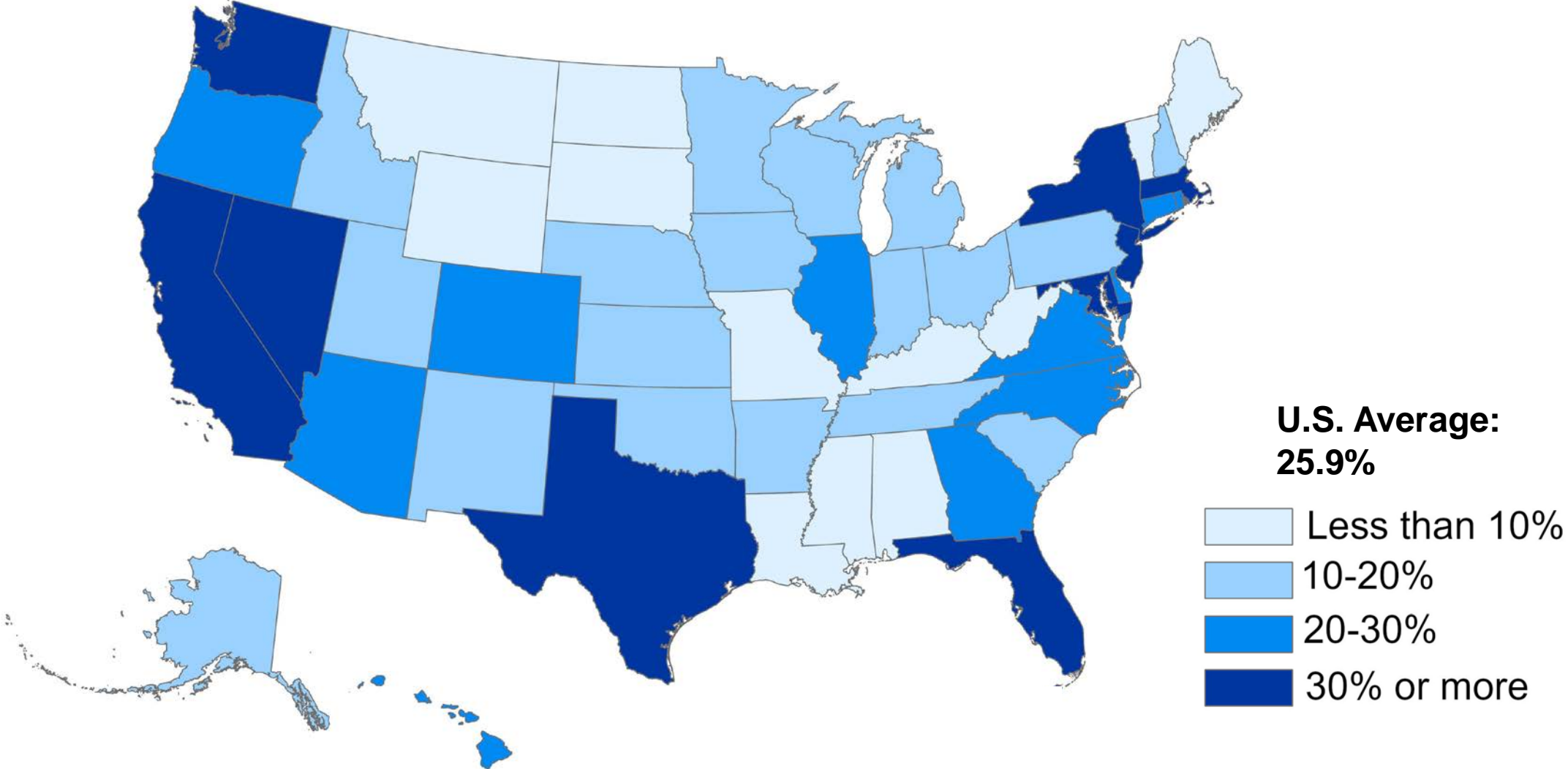


Note: Children of immigrants are defined as children with at least one foreign-born parent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial censuses (1980, 1990, 2000) and American Community Surveys 2010 (1-year) and 2021 (5-year)

# 19.8% of children in NC have at least one foreign-born parent

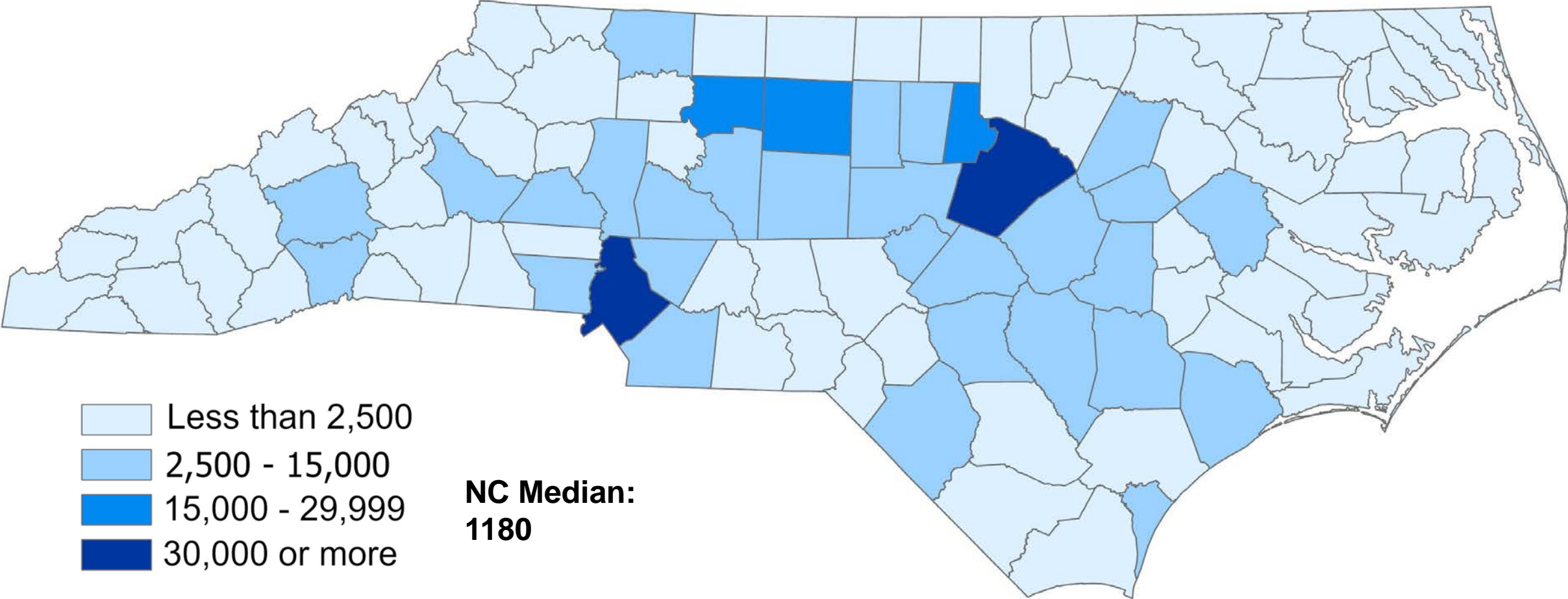
% of children with at least one foreign-born parent by state, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

# Wake and Mecklenburg counties have the largest numbers of children of immigrants

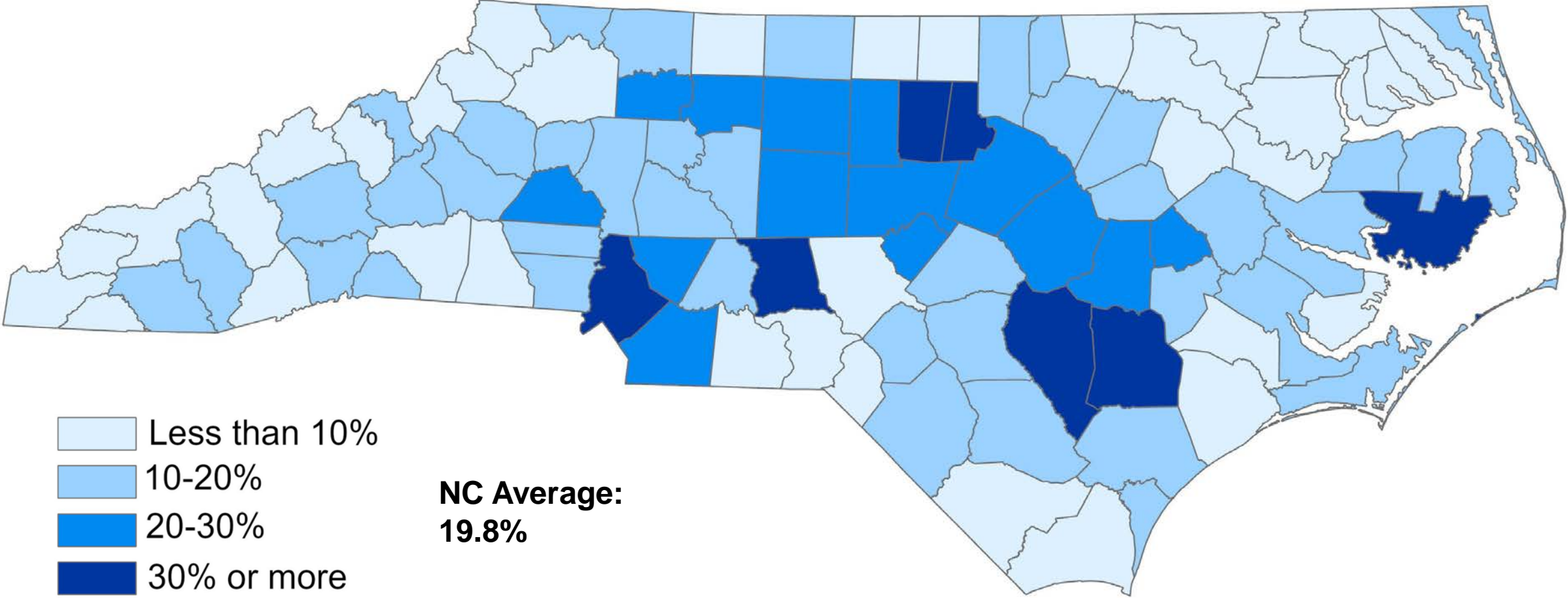
Number of children of immigrants by NC county, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 5-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

# Duplin, Mecklenburg, and Durham have the largest shares of children of immigrants

% of children with at least one foreign-born parent by NC county, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 5-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

# 455,120

Number of children of  
immigrants in NC, 2021

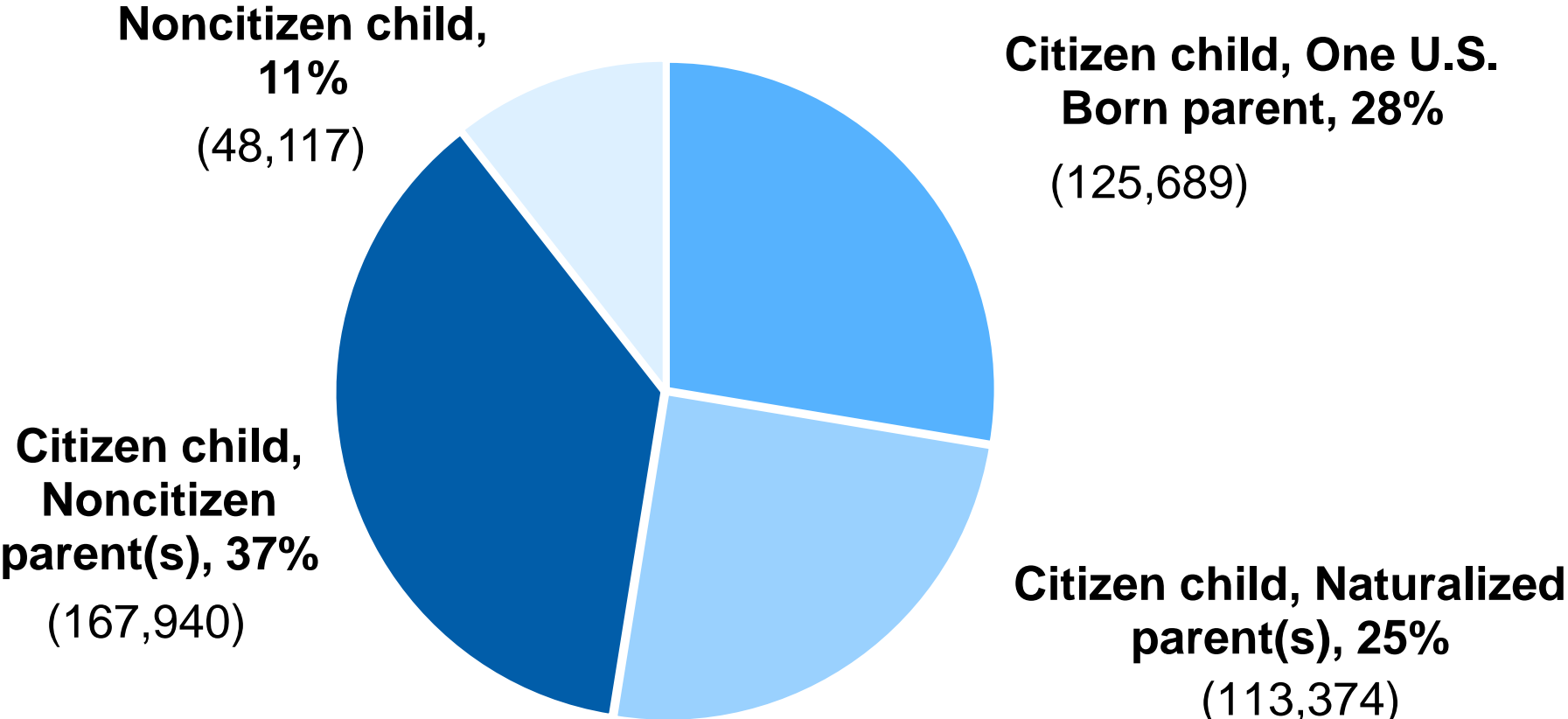


**87.5%**

of NC Children of immigrants  
are U.S.-born citizens, 2021

# Most children of immigrants in NC have at least one noncitizen parent

% of children of immigrants in NC by child's and parents citizenship, 2021

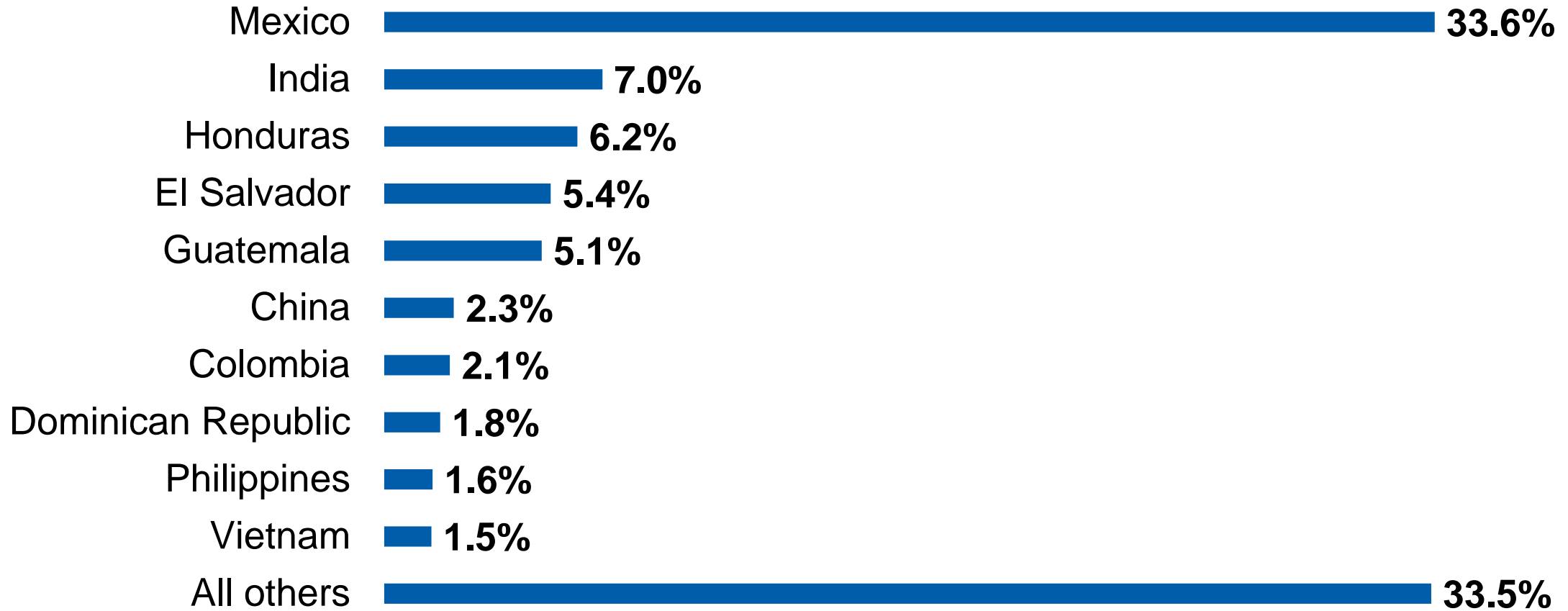


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Only reported when data on child and parent are not missing. All children have at least one foreign-born parent. Regardless of parent(s) status, all children who are noncitizens are classified as noncitizen children. In single parent families, citizen children are classified based on the status of the status of their parent. In two parent families, citizen children are first classified as citizen children with a U.S.-born parent when one parent is U.S. born and then classified as citizen children with a naturalized parent when at least one parent is naturalized. Finally, if both parents are noncitizens then children are classified as citizen children with noncitizen parents.

# Most children of immigrants in NC have parents from Mexico or Central America

Top 10 parents' birth countries among children of immigrants in NC, 2021

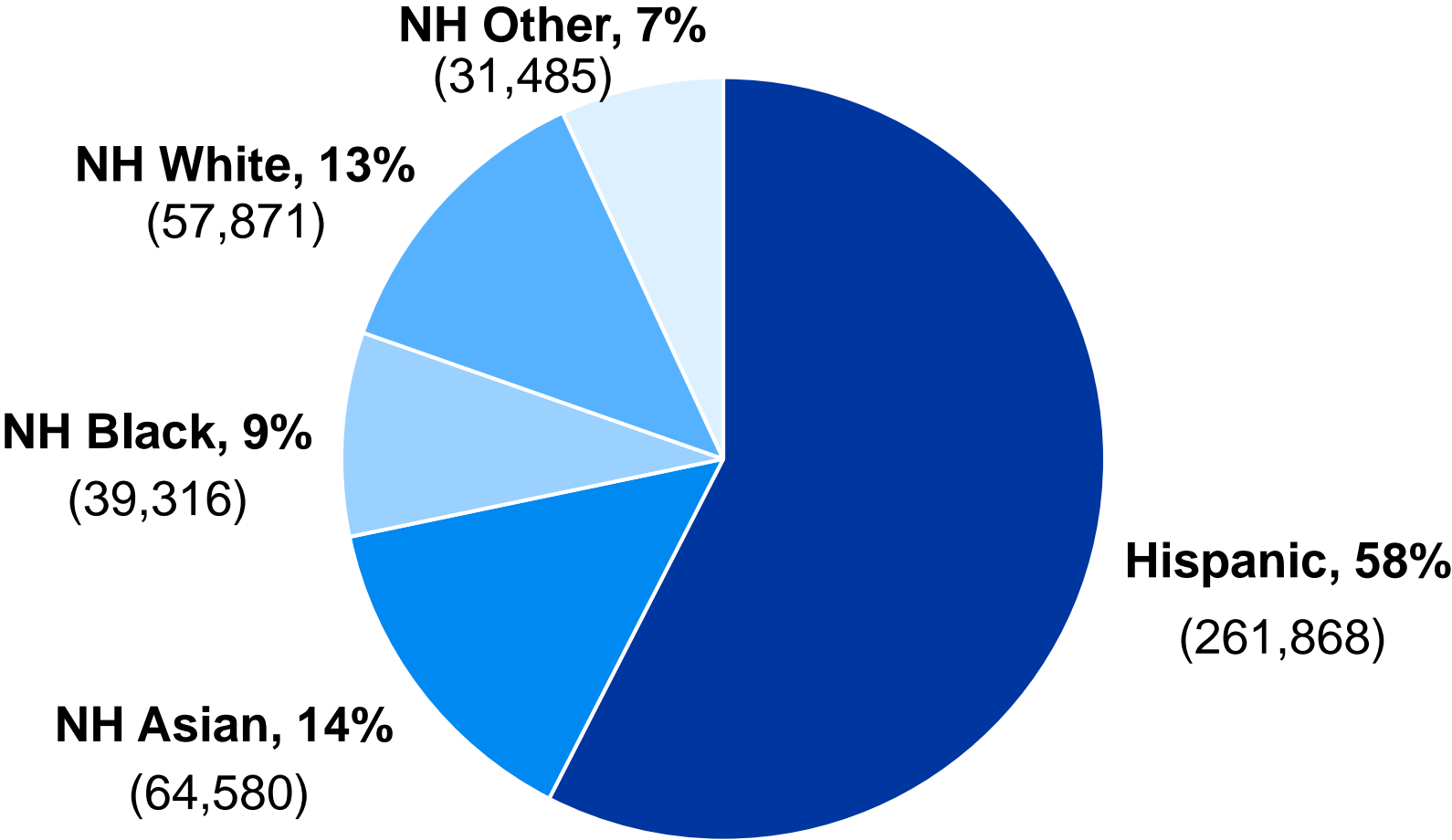


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parents' place of birth is assigned based on the mother's place of birth or the parent listed as the first parent/primary caregiver in households with same sex partners

# Most children of immigrants in NC are Hispanic

Race/ethnicity of children of immigrants in NC, 2021



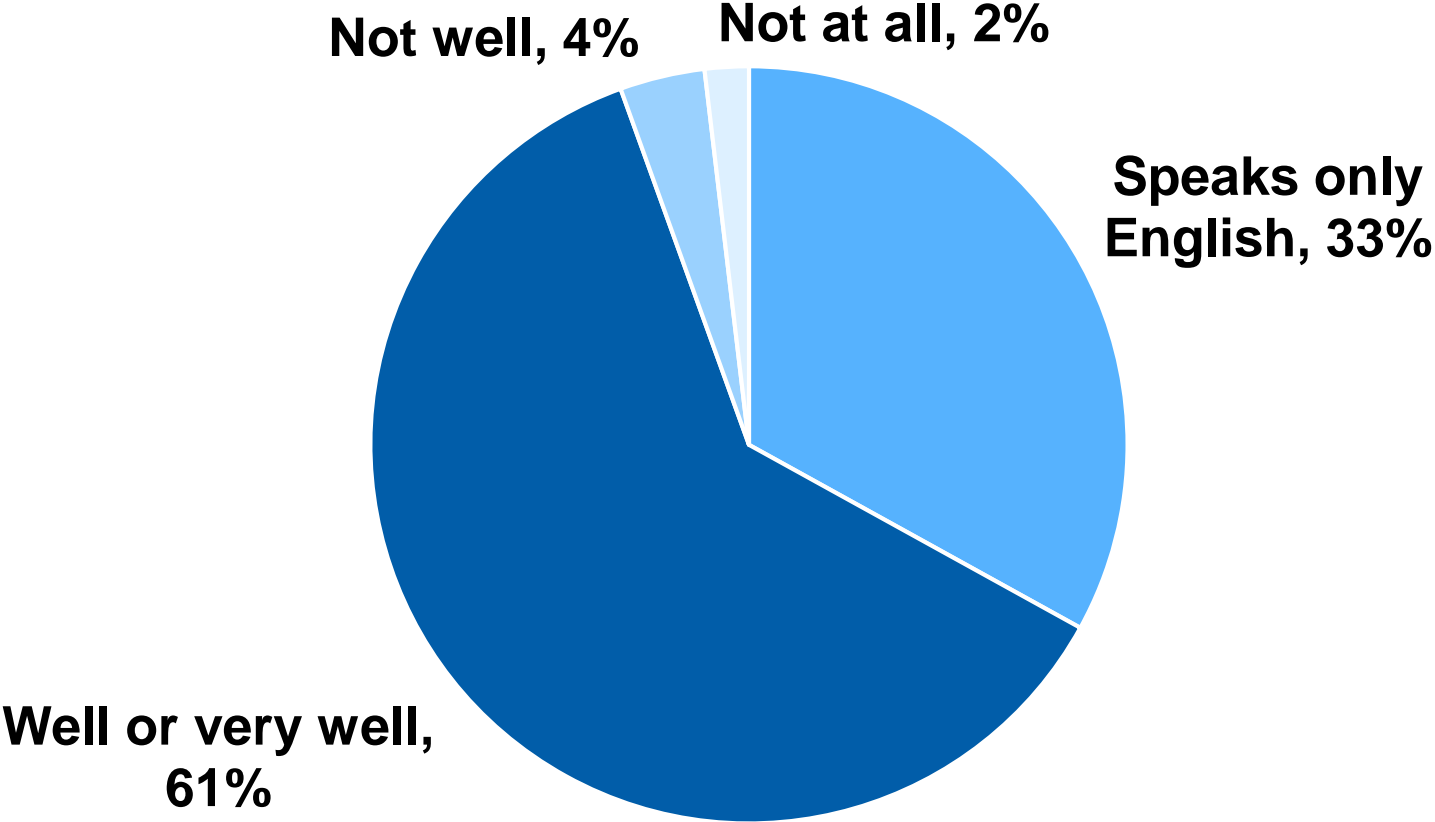
Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Abbreviations: non-Hispanic (NH)

# Language Use

# Most children (age 5+) of immigrants speak English only, or are bilingual and Speak English well or very well

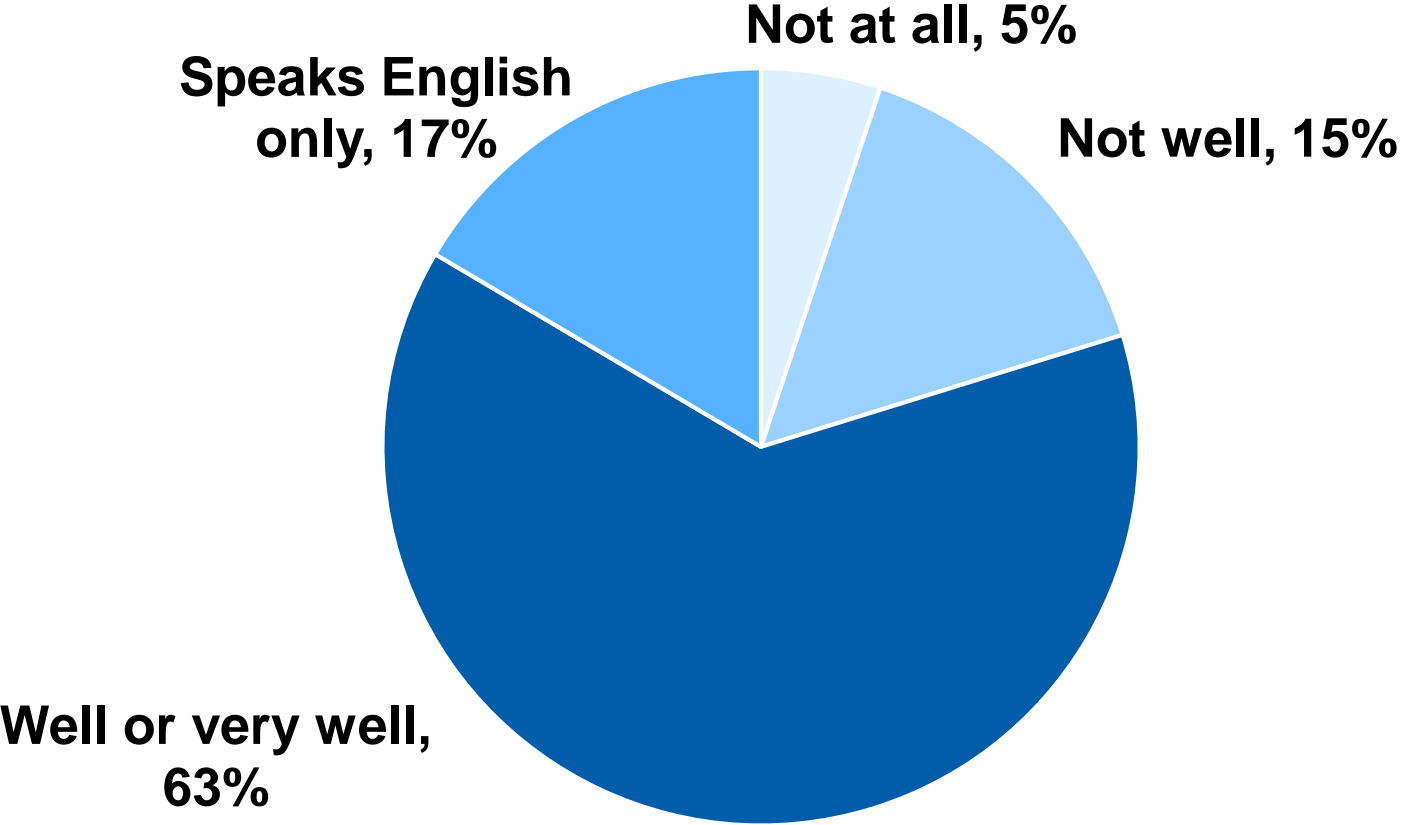
Children (Age 5+) of immigrants English fluency in NC, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

# 1 in 5 parents of children of immigrants do not speak English at all or not well

Parents English fluency among children of immigrants in NC, 2021

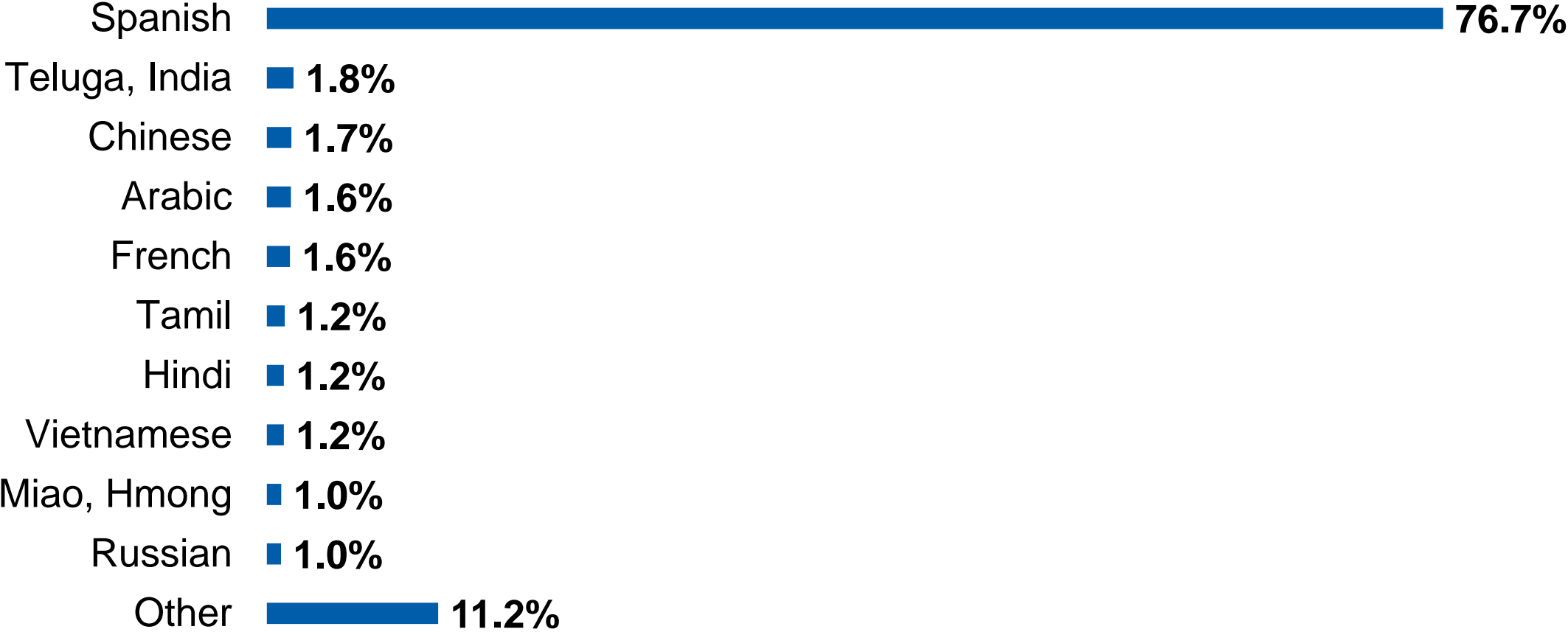


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent language fluency is based on the foreign-born parent with the highest language fluency

# Other than English, most children of Immigrants speak Spanish at home, but nearly 25% speak another language

Non-English Languages spoken at home among children of immigrants in NC, 2021



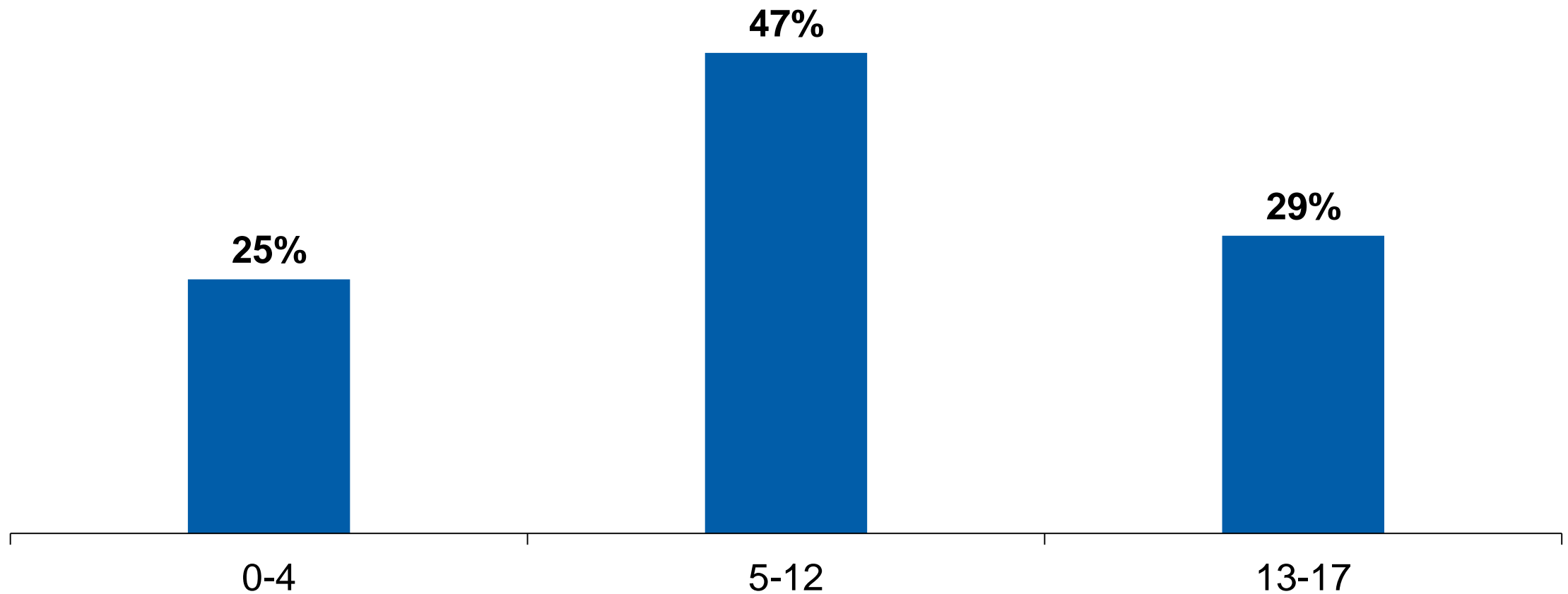
Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau



# Employment and Education

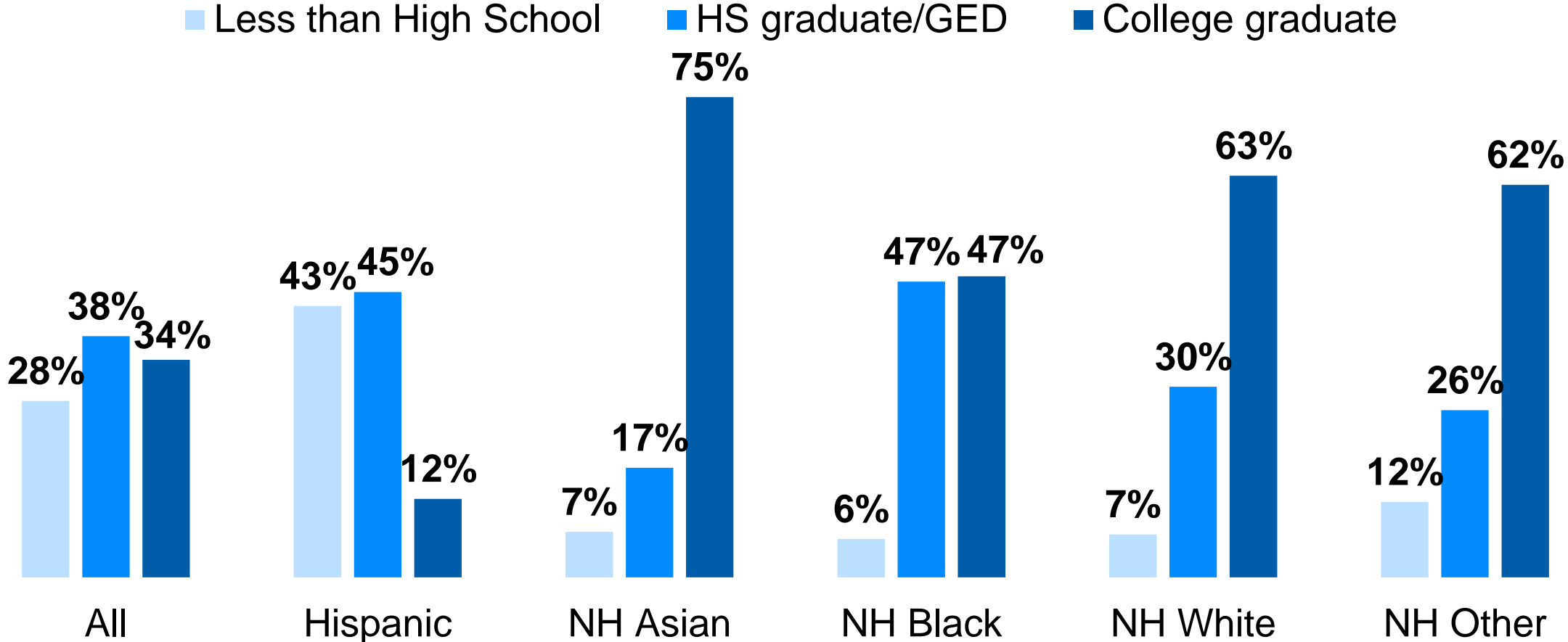
# Most children of immigrants in NC are elementary school ages, between 5 and 12 years old

Age distribution of children of immigrants in NC, 2021



# The educational attainment of foreign-born parents varies substantially by race/ethnicity

Educational attainment of parents among children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021

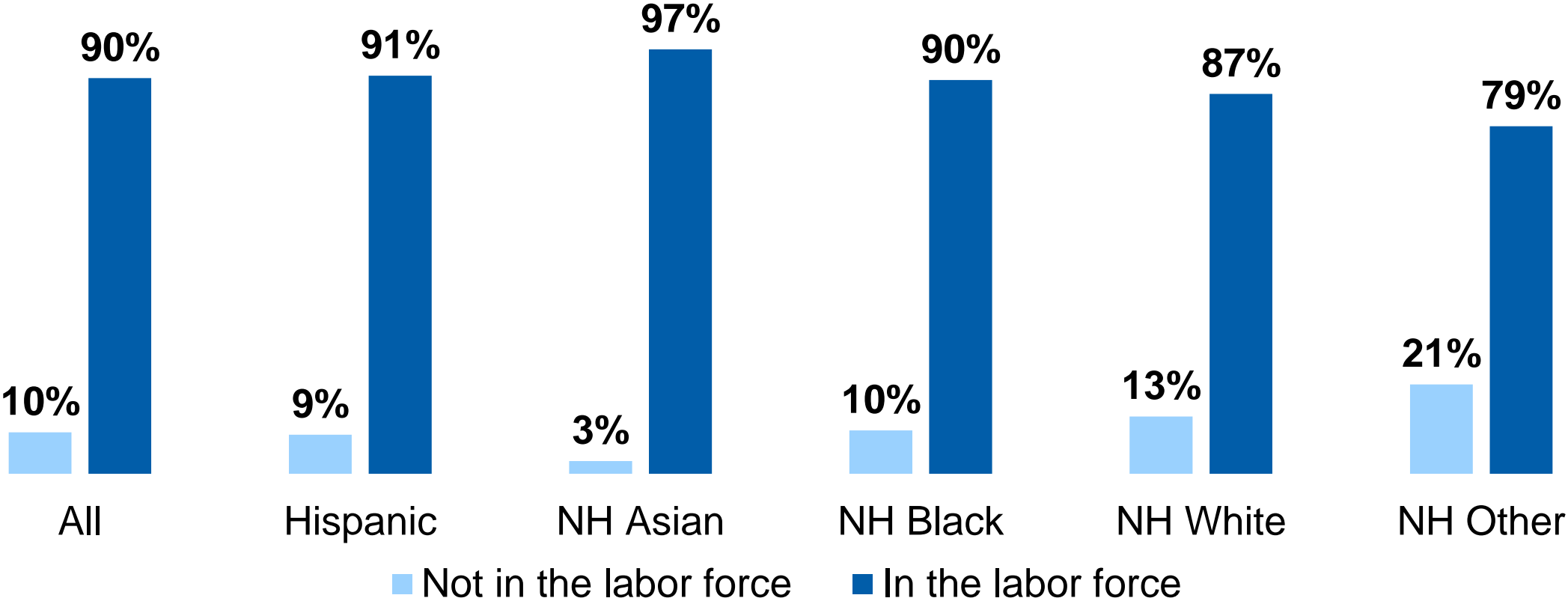


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent's educational attainment is based on the foreign-born parent with the highest educational attainment.

# Most foreign-born parents are in the labor force

Employment of parents of children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021

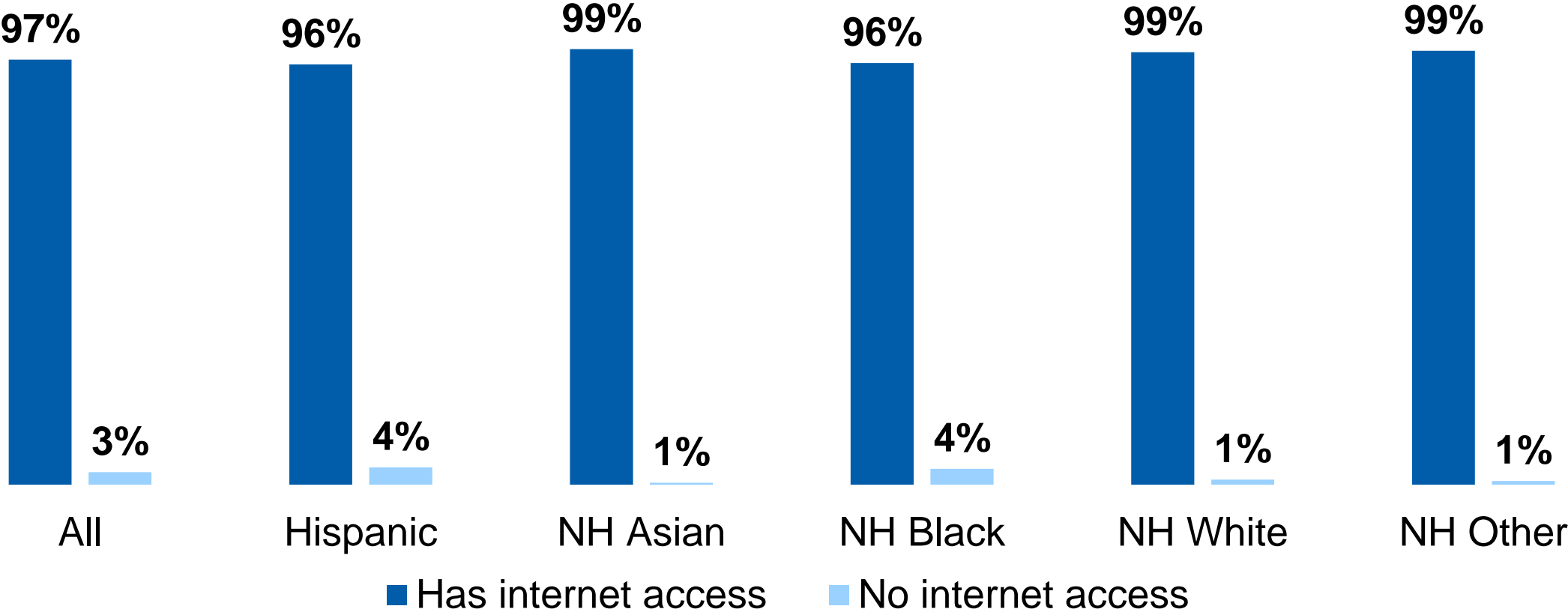


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parents' are classified as in the labor force if at least one foreign-born parent is in the labor force.

# Most children live in households with internet access

Internet access of households with children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021

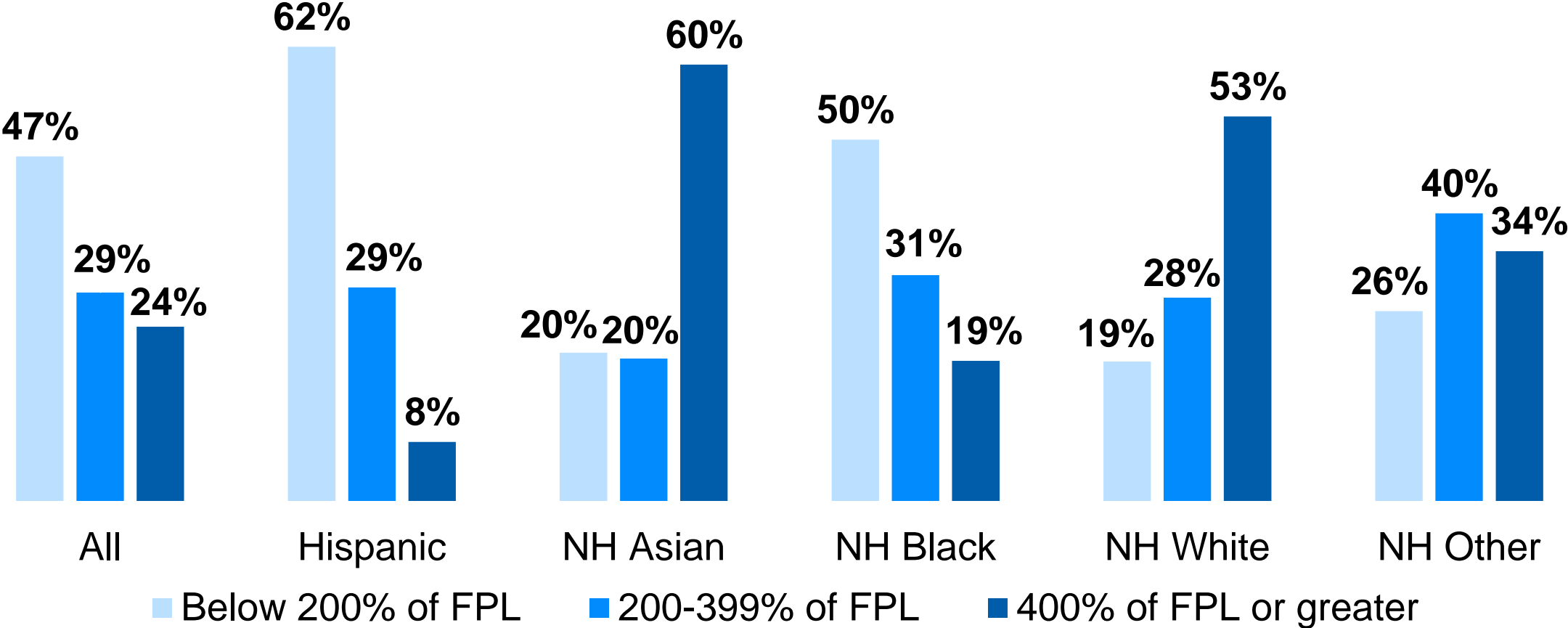


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

# **Income, Food, and Health Security**

# Many children of immigrants grow-up in low-income families

Poverty distribution of parents among children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Abbreviations: Federal Poverty Line (FPL)

# Eligibility for Public Assistance

- Eligibility for public assistance varies for cash assistance (TANF/Work First), food assistance (SNAP), and medical assistance (Medicaid/CHIP).
- Income eligibility is least generous for cash assistance (~33% FPL) and most generous for food (130%-200% FPL) and medical assistance (Max 215% FPL for children).
- Eligibility depends primarily on a person's age, family federal poverty level, disability status, and legal residency status.
- Like all other children who are U.S. citizens, citizen children in immigrant families are eligible for public assistance programs

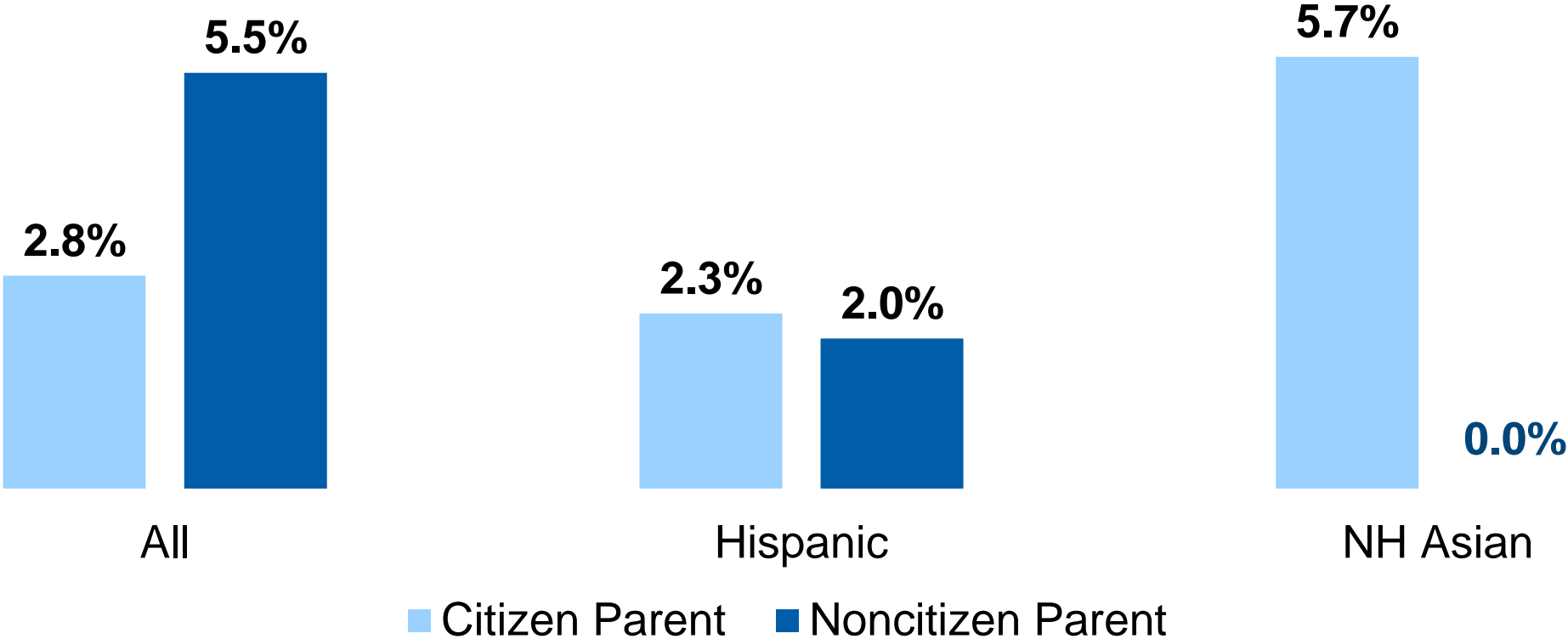


# Noncitizens' Eligibility for Public Assistance in NC

- Few noncitizens are eligible for public assistance. Eligible noncitizens include:
  - ✓ Refugees and asylees
  - ✓ Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) who immigrated to the U.S. prior to 1996.
  - ✓ LPRs who have live in the U.S. for more than 5 years and immigrated to the U.S. after 1996.
  - ✓ Pregnant women and children under 19, who are “lawfully present” or “qualified aliens” regardless of years in the U.S. (Medicaid Only)

# Low-income children of immigrants have limited access to cash assistance

% of low-income (<200% FPL) children of immigrant in NC with a parent (ages 15+) receiving cash assistance by child's race/ethnicity and parents' citizenship, 2021

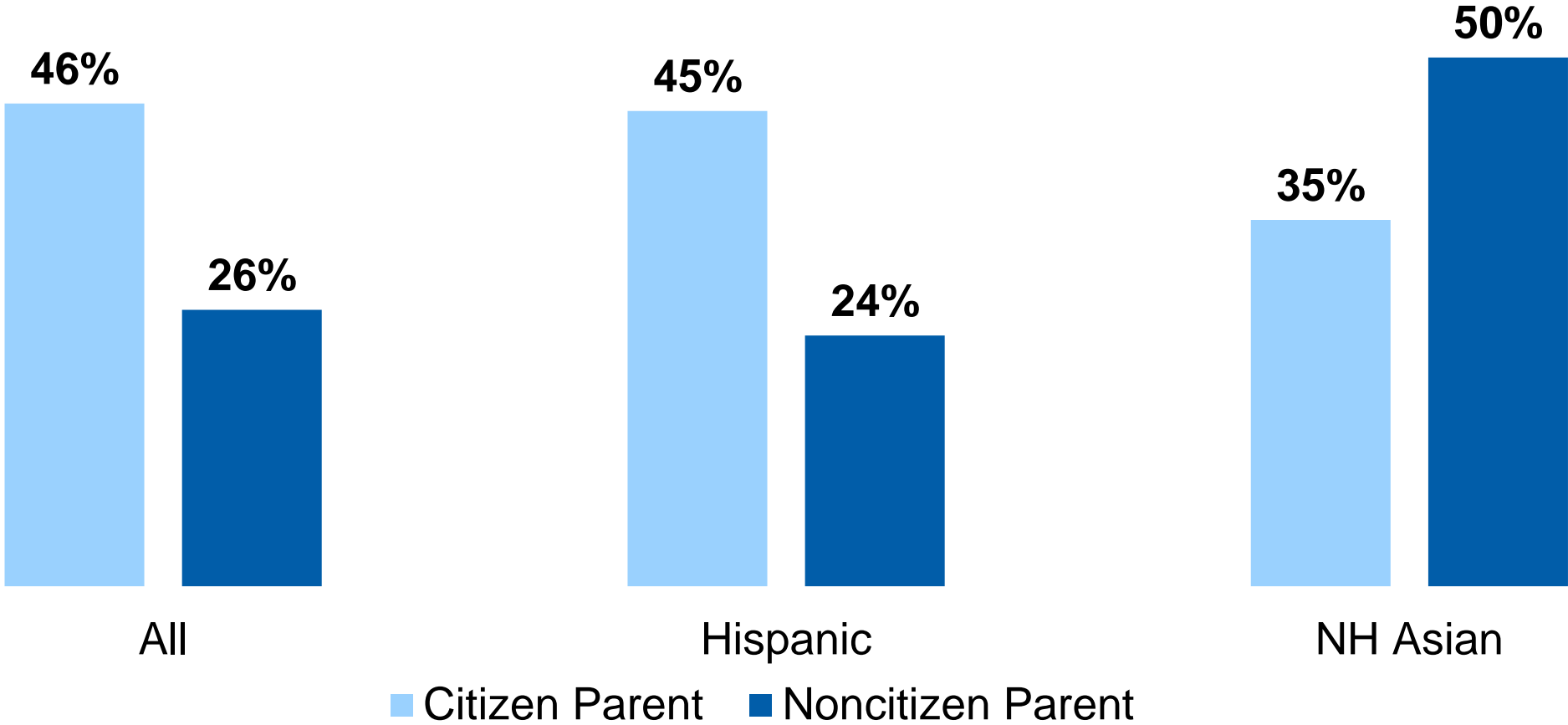


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent(s) are classified as noncitizen parent when both parents are noncitizens or the parent is a single parent and noncitizen. Ns are too small to report other race/ethnic groups

# Low income children of immigrants with noncitizen parents have limited access to food assistance

% of low-income (<200% FPL) NC children of immigrants in households receiving SNAP benefits by child's race/ethnicity and parents' citizenship, 2021

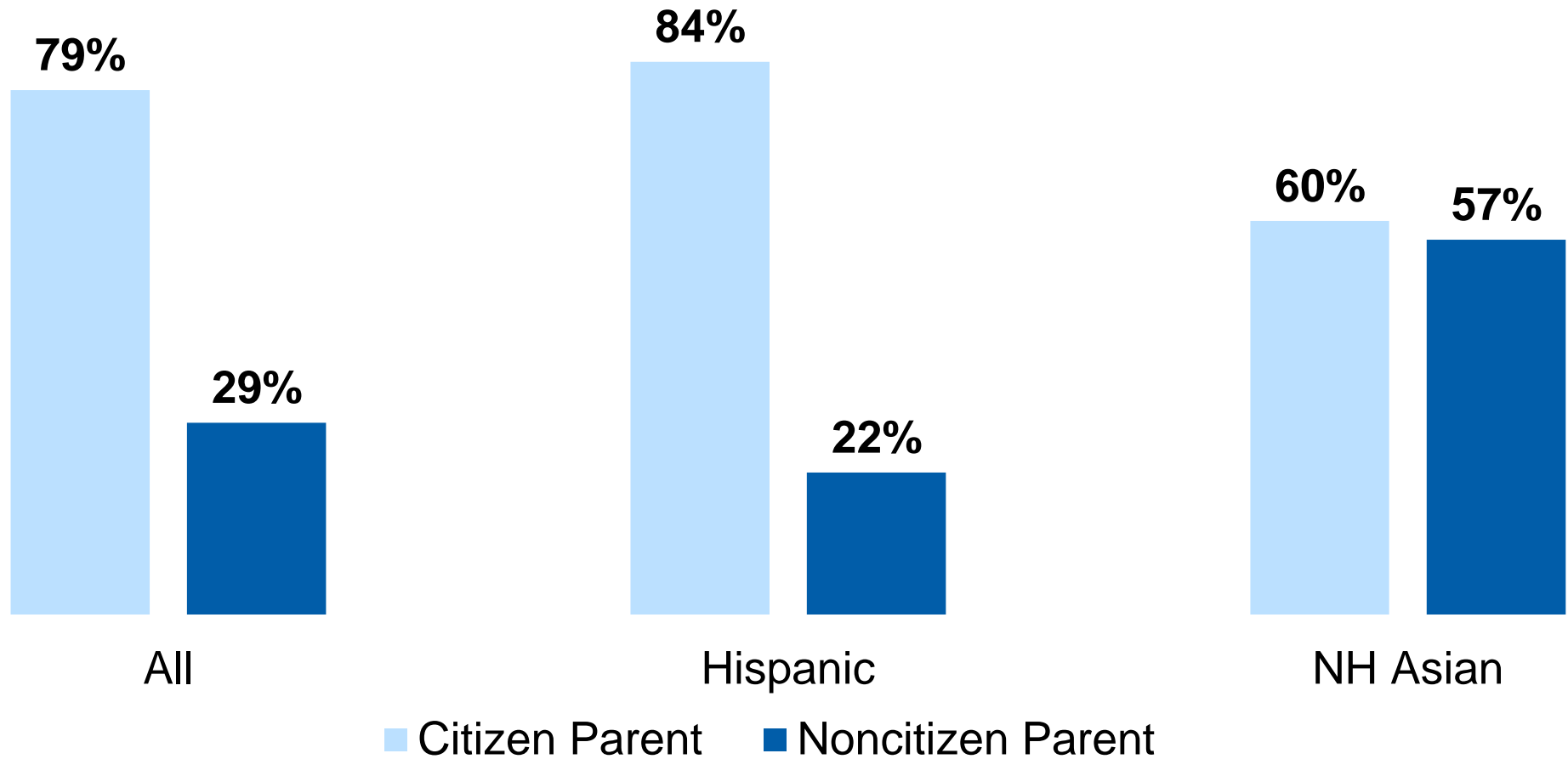


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent(s) are classified as noncitizen parent when both parents are noncitizens or the parent is a single parent and noncitizen.

# Low income children of immigrants with noncitizen parents have limited access to Medicaid

% of low-income NC children of immigrants receiving Medicaid by child's race/ethnicity and parents' citizenship, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent(s) are classified as noncitizen parent when both parents are noncitizens or the parent is a single parent and noncitizen.

# Thank you!

For questions, please contact Krista Perreira, [perreira@email.unc.edu](mailto:perreira@email.unc.edu)

# Work With Us

What questions do you have  
about your community?

What data do you need to  
make better decisions?



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