

The Asian Population in North Carolina

Prepared By: Krista M. Perreira and Lisa Carlson

Funded by: Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

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

Date: April 24, 2023



CAROLINA
POPULATION CENTER

CAROLINA
DEMOGRAPHY

About Carolina Demography: What We Do



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.

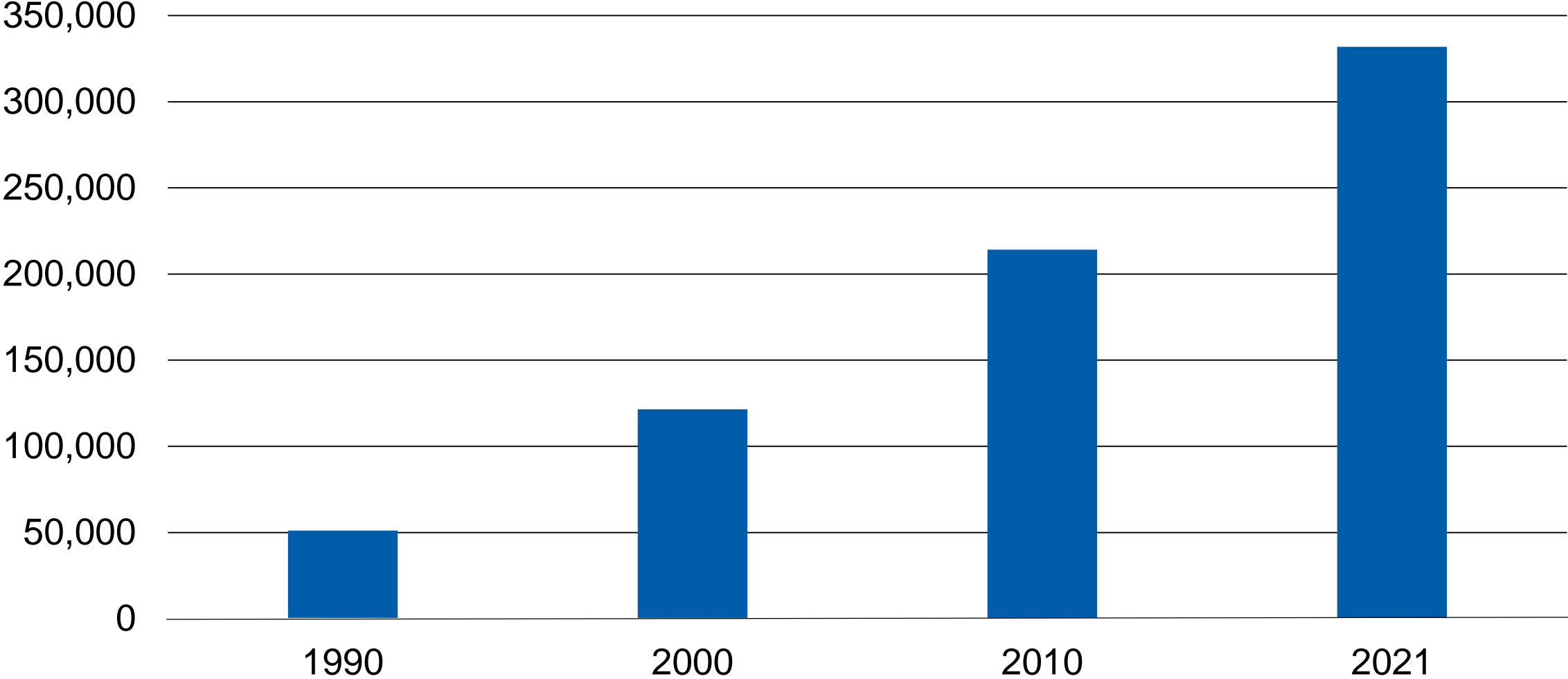


Workshops, Trainings and Presentations

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.

Asian Population of NC, by the Numbers

Asian Population in NC over 300,000 in 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

331,842

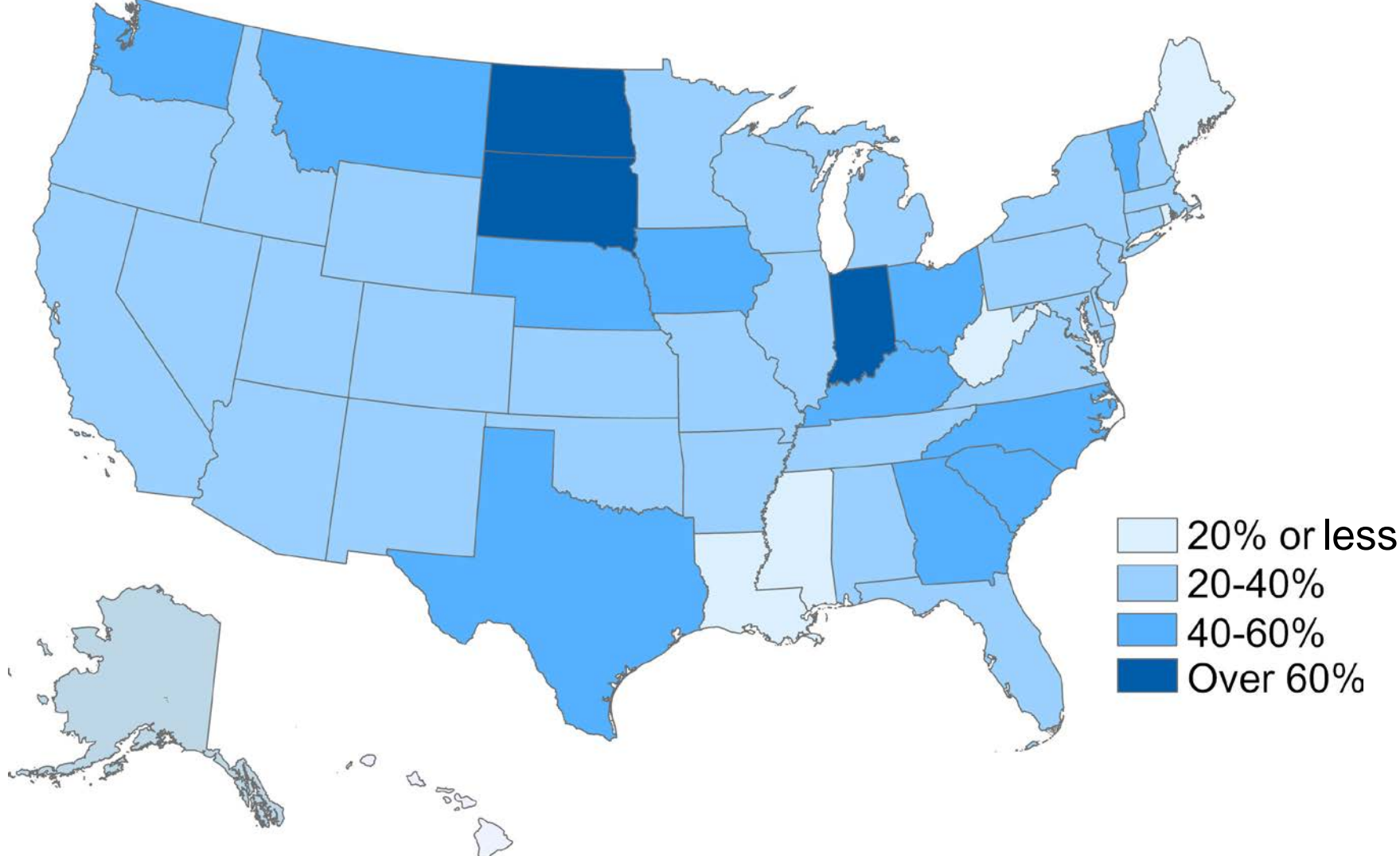
Asian residents in 2021

As defined in the ACS, the Asian population includes Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

NC among top 10 states leading Asian population growth

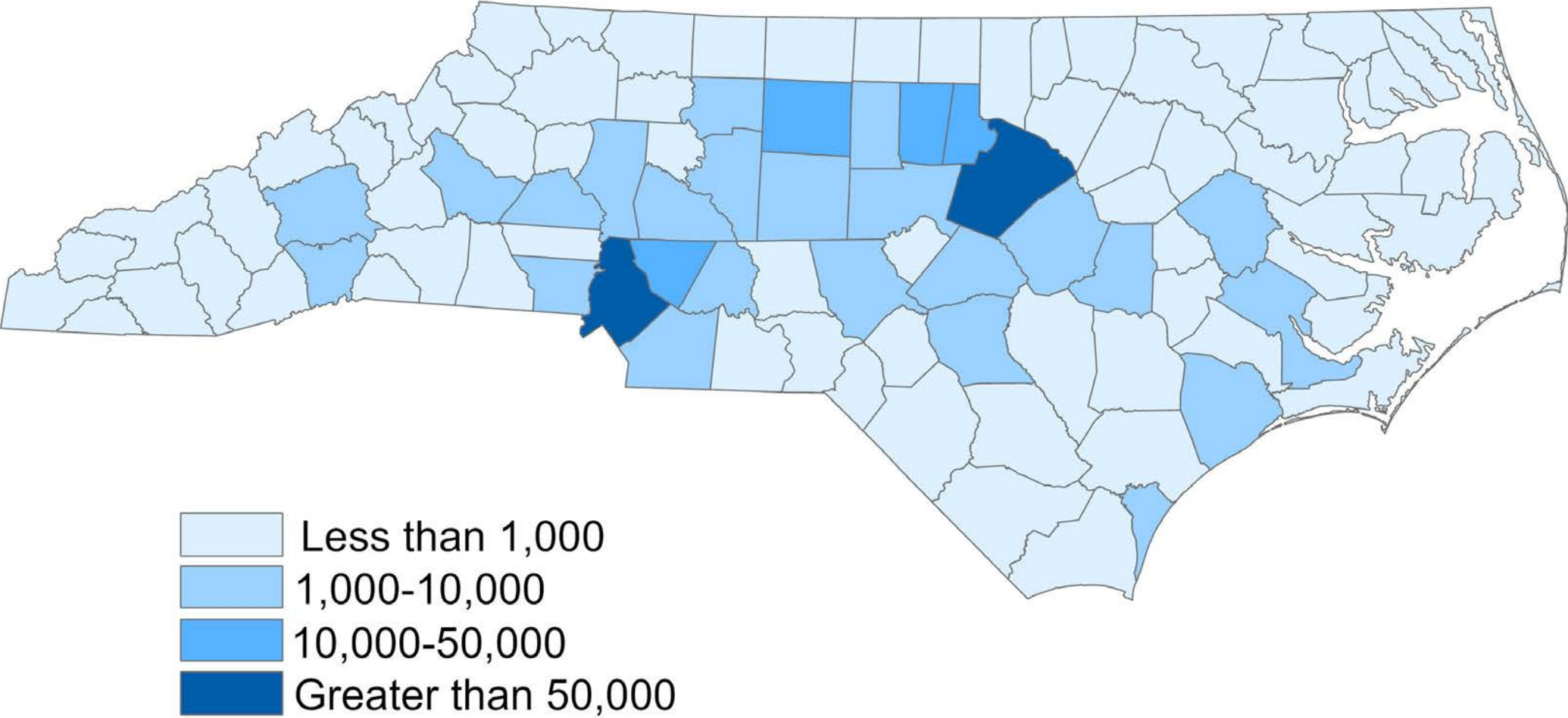
Percentage growth of Asian population by state, 2011-2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5 year data (2017-2021)

Nearly 50% of Asian residents live in Mecklenburg or Wake

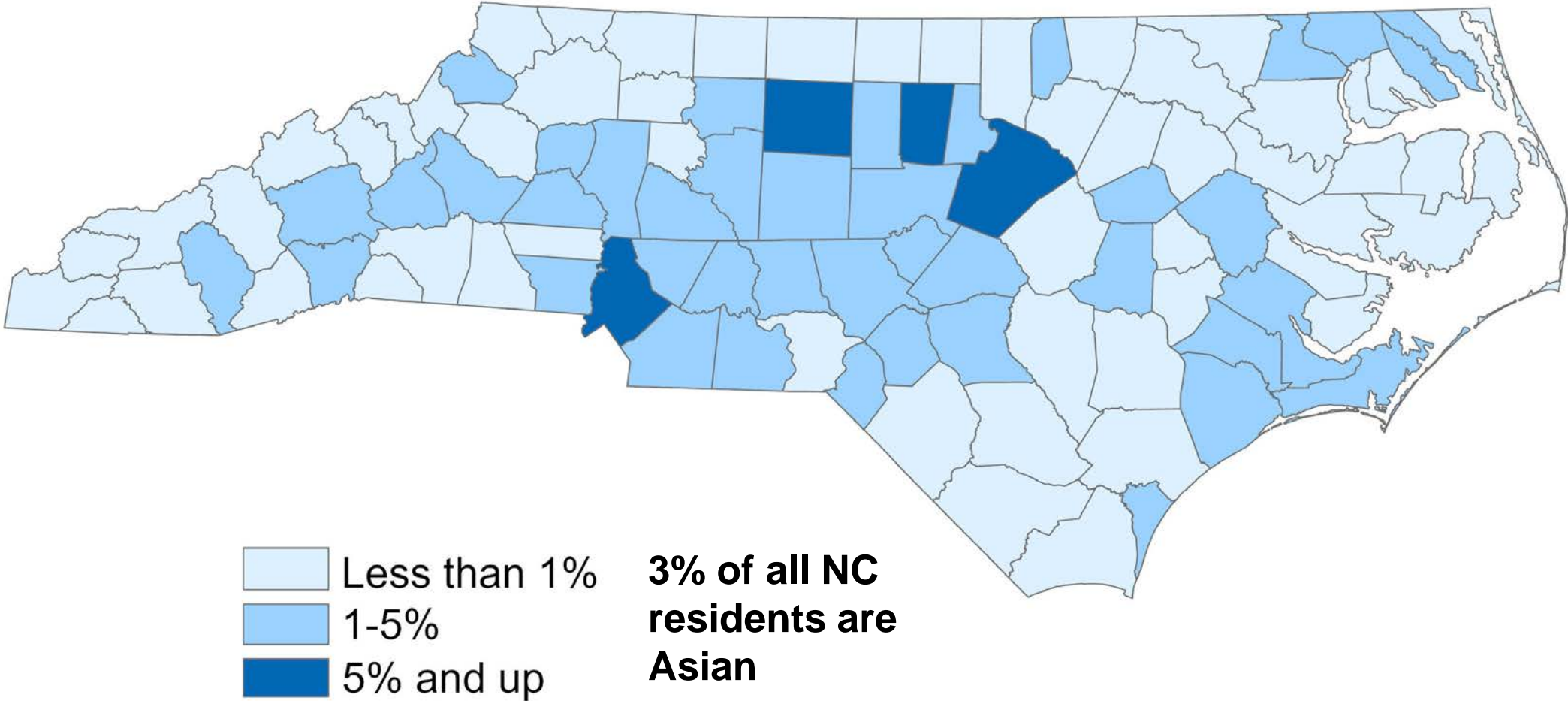
Total number of individuals of Asian origin, per county in 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5 year data (2017-2021)

Greater shares of Asian residents in less rural areas

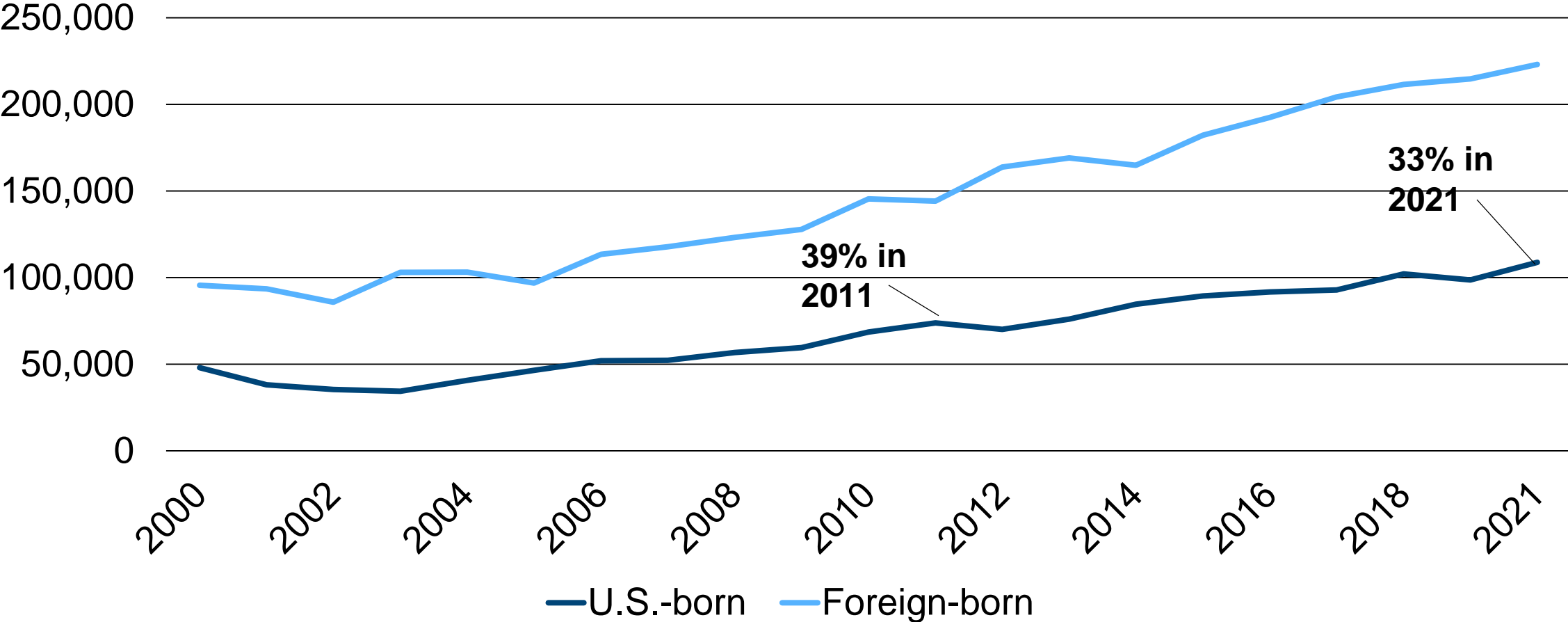
Individuals of Asian origin as percentage of total population, by county in 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5 year data (2017-2021)

1 in 3 Asian residents is U.S.-born

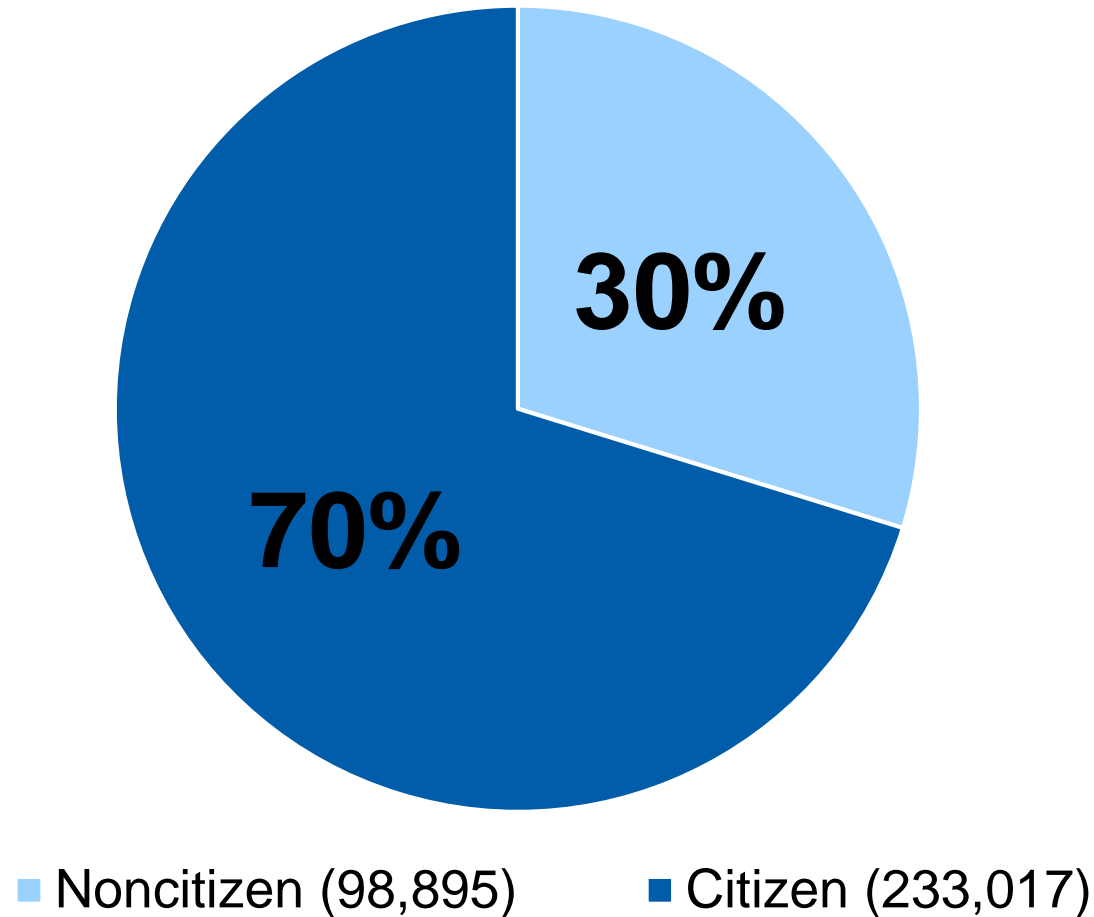
North Carolina Asian population by nativity, 2000-2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

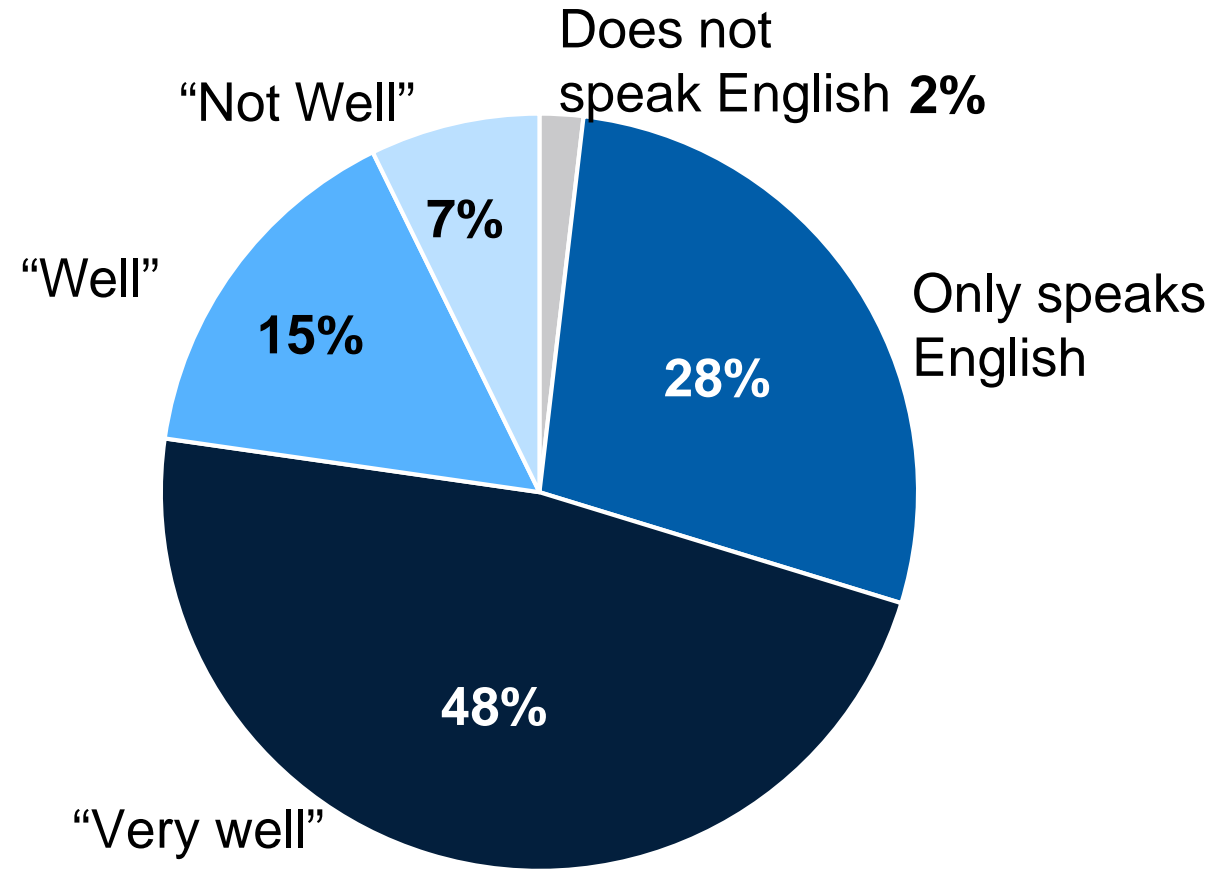
The majority of NC Asian residents are citizens

North Carolina Asian residents by citizenship status, 2021



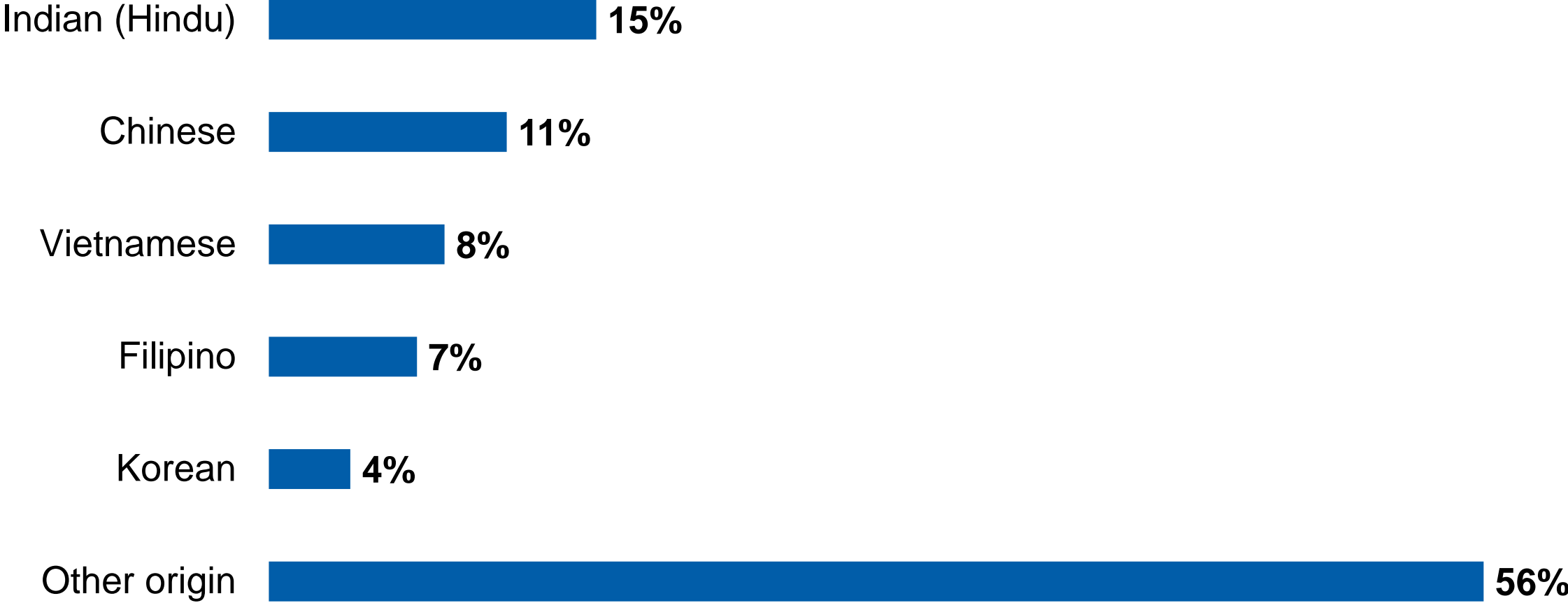
The majority of NC Asian residents speak English well, very well, or only speak English

North Carolina Asian residents by English language ability, 2021



NC Asian population is diverse

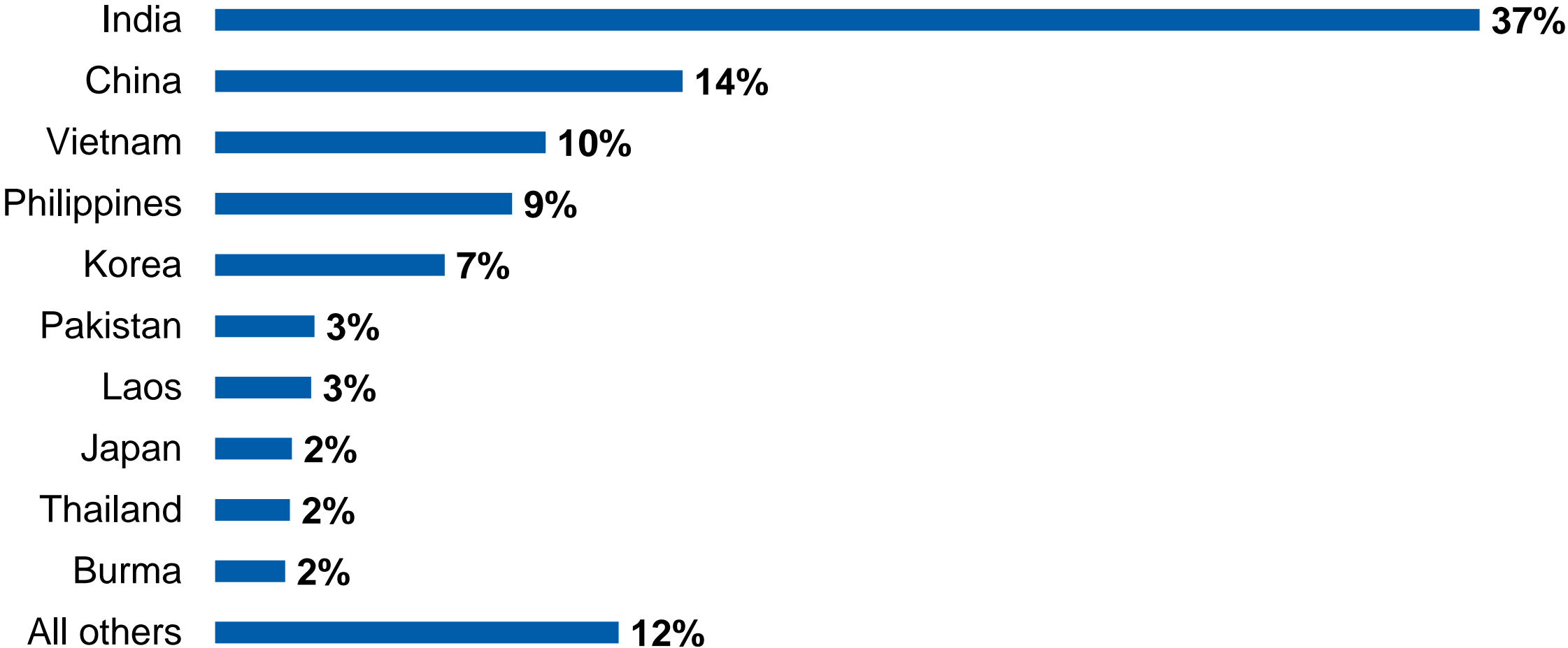
North Carolina Asian residents by origin/ancestry, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

More than 1 in 3 Foreign-Born Asian residents of NC are from India

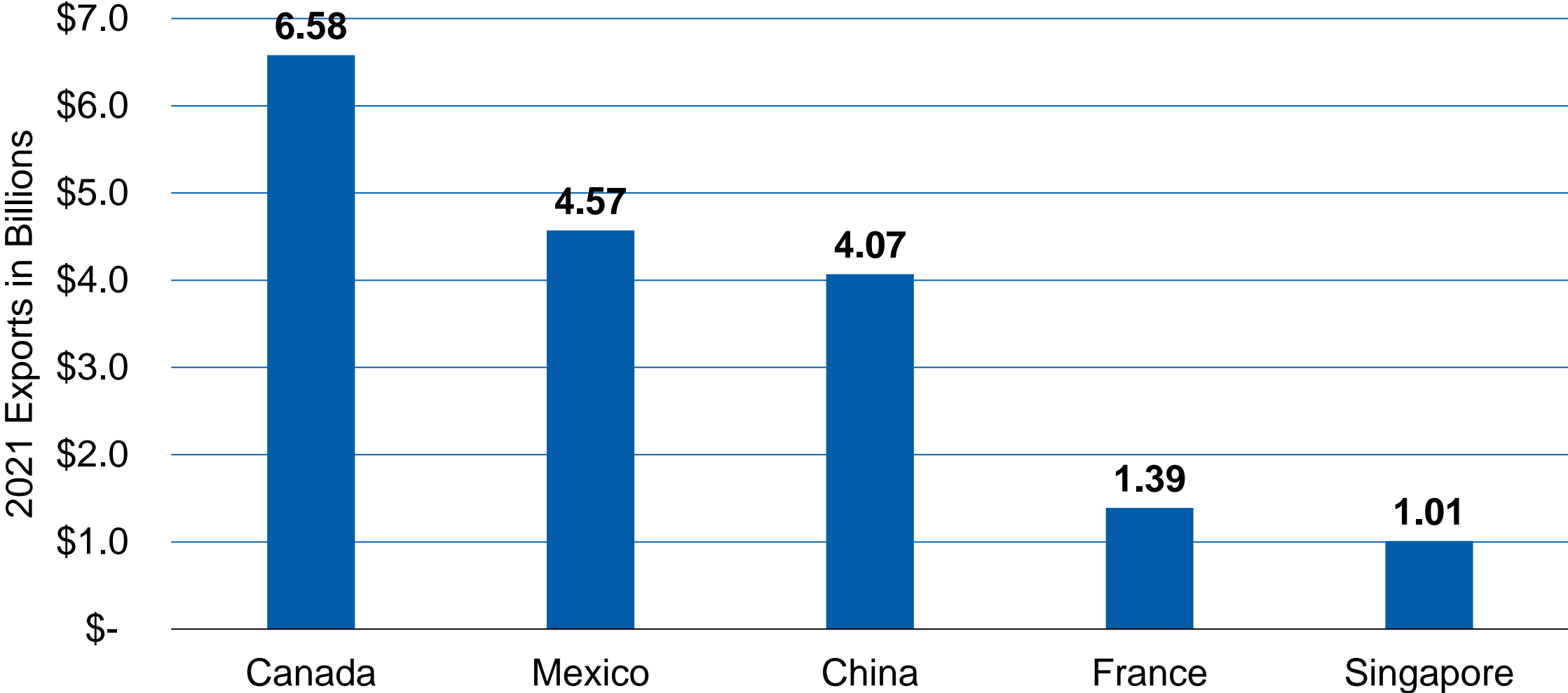
Foreign-born Asian residents by country of birth, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

China, Singapore among NC top trading partners

Top trading partners in 2021

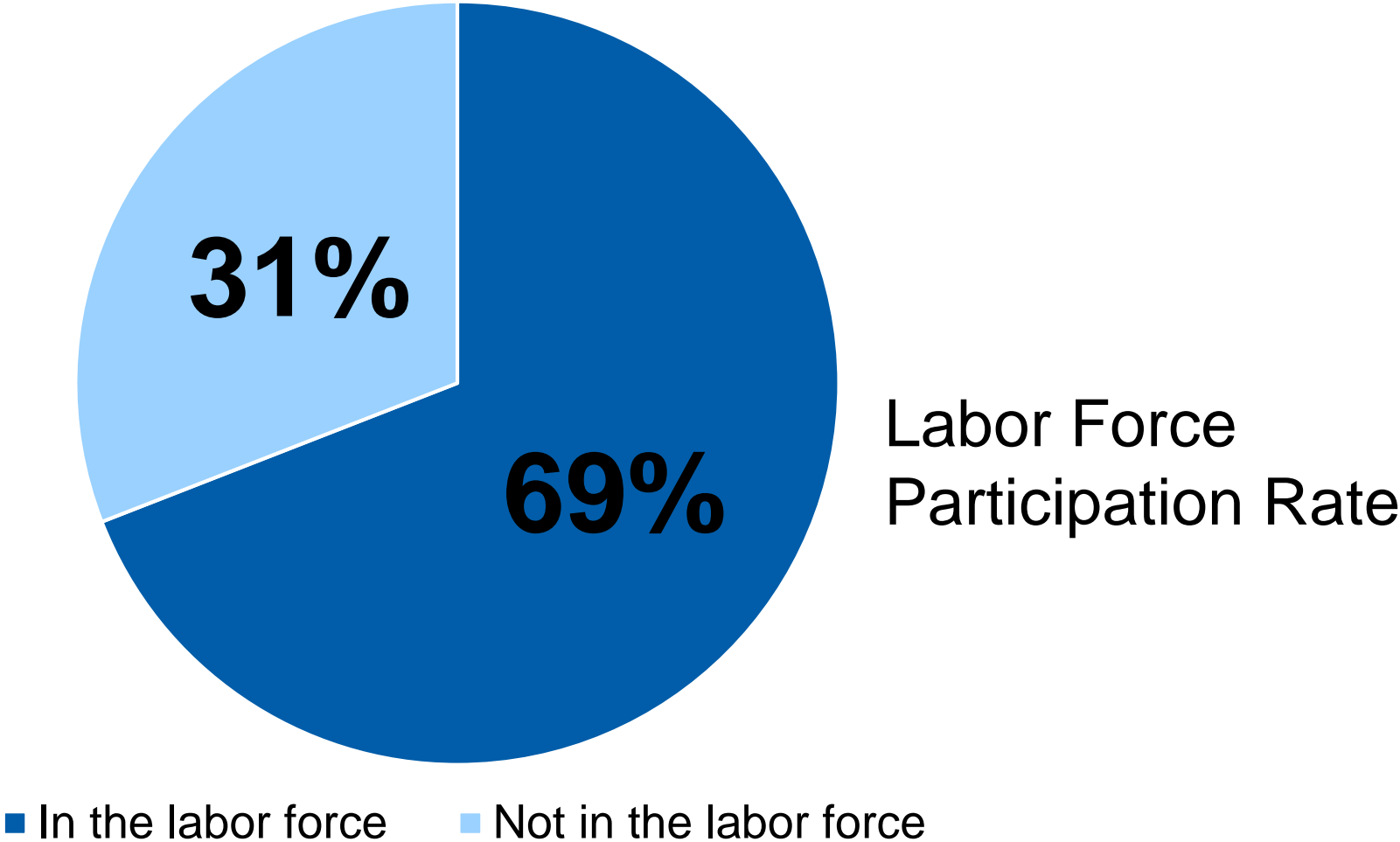


Source: 2021 NC Annual Trade Report, Economic Development Partnership of NC

Economic Impact

Over 2 of 3 NC Asian residents are in the labor force

Labor force participation by North Carolina Asian residents 16+ years old (N=265,361), 2021



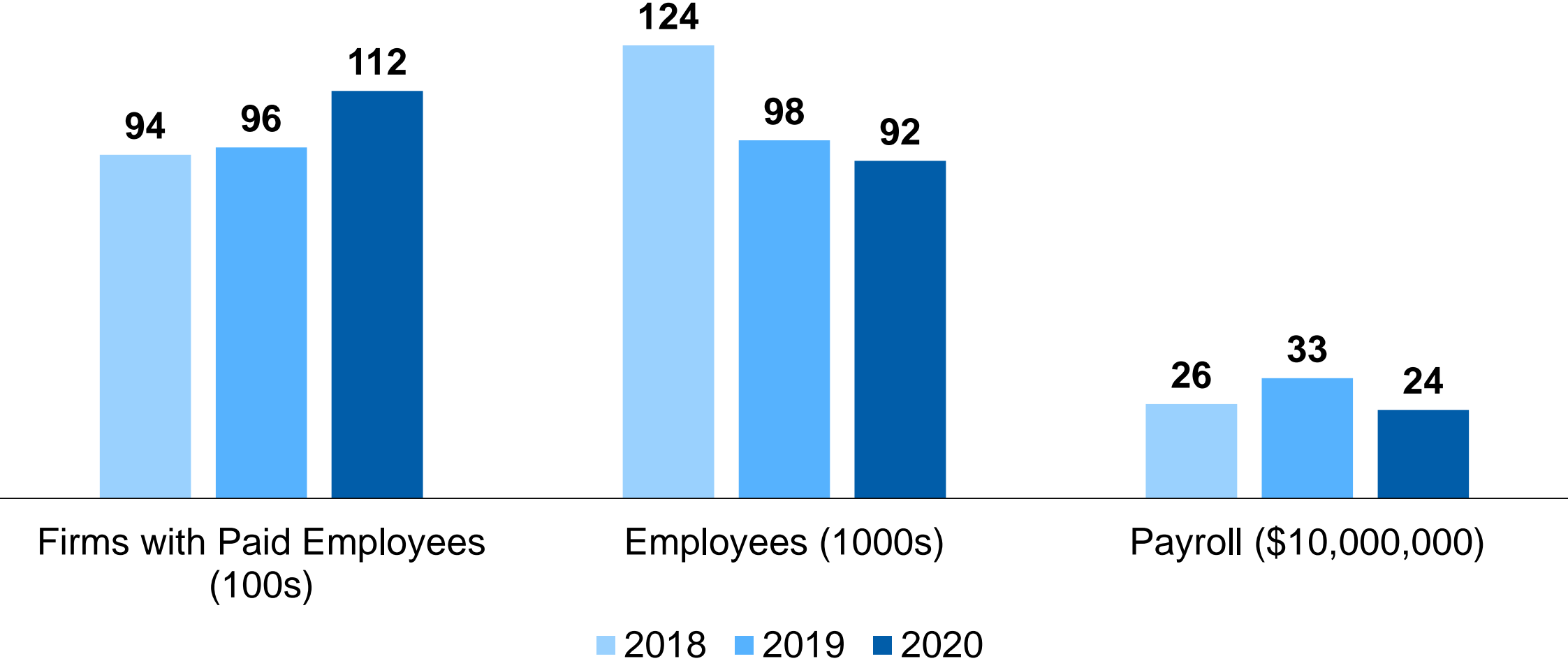
Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

5.4%

Unemployment rate among
Asians in 2021
vs. 5.9% statewide average

In 2020, over 11,000 firms in NC were Asian-owned

Selected characteristics of Asian-owned businesses in NC in 2018, 2019, 2020



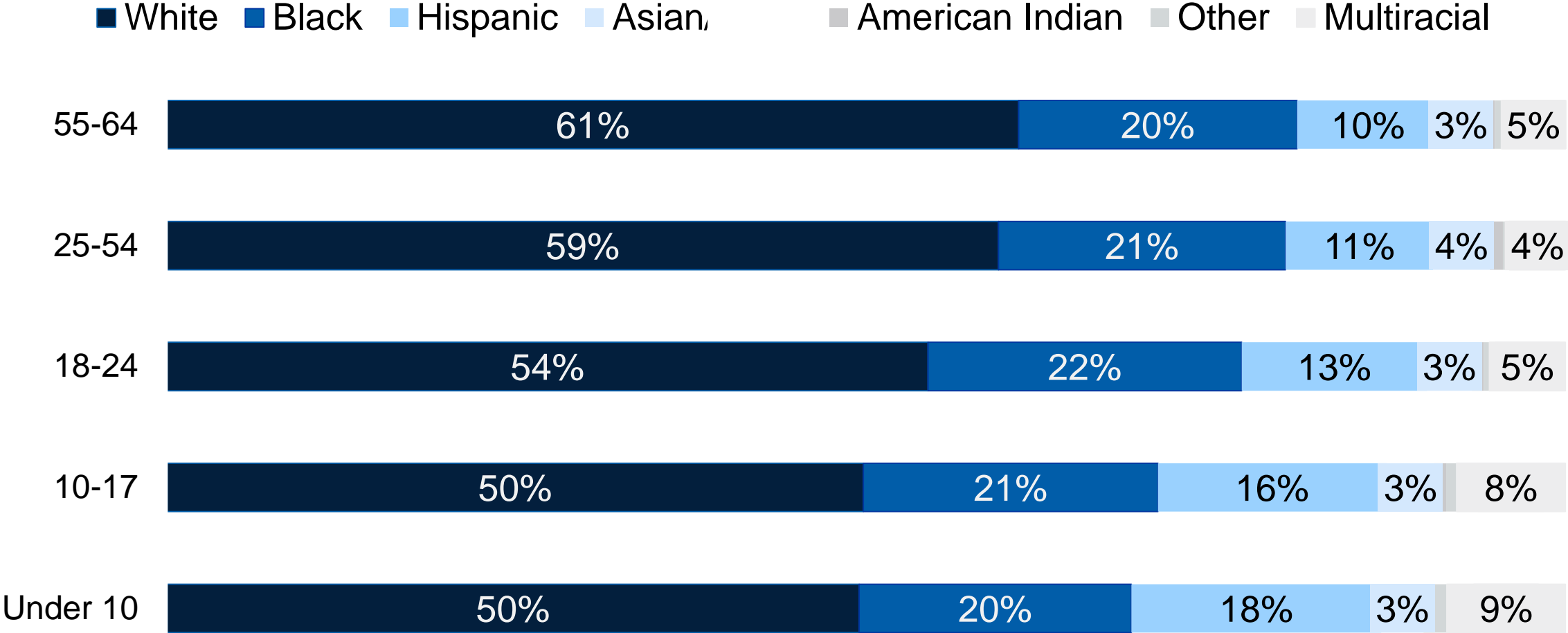
\$2.4 Billion

Payroll of NC Asian-owned firms in 2020

Education

Only 3% of children (ages 0-17) in NC are Asian

Racial/ethnic composition of NC population by selected age groups, 2021



Note: Hispanics may be of any race; All other racial groups are non-Hispanic

74,746

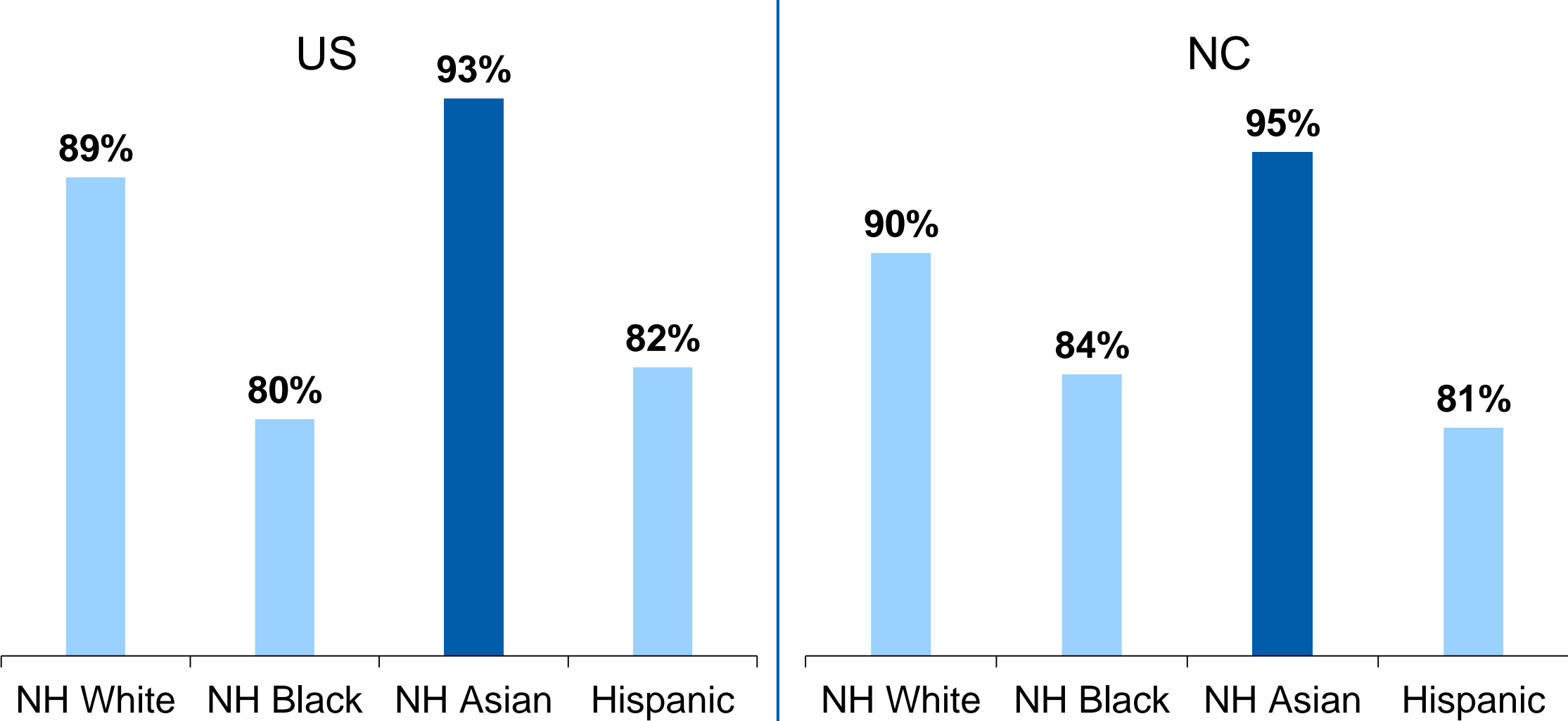
Asian children in NC (ages 0-17)

79%

of Asian children are U.S.-
born

95% of Asian students graduate High School

4-year cohort graduation rate by racial/ethnic subgroups for U.S. and North Carolina, 2018-2019

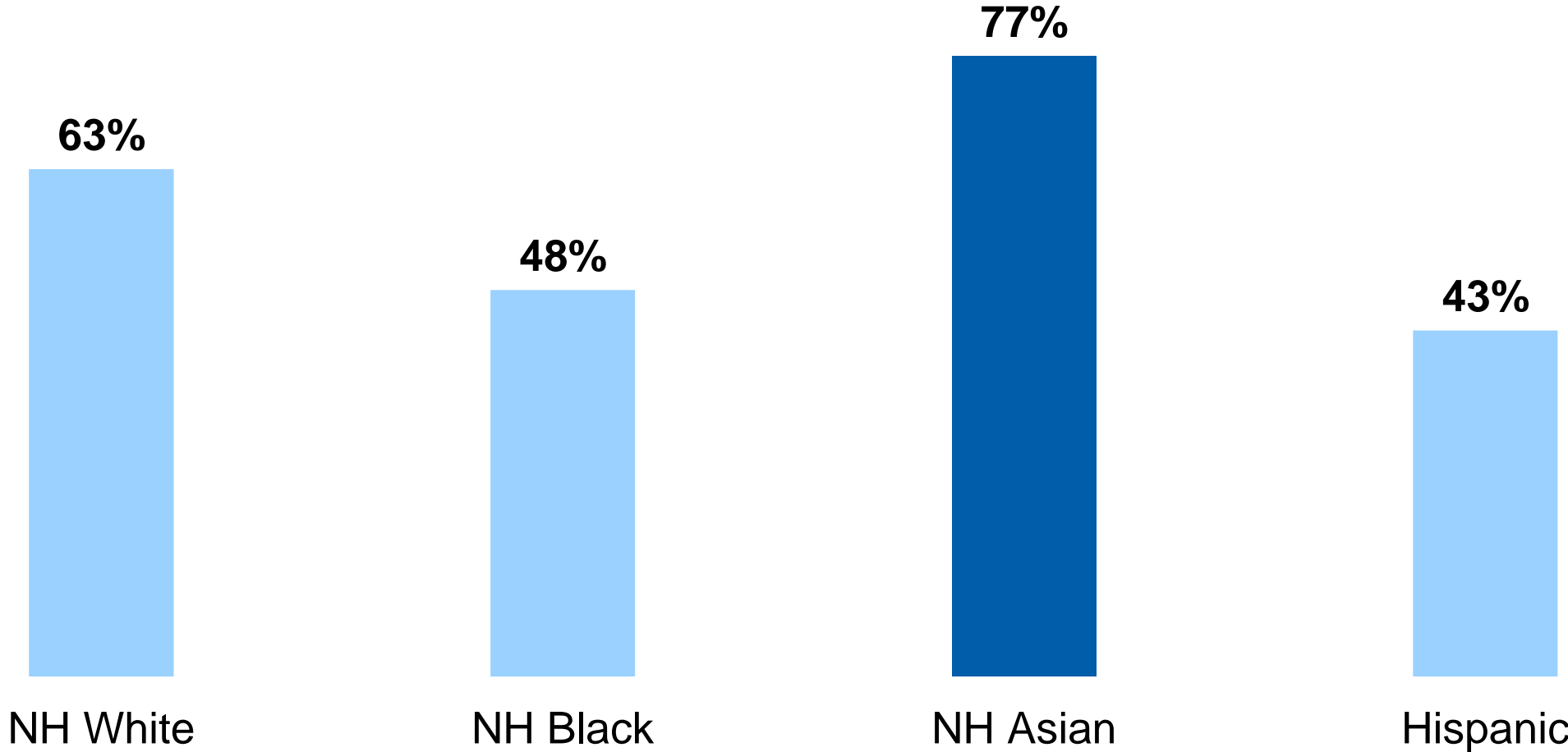


Source: IPEDS, NC DPI

Abbreviations: NH indicates Non-Hispanic

College enrollment among Asian graduates is high

Percentage of recent high school graduates enrolled in 2- and 4-year colleges, 2020

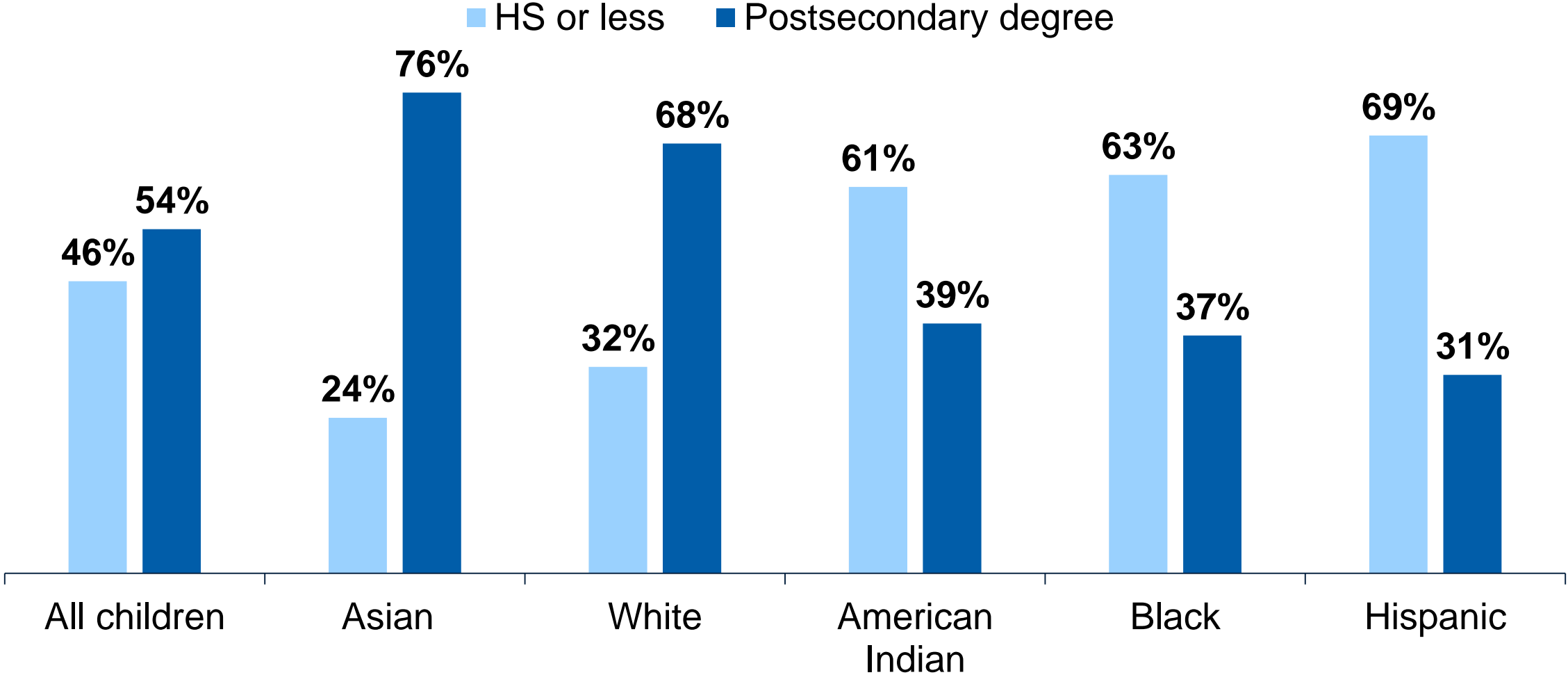


Source: National Student Clearinghouse and NC DPI, 2020

Abbreviations: NH indicates Non-Hispanic

Asian parents most likely to have college degree

Highest parental educational attainment among NC children by child's race/ethnicity, 2021

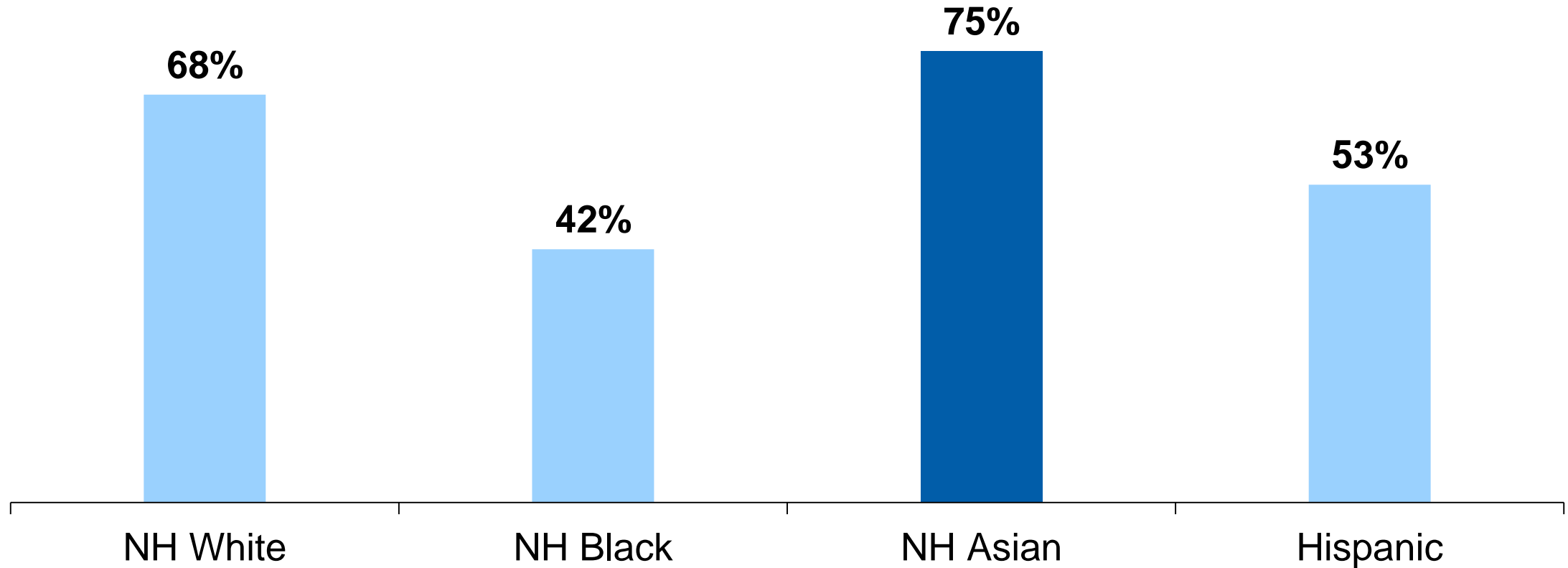


Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

Note: Hispanics may be of any race; All other racial groups are non-Hispanic

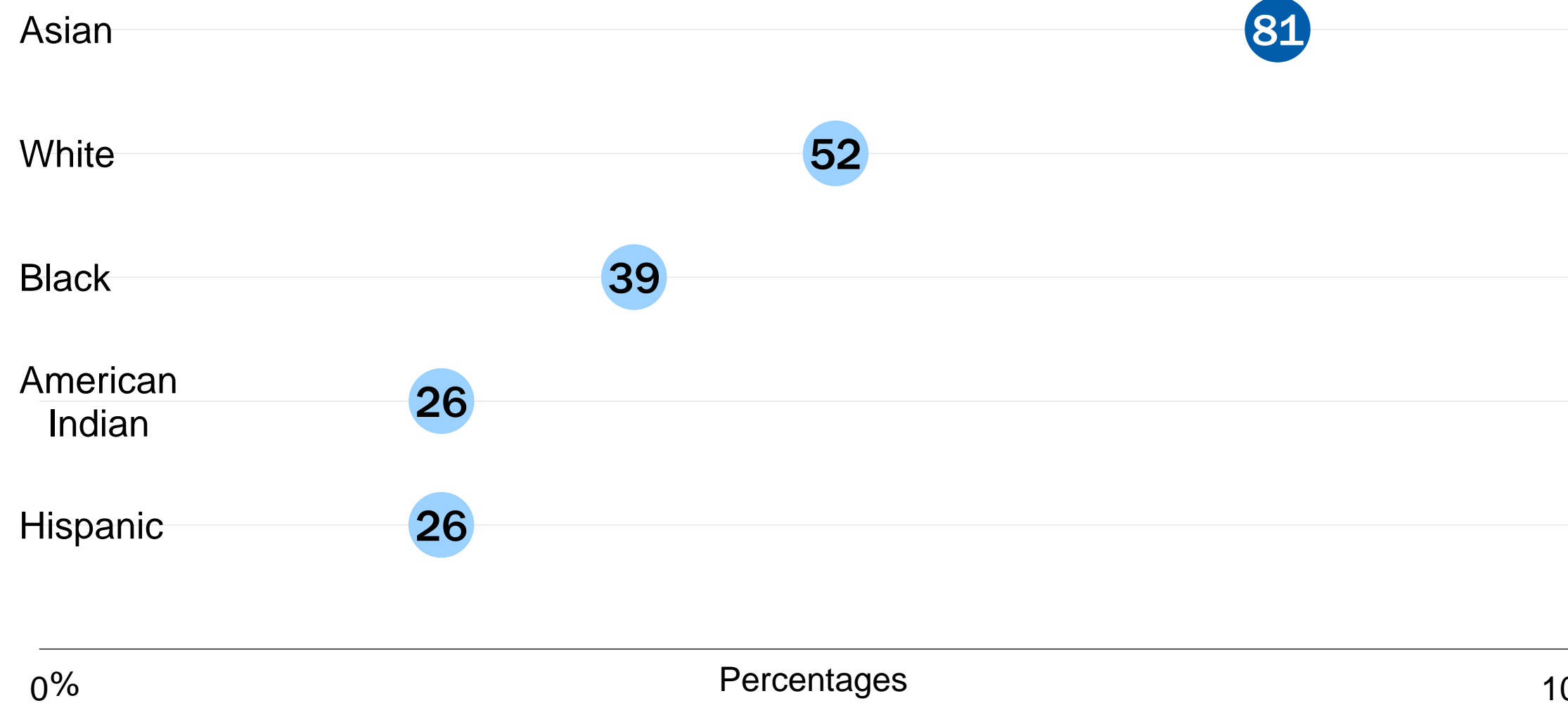
3 in 4 Asian undergraduates complete college in 6 years or less

Percentage of Fall enrollments in 2- and 4-year colleges in 2014 who completed a degree within 6 years, 2020



Most (81%) NC Asian residents have an Associate's degree or higher

Share of NC adults (25 or older) with an associate's or more by race/ethnicity, 2019-2021

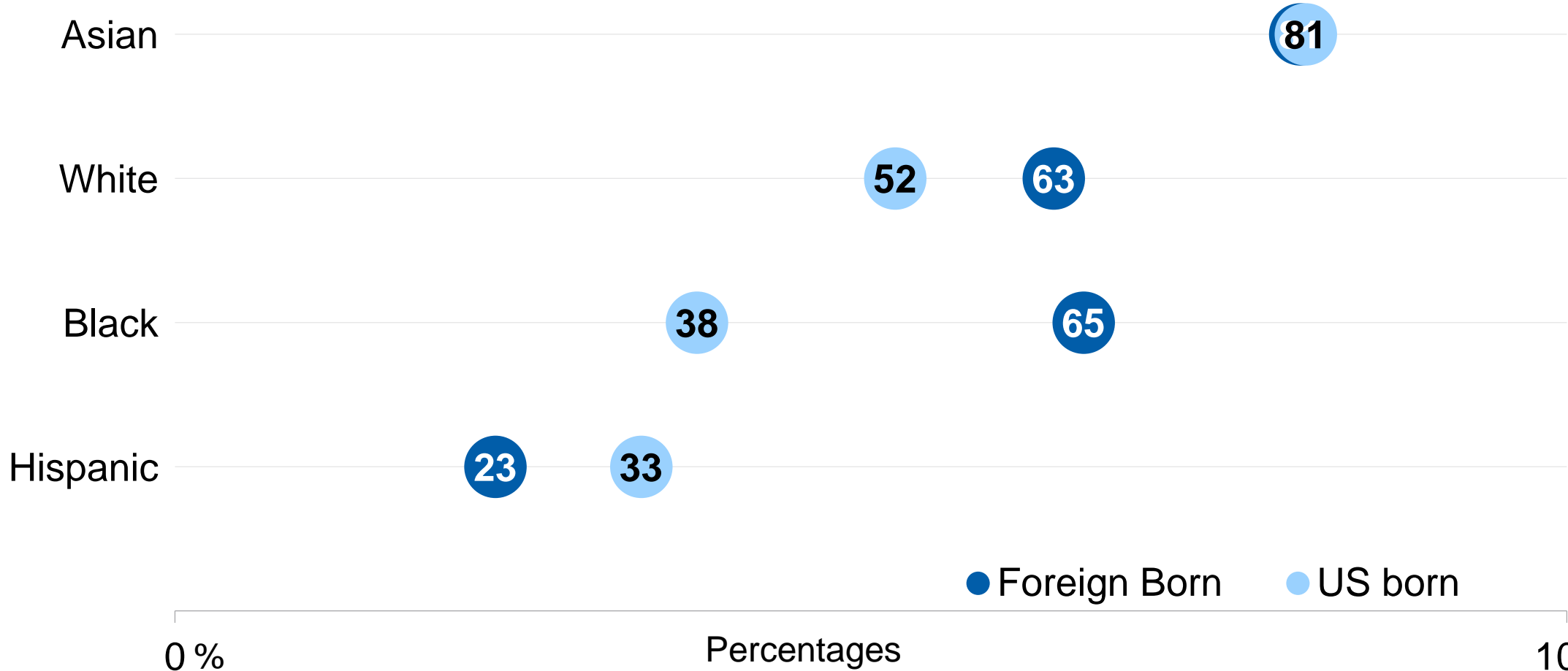


Source: IPUMS-CPS, 2019-2021 (pooled data)

Note: Hispanics may be of any race; All other racial groups are non-Hispanic

Foreign-born Asian residents are as educated as U.S.-born Asian residents in NC

Share of NC adults (25 or older) with an associate's or more by race/ethnicity and nativity, 2019-2021



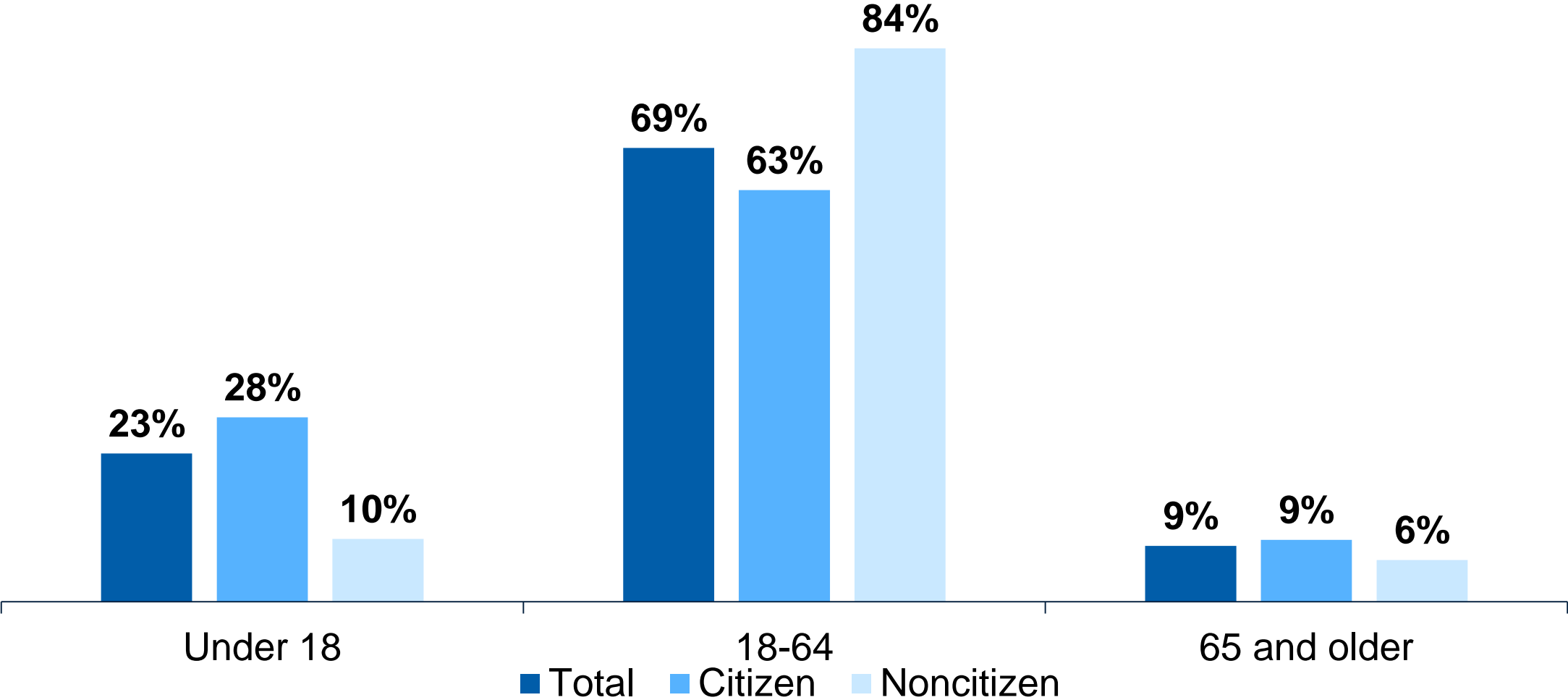
Source: IPUMS-CPS, 2019-2021 (pooled data)

Note: Hispanics may be of any race; All other racial groups are non-Hispanic

Income, Food, and Health Security

Majority of NC Asian population is of working age

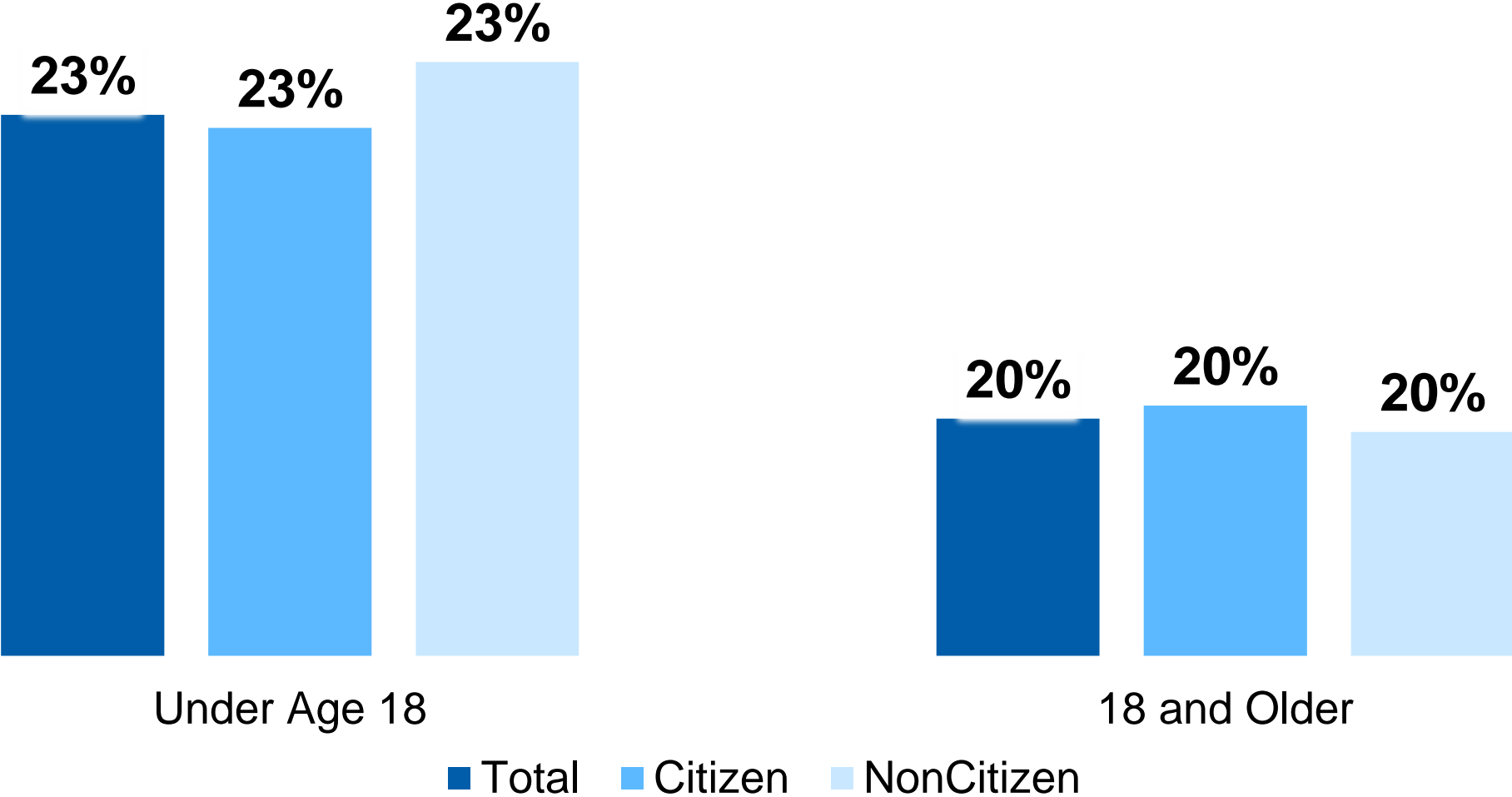
NC Asian population by age and citizenship, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

About 20% of NC Asian residents are low-income

Percentage of Asian NC residents who have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) by age and citizenship, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

Eligibility for Public Assistance

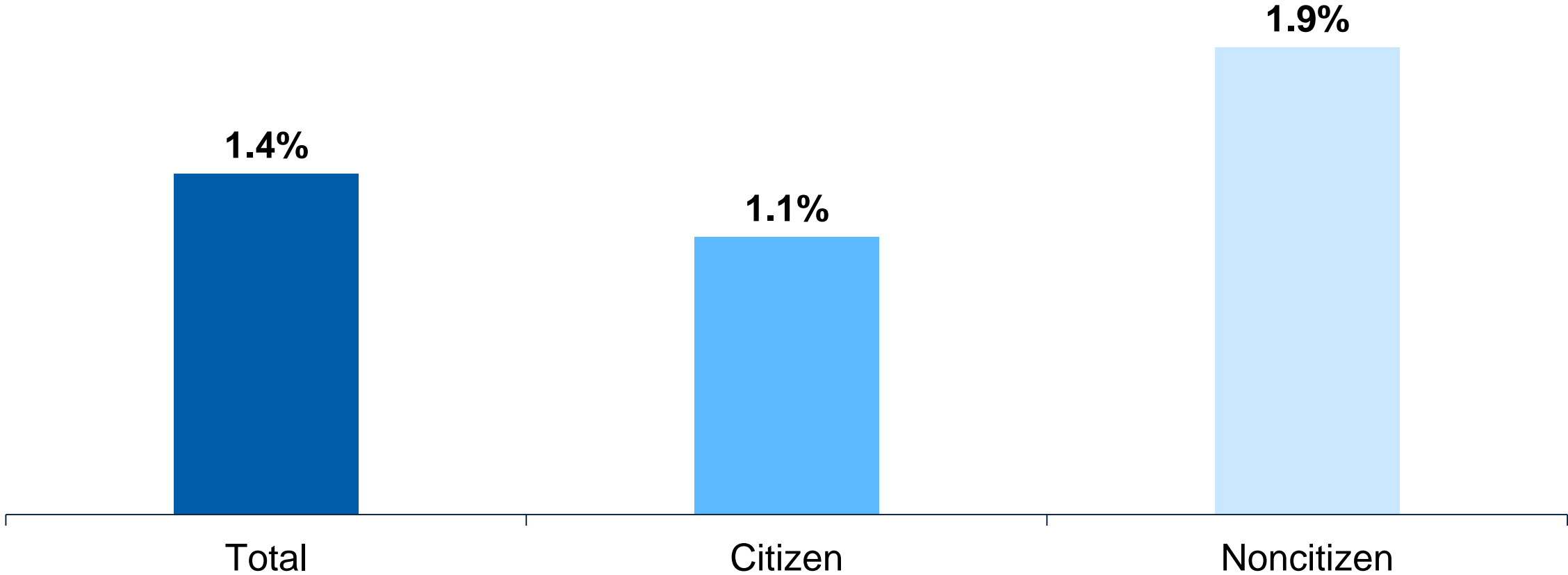
- Eligibility for public assistance varies for cash assistance (TANF/Work First), food assistance (SNAP), and medical assistance (Medicaid/CHIP).
- Eligibility depends primarily on a person's age, family federal poverty level (FPL), disability status, and legal residency status.
- Income eligibility is least generous for cash assistance (~33% FPL) and most generous for food (130%-200% FPL) and medical assistance (Max 215% FPL for children).

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 lived in the U.S. for more than 5 years and immigrated to the U.S. after 1996.
 - ✓ Pregnant persons regardless of LPR status or years in the U.S. (Medicaid Only)

Few low-income Asian residents receive cash assistance in NC

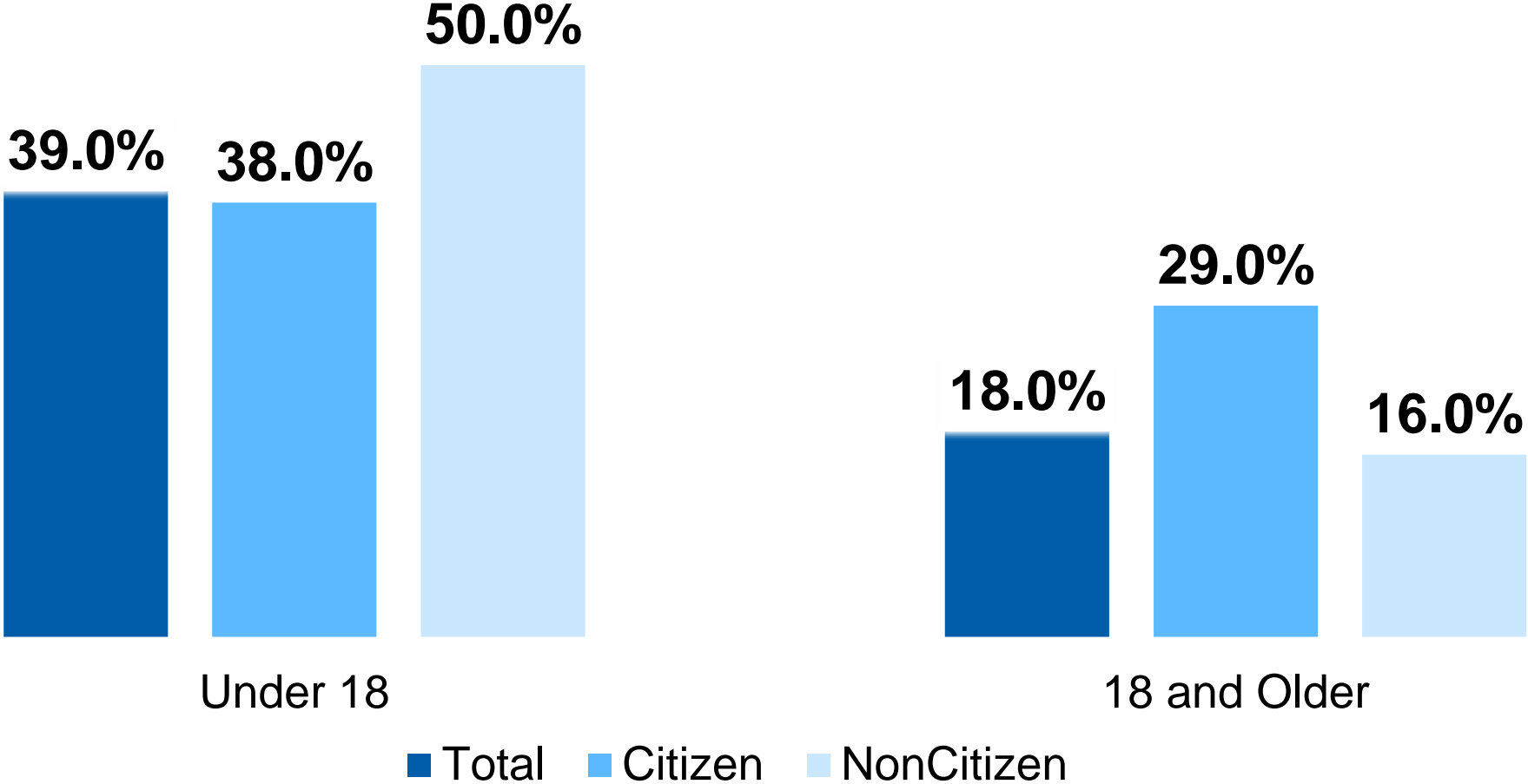
Percentage of low-income (<200%FPL) Asian NC residents (ages 15+) receiving cash assistance by citizenship status NC, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

Low-income Asian children more likely to live in households receiving SNAP than Asian adults in NC

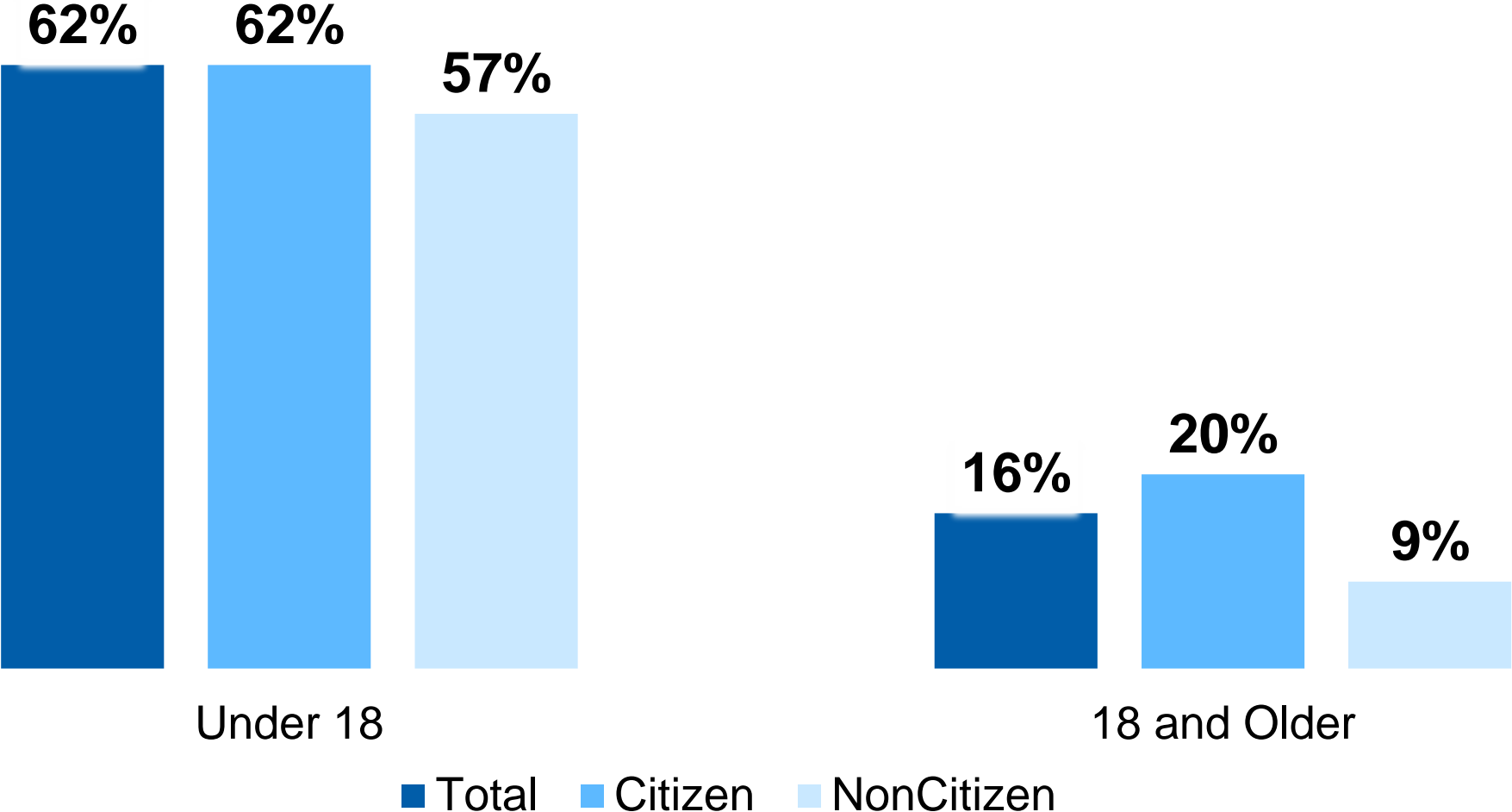
Percentage of low-income (<200% of FPL) Asian NC residents in household receiving SNAP by age and citizenship, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

The majority of low-income Asian children have insurance through Medicaid/CHIP in NC

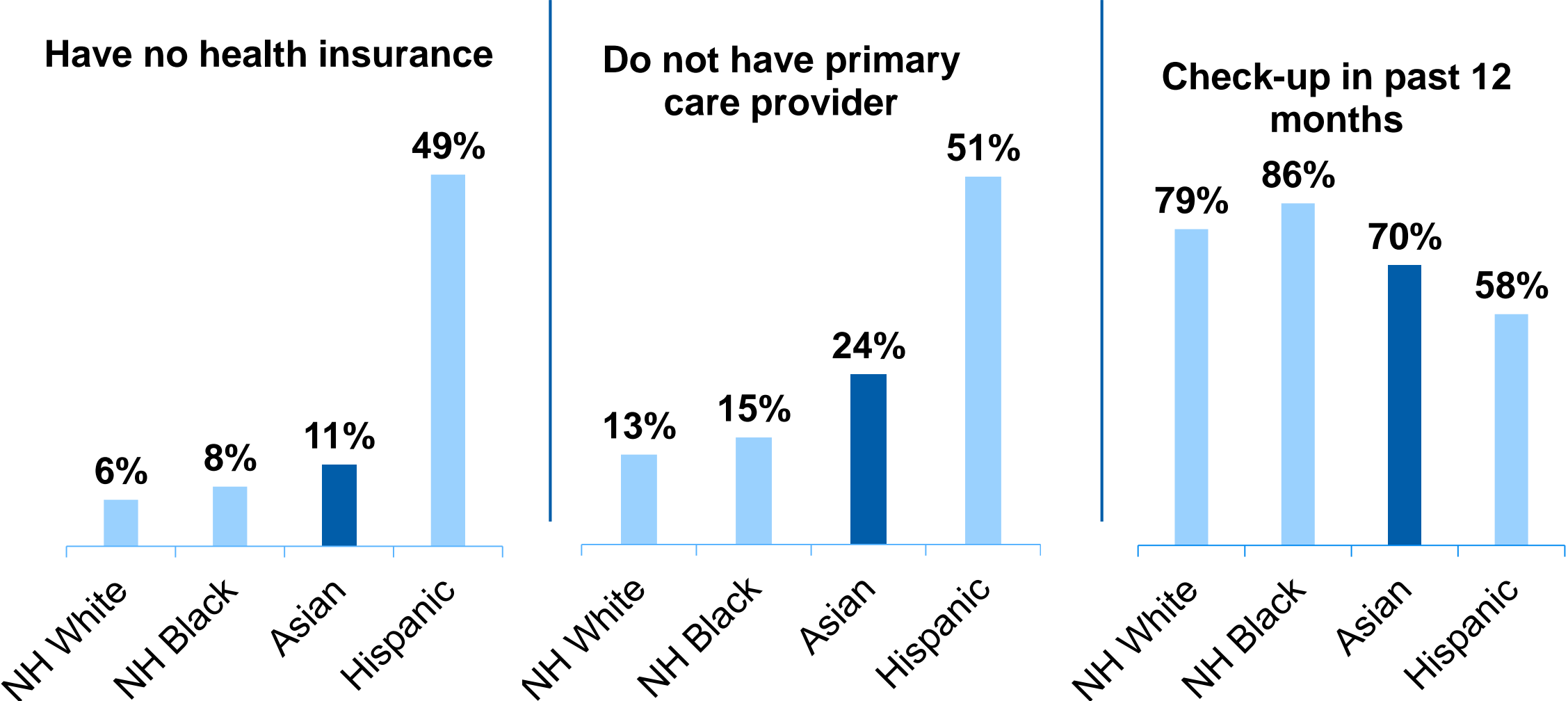
Percentage of low-income (<200% of FPL) Asian NC residents with Medicaid/CHIP by age and citizenship, 2021



Source: American Community Survey 2021 1yr Microsample - IPUMS-USA

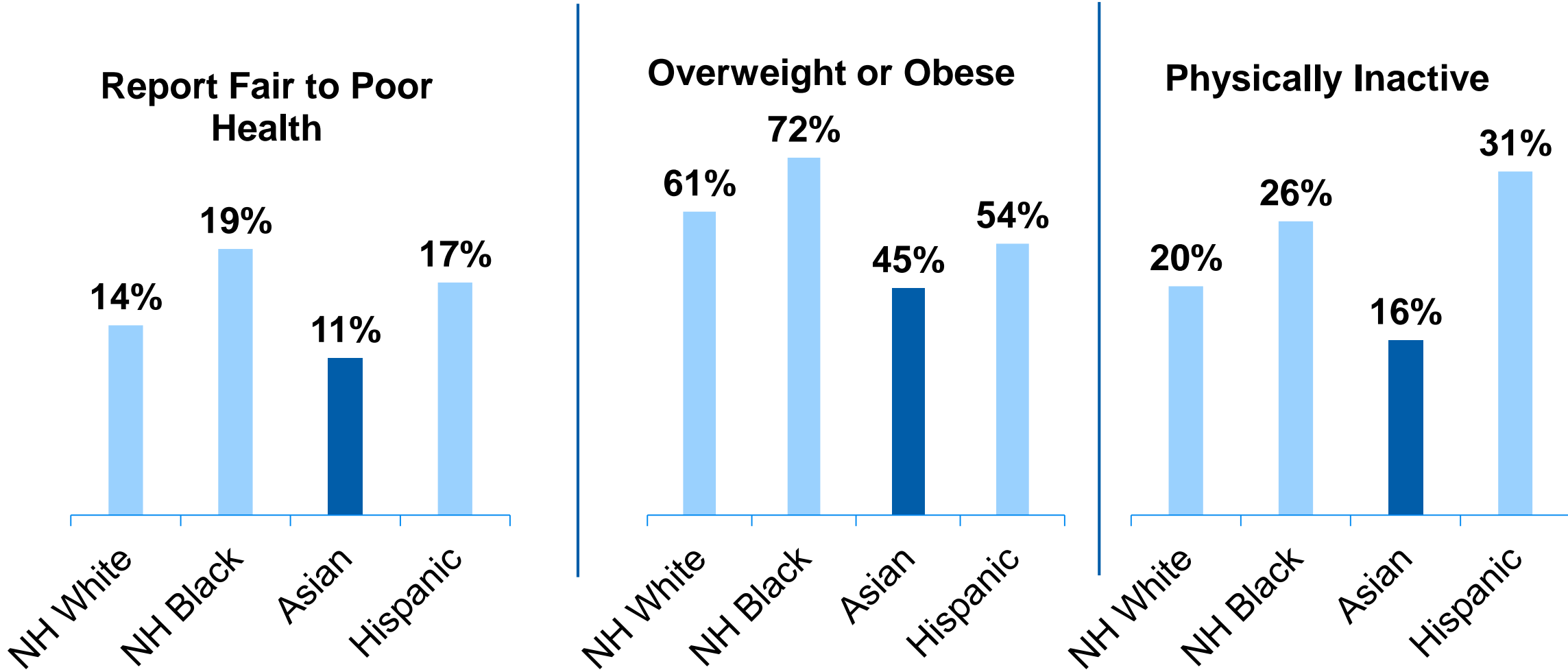
Health Outcomes

Almost 1/4 of NC Asian adults have no primary care provider, 2021



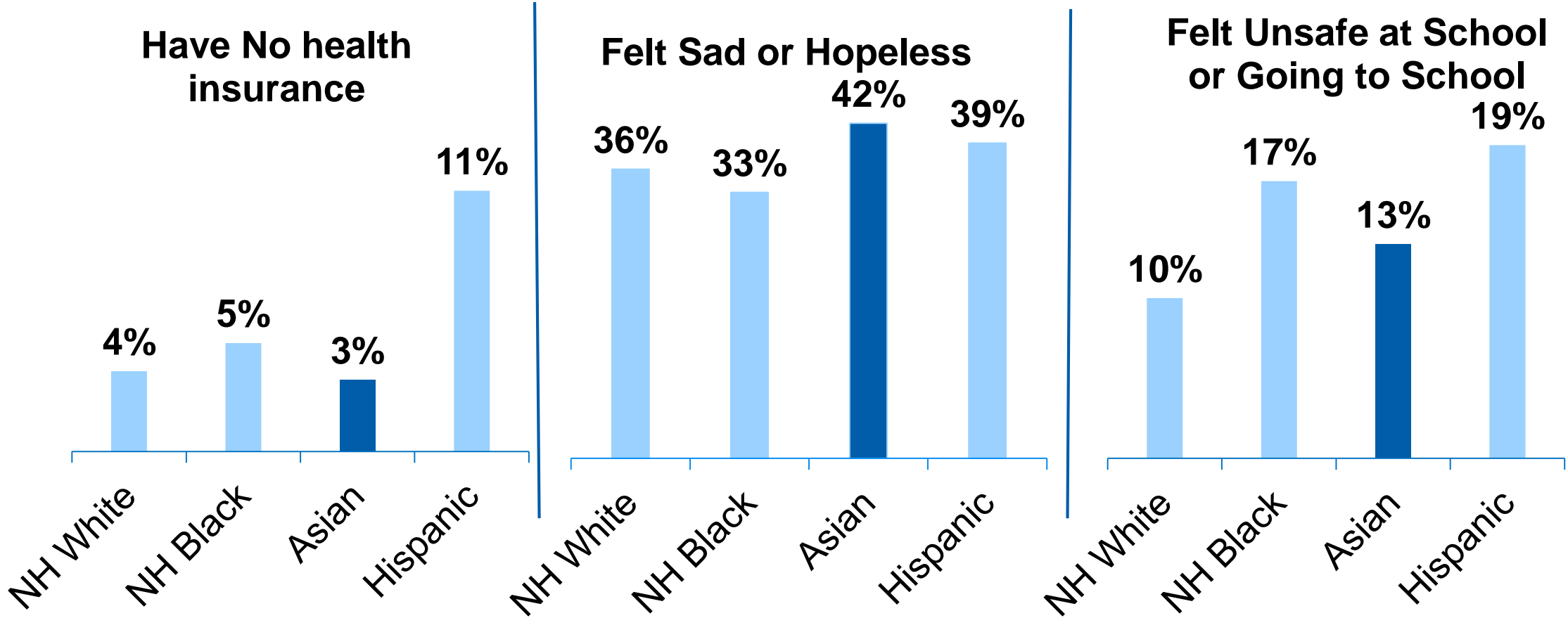
Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2021

NC Asian adults report lowest levels of poor health, overweight/obesity, and physical inactivity, 2021



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2021

But, NC Asian Children had highest rates of sadness or hopelessness



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), 2019

Thank you!

For questions, please contact Krista Perreira, perreira@email.unc.edu

Work With Us

What questions do you have
about your community?

What data do you need to
make better decisions?



Email: demography@unc.edu



Twitter: [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/ncdemography)



Web: demography.cpc.unc.edu