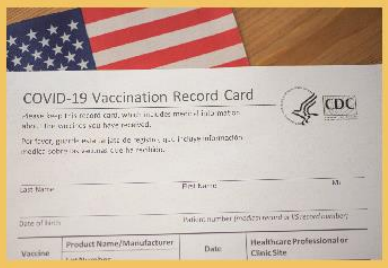
Health of Boston Special Report

The COVID-19 Experience Among Boston Residents: Findings from the COVID-19 Health Equity Survey









BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Building a Healthy Boston
Kim Janey, Mayor

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Health of Boston Special Report: The COVID-19 Experience Among Boston Residents: Findings from the COVID-19 Health Equity Survey

Boston Public Health Commission

Research and Evaluation Office

Boston, Massachusetts

2021

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the first report in an upcoming series focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the health of Boston residents. Although all of us have been affected by COVID-19, this report and those that follow prioritize reporting among those most impacted. Boston data on COVID-19 incidence rates show that our neighbors hardest hit by this pandemic are the same community members who have been historically marginalized as the result of the many forms of racism, Boston's Black and Latinx residents.

Alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, attention to the pandemic of racism has risen to the forefront nationally in the past year. In Boston, racism has been declared a public health crisis in the city, a declaration that expanded resources to address racial and ethnic inequities in health. Our vision is for a Boston where all residents live healthy lives free of racism, poverty, violence, and other systems of oppression. With these resources, the Boston Public Health Commission has undertaken a multi-faceted approach to building understanding and addressing COVID-19 health equity among Boston residents. This report summarizes initial findings from one facet, the COVID-19 Health Equity Survey (CHES). As expressed among the observed differences in health-related determinants, risk factors and outcomes, this report not only seeks to further reveal racism's impact in creating and maintaining health inequities but aims to provide insight into what factors need addressing.

Likely the most important tool available to combat the COVID-19 pandemic overall is vaccination. CHES found that there is need for addressing concerns about vaccination and offers insight into factors that would make those who are hesitant more likely to vaccinate. Lower percentages of both Black and Latinx adults in Boston reported that they were very likely to try and get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it became available to them. Current vaccination rates in Boston reflect this difference in vaccine confidence, with 29.9% of our Black and Latinx residents fully vaccinated compared with 47.2% of our white residents (vaccination rate as of May 11, 2021). Among Black and Latinx residents expressing hesitancy, learning that the vaccination was safe after 6 months was a leading factor for improving likelihood of getting vaccinated. While factors related to hesitancy are varied, medical mistrust among our residents of color is not only derived from past egregious mistreatment of people of color, but also from current health care lacking in cultural competency in representation, linguistically, and in access, among other factors. This must change.

The direct economic impact of COVID-19 on Boston households differed by race/ethnicity. Higher percentages of residents of color reported loss of household employment income, difficulty paying their rent or mortgage, and experiencing food insecurity in CHES data. The precarious economic status brought about by the pandemic has increased vulnerability to a range of negative health outcomes for these households.

These findings will serve as a launching point for identifying where policy and system change is most needed. The Boston Public Health Commission is committed to fostering a future where all Bostonians can live health lives to their fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Rita Nieves, RN, MPH, LICSW
Executive Director

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office. Thank you to Jaylen Clarke, MSc; Eleni Digenis-Bury, MPH; Dan Dooley; Ella Keenan, MPH; Johnna S. Murphy, MPH; and Mariana Sarango Cancel, PhD, MPH.

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We would also like to acknowledge and thank the workers through-out the city of Boston who have worked tirelessly to address the health needs of our residents through this unprecedented pandemic.

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Introduction

The City of Boston and Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recently conducted the COVID-19 Health Equity Survey (CHES) to build further understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on all Boston residents and the disproportionate impact on residents of color. Meant for timely release to inform Boston's COVID-19 Response and Recovery, this initial report provides a comprehensive listing of summary statistics as more in-depth analyses seeking to better describe and contextualize complex relationships related to health equity are being planned and executed.

Background

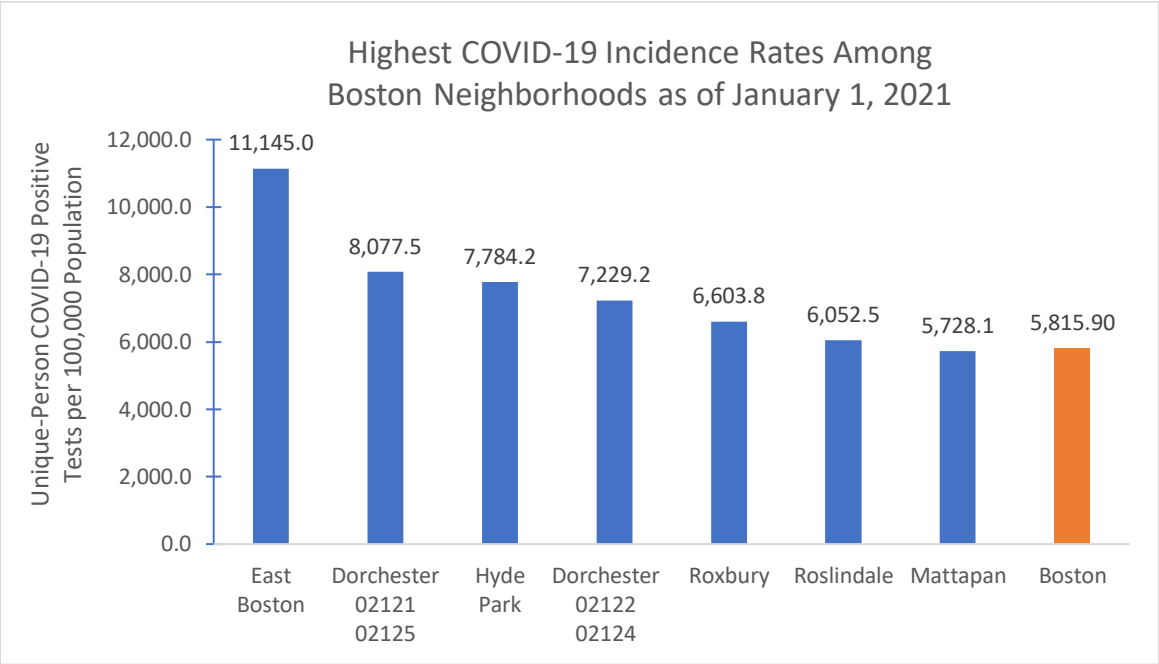
In late 2019 a newly identified coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 emerged and began the global spread of the respiratory illness we now identify as COVID-19. In January of 2020 the first case was diagnosed among Bostonians, and by March 15, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a public health emergency in Boston, and the first wave of closures of gathering spaces such as schools, shops, restaurants and many other types of worksites began. A year into the pandemic (as of March 23, 2021), there had been 62,294 COVID-19 cases and 1,329 deaths among Boston residents (1).

Although these residents and their families have been directly affected by COVID-19 illness and death, COVID-19 altered the daily lives of nearly all Bostonians, and many have suffered impacts from economic insecurity, mental health declines and access to care resulting from the conditions necessitated in the pandemic response. These factors disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx residents who were already marginalized pre-pandemic due to systematic racism.

Juxtaposed with the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States at the national level elevated attention to the issues of racism and racial inequities, a movement spurred forward by the horrific murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police in May 2020 and the prior shooting death of Breonna Taylor by Louisville police. National attention to racially motivated attacks and injustices against persons of color increased, while simultaneously emerging data showed that like many other preventable diseases, COVID-19 illness and death were disproportionally impacting Black, Latinx and Native American peoples. This disproportionate burden can be linked to the unjust impact of systematic racism on health and healthcare access.

In June 2020 racism was declared a public health crisis in Boston (2). This action allocated additional resources to combat inequities in the public health arena, and raised the focus on health equity, a concept that social position and circumstances should not limit ability to achieve good health. The process of achieving health equity requires not only the understanding of racial biases, but broader social determinants of health impacted by structural racism These social determinants include factors such as the built environment where someone lives, income, education, employment, access to health care, and experiences with discrimination, including racism.

"Racism is a driving force that shapes access to the social determinants of health and is a barrier to health equity for all Bostonians," said Marty Martinez, Chief of Health & Human Services. "This declaration will bring this work into greater focus with real, intentional efforts to get to the root causes and see measurable solutions." (2)



DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office, 2021.

The COVID-19 experience in Boston has mirrored the national experience with disparate disease rates by race/ethnicity. Cumulative COVID-19 testing data among Boston residents shows these disparate incidence rates (rates of new infections) by race/ethnicity with higher rates among Latinx residents (7984.7/100,000 population) and Black/African American residents (4,858.0/100,000 population) compared with White residents (2,905.2/100,000 population) (cumulative data as of January 1, 2021). Disparities also are seen in incidence rates by Boston neighborhood. The six Boston neighborhoods with the highest incidence rates were East Boston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale and Roxbury. Incidence rates as of January 1, 2021 are shown in the chart above.

"Boston data on COVID-19 incidence rates show that our neighbors hardest hit by this pandemic are the same community members who have been historically marginalized as the result of the many forms of racism, Boston's Black and Latinx residents."
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Executive Director
Boston Public Health Commission

The City of Boston undertook a multi-faceted approach to address health equity in COVID-19's impact among Bostonians. One approach was to release a *Request for Information* (RFI) in the Fall of 2020 to solicit input into Boston's eight strategies to address racism as a public health crisis. This effort sought input from both individual Bostonians and community-based organizations that directly interact with, or serve, historically marginalized communities. Input was collected in numerous languages, including Chinese, Cabo Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, English, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. The intent of this effort was to hear from Black residents and other residents of color and immigrant populations, and indeed, the majority of respondents were residents of color.

In another effort, the BPHC partnered with Northeastern University's Boston Area Research Initiative and the Center for Survey Research at UMass Boston to conduct the *Living in Boston during COVID* survey (3). This survey focused on shifting dynamics within the city due to the pandemic.

Another approach, undertaken by BPHC's Research and Evaluation Office, was to develop an interview survey of Boston residents to better understand the health equity impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey work is the basis for the analyses presented in this report. The survey topics focused on physical and mental health, access to health care, income and employment, vaccine concerns and prevention measures practiced. The *COVID-19 Health Equity Survey* (CHES) was conducted in December 2020 – January 2021 via telephone among Boston adults who had previously completed the Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BBRFSS) survey in 2017 or 2019.

BBRFSS: COVID Health Equity Survey

The BBRFSS collects information from a random sample of Boston adults ages 18 and older who live in a private residence. The respondents contacted to participate in the COVID-19 Health Equity Survey (CHES) were screened to ensure that they still resided in Boston. The 25-minute CHES was offered in English and Spanish and covered topics including health and access, COVID-19 testing, demographics, COVID-19 behaviors and perceptions, mask wearing behavior, vaccination, income and employment needs. A total of 1,653 interviews were completed. Data were weighted to Boston population parameters to better represent census-measured population group. The racial/ethnic composition of the weighted sample was 5.4% Asian, 23.2% Black, 18.1% Latinx, 48.8% White, and 4.4% other. Boston's Asian community is slightly under-represented in these survey data (2015 census estimates that 9.5% of Boston's residents are of Asian race), possibly due to language and cultural barriers, despite efforts to augment participation. Another important limitation to note, while the survey design provides population parameters (or weighted estimates) for Boston adult household residents, the survey lacks input from non-English and non-Spanish speaking residents who represent an extremely important segment of Boston's overall population and are often among the most vulnerable due to linguistic and cultural differences as well as other factors that can serve as barriers to receiving needed care and resources. The City and BPHC have engaged other efforts, such as the RFI mentioned previously here, that help mitigate this limitation by acquiring related information from residents speaking languages other than English and Spanish. Additionally, the survey requires achieving minimum numbers of respondents among various population groups before appropriate weighted estimates can be generated and shared. Consequently, some estimates for residents identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander were suppressed due to sample size considerations. Additional demographic characteristics of the sample are shown in the table which follows.

Demographic Table (N=1653)

Race/Ethnicity	Weighted %	Unweighted %
Asian	5.4%	4.0%
Black	23.2%	21.9%
Latinx	18.1%	11.4%
White	48.8%	60.2%
Other	4.4%	2.3%
Sex		
Female	51.9%	57.8%
Male	48.1%	42.2%
Place of Birth		
Foreign-Born	26.8%	21.1%
US-Born	73.2%	78.9%
LGBT		
LGBT	13.2%	13.5%
Heterosexual/Cis Gender	86.8%	86.5%
Age		
18-34	43.4%	12.0%
35-64	41.8%	53.3%
65+	14.7%	34.7%
Employment		
Out of Work	12.0%	7.8%
Retired	11.3%	23.1%
Other*	15.7%	7.8%
Employed	60.9%	61.0%
Housing		
Subsidized renter	13.9%	9.4%
Non-subsidized renter	45.3%	27.0%
Other arrangement	4.5%	2.1%
Homeowner	36.2%	61.5%
Household Income		
<$25,000	25.3%	17.0%
$25,000-$50,000	16.9%	15.7%
$50,000+	57.8%	67.3%
Education		
HS Grad or less	30.7%	16.3%
Some College+	69.2%	83.7%
Neighborhood		
PBL Residential Zip Codes**	57.8%	48.6%
Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes	42.1%	51.4%

* Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups needed to be combined to produce a robust sample size.
**PBL= Predominantly Black and Latinx; zip codes include Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, and Roxbury.

Due to sample size limitations, analysis of the data stratified at the neighborhood level is often not readily available for these survey data. However, COVID-19 testing incidence rates have shown specific Boston neighborhoods which have been disproportionately impacted. Due to the higher rates in these areas, they have been grouped in analysis to permit

a robust sample size and allow comparison to Boston neighborhoods less impacted by COVID-19 illness. Not coincidentally, neighborhoods in this grouping house higher proportions of Boston residents of color, communities historically marginalized and impacted at higher rates by COVID-19. Thus, our neighborhood grouping comparisons are designated as *Predominantly Black and Latinx (PBL) Residential Zip Codes* and *Non-PBL Zip Codes*. The *PBL Zip Codes* include Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, and Roxbury. The racial/ethnic breakdown for the zip codes are shown in the table below.

Predominantly Black and Latinx (PBL) Residential Zip Codes

Zip Code	**Associated Neighborhood**	**Black and Latinx Residents** (Combined Percentage)	**White Residents** (Percentage)
02121	Dorchester	93.4%	2.9%
02126	Mattapan	92.1%	4.1%
02119	Roxbury	79.7%	12.0%
02124	Dorchester	73.4%	16.7%
02136	Hyde Park	69.7%	25.4%
02128	East Boston	59.1%	33.2%
02125	Dorchester	52.7%	29.9%
02131	Roslindale	48.1%	47.0%
02120	Roxbury	44.1%	36.3%
02122	Dorchester	41.6%	31.3%

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2014-2018.

For additional methodological considerations please contact the Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office.

Highlighted Findings

This report provides multiple stratifications of the many indicators across eleven content areas covered by the survey. Selected findings are included in this brief summary. Due to the disparate experience with COVID-19 in Boston among people of color, the focus of this summary is to highlight and describe statistically significant differences among racial/ethnic groups. While the differences cited here reflect significance from a data perspective, these are intended to spur conversation and debate with respect to real-world significance as Boston addresses the current and historical health inequities experienced collectively by our residents of color. To facilitate dialogue, this analysis identifies White adults as the referent group for comparative purposes. Caution should be used in interpreting health status measures among the subsidized renter population which prioritizes disabled and elderly persons who may be of poorer health than average due to conditions of age and disability.

Trusted Sources of COVID-19 Information

As the pandemic has unfolded a variety of sources have provided information to the public regarding COVID-19 disease prevention and treatment measures, and the delivery of timely and accurate information has been vital to reducing disease transmission. Survey research from early in the pandemic (February 2020) showed that US adults preferred leadership for the US response to COVID-19 originate from scientific/public health leadership (69% favoring either the CDC or NIH Director) compared with 14% who wanted political leadership (the President or Congress) to lead the response (4). The most trusted sources of information were healthcare professionals and health officials (CDC and NIH) compared with social media which was the least trusted source (4).

A discussion of trust of medical information must acknowledge the differences that exist among racial and ethnic groups due to both historical and present-day experiences and interactions with the medical establishment (5). Although a history of experimentation on people of color in the US, such as the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study, has contributed to medical mistrust, current day discrimination in the healthcare system must be addressed (5, 6). Community-based research has shown that nearly a third (31%) of Black adults and a quarter of Latinx adults (25%) experienced discrimination in health care compared to 4% of White adults (7).

Mistrust in medical care providers and health institutions was seen in the survey data with lower percentages of Black adults and Latinx adults *trusting COVID-19 information* coming from their personal health care provider, the CDC, or Dr. Fauci compared with White adults (Figures 1, 9 and 10). However, higher percentages of Black adults and Latinx adults than White adults reported *trusting COVID-19 information* coming from religious leaders or social media (Figures 3 and 5).

With 7% of adults identifying him, former President Trump ranked lowest among the list of trusted COVID-19 information sources (Figure 12). However, higher percentages of Latinx adults and Asian adults (17% each) compared with White adults (5%) reported trusting information coming from the former President. In contrast, 82% of Boston adults reported trusting COVID-19 information coming from President Biden (Figure 11). A lower percentage of Black adults (75%) reported tru*sting COVID-19 information coming from President Biden* compared with White adults (86%) (Figure 11).

COVID-19 Information Access and Restrictions

Early in the pandemic (February 2020) US adults supported strict policies for COVID-19 prevention including quarantine (83%) and travel restrictions (75%) (4). A national survey conducted in May 2020 also found support for restrictions with 80% of Americans supporting the stay-at-home order and nonessential business closures, and two-thirds (66.3%) believing that the community mitigation strategies were striking the right balance (8).

In Boston, racial/ethnic groups did not differ in their perceptions of information access and restrictions, with similar percentages reporting feeling they had *enough information to stay safe* during the initial lockdown, *current feelings about having enough information to stay safe,* and feelings about *whether restrictions went too far or far enough* (Figures 13-16).

COVID-19 Risk Perceptions

Perceived risk of COVID-19, both for an individual's health and at the community health level, can influence preventative behavior to reduce disease transmission. In the early stages of the pandemic in the US (March 2020) national data showed that nearly two-thirds of Americans viewed COVID-19 as a major threat to population health, and approximately one-third felt it was a major threat to their personal health (9). Studies offer differing results that when taken together illustrate the complexity of assessing risk perception as the pandemic unfolded and as personal impacts were felt, whether in illness, loss of livelihood, or loss of life (9, 10).

While collectively, most Boston adults were concerned or very concerned about the threat COVID-19 posed, perceptions of risk varied some across racial ethnic groups. Lower percentages of Asian adults (88%) and Latinx adults (81%) than White adults (96%) were *concerned or very concerned about COVID-19 in their community* (Figure 17). Additionally, a lower percentage of Latinx adults (62%) than White adults (90%) were *concerned or very concerned about themselves or someone in their family being infected with COVID-19* (Figure 18). A lower percentage of Asian adults (6%) *considered themselves high risk for COVID-19* than White adults (17%) (Figure 21).

Higher percentages of Asian (42%), Black (47%) and Latinx (61%) adults than White adults (23%) believed they *were at less risk now (December 2020-January 2021) for COVID-19 than in the spring of 2020* (Figure 22). This could reflect in part higher awareness of the disproportionate impact for residents of color during the pandemic's most lethal period as both were major headlines in the spring of 2020.

An important strategy to curb the COVID-19 pandemic will depend on how effectively public health information is shared with diverse communities to shape knowledge and beliefs. Socioeconomic, cultural, and other factors shape the ways in which individuals gather, interpret, and respond to public health messaging. Although a very low percentage of Boston residents overall (3%) *do not think they can spread COVID-19 to others when asymptomatic,* a slightly higher percentage of Latinx adults (7%) believed this compared with White adults (1%) (Figure 19).

While the vast majority of Boston adults recognize the importance of isolation as necessary due to COVID, lower percentages of Black adults (93%) and Latinx adults (94%) than White adults (99%) believe *staying home when sick is very important to stop the spread of COVID-19* (Figure 24). In contrast, a higher percentage of Black adults (98%) than White adults (94%) believe *that isolating for 7-14 days when exposed to COVID-19 is very important for preventing its spread* (Figure 25).

COVID-19 Testing

Initial access to COVID-19 testing in Boston was limited due to a low number of available testing kits and was mainly restricted to persons with known exposures who were experiencing symptoms.

Overall, 67% of Boston adults reported having been *tested for COVID-19 at least once* (Figure 26). This is similar to the COVID-19 surveillance data tracked by the Public Health Commission which showed that approximately 74% of Boston adults have tested for COVID-19 (data as of January 1, 2021). Survey findings showed that a lower percentage of Black adults (58%) reported having been *tested at least once* compared with White adults (73%) (Figure 26).

A higher percentage of Black adults reported that they (74%) *do not think it would be difficult to get a COVID-19 test* compared to White adults (61%) (Figure 28). Factors related to testing barriers for survey respondents who reported any level of difficulty in getting a COVID-19 test are described by race/ethnicity in Figure 30.

COVID-19 Vaccination Beliefs

Accepting a COVID-19 vaccination when available is a key element not only for individual level protection, but for helping curtail the pandemic community-wide and achieving herd immunity (11). Confidence and trust in the vaccine can vary for different community groups due to complex issues related to personal experiences with the health care system and historical racial medical mistreatment. Although ensuring vaccine access is a crucial first step, medical mistrust must be addressed to ensure equitable vaccination across the population (5, 12).

Lower percentages of Black adults (55%) and Latinx adults (70%) believe *getting the vaccine is very important for their own safety* compared with White adults (81%) (Figure 32).

A lower percentage of Black adults (69%) believe *getting the vaccine is very important for the health of their community* compared with White adults (91%) (Figure 33).

Lower percentages of Black adults (39%) and Latinx adults (42%) reported they *were very likely to try and get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as it became available* to them compared with White adults (78%) (Figure 34). Among Black adults who were not very likely to seek the vaccine, the three most popular factors that would increase likelihood of getting a vaccine were 1) if it was required for work, 2) if there were no side effects in 6 months, and 3) if the pandemic gets worse. Among Latinx adults the three most popular factors were 1) if the pandemic gets worse, 2) if there were no side effects in 6 months, and 3) if the Public Health Commission says it is safe.

Masking Behaviors

Mask wearing in public to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19 is a successful strategy (13) that has been mandated state-wide since November 2020 (14) and is recommended by the CDC (15). In a national survey conducted in May 2020, a majority (60%) of adults who had been in a public area in the week prior to the survey reported always wearing a cloth face covering when in public (7).

Among Boston adult residents 85% reported *always wearing a mask in public* and percentages were similar across racial/ethnic groups (Figure 38).

Modified and Other Behaviors

Identification of effective prevention strategies such as social distancing, handwashing and use of a face mask in public has been shown to be widespread since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, with 90% of adults in one study correctly identifying CDC-recommended prevention measures (4).

In Boston, racial/ethnic groups reported similar percentages for a range of behaviors related to COVID-19 prevention including *avoiding house gatherings* (Boston adults 83%, Figure 40), *avoiding public places like restaurants and bars* (Boston adults 88%, Figure 41), *avoiding church* (Boston adults 82%, Figure 42), and *keeping 6 ft distance from others* (Boston adults 95%, Figure 43).

Racial/ethnic groups also reported similar percentages for risk behaviors related to COVID-19 including *using public transportation in the past week* (Boston adults 26%, Figure 44), *increased alcohol intake* since March 2020 among Boston adults who consume alcohol (Boston adults 28%, Figure 45) and *increased tobacco use* since March 2020 among tobacco smokers (Boston adults 35%, Figure 46).

General Health and Access to Care

Persons experiencing poorer health conditions and barriers to health care are potentially at greater risk of not only contracting COVID-19 and experiencing more severe illness, but also of missing care needed for other health conditions due to pandemic restrictions. Many health providers transitioned to telemedicine during the pandemic, a system that created a new access barrier for some marginalized groups (16).

Higher percentages of Black adults (48%) and Latinx adults (53%) than White adults (32%) reported that their *general health was fair or poor* (Figure 47). Similarly, higher percentages of Black adults (13%) and Latinx adults (18%) than White adults (4%) reported that *their physical health was poor for 14 or more days in the past 30 days* (Figure 48).

Racial/ethnic groups also reported similar percentages avoiding care. Overall, 38% of Boston adults reported *avoiding the doctor at least once* since March 2020 (Figure 49), and 22% of Boston adults reported that they are *currently avoiding the doctor* (Figure 50). Additionally, 9% of Boston adults reported *not being able to see a doctor since March 2020 because of cost* (Figure 51).

A lower percentage of Latinx adults (87%) reported *having health insurance coverage* compared with White adults (96%) (Figure 52).

Mental Health

Pandemic anxiety and social isolation have contributed to declines in mental health, and CDC research found increased adverse mental health conditions among U.S. adults associated with COVID-19 (17). Racial and ethnic minorities were found to be disproportionately impacted (17). Additionally, perceived COVID-19-associated discrimination experienced by Black and Asian adults in the US has been linked to increased mental distress in these groups (18).

Initial analysis of data suggests these differences have not been observed in Boston. In Boston the percentages of adults *experiencing depressed feelings* were similar by race/ethnicity (Figure 57). Lower percentages of Asian adults than White adults reported feelings of *anxiety for more than 7 days out of the past 14 days* (10% and 24% respectively, Figure 58) or that their *mental health was bad for 14 or more days in the past 30 days* (9% and 21% respectively, Figure 53). A lower percentage of Black adults (17%) reported *feeling anxious for more than 7 days out of the past 14 days* compared with White adults (24%) (Figure 58). Overall, more than four out of five adults reported having a social support. However, lower percentages of Black adults (84%) and Latinx adults (84%) reported *being able to count on someone else for support* compared with White adults (95%) (Figure 59).

Measures of access to mental health care were also examined. A higher percentage of Latinx adults (17%) reported *avoiding mental health care* since March 2020 compared with White adults (7%) (Figure 54). Overall, 10% of Boston adults reported that they were *currently avoiding mental health care* and similar percentages were reported by racial/ethnic groups (Figure 55). Additionally, 7% of Boston adult residents reported *not being able to seek mental health care because of cost* since March 2020, and again, these percentages were similar across racial/ethnic groups (Figure 56).

Employment and Income: Impact and Needs

A key factor in the differential rate of COVID-19 exposure over the course of the pandemic has been one's type of employment. Although many types of industries were able to shift to a work-from-home model, many were not and continued to work at worksites where they were often in contact with non-household members. Many others lost employment entirely or had income reductions due to the closures and restrictions that limited public gathering, such as in the restaurant and bar industry. The unemployment rate in Boston prior to the pandemic's impact (January – March 2020) averaged 2.6% and during the pandemic reached a monthly high in June 2020 of 16.1% (19). During the time

period of the CHES survey (December 2020 – January 2021) the unemployment rate for Boston was approximately 7.6% (19).

In Boston 46% of adults reported they had *worked at a workplace* since the start of the pandemic (Figure 60). The percentages of adults reporting *working at a workplace* were similar across racial/ethnic groups (Figure 60). However, a higher percentage of Black adults who worked at a workplace (31%) reported that their main mode of *transportation to work is with others* compared with White adults who worked at a workplace (22%) (Figure 61). Overall, 61% of Boston adults who worked at a workplace reported *feeling safe while at work* and percentages were similar across racial/ethnic groups (Figure 62). *Mask wearing at work* was reported by all population groups, with 100% of Boston adults who worked at a workplace reporting this behavior (Figure 63). Although 23% of Boston adults reported that it would be *difficult to stay home from work if they felt unwell,* strikingly 61% of Latinx adults reported this compared with 21% of White adults (Figure 64).

Several measures related to income were also examined. Higher percentages of Black adults (49%) and Latinx adults (62%) reported experiencing *a loss of employment household income* since COVID-19 occurred compared with White adults (33%) (Figure 66). Higher percentages of Asian (52%), Black (48%) and Latinx adults (71%) reported *difficulty paying the rent or mortgage* since COVID-19 occurred compared with White adults (25%) (Figure 67). Lower percentages of Black adults (52%) and Latinx adults (39%) reported having *enough savings to cover an emergency cost of $1000* compared with White adults (87%) (Figure 68). Overall, 80% of Boston adult residents reported that all *working members of their households could afford to stay home for two weeks* if someone were diagnosed with COVID-19; however, a lower percentage of Black adults (75%) reported this compared with White adults (85%) (Figure 65).

Measures of food security, another measure of income insufficiency, were also examined. Survey respondents were asked about the past year frequency with which their food supply ran out and they had insufficient funds to purchase more food. Much higher percentages of Black adults (30%) and Latinx adults (43%) reported that often or sometimes *the food they bought didn't last and they could not afford to buy more* in the past 12 months compared with White adults (6%) (Figure 70). Higher percentages of Asian (16%), Black (37%) and Latinx adults (40%) reported *receiving food assistance* in the past month compared with White adults (8%) (Figure 69).

COVID-19 Medical Issues

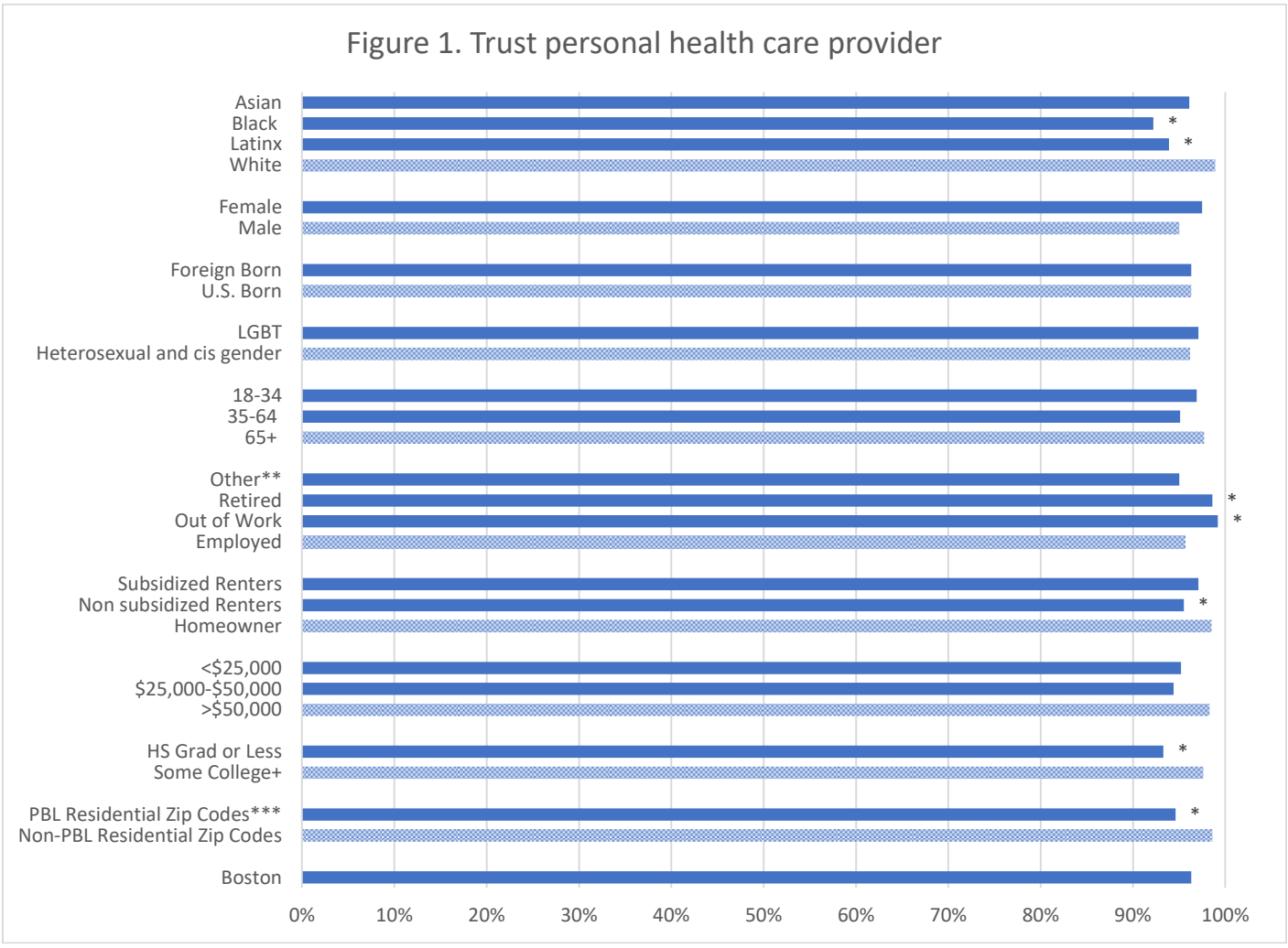
Non-survey COVID-19 testing data among Boston residents shows disparate infection rates by race/ethnicity with Black and Latinx having higher rates compared with White Boston residents.

Consistent with COVID-19 testing data, CHES survey data revealed higher percentages of Black adults (10%) and Latinx adults (17%) being *told by a doctor or other health care professional they had COVID-19* compared with White adults (3%) (Figure 71; note: data for Asian adults not reported due to sample limitations). Similarly, higher percentages of Black adults (10%) and Latinx adults (13%) had *a household member told by a doctor or other health care professional they had COVID-19* compared with White adults (4%) (Figure 72; note: data for Asian adults not reported due to sample limitations). This was also true after adjusting for household size (data not shown).

A lower percentage of Asian adults (14%) identified having a *health condition that put them at greater risk for COVID-19* compared with White adults (33%) (Figure 73).

A higher percentage of Black adults (22%) and Latinx adults (20%) had *a family member or someone close to them hospitalized with COVID-19* compared with White adults (10%) (Figure 74).

Trusted Sources of COVID-19 Information



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Your personal healthcare provider)**

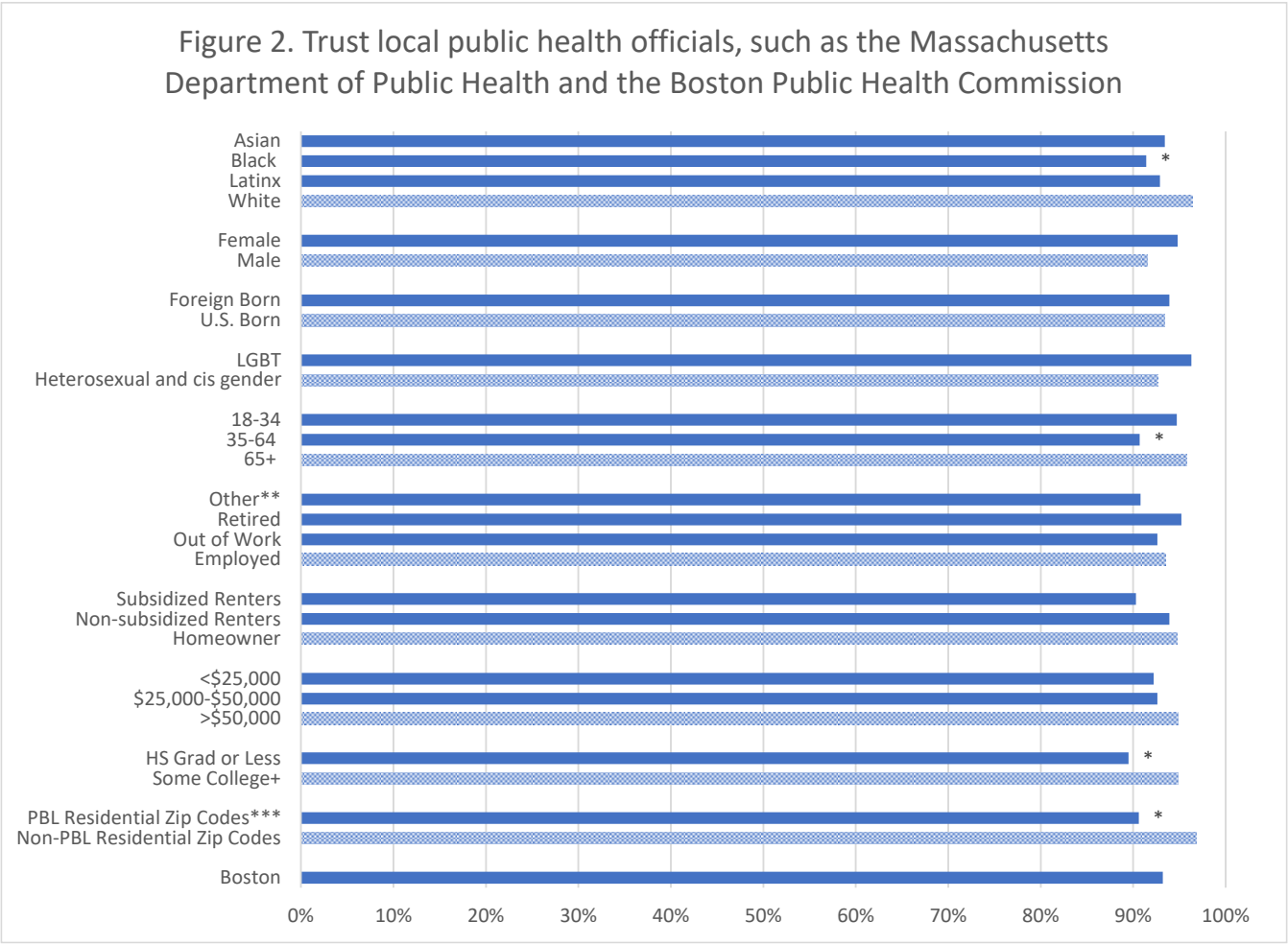
Overall, 96% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from their personal health care provider.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Retired adults (99%) and out of work adults (99%) compared with employed adults (96%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (92%) and Latinx adults (94%) compared with White adults (99%)
- Non-subsidized renters (96%) compared with homeowners (99%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (93%) compared with adults with at least some college (98%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (95%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (97%)



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**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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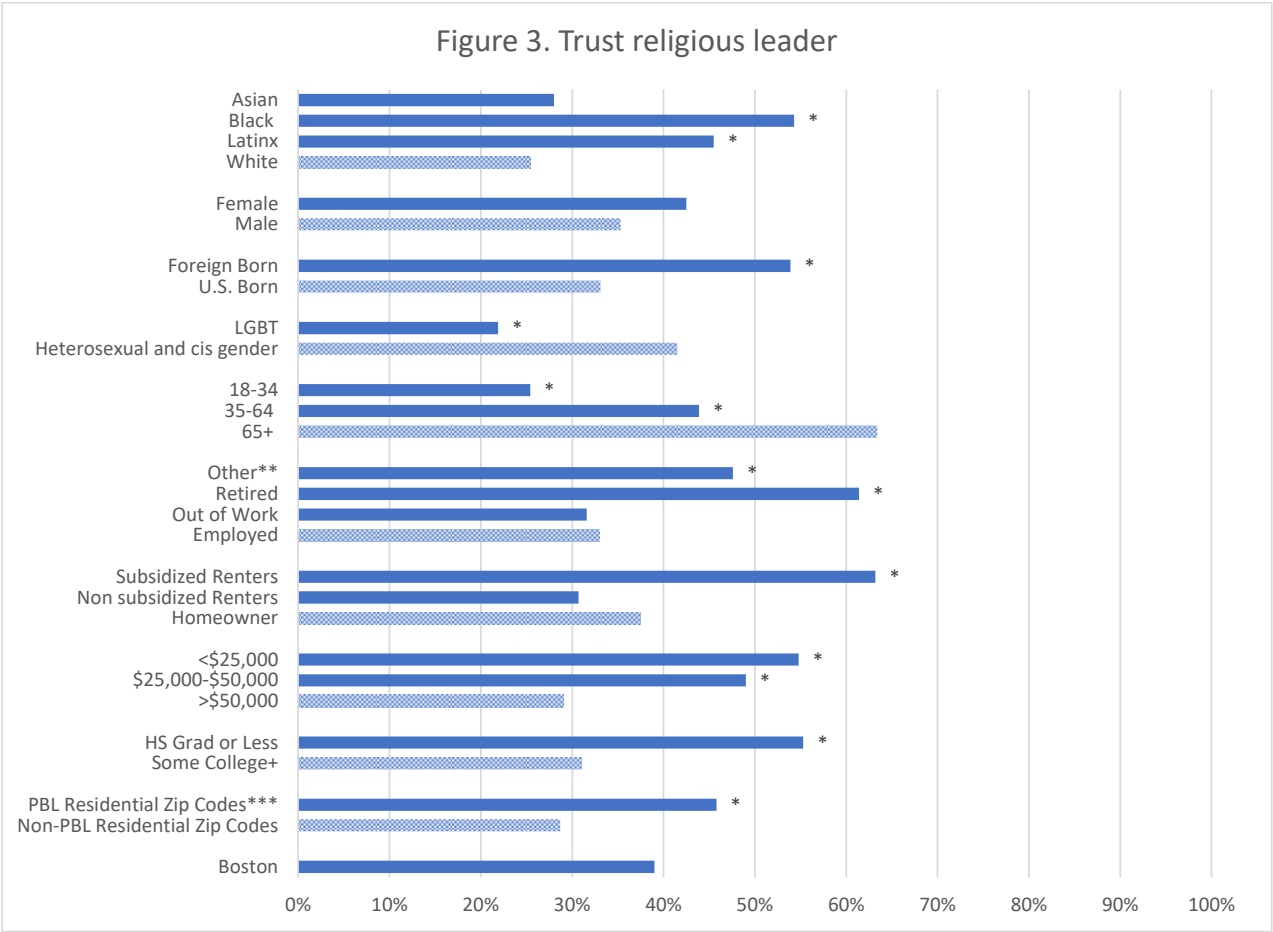
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Local Public Health Officials, such as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission)**

Overall, 93% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from local public health officials, such as the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Boston Public Health Commission.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (91%) compared with White adults (96%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (91%) compared with adults ages 65+ (96%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (90%) compared with adults with at least some college (95%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (91%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (97%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. (**A religious or spiritual leader)**

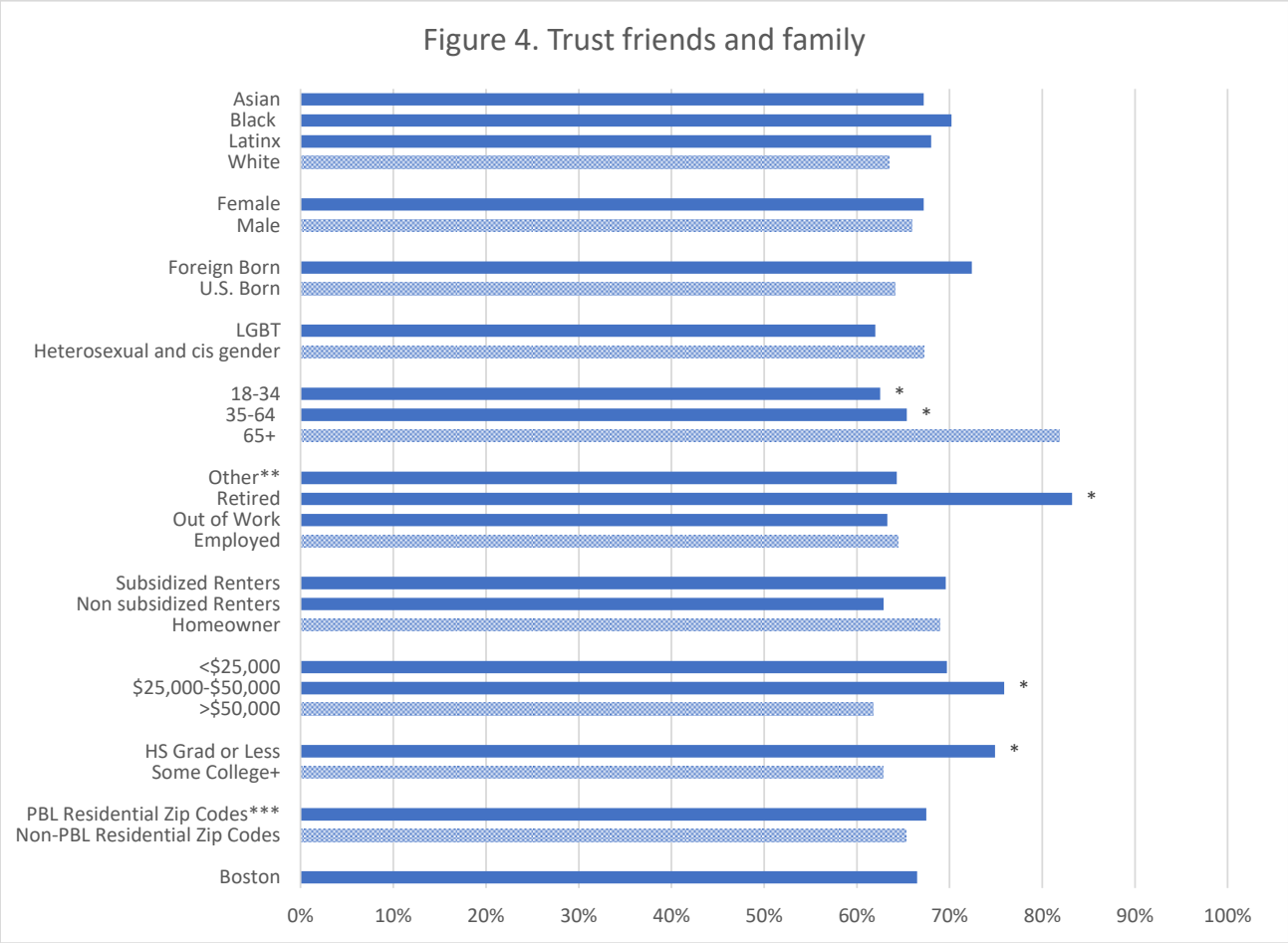
Overall, 39% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from religious leaders.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (54%) and Latinx adults (46%) compared with White adults (25%)
- Foreign born adults (54%) compared to adults U.S. born adults (33%)
- Retired adults (61%) and other adults (48%) compared with employed adults (33%)
- Subsidized renters (63%) compared with homeowners (38%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (55%) and adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (49%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (29%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (55%) compared with adults with at least some college (31%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (46%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (29%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT-identifying individuals (22%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (42%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (25%) and adults ages 35-64 (44%) compared with adults ages 65+ (63%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Friends and/or Family)**

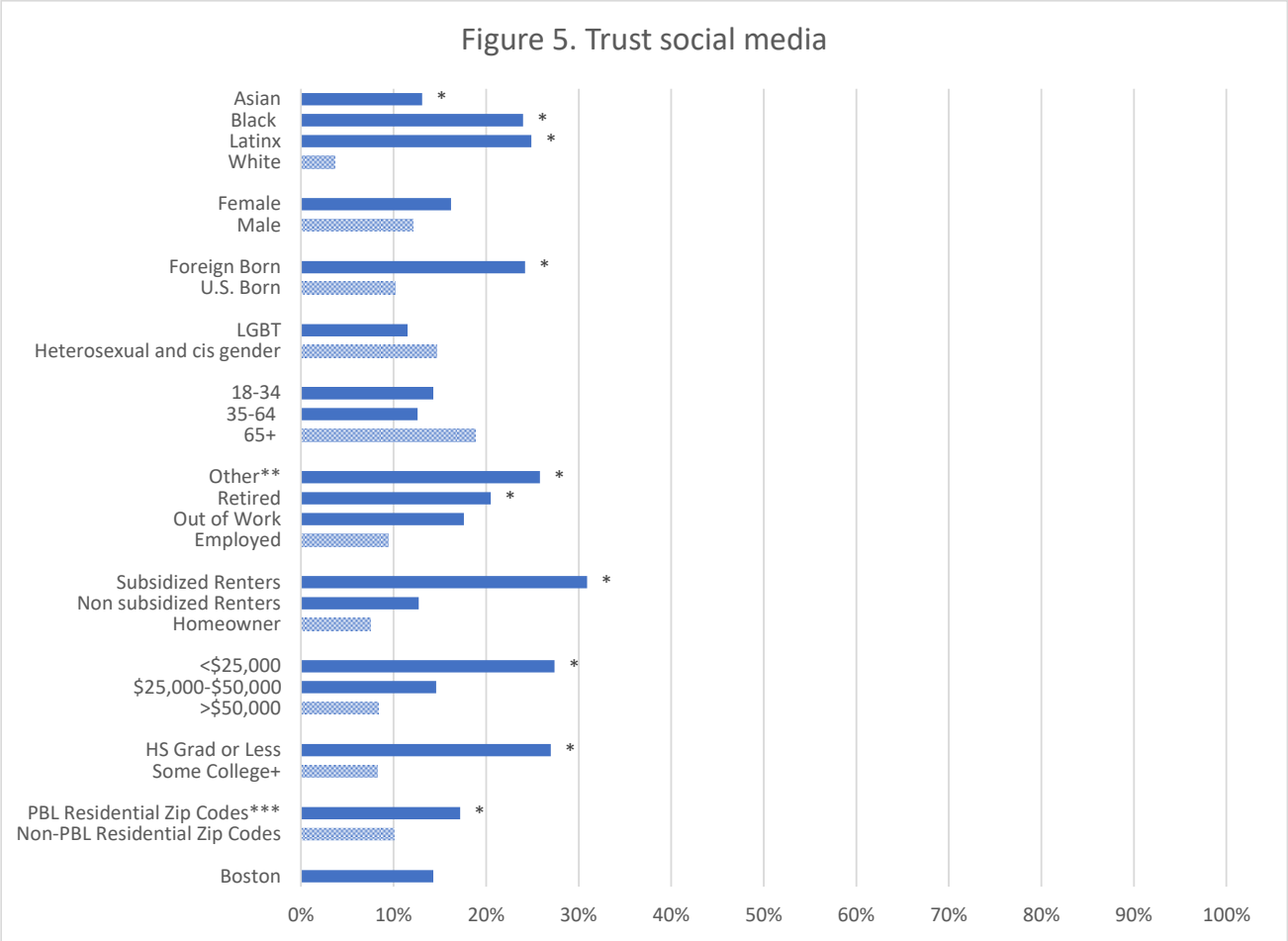
Overall, 67% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from friends and/or family.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Retired adults (83%) compared with employed adults (64%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (76%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (62%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (75%) compared with adults with at least some college (63%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (63%) and adults ages 35-64 (65%) compared with adults ages 65+ (82%)



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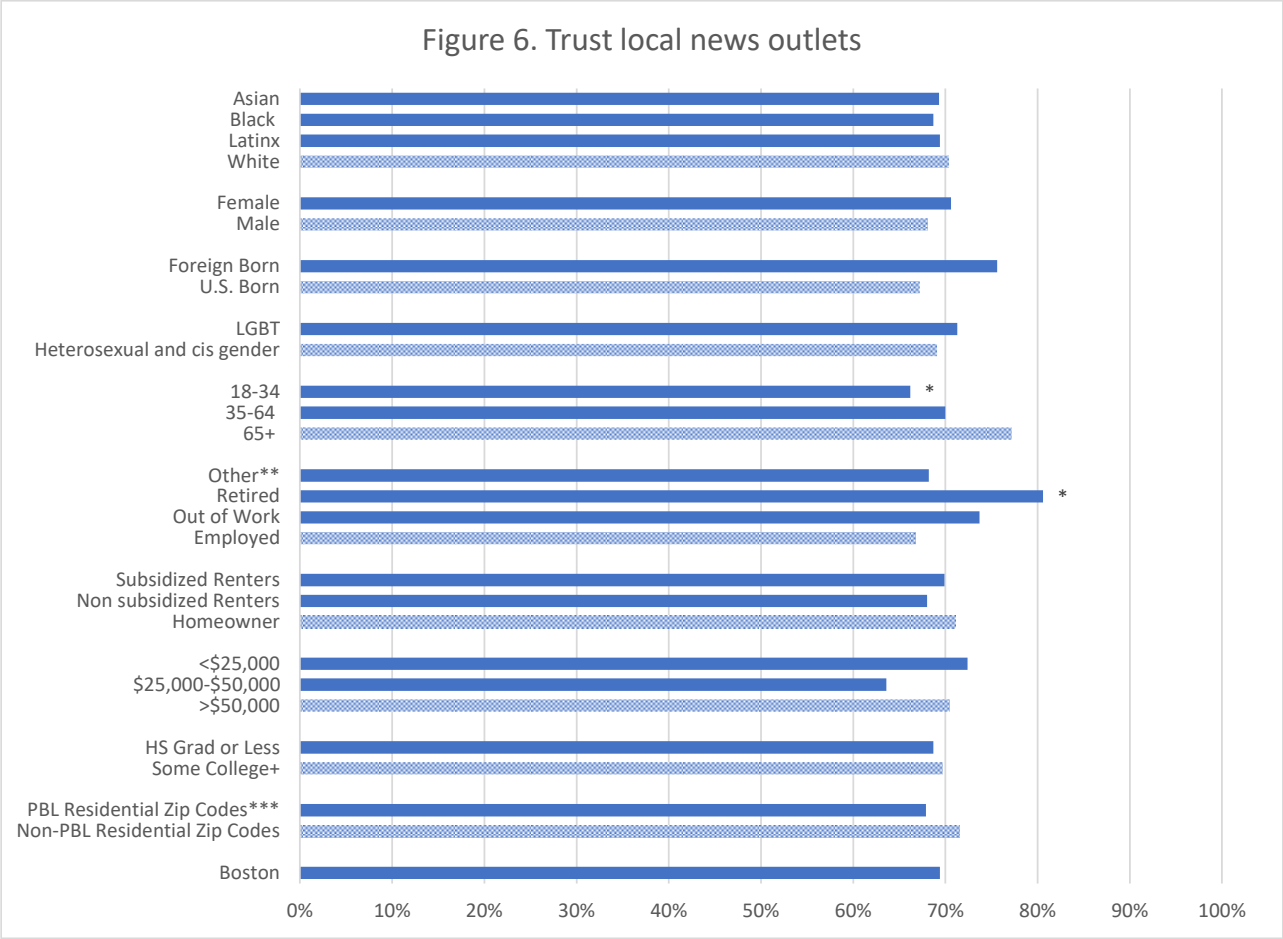
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Social Media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)**

Overall, 14% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from social media.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (24%), Asian adults (13%) and Latinx adults (25%) compared with White adults (4%)
- Foreign born adults (24%) compared to U.S. born adults (10%)
- Retired adults (21%) and other adults (26%) compared with employed adults (9%)
- Subsidized renters (31%) compared with homeowners (8%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (27%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (8%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (27%) compared with adults with at least some college (8%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (17%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (10%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Local News Outlets)**

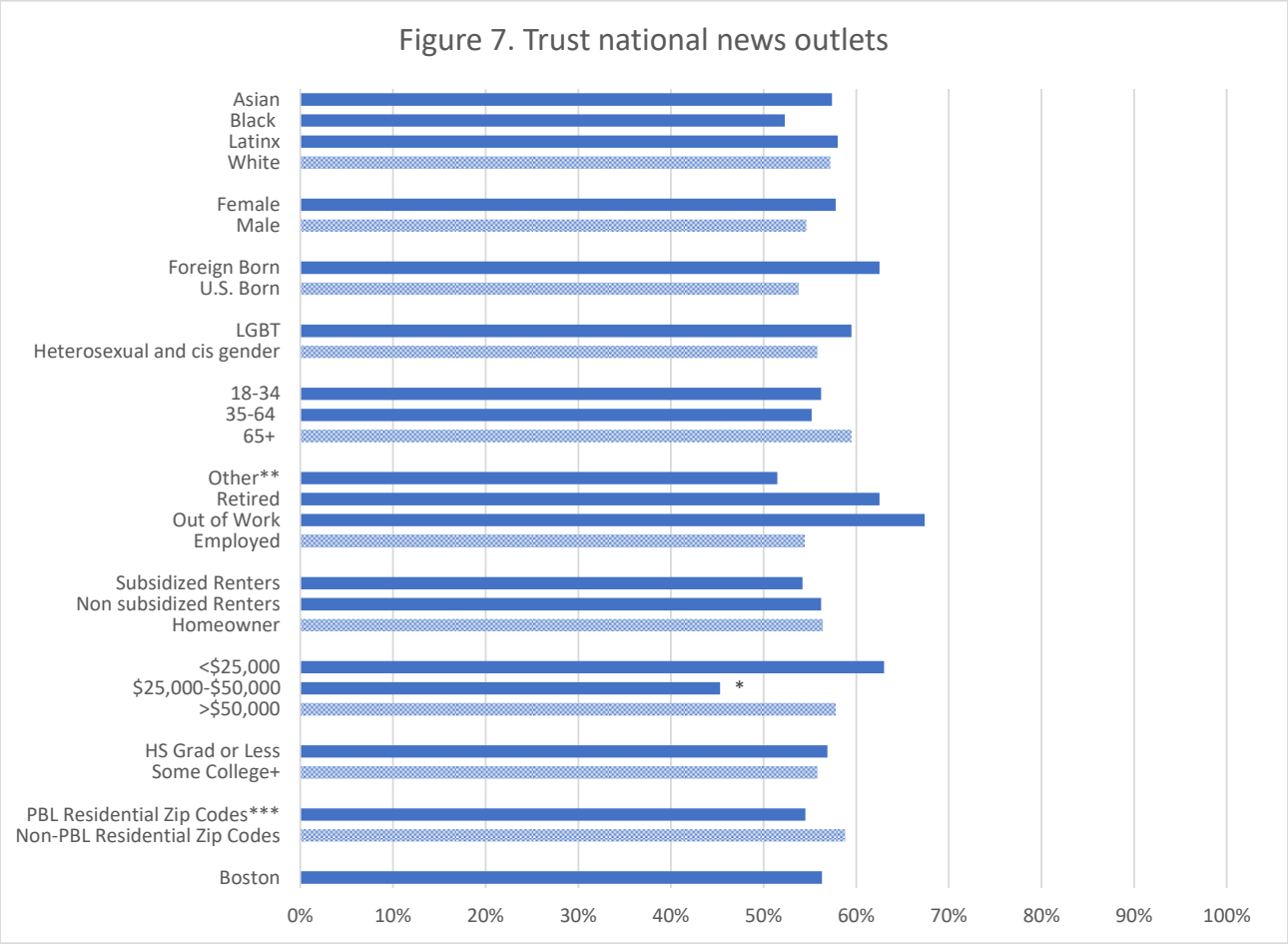
Overall, 69% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from local news outlets.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Retired adults (81%) compared with employed adults (67%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (66%) compared with adults ages 65+ (77%)



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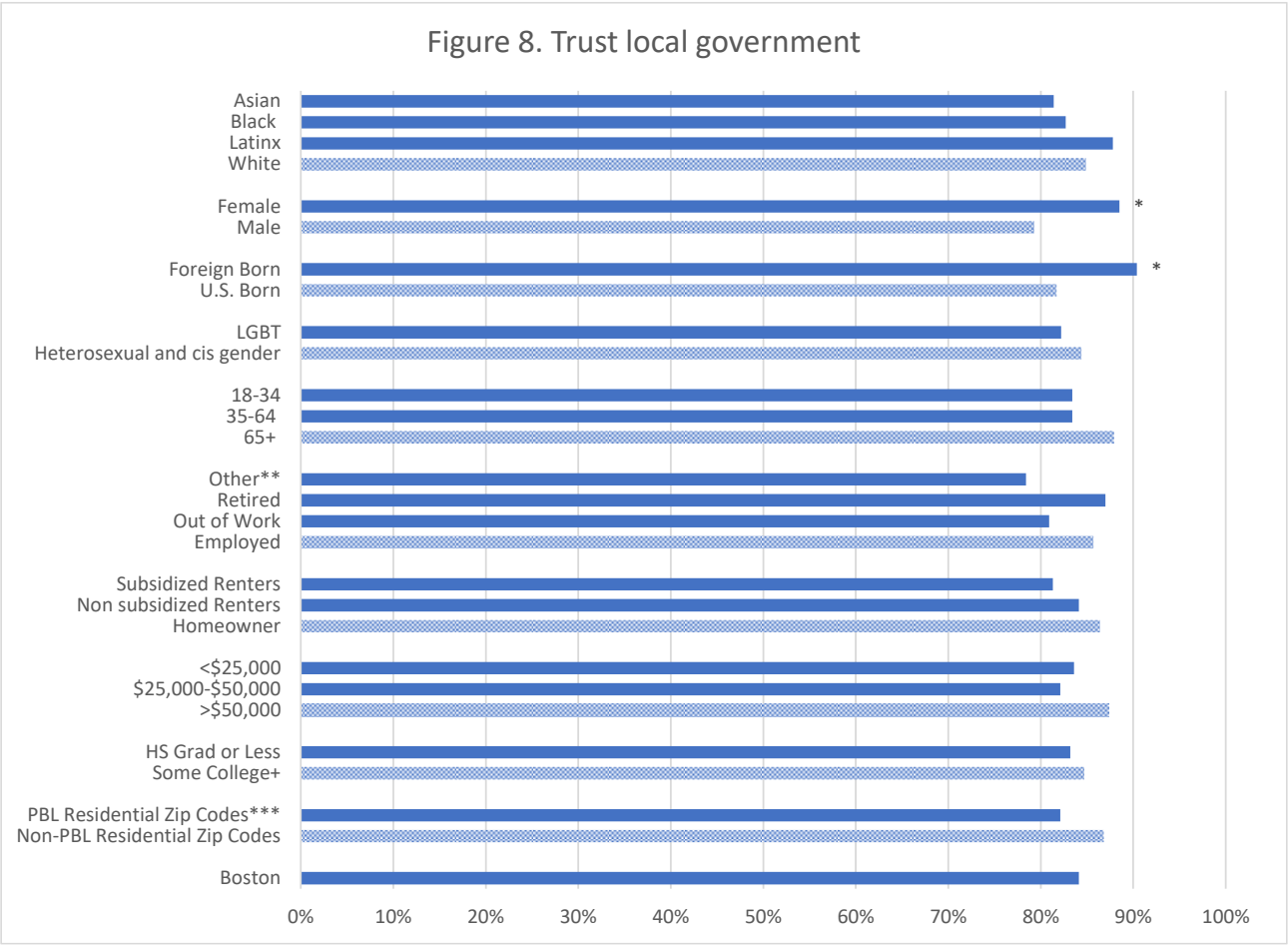
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(National News Outlets)**

Overall, 56% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from national news outlets.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (45%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (58%)



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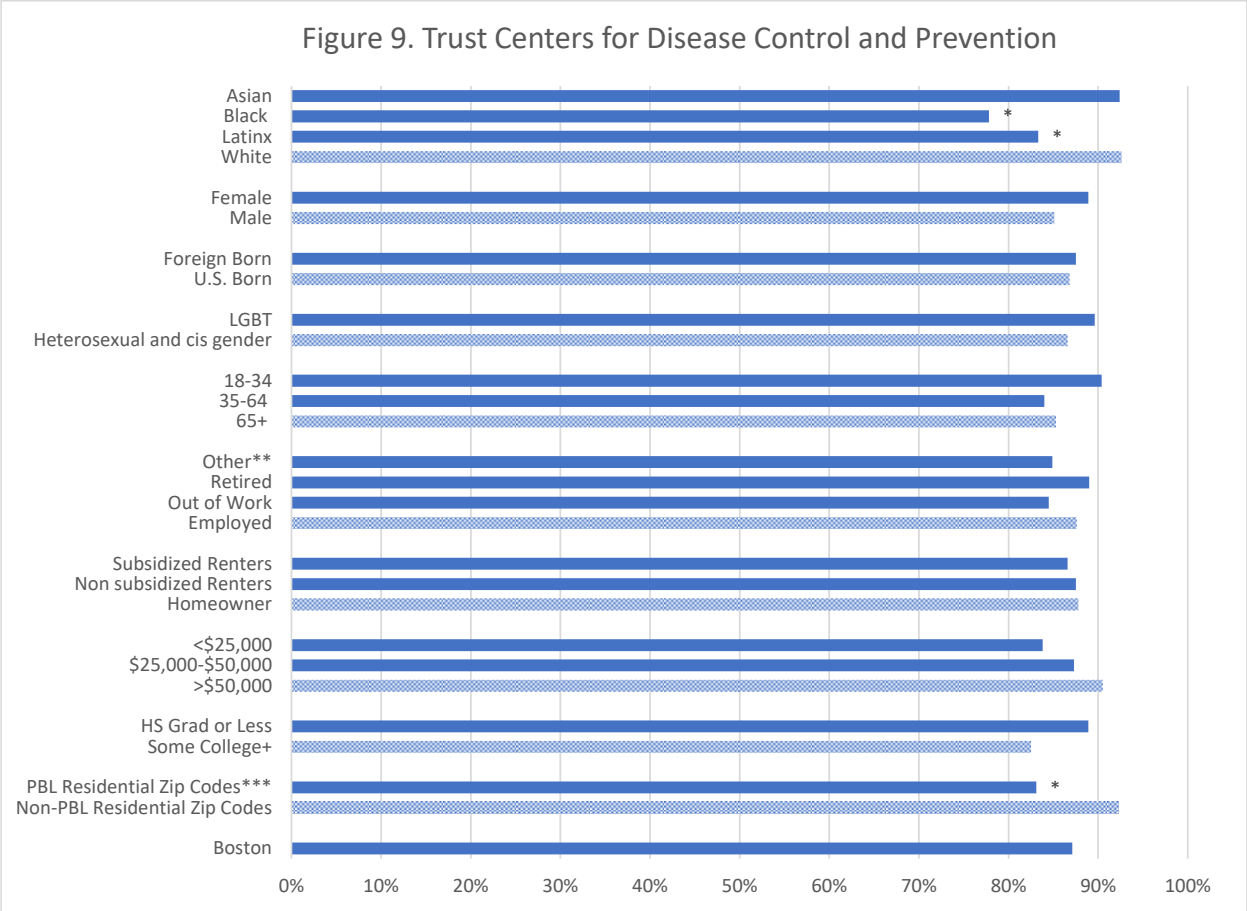
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Local Government Officials, such as the Governor, Mayor, State Senators)**

Overall, 84% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from local government.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (89%) compared with male adults (79%)
- Foreign born adults (90%) compared with U.S. born adults (82%)



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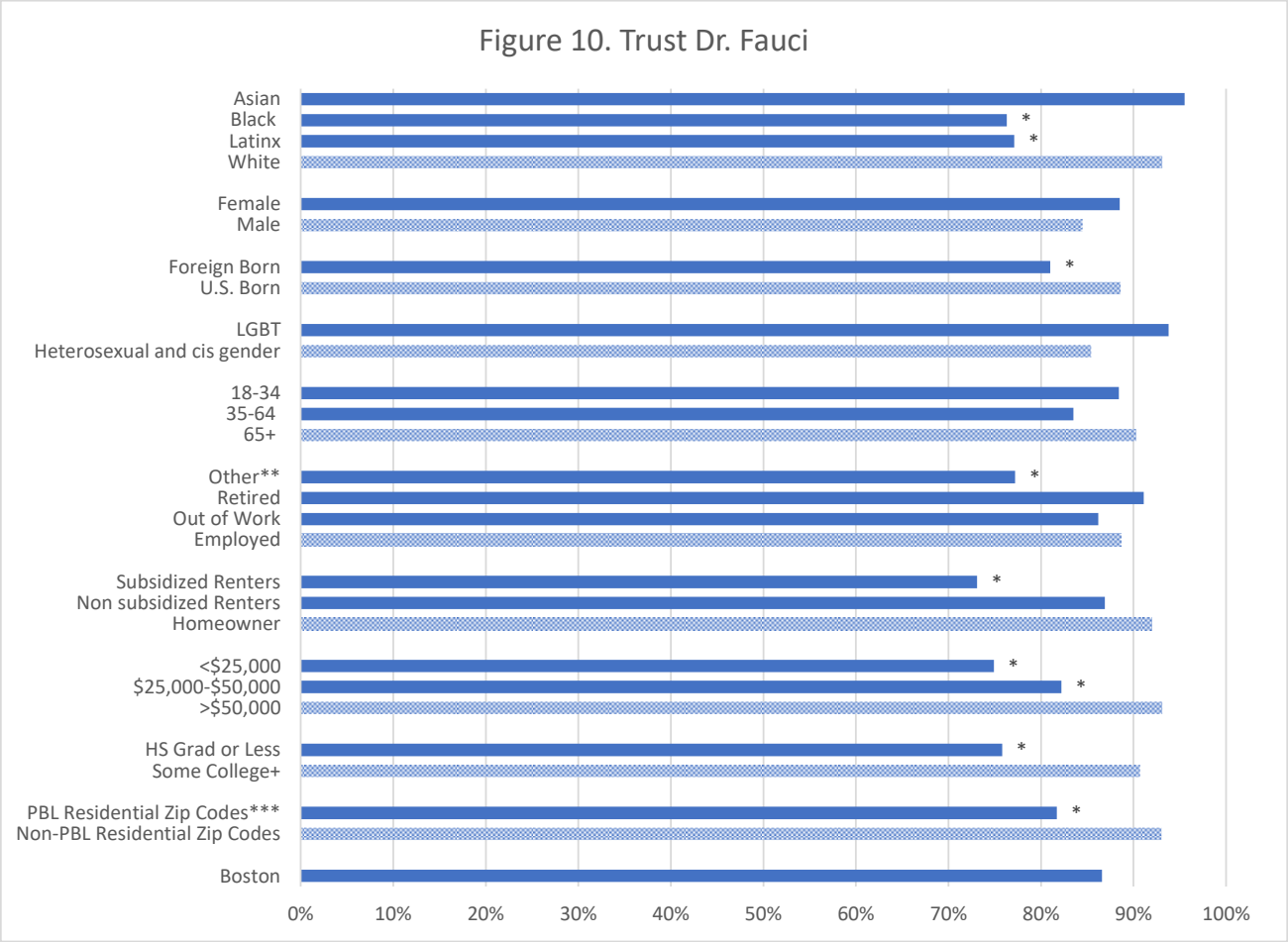
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(National Public Health Officials, such as the CDC)**

Overall, 87% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (78%) and Latinx adults (83%) compared with White adults (93%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (83%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (92%)



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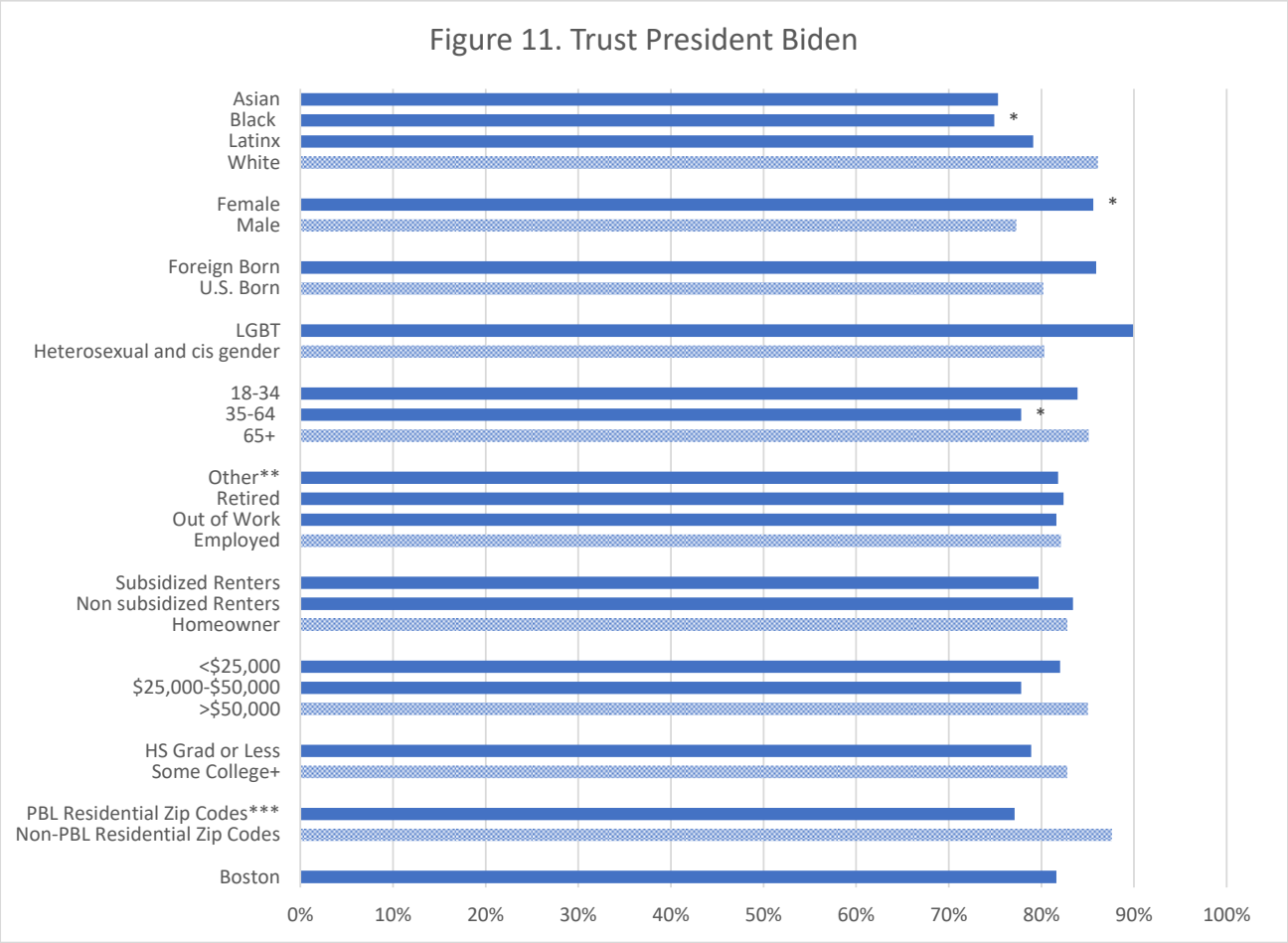
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(Dr. Fauci)**

Overall, 87% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from Dr. Fauci.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (76%) and Latinx adults (77%) compared with White adults (93%)
- Foreign born adults (81%) compared to U.S. born adults (89%)
- Other adults (77%) compared with employed adults (89%)
- Subsidized renters (73%) compared with homeowners (92%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (75%) and adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (82%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (93%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (76%) compared with adults with at least some college (91%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (82%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (93%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **(President Joe Biden)**

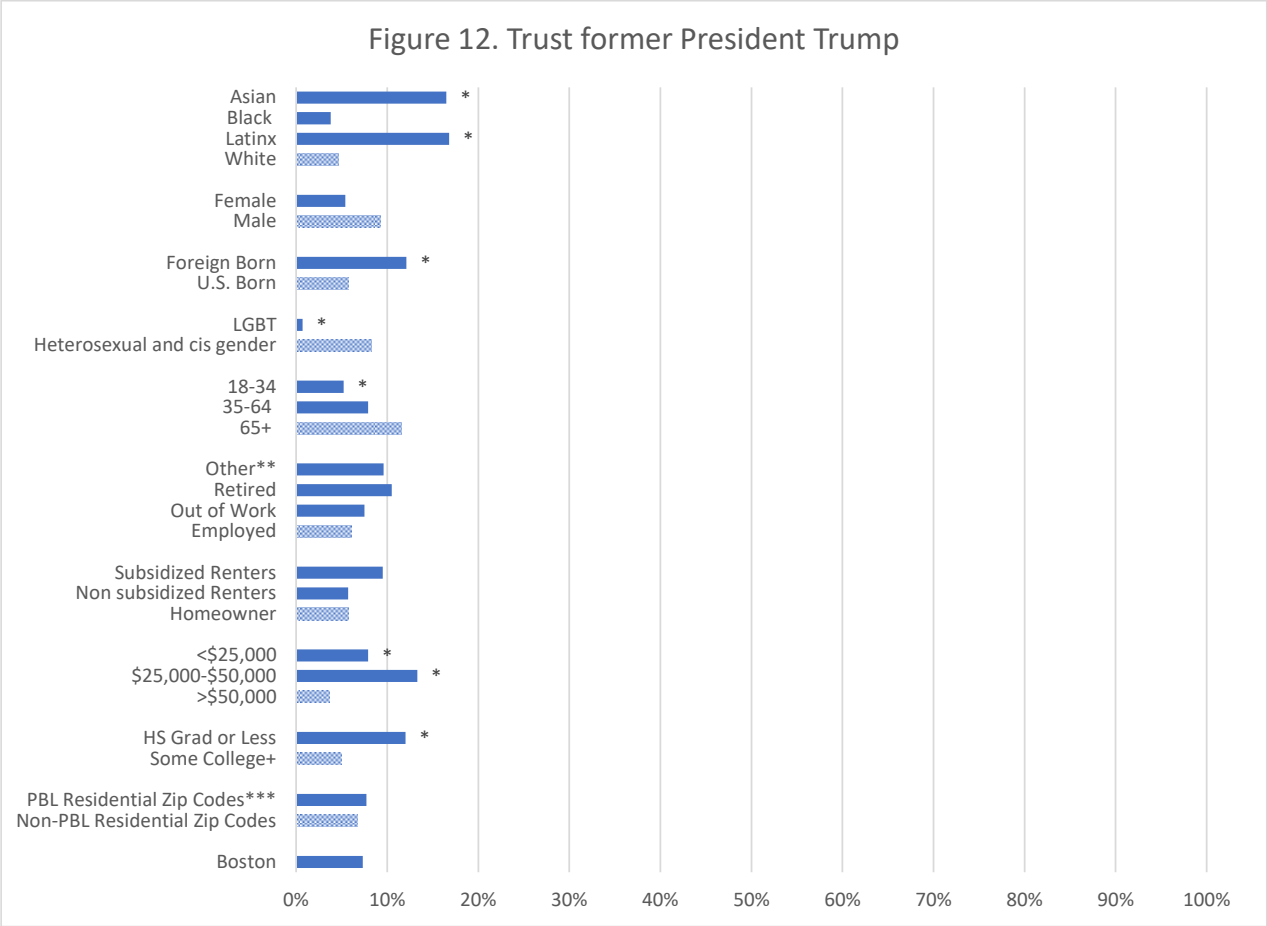
Overall, 82% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from President Biden.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (86%) compared with male adults (77%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (75%) compared with White adults (86%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (78%) compared with adults ages 65+ (84%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Thinking about all of the sources of information on the COVID-19 pandemic, which of the following sources do you trust? Please Answer YES for a trusted source and NO for a source you do not trust. **("Former" President Donald Trump)**

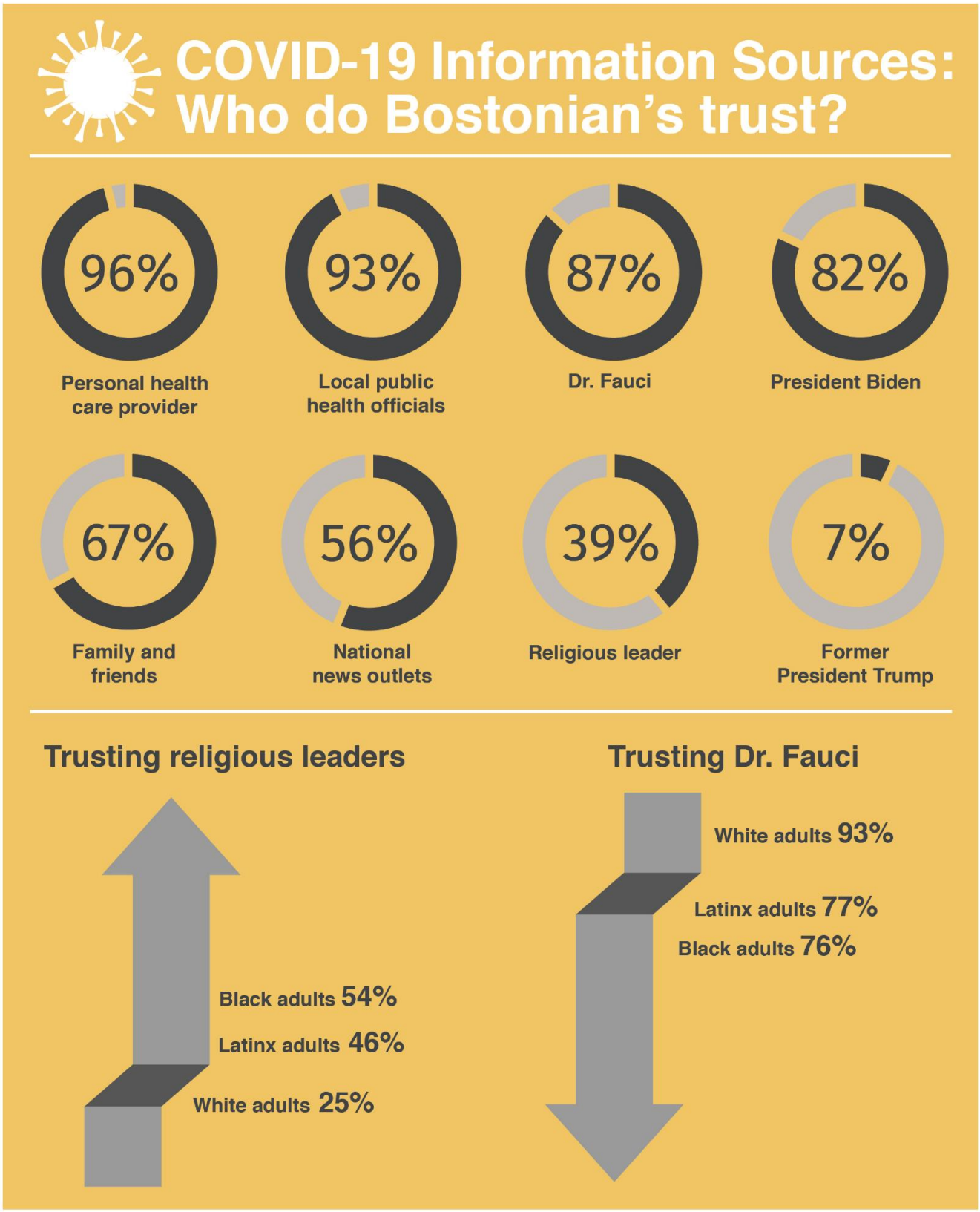
Overall, 7% of Boston adult residents reported they trusted COVID-19 information coming from former President Trump.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT-identifying individuals (1%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (8%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (5%) compared with adults ages 65+ (12%)

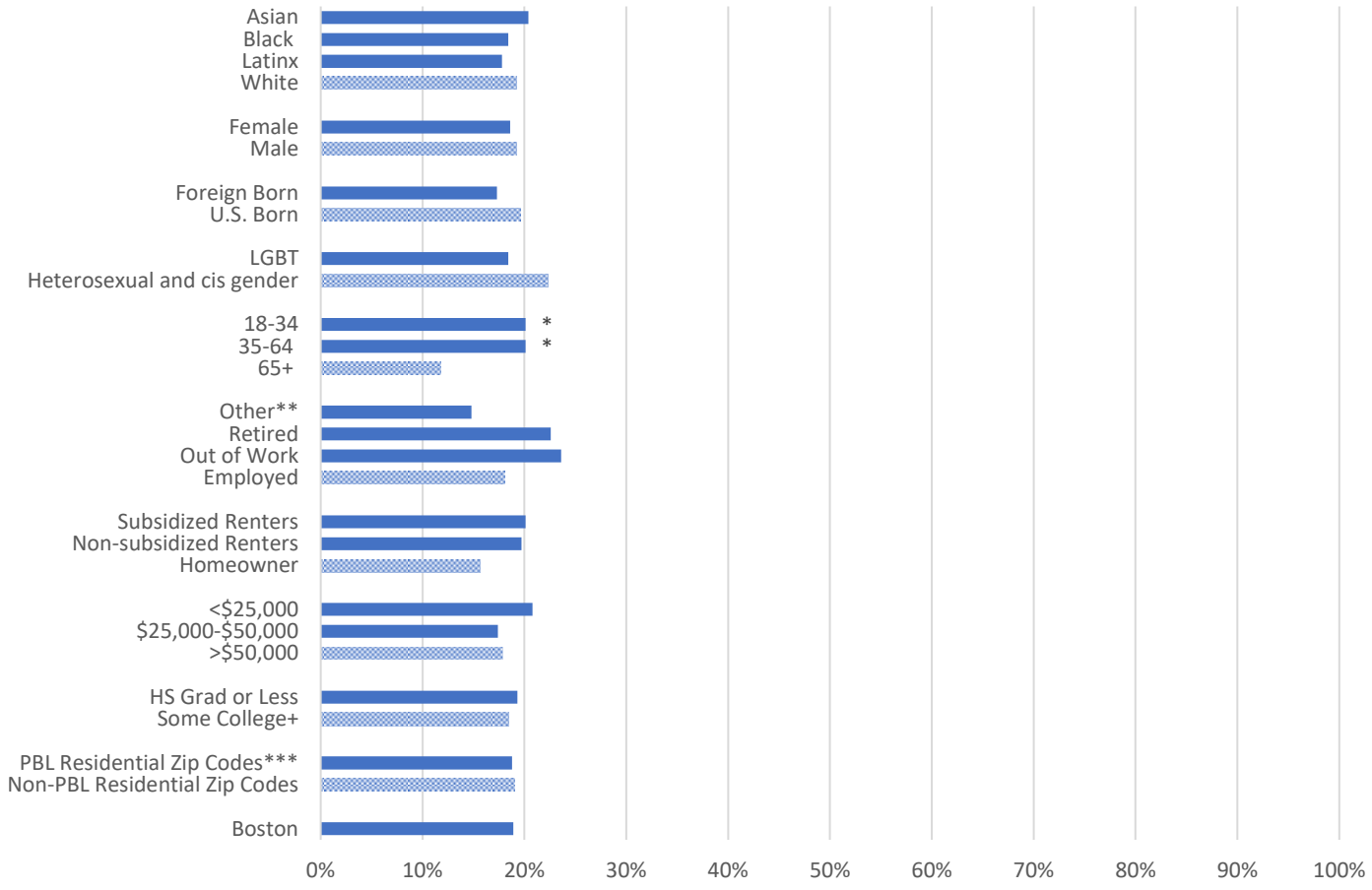
This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Asian adults (17%) and Latinx adults (17%) compared with White adults (5%)
- Foreign born adults (12%) compared to U.S. born adults (6%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (8%) and adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (13%) compared with adults with a household income greater than $50,000 (4%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (12%) compared with adults with at least some college (5%)


COVID-19 Information Sources: Who do Bostonian's trust?
96%
Personal health care provider
93%
Local public health officials
87%
Dr. Fauci
82%
President Biden
67%
Family and friends
56%
National news outlets
39%
Religious leader
7%
Former President Trump
Trusting religious leaders
Black adults 54%
Latinx adults 46%
White adults 25%
Trusting Dr. Fauci
White adults 93%
Latinx adults 77%
Black adults 76%

COVID-19 Information Access and Restrictions

Figure 13. During the initial lockdown, did not feel they had enough information to stay safe from COVID-19



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

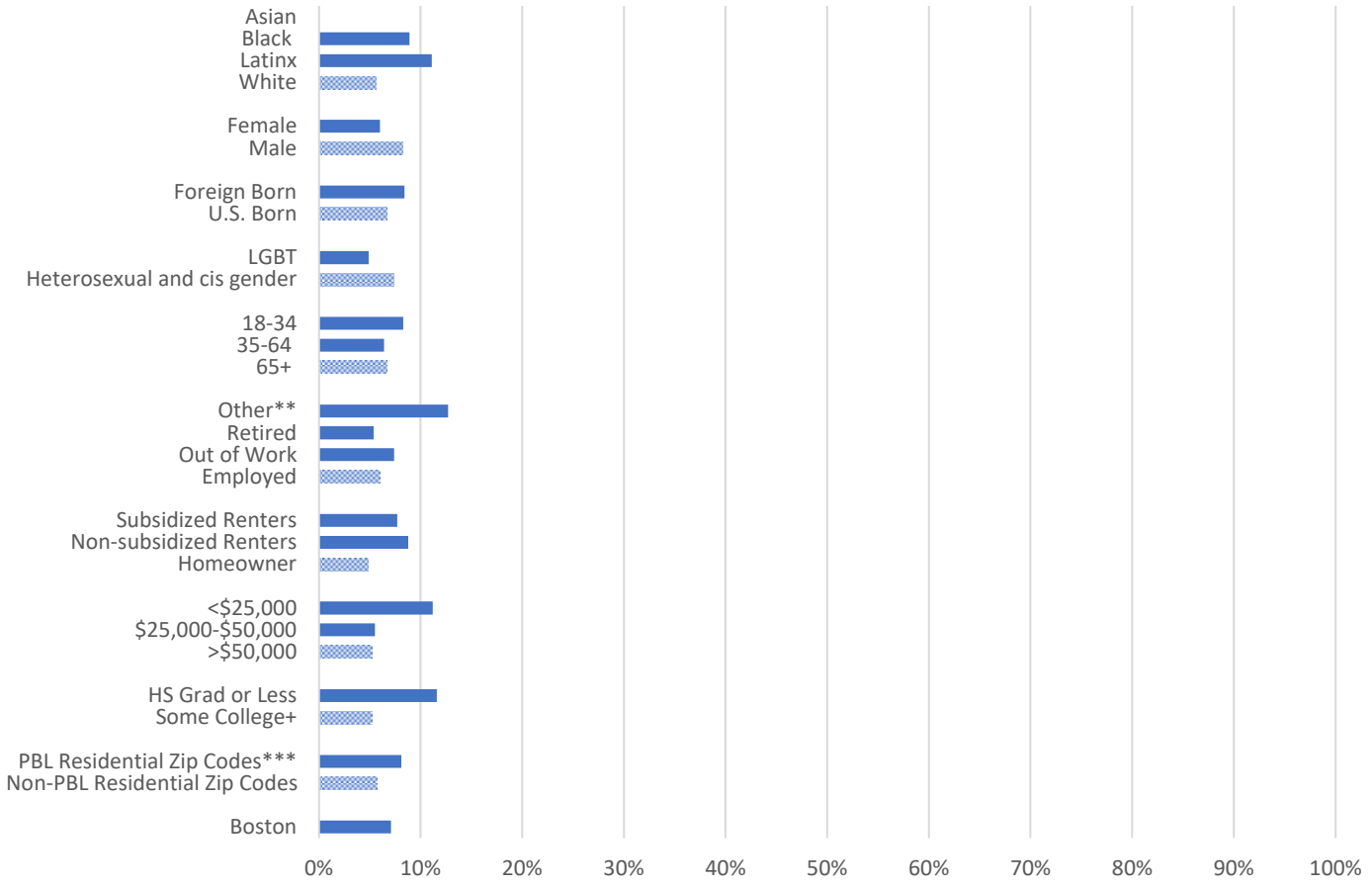
Question: During the initial lockdown in March and April of 2020, do you feel you got enough information to stay safe and protect yourself from COVID-19?

Overall, 19% of Boston adult residents they did not receive enough information to stay safe and protected from COVID-19 during the initial lockdowns in March and April.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (20%) and adults ages 35-64 (20%) compared with adults ages 65+ (11%)

Figure 14. Currently do not feel they have enough information to stay safe from COVID-19



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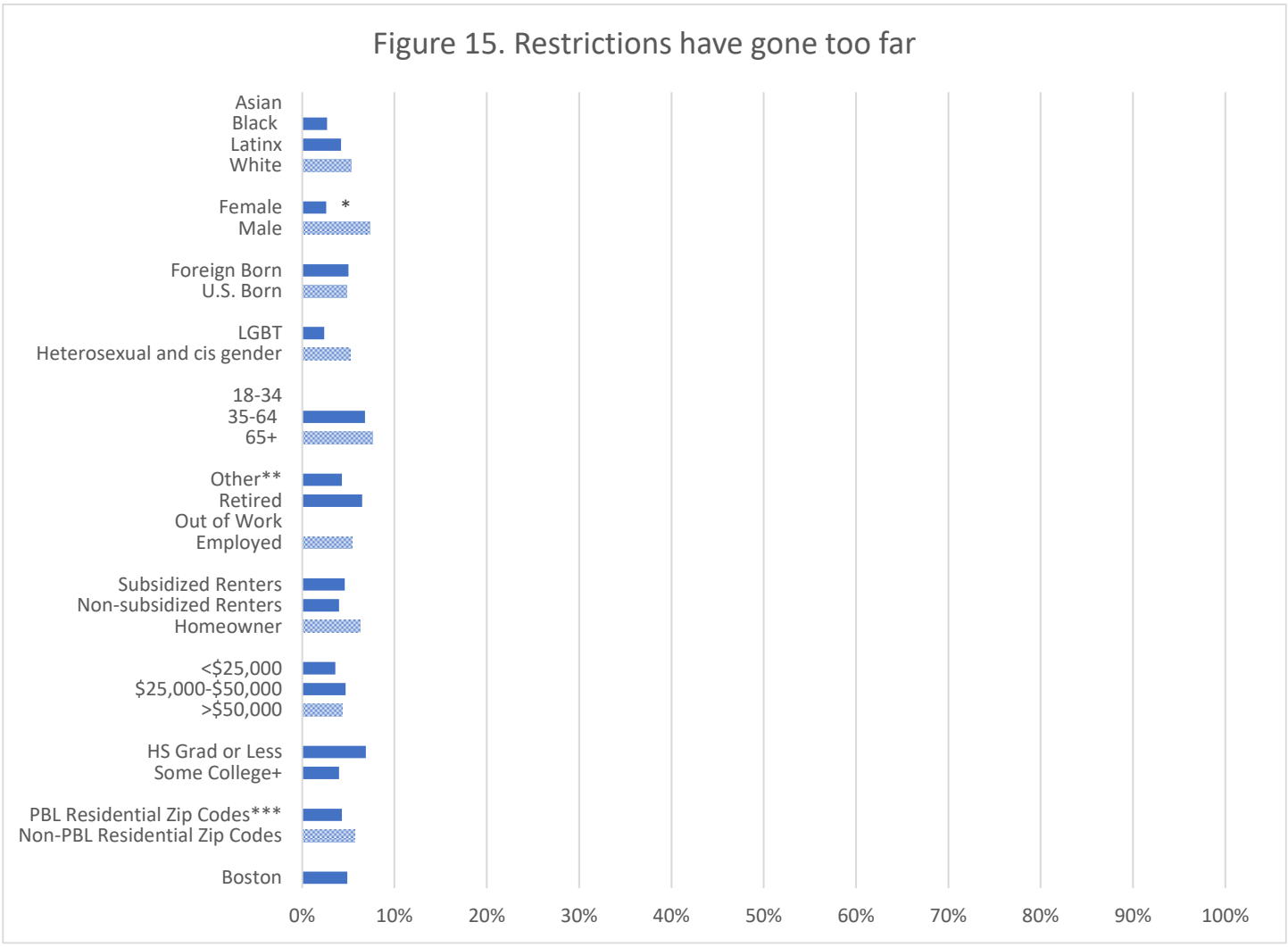
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data for Asian adults not presented due to sample limitations.

Question: Currently do you feel you have enough information to stay safe and protect yourself from COVID-19?

Overall, 9% of Boston adult residents reported they do not have enough information to stay safe and protected from COVID-19 currently.

There are no significant differences across population groups.



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

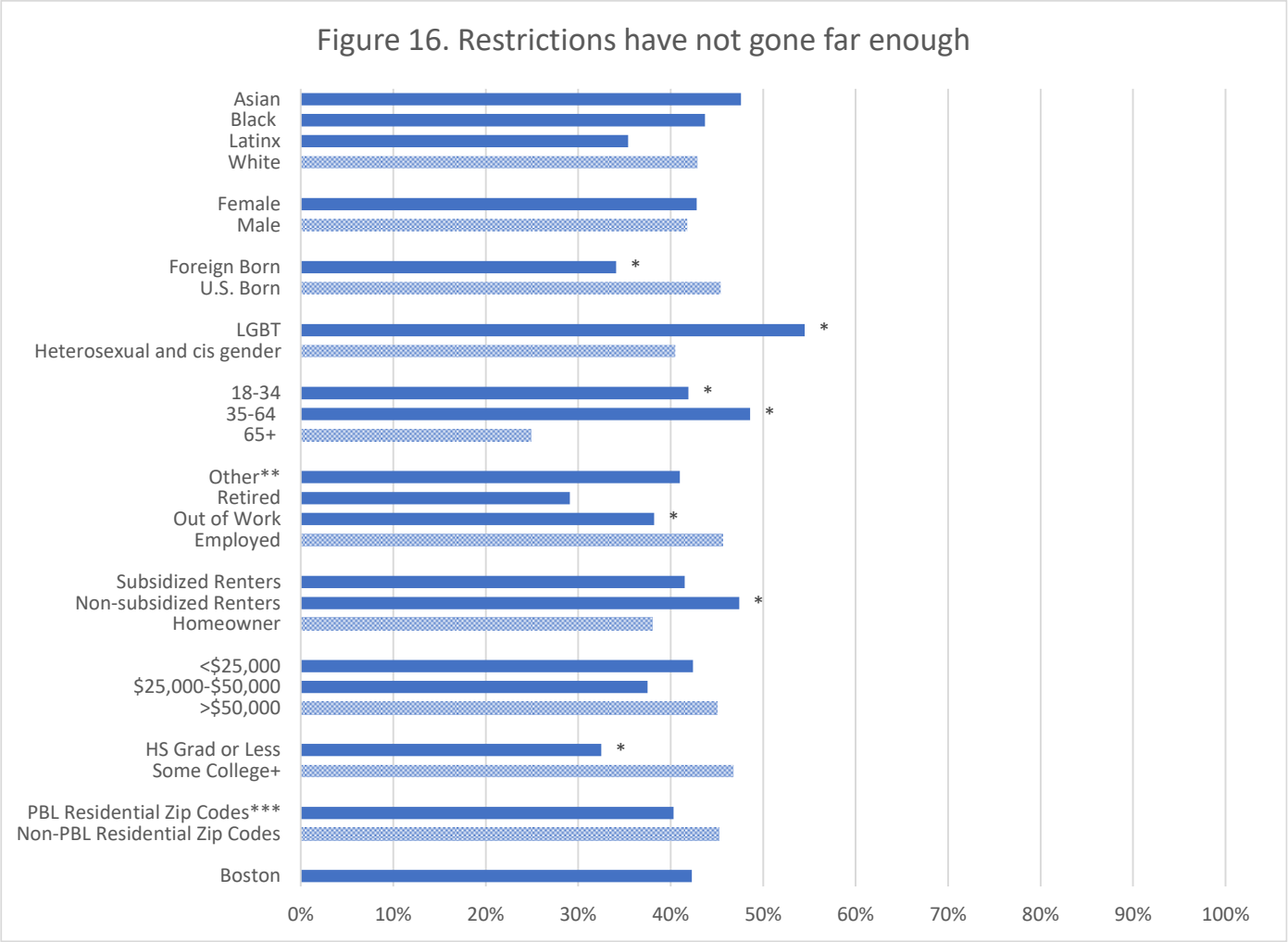
Data for Asian adults not presented due to sample limitations.

Question: Overall, thinking about restrictions that have been put in place in your neighborhood to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, do you think these restrictions go too far, are about right, or do not go far enough?

Overall, 5% of Boston adult residents believe COVID-19 restrictions have gone too far.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Female adults (3%) compared with male adults (7%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Overall, thinking about restrictions that have been put in place in your neighborhood to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, do you think these restrictions go too far, are about right, or do not go far enough?

Overall, 42% of Boston adult residents believe COVID-19 restrictions have not gone far enough.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

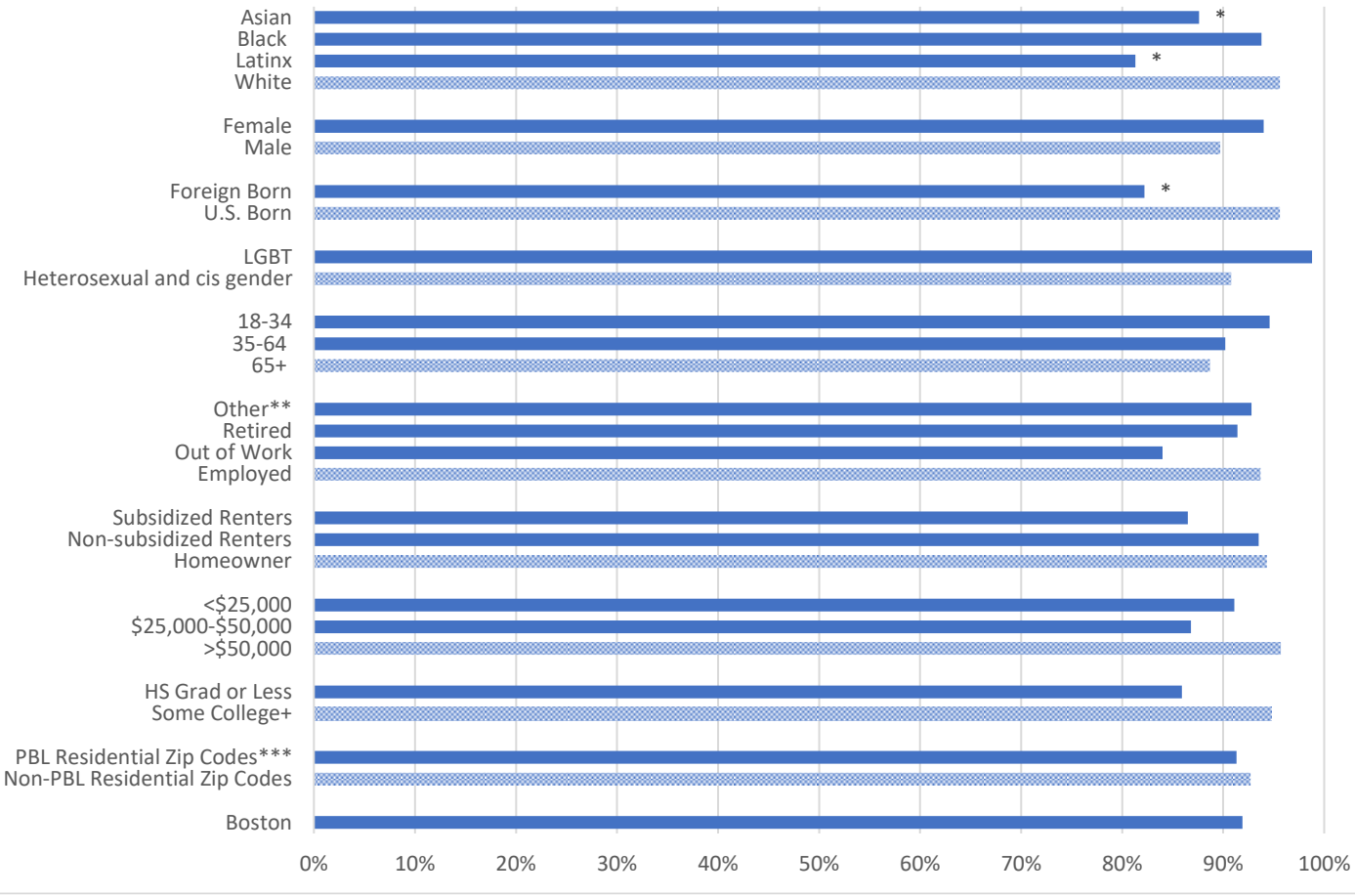
- LGBT adults (55%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (41%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (42%) and adults ages 35-64 (49%) compared with adults ages 65+ (25%)
- Non-subsidized renters (47%) compared with homeowners (38%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Foreign born adults (34%) compared with U.S. born adults (45%)
- Retired adults (29%) compared with employed adults (46%)
- Adults with less than a high school diploma (33%) compared with adults with at least some college (47%)

COVID-19 Risk Perceptions

Figure 17. Concerned or very concerned about COVID-19 in their community



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

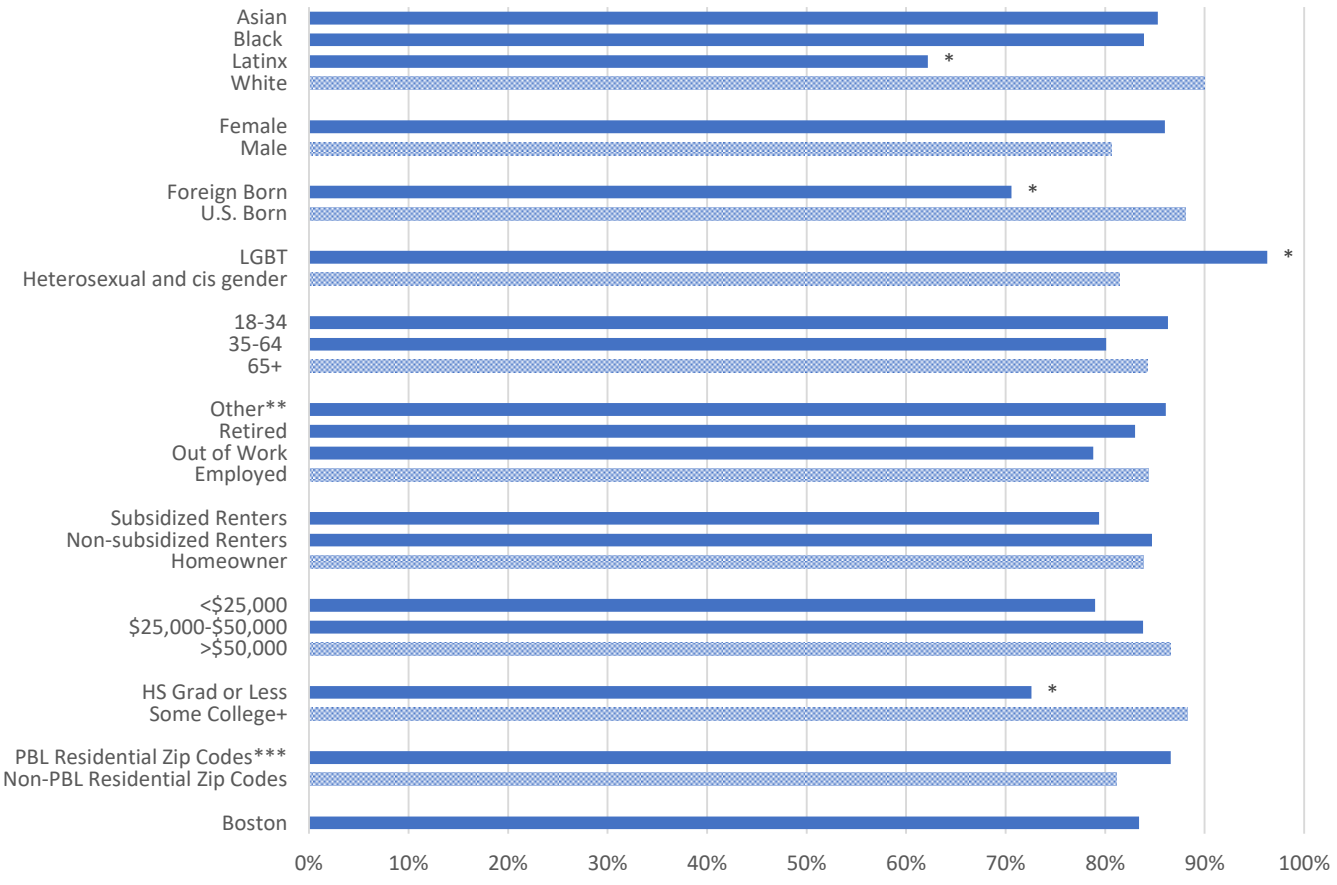
Question: Are you very concerned, concerned, or not very concerned about the spread of COVID-19 within your community?

Overall, 92% of Boston adult residents are concerned or very concerned about the spread of COVID-19 in their community.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Asian adults (88%) and Latinx (81%) adults compared with White adults (96%)
- Foreign born adults (82%) compared with U.S. born adults (96%)

Figure 18. Concerned or very concerned about self or family being infected with COVID-19



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Are you very concerned, concerned, or not very concerned about you or someone in your family being infected with COVID-19?

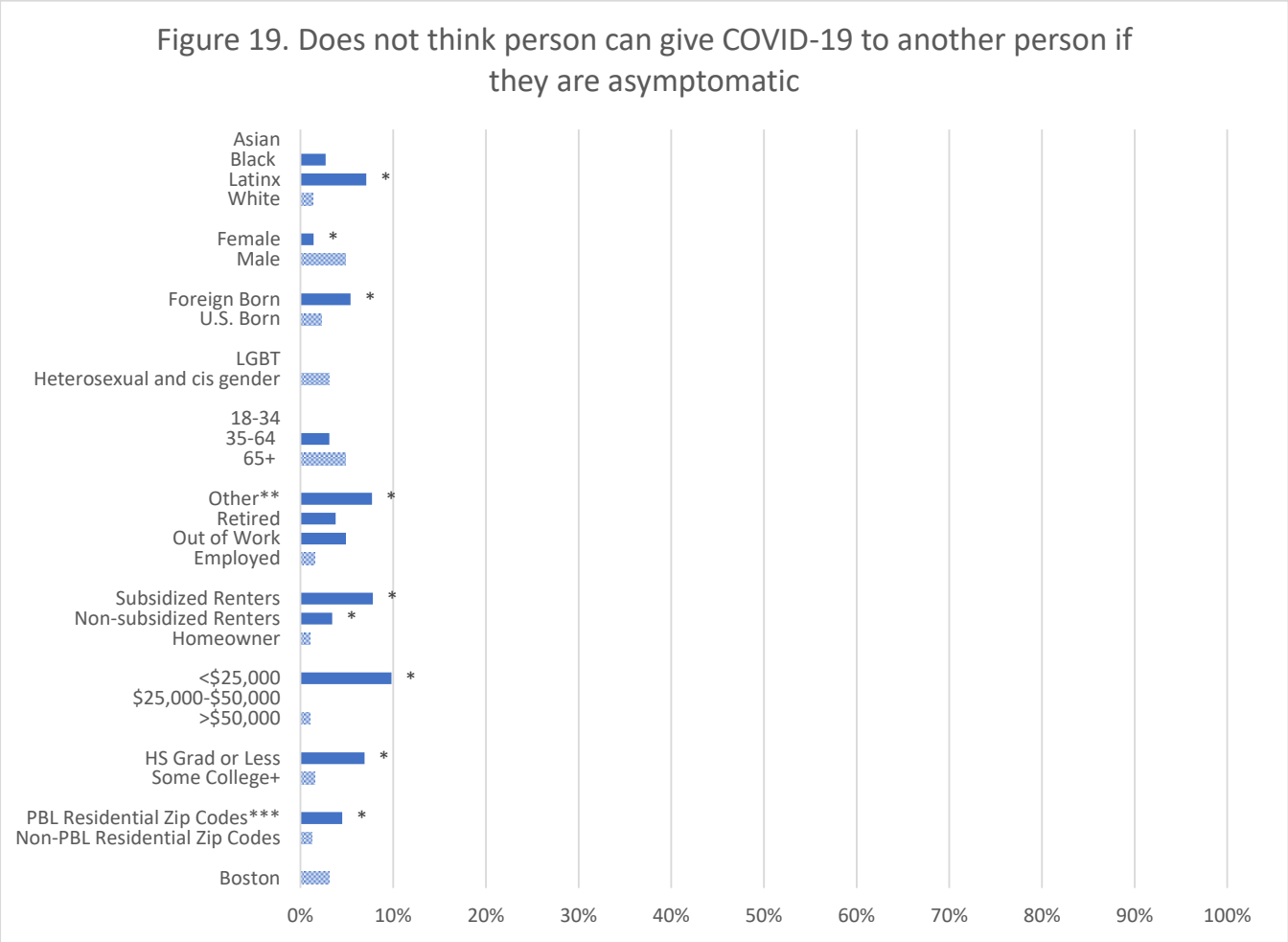
Overall, 83% of Boston adult residents are concerned or very concerned about them or someone in their family being infected with COVID-19.

The percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (96%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (81%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Latinx (62%) adults compared with White adults (90%)
- Foreign born adults (71%) compared with U.S. born adults (88%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (73%) compared with adults with at least some college education (88%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data not presented for Asian adults, LGBT adults, adults ages 18-34, and adults with a household income of $25,000-$50,000 due to sample limitations.

Question: Do you think a person can give another person COVID-19 if they do not have symptoms?

Overall, 3% of Boston adult residents do not think they can spread COVID-19 to others if they are asymptomatic.

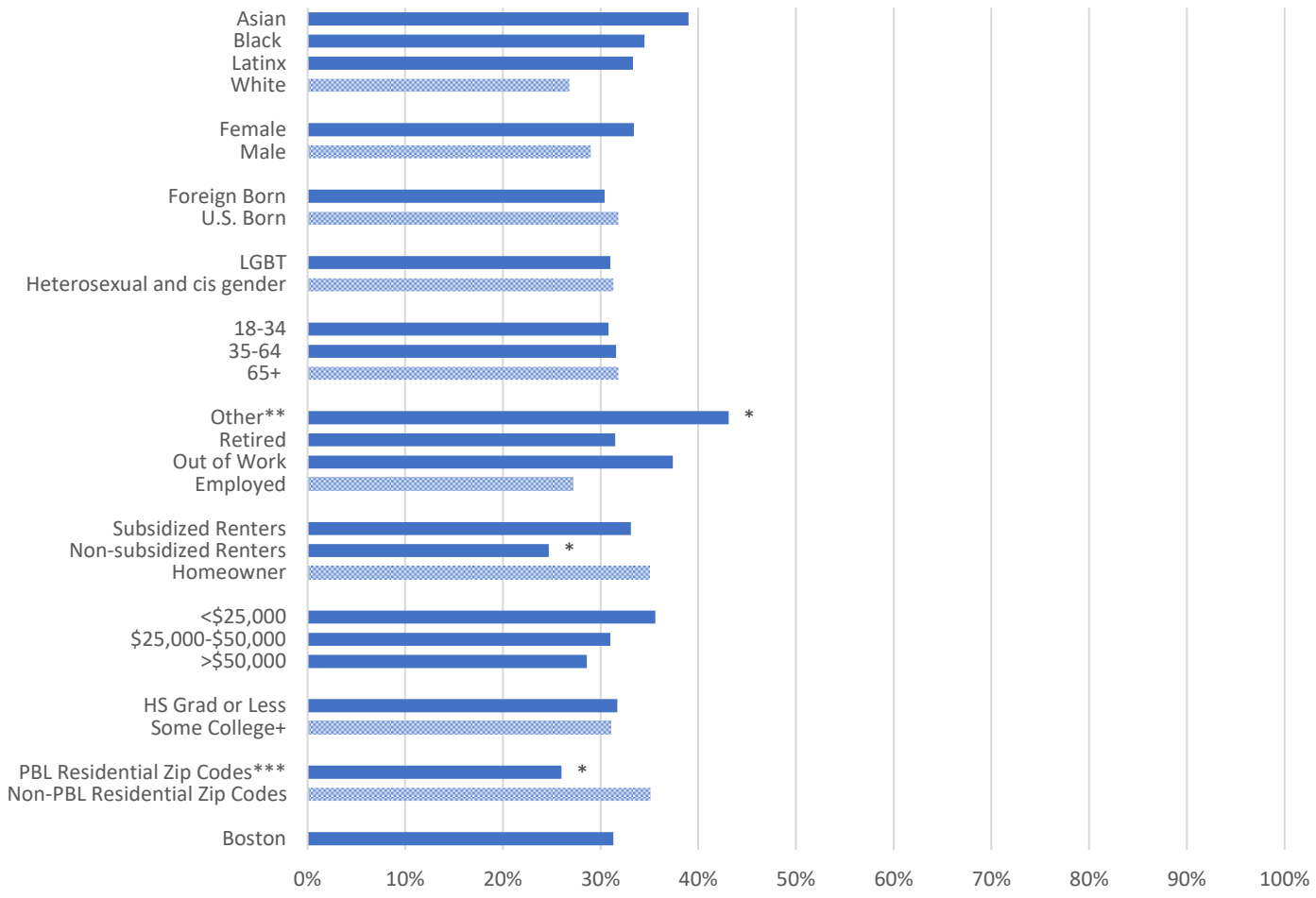
This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Latinx adults (7%) compared with White adults (1%)
- Foreign born adults (5%) compared with U.S. born adults (2%)
- Adults with other employment status (8%) compared with employed adults (2%)
- Adults with a household income of <$25,000 (10%) compared with adults with a household income of >$50,000 (1%).
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (7%) compared with adults with some college (2%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (5%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (1%)

The percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Female adults (1%) compared with male adults (5%)

Figure 20. Lives in high risk household



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data not presented for Asian adults, LGBT adults, adults and adults ages 18-34 due to sample limitations.

Question: Are there others in your household at high risk due to being elderly or having chronic health conditions?

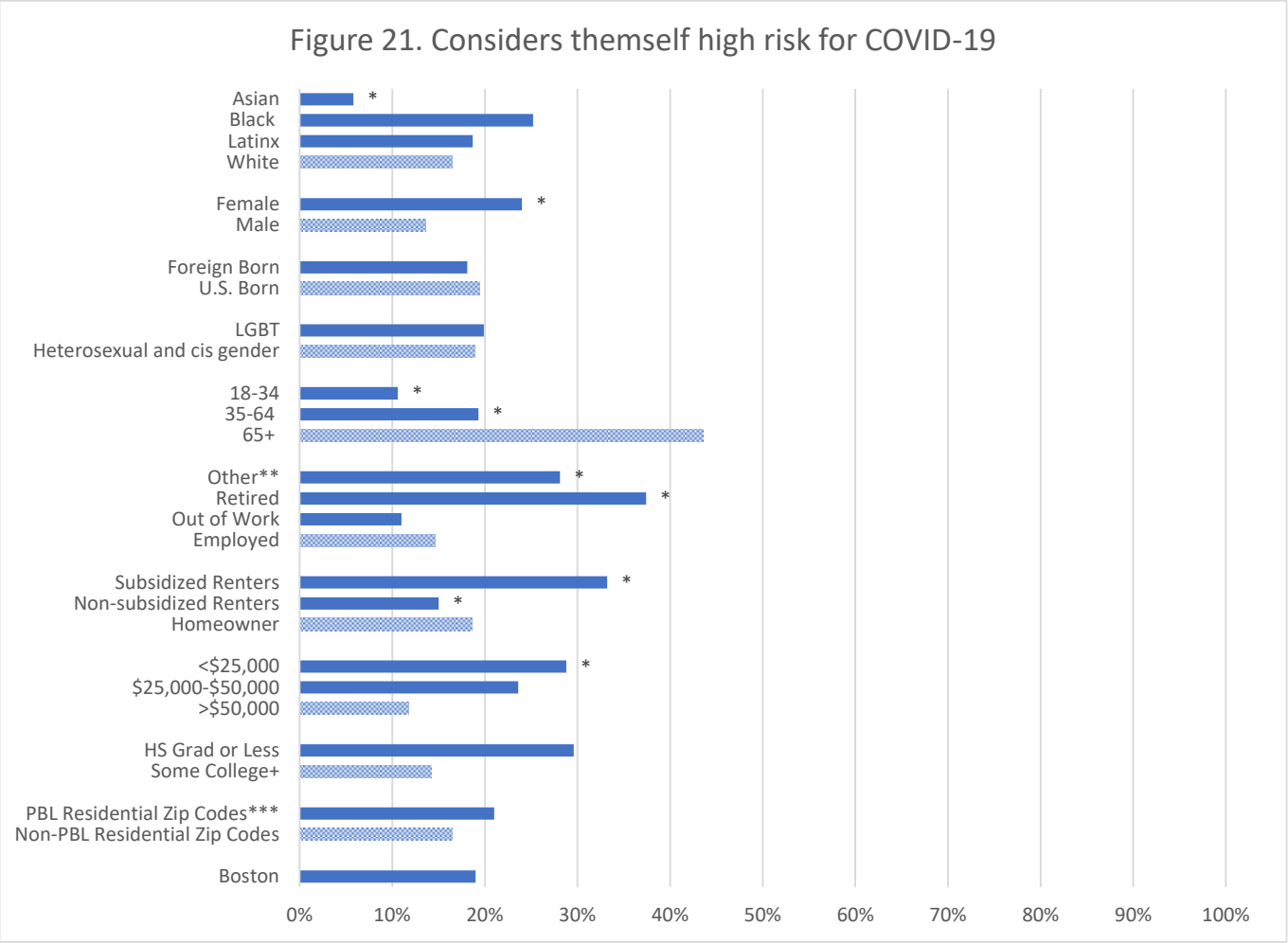
Overall, 31% of Boston adult residents live in a household considered high risk for COVID-19 due to household members being elderly or having chronic health conditions.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults with other employment status (43%) compared with employed adults (27%)

The percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Non-subsidized renters (25%) compared with homeowners (35%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (26%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (35%)



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***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Do you consider yourself high risk, medium risk, low risk, or not at risk of getting sick with COVID-19?

Overall, 19% of Boston adult residents consider themselves high risk for COVID-19.

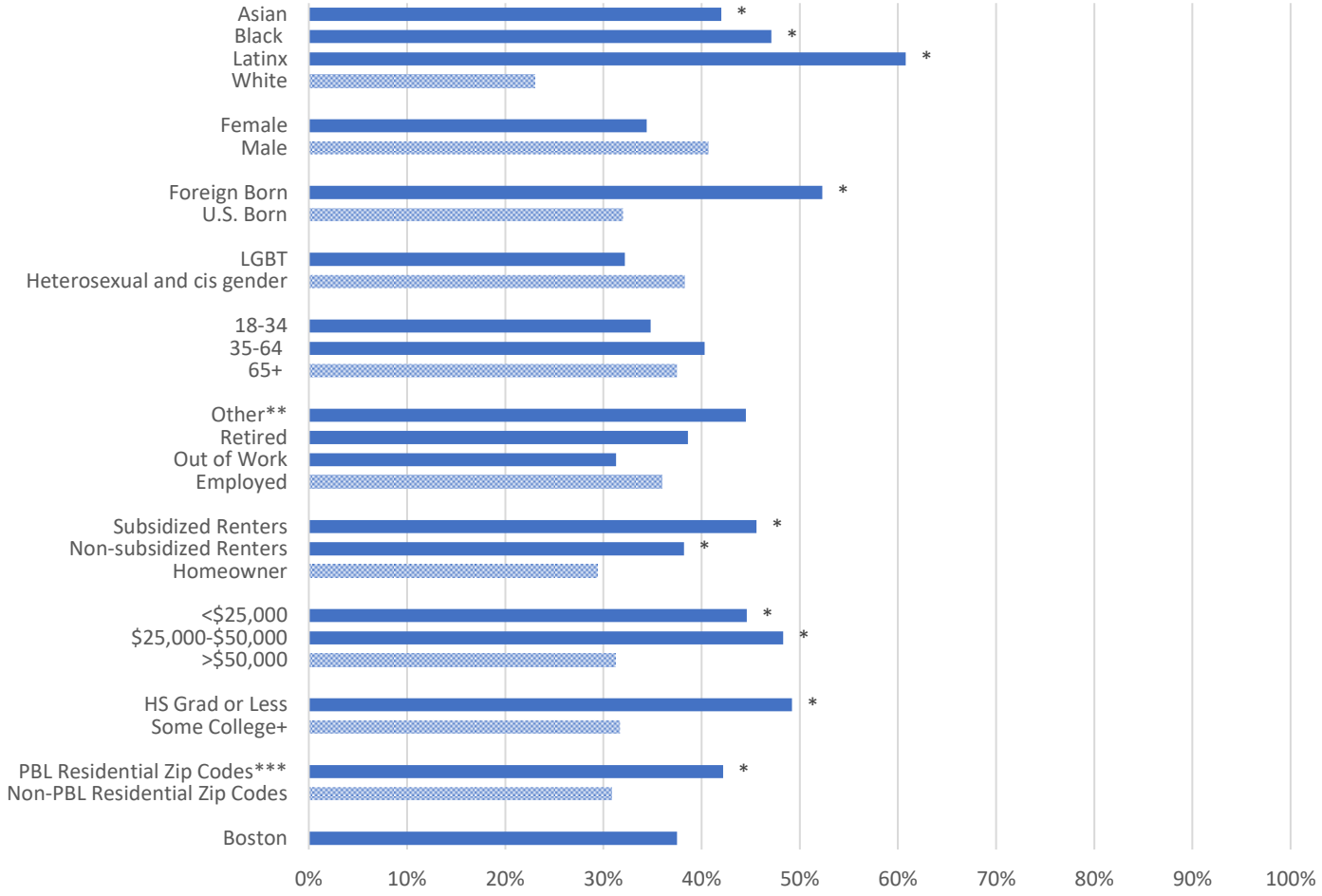
This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (24%) compared with male adults (14%)
- Adults with other employment status (28%) and retired adults (37%) compared with employed adults (15%)
- Subsidized renters (33%) compared with homeowners (19%)
- Adults with household income <$25,000 (29%) compared with adults with household income >$50,000 (12%)

The percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Asian adults (6%) compared with White adults (17%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (11%) and adults ages 35-64 (19%) compared with adults ages 65+ (44%)
- Non-subsidized renters (15%) compared with homeowners (19%)

Figure 22. Believe they are at less risk now for COVID-19 than last spring



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

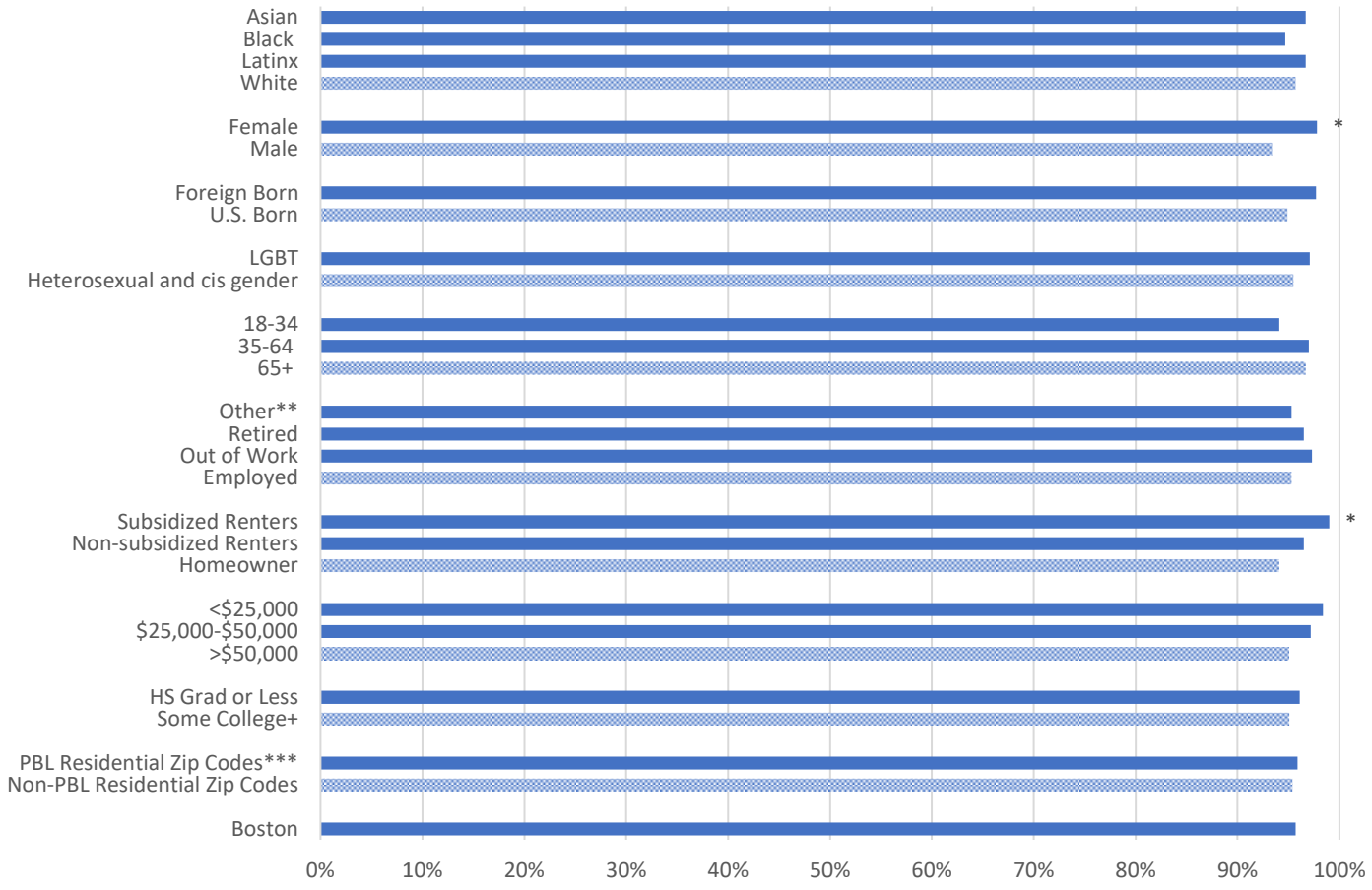
Question: Do you believe you are at less risk today for being diagnosed with COVID-19 than you were last spring?

Overall, 38% of Boston adult residents believe they are at less risk for COVID-19 now than they were in the spring of 2020.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Asian (42%), Black (47%), and Latinx (61%) adults compared with White adults (23%).
- Foreign born adults (52%) compared with U.S. born adults (32%)
- Subsidized renters (46%) and non-subsidized renters (38%) compared with homeowners (29%)
- Adults with household income <$25,000 (45%) and adults with a household income of $25,000-$50,000 (48%) compared with adults with household income >$50,000 (31%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (49%) compared with adults with at least some college (32%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (42%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (31%)

Figure 23. Wearing a mask is very important to prevent the spread of COVID-19



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***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

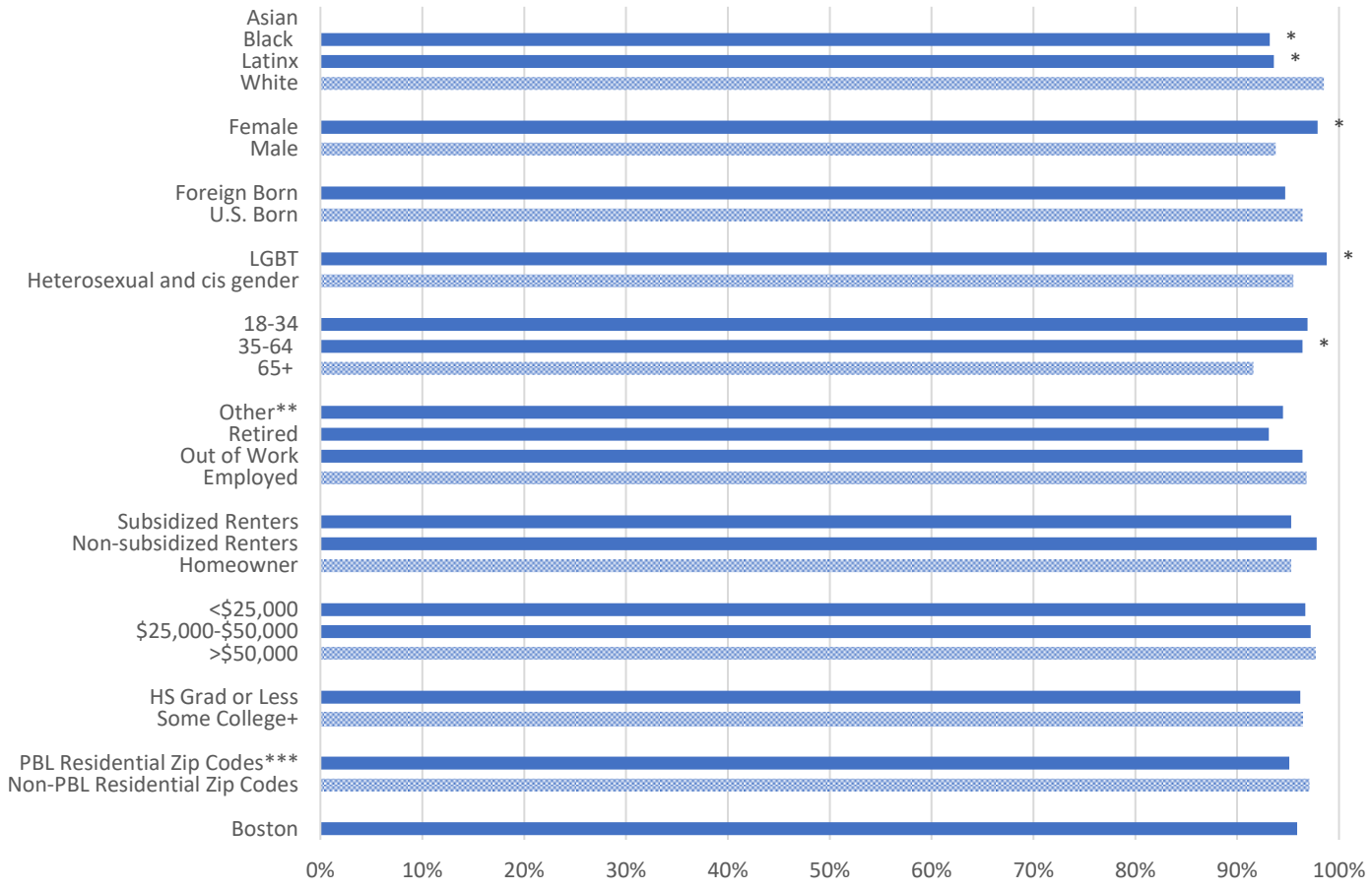
Question: To stop the spread of COVID-19 how important do you think it is for people like you to do the following? Please tell me if these actions are very important, somewhat important or not important. **(Wearing a mask or face covering when coming close to people outside your home)**

Overall, 96% of Boston adult residents believe wearing a mask is very important to stop the spread of COVID-19.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (98%) compared with male adults (93%)
- Subsidized renters (99%) compared with homeowners 94%)

Figure 24. Staying home when sick is very important to prevent the spread of COVID-19



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data not presented for Asian residents due to sample limitations.

Question: To stop the spread of COVID-19 how important do you think it is for people like you to do the following? Please tell me if these actions are very important, somewhat important or not important. **(Staying home if you have a cough or fever)**

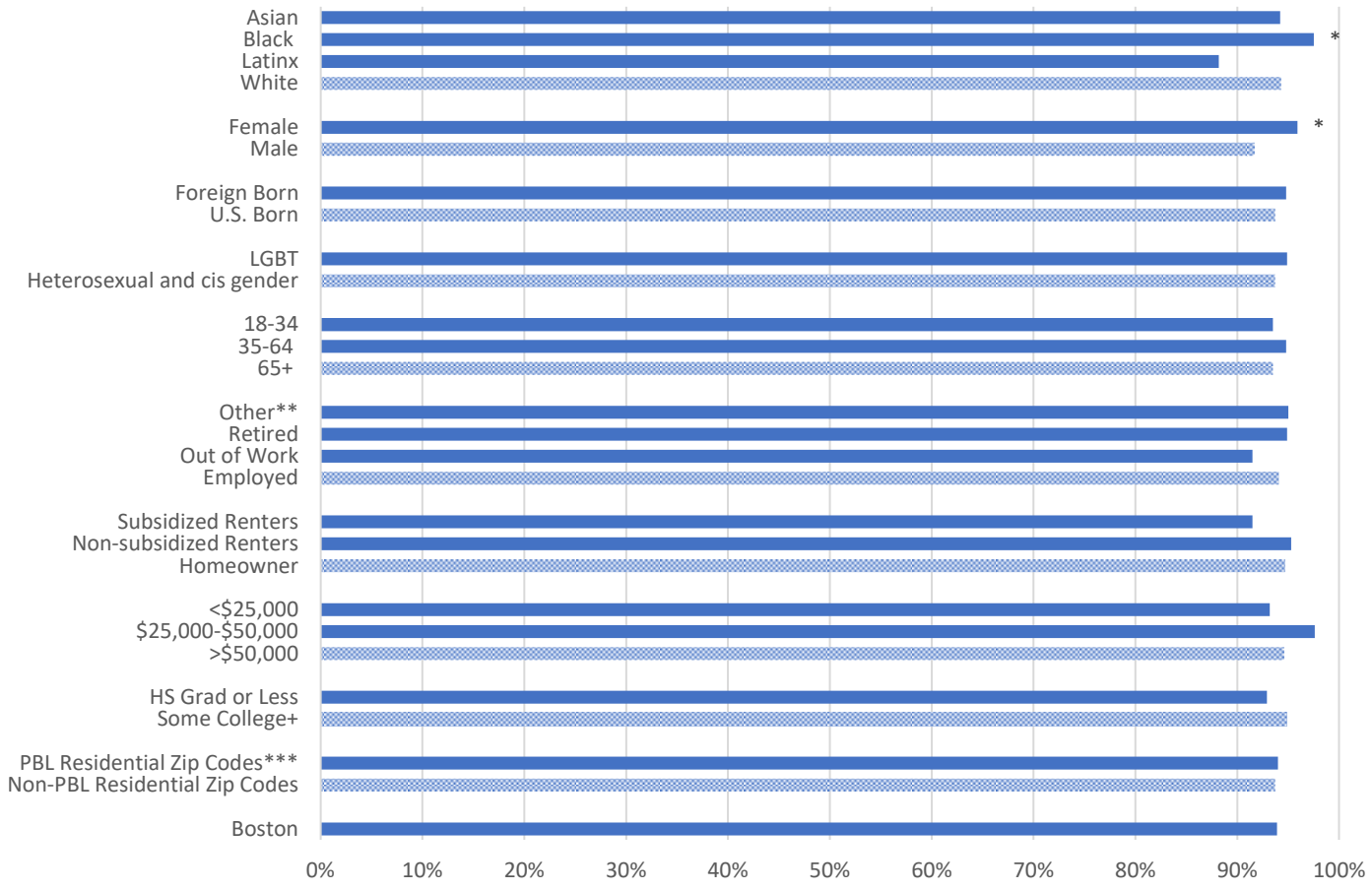
Overall, 96% of Boston adult residents believe staying home when sick is very important to stop the spread of COVID-19. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (98%) compared with male adults (94%)
- LGBT adults (99%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (96%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (96%) compared with adults ages 65+ (92%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (93%) and Latinx adults (94%) compared with White adults (99%)

Figure 25. Isolating for 7-14 days when exposed to COVID-19 is very important to preventing its spread



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: To stop the spread of COVID-19 how important do you think it is for people like you to do the following? Please tell me if these actions are very important, somewhat important or not important. **(Self-quarantining (isolating from others) for 7-14 days if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19)**

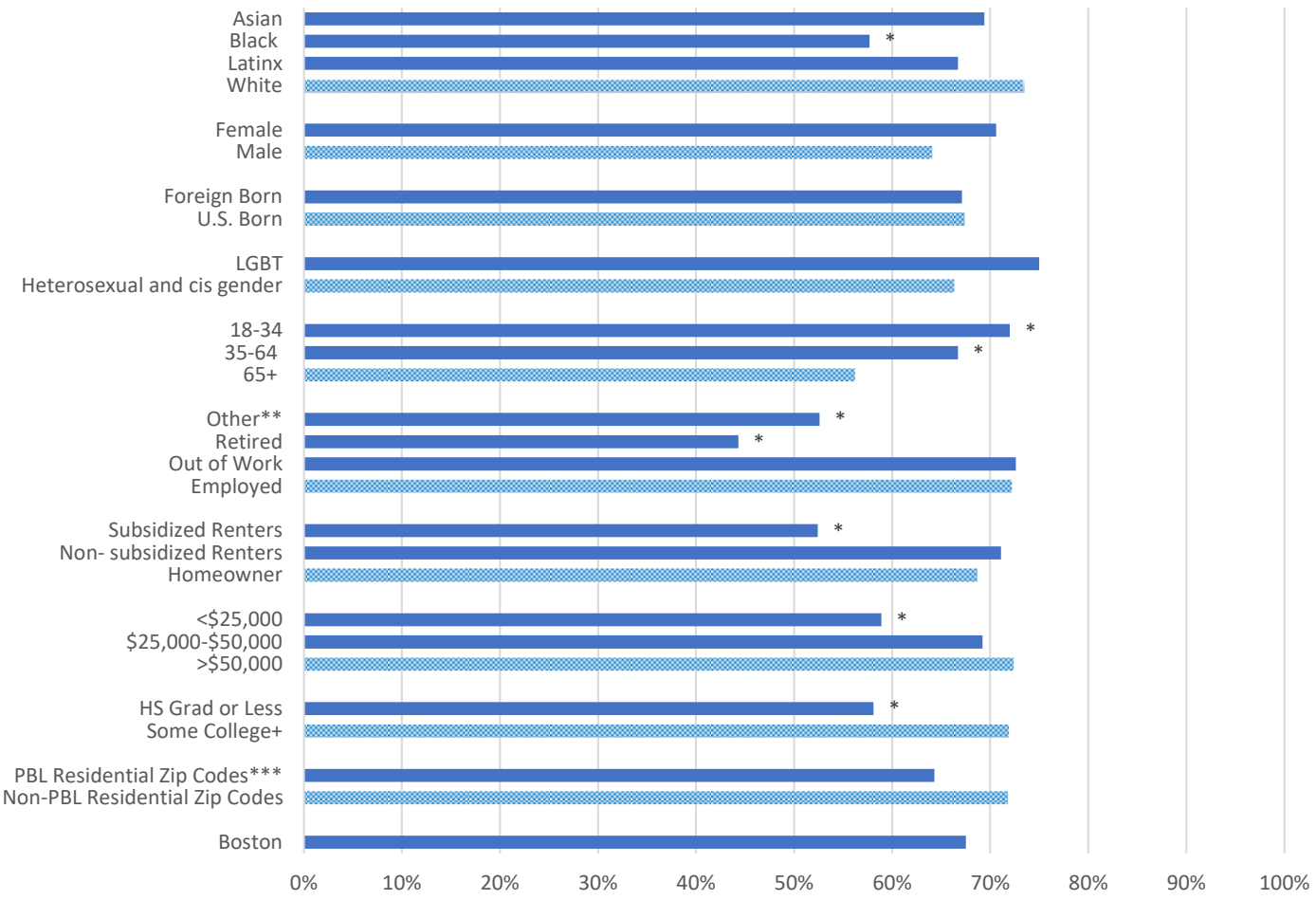
Overall, 94% of Boston adult residents believe staying home when sick is very important to stop the spread of COVID-19.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (98%) compared with White adults (94%)
- Female adults (96%) compared with male adults (92%)

COVID-19 Testing

Figure 26. Tested for COVID-19 at least once



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: How many times have you been tested for COVID-19?

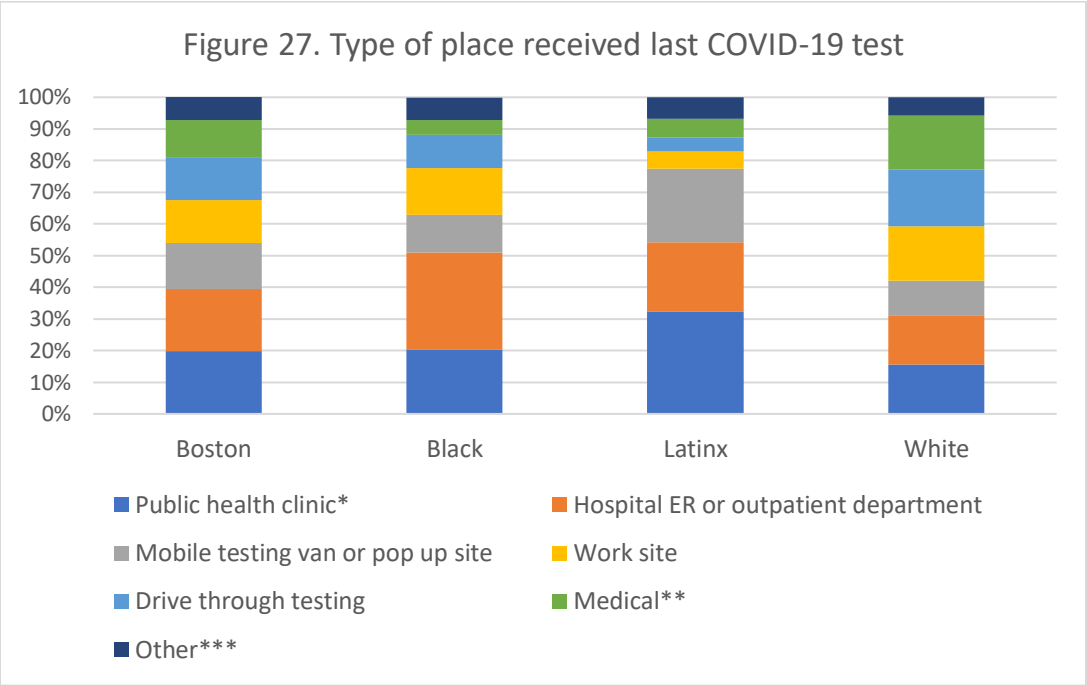
Overall, 68% of Boston adult residents have been tested for COVID-19 at least once.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 and adults ages 35-64 compared with adults ages 65+

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (58%) compared with White adults (73%)
- Adults with other employment status (56%) and retired adults (53%) compared with employed adults (72%)
- Subsidized renters (52%) compared with homeowners (69%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (59%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (72%).
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (58%) compared with adults with at least some college (72%)



*Includes public health clinics and new emergency testing sites
**Includes doctor's offices and pharmacy or acute care clinics
***Includes home testing kits and other

Data not presented for Asian residents due to sample limitations.

Question: Where were you tested for COVID-19 most recently?

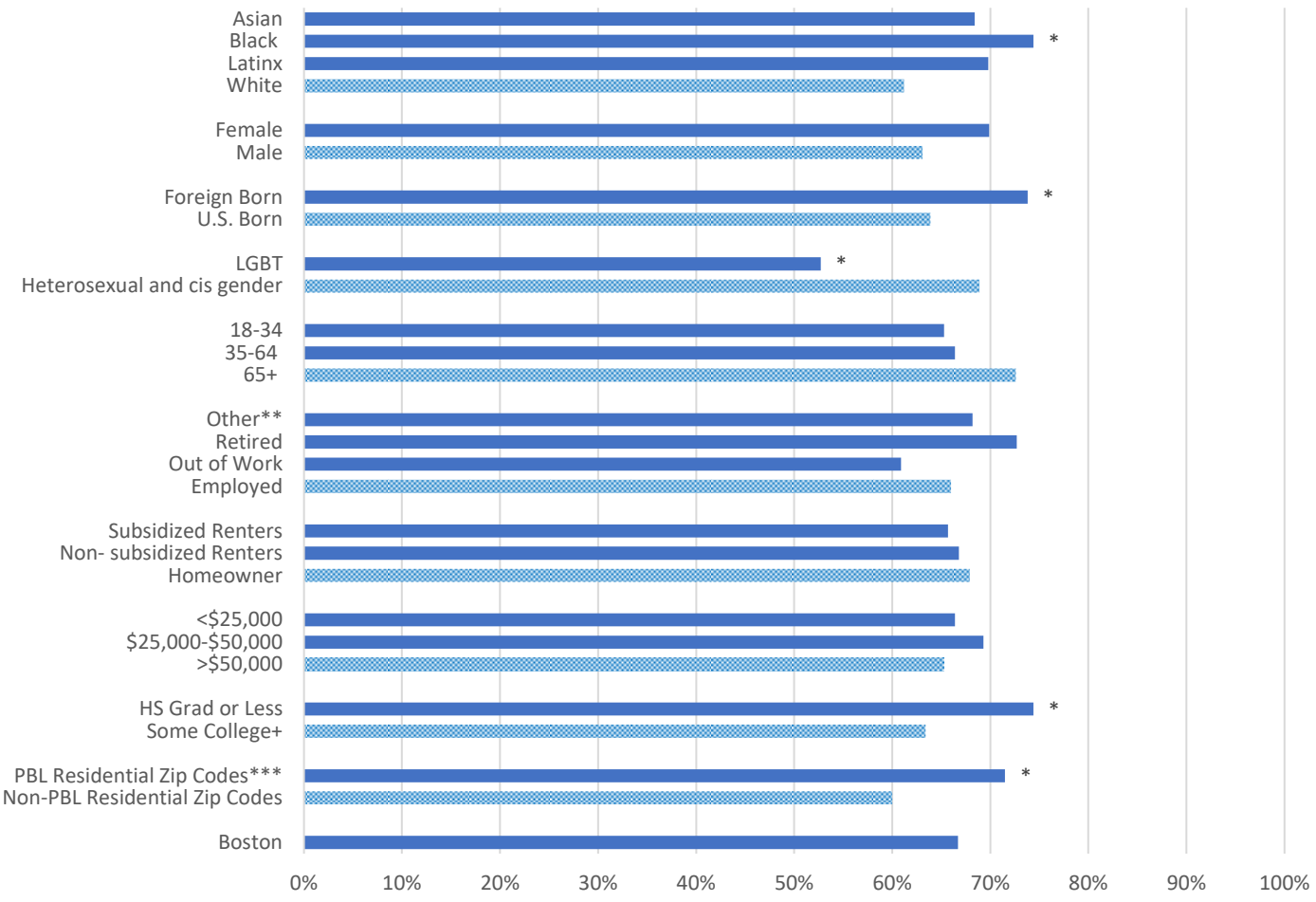
Twenty percent (20%) of Boston adults who have had at least one COVID-19 test received their last test at a public health clinic (including new emergency testing sites). Twenty percent (20%) received their last test at a hospital emergency or outpatient department, 15% at mobile testing van or popup site, 14% at a work site, 13% with drive through testing, 12% in a medical setting (including doctor's offices, pharmacies, and acute care clinics, and 7% in another place (including using a home testing kit).

Twenty percent (20%) of Black adults who have had at least one COVID-19 test received their last test at a public health clinic (including new emergency testing sites). Thirty-one percent (31%) received their last test at a hospital emergency or outpatient department, 12% at mobile testing van or popup site, 10% at a work site, 10% with drive through testing, 5% in a medical setting (including doctor's offices, pharmacies, and acute care clinics, and 7% in another place (including using a home testing kit).

Thirty-two percent (32%) of Latinx adults who have had at least one COVID-19 test received their last test at a public health clinic (including new emergency testing sites). Twenty-two percent (22%) received their last test at a hospital emergency or outpatient department, 23% at mobile testing van or popup site, 5% at a work site, 5% with drive through testing, 5% in a medical setting (including doctor's offices, pharmacies, and acute care clinics, and 7% in another place (including using a home testing kit).

Sixteen percent (16%) of White adults who have had at least one COVID-19 test received their last test at a public health clinic (including new emergency testing sites). Sixteen percent (16%) received their last test at a hospital emergency or outpatient department, 11% at mobile testing van or popup site, 17% at a work site, 18% with drive through testing, 17% in a medical setting (including doctor's offices, pharmacies, and acute care clinics, and 6% in another place (including using a home testing kit).

Figure 28. "Would not be difficult" to get a COVID-19 test



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Currently, if you wanted to be tested, how difficult would it be to get tested?

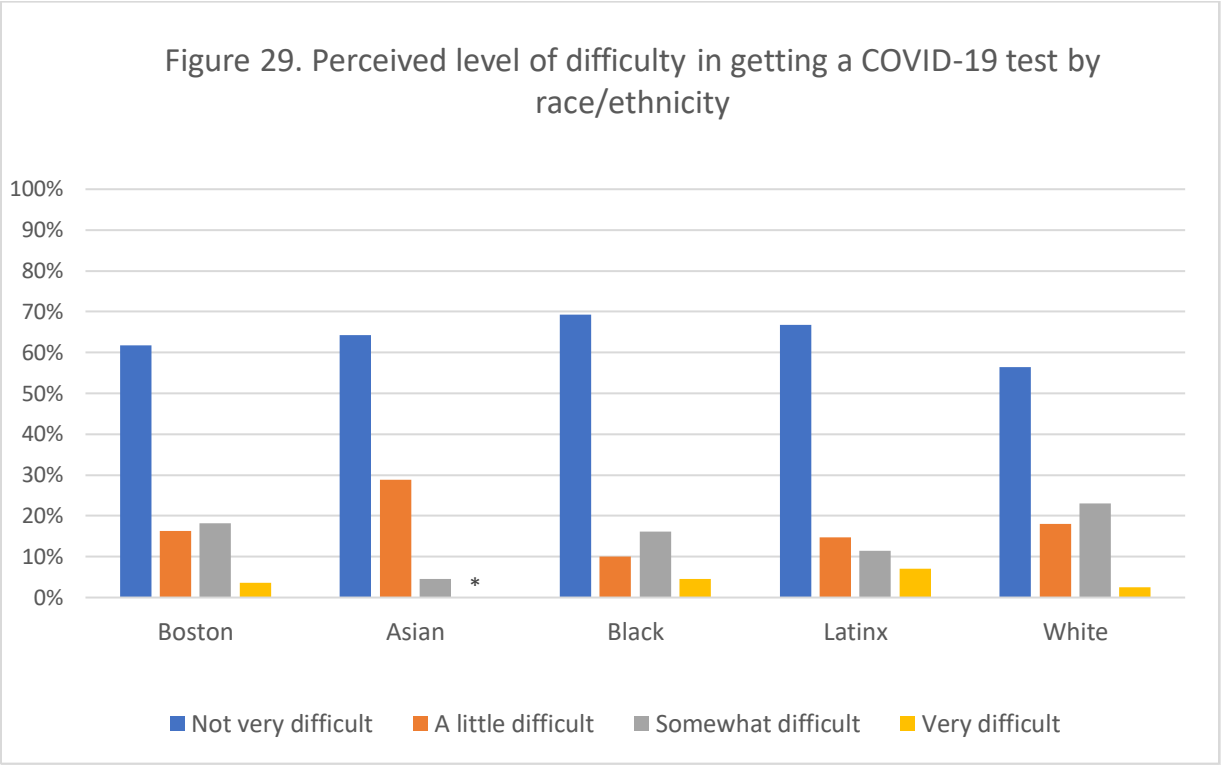
Overall, 62% of Boston adult residents do not think it would be difficult at all to get a COVID-19 test.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (74%) compared with White adults (62%)
- Foreign born adults (74%) compared with U.S. born adults (64%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (74%) compared with adults with some college (64%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (72%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (60%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (53%) compared to heterosexual and cis gender adults (69%)



*Data not presented for Asian residents due to sample limitations.

Question: Currently, if you wanted to be tested, how difficult would it be to get tested?

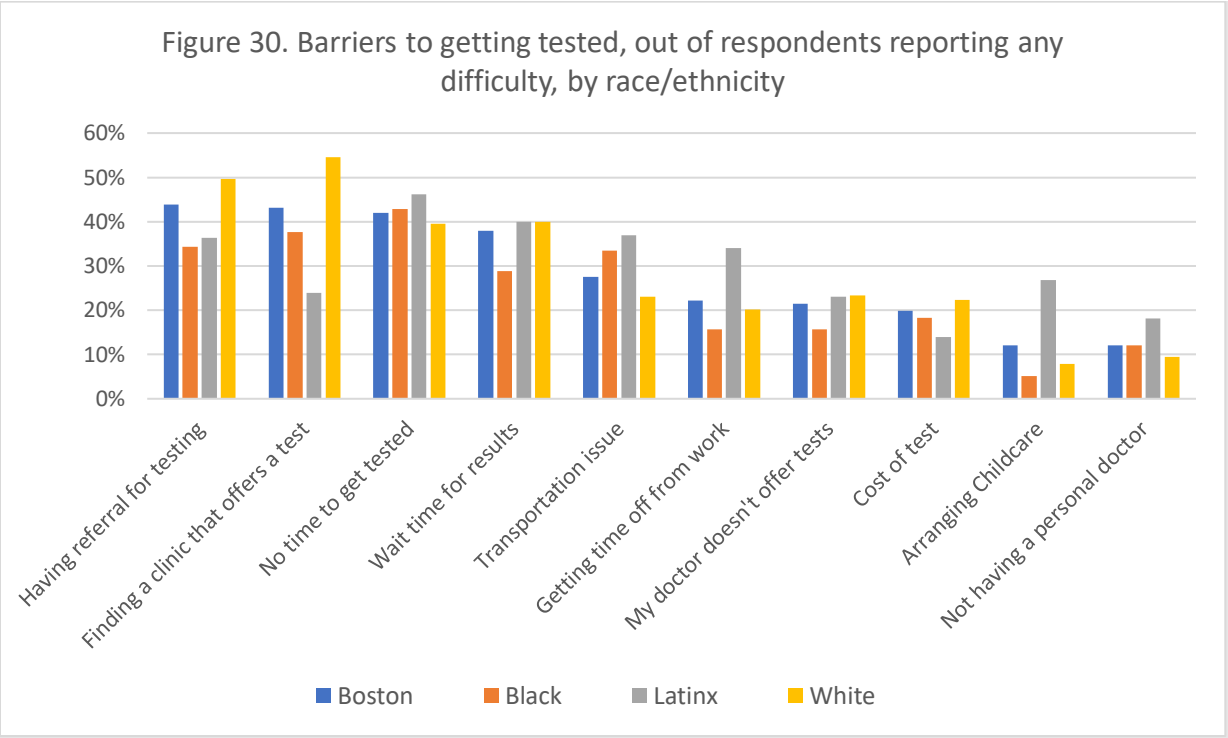
Sixty-two percent (62%) of Boston adults said it would not be very difficult to get a COVID-19 test, 16% said it would be a little difficult, 18% said it would be somewhat difficult, and 4% said it would be very difficult.

Sixty-four percent (64%) of Asian adults said it would not be very difficult to get a COVID-19 test, 29% said it would be a little difficult, and 5% said it would be somewhat difficult. There was not enough sample to present those who said very difficult.

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of Black adults said it would not be very difficult to get a COVID-19 test, 10% said it would be a little difficult, 16% said it would be somewhat difficult, and 7% said it would be very difficult.

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of Latinx adults said it would not be very difficult to get a COVID-19 test, 15% said it would be a little difficult, 11% said it would be somewhat difficult, and 7% said it would be very difficult.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of White adults said it would not be very difficult to get a COVID-19 test, 18% said it would be a little difficult, 23% said it would be somewhat difficult, and 3% said it would be very difficult.



Data not presented for Asian residents due to sample limitations. Please note percentages presented from range 0-60% for readability.

Question: I am going to read a list. Please tell me yes or no which of these factors are likely to cause you difficulty with getting a test: Getting time off from work, arranging childcare, my doctor does not offer tests, not having a personal doctor, getting to the test location/a transportation issue, cost of the test, having a referral or symptoms which qualify for testing, wait time for results is too long, time to get tested, other factors.

44% of Boston adults who said it would be very difficult, somewhat difficult, or a little difficult to get tested reported having a referral for testing as a potential barrier to getting tested. 43% reported finding a clinic that offers a test, 42% reported no time to get tested, 38% reported wait time for results, 28% reported difficulties with transportation, 22% reported getting time off from work, 22% reported their doctor doesn't offer tests, 20% reported cost of test, 12% reported arranging childcare, and 12% reported not having a personal doctor.

34% of Black adults who said it would be very difficult, somewhat difficult, or a little difficult to get tested reported having a referral for testing as a potential barrier to getting tested. 38% reported finding a clinic that offers a test, 43% reported no time to get tested, 29% reported wait time for results, 33% reported difficulties with transportation, 16% reported getting time off from work, 16% reported their doctor doesn't offer tests, 18% reported cost of test, 5% reported arranging childcare, and 12% reported not having a personal doctor.

36% of Latinx adults who said it would be very difficult, somewhat difficult, or a little difficult to get tested reported having a referral for testing as a potential barrier to getting tested. 24% reported finding a clinic that offers a test, 46% reported no time to get tested, 40% reported wait time for results, 37% reported difficulties with transportation, 34% reported getting time off from work, 23% reported their doctor doesn't offer tests, 14% reported cost of test, 27% reported arranging childcare, and 18% reported not having a personal doctor.

50% of White adults who said it would be very difficult, somewhat difficult, or a little difficult to get tested reported having a referral for testing as a potential barrier to getting tested. 55% reported finding a clinic that offers a test, 40% reported no time to get tested, 40% reported wait time for results, 23% reported difficulties with transportation, 20% reported getting time off from work, 23% reported their doctor doesn't offer tests, 22% reported cost of test, 8% reported arranging childcare, and 9% reported not having a personal doctor.

Figure 31. Factors making it difficult to get tested, out of respondents reporting any difficulty getting tested, by race/ethnicity and residential zip code

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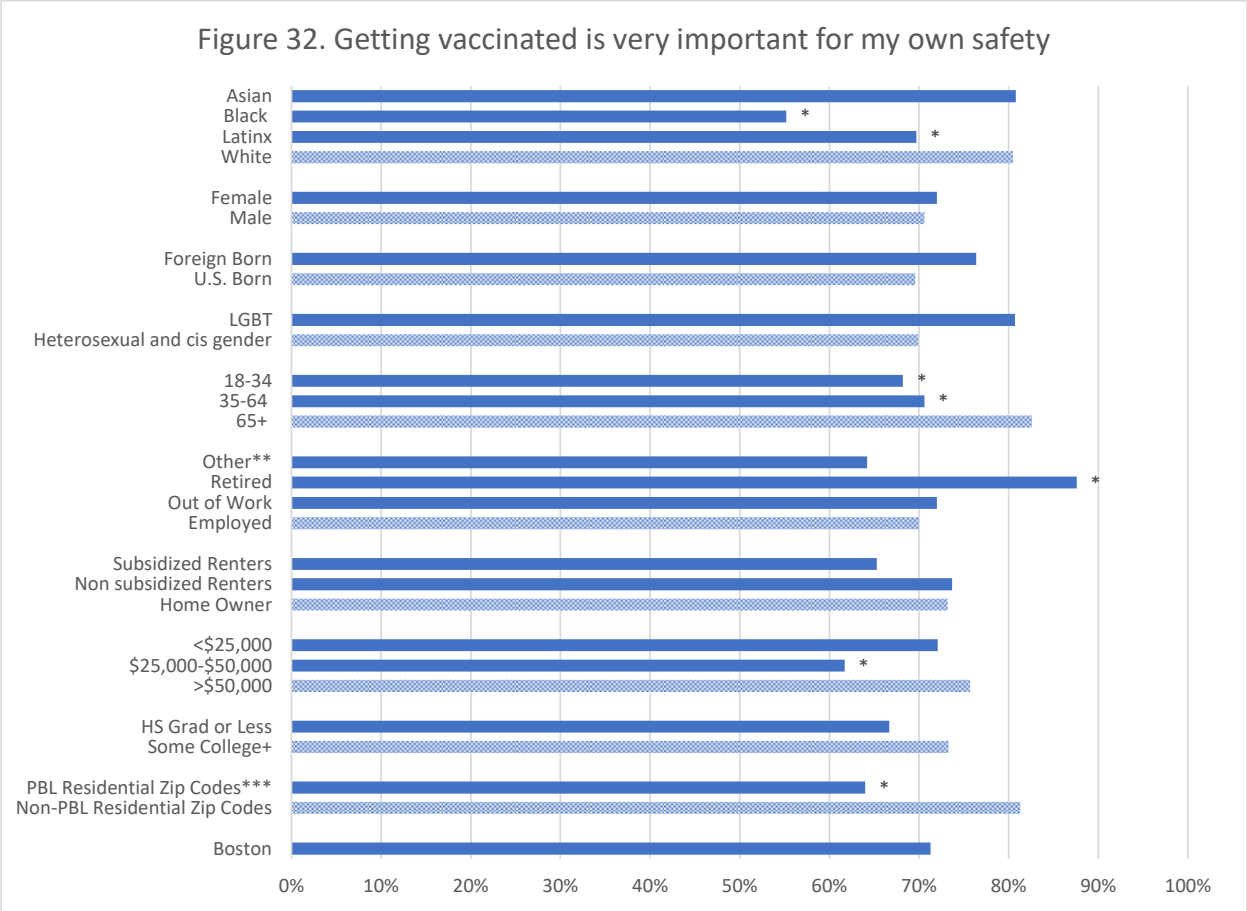
Question: I am going to read a list. Please tell me yes or no which of these factors are likely to cause you difficulty with getting a test: Getting time off from work, arranging childcare, my doctor does not offer tests, not having a personal doctor, getting to the test location/a transportation issue, cost of the test, having a referral or symptoms which qualify for testing, wait time for results is too long, time to get tested, other factors.

COVID-19 Vaccination Beliefs



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

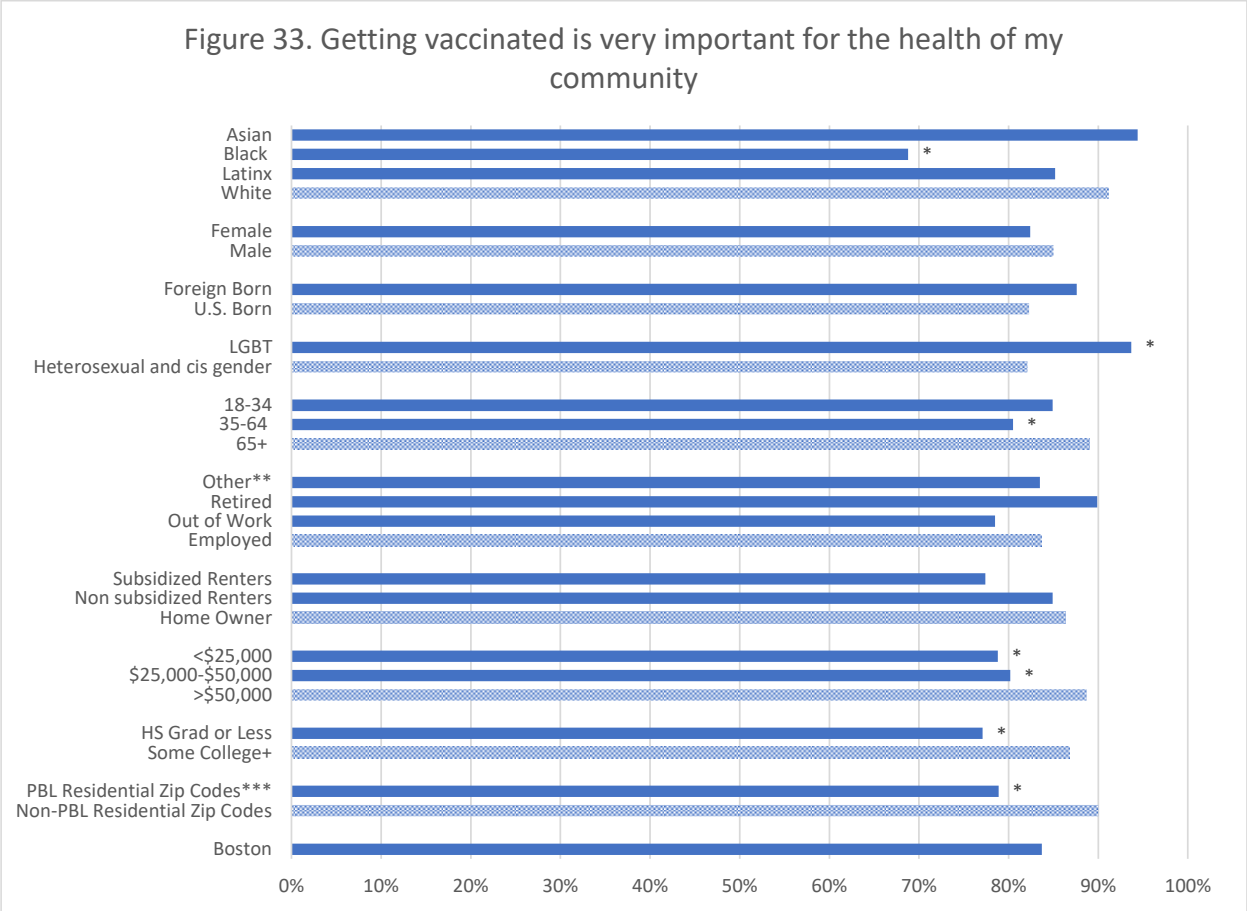
Question: How important do you think getting vaccinated will be for your own safety?

Overall, 71% of Boston adult residents believe getting the vaccine is very important for their own safety. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Retired adults (88%) compared with employed adults (70%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (55%), and Latinx adults (70%) compared with White adults (81%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (68%) and adults ages 35-64 (71%) compared with adults ages 65+ (83%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (62%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (76%).
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (64%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (81%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

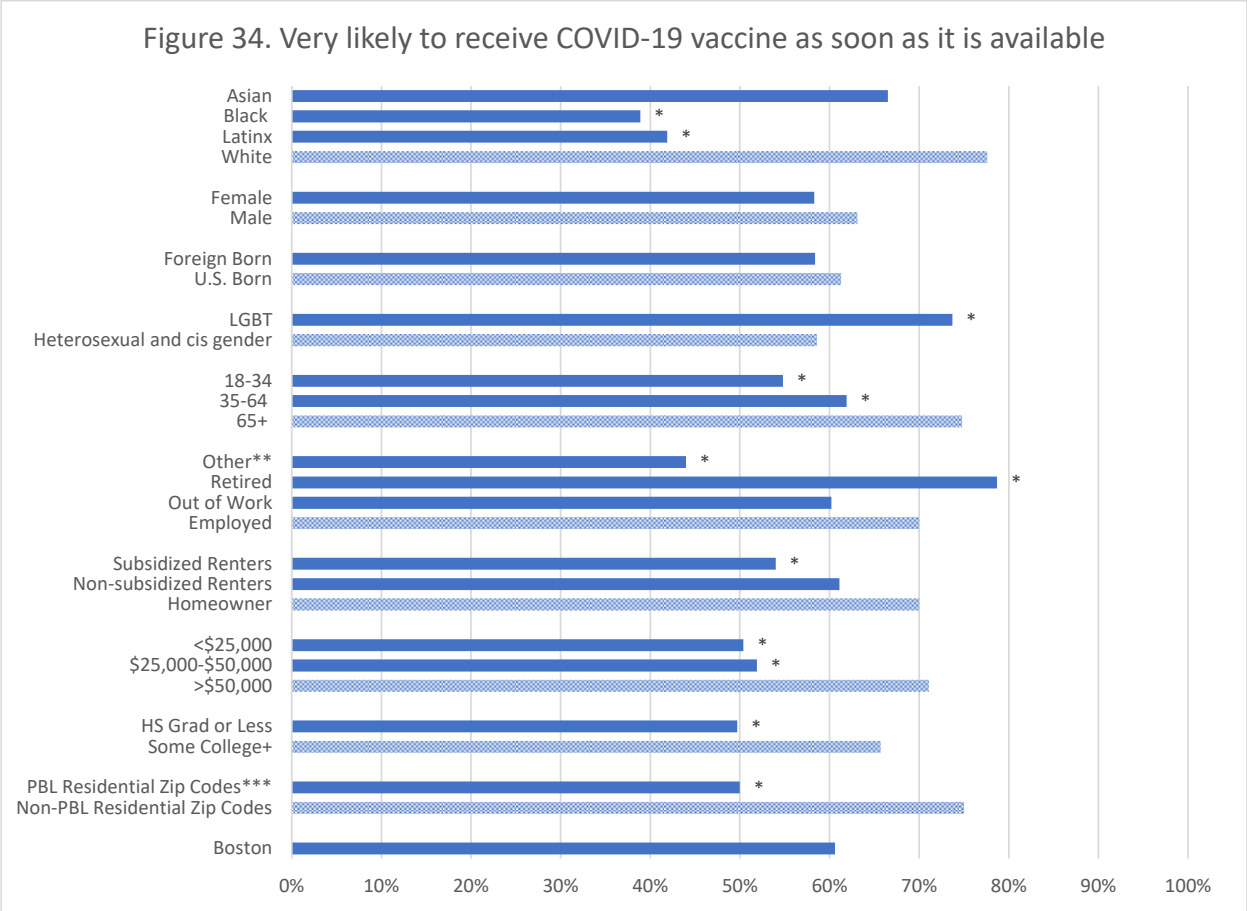
Question: How important do you think getting vaccinated will be for the health of others in your community?

Overall, 84% of Boston adult residents believe getting the vaccine is very important for the health of their community. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (94%) compared with straight and cis gender adults (82%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (69%) compared with White adults (91%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (81%) compared with adults ages 65+ (89%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (79%) and adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (80%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (89%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (77%) compared with adults with at least some college (87%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (79%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (90%)



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

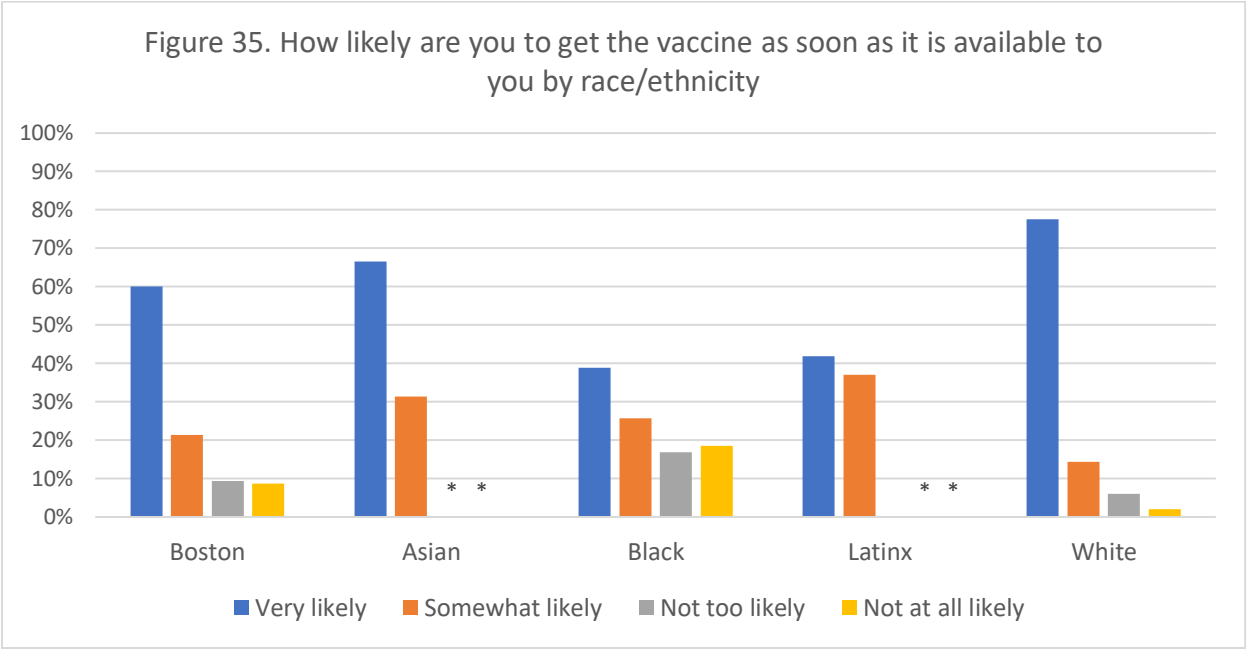
Question: How likely are you to try and get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as an approved one becomes available to you?

Overall, 61% of Boston adult residents reported they were very likely to try and get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as it became available to them. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (74%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (72%)
- Retired adults (79%) compared with employed adults (70%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (39%) and Latinx adults (42%) compared with White adults (78%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (55%) and adults ages 35-64 (62%) compared with adults ages 65+ (75%)
- Adults with other employment status (44%) compared to employed adults (70%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (50%) and adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (52%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (71%)
- Subsidized renters (54%) compared with homeowners (70%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (50%) compared with adults with at least some college (66%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (50%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (75%)



*Data not presented due to sample limitations

Question: How likely are you to try and get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as an approved one becomes available to you?

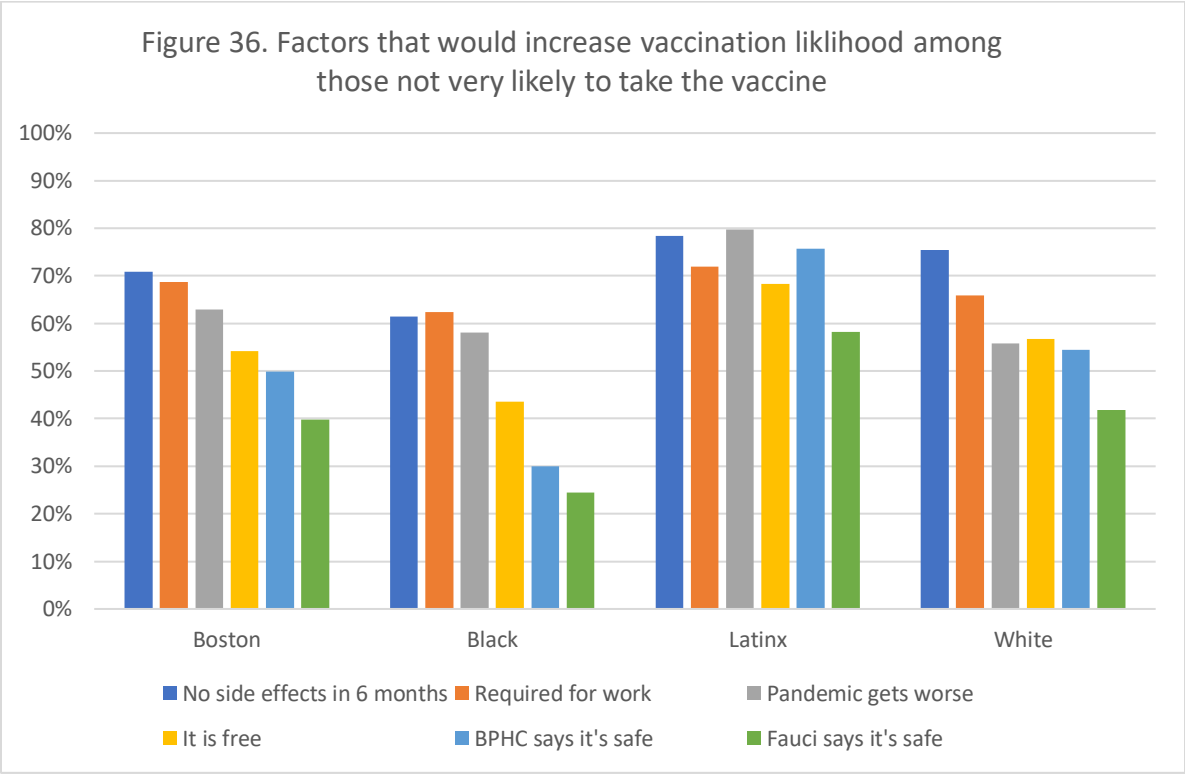
Of Boston adults, 60% were very likely to get the vaccine as soon as it is available to them, 21% were somewhat likely, 9% were not too likely, and 9% were not at all likely.

Of Asian adults, 67% were very likely and 31% were somewhat likely. There was not enough sample to present Asian residents not too likely or not at all likely.

Of Black adults, 39% were very likely, 26% were somewhat likely, 17% were not too likely, and 19% were not at all likely.

Of Latinx adults, 42% were very likely and 37% were somewhat likely. There was not enough sample to present Latinx residents not too likely or not at all likely.

Of White adults, 78% were very likely, 14% were somewhat likely, 6% were not too likely, and 2% were not at all likely.



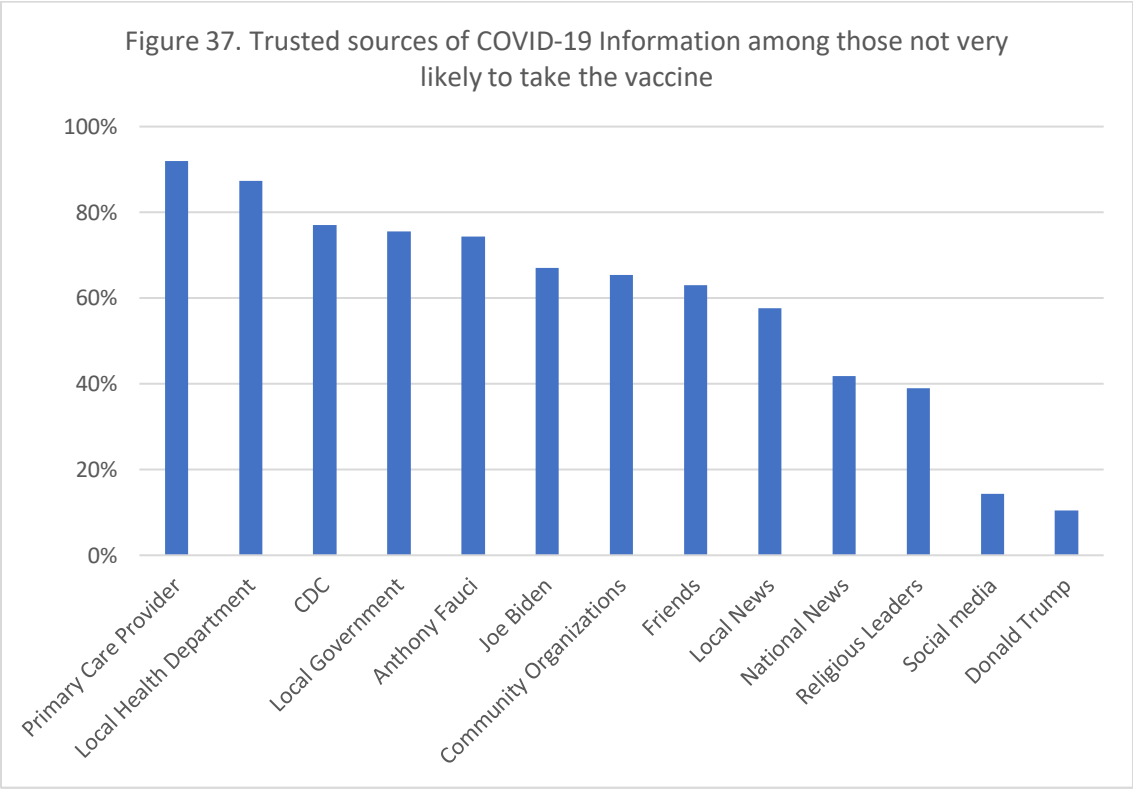
Questions: Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if Dr. Fauci says it is safe? Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if the Boston city health department (the Boston Public Health Commission) says it is safe? Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if within 6 months there were no side effects or other problems? Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if it were free? Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if the COVID-19 pandemic worsens? Would you be more likely to try and get the vaccine if it was required by your employer?

Overall, 71% of Boston adults not very likely to take the vaccine reported they would be more likely if there were no side effects after six months, 69% would take it if it was required for work, 63% would take it if the pandemic got worse, 54% would take it if it was free, 50% would take it if BPHC says it's safe, and 40% would take it if Dr. Fauci said it was safe.

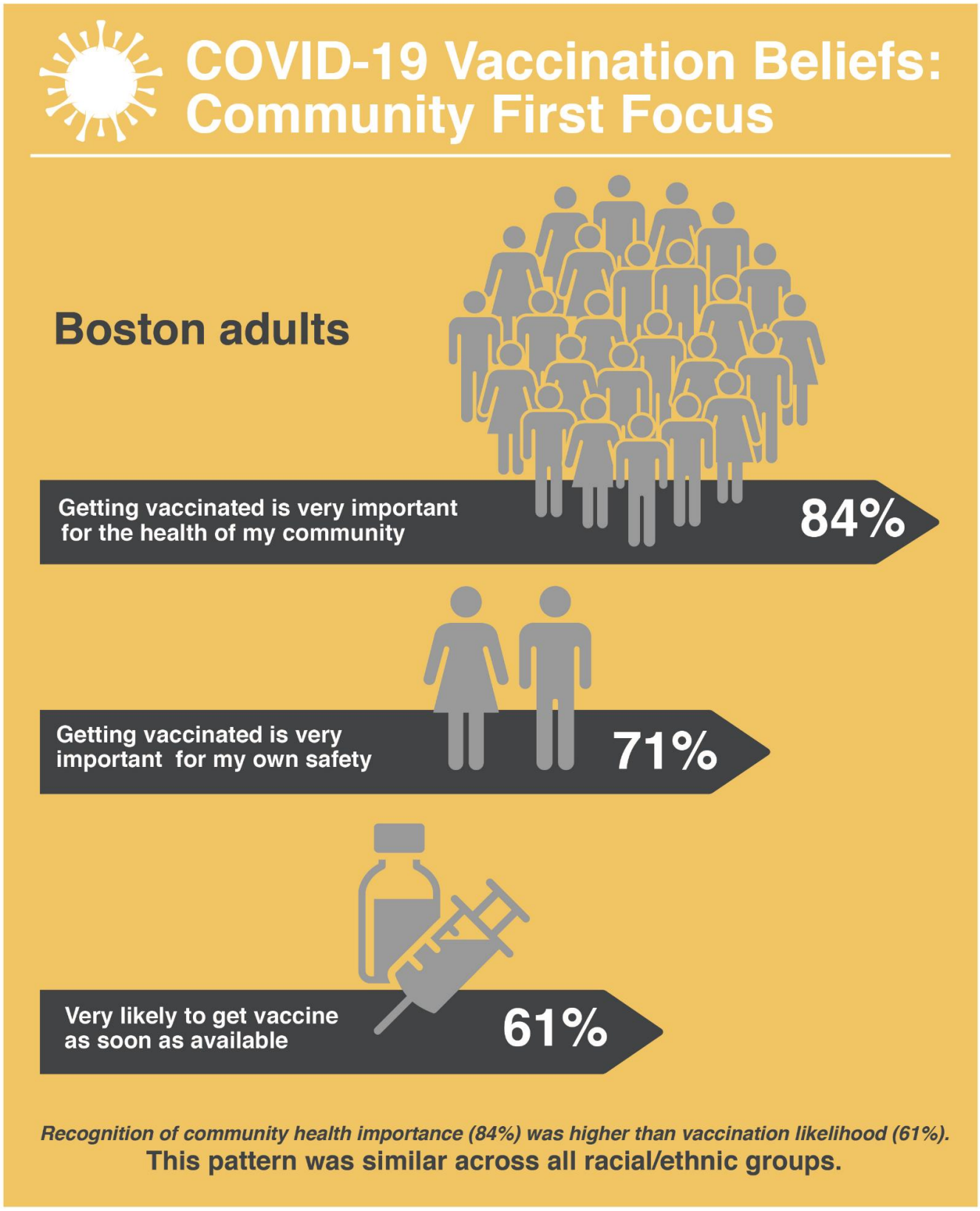
Overall, 61% of Black adults not very likely to take the vaccine reported they would be more likely if there were no side effects after six months, 62% would take it if it was required for work, 58% would take it if the pandemic got worse, 44% would take it if it was free, 30% would take it if BPHC said it is safe and 25% would take it if Dr. Fauci said it was safe.

Overall, 78% of Latinx adults not very likely to take the vaccine reported they would be more likely if there were no side effects after six months, 72% would take it if it was required for work, 80% would take it if the pandemic got worse, 68% would take it if it was free, 76% would take it if BPHC says it's safe, and 58% would take it if Dr. Fauci said it was safe.

Overall, 75% of White adults not very likely to take the vaccine reported they would be more likely if there were no side effects after six months, 66% would take it if it was required for work, 56% would take it if the pandemic got worse, 57% would take it if it was free, 55% would take it if BPHC says it's safe, and 42% would take it if Dr. Fauci said it was safe.

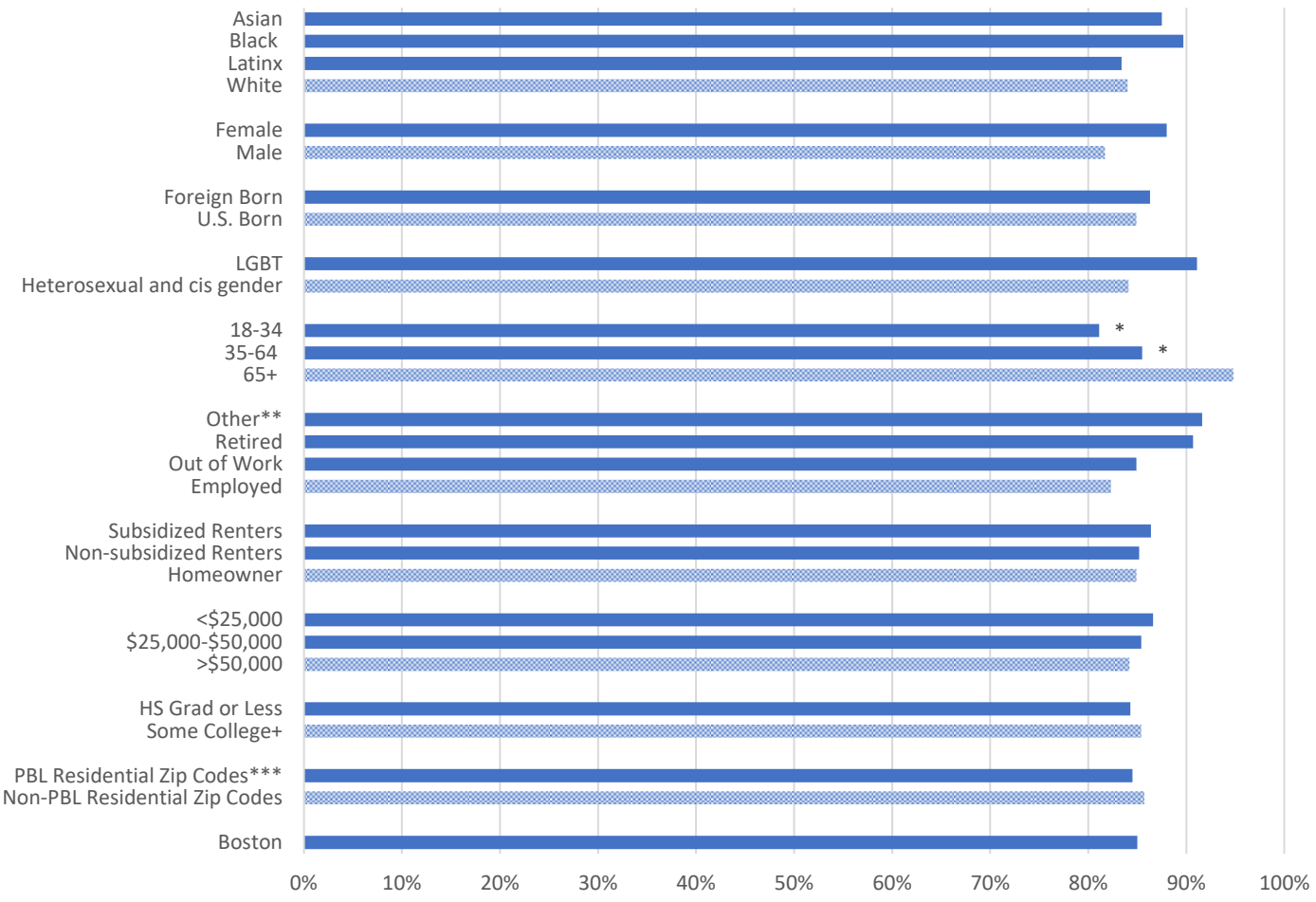


Overall, 92% of Boston adults not very likely to take the vaccine reported trusting their Primary Care Provider for COVID-19 information, 87% trusted local health department such as BPHC, 77% trusted the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 76% trusted their local government, 74% trusted Dr. Anthony Fauci, 67% trusted President Joe Biden, 65% trusted community organizations, 63% trusted friends, 58% trusted local news, 42% trusted national news, 39% trusted religious leaders, 14% trusted social media and 11% trusted former President Donald Trump.


COVID-19 Vaccination Beliefs:
Community First Focus
Boston adults
Getting vaccinated is very important for the health of my community
84%
Getting vaccinated is very important for my own safety
71%
Very likely to get vaccine as soon as available
61%
Recognition of community health importance (84%) was higher than vaccination likelihood (61%).
This pattern was similar across all racial/ethnic groups.

Masking Behaviors

Figure 38. Always wears a mask



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
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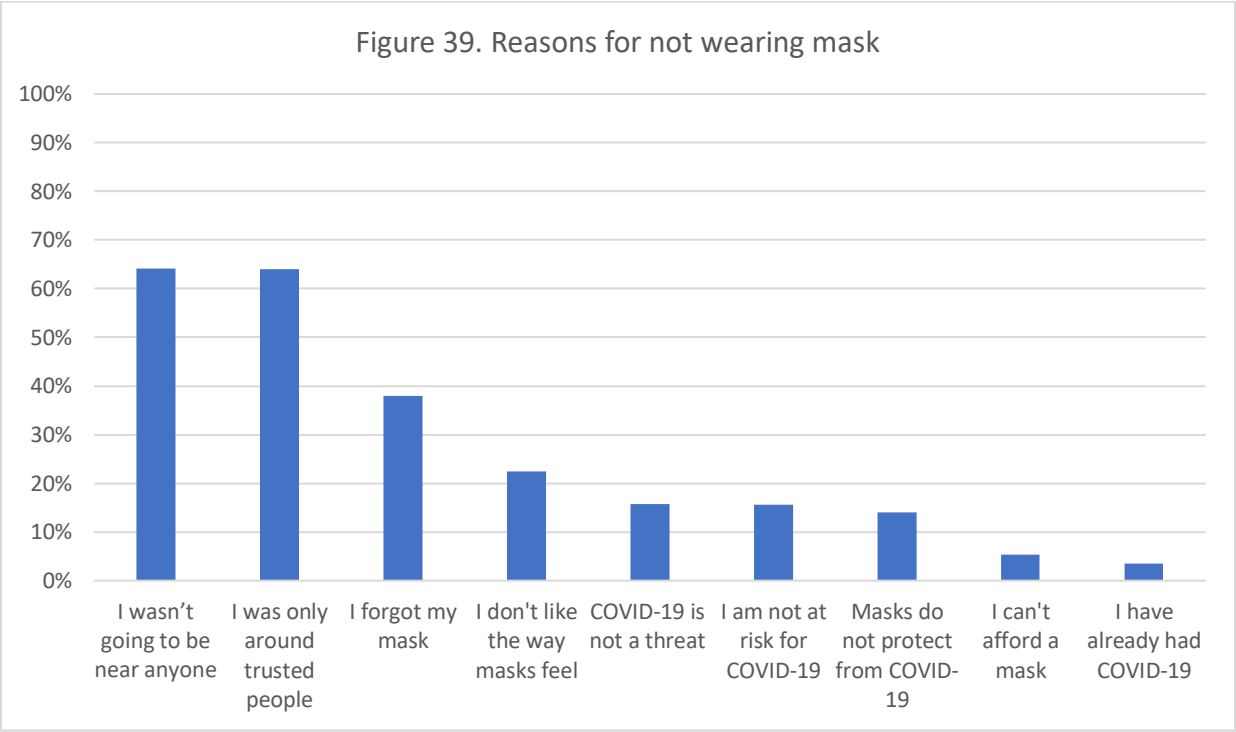
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: How often do you wear a face mask when near others outside your household?

Overall, 85% of Boston adult residents reported always wearing a mask in public.

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (81%) and adults ages 35-64 (86%) compared with adults ages 65+ (95%)

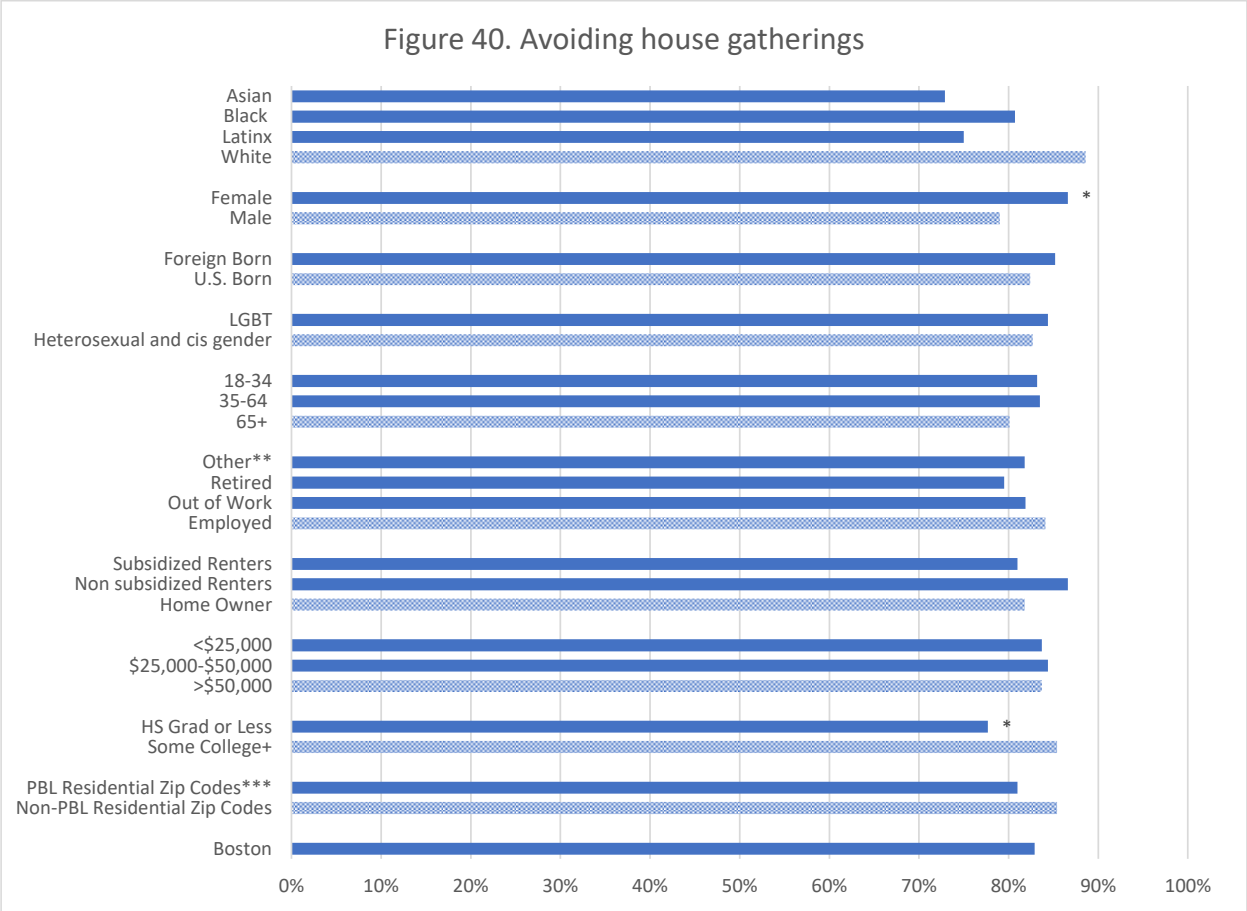


Data not presented by race/ethnicity due to sample limitations.

Question: Please tell me which of the following are reasons why you do not always wear a mask. Please reply yes or no to each item as it applies to you. **(I am not at risk for COVID-19, I already had COVID-19, I do not think masks provide protection, I was not going to be near anyone, I forgot my mask, I cannot afford a mask, I do not think COVID-19 is a threat, I do not like the feel or look of masks, I have limited exposure to a trusted circle of individuals, other).**

Overall, 64% of Boston adults who did not always (most of the time, some of the time, or none of the time) wear a mask reported not going to be near anyone as the reason they did not wear a mask, 64% reported they were only going to be around trusted people, 38% forgot their mask, 22% do not like the way masks feel, 16% reported COVID-19 is not a threat, 14% reported masks do not protect from COVID-19, 5% can't afford a mask and 4% have already had COVID-19.

Modified and Other Behaviors



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

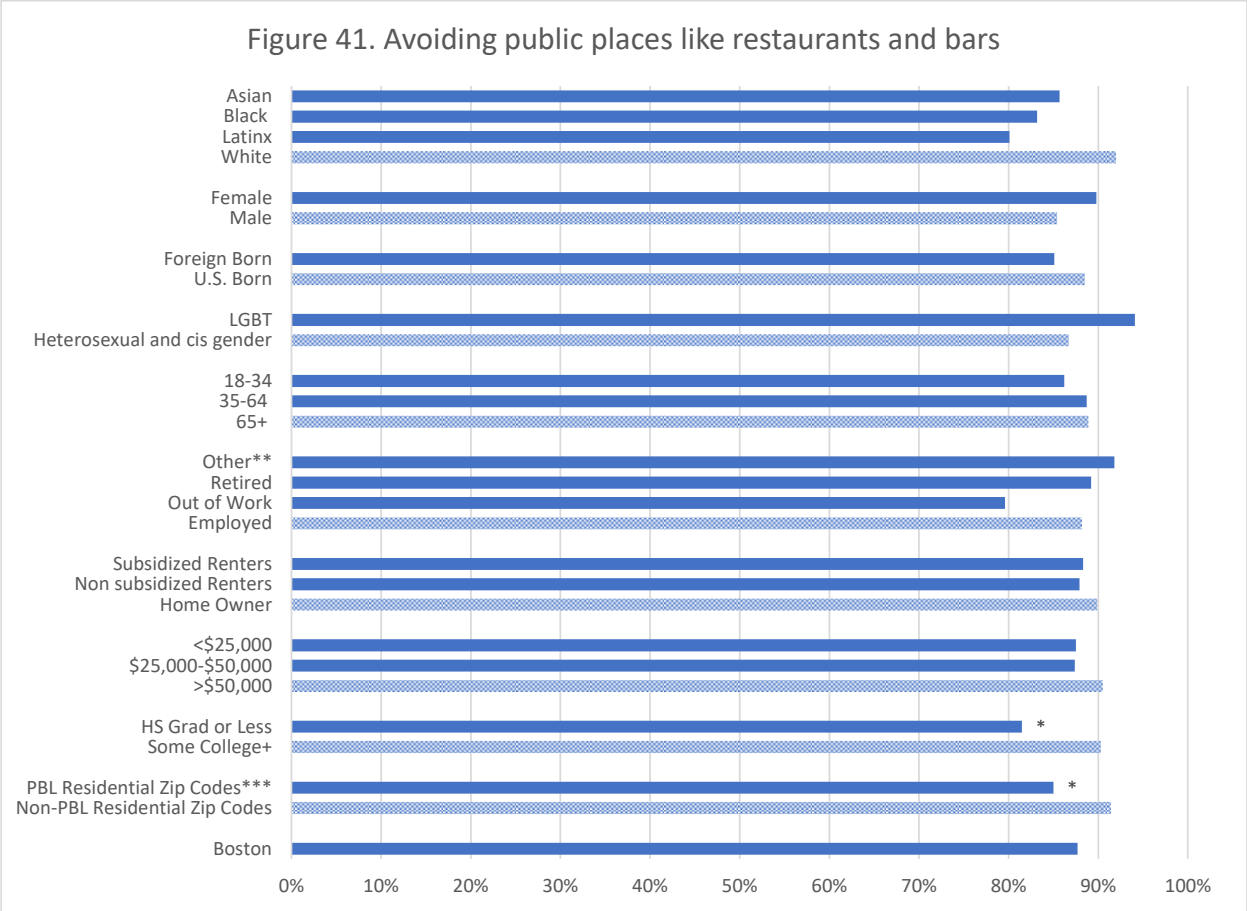
Question: Are you avoiding in-house get togethers with family or friends?

Overall, 83% of Boston adult residents reported they were avoiding house gatherings. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (87%) compared with male adults (79%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults with a high school diploma or less (78%) compared with adults with at least some college (85%)



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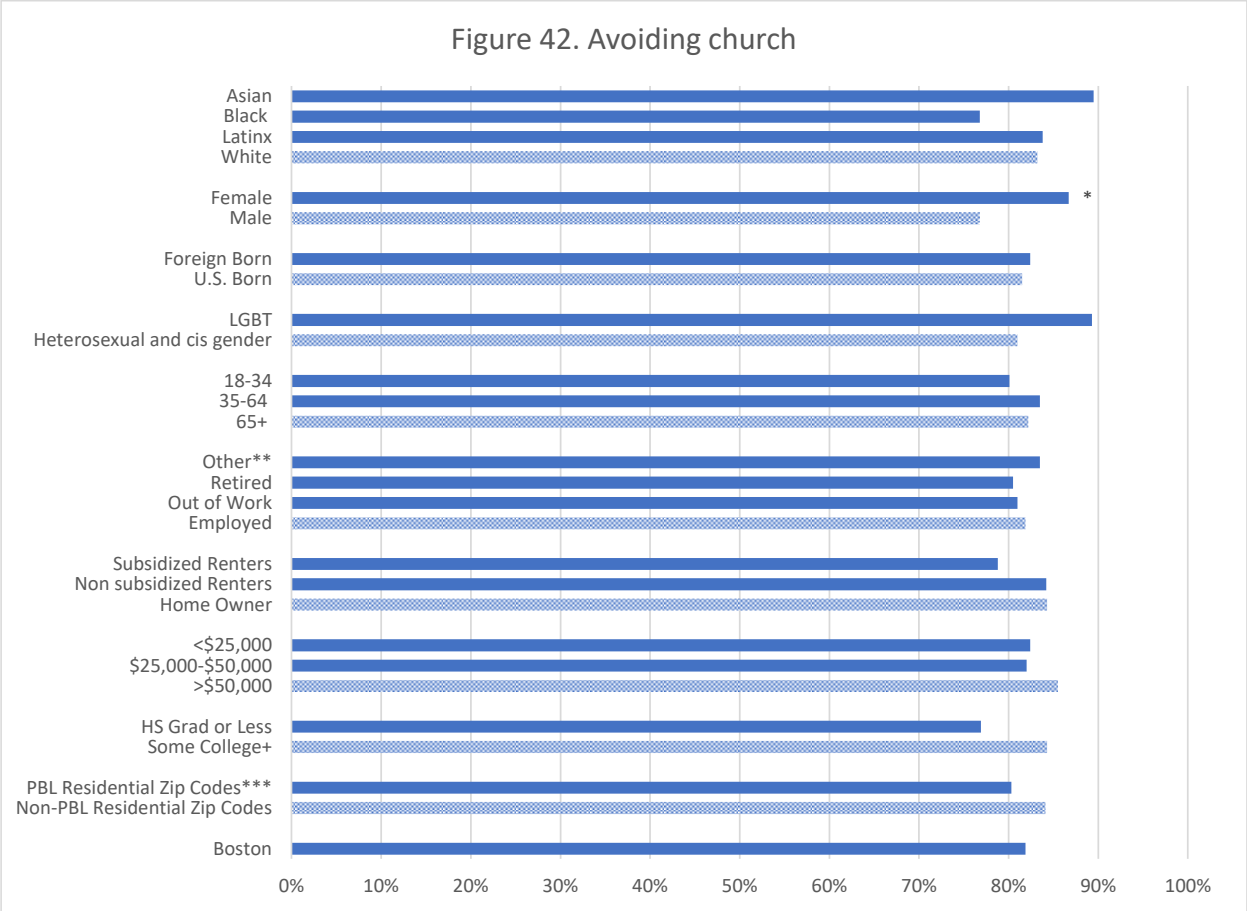
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, are you currently avoiding public or crowded places including restaurants and bars?

Overall, 88% of Boston adult residents reported they were avoiding public places like restaurants and bars. This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults with a high school diploma or less (82%) compared with adults with at least some college (90%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (85%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (91%)



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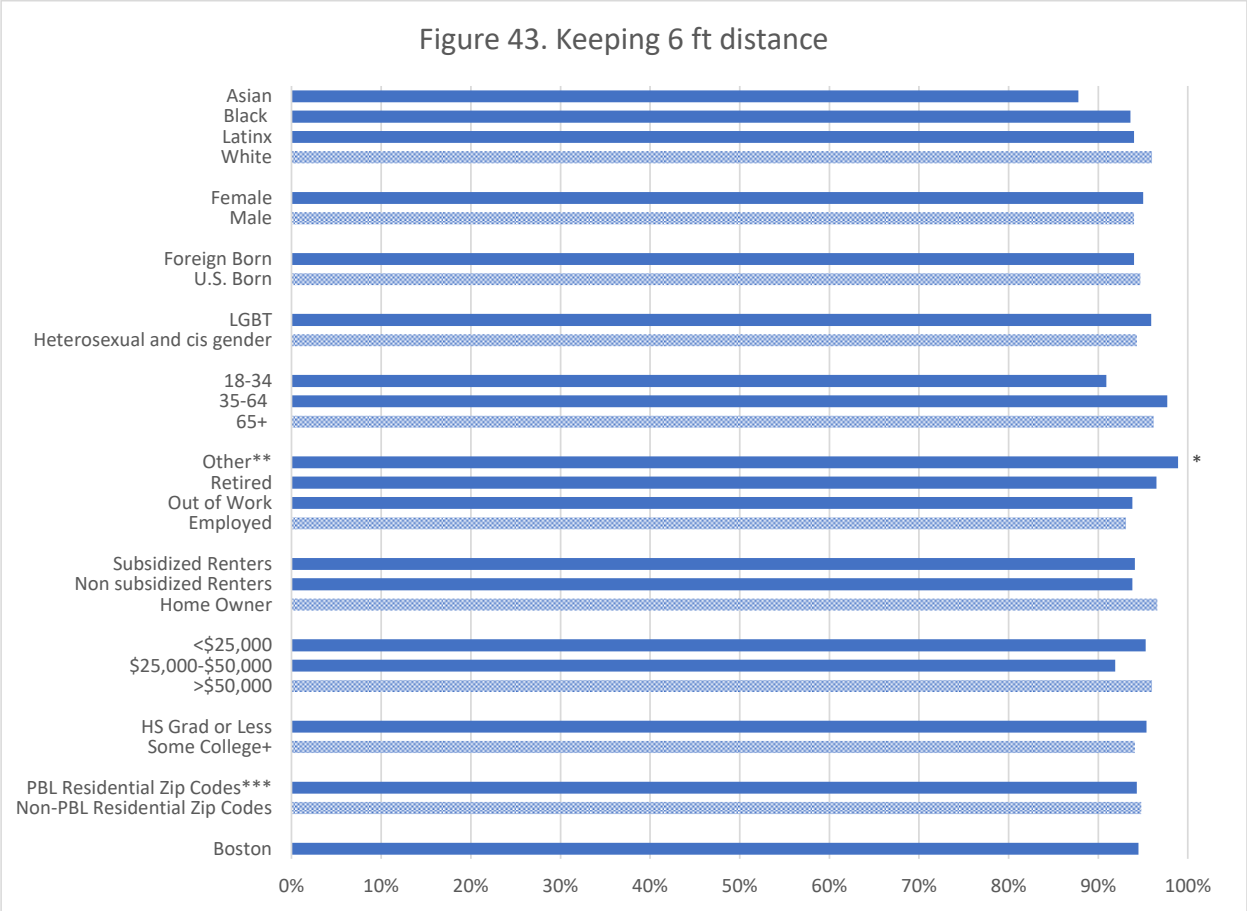
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, are you currently avoiding in-person church or worship services?

Overall, 82% of Boston adult residents reported they were avoiding church. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (87%) compared with male adults (77%)



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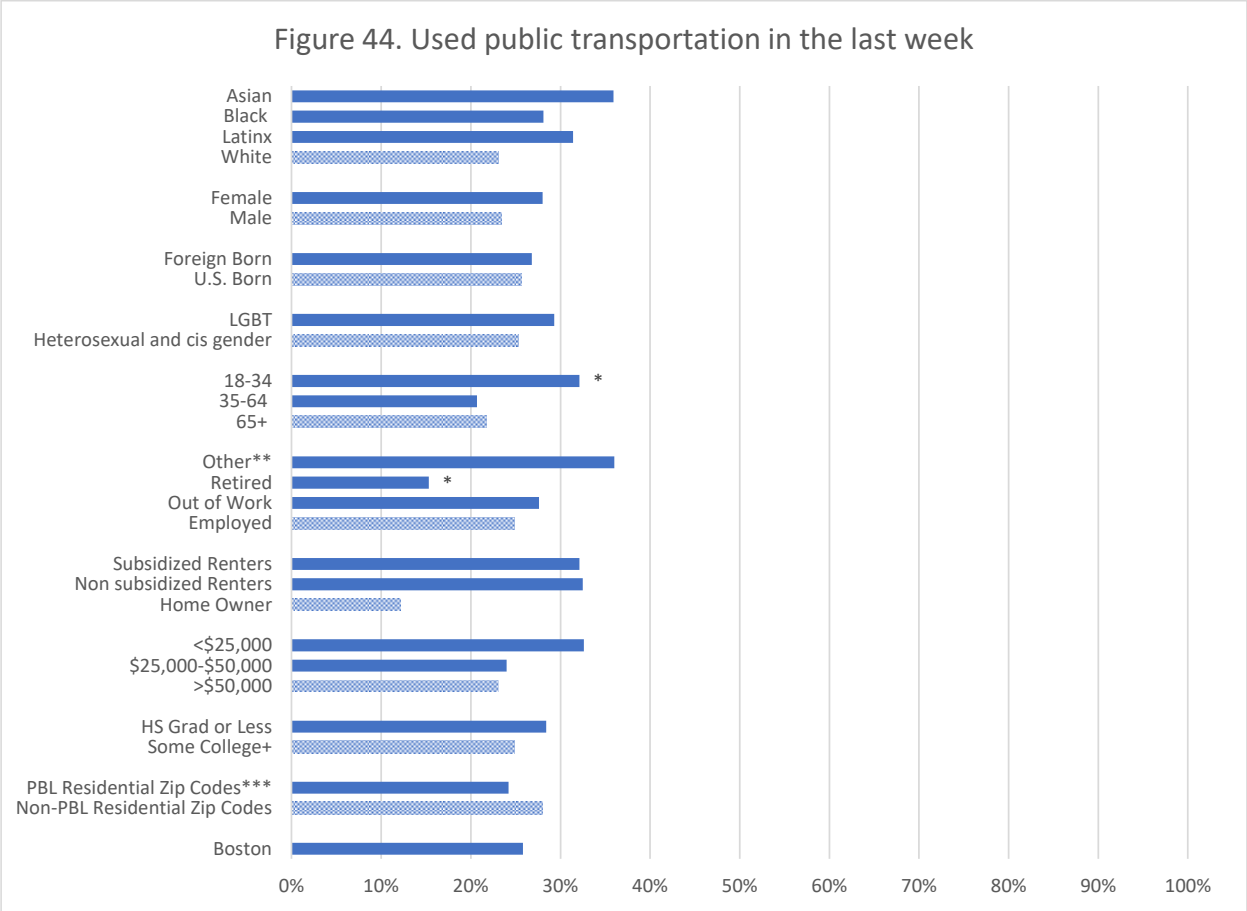
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Are you keeping six feet distance from others who live outside your household?

Overall, 95% of Boston adult residents reported they were keeping a 6 ft distance with others. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults with other employment status (99%) compared with employed adults (93%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

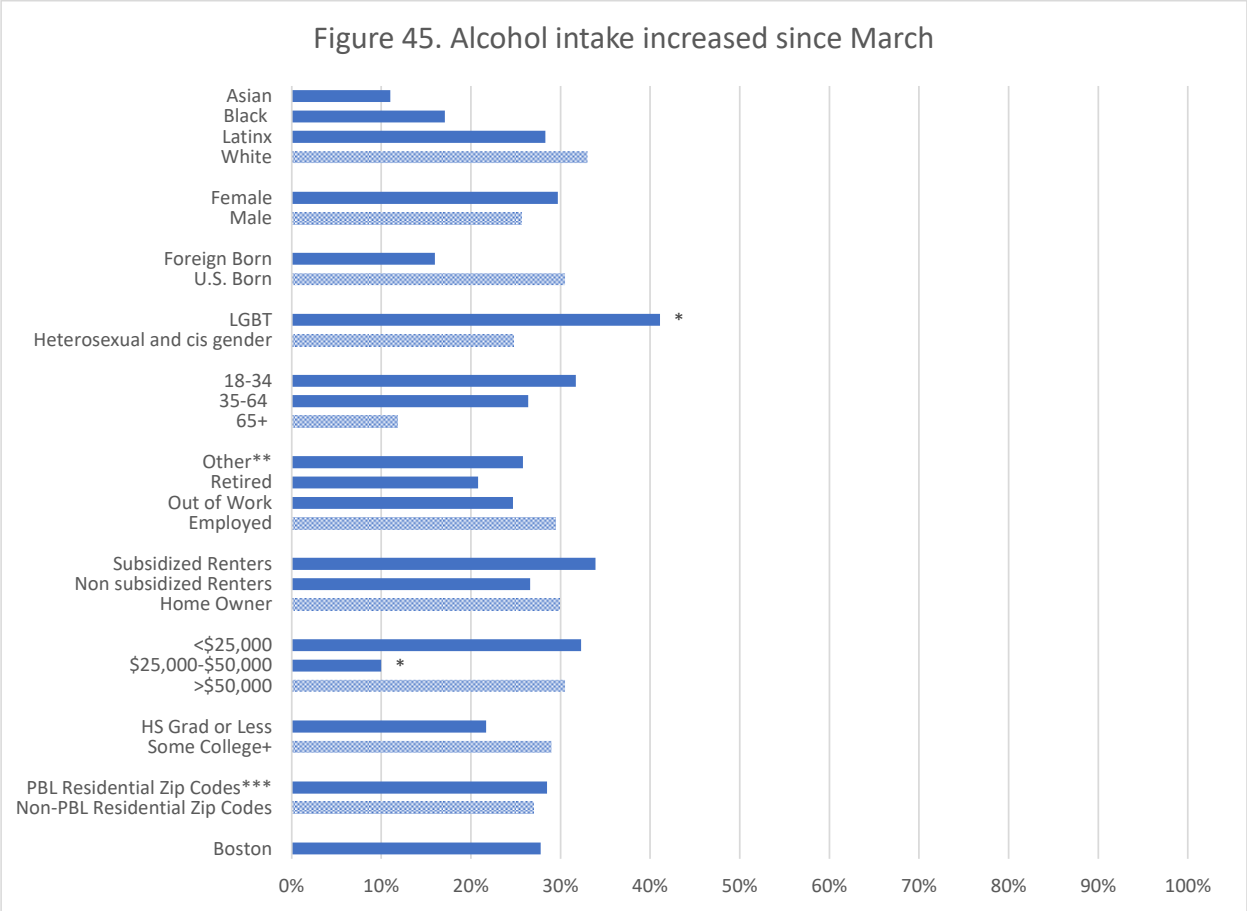
Question: In the past week how many days did you ride on a bus, trolley, subway train, or ride share such as Uber, Lyft, or a taxi?

Overall, 26% of Boston adult residents reported using public transportation in the past week. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (32%) compared with adults ages 65+ (22%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Retired adults (15%) compared with employed adults (25%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

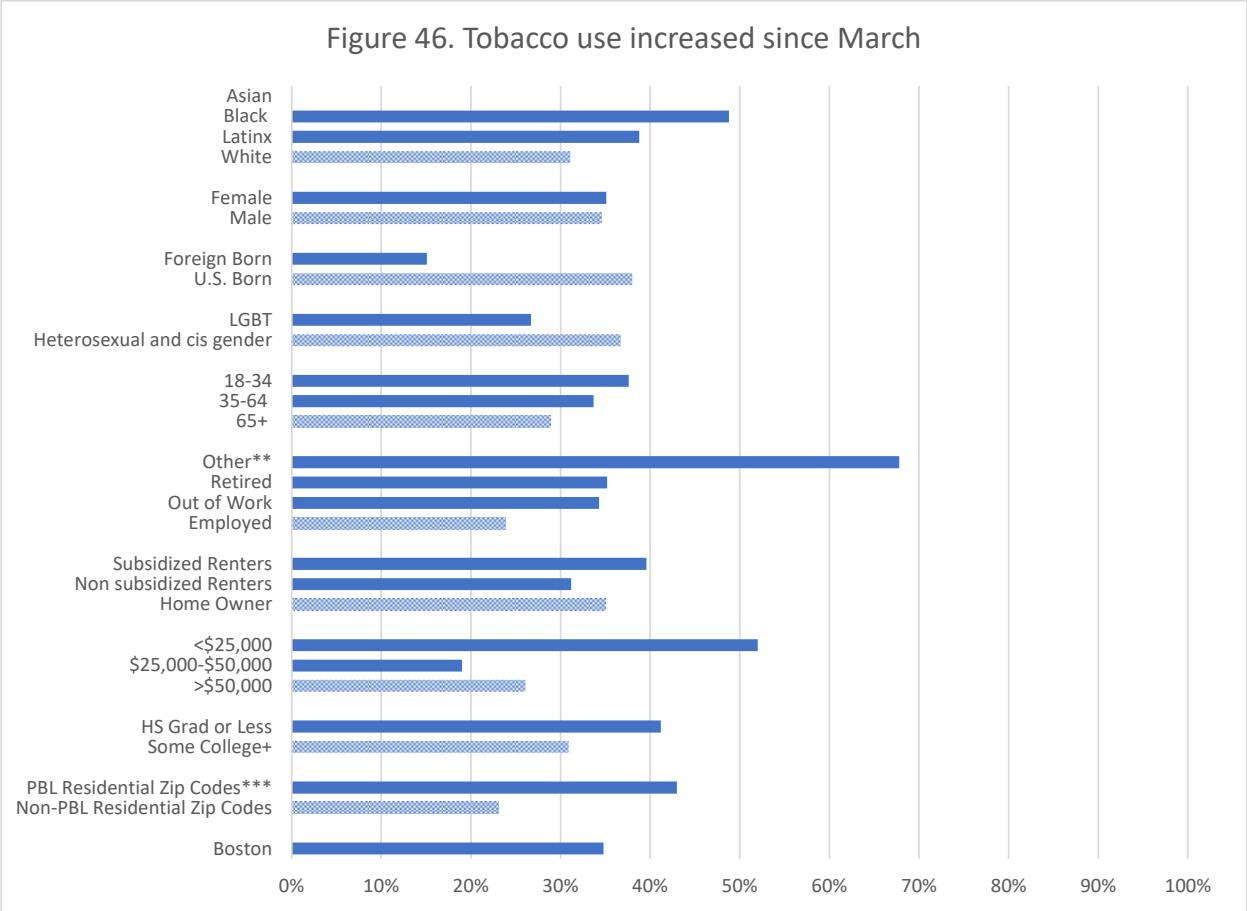
Question: Since March 1, 2020, how would you describe your weekly alcohol intake?

Overall, 28% of Boston adult residents who consumed alcohol reported that their alcohol intake increased since March. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (41%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (25%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (10%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (30%)



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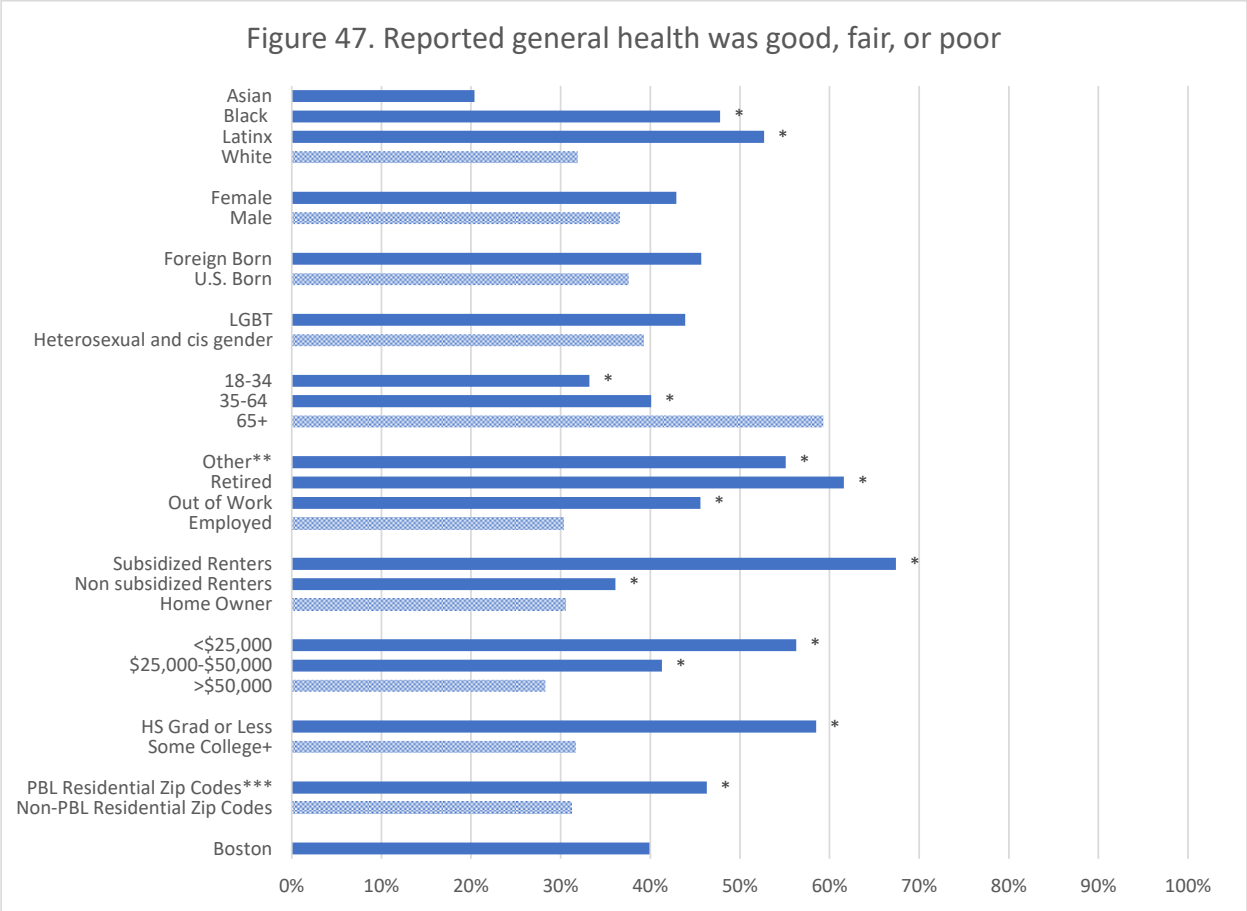
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data not presented for Asian adults due to sample limitations.

Question: Since March 1, 2020, how would you describe your tobacco use?

Overall, 35% of Boston adult residents who smoked reported their tobacco use increased since March. There was no significant difference across population groups.

General Health and Access to Care



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Would you say that in general your health is- **(Excellent, very good, good, fair, poor)**

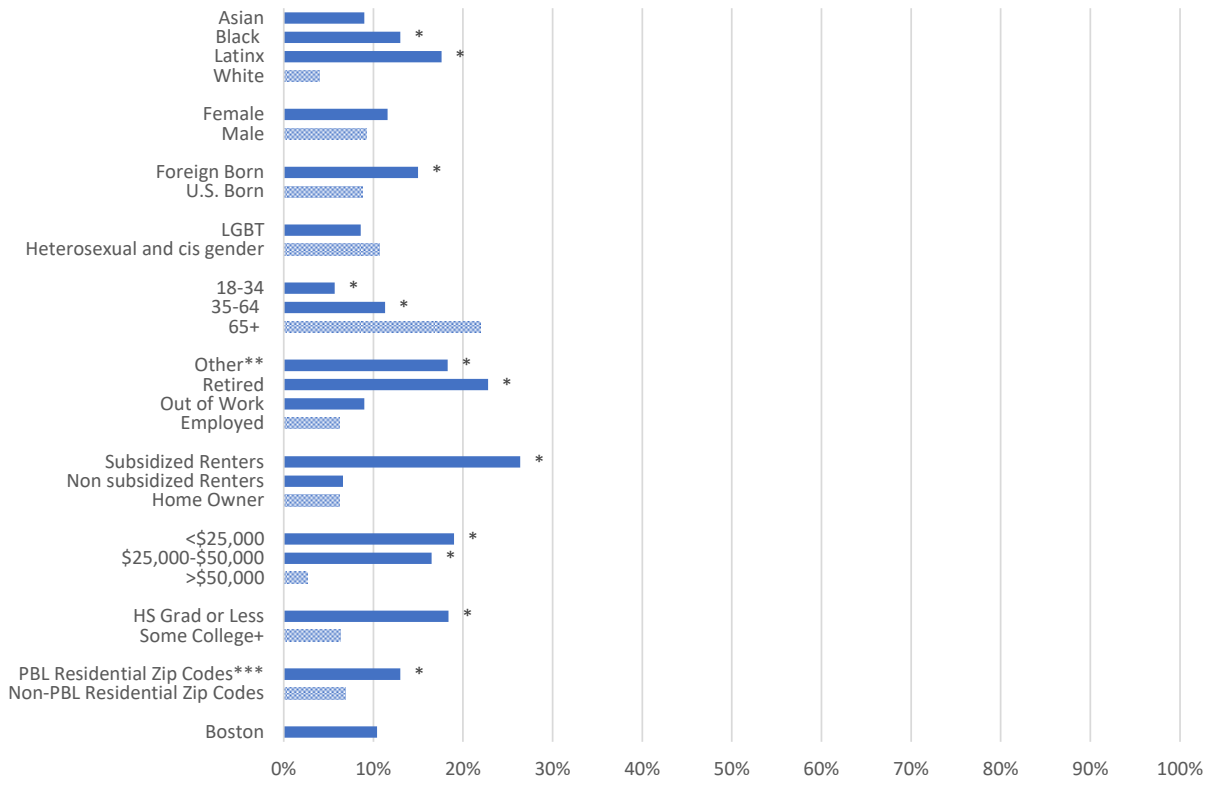
Overall, 40% of Boston adult residents reported their general health was good, fair, or poor. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (48%), and Latinx adults (53%) compared with White adults (32%)
- Retired adults (61%), out of work adults (46%), and adults with other employment status (56%) compared with employed adults (30%)
- Subsidized renters (68%) and non-subsidized renters (36%) compared with homeowners (31%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (41%) and adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (57%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (28%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (58%) compared with adults with at least some college (32%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (46%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (31%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups

- Adults ages 18-34 (33%) and adults ages 35-64 (40%) compared with adults ages 65+ (59%)

Figure 48. Reported poor physical health for 14 or more days in the past 30 days



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

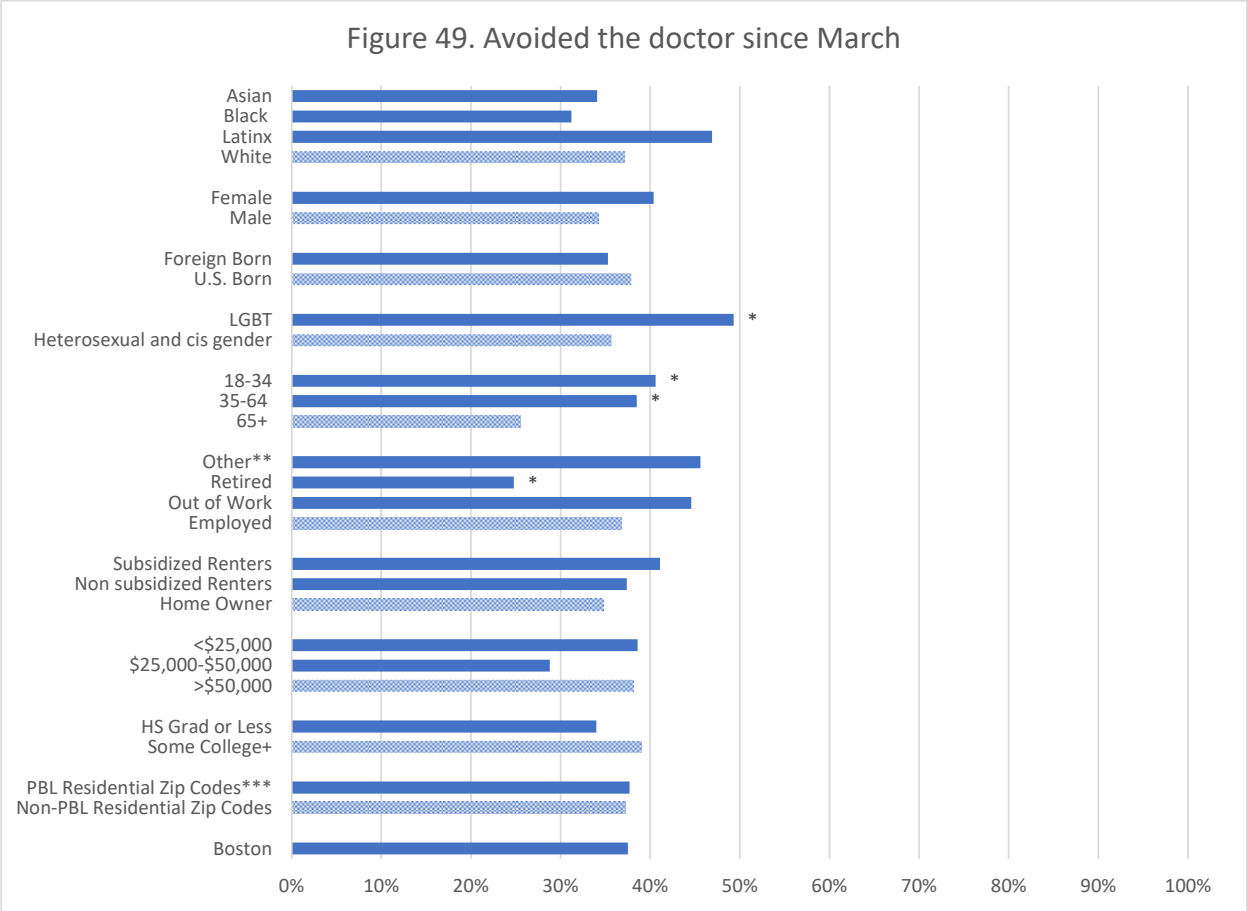
Question: Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?

Overall, 10% of Boston adult residents reported their physical health was poor for 14 or more days in the past 30 days. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (13%), and Latinx adults (18%) compared with White adults (4%)
- Retired adults (23%) and other adults (18%) compared with employed adults (6%)
- Subsidized renters (26%) compared with homeowners (6%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (16%) and adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (19%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (3%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (18%) compared with adults with at least some college (6%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (13%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (7%)
- Foreign born adults (15%) compared with U.S. born adults (8%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (6%) and adults ages 35-64 (11%) compared with adults ages 65+ (22%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

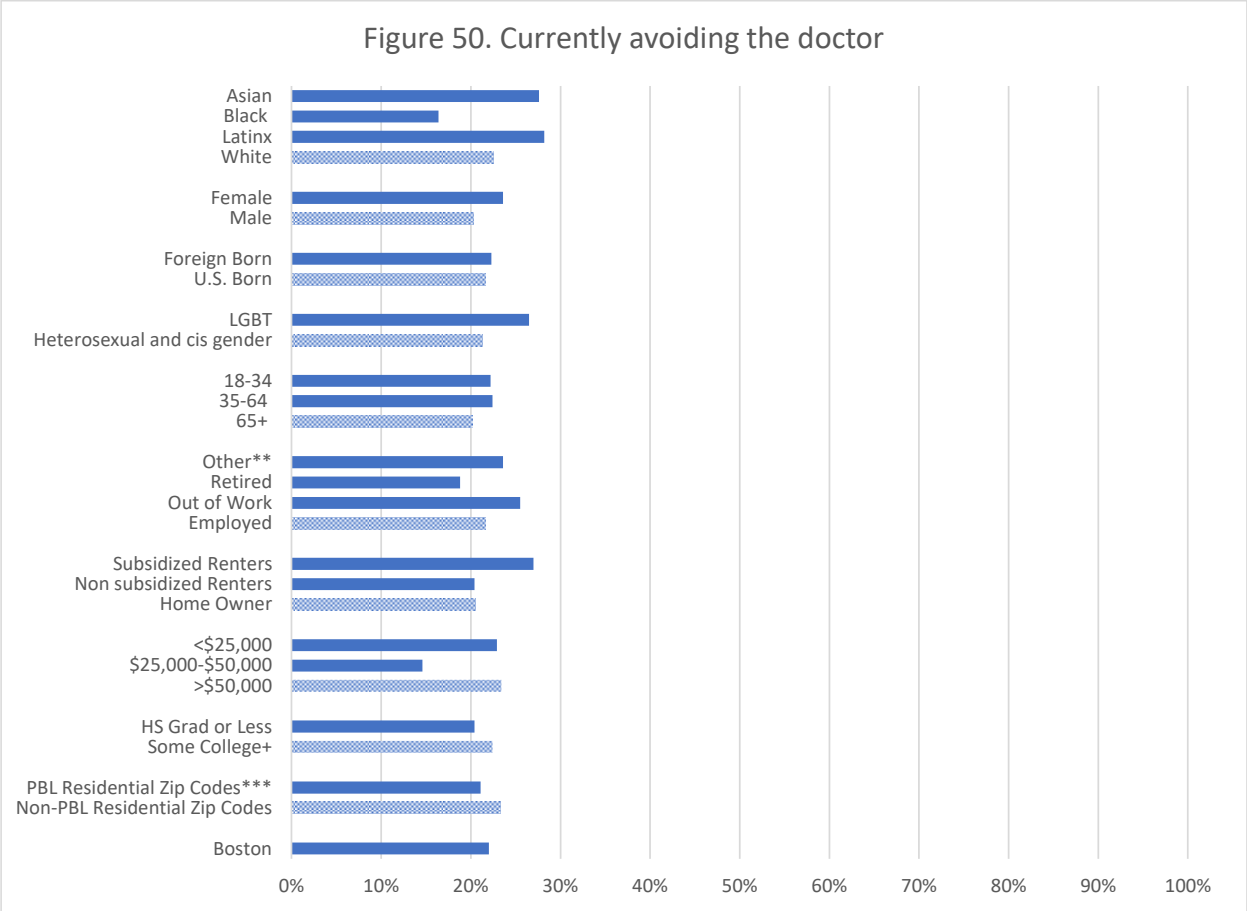
Question: Since March 1, 2020, did you avoid seeing a doctor or healthcare professional due to concerns about COVID-19?

Overall, 38% of Boston adult residents reported avoiding the doctor at least once since March. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT-identifying individuals (49%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (36%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (40%) and adults ages 35-64 (39%) compared with adults ages 65+ (25%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups

- Retired adults (25%) compared with employed adults (37%)



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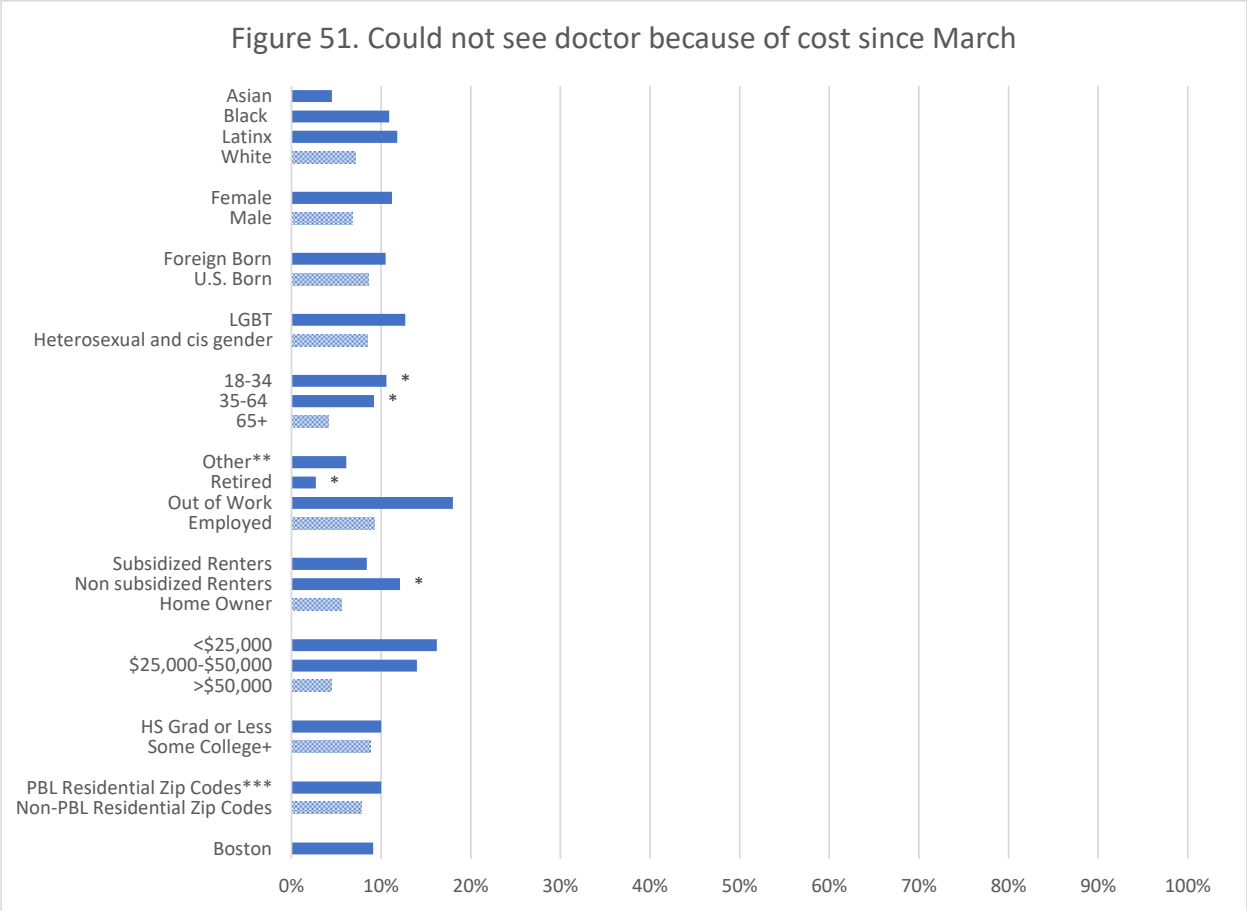
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Are you currently postponing or cancelling doctor appointments?

Overall, 22% of Boston adult residents reported they are currently avoiding the doctor. There were no significant differences across population groups.



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

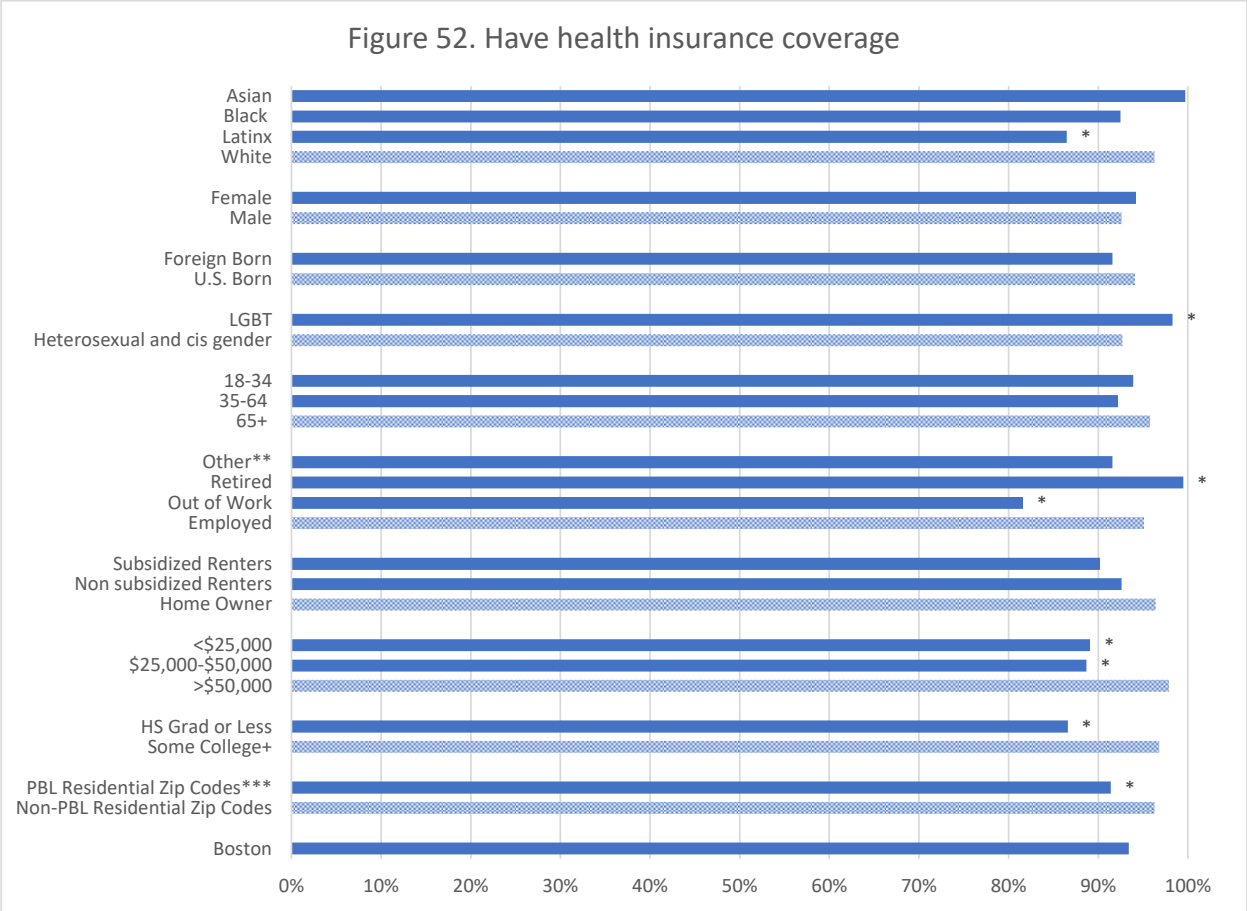
Question: Was there a time since March 1, 2020 when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?

Overall, 9% of Boston adult residents reported not being able to see a doctor because of cost since March. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (11%) and adults ages 35-64 (9%) compared with adults ages 65+ (4%)
- Non-subsidized renters (12%) compared with homeowners (5%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups

- Retired adults (3%) compared with employed adults (9%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?

Overall, 93% of Boston adult residents reported having health insurance coverage. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

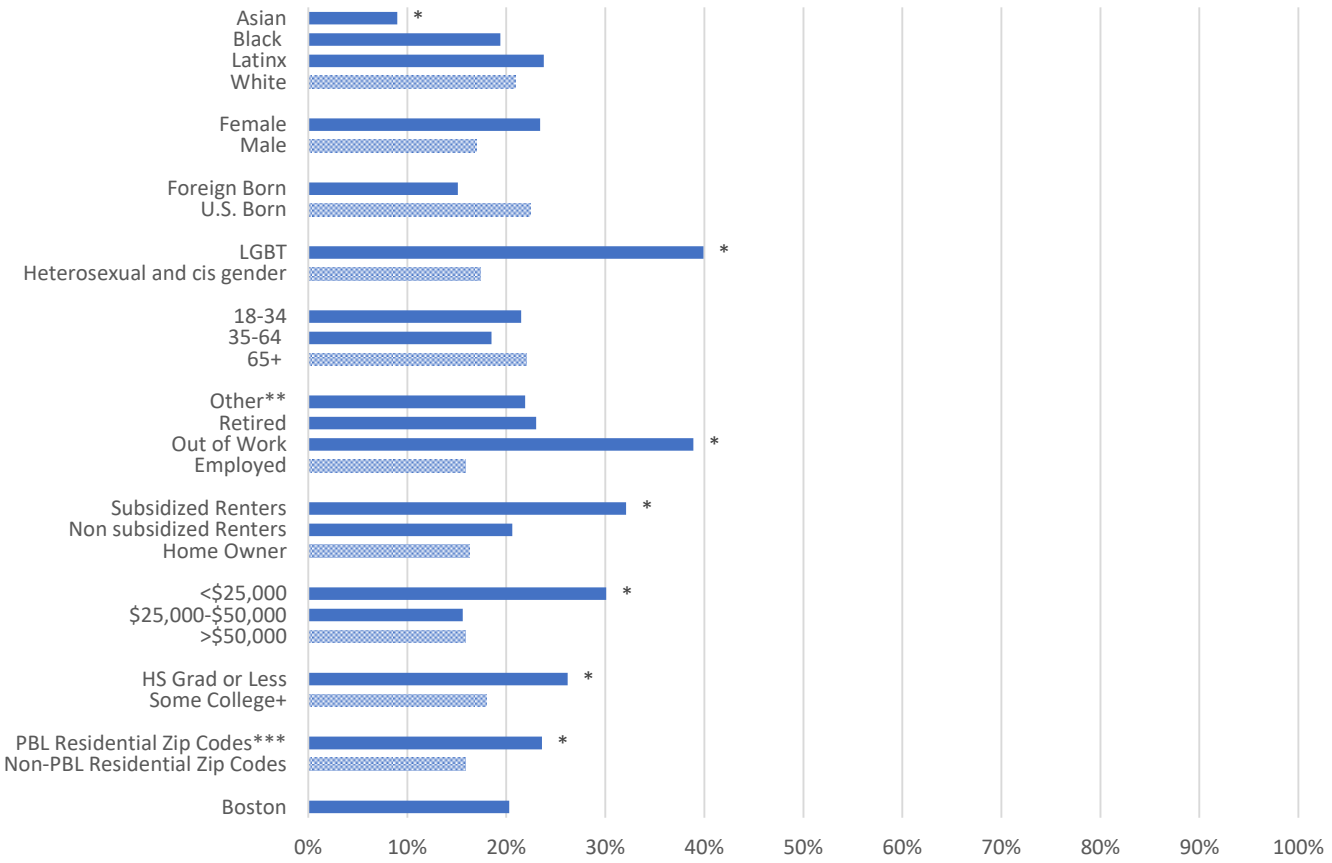
- LGBT-identifying adults (98%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (93%)
- Retired adults (100%) compared with employed adults (95%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Latinx adults (87%) compared with White adults (96%)
- Adults who were out of work (82%) compared with employed adults (95%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (89%) and adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (90%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (98%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (87%) compared with adults with at least some college (97%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (91%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (96%)

Mental Health

Figure 53. Mental health was not good for 14 or more days in the past 30 days



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

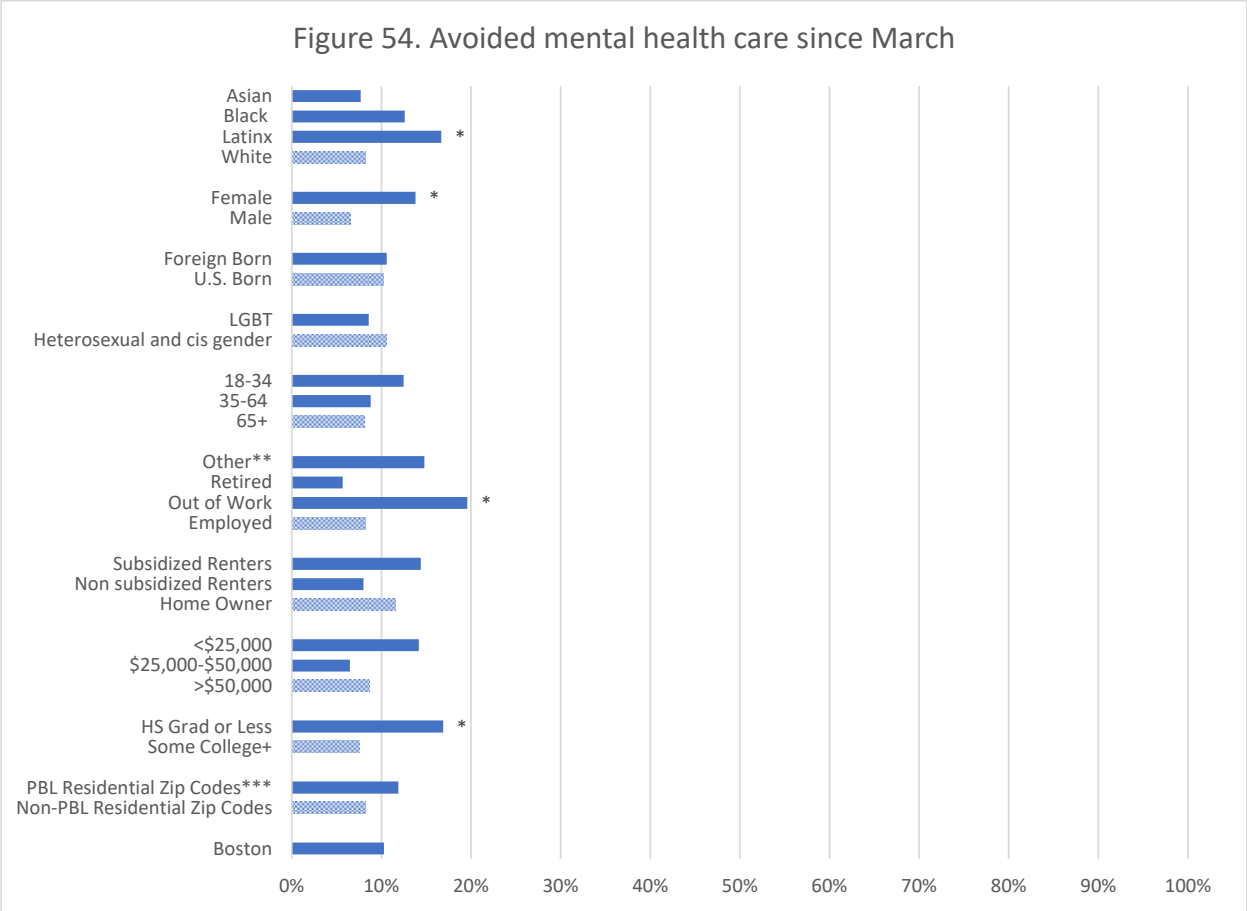
Question: Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

Overall, 20% of Boston adult residents reported their mental health was not good for 14 or more days in the past 30 days. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (40%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (17%)
- Adults who were out of work (38%) compared with employed adults (16%)
- Subsidized renters (32%) compared with homeowners (16%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (30%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (16%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (26%) compared with adults with at least some college (17%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (24%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (16%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Asian adults (8%) compared with White adults (21%)



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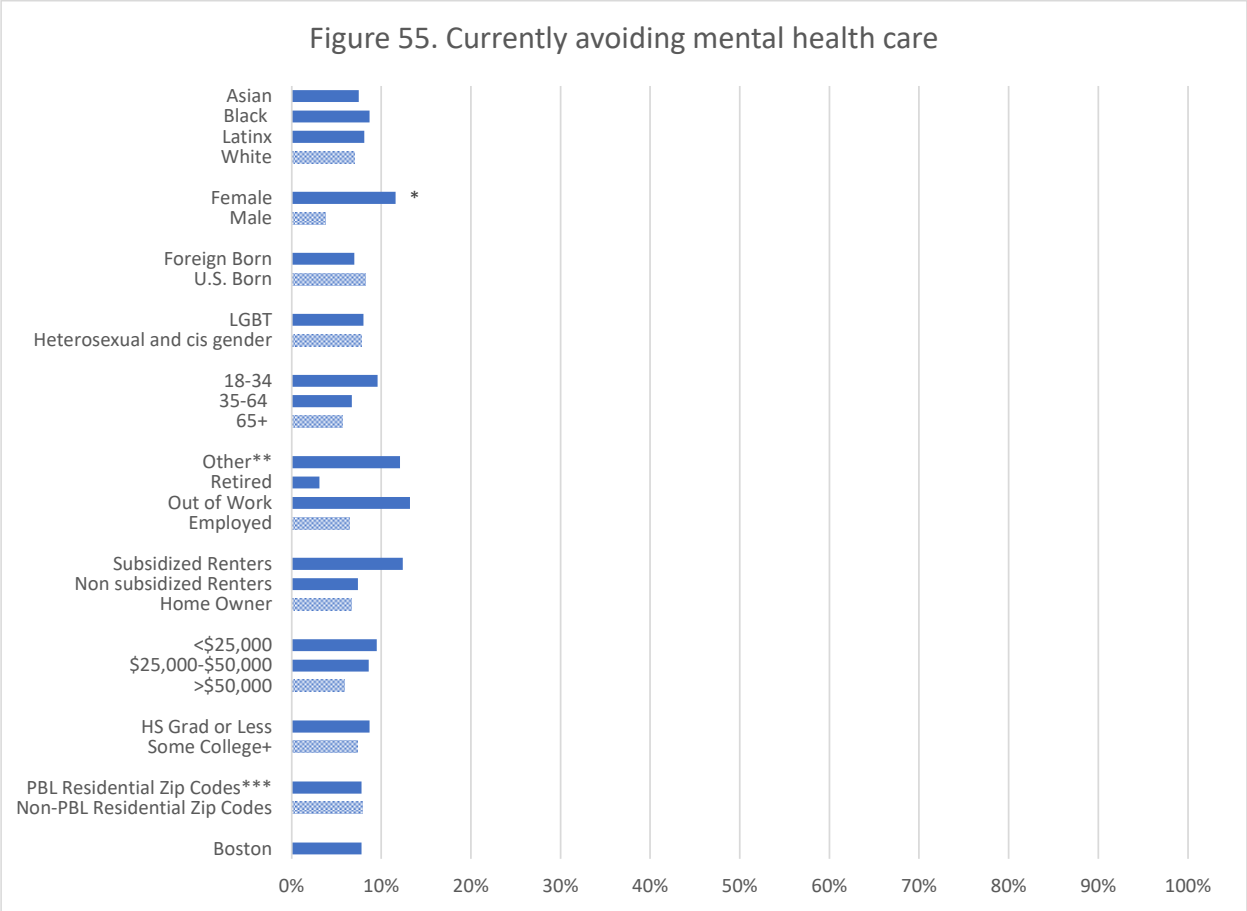
Question: Since March 1, 2020, did you avoid seeing a therapist or healthcare professional for mental health services due to concerns about COVID-19?

Overall, 10% of Boston adult residents reported avoiding mental health care since March. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Latinx adults (17%) compared with White adults (7%)
- Female adults (14%) compared with male adults (6%)
- Adults who were out of work (19%) compared with employed adults (8%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (17%) compared with adults with at least some college (8%)



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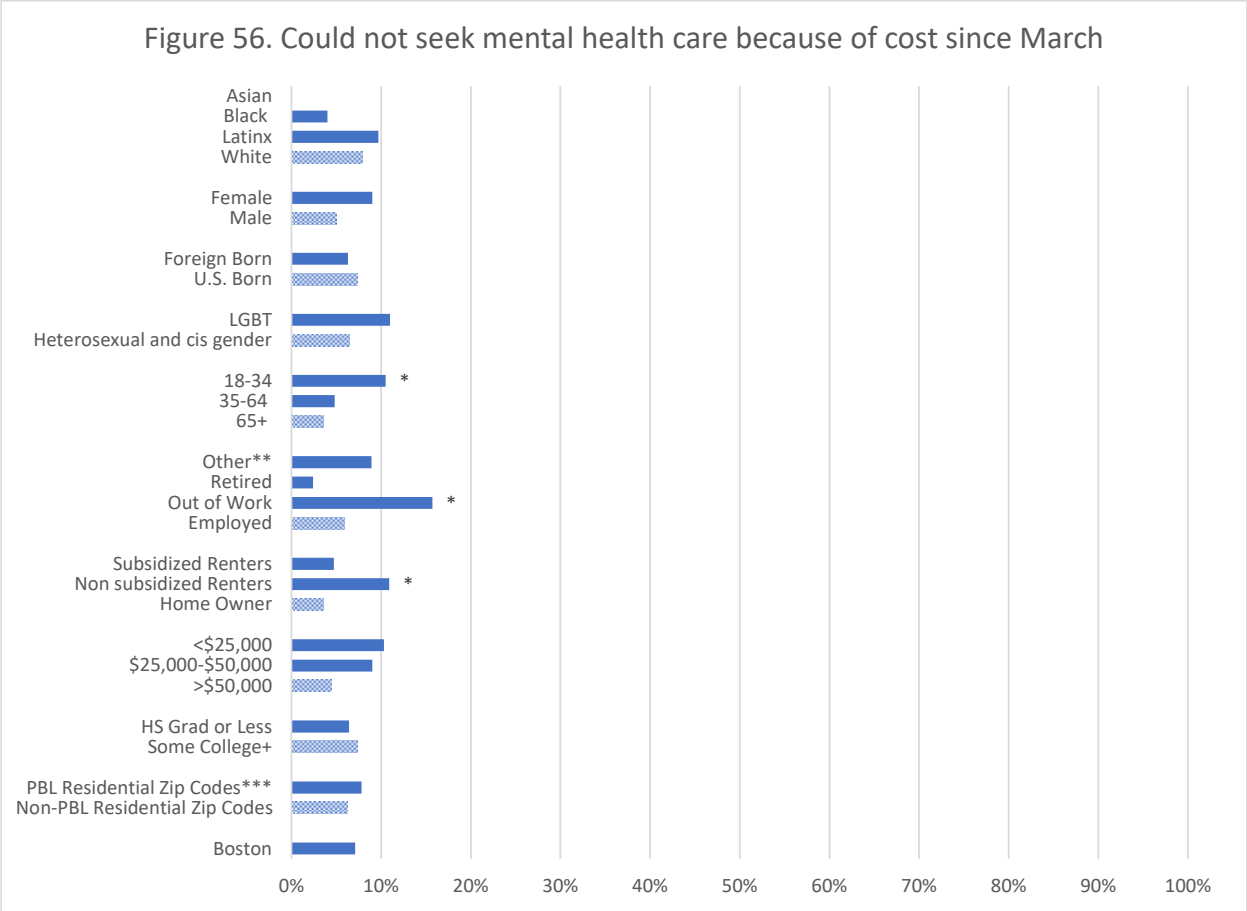
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Are you currently postponing or cancelling mental health services?

Overall, 8% of Boston adult residents reported currently avoiding mental health care. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (12%) compared with male adults (4%)



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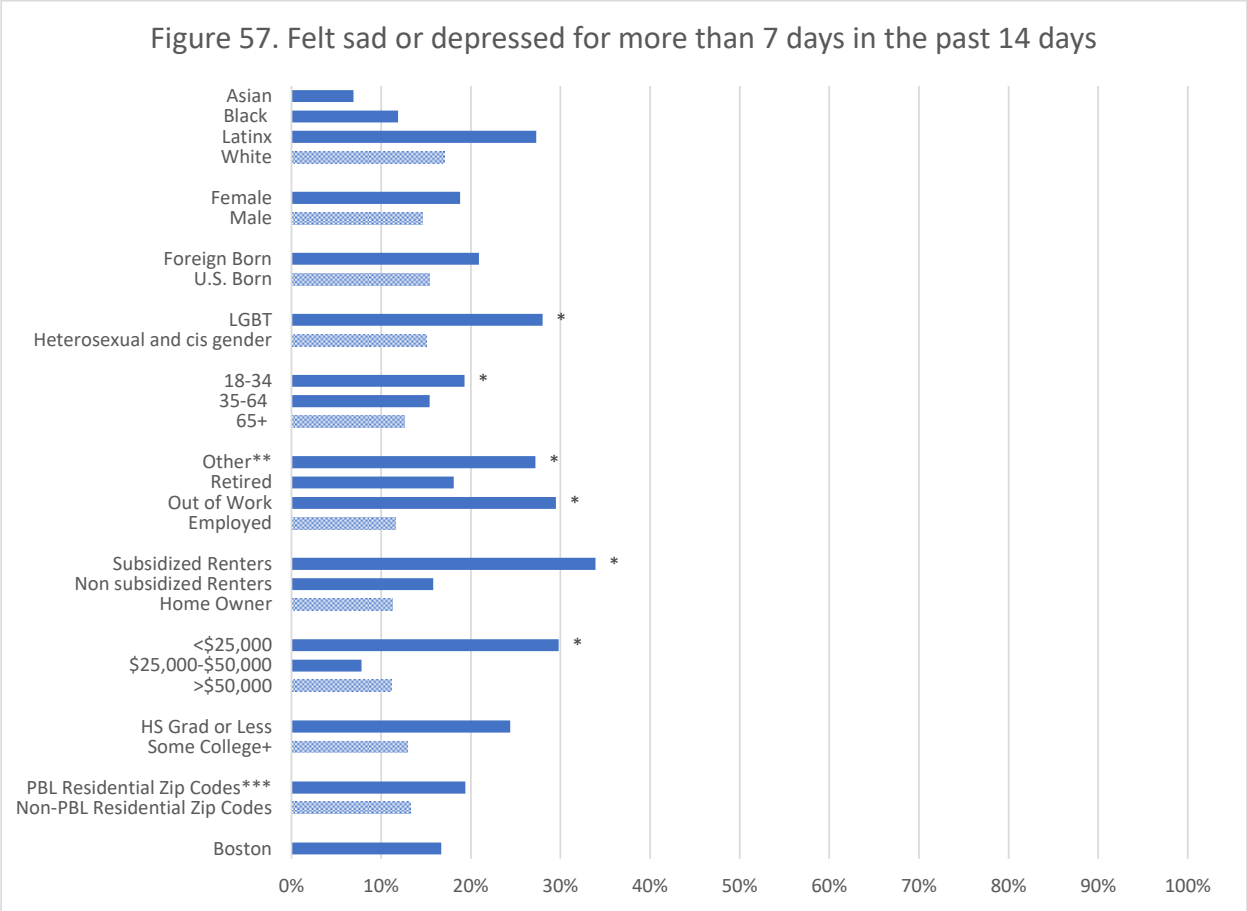
Data not presented for Asian adults due to sample limitations.

Question: Was there a time since March 1, 2020, when you needed to see a mental health professional but could not because of cost?

Overall, 7% of Boston adult residents reported not being able to seek mental health care because of cost since March. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (10%) compared with adults ages 65+ (4%)
- Adults who were out of work (16%) compared with employed adults (6%)
- Non-subsidized renters (11%) compared with homeowners (4%)



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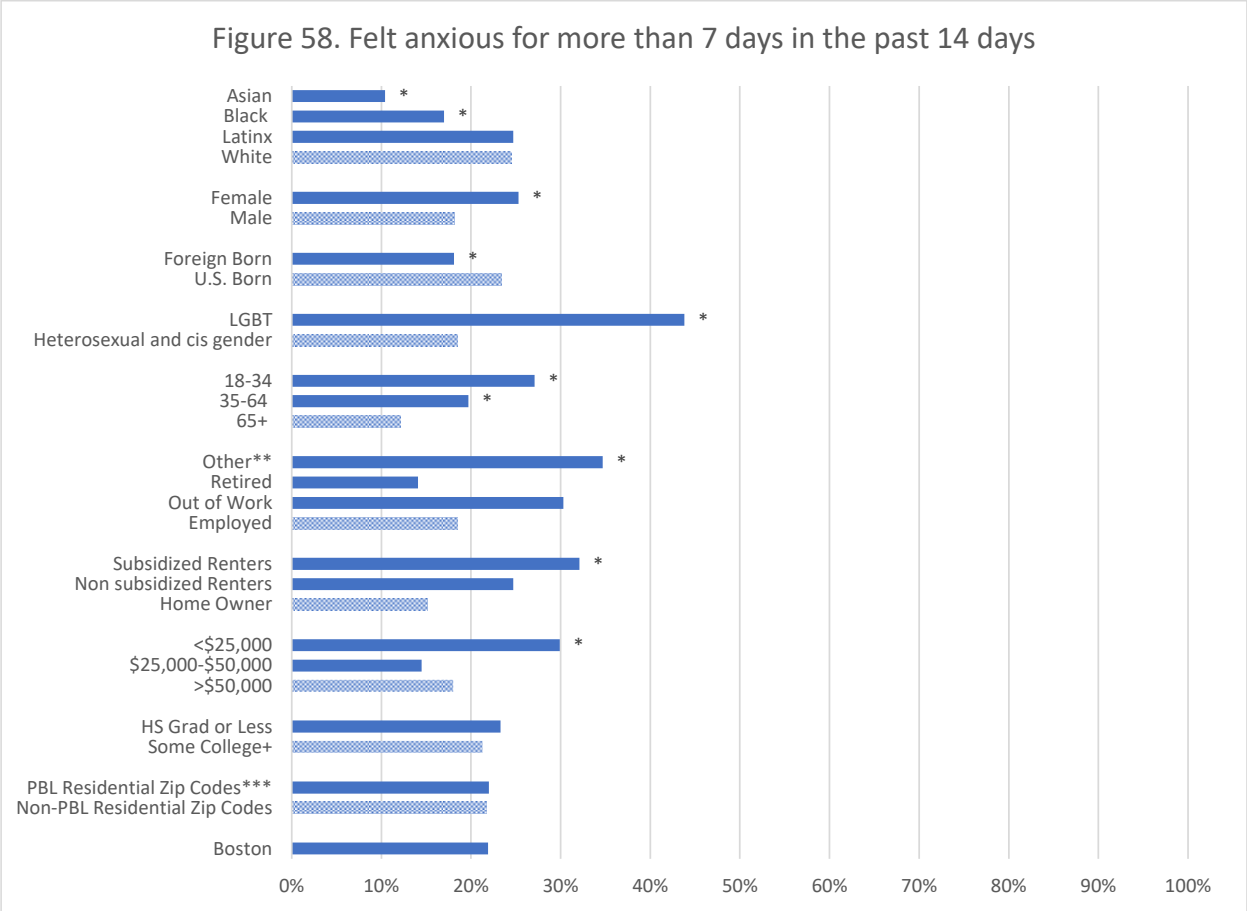
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: During the last 2 weeks, how often have you felt down, depressed or hopeless? Would you say this happens never, for several days, for more than half the days, or nearly every day?

Overall, 16% of Boston adult residents reported feeling sad or depressed for more than 7 days in the past 14 days. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (28%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (15%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (19%) compared with adults ages 65+ (13%)
- Adults who were out of work (29%) and adults with other employment status (27%) compared with employed adults (12%)
- Subsidized renters (34%) compared with homeowners (11%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (30%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (11%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

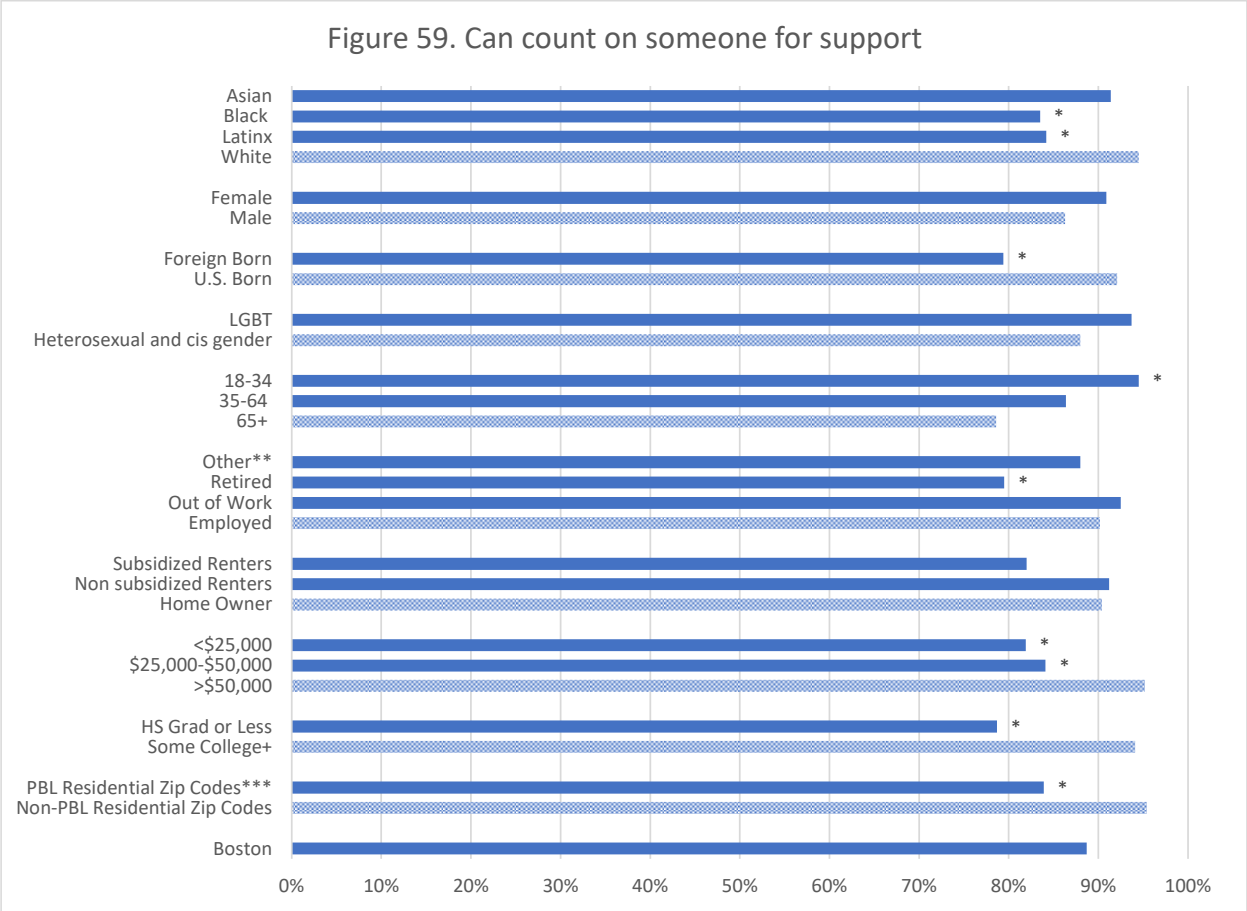
Question: During the last 2 weeks, how often have you felt nervous, anxious or on edge? Would you say this happens never, for serval days, for more than half the days, or nearly every day?

Overall, 22% of Boston adult residents reported feeling anxious for more than 7 days out in the past 14 days. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Female adults (25%) compared with male adults (18%)
- LGBT adults (44%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (18%)
- Adults ages18-34 (27%) and adults ages 35-64 (20%) compared with adults ages 65+ (12%)
- Other adults (35%) compared with employed adults (18%)
- Subsidized renters (32%) compared with homeowners (15%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (30%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (18%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Asian (10%) and Black (17%) adults compared with White adults (24%)
- Foreign born adults (18%) compared with U.S. born adults (23%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Can you count on anyone to provide you with emotional support such as talking over problems or helping you make a difficult decision?

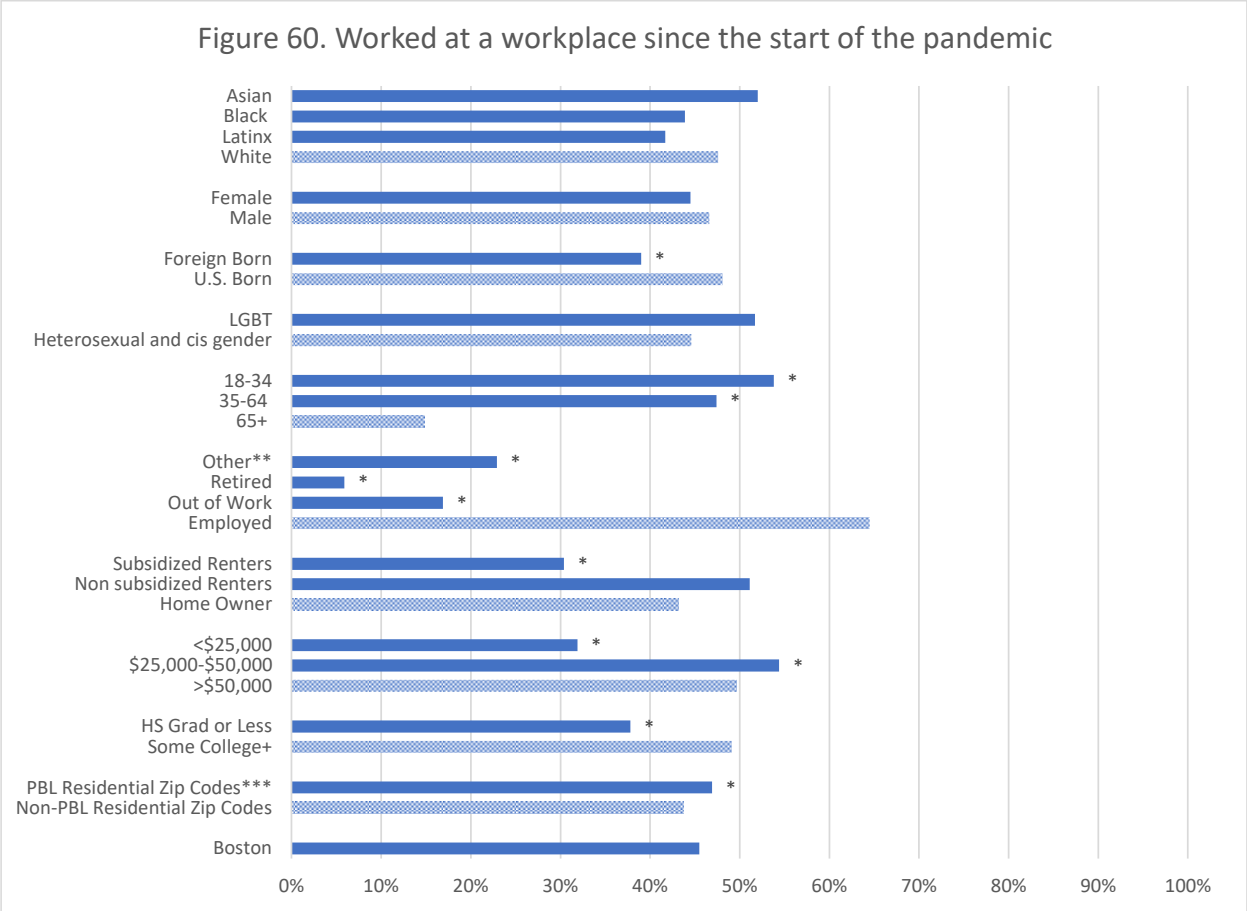
Overall, 89% of Boston adult residents reported being able to count on someone else for support. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (95%) compared with adults ages 65+ (79%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (84%), and Latinx adults (84%) compared with White adults (95%)
- Foreign born adults (79%) compared with U.S. born adults (92%)
- Retired adults (80%) compared with employed adults (90%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (84%) and adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (82%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (95%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (79%) compared with adults with at least some college (94%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (84%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (95%)

Employment and Income: Impact and Needs



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

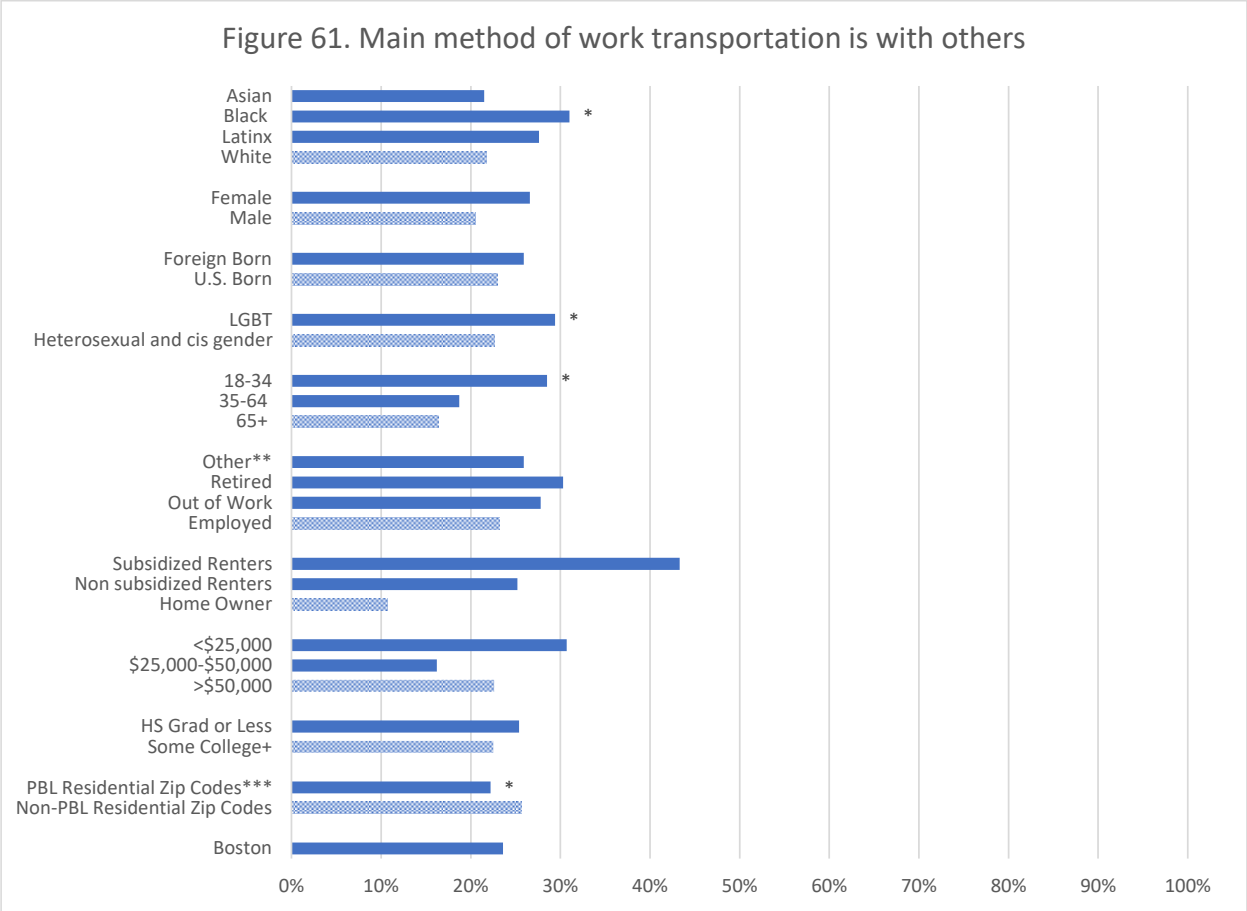
Question: Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, have you worked for pay from home only, or worked at least part of the time at a workplace outside the home, or not worked for pay at all?

Overall, 46% of Boston adult residents reported they had worked at a workplace since the start of the pandemic. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $49,999 (54%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (50%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (47%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (44%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (54%) and adults ages 35-64 (47%) compared with adults ages 65+ (15%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Retired adults (6%), out of work adults (17%), and adults with other employment (23%) compared with employed adults (65%)
- Subsidized renters (30%) compared with homeowners (43%)
- Foreign born adults (39%) compared to U.S. born adults (48%).
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (38%) compared with adults with at least some college (49%)
- Adults with a household income of less than $25,000 (32%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (50%)



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

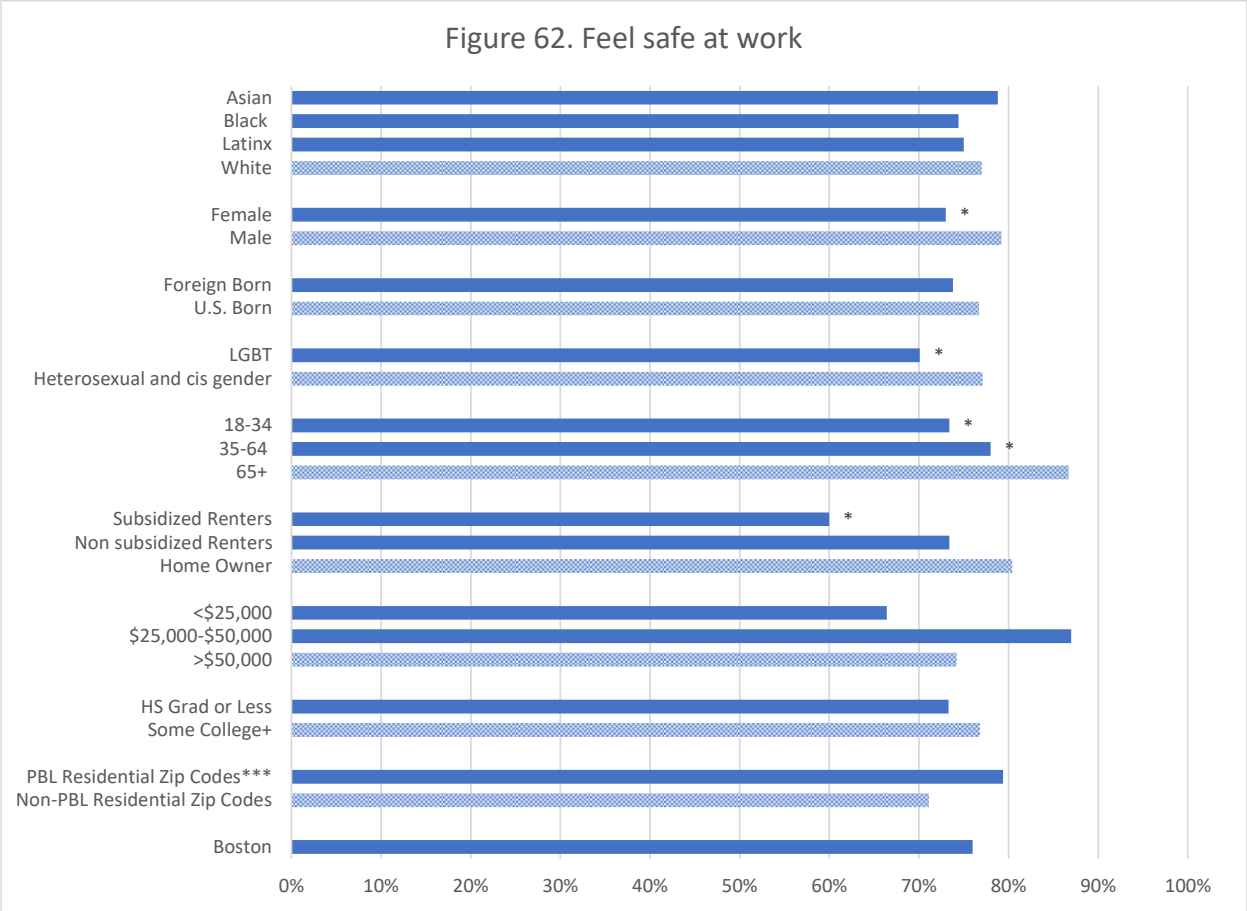
Question: What was the main method of transportation you used to get to work?

Overall, 24% of Boston adult residents reported that their main mode of transportation to work is with others. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Adults ages 18-34 (29%) compared with adults ages 65+ (16%)
- LGBT adults (29%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (23%).
- Black adults (31%) compared with White adults (22%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (22%) compared to adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (26%)



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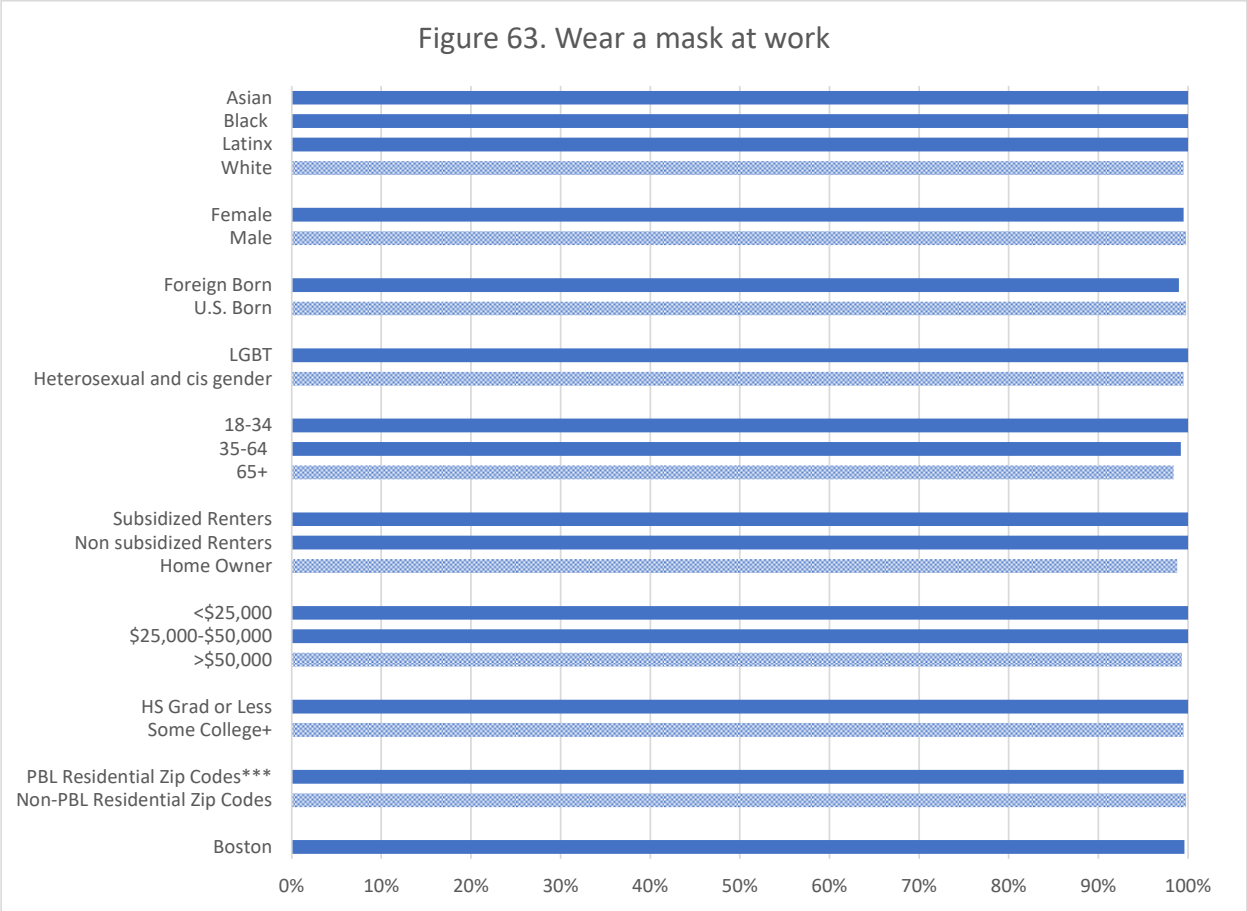
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Since the pandemic began, how safe do you feel at work?

Overall, 76% of Boston adult residents reported feeling safe while at work. This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Female adults (73%) compared with male adults (79%)
- LGBT adults (70%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (77%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (73%) and adults ages 35-64 (78%) compared with adults ages 65+ (87%)
- Subsidized renters (60%) compared with homeowners (80%)



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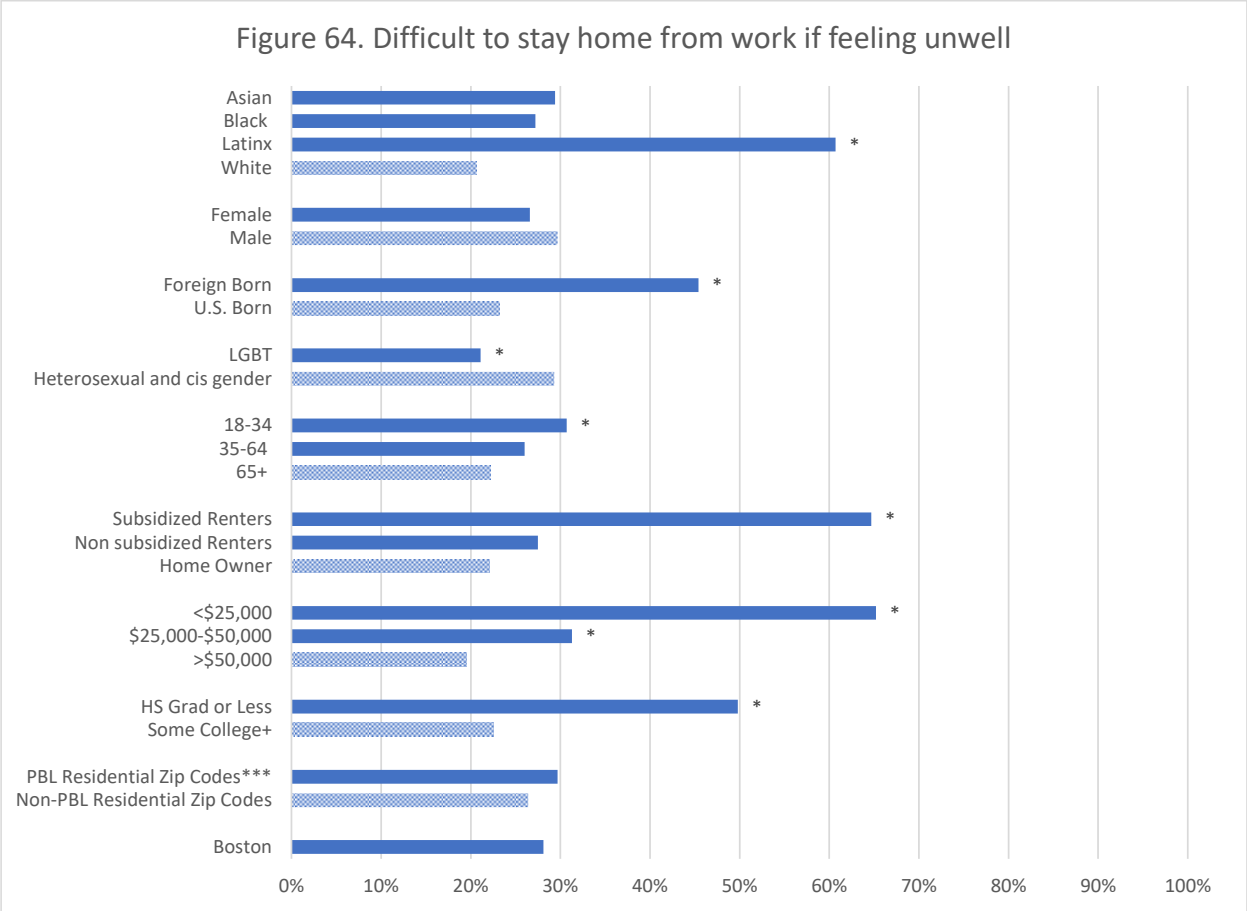
Question: If your job requires you to be near others, do you wear a mask?

Overall, 99.6% of Boston adult residents reported they wore a mask while at work. There were no significant differences across population groups.



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: How difficult is it for you to stay home from work if you feel unwell?

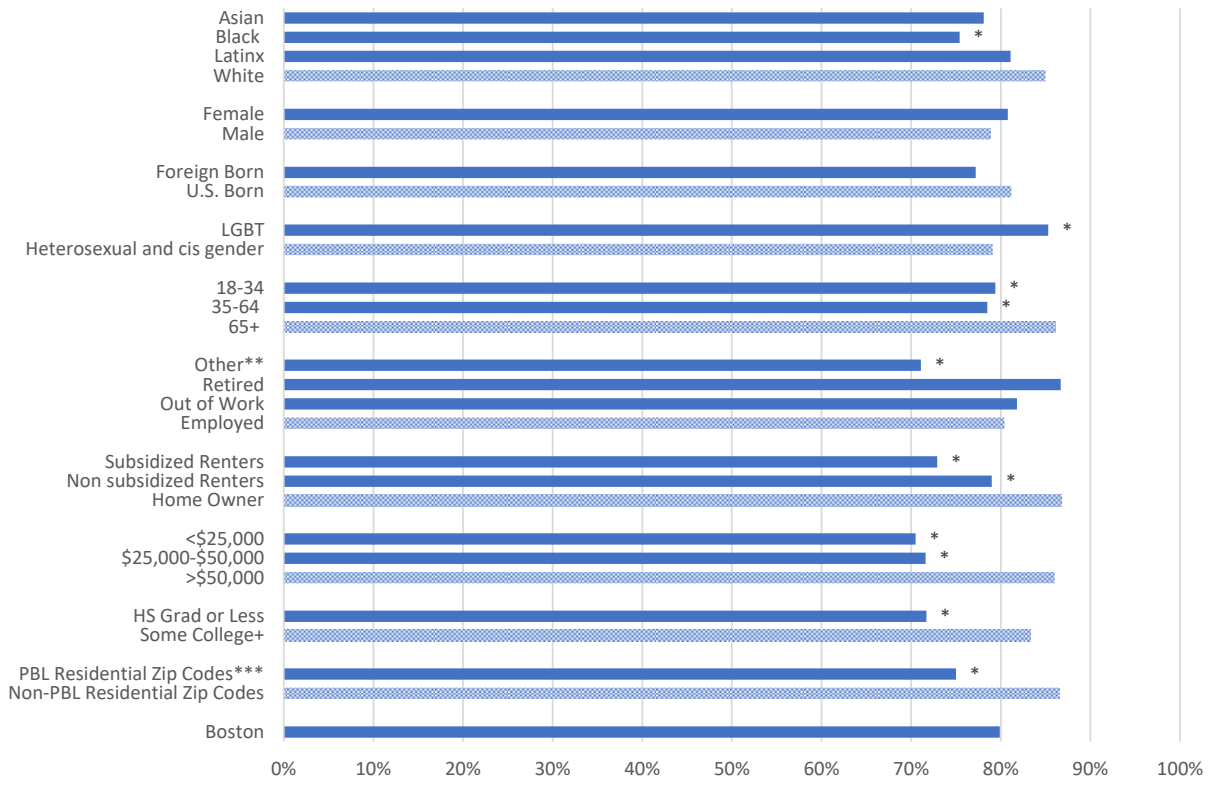
Overall, 28% of Boston adult residents reported that they would find it difficult to stay home from work if they felt unwell. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Latinx adults (61%) compared with White adults (21%)
- Foreign born adults (45%) compared to U.S. born adults. (23%).
- Adults ages 18-34 (31%) compared with adults ages 65+ (22%)
- Subsidized renters (65%) compared with homeowners (22%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (31%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (65%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (20%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (50%) compared with adults with at least some college (23%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (21%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (29%)

Figure 65. All working members of household could afford to stay home for two weeks if someone was diagnosed with COVID-19



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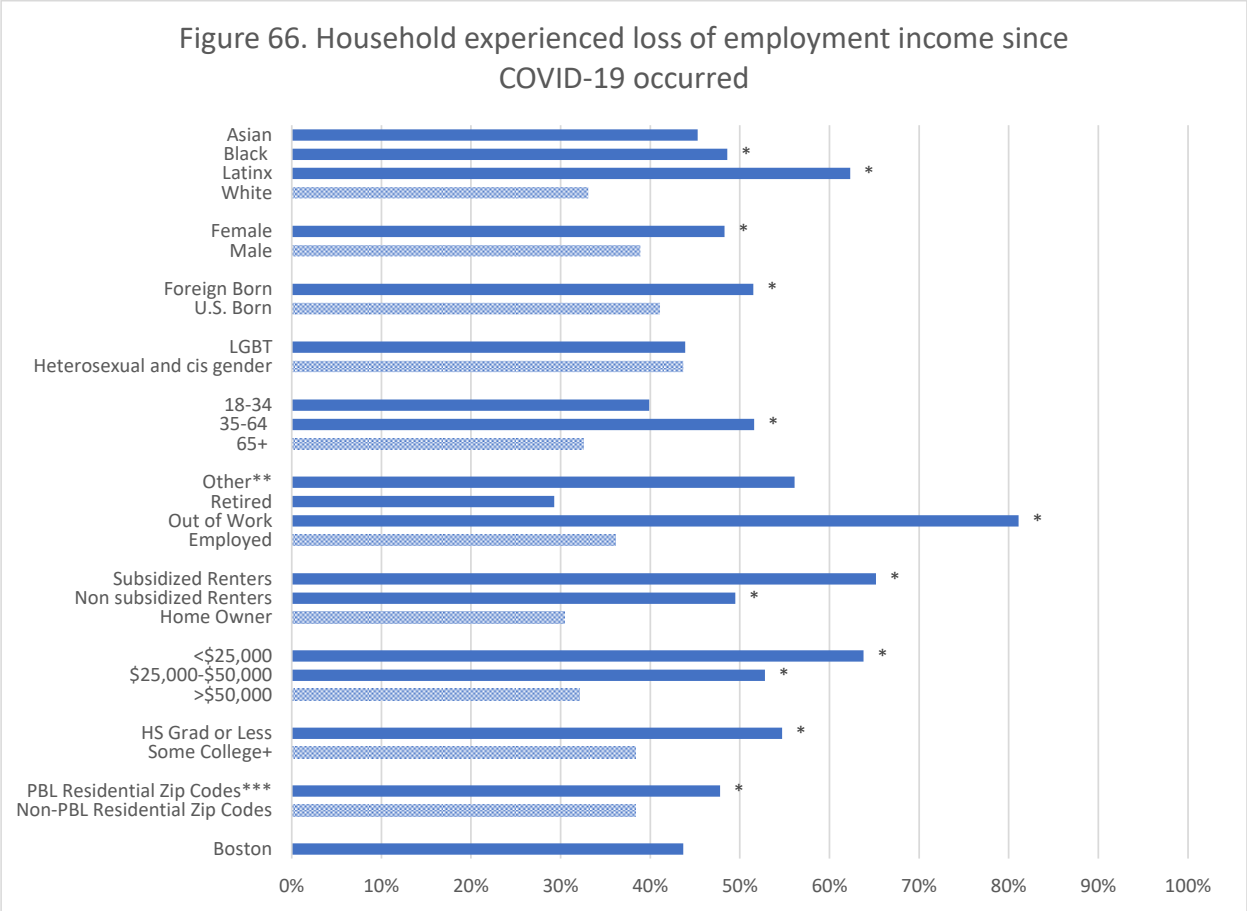
Question: If someone in your household was diagnosed with COVID-19, could all working members of your household afford to stay home for two weeks?

Overall, 80% of Boston adult residents reported that all working members of their households could afford to stay home for two weeks if someone were diagnosed with COVID-19. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (75%) compared with White adults (85%)
- LGBT-identifying individuals (85%) compared with heterosexual ad cis gender adults (79%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (75%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (87%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (72%) compared with adults with at least some college (83%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (72%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (70%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (86%)
- Adults with other employment (71%) compared with employed adults (80%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (79%) and adults ages 35-64 (79%) compared with adults ages 65+ (86%)
- Subsidized renters (73%) and non-subsidized renters (79%) compared with homeowners (87%)



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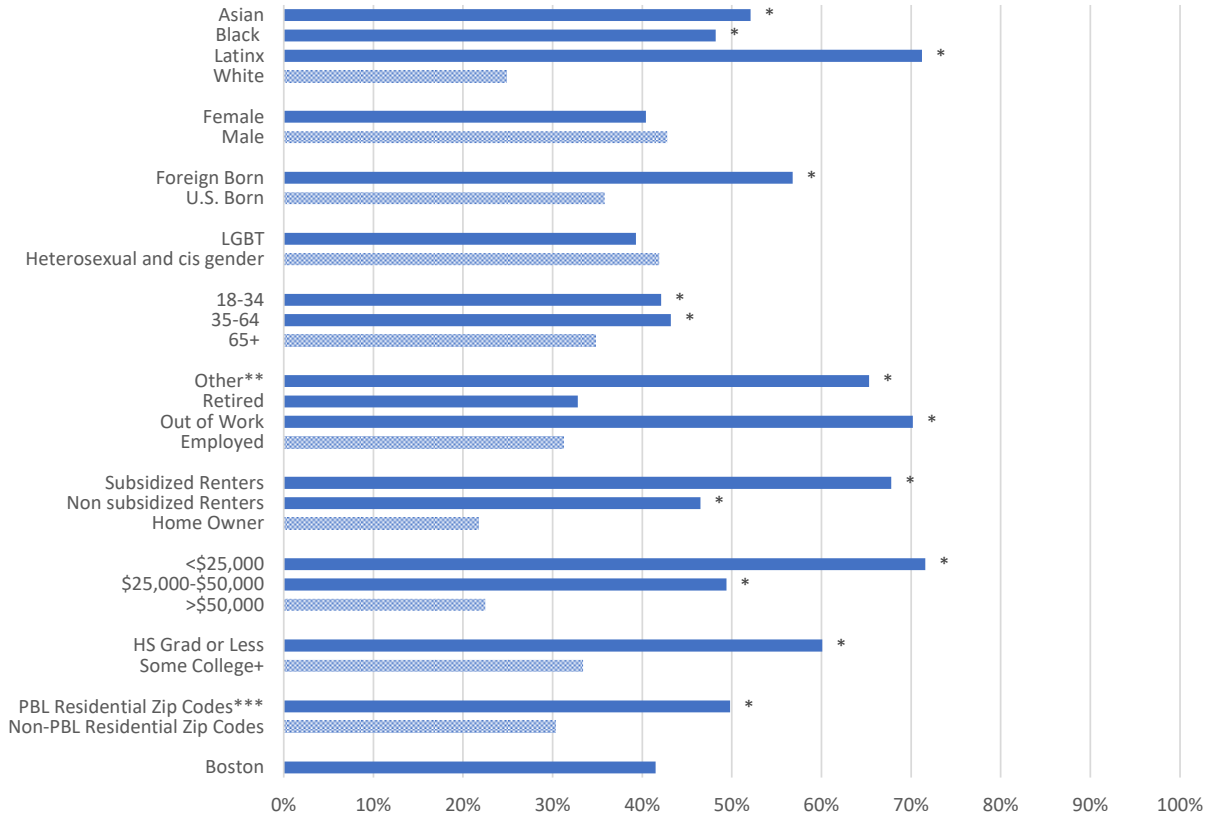
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Since COVID-19 occurred, has your household experienced a loss of employment income?

Overall, 44% of Boston adult residents reported experiencing a loss of employment income since COVID-19 occurred. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (49%) and Latinx adults (62%) compared with White adults (33%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (48%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (38%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (55%) compared with adults with at least some college (38%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (53%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (64%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (32%)
- Subsidized renters (65%) and non-subsidized renters (50%) compared with homeowners (30%)
- Adults who were out of work (81%) compared with employed adults (36%)
- Foreign born adults (52%) compared with U.S. born adults (41%)
- Female adults (48%) compared with male adults (39%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (51%) compared with adults ages 65+ (33%)

Figure 67. Having difficulty paying the full amount of rent or mortgage



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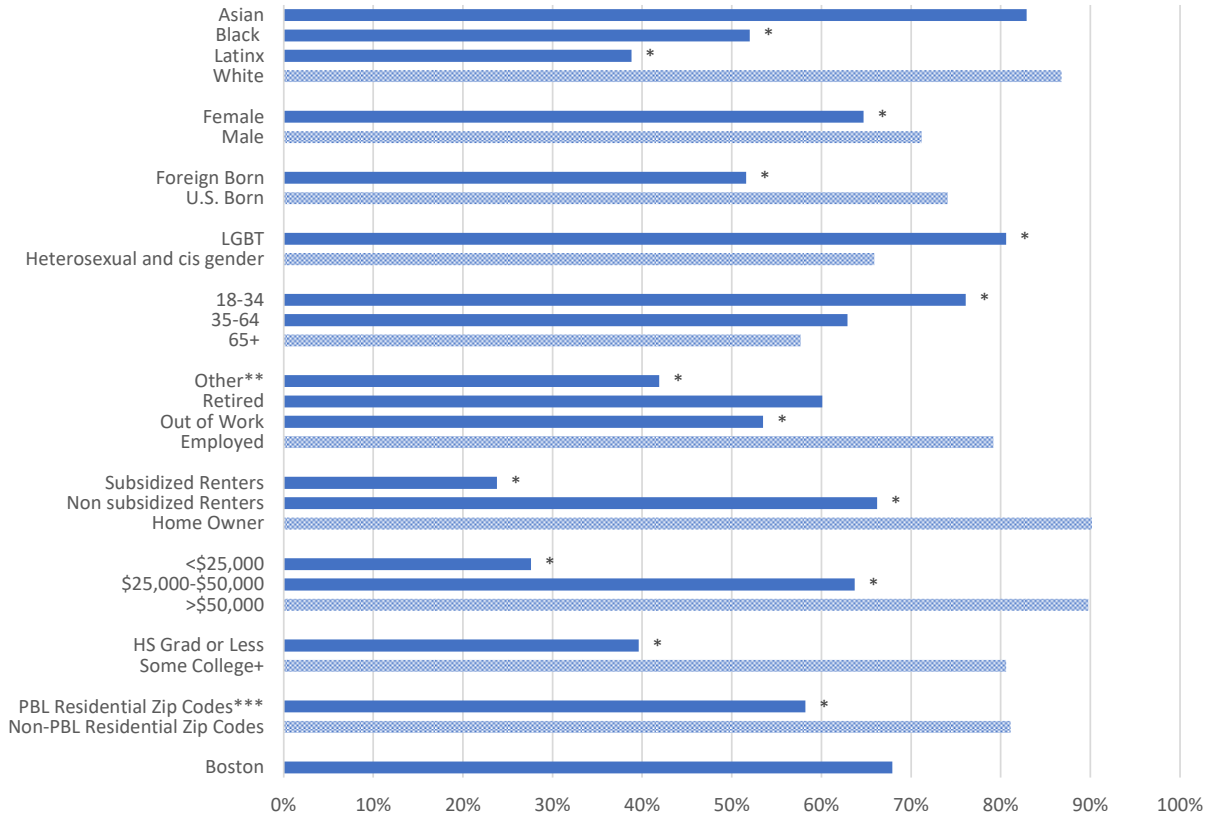
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: How much difficulty are you having now in paying the full amount of your rent or mortgage?

Overall, 42% of Boston adult residents reported difficulty paying the rent or mortgage since COVID-19 occurred. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (48%), Asian adults (52%) and Latinx adults (71%) compared with White adults (25%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (50%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (30%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (60%) compared with adults with at least some college (33%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (53%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (64%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (32%)
- Subsidized renters (68%) and non-subsidized renters (47%) compared with homeowners (22%)
- Adults who were out of work (70%) and adults with other employment status (65%) compared with employed adults (31%)
- Foreign born adults (57%) compared with U.S. born adults (36%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (43%) and adults ages 18-34 (42%) compared with adults ages 65+ (35%)

Figure 68. Have enough savings to cover an emergency cost of $1000



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Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

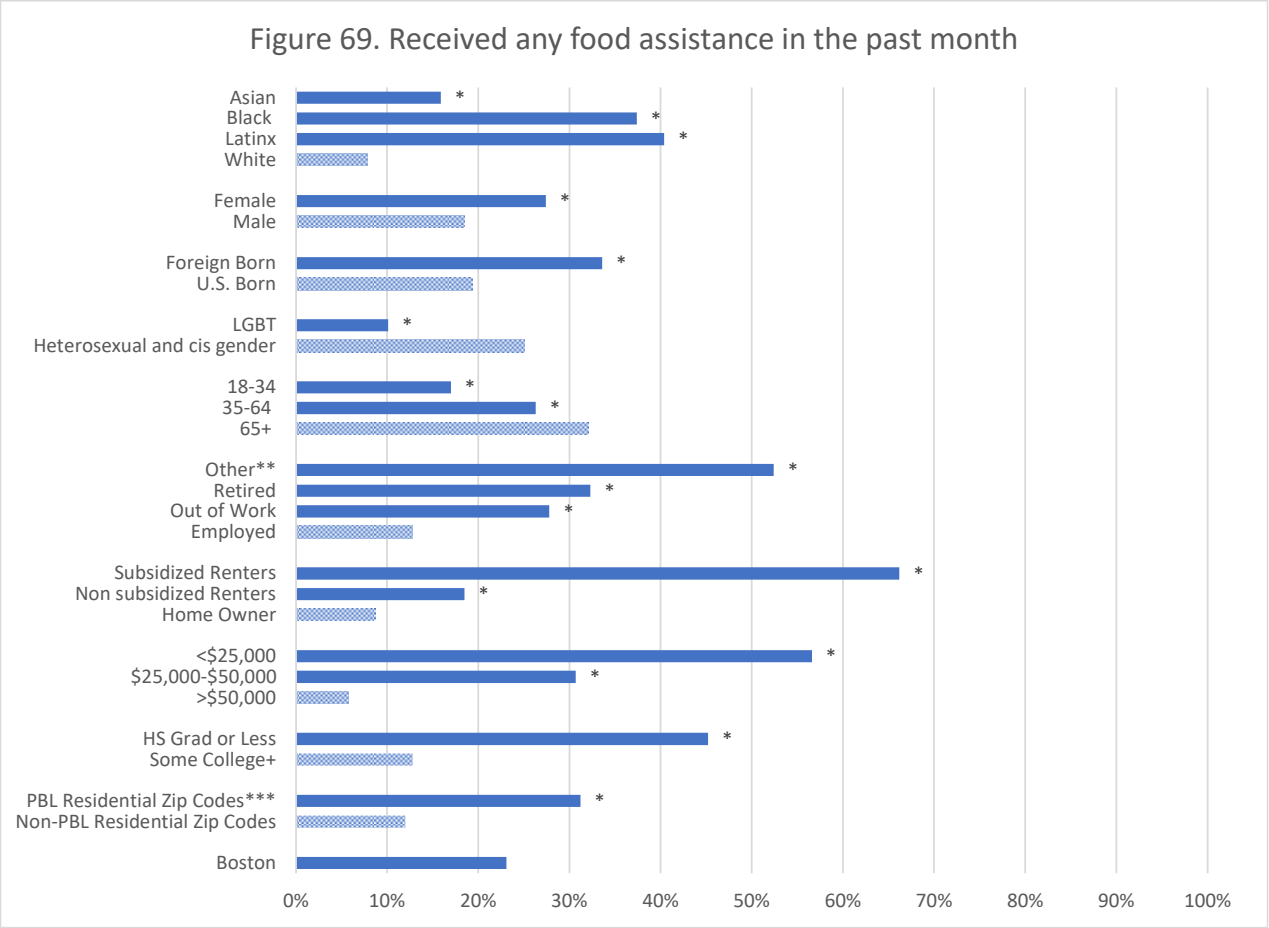
Question: Right now, do you have enough savings to pay for a $1000 emergency expense if necessary?

Overall, 68% of Boston adult residents reported having enough savings to cover an emergency cost of $1000. This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Black adults (52%) and Latinx adults (39%) compared with White adults (87%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (58%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (81%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (40%) compared with adults with at least some college (81%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (53%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (64%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (32%)
- Subsidized renters (24%) and non-subsidized renters (66%) compared with homeowners (90%)
- Adults who were out of work (54%) and other adults (42%) compared with employed adults (79%)
- Foreign born adults (52%) compared with U.S. born adults (74%)
- Female adults (65%) compared with male adults (71%)

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (81%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (66%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (76%) compared with adults ages 65+ (58%)



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: In the past month have you received any food assistance such as food banks, food stamps, or other sources?

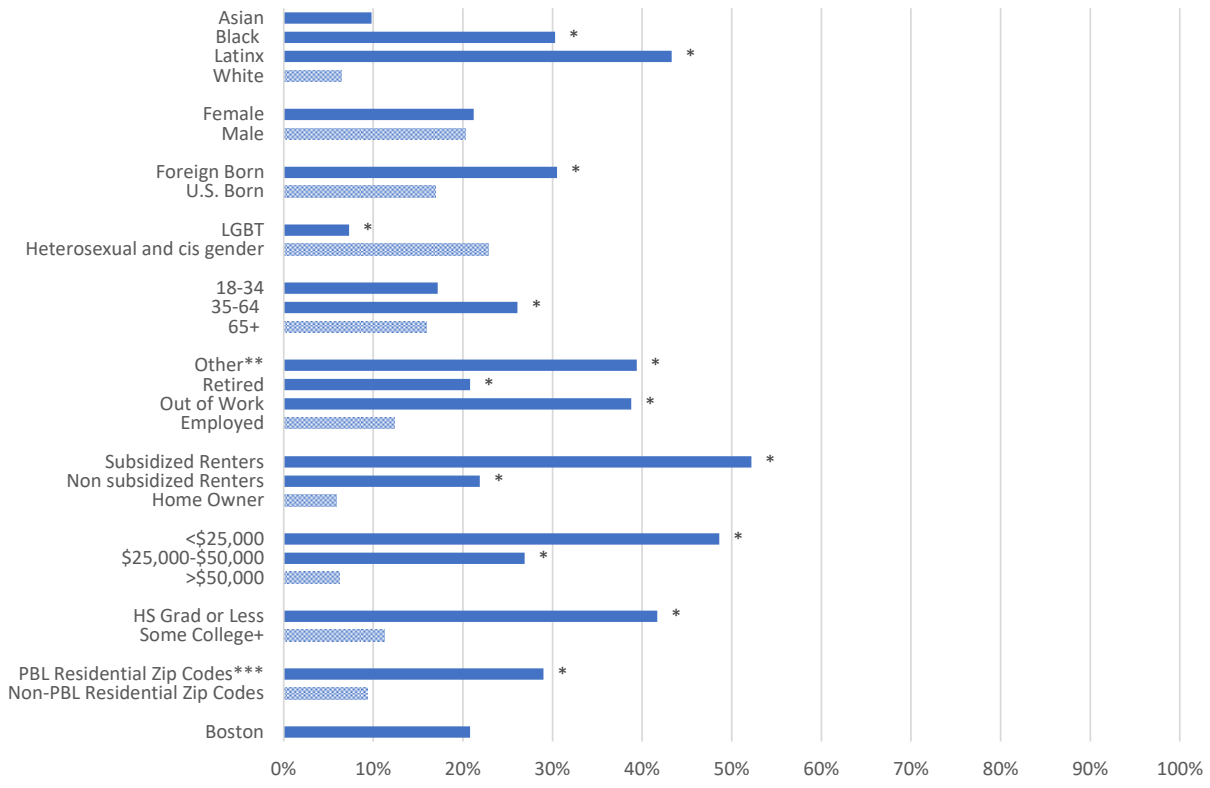
Overall, 23% of Boston adult residents reported receiving any food assistance in the past month. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (37%), Asian adults (16%) and Latinx adults (40%) compared with White adults (8%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (31%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (12%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (45%) compared with adults with at least some college (13%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (31%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (57%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (6%)
- Subsidized renters (66%) and non-subsidized renters (19%) compared with homeowners (9%)
- Adults who were out of work (28%), retired (32%) and with other employment (52%) compared with employed adults (13%)
- Foreign born adults (34%) compared with U.S. born adults (19%)
- Female adults (27%) compared with male adults (19%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (10%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (25%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (17%) and adults ages 35-64 (26%) compared with adults ages 65+ (31%)

Figure 70. Often or sometimes food bought didn't last and could not afford to buy more in the past 12 months



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighbor hoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

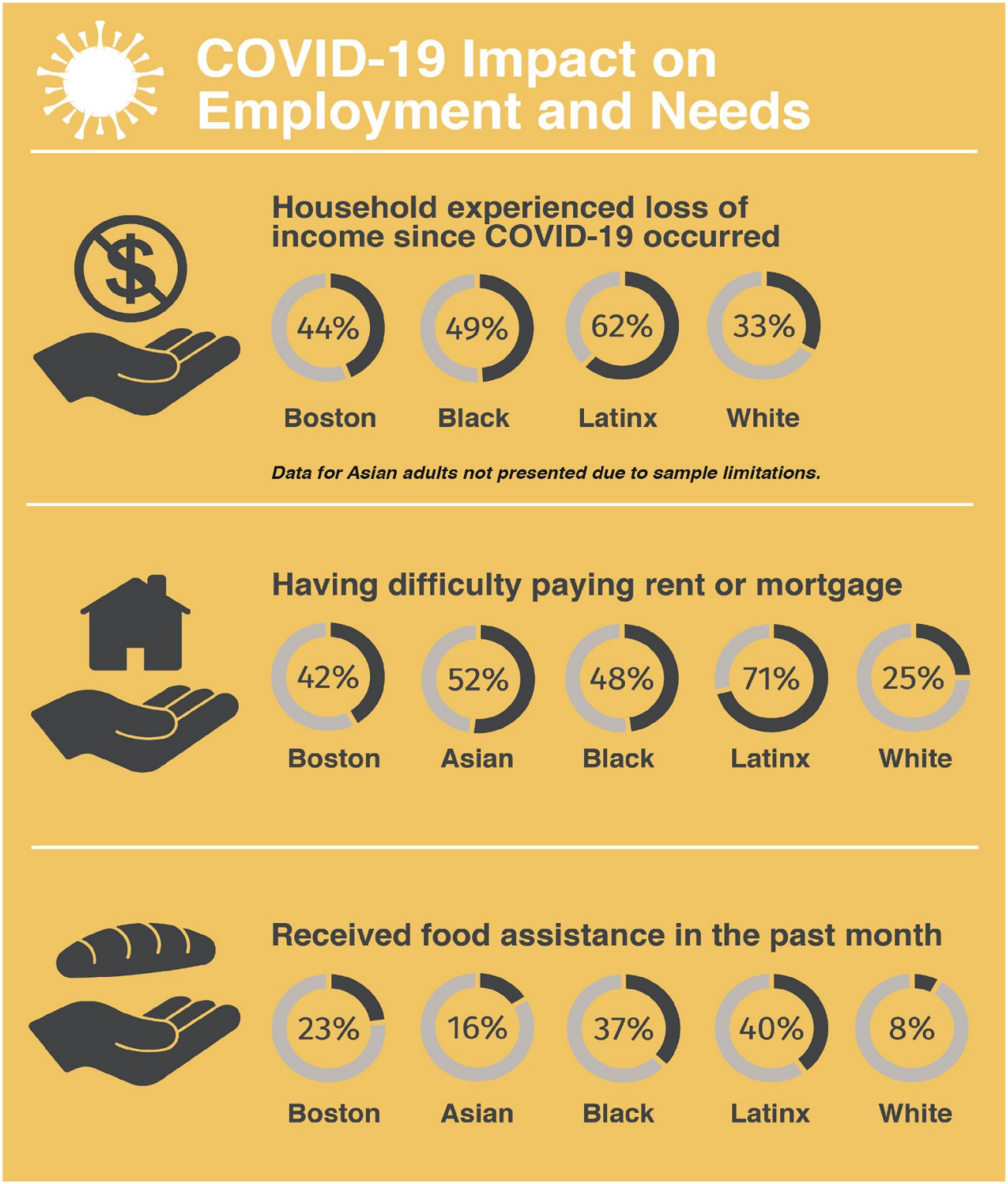
Question: "The food that we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more." Was that often, sometimes, or never true for you or your household in the last 12 months?

Overall, 21% of Boston adult residents reported that often or sometimes food bought didn't last and they could not afford to buy more in the past 12 months. This percentage was higher for the following groups:

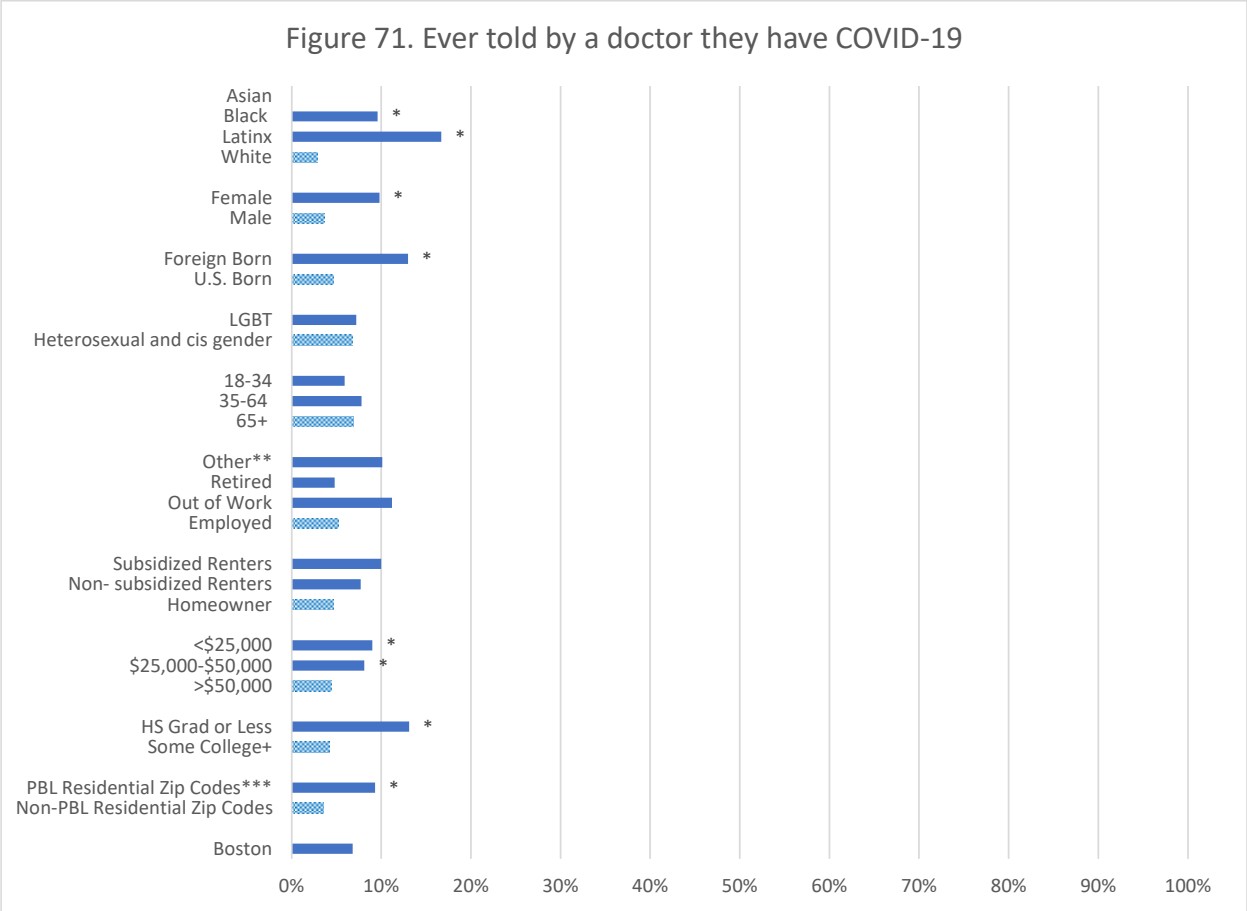
- Black adults (30%) and Latinx adults (43%) compared with White adults (6%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (29%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (9%)
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (42%) compared with adults with at least some college (11%)
- Adults with a household income between $25,000 and $50,000 (27%) and adults with a household income below $25,000 (49%) compared with adults with a household income of more than $50,000 (6%)
- Subsidized renters (52%) and non-subsidized renters (22%) compared with homeowners (6%)
- Adults who were out of work (39%), retired (21%) and with other employment (39%) compared with employed adults (12%)
- Foreign born adults (31%) compared with U.S. born adults (17%)
- Adults ages 35-64 (26%) compared with adults ages 65+ (16%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (7%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (23%)


COVID-19 Impact on Employment and Needs
Household experienced loss of income since COVID-19 occurred
44%
49%
62%
33%
Boston
Black
Latinx
White
Data for Asian adults not presented due to sample limitations.
Having difficulty paying rent or mortgage
42%
52%
48%
71%
25%
Boston
Asian
Black
Latinx
White
Received food assistance in the past month
23%
16%
37%
40%
8%
Boston
Asian
Black
Latinx
White

COVID-19 Medical Issues



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

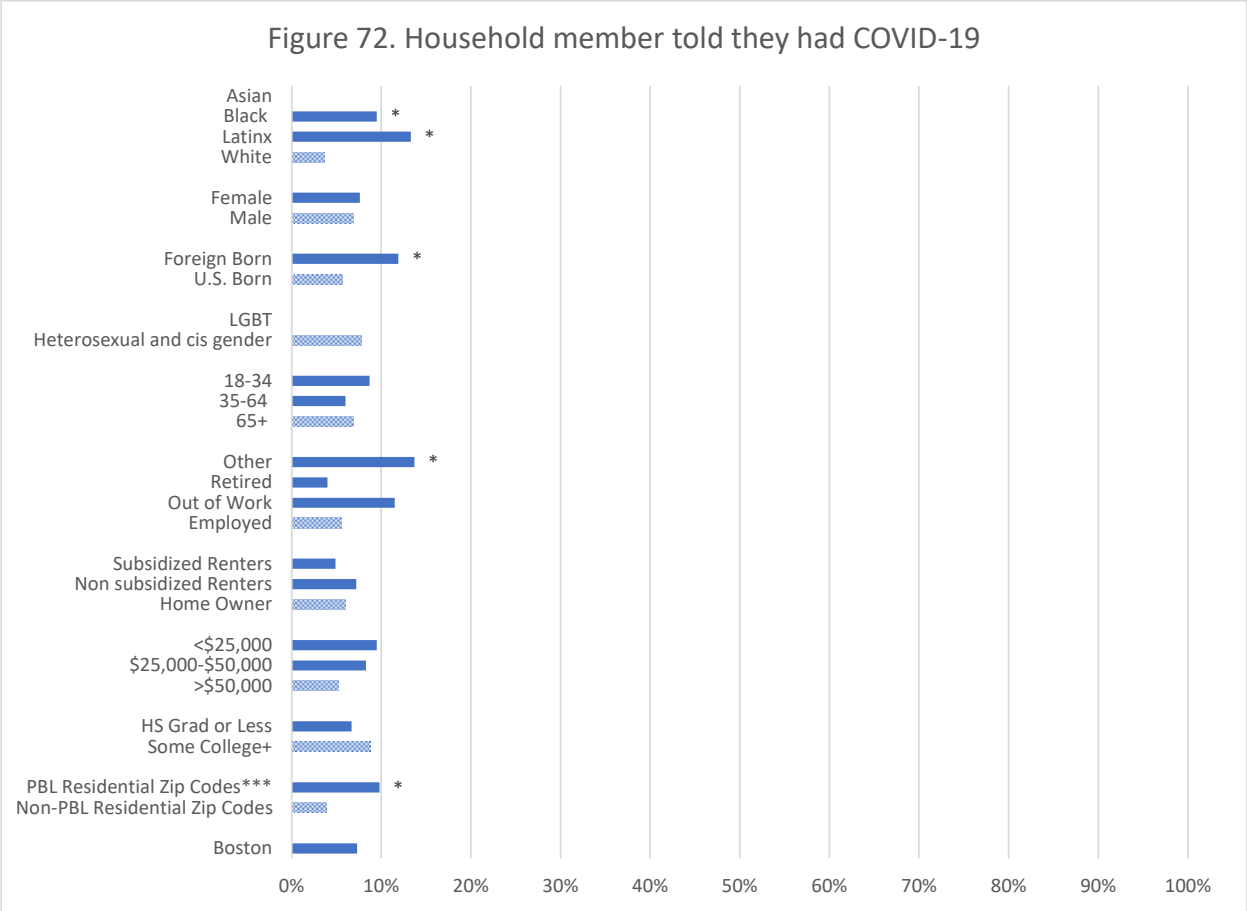
Data for Asian adults not reported due to sample limitations.

Question: Has a doctor or other health care provider ever told you that you have COVID-19?

Overall, 7% of Boston adult residents were told by a doctor or other health care professional they had COVID-19.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (10%) and Latinx adults (17%) compared with White adults (3%)
- Female adults (10%) compared with male adults (4%)
- Foreign born adults (13%) compared with U.S. born adults (5%)
- Adults with a household income of <$25,000 (9%) and $25,000-$50,000 (8%) compared with adults with a household income of >$50,000 (4%).
- Adults with a high school diploma or less (13%) compared with adults with some college (4%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (9%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (4%)



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

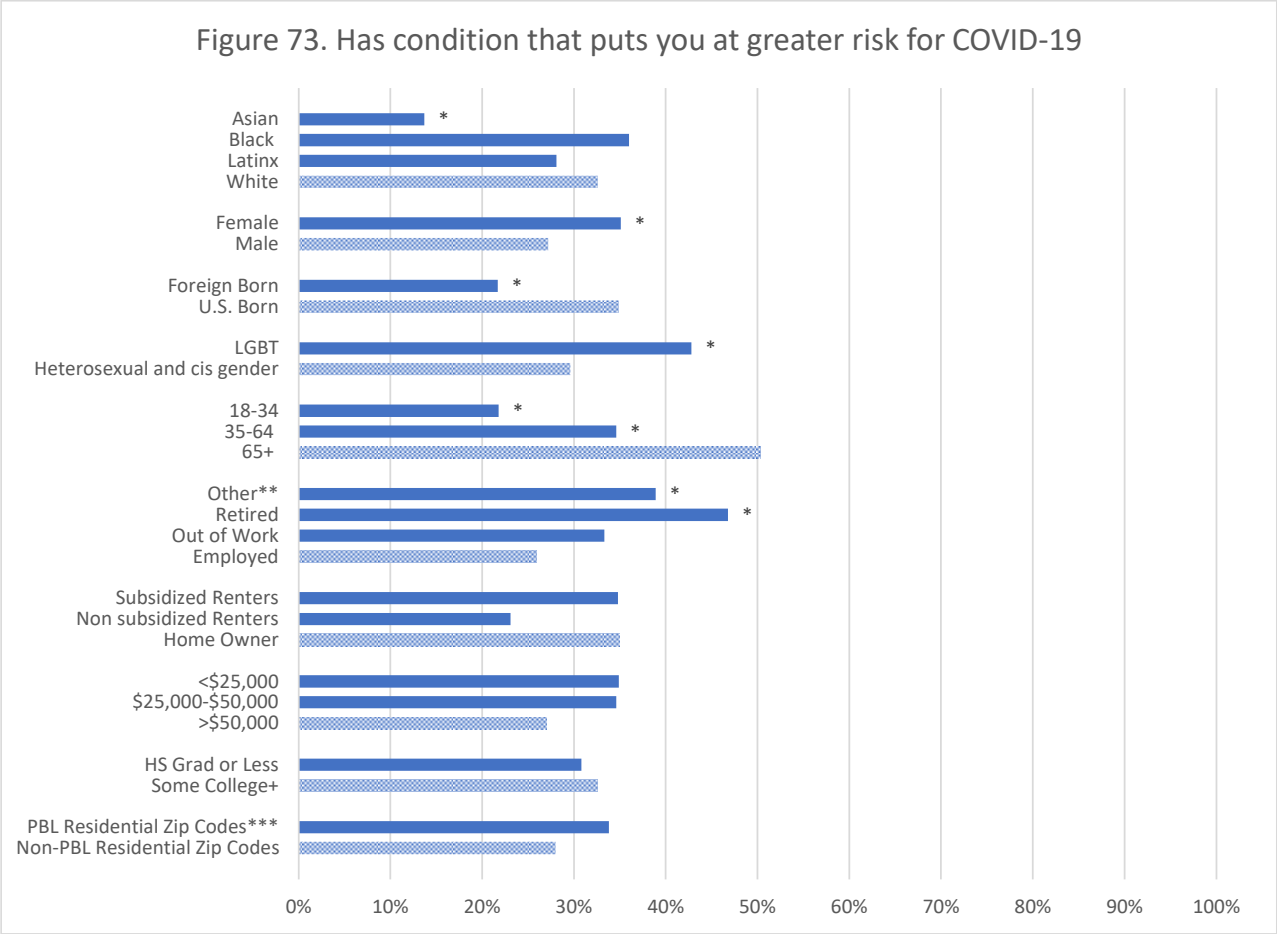
Data not presented for Asian or LGBT adults due to sample limitations.

Question: Has a doctor or other health care provider ever told someone you live with that they have COVID-19?

Overall, 7% of Boston adult residents had a household member told by a doctor or other health care professional they had COVID-19.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (10%) and Latinx adults (13%) compared with White adults (4%)
- Foreign born adults (12%) compared with U.S. born adults (6%)
- Adults with other employment status (14%) compared with employed adults (6%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (10%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (4%)



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Question: Do you have any health conditions that you believe put you at higher-than-average risk from the effects of COVID-19?

Overall, 31% of Boston adult residents had a condition that put them at greater risk for COVID-19.

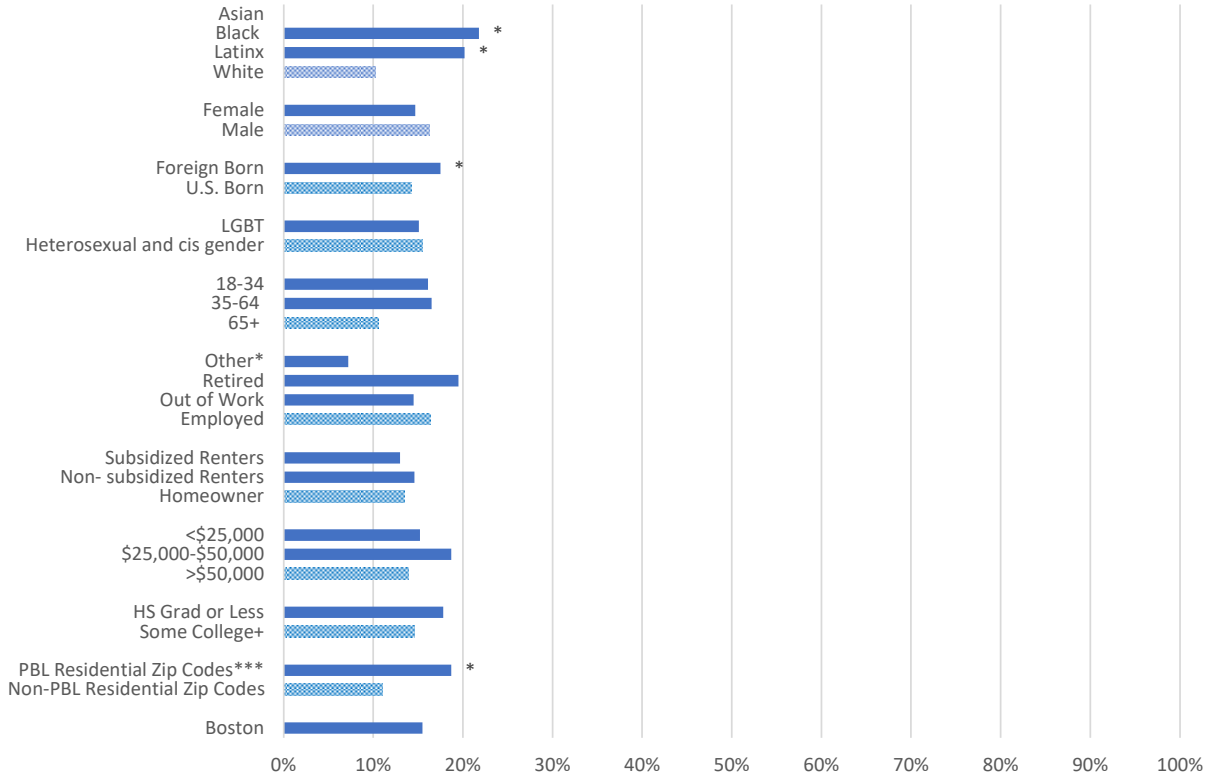
This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- LGBT adults (43%) compared with heterosexual and cis gender adults (30%)
- Adults with other employment status (39%) and retired adults (47%) compared with employed adults (26%)

This percentage was lower for the following groups:

- Asian adults (14%) compared with White adults (33%)
- Foreign born adults (22%) compared with U.S. born adults (35%)
- Adults ages 18-34 (22%) and adults ages 35-64 (35%) compared with adults ages 65+ (50%)

Figure 74. Family member or someone close with you hospitalized for COVID-19



*Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group.
**Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work. These groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
***PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.
Lighter shade bars indicate the reference group within each selected indicator.

Data not presented for Asian residents due to sample limitations.

Question: Was a family member or someone close to you hospitalized because of COVID-19?

Overall, 16% of Boston adult residents had a family member or someone close to them hospitalized with COVID-19.

This percentage was higher for the following groups:

- Black adults (22%) and Latinx adults (20%) compared with White adults (10%)
- Foreign born adults (18%) compared with U.S. born adults (14%)
- Adults living in PBL Residential Zip Codes (19%) compared with adults living in Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes (11%)

Figure 75. Demographic Table (N=1653)

Race/Ethnicity	Weighted Percent	Unweighted Percent
Asian	5.4%	4.0%
Black	23.2%	21.9%
Latinx	18.1%	11.4%
White	48.8%	60.2%
Other	4.4%	2.3%
Sex		
Female	51.9%	57.8%
Male	48.1%	42.2%
Place of Birth		
Foreign-Born	26.8%	21.1%
US-Born	73.2%	78.9%
LGBT		
LGBT	13.2%	13.5%
Heterosexual/Cis Gender	86.8%	86.5%
Age		
18-34	43.4%	12.0%
35-64	41.8%	53.3%
65+	14.7%	34.7%
Employment		
Out of Work	12.0%	7.8%
Retired	11.3%	23.1%
Other*	15.7%	7.8%
Employed	60.9%	61.0%
Housing		
Subsidized renter	13.9%	9.4%
Non-subsidized renter	45.3%	27.0%
Other arrangement	4.5%	2.1%
Homeowner	36.2%	61.5%
Household Income		
<$25,000	25.3%	17.0%
$25,000-$50,000	16.9%	15.7%
$50,000+	57.8%	67.3%
Education		
HS Grad or less	30.7%	16.3%
Some College+	69.2%	83.7%
Neighborhood		
PBL Residential Zip Codes**	57.8%	48.6%
Non-PBL Residential Zip Codes	42.1%	51.4%

* Other includes students, homemakers, and those unable to work; groups were combined to produce a robust sample size.
**PBL Residential Zip Codes refers to zip codes associated with higher percentages of Black and Latinx residents compared with White residents based on the 5-year ACS estimates (2014-2018). These zip codes include 02119, 02120, 02121, 02122, 02124, 02125, 02126, 02128, 02131, 02136. These neighborhoods include Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, East Boston, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.

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