



JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL *of* NURSING

THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

The US Latino HIV Crisis – Ending an Era of Invisibility

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, LCSW, RN, ANP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAAN

**Leona B. Carpenter Endowed Chair in Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health
Executive Director, The Institute for Policy Solutions, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Director, Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health**

THE U.S. HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Ending
the
HIV
Epidemic



The national strategy to end the HIV epidemic is working

We have effective HIV prevention and treatment

The majority of PLWHIV are aware of their status and linked to care

We have integrated clinical and social HIV care that is highly effective (e.g., Ryan White: ~90% viral suppression)

Overall, there are fewer new HIV infections and life expectancy for PLWHIV has lengthened

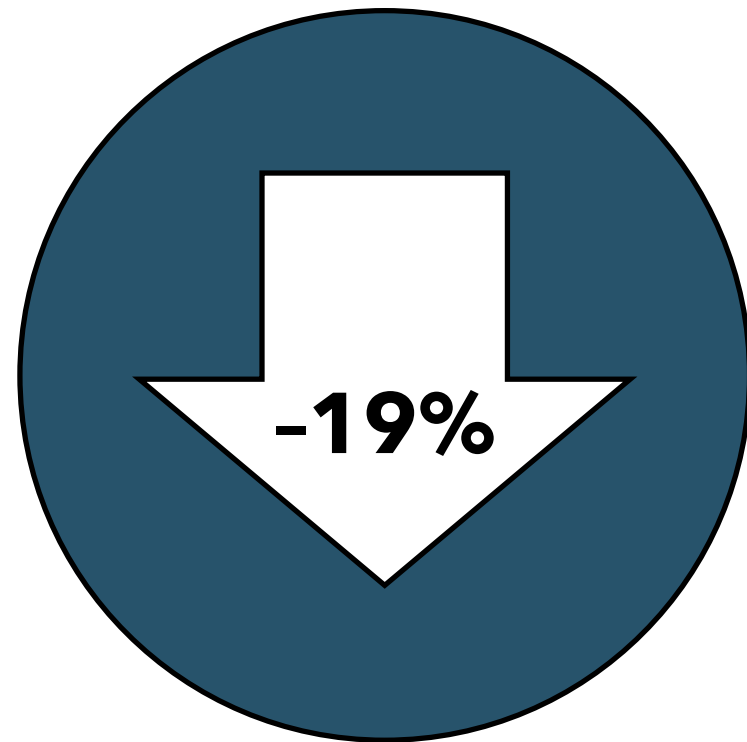
There is societal progress in reducing HIV stigma and discrimination

An impressive multi-sector achievement

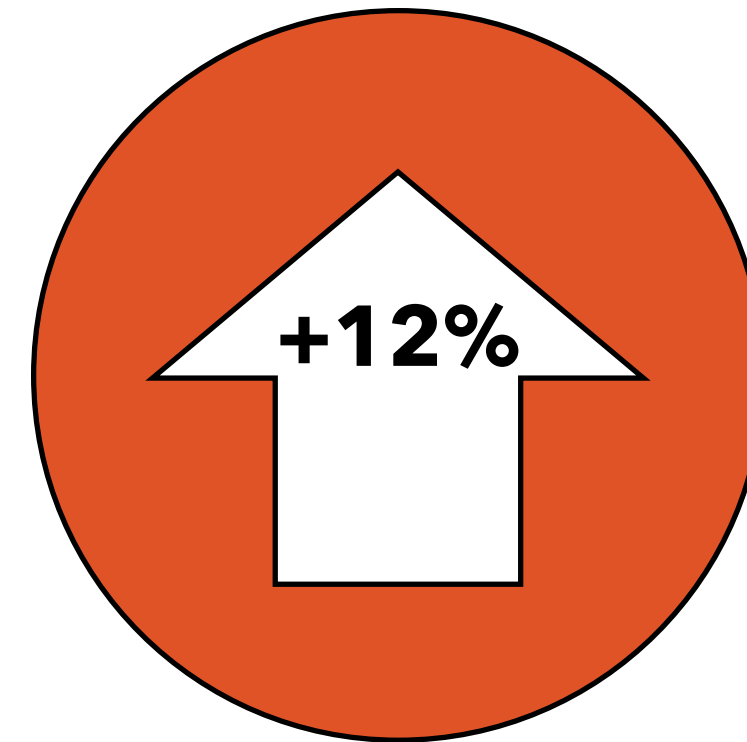
- **Government**
- **Community**
- **Public Health**
- **Universities & Research**
- **Private Sector**
- **Media**

DESPITE SIGNIFICANT OVERALL PROGRESS HIV INFECTIONS FOR LATINOS ARE INCREASING

**Overall new HIV Infections
Nationally**
(2010-2022 change)



**New HIV Infections among
Latinos**
(2010-2022 change)



THESE INCREASES FOR LATINOS HAVE BEEN ONGOING

A HISTORY OF INVISIBILITY DESPITE PROLONGED INCREASES IN HIV INFECTIONS AMONG LATINOS

In 2020, a national group of Latino stakeholders collectively raised the alarm about an INVISIBLE HIV CRISIS AMONG LATINOS.

AJPH ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

The Invisible US Hispanic/Latino HIV Crisis: Addressing Gaps in the National Response

The federal government has proposed an end to HIV transmission in the United States by 2030. Although the United States has made substantial overall progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have raised concerns about widening, yet largely unrecognized, HIV infection disparities among Hispanic and Latino populations. This commentary identifies underlying drivers of increasing new

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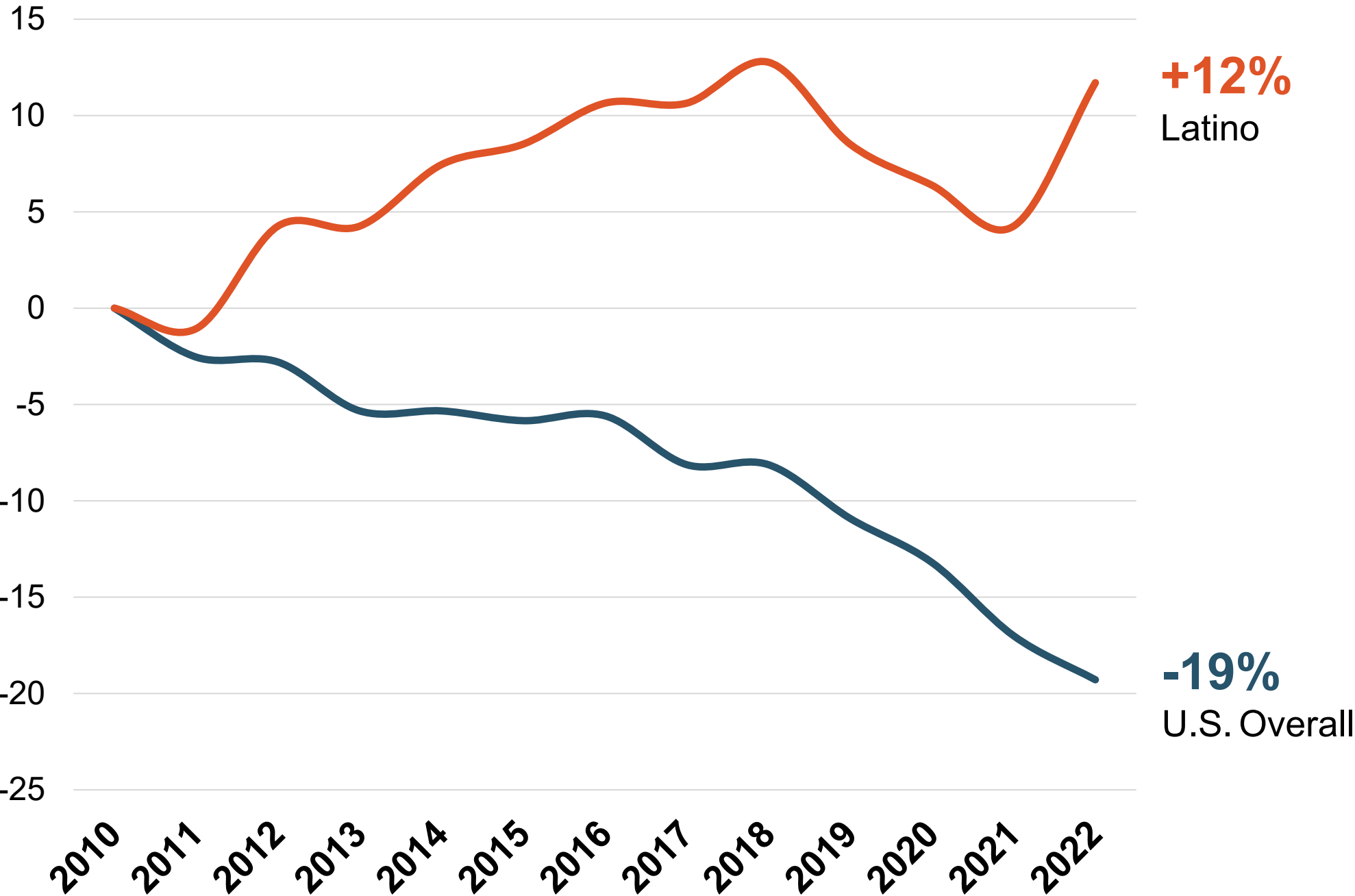
See also Kapadia and Landers, p. 15; and the *AJPH* Ending the HIV Epidemic section, pp. 22–68.

In his February 5, 2019, State of the Union Address, President Trump promised to reinforce national efforts to end the US HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. However, the national public health agenda has neglected the accelerating HIV/AIDS crisis in Hispanic/Latino communities. increased by 7% between 2012 and 2016, in contrast to overall annual new HIV diagnoses in the United States, which have decreased by 4% (Figure 1).² The increase in estimated HIV incidence and new diagnoses among Hispanics/Latinos is best elucidated by considering the specific

years declined by 10% over the same period. disparity among Latinas was a systematic reanalysis.⁴ It is roughly one Latinas is HIV estimates of HIV



Percent Change in Estimated Annual New HIV Infections Relative to 2010



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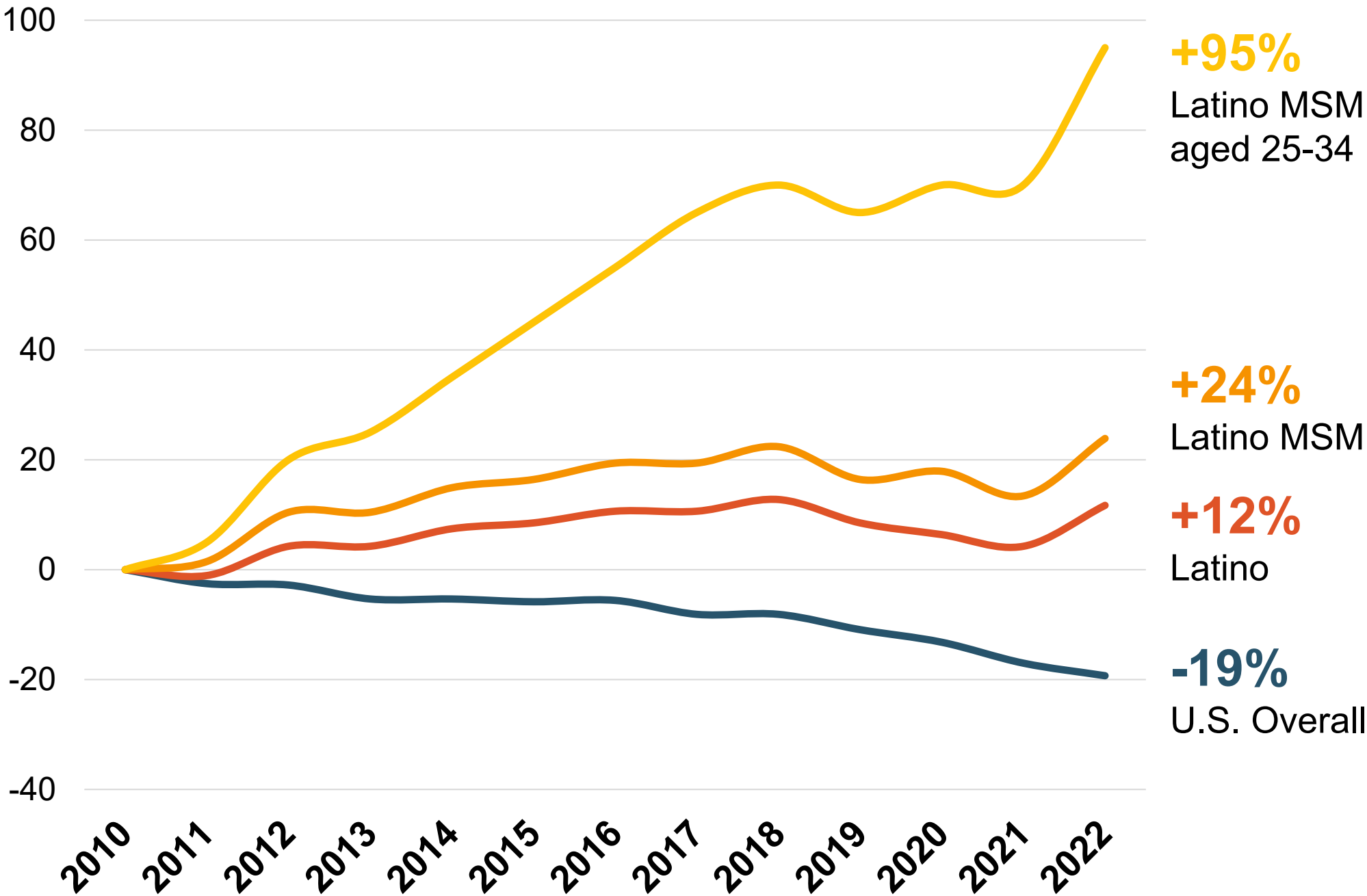
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Percent Change in Estimated Annual New HIV Infections Relative to 2010



THE CURRENT STATE OF THE U.S. LATINO HIV EPIDEMIC



In 2022:



Latinos
accounted for
1 in 3
of all estimated new HIV
infections in the U.S.
(compared to **1 in 4** in
2010)



Latino MSM
accounted for more
estimated new HIV
infections than MSM of
**any other racial or
ethnic group**



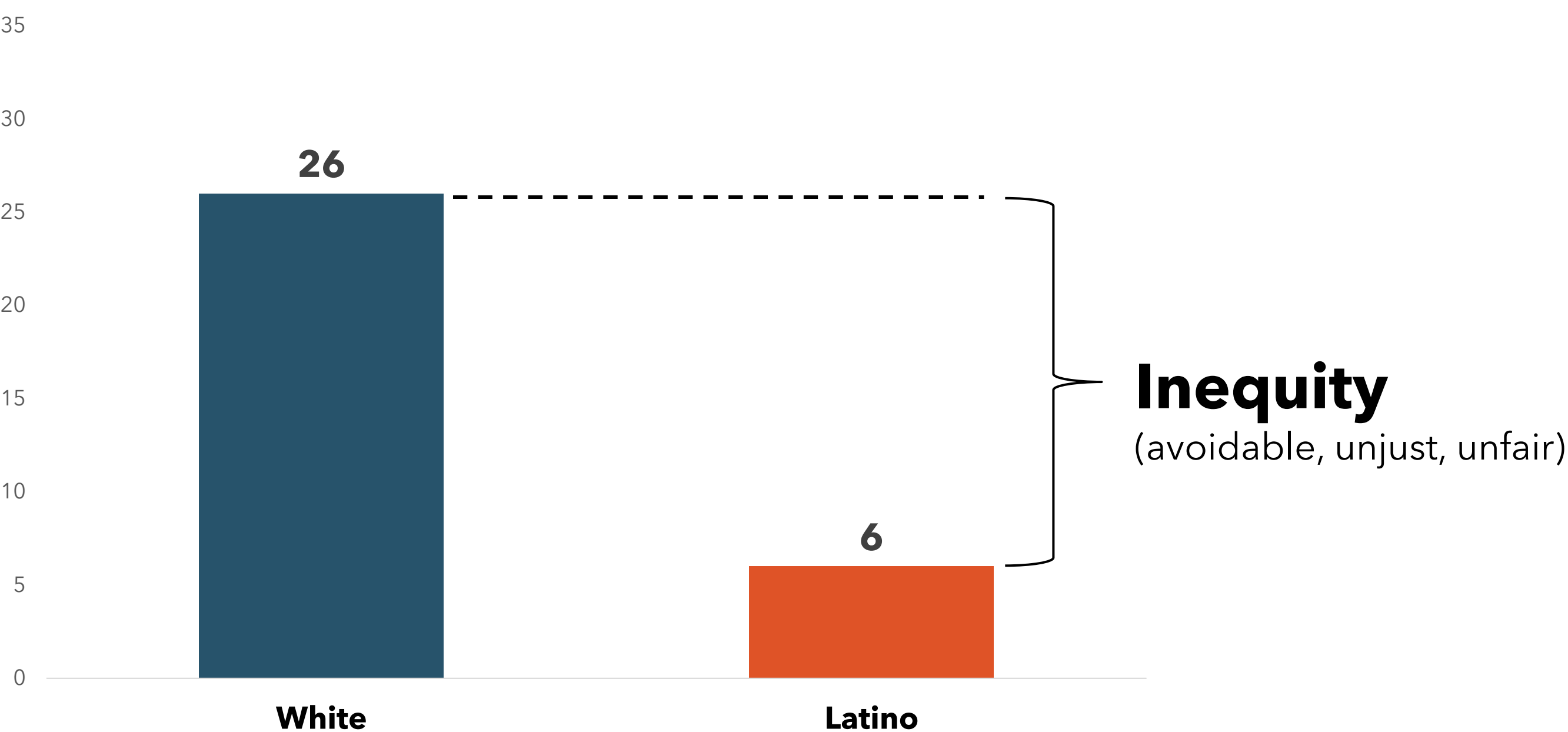
The number of annual
new HIV diagnoses
among **transgender
Latina women**
increased by
94%
(between 2014
and 2022)*

*Note: Incidence Data Not Available

INEQUITABLE HIV PREVENTION PROGRESS AMONG LATINOS

Prevention:
PrEP reach is
inequitable

Number of people on PrEP per new HIV diagnosis, 2021



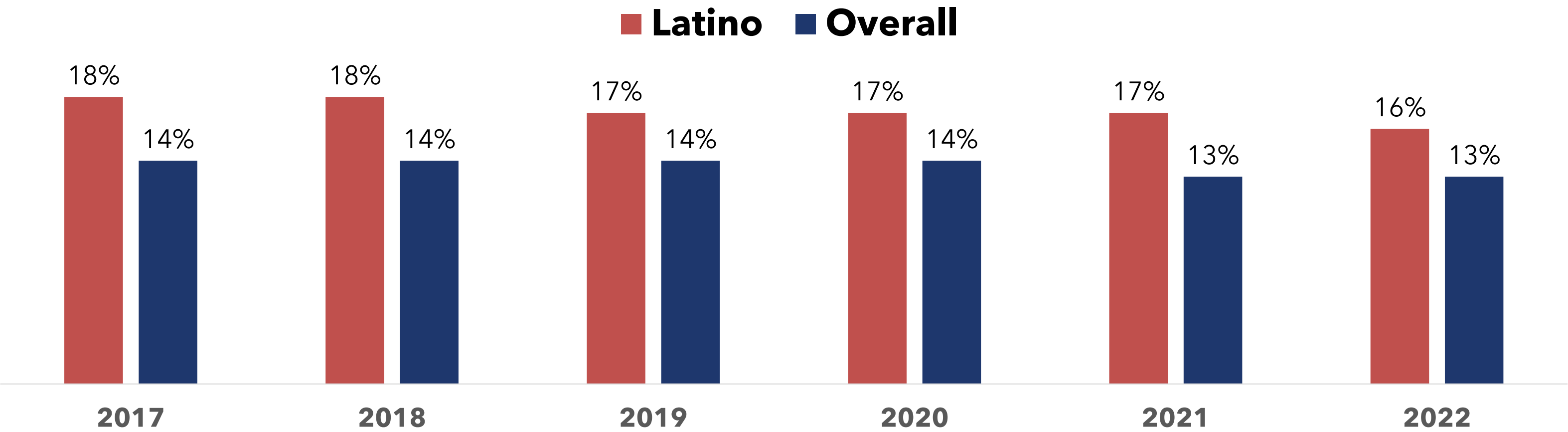
*Adapted from
Sullivan et al.*

Source: Sullivan PS, et al. Equity of PrEP uptake. The Lancet Regional Health-Americas. 2024;1;33.

INEQUITABLE HIV TESTING PROGRESS AMONG LATINOS

Testing:

In **each year** between 2017 and 2022, Latinos living with HIV (compared to people living with HIV overall) were **more likely to be unaware of their status.**

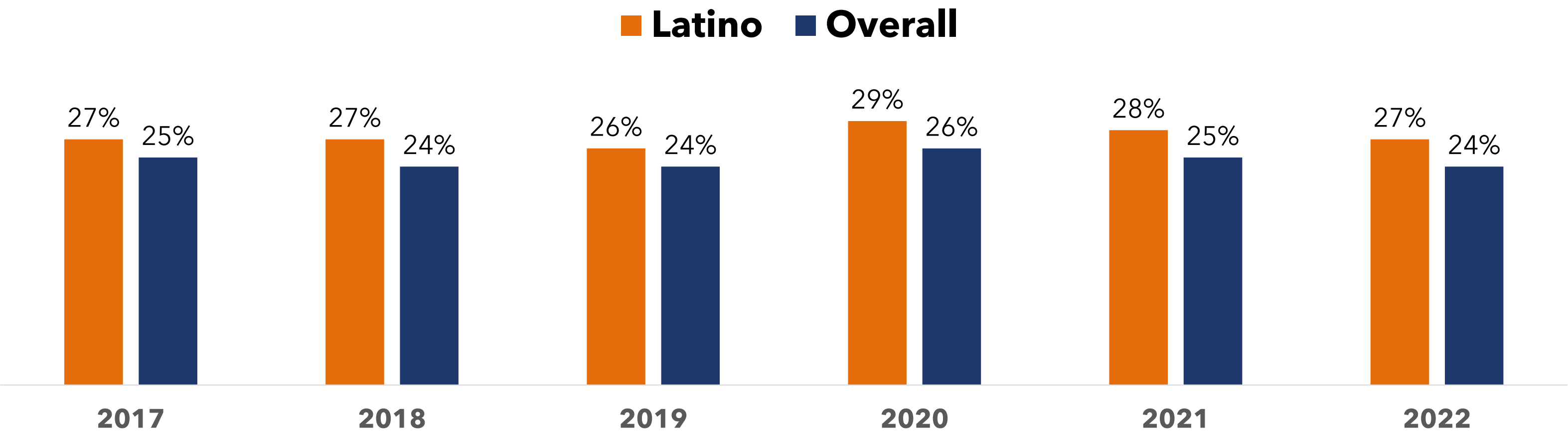


Reported percentages correspond to the prevalence-based care continuum (based on diagnosed and estimated undiagnosed cases)

INEQUITABLE HIV CARE PROGRESS AMONG LATINOS

Receipt of HIV Care:

In **each year** between 2017 and 2022, Latinos living with HIV (compared to people living with HIV overall) were **more likely to not receive any HIV care.**

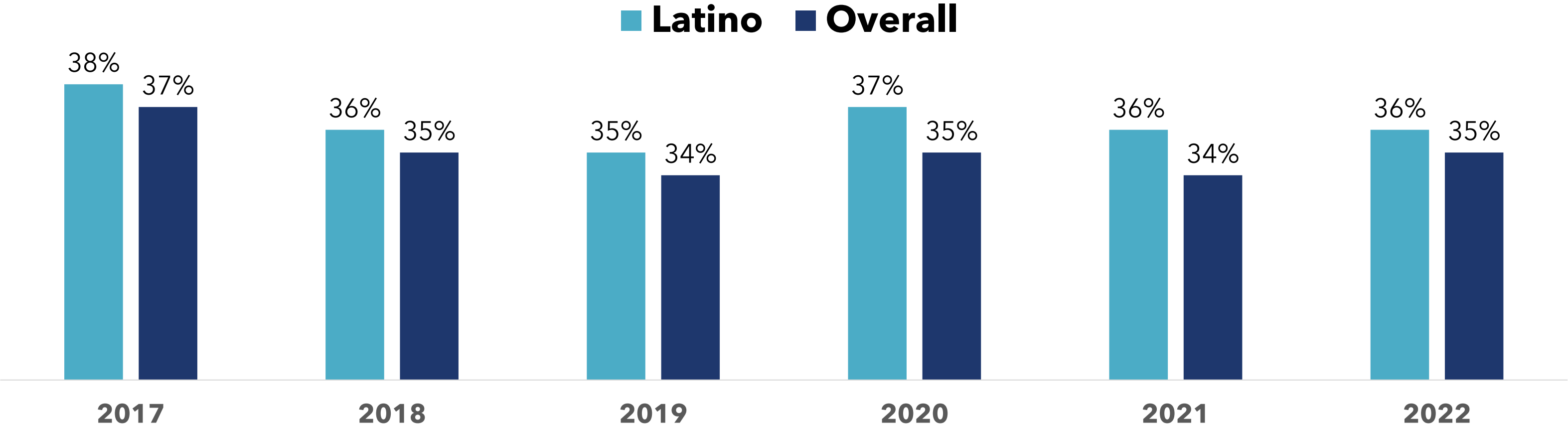


Reported percentages correspond to the diagnosis-based care continuum (based on diagnosed cases only)

INEQUITABLE HIV CARE PROGRESS AMONG LATINOS

HIV Viral Suppression:

In **each year** between 2017 and 2022, Latinos living with HIV (compared to people living with HIV overall) were **more likely to not achieve viral suppression.**



Reported percentages correspond to the diagnosis-based care continuum (based on diagnosed cases only)

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION IS COMMON FOR LATINOS LIVING WITH HIV



Weekly / Vol. 71 / No. 41
October 14, 2022

HIV Stigma and Health Care Discrimination Experienced by Hispanic or Latino Persons with HIV — United States, 2018–2020

Mabel Padilla, MPH¹; Deesha Patel, MPH¹; Linda Beer, PhD¹; Yunfeng Tie, PhD¹; Priya Nair, MPH²; Yamir Salabarría-Peña, DrPH¹; Kirk D. Henny, PhD¹; Dominique Thomas, MPA¹; Sharoda Dasgupta, PhD¹

“HIV stigma and discrimination experiences in an HIV health care setting were commonly reported among Hispanic persons with HIV.”

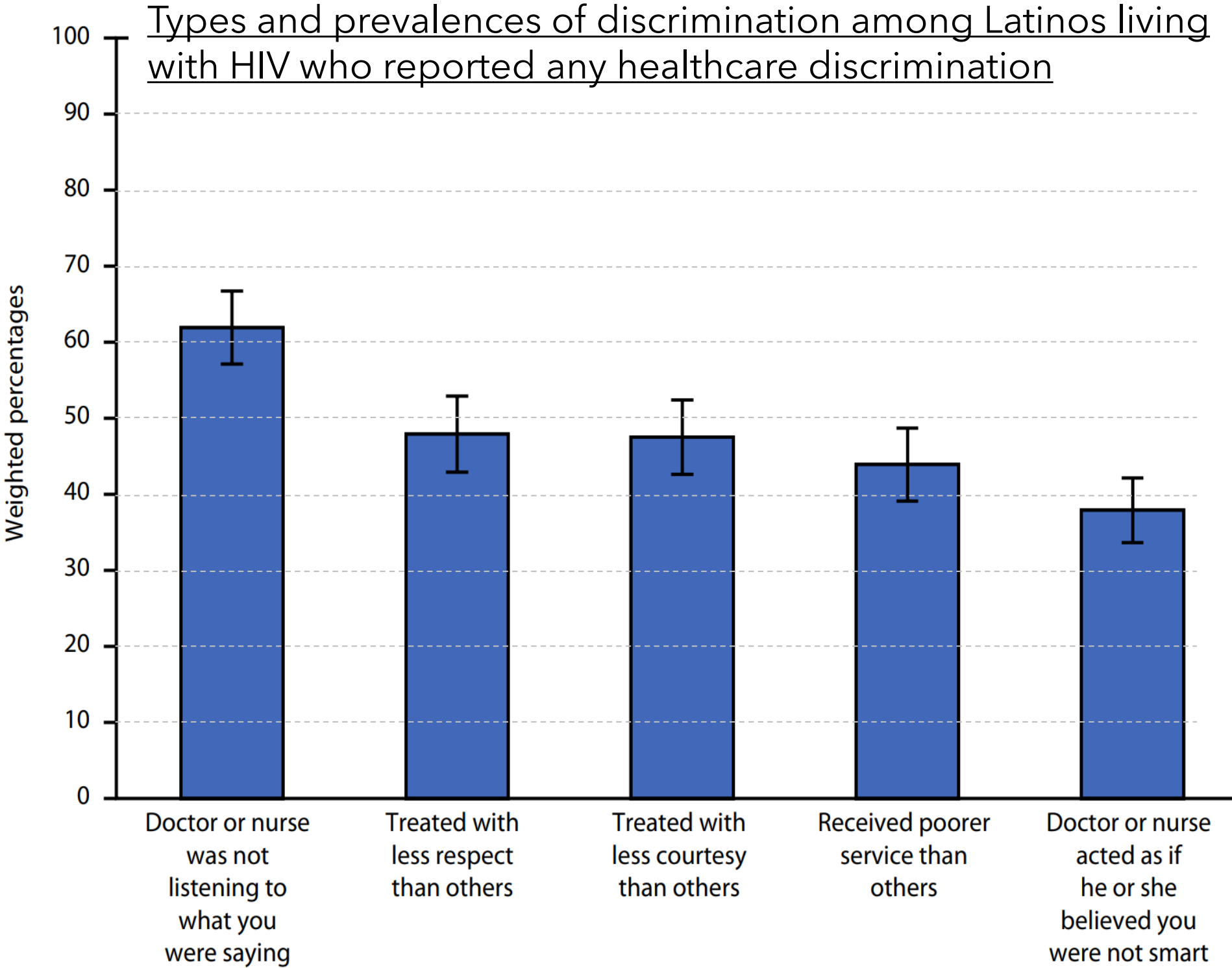


Figure visually adapted

LACK OF PROGRESS DESPITE ALARMS

2019



Experts Say Rate Of HIV Infections Among US Latinos Is An 'Invisible Crisis'

2024



Why progress against HIV/AIDS has stalled among Hispanic and Latino Americans

2019



'Invisible epidemic': progress against HIV leaves young Latino men behind

2024



Latinos represent nearly a third of new HIV diagnoses in the US, CDC data shows

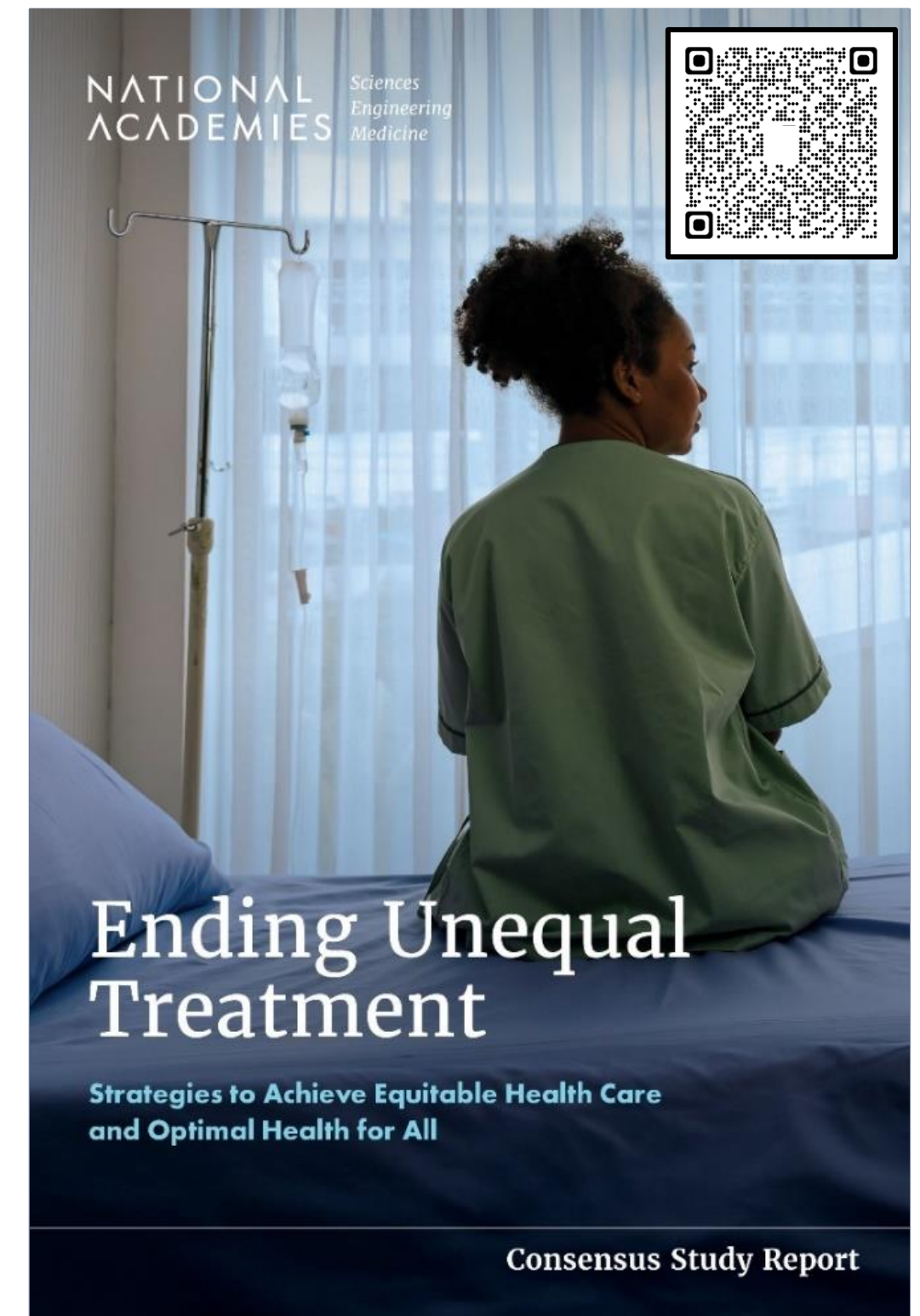
2019



Hispanic and Latino People in the U.S. Are Struggling with 'Invisible' HIV Crisis

THE LATINO HIV EPIDEMIC – EMBLEMATIC OF BROADER HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE INEQUITIES IN THE U.S.

- In June 2024, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released ***Ending Unequal Treatment***
- The consensus report examined the **current state of racial and ethnic healthcare inequities** in the U.S.
- Health inequities are **avoidable, unfair, and unjust**
- The report found **limited overall progress in reducing inequities over the past two decades**
- The report is relevant for **understanding and responding to the lack of progress** in reducing new HIV infections for Latinos



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HealthAffairs

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FOREFRONT

**Ending Unequal Treatment
in the United States Health
Care System**



PROVIDING CONTEXT FOR THE LACK OF HIV PROGRESS AMONG LATINOS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO AMPLIFY THE NATIONAL RESPONSE

4 Critical Latino-specific Challenges



Latino Invisibility



**Latino Prevention &
Treatment Inequities**



**Latino-Specific Local HIV
Service Implementation**



**Context and Structural
Drivers of Latino HIV
Inequities**



LATINO INVISIBILITY

Opportunities to Amplify the Response

- Increase **Latino leadership** in public health, HIV care administration, and health policy
- Engage **national media in framing solutions** to the U.S. Latino HIV crisis
- Invest in **culturally and linguistically tailored** public health communications **campaigns** in Latino communities
- Prioritize **Latino-specific HIV program development** in **federal and local agencies' HIV responses** and **funding**
- Institutionalize the **collection and reporting** of Latino patients' **ethnicity, race, language, sexual orientation,** and **gender identity data** in all health and governmental institutions
- Fund **solutions-oriented research** to identify Latino inequities and levers to eliminate them (e.g., such as NINR and NIMHD investments)



LATINO PREVENTION & TREATMENT INEQUITIES

Opportunities to Amplify the Response

- Establish **measurable goals** to eliminate Latino HIV prevention and treatment inequities
- Expand **comprehensive HIV care models** that **integrate clinical, behavioral (e.g., substance use services), and social care**
- Redefine the **HIV workforce**; there is a **need for new roles** and **better representation** of the Latino community, and **better cultural/linguistic preparedness**
- Remove **restrictions** to non-physician HIV care workers' ability to practice at the highest levels of their **education and licenses** (e.g., nurses, pharmacists, PAs)
- Eliminate **implicit and explicit biases, stigma,** and **discrimination** of Latinos in HIV prevention and treatment services

HEALTH WORKFORCE REPRESENTATIVENESS – WE KNOW IT MATTERS FOR ELIMINATING INEQUITIES

THE
MILBANK QUARTERLY
A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY



Perspective

Overcoming the Impact of *Students for Fair Admission v Harvard* to Build a More Representative Health Care Workforce: Perspectives from *Ending Unequal Treatment*

2024



Ending Unequal Treatment:

"A diverse health and science **workforce, representative of the communities that it serves, is essential to health care equity.**

The **nation has made little progress** addressing this goal.

Recent court decisions concerning diversity, equity and inclusion serve to further **limit progress** in achieving a diverse workforce."



LATINO-SPECIFIC LOCAL HIV SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION

Opportunities to Amplify the Response

- Implement **Latino-specific** and **contextually tailored response plans** within each of the EHE priority jurisdictions
- Ensure **meaningful Latino grassroots community engagement** in the development and implementation of local HIV prevention and treatment programs
- Allow **flexibility in local implementation** and **resource allocation** while ensuring **accountability** to Latino community needs
- Engage **multisectoral local partners** to address HIV in Latino communities, including **private sector, universities, local media, community-based organizations, healthcare, public health, and local government.**



CONTEXT & STRUCTURAL DRIVERS OF LATINO HIV INEQUITIES

Opportunities to Amplify the Response

- Enact **evidence-based laws and policies** that increase (not reduce) access to HIV prevention and care (e.g., ACA section 1557 enforcement; removal of HIV criminalization laws, anti-LGBTQ+ rights laws)
- Scale-up of **policies/programming to eliminate root causes of Latino health inequities**, such as systemic/structural racism, anti-immigrant sentiment, LGBTQ+ discrimination, substance use stigma, medical mistrust (e.g., CDC's Confianza initiative), etc.
- Focus greater attention to the **harmful SDOH** that disproportionately affect underserved Latino communities, including Latinos with undocumented status
- Mobilize **collective societal and political will, commitment, and accountability** to end HIV among Latinos

ELIMINATING LATINO HIV INEQUITIES IS POSSIBLE

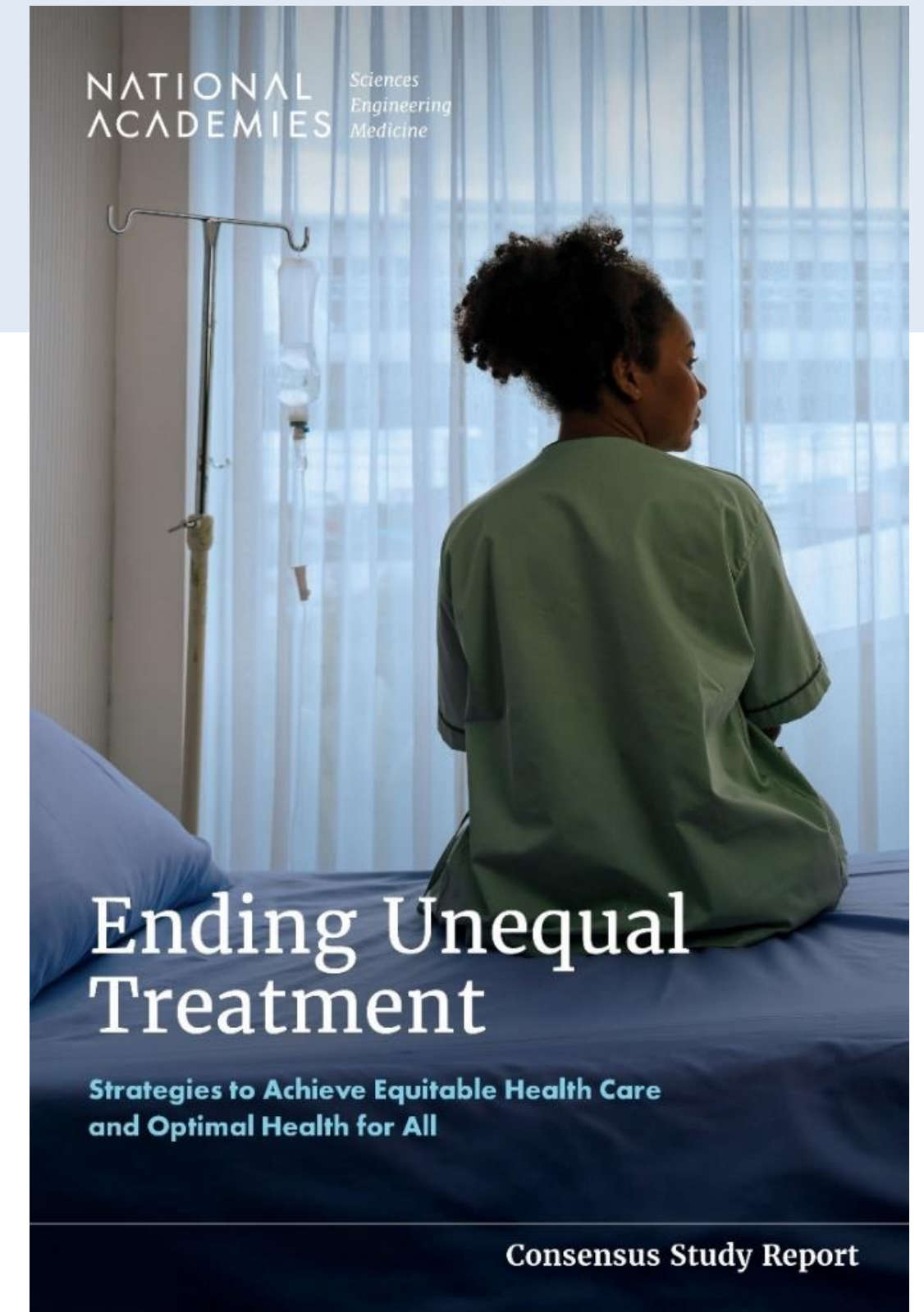
Ending Unequal Treatment identifies **societal and political divides** as major risks preventing the investments needed to eliminate health and healthcare inequities

A Common Myth:

- Focused investments in eliminating Latino HIV inequities represent a **zero-sum game** – for Latinos to make progress, others lose

But, **evidence shows:**

- Eliminating HIV inequities among Latinos has the potential to **improve outcomes for everyone**
- Not addressing Latino inequities will **negatively impact everyone**



A CALL TO ACTION – WE KNOW HOW TO ELIMINATE HIV INEQUITIES FOR LATINOS

2023

Is the USA on track to end the HIV epidemic?

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, Marco Thimm-Kaiser, Adam Benzekri

THE LANCET **HIV**



Yes and No:

- We have made **tremendous progress** toward ending the U.S. HIV epidemic
- However, there are **ongoing HIV inequities among Latinos**
- Collectively, we have the **responsibility to prioritize Latinos now** – we know how to do this
- Without a **collective multi-sector investment in the Latino community**, we **cannot end the U.S. HIV epidemic**

A CALL TO ACTION – HELP US END THIS ERA OF INVISIBILITY AND INEQUITY FOR LATINOS



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

The U.S. Latino HIV Crisis — Ending an Era of Invisibility

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, Ph.D., Marco Thimm-Kaiser, M.P.H., and Adam Benzekri, M.S.

In May 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its annual HIV surveillance reports. The new data show a continuation of year-over-year reductions through 2022 in

the estimated number of new HIV infections in the United States.¹ But disconcerting trends among Latino people — the country's second-largest racial or ethnic group after White, non-Latino people — reflect persistent failures in HIV-prevention and treatment systems that have been overshadowed by this overall progress.

In 2020, we called attention to an accelerating HIV crisis in the Latino population.² At the time, the Hispanic Health Network, a

Network hosted a national summit about HIV and interrelated epidemics in Latino communities. These community-led mobilization efforts have focused on raising awareness and obtaining policy and programmatic support and resources to strengthen the national Latino-focused response to HIV. Neither the continuing crisis nor advocacy efforts have yet resulted in adequate investments, however.

According to the new CDC data,

same period.¹ In 2022, an estimated one third of new HIV infections occurred in Latino people — reflecting a stark increase since 2010, when the proportion was approximately one fourth.¹ This increase cannot be explained by growth in the Latino population alone and reflects inequities in progress toward reducing HIV incidence. Specifically, between 2010 and 2022, the estimated rate of new HIV infections per 100,000 people fell nearly twice as fast for the U.S. population overall (a 27% decrease) as it did for the Latino population (a 16% decrease).¹

This crisis has had the most profound effect among Latino men who have sex with men

VIEW AND SHARE!



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

¡ADELENTE! SUMMIT: A WHITE HOUSE CONVENING TO ACCELERATE OUR NATION'S HIV RESPONSE IN HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITIES

On September 24, 2024:

- Had a central goal to **elevate visibility of the HIV epidemic in Hispanic/Latino communities** and inspire **collective action nationwide**.
- Was hosted by the **White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP)**
- Brought together a **diverse group of leaders invested in the health and well-being of our nation** and **Hispanic/Latino communities**

View and Share



Thank You!

**Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos
Executive Director,
Institute for Policy Solutions**

Please send any questions or comments to:
VincentRamos@jhu.edu



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