



JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL *of* NURSING

THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

Ending the Latino HIV Cascading Disaster

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, LCSW, RN, ANP-BC, PMHNP-BC, FAAN
Leona B. Carpenter Chair in Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health
Executive Director, The Institute for Policy Solutions
Founder & Director, The Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Presentation Agenda



The Current State of the US Latino HIV Crisis

The Unfolding of a Cascading Disaster: Drivers and Consequences

Key Priorities for Ending the US Latino Cascading HIV Disaster



The Current State of the US Latino HIV Crisis

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

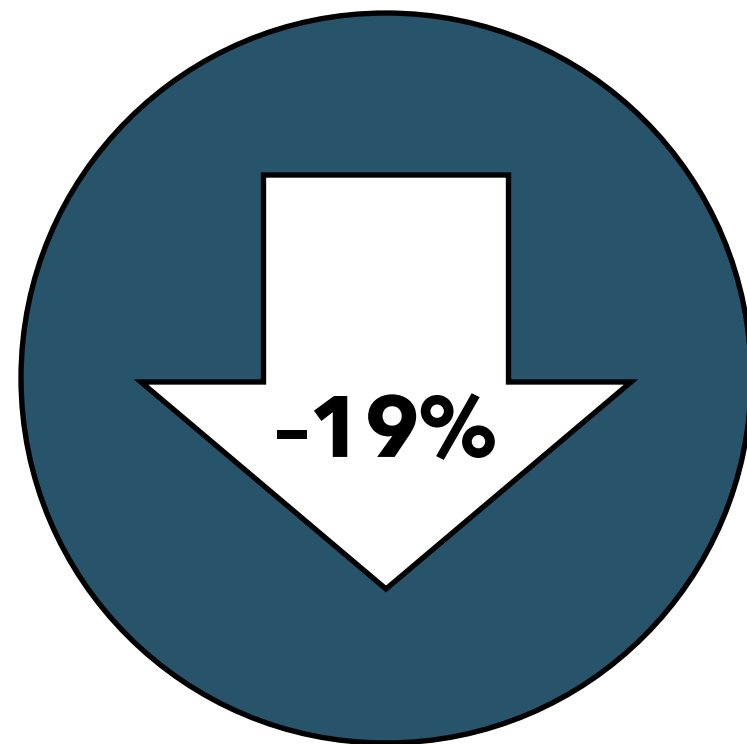
There is societal progress in reducing HIV stigma and discrimination

An impressive multi-sector achievement

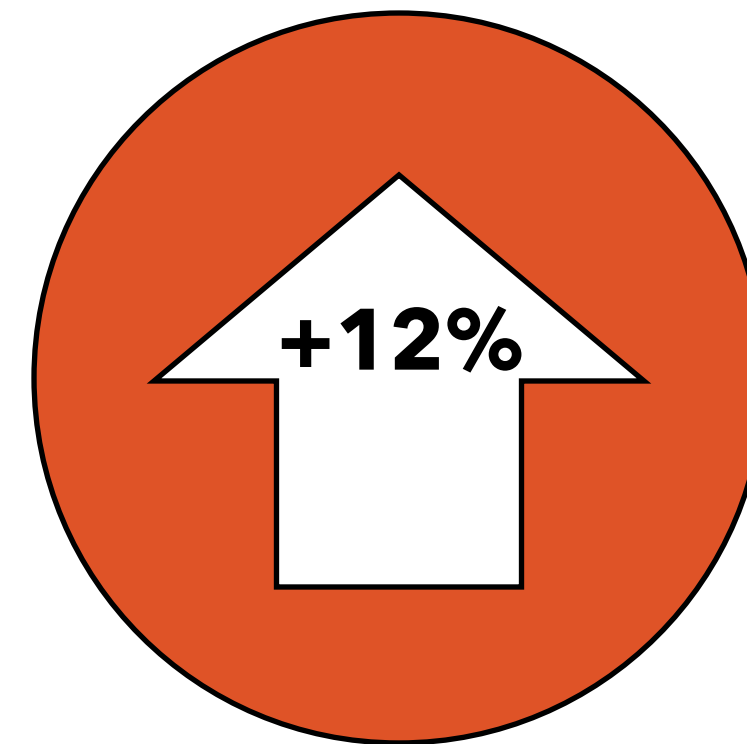
- **Government**
- **Community**
- **Public Health**
- **Universities & Research**
- **Private Sector**
- **Media**

DESPITE SIGNIFICANT OVERALL PROGRESS **HIV INFECTIONS FOR LATINOS HAVE BEEN 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

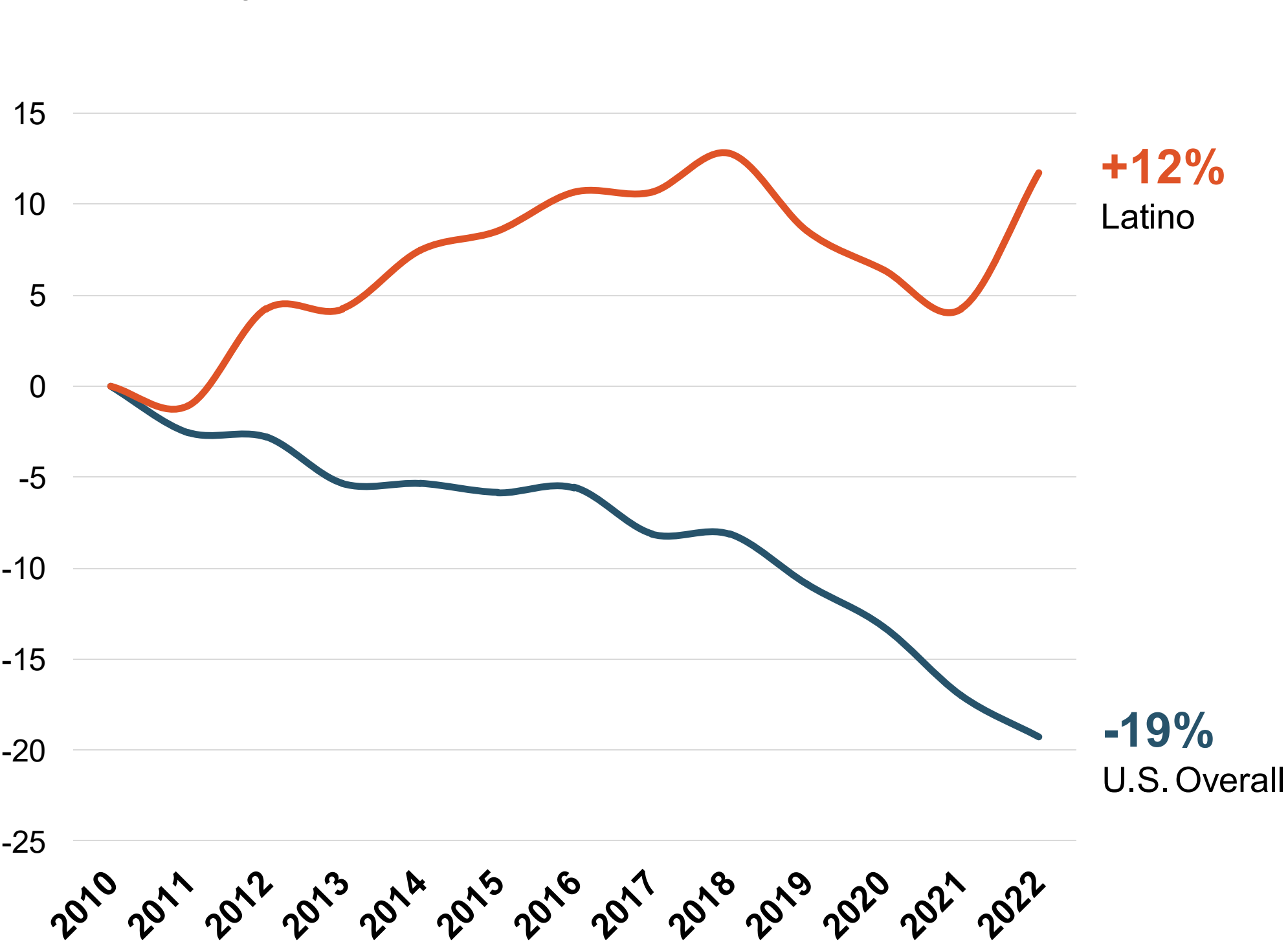
The federal government has proposed an end to HIV transmission in the United States by 2030. Although the United States has made substantial overall progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have raised concerns about widening, yet largely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

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, LCSW, ANP-BC, AAHIVS, Marco Thimm-Kaiser, BA, Adam Benzekri, MS, Guillermo Chacón, Oscar R. López, Luis Scaccabarozzi, MPH, and Elena Ríos, MD, MSPH

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 and Latinas was r systematic re analysis.⁴ It is roughly one Latinas is HIV estimates of H

Percent Change in Estimated Annual New HIV Infections Relative to 2010



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

In 2022:



*Note: Incidence Data Not Available

WORSENING HIV INEQUITIES FOR LATINOS: **THE NEW ANNUAL CDC HIV SURVEILLANCE REPORT**



Diagnoses, Deaths, and Prevalence of HIV in the United States and 6 Territories and Freely Associated States, 2023

Key Data Points:

Between 2022 and 2023 alone,
new HIV diagnoses increased by...

8% among Latinos overall –
more than for any other group

6% among Latino MSM

8% among young Latino MSM
aged 20-24 years

*in the United States and its territories

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



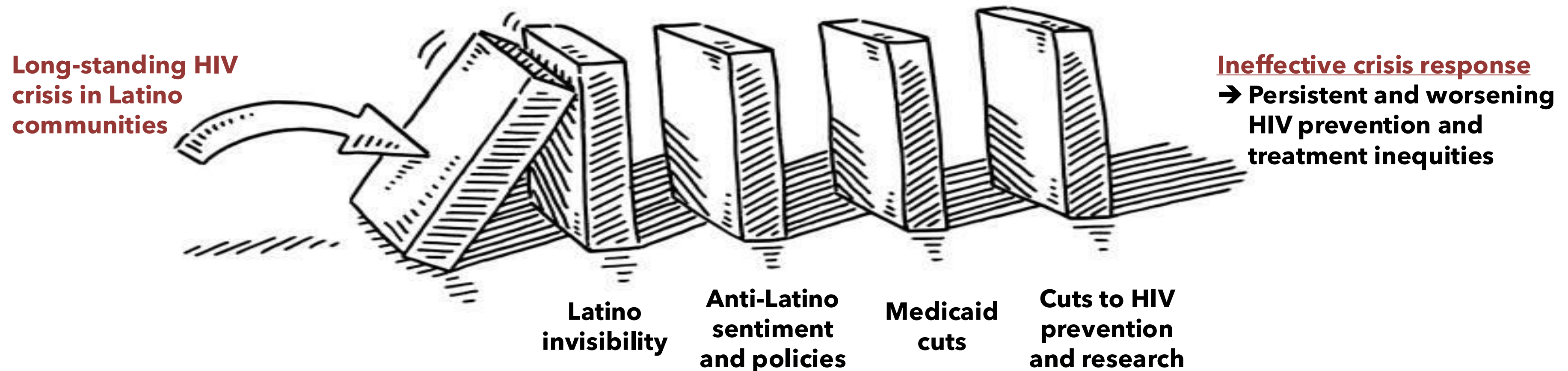
Hispanic and Latino People in the U.S. Are Struggling with 'Invisible' HIV Crisis



The Unfolding of a Cascading Disaster: Drivers and Consequences

NOW, THE INVISIBLE LATINO HIV CRISIS HAS BECOME A CASCADING DISASTER

A **cascading disaster** is a chain reaction triggered by a harmful event that spreads across interconnected systems, amplifying the harm at every subsequent step.



LATINO INVISIBILITY IN THE NATIONAL HIV RESPONSE

The EHE initiative recognized the Latino community – **Latino MSM** in particular – as **a key priority population** for improving the reach and outcomes of HIV prevention and treatment.

Despite this, of the 57 EHE priority jurisdictions' local implementation plans:

Only 33% describe the unique needs of the local Latino MSM community

Only 39% describe the unique barriers to HIV services confronted by Latino MSM

Only 46% explicitly outline strategies for engaging Latino MSM in HIV services in their local implementation plans

Only 33% describe how the local Latino MSM community is currently being engaged in EHE implementation activities

Only 4% describe specific performance metrics to track progress toward EHE goals among Latino MSM

AN INCOMPLETE CDC DATA RELEASE – PERPETUATING LATINO INVISIBILITY

As of November 24, 2025...



Important update

Please be advised that the publication of CDC's *HIV Surveillance Supplemental Report: Estimated HIV Incidence and Prevalence in the United States, 2019–2023* has been delayed

No Data = No Problem

This perpetuates Latino Invisibility

ANTI-LATINO SENTIMENT IS INCREASING IN THE US

Nationally representative survey of Latinos in the US

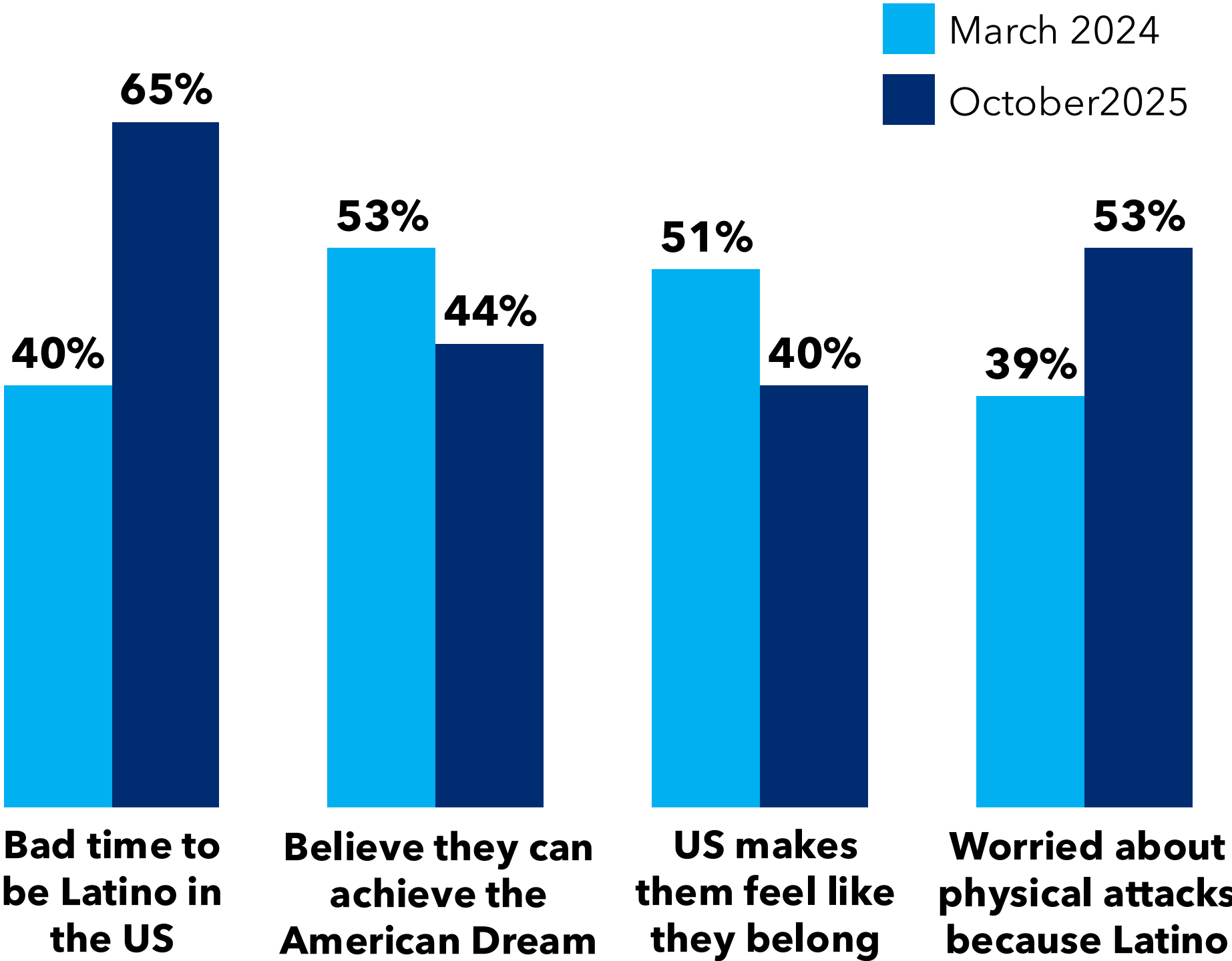
POLLING

POLITICS

Majority of Latinos say it's a bad time to be Latino or Hispanic the US

New Axios/Ipsos poll in partnership with Noticias Telemundo shows sharp decline in belief in American Dream among Latino and Hispanic Americans

11.06.25



LATINO DISCRIMINATION AS A RESULT OF ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICIES

Highly visible deportation enforcement has instilled fear in undocumented migrants and increased **hesitancy to interact with healthcare** – but has **also negatively impacted US-born Latinos and Latinos with legal immigration status.**

PROPUBLICA

Immigration

We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days.



LATINO DISCRIMINATION AS A RESULT OF ANTI- **IMMIGRANT POLICIES**

The New York Times **Editorial Borad:**

*"The Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration has become a **campaign of discrimination against Latinos**. Federal agents are rounding up people with brown skin, catching both U.S. citizens and legal immigrants in their dragnet. Some Latinos are now afraid to speak Spanish or listen to Spanish music in public. [...] **American citizens are living in fear of a government that is sworn to protect their liberties and keep them safe.**"*

Being Latino in the United States Should Not Be a Crime

Oct. 27, 2025



MEDICAID CUTS: AN OUTSIZED IMPACT ON LATINOS WITH HIV

The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill **cuts roughly \$1 trillion from Medicaid**, and is estimated to **remove nearly 12 million people** from health insurance.

The impact will be outsized for Latinos living with HIV.

Medicaid is the primary source of health insurance for people living with HIV

40%

of PLHIV receive Medicaid benefits

2 in 3

Latinos with HIV either **rely on public health insurance** (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, Veteran's Affairs), or **have no insurance at all** (relying on Ryan White support)

FEDERAL CUTS TO HIV PREVENTION FUNDING

AMFAR Analysis: Estimated Impacts of Cuts to HIV Prevention Between 2025 and 2030

The House Appropriations Committee has proposed a nearly **\$2 billion reduction in HIV funding** for fiscal year 2026

This would **eliminate all funding for CDC’s HIV prevention efforts** and cut more than **\$500 million** from the **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Program**

	With a 50% reduction in CDC prevention funding	With a 100% reduction in CDC prevention funding
Additional new HIV infections by 2030	75,289	143,486
Additional AIDS-related deaths by 2030	7,530	14,676
Additional people living with HIV by 2030	67,759	127,382
Additional cumulative lifetime costs from new HIV infections	\$31.6 Billion	\$60.3 Billion

FEDERAL CUTS TO RESEARCH

The Trump administration has implemented **drastic cuts to health research**, across several funding agencies.

NIH Example:

> 380 NIH clinical trials have lost funding – more than 74,000 participants were affected

The New York Times

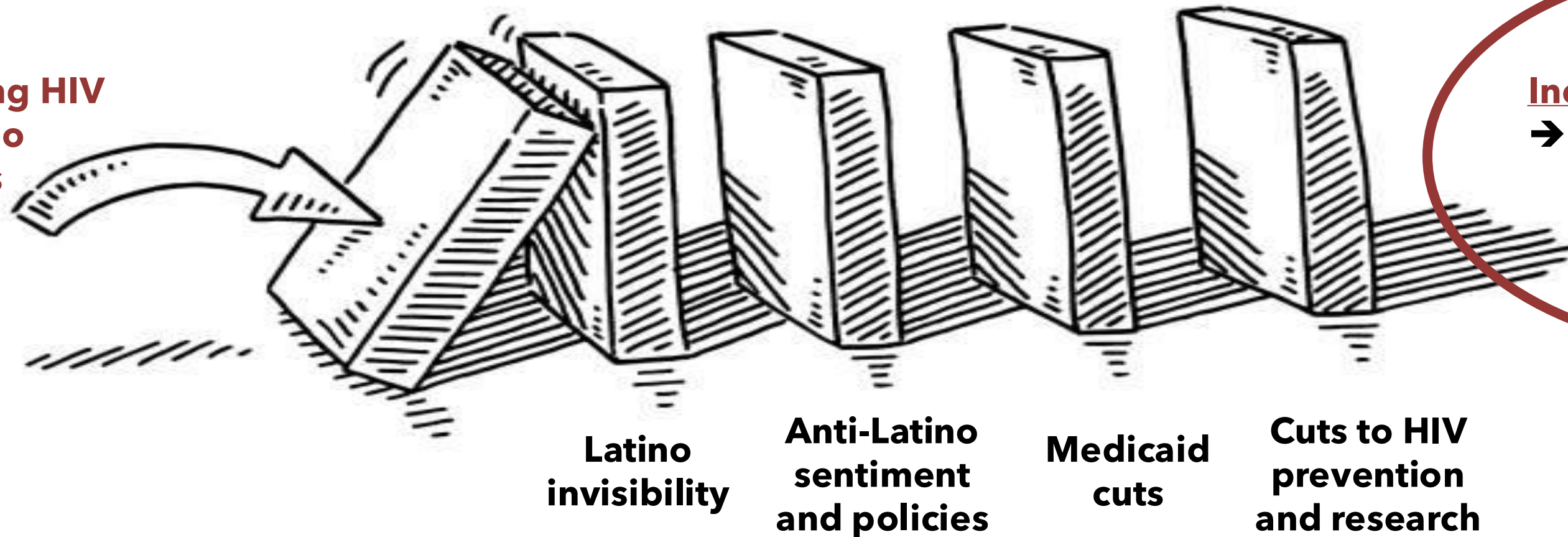
May 4, 2025

Trump Administration Slashes Research Into L.G.B.T.Q. Health

Nearly half of the N.I.H. grants canceled through early May — together worth more than \$800 million — addressed the health of sexual and gender minority groups, The Times found.

THE CASCADING DISASTER PREVENTS AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE LATINO HIV CRISIS

Long-standing HIV crisis in Latino communities

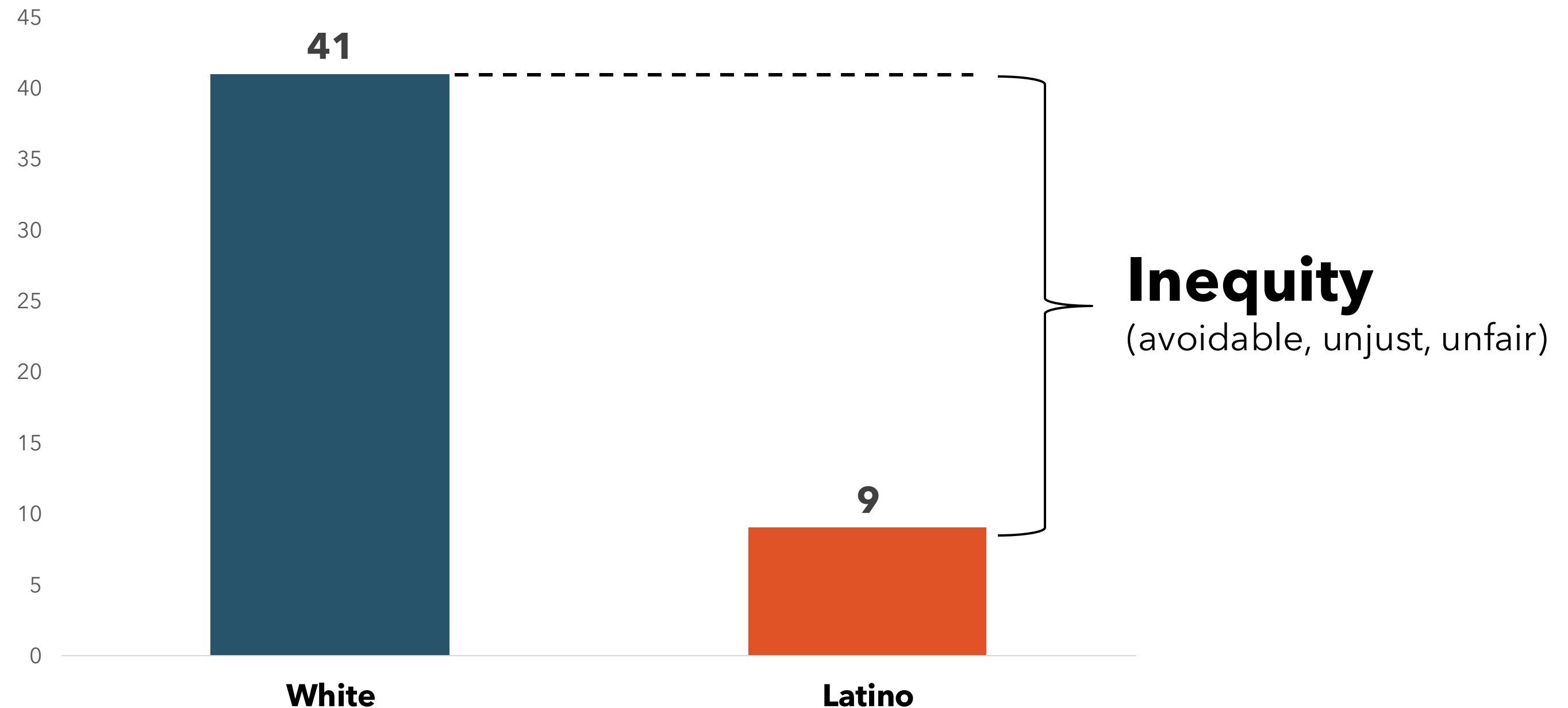


Ineffective crisis response
→ Persistent and worsening HIV prevention and treatment inequities

PERSISTENT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INEQUITIES AMONG LATINOS

Prevention:
PrEP reach is
inequitable

Number of people on PrEP per new HIV diagnosis, 2024
(PrEP-to-Need Ratio - PnR)



Adapted from Sullivan et al.

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

PERSISTENT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INEQUITIES: **A WIDENING GAP**

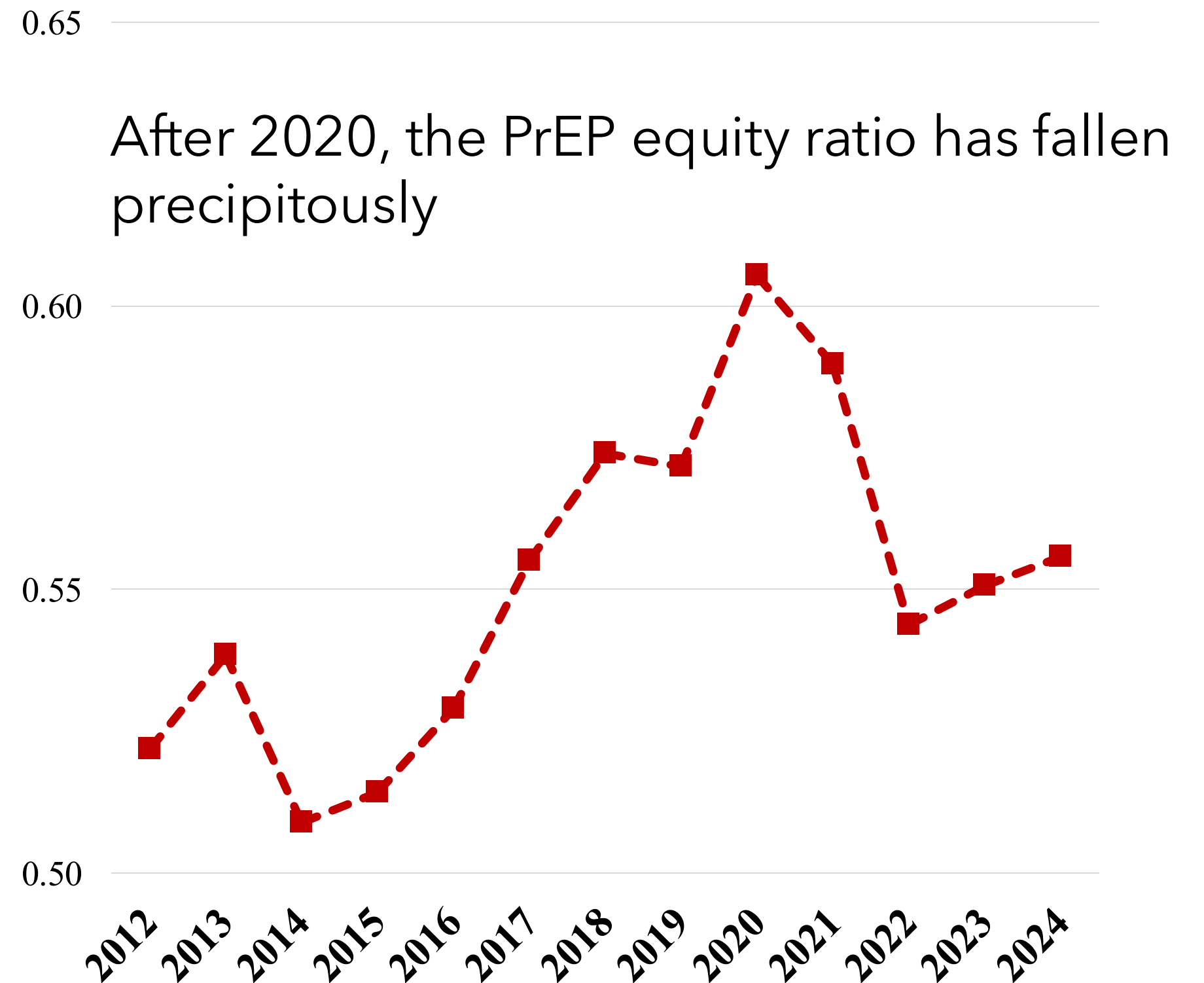
The **PrEP equity ratio** is a metric to quantify the degree to which one population group's PrEP needs are met relative to another's.

The PrEP Equity Ratio compares two groups' PrEP-to-need ratios (PnRs):

$$\frac{\text{Latino } PnR_t}{\text{Overall US } PnR_t}$$

Adapted from Sullivan et al.

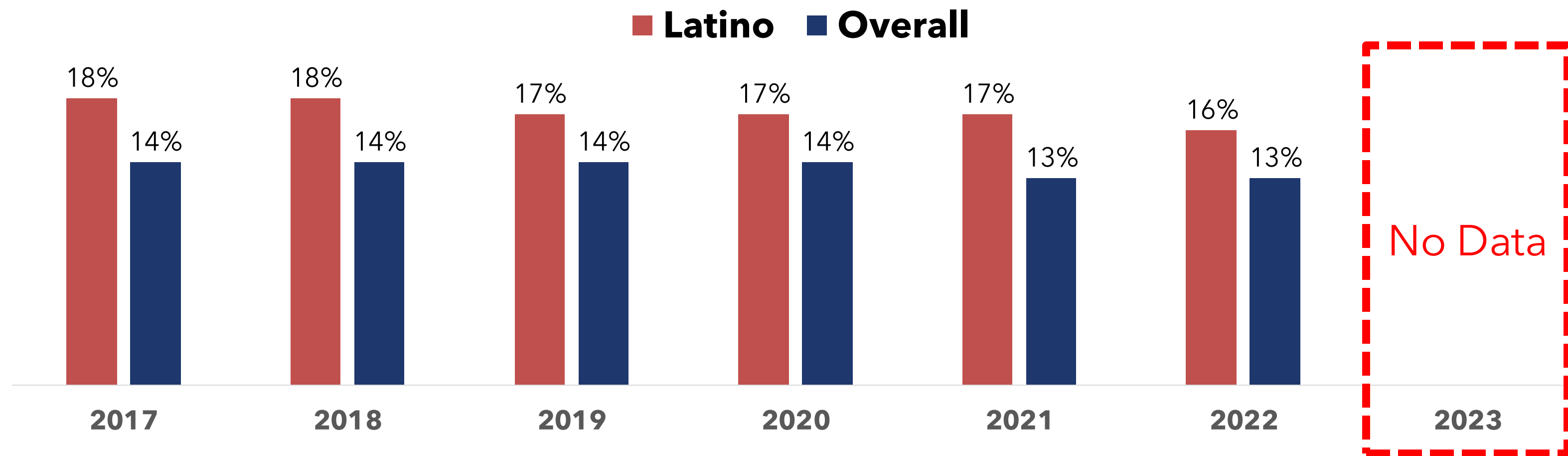
PrEP equity ratio (Latinos vs. US population)



PERSISTENT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INEQUITIES 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.**

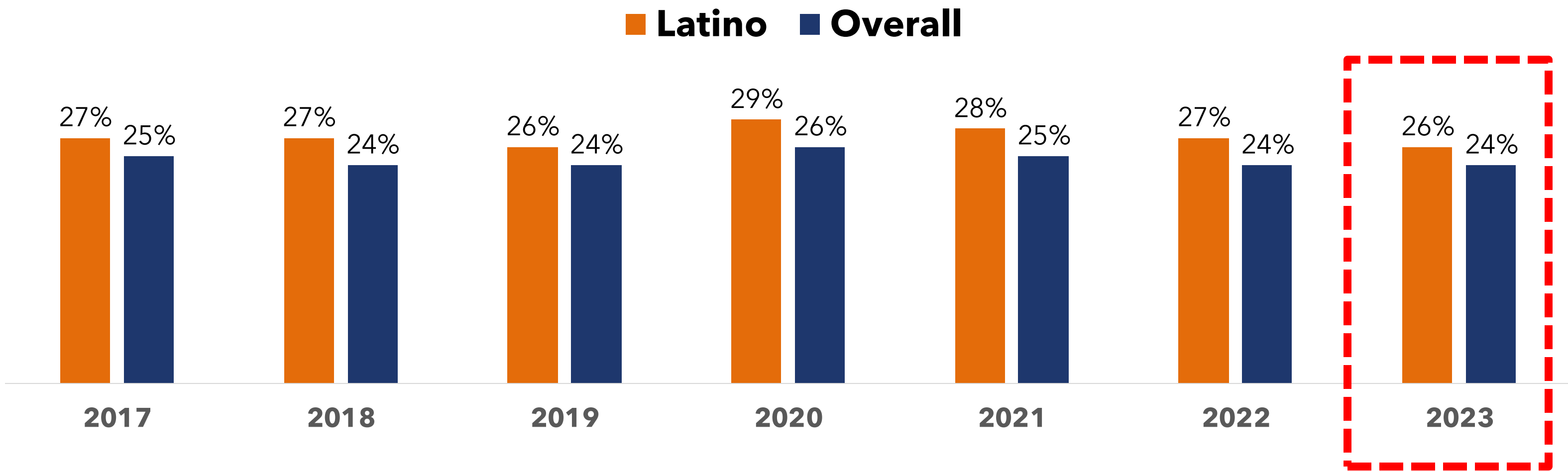


Reported percentages correspond to the prevalence-based care continuum (based on diagnosed and estimated undiagnosed cases)

PERSISTENT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INEQUITIES AMONG LATINOS

Receipt of HIV Care:

In **each year** between 2017 and 2023, Latinos living with HIV (compared to people living with HIV overall) were **more likely to not receive any HIV care.**

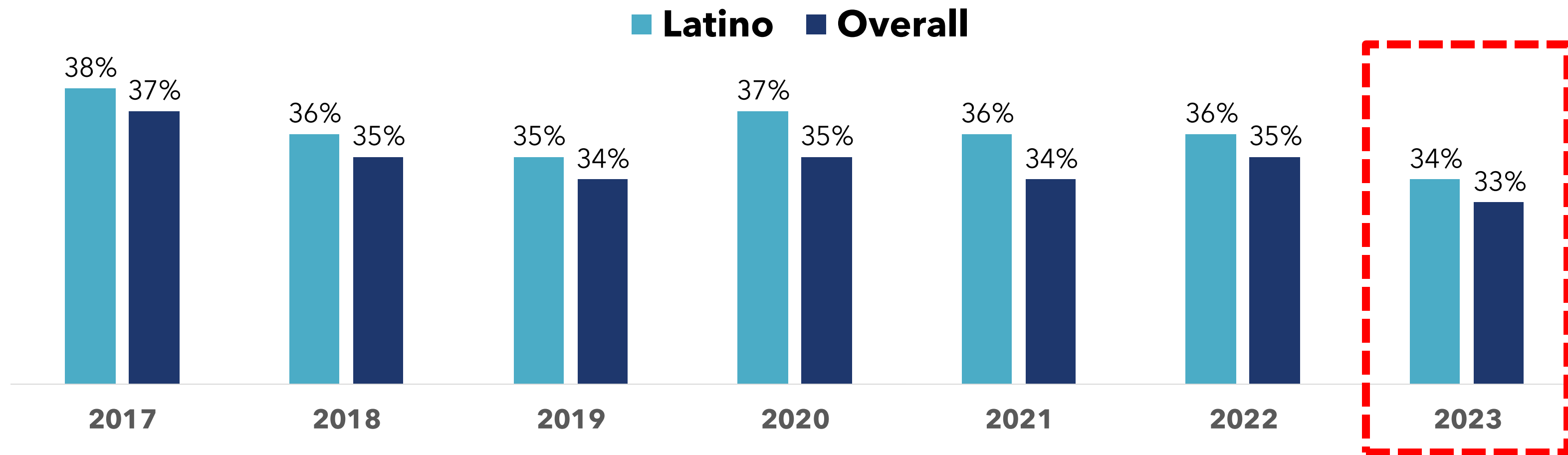


Reported percentages correspond to the diagnosis-based care continuum (based on diagnosed cases only)

PERSISTENT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INEQUITIES AMONG LATINOS

HIV Viral Suppression:

In **each year** between 2017 and 2023, 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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

MMWR

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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.”

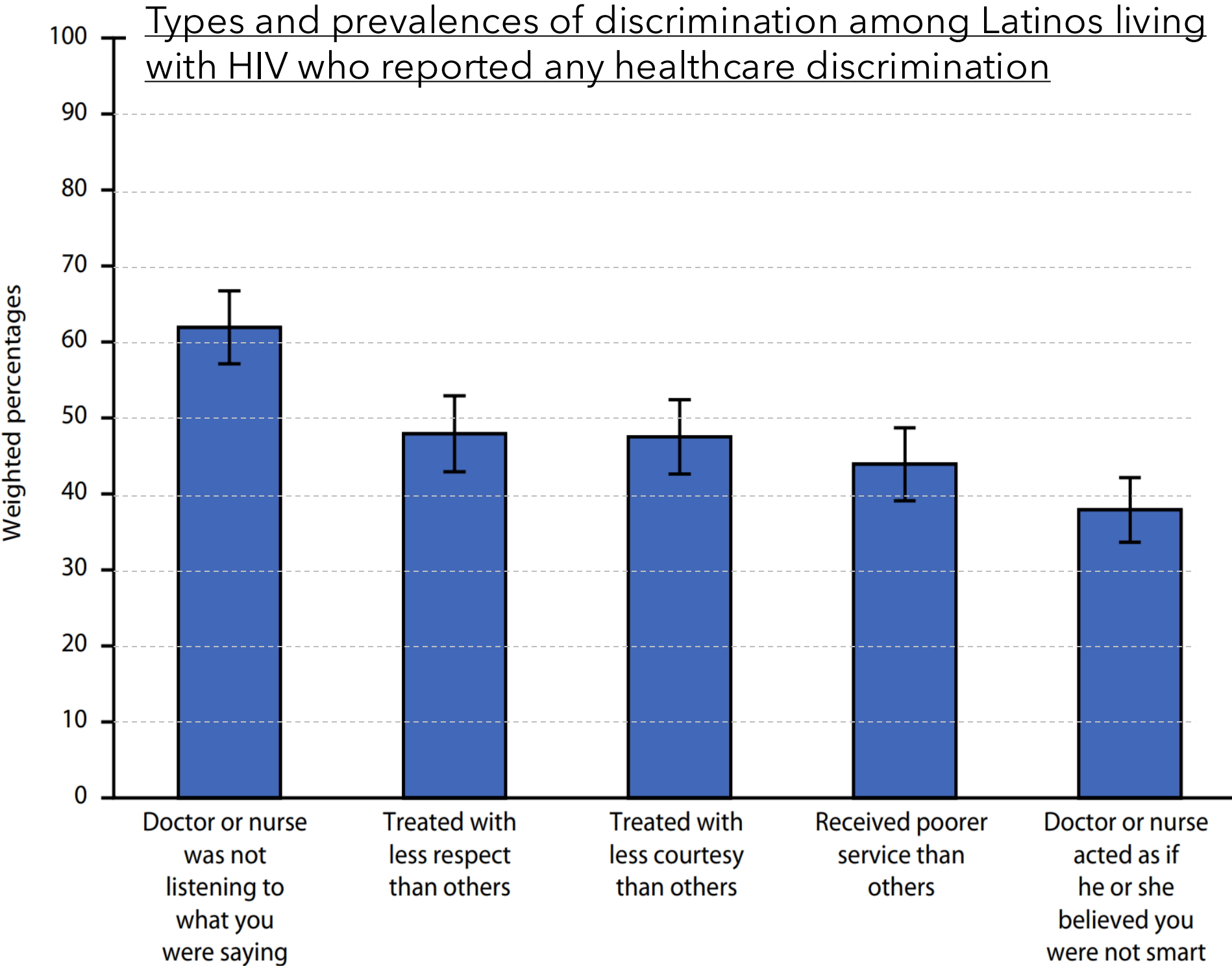


Figure visually adapted



Key Priorities for Ending the US Latino Cascading HIV Disaster

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 and **executive orders** 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.**



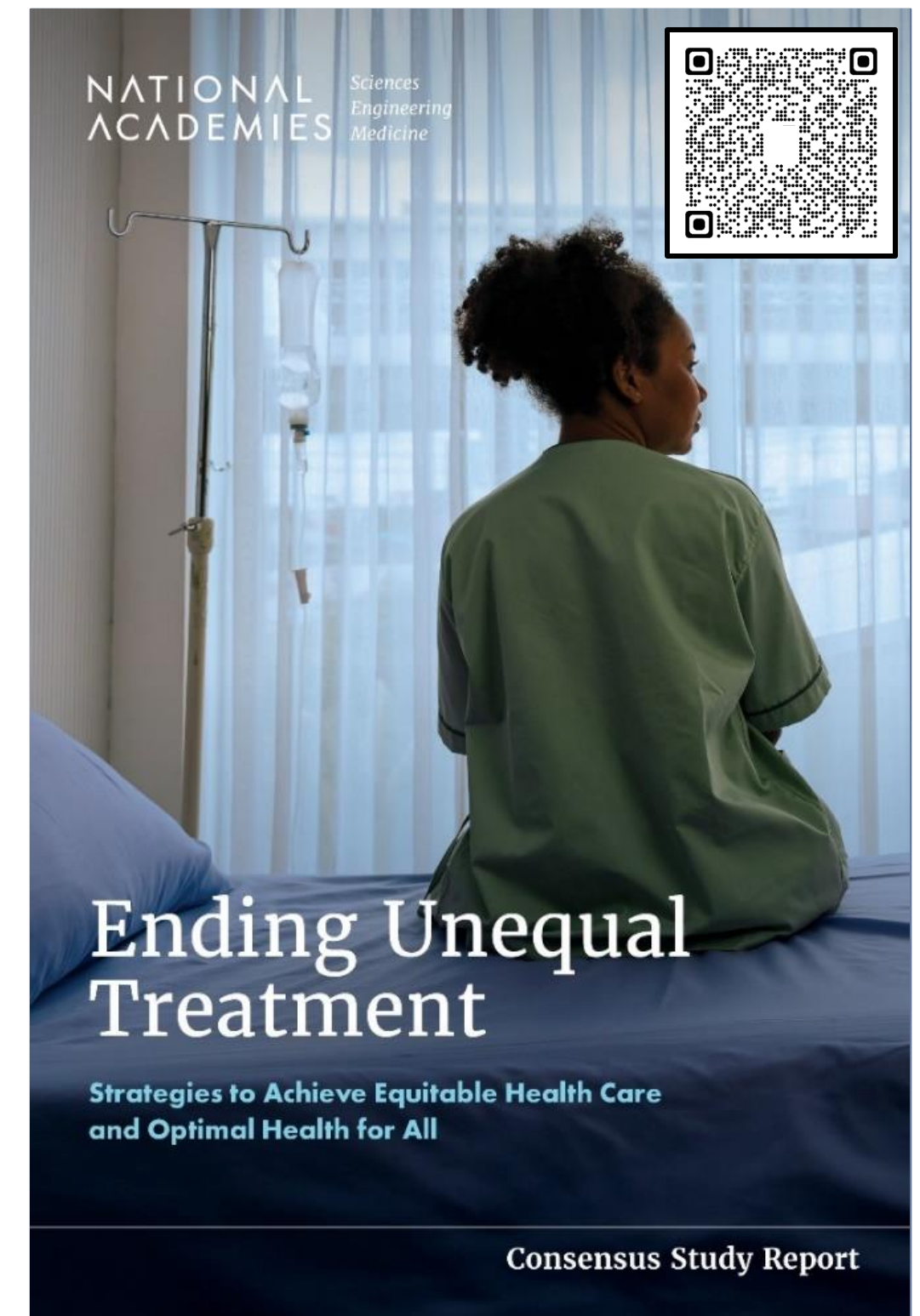
CONTEXT & STRUCTURAL DRIVERS OF LATINO HIV INEQUITIES

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

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



ELIMINATING LATINO HIV INEQUITIES IS POSSIBLE

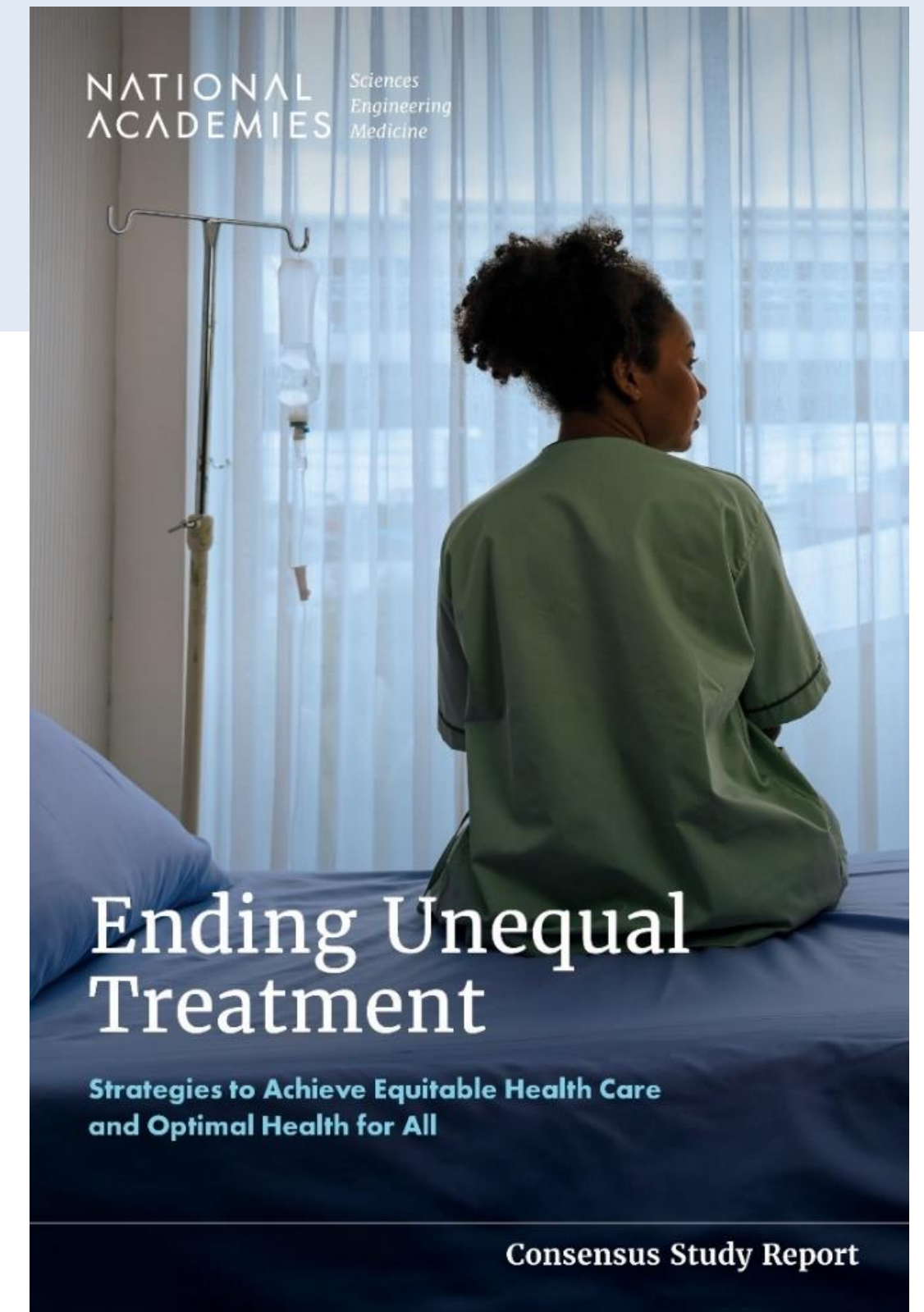
Ending Unequal Treatment identifies **societal and political divides** as major risks preventing the investments needed to eliminate health and healthcare inequities

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 – ACCESS AND SHARE OUR RESOURCES FOR ENDING THE CASCADING LATINO HIV DISASTER



Visit CLAFH.org to view the video

A CALL TO ACTION – ACCESS AND SHARE OUR RESOURCES FOR ENDING THE CASCADING LATINO HIV DISASTER



Visit CLAFH.org

ABOUT THE CASCADING DISASTER

A preventable and largely unaddressed public health emergency is accelerating. Only urgent, coordinated, multi-sector action can fix the failure.

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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