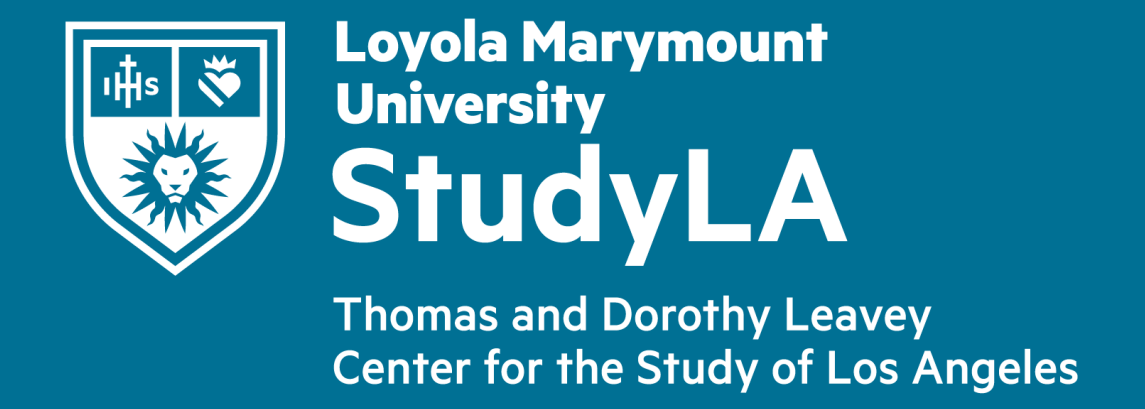


# Who Cares? Exploring Demographics of Angelenos Concerned with Climate Change

Saloni Dangoria

Research Mentors: Brianne Gilbert, Mariya Vizireanu, Max Dunsker, and Alejandra Alarcon



## Introduction

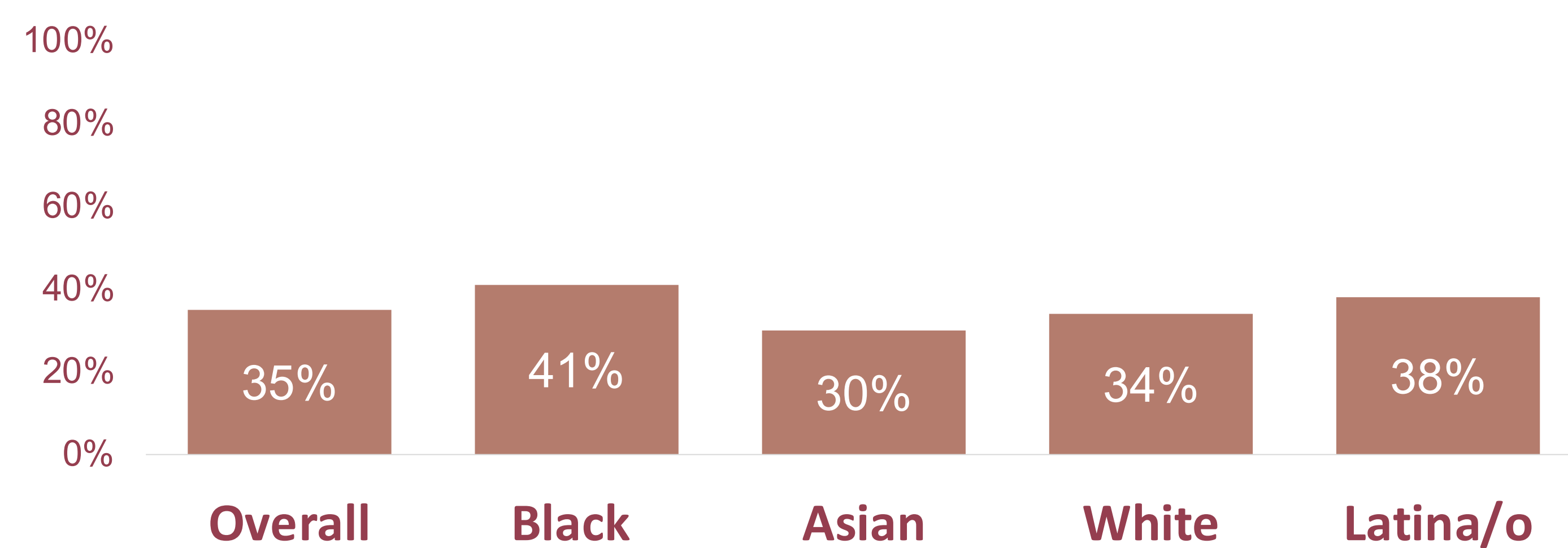
Identifying demographic factors which influence views on the potential impact of climate change allows for a deeper understanding of why different races/ethnicities hold differing opinions on climate change. Breaking down racial/ethnic groups by political affiliation, language, and educational attainment facilitates an understanding of which factors correlate with Angelenos climate change impact perceptions. Despite climate change often being viewed as a political issue, by recognizing the heterogeneity of demographics within race/ethnicity, Angelenos will gain a holistic understanding of what affects climate change impact perceptions within different groups.

## Methodology

In 2020, StudyLA at Loyola Marymount University collected 2,002 surveys in multiple modes and languages. Angelenos were asked two questions: how much they believe climate change will affect themselves and how much they believe climate change will affect future generations. Respondents were able to rank their level of perceived impact on a scale of: a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all. Respondents who answered a great deal for both themselves and future generations were said to have “high impact perception.” Chi-squared independence tests ( $p < 0.05$ ) were tabulated for political affiliation, language, and educational attainment of each surveyed race/ethnicity, to identify statistically significant demographic influences on impact perception.

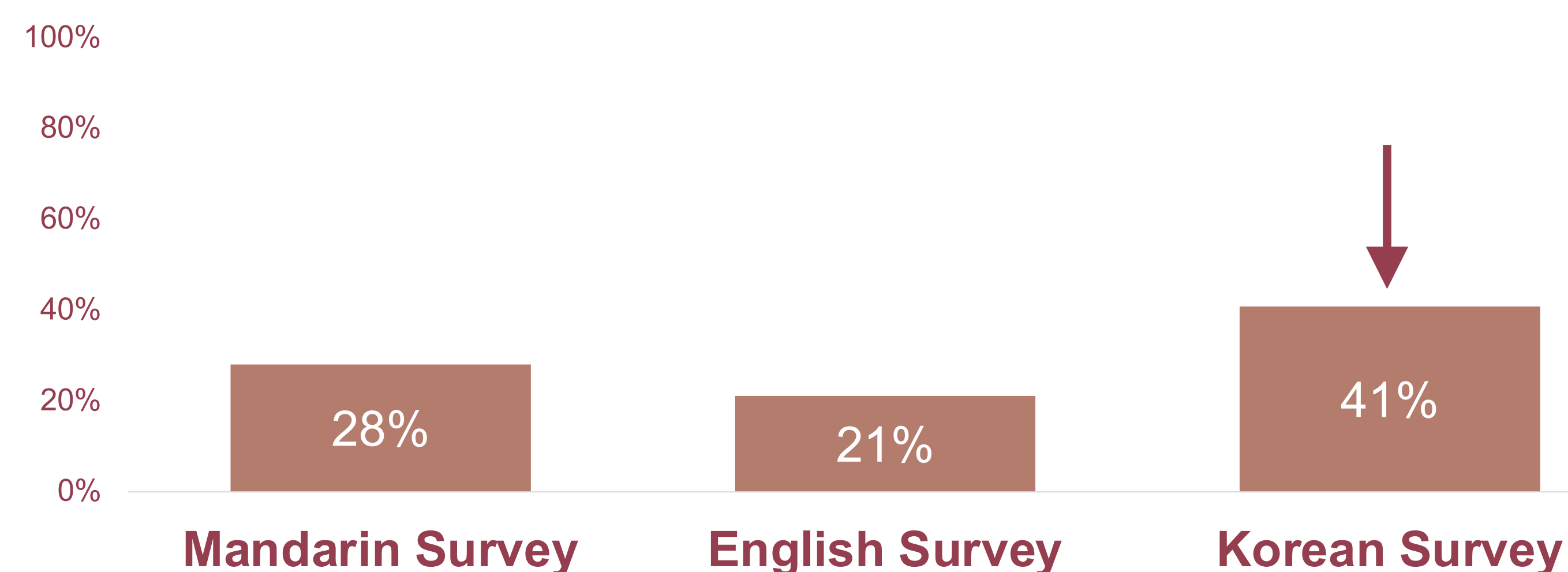
### Survey Respondents with “High Impact Perception”

Respondents of each race/ethnicity who believe climate change will impact themselves and future generations a great deal.



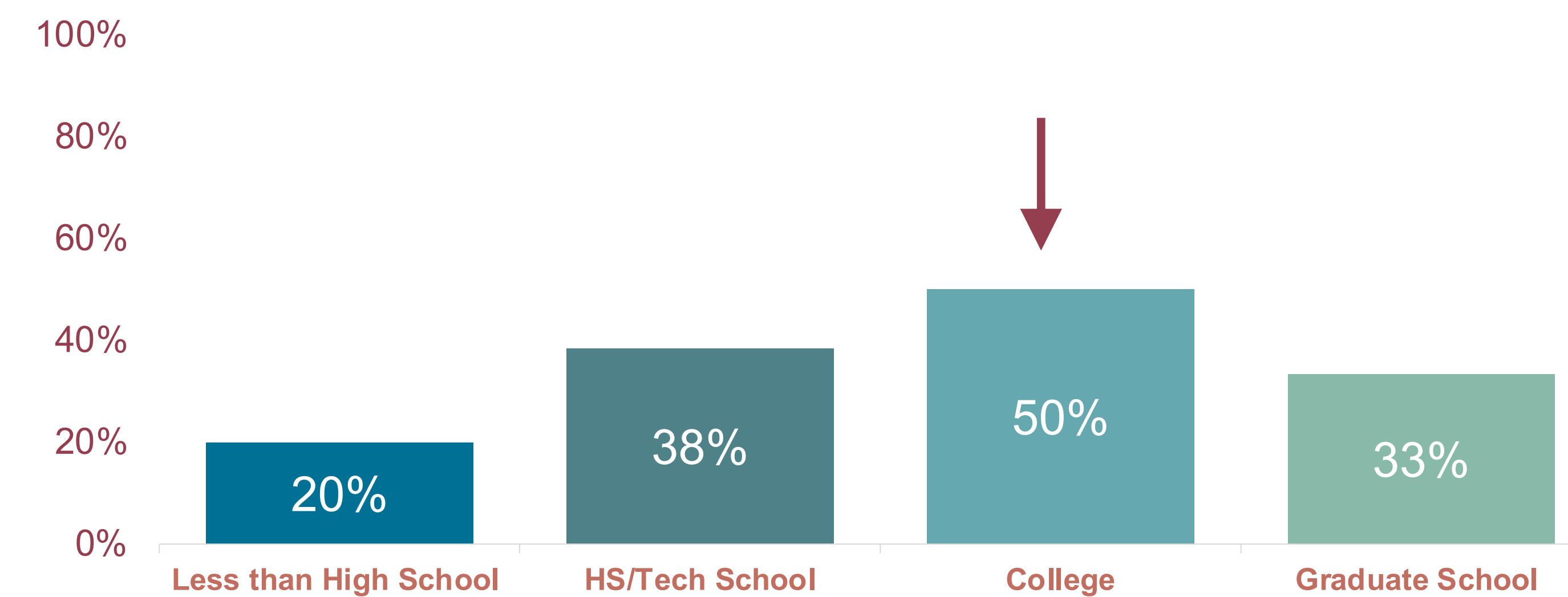
### Language of Asian Respondent Surveys Yielding “High Impact Perception”

Respondents of each race/ethnicity who believe climate change will impact themselves and future generations a great deal.



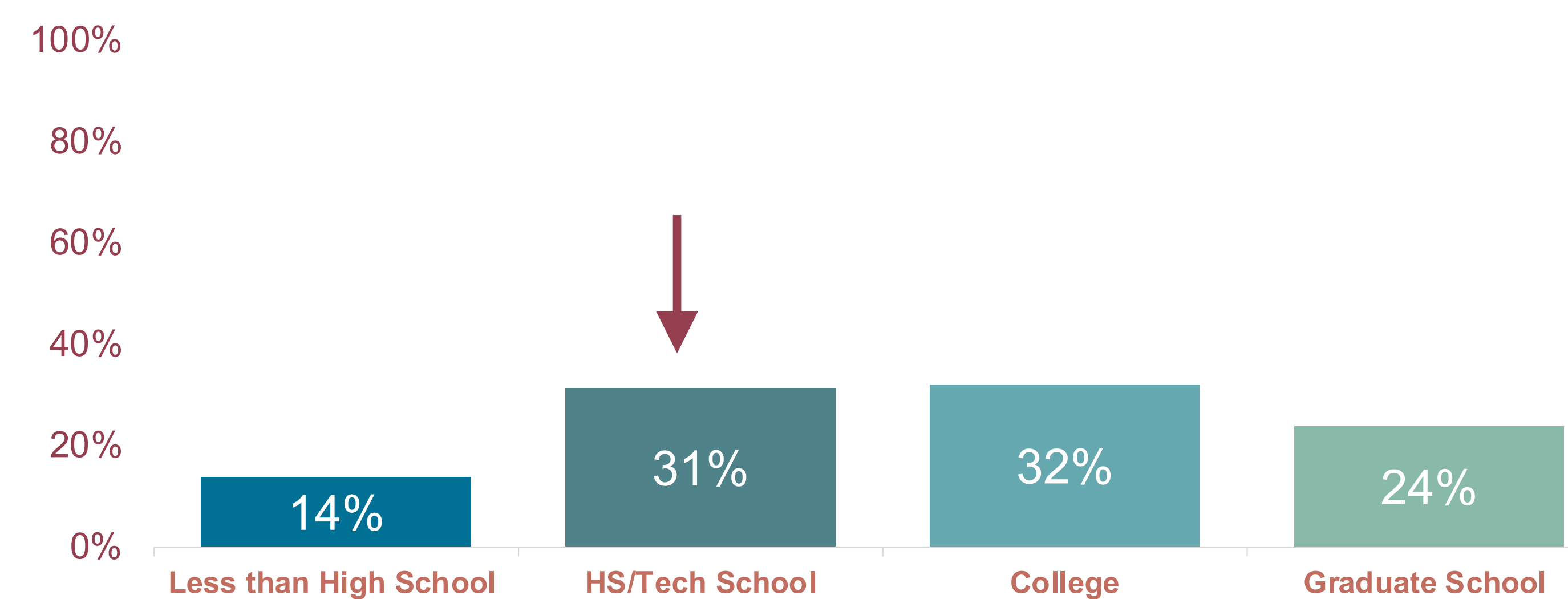
### Educational Attainment for Black Respondents

Of Black respondents who have high impact perception, a majority of respondents have received their college degree.



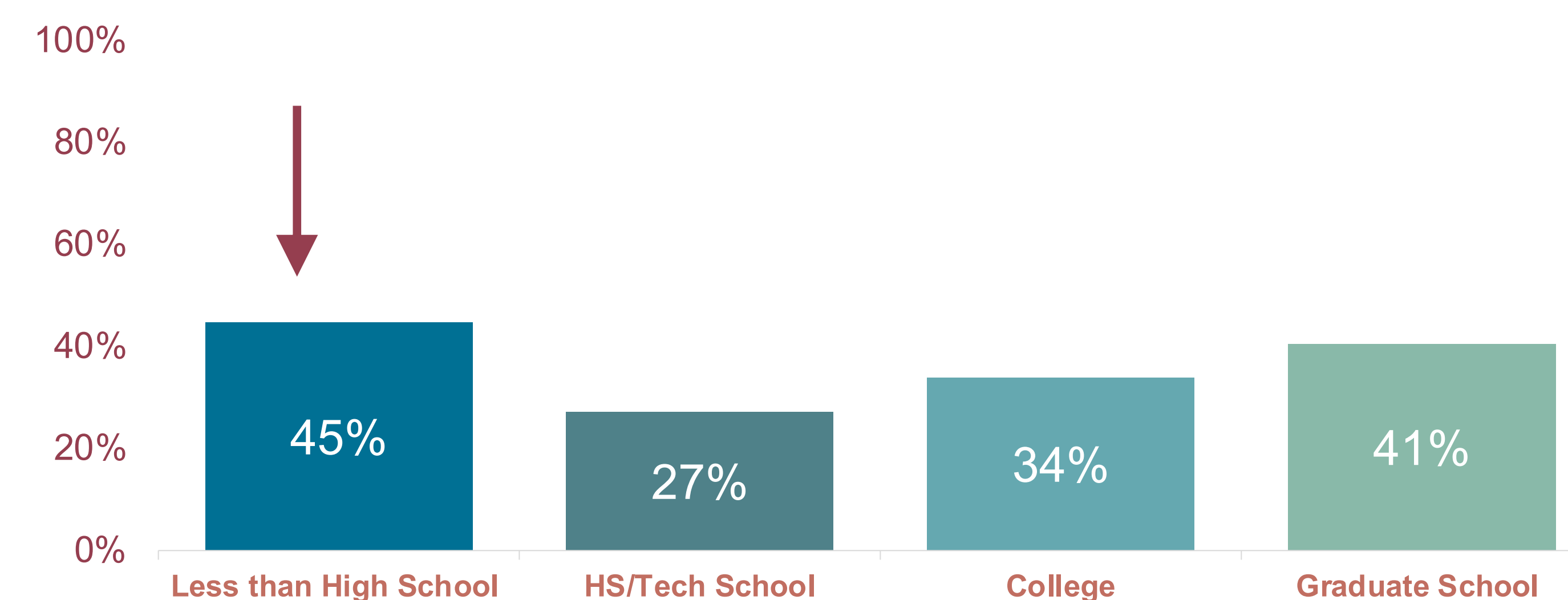
### Educational Attainment for Asian Respondents

Of Asian respondents who have high impact perception, most of the respondents have received their college degree.



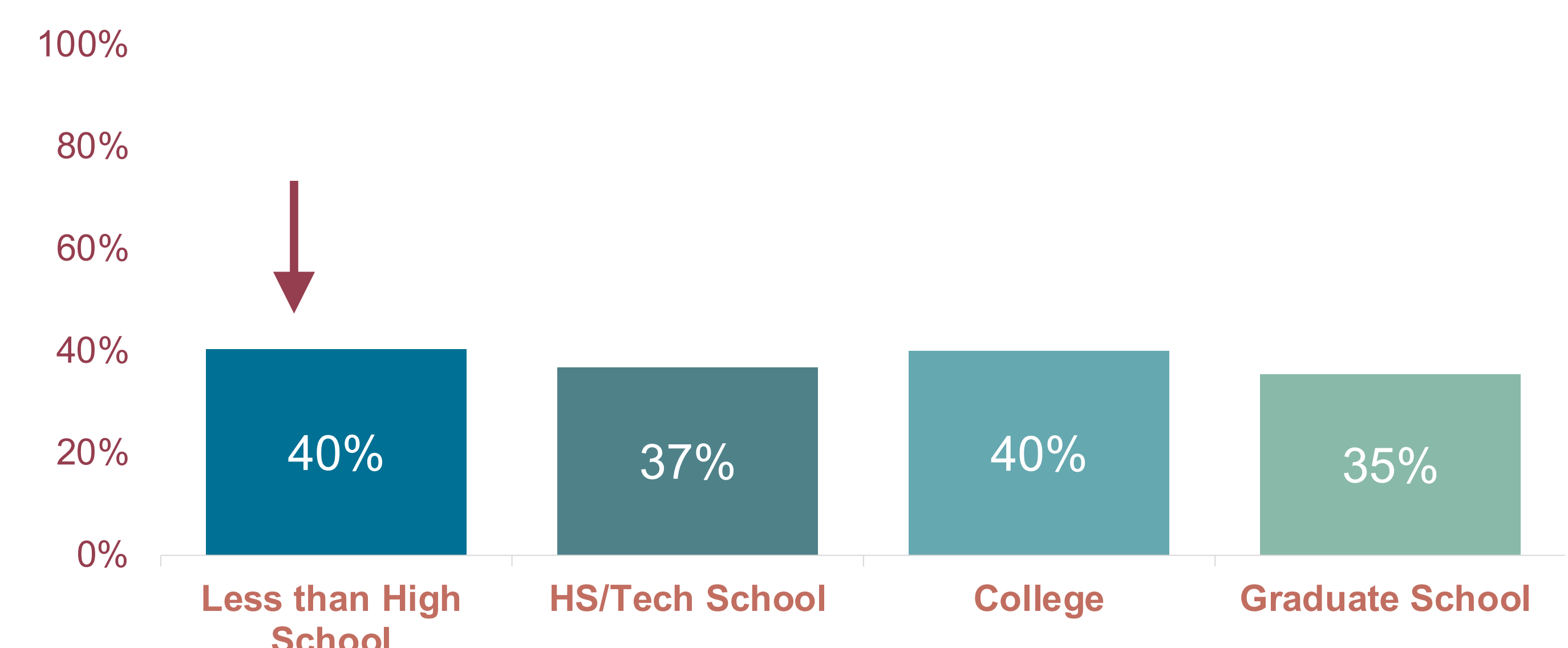
### Educational Attainment for White Respondents

Of White respondents who have high impact perception, most of the respondents have not completed a high school education.



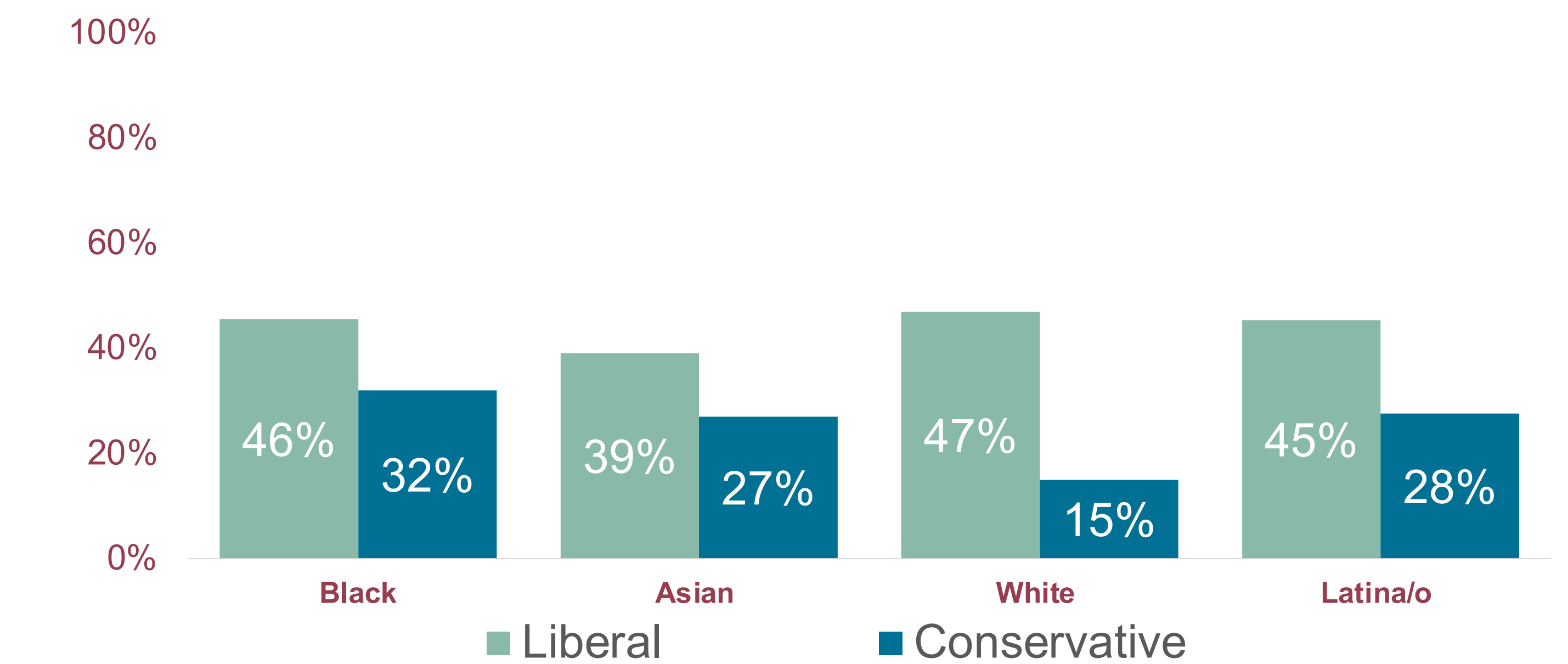
### Educational Attainment for Latina/o Respondents

Of Latina/o respondents who have high impact perception, most of the respondents have not completed a high school education.



### Political Affiliation for High Impact Perception

While liberals had the highest impact perception of all surveyed races/ethnicities, White respondents were the most politically polarized.



## Results

Across all races/ethnicities, those who identify as liberals had the highest impact perception, with White respondents being the most politically polarized. Asian respondents were the only group where political affiliation did not correlate with high impact perception. Language was a significant factor on climate change opinions among Asian respondents: impact perceptions among Asian respondents who took the survey in Korean were higher than those who did so in English. Levels of educational attainment had a varied effect on impact perceptions: White and Latina/o respondents with less than high school education and Black and Asian respondents with a college degree, all had the highest impact all had the highest impact perception among their race/ethnicity.

## Conclusion

Varying views from a diverse assembly of respondents, influenced by political affiliation, language, and/or educational attainment, support the idea that demographics within race/ethnicity are correlated with climate change impact perceptions. A mixture of statistically significant demographics within each surveyed race/ethnicity, displays the importance of understanding how multiple factors influence climate change opinions within racial groups in Los Angeles, in order to gain a deeper understanding of Angeleno views.

## Reference

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. (2020). 2020 Public Opinion Survey. Loyola Marymount University

## Contact Information

Saloni Dangoria, Junior Psychology major & Biology minor  
LMU email: sdangori@lion.lmu.edu