

Health Equity in Erie County

**2023 Focus Group Report
Office of Health Equity
Erie County Department of Health**



INTRODUCTIONS

Kelly Marie Wofford (she/her)

Director of Health Equity

Michael Wiese (he/him)

Associate Epidemiologist

Lara Nkurunungi (she/her)

Assistant Epidemiologist

Office of Health Equity

Erie County Department of Health



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AGENDA

- Background on the Office of Health Equity (ECOHE)
- Background on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
- Focus Group Methods
- Focus Group Results
- Q & A

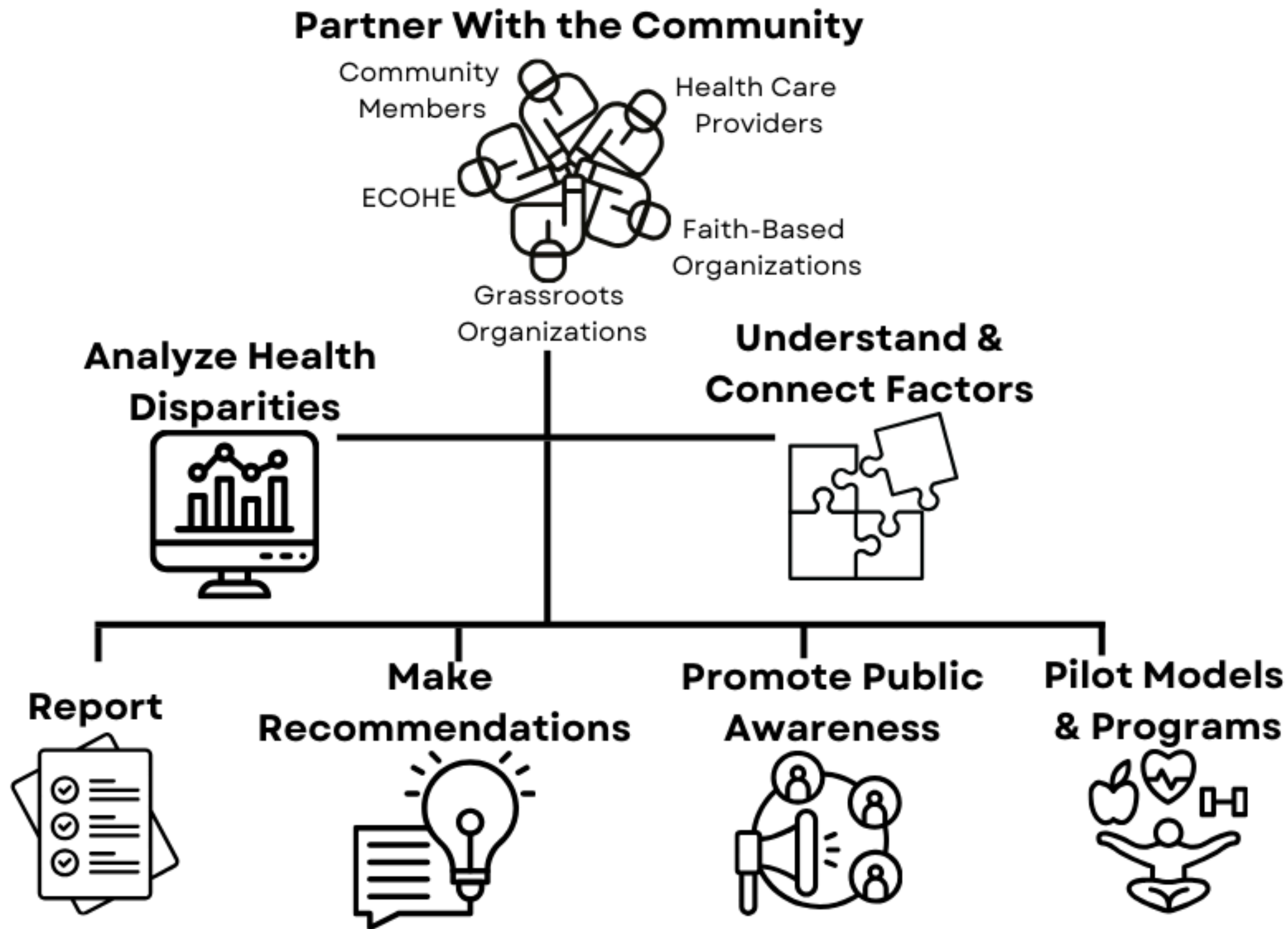


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WHAT DO YOU DO?



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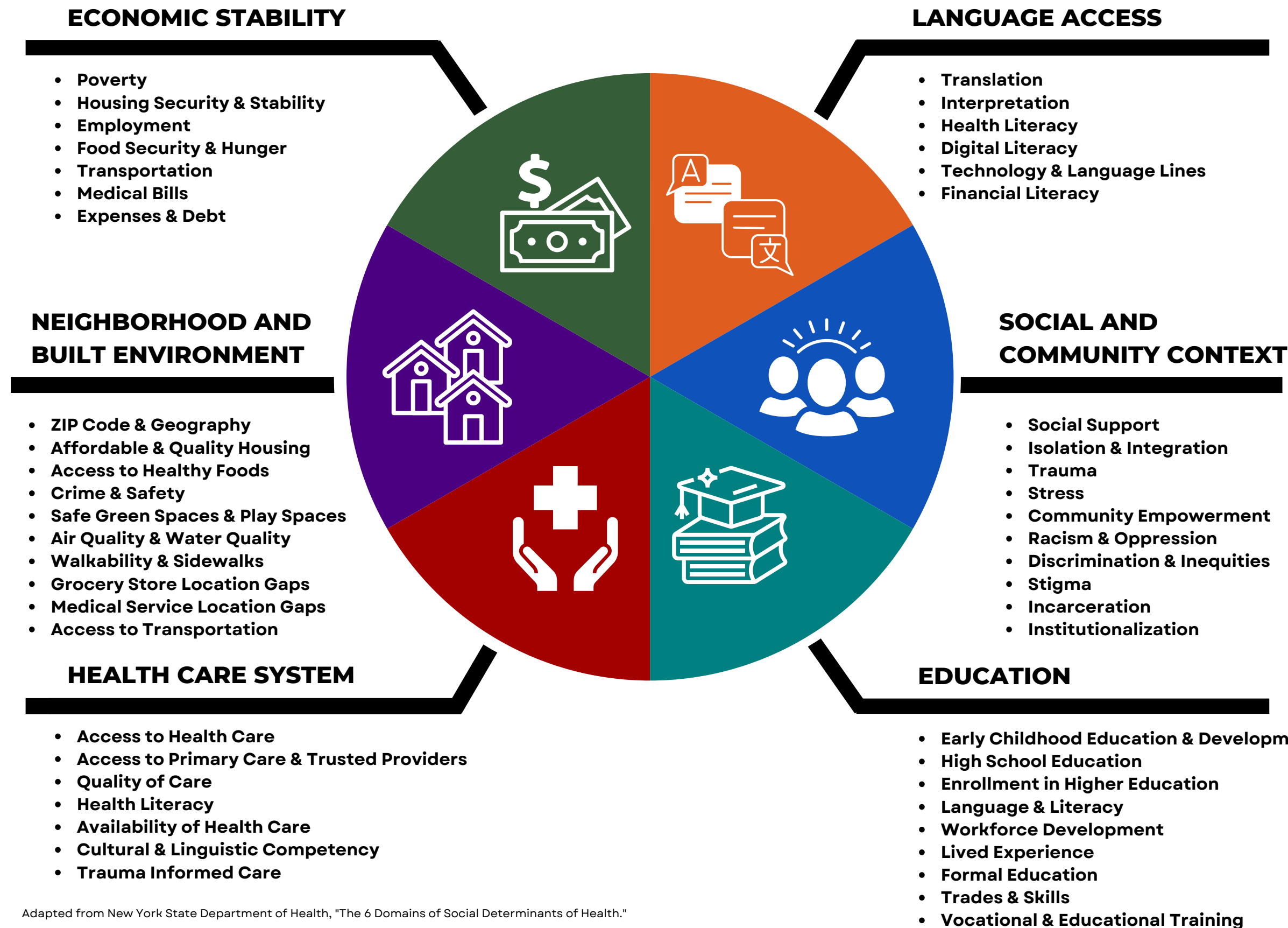
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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

FACTORS THAT CAN INFLUENCE YOUR HEALTH



Adapted from New York State Department of Health, "The 6 Domains of Social Determinants of Health."



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ENGLISH
updated 03/24

OHE PROJECTS & PROGRAMMING

- Mental Health First Aid - Adult and Youth
- Publications and Communications
- Grant Technical Assistance and Community Support
- Children and Youth With Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program
- Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding, and Lactation Friendly Erie County
- Mindfulness Programming
- Language Access
- Data Technical Assistance and Community Support
- Emergency Kits



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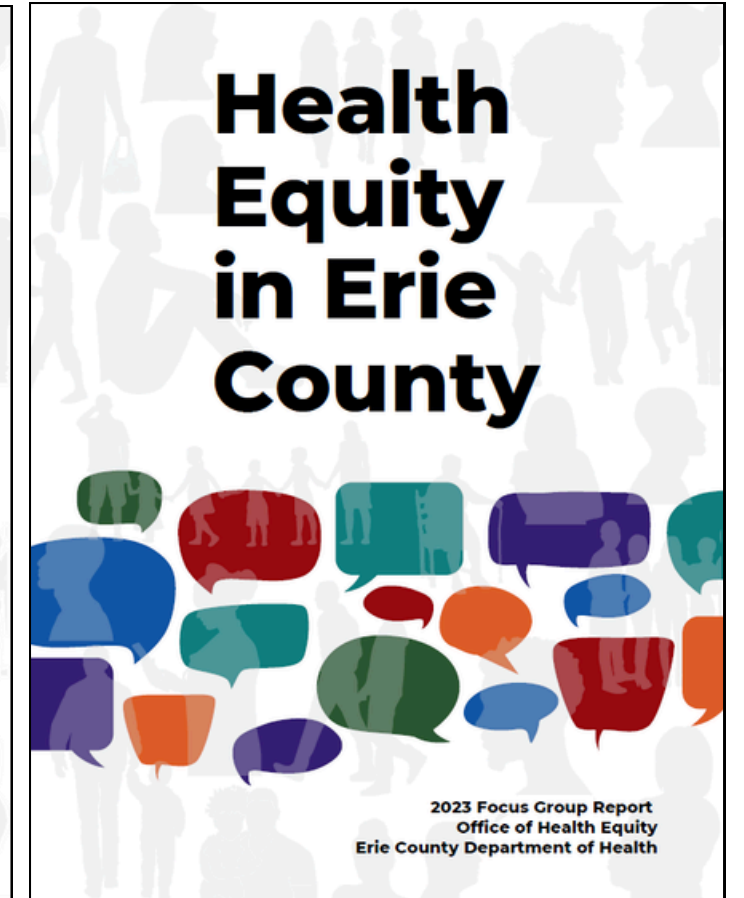
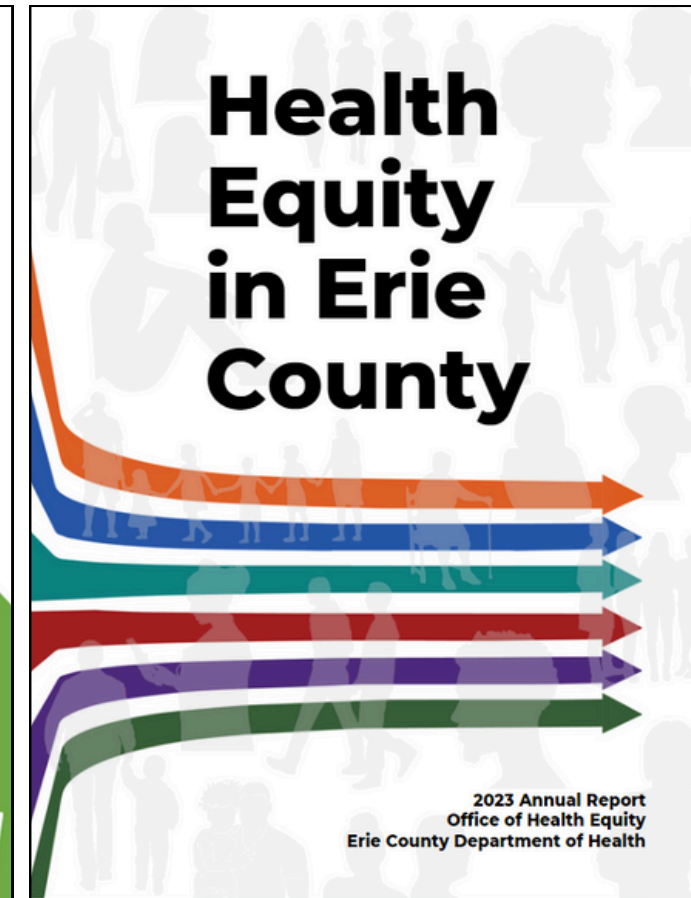
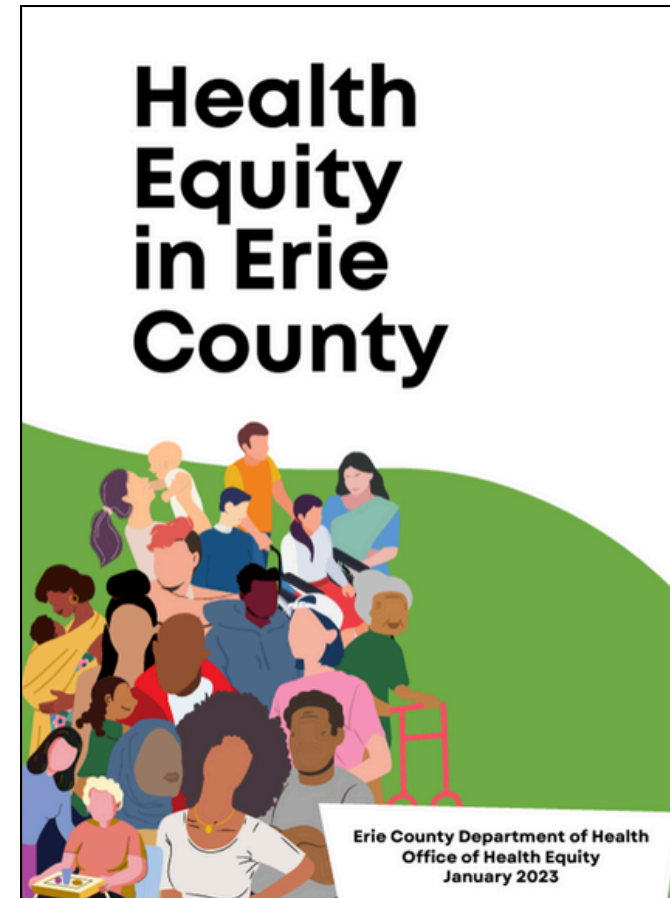


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REPORTS & DATA

THE ECOHE PRODUCES AND CONDUCTS:

- ☑ Annual Equity Report
- ☑ Surveys
- ☑ Focus Groups
- ☑ Community Conversations
- ☑ Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)



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METHODS



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

- Selecting groups for inclusion
 - Demographic minority or disenfranchised community
 - Community that was under-represented in the survey
 - Capacity to reach this demographic to recruit for a focus group



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FOCUS GROUPS

Black Older Adults (65+)	Rural Older Adults (65+)	Hispanic-Latino 1
Hispanic-Latino 2	Incarcerated Men	Incarcerated Women
Puerto Rican (Spanish-Speaking)	Rural Caregivers of Young Children	LGBTQ+
Transgender and Non-Binary	Bangladeshi	Black East Side Residents
African American/Black Fathers	Young Adult (Enrolled in Community College or High School Equivalency Program)	



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

- Group Recruitment and Preparation
 - Partnered with community leaders
 - Recruited participants within demographics of focus
 - Advised on venue and food selection
 - Created flyers
 - Purchased gift cards for participants
 - Ordered refreshments



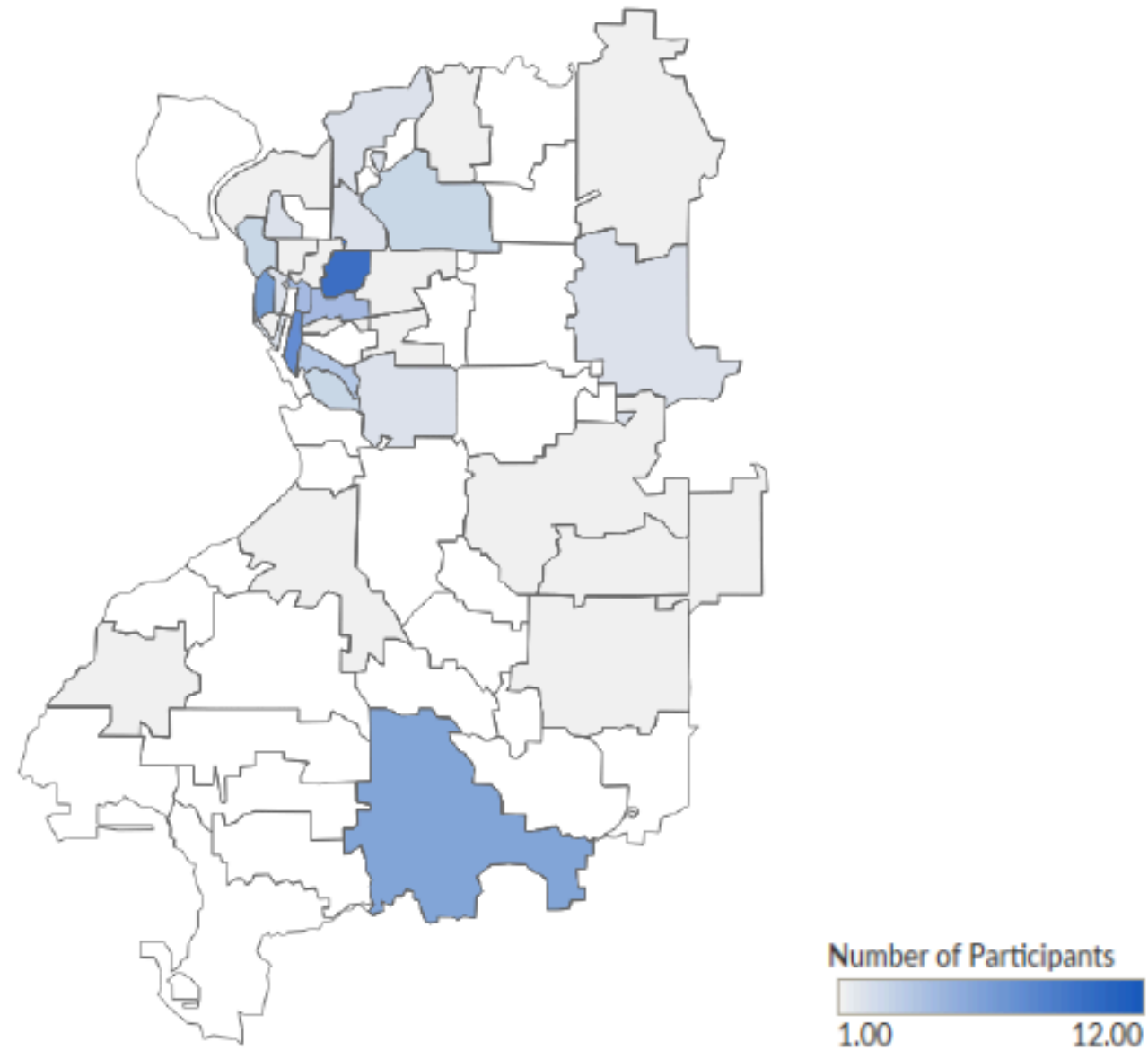
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FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Home ZIP Code of Focus Group Participants
Darker blue indicates a higher number of participants.



ECOHE conducted 14 focus groups throughout the county with 97 community members participating.



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

- Group Facilitation
 - ECOHE staff in attendance
 - Facilitator
 - Notetaker
 - Logistical support
 - Participants completed demographic form (anonymous) and consent form
 - Discussion was recorded



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

- Group Facilitation
 - Each group was asked a standardized set of questions
 - If there was time, the groups were asked 1 or 2 questions that were specifically tailored to each group



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

Focus Group Speaker Tracker

Black Fathers

Person speaking	Use number: ie, 1
Multiple speakers at once	M
Facilitator (MiKe) interjection/clarification	K
Person interjects/short statements	Use () around number: ie, (1)

Draw seating area and seat numbers

Q1: To start, please introduce yourself with the name you would like us to use for you today and tell us why you agreed to join us for this discussion?

Time (at Start of Question): 22:23

#	(K)	7	2	1	M	L													
Time																			

#																			
Time																			

Notes:

Q2: What does a good life look like to you?

Time (at Start of Question): 28:45

#	2	7	1																
Time																			

#																			
Time																			

Notes: Reasons

Q3: What are some of your biggest challenges to living the life you want?

Time (at Start of Question): 32:57

#	(K)	1	7	(K)	2	(K)	2	1											
Time																			

Notes: clarification

#																			
Time																			

Notes:

Q4: Despite these challenges, what is currently helping you?

Time (at Start of Question): 46:25

#	(K)	1	7	(K)	7	(K)	3												
Time																			

Notes: 1 HAD TO STEP OUT
RELASH

#																			
Time																			

Notes:

Q5: What about living in Western NY is good for you and your family's health?

Time (at Start of Question): 1:05:55

#	7	1	3																
Time																			

#																			
Time																			

Notes: 1/2 SMO DOWN W WAY



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FOCUS GROUP METHODS

- Data Analysis
 - Recordings were transcribed and edited in Nvivo 14
 - Comments were coded in Nvivo 14
 - 6 SDOH domains and subdomains
 - Other themes that arose
 - Challenges and assets



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Displayed as:

- Narrative
- Quotes
- Graphs
- Diagrams
- Lists
- Highlights

Sections include:

- SDOH summaries
- Focus group summaries
- Findings & Conclusions



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RESULTS SUMMARY



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

“What does a good life look like to you?”

Most Common Responses to “What does a good life look like to you?” Across All Groups



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

“What does a good life look like to you?”

“A good life to me, for myself, is able to have good health insurance or decent health insurance, a roof over my head that is not running down, rent or mortgage I can afford without overstretching my pocket, and able to eat healthy foods.”

-Black Older Adults (65+) Group



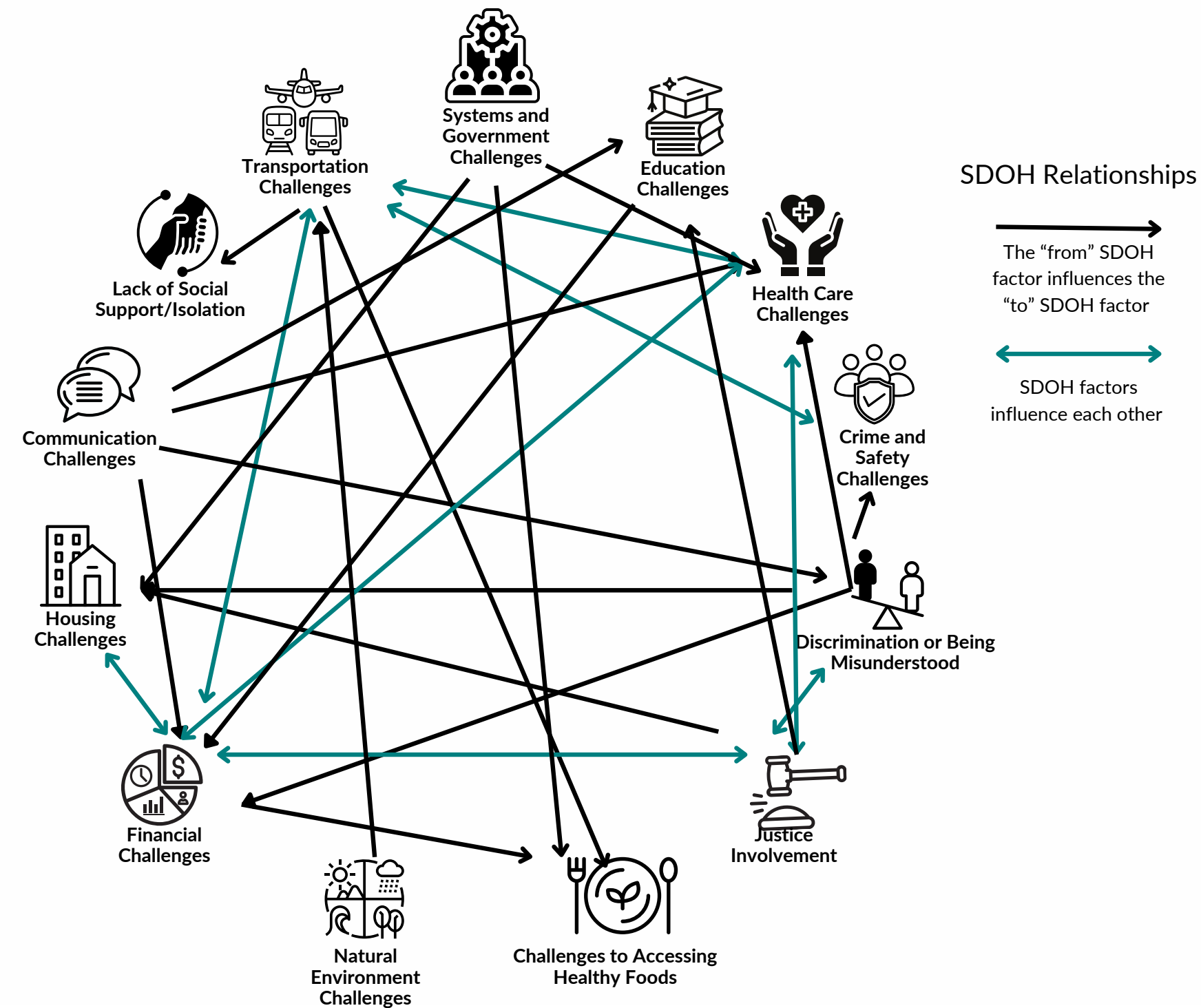
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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

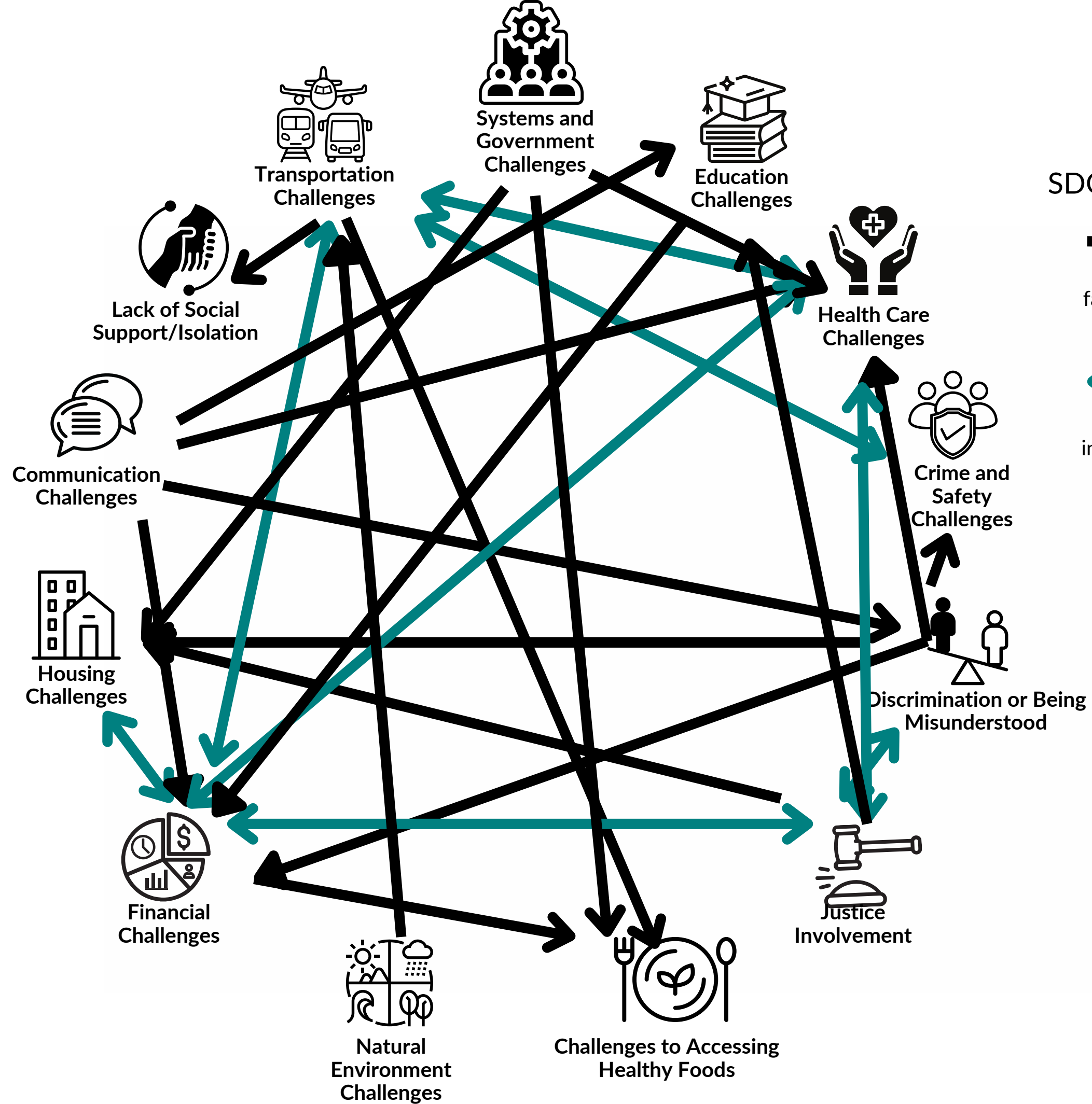
SDOH Relationships



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RESULTS SUMMARY: SDOH FACTORS



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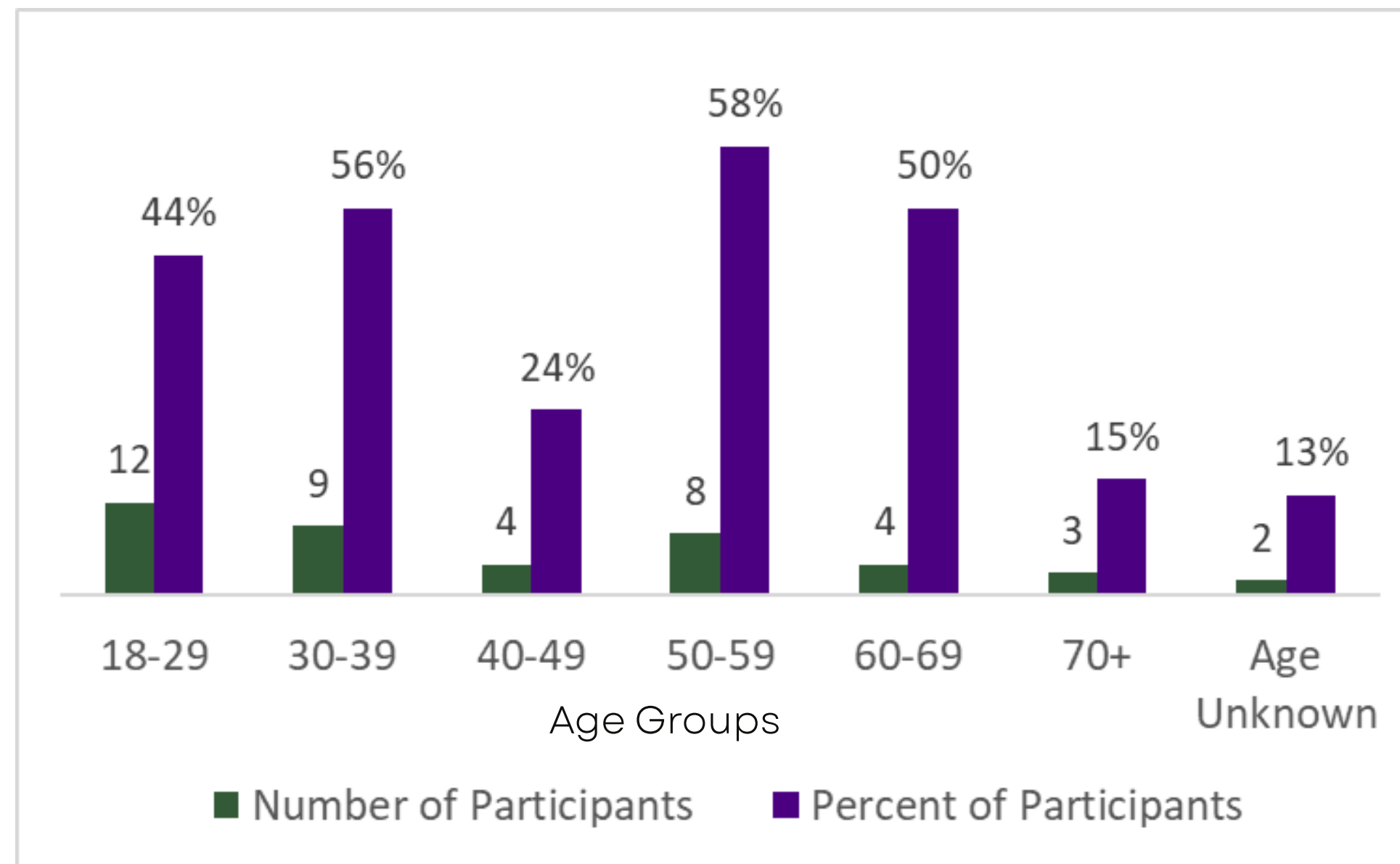


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Economic Stability

Number and Percent of Participants Who Discussed Economic Stability Challenges by Age



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Economic Stability

Challenges discussed related to Economic Stability included:

- Ineligibility for government assistance while trying to achieve stability
- Challenges due to inflation
- Taking desperate measures such as getting involved in crime, working multiple jobs, staying with abusive partners, and asking family or friends for help in order to make ends meet



“Inflation right now, right? I think [...] everyone is struggling. I mean, I’m struggling and I’m a single parent, you know? And I have a decent job and I’m still struggling.”

-Hispanic-Latino Focus Group 1



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Neighborhood and Built Environment

- Access to Healthy Foods
- Transportation
- Housing
- Crime and Safety
- Community Organizations, Events, and Resources
- Climate and Natural Environment



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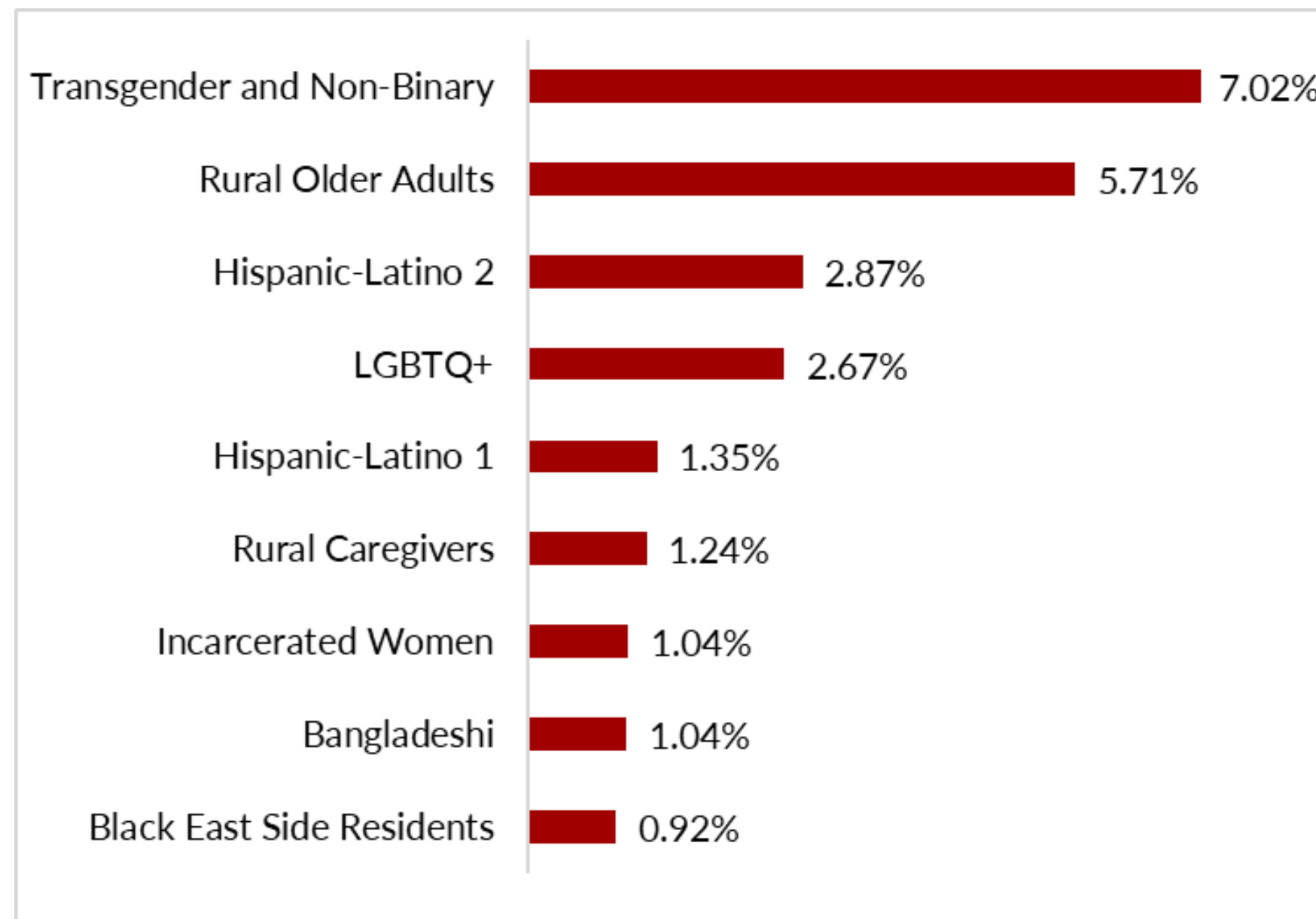


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Neighborhood and Built Environment - Transportation

Percent of Dialogue Focused on Transportation per Focus Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Neighborhood and Built Environment - Transportation

Challenges discussed related to Transportation included:

- Cost of fuel and car maintenance as well as cost of ridesharing
- Limited bus routes and schedules
- Feeling unsafe on public transportation

“It’s impossible to get anywhere. You can’t take the bus system to town. I had to move to the city for my services to decrease my travel costs. I could never take the bus because it didn’t exist in a way I could take it here.”

-LGBTQ+ Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Health Care System

- Health Care (excluding mental health)
- Mental Health Care



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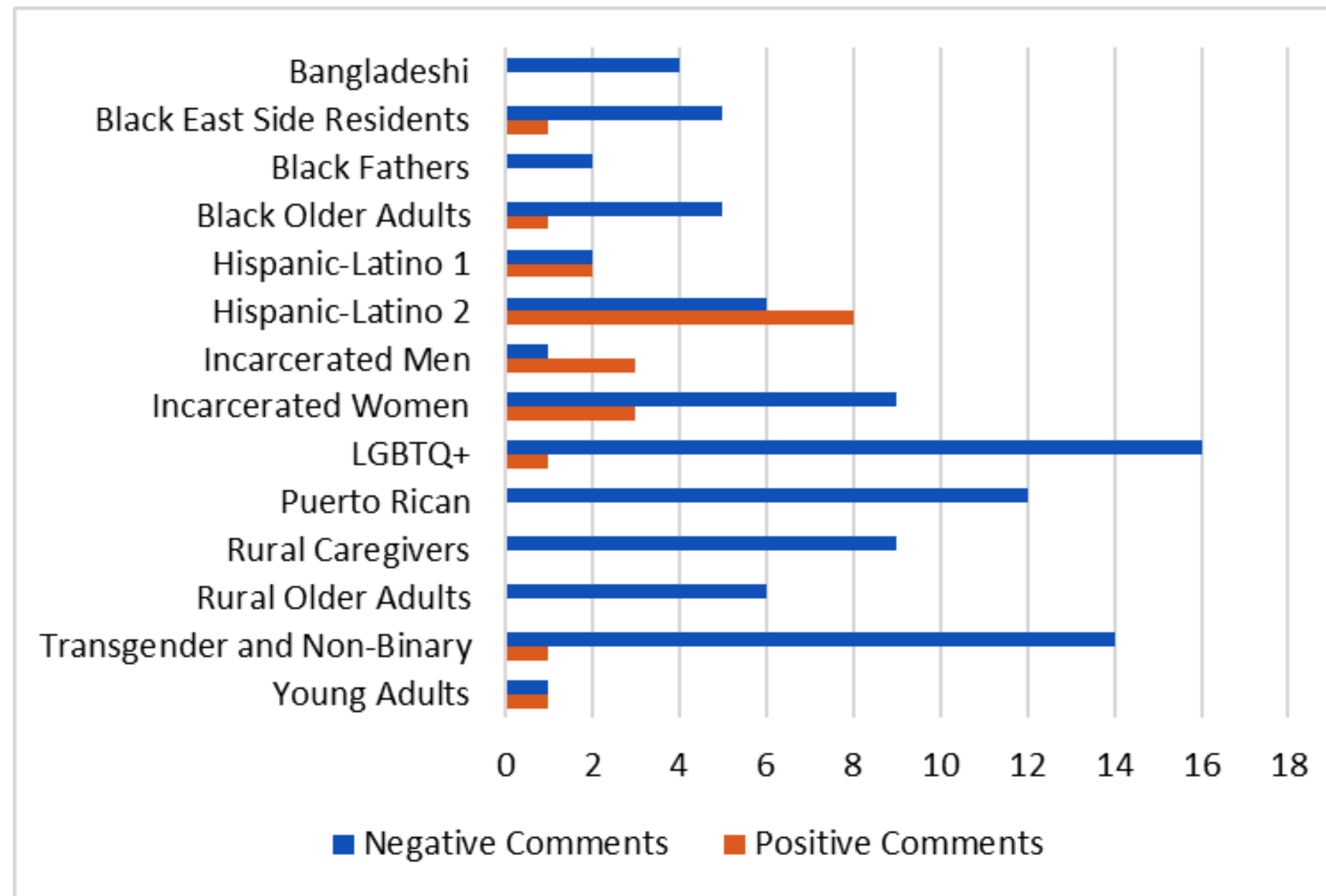


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Health Care System

Number of Negative and Positive Comments Related to Health Care per Focus Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Health Care System

Positive comments related to health care included:

- Feelings of gratitude for having insurance
- Access to a particular health care facility or certain types of care that are not available in other areas

Challenges expressed related to health care included:

- Inadequate health insurance
- Lack of competence in the medical treatment of the LGBTQ+ community
- Lack of available care for certain needs, such as mental health, developmental screenings, and interpreter services



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Health Care System

“But I will say that at least Children’s Hospital where I had both of my kids here- great service! It was different from what I’ve watched my family go through In New York City and hospitals there where they’re just overwhelmed.”

-Hispanic Latino Group 2



“I got a friend. He was 44. He just died. He had a heart attack 2 weeks ago. He did not have health insurance, so he didn’t go to the doctor. [...] [He had] a full-time job, but not enough to afford the health insurance.”

-Black East Side Residents Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Education

- Formal Education (K-12, College and University)
- Community Education (Lived experience, community education classes, educational programs)



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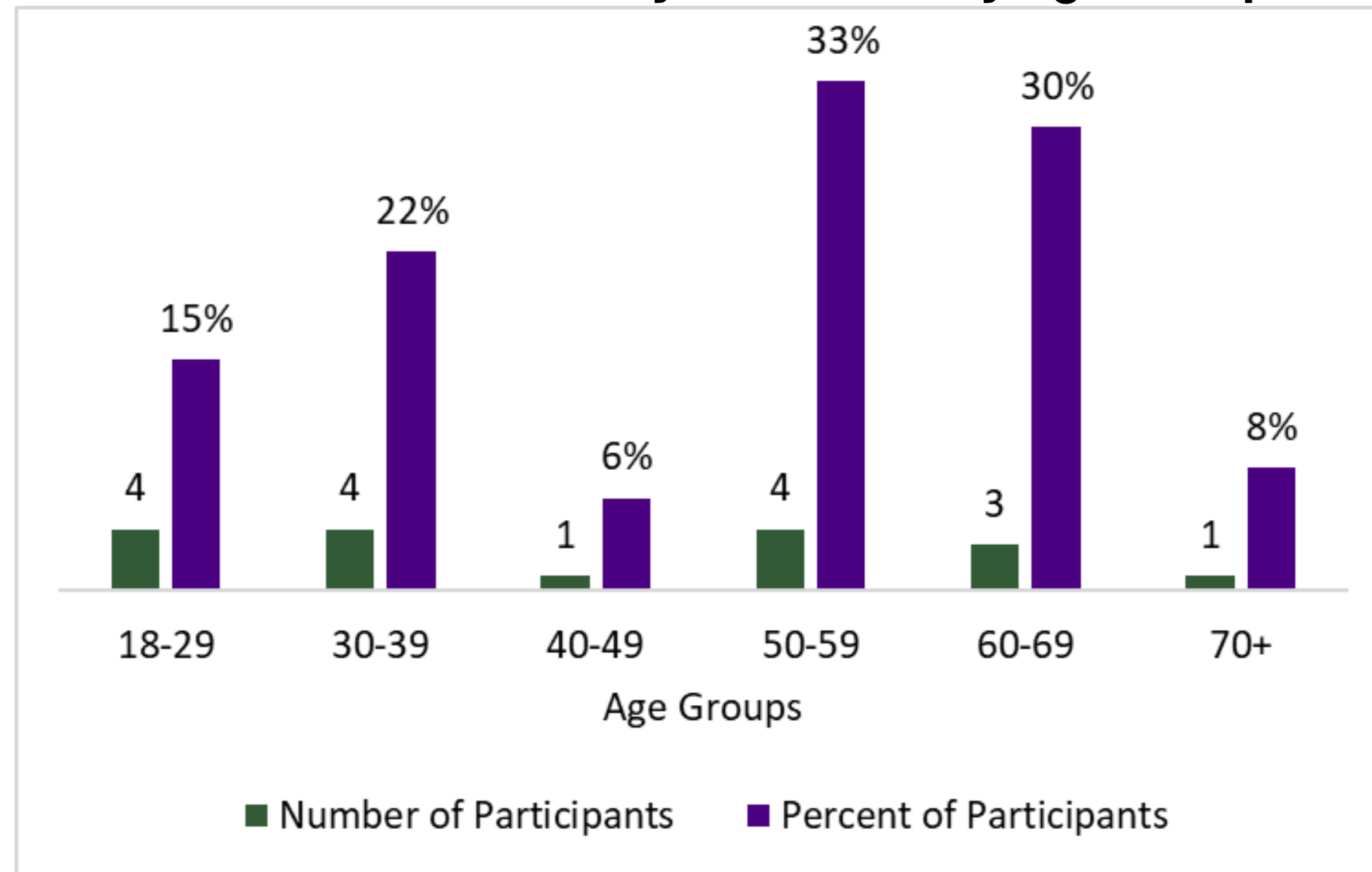


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Education - Community Education

Number and Percent of Participants Who Discussed Challenges Related to Community Education by Age Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Education

Challenges discussed related to Community Education included lack of basic skills and knowledge for everyday life such as:

- Healthy eating
- Navigating government and health care systems
- Financial planning and management



“I don’t know how to use money.”

-Young Adults Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context

- Discrimination and Being Misunderstood
- Family Relationships
- Incarceration and Criminal Justice Involvement
- Social Support and Influences



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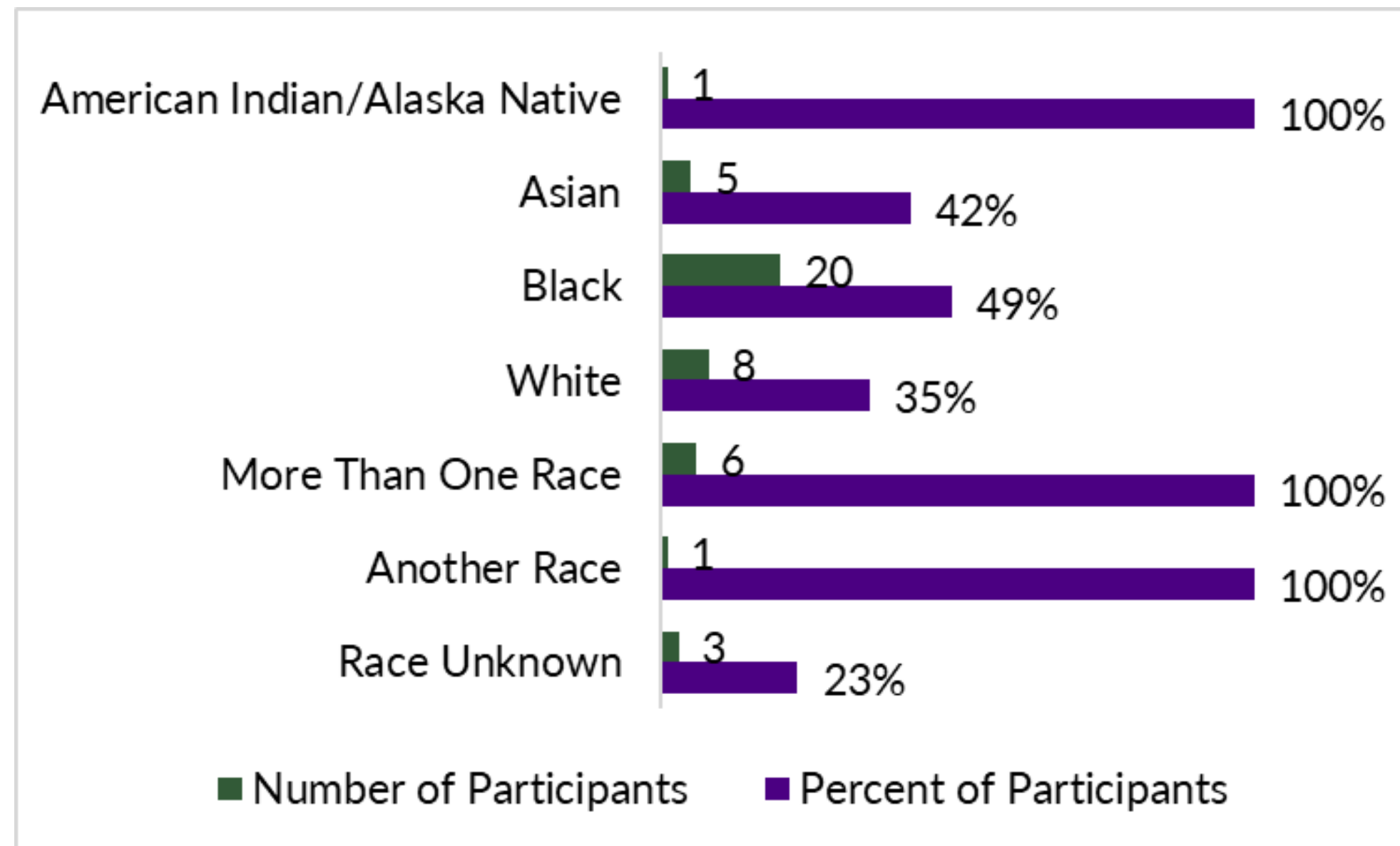


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context - Discrimination or Being Misunderstood

Number and Percent of Participants Who Commented About Discrimination or Being Misunderstood by Race



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context - Discrimination or Being Misunderstood

Concerns about Discrimination or Being Misunderstood

were discussed in the context of:

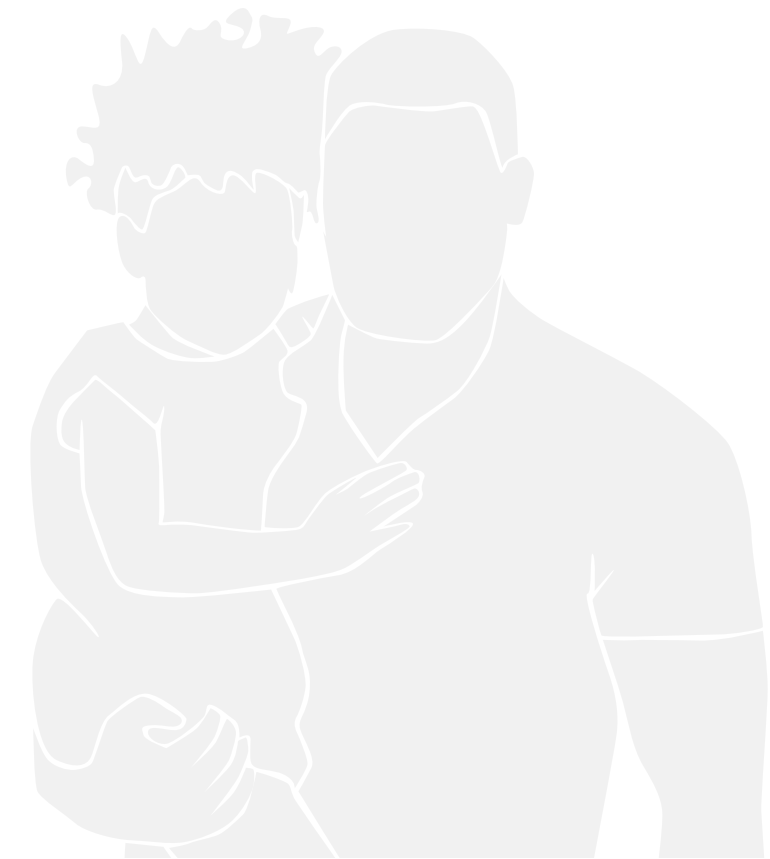
- Health care;
- Criminal justice;
- Employment;
- Housing; and more.

And on the basis of:

- Race, ethnicity, and culture;
- Gender;
- Sexual orientation;
- Age;
- Place of residence; and more.

“Sometimes people act like you don’t know what you’re doing. [They act] like Black fathers don’t exist and actually want to be a part of their child life and actually do they job.”

-Black Fathers Group



“Cis people take cis people a lot more seriously than they take trans people.”

-Transgender and Nonbinary Group



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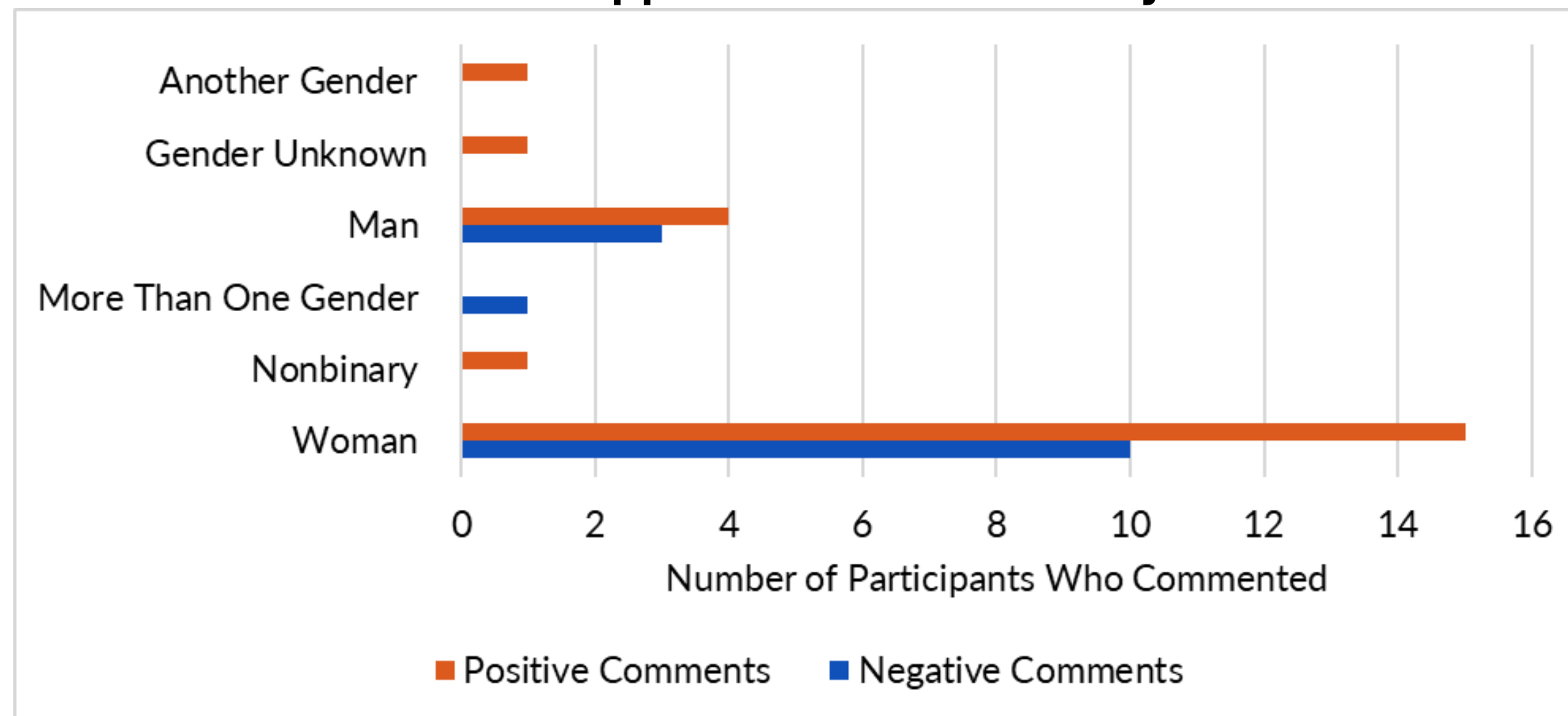


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context - Social Support and Influences

Number of Participants Who Made Negative and Positive Comments About Social Supports and Influences by Gender



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context - Social Support and Influences

Positive comments related to Social Support and Influences included:

- Feelings of gratitude for having people to rely on for practical or emotional support
- Being able to trust others in the community
- Being around people who are relatable

Challenges expressed related to Social Support and Influences varied by focus group and included:

- Feelings of loneliness due to geographic isolation without reliable transportation
- Lack of acceptance by family and peers
- Negative peer pressure



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Social and Community Context - Social Support and Influences



“One thing is we do kind of pull together, though, and like, we have our small community that we rely on our neighbors and can rely on our churches. And we try to help each other the best we can.”

-Rural Caregivers Group

“Some folks have literally no one and they just rely on their friends- their LGBTQ+ friends- for that support, or for finances, for assistance, for guidance.”

-LGBTQ+ Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Language Access

- English Language Interpretation Challenges
- Access to Information



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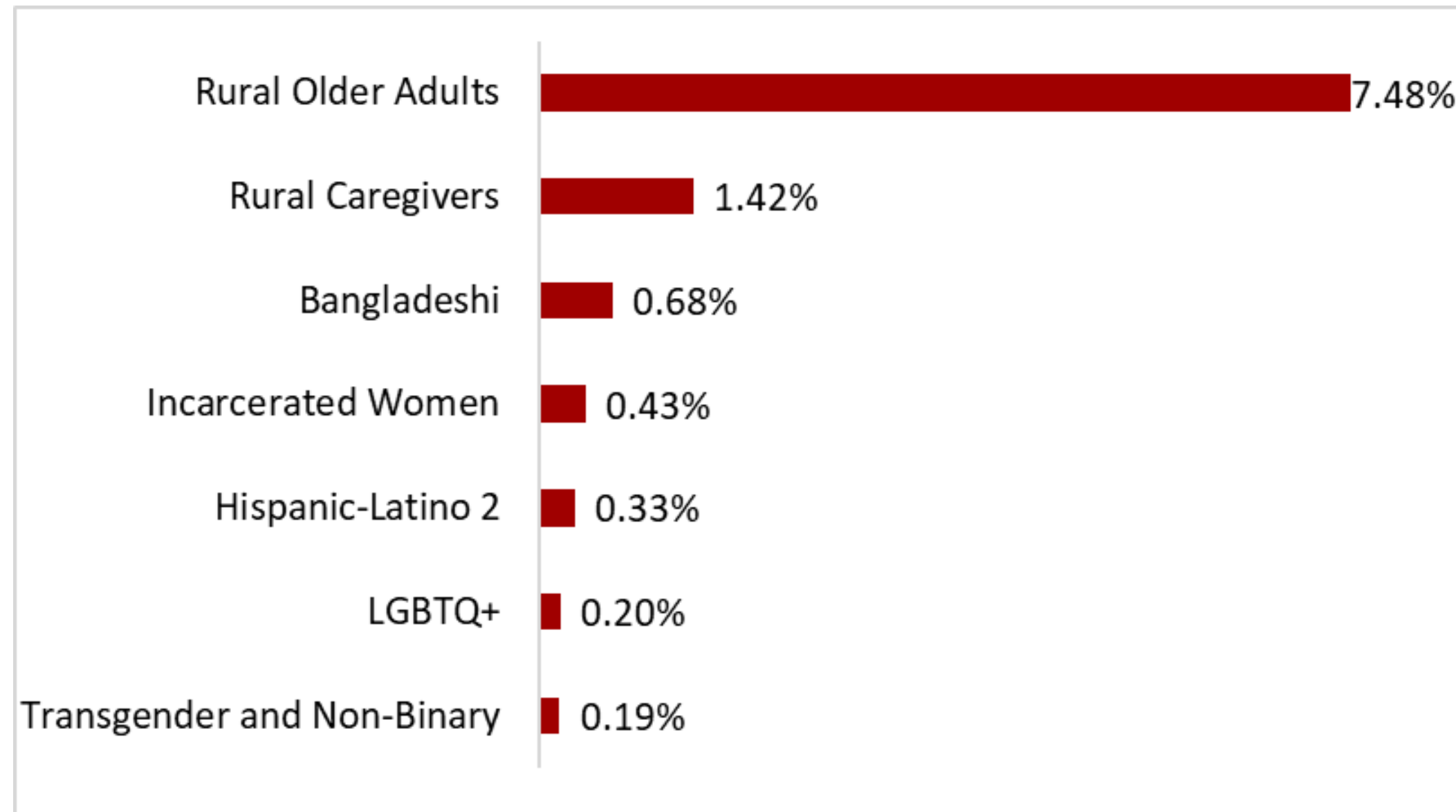


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Language Access - Access to Information

Percent of Dialogue Focused on Access to Information Challenges per Focus Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Language Access - Access to Information

Challenges discussed related to Access to Information include:

- Lack of awareness of resources due to inadequate means of communication
- The digital dominance of advertisements for community events and resources while some individuals do not have the skills, equipment, or quality internet necessary to access it



“Communication [...] has gotten to the point where it’s very difficult because everyone assumes that you go to Facebook and you go to all [the others]. And I hate to tell you, I swear that at least 60% of the seniors do not go to computers in any way, shape, or form. [...] There’s no communication available in this community anymore.”

-Rural Older Adults Group



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RESULTS SUMMARY: FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES



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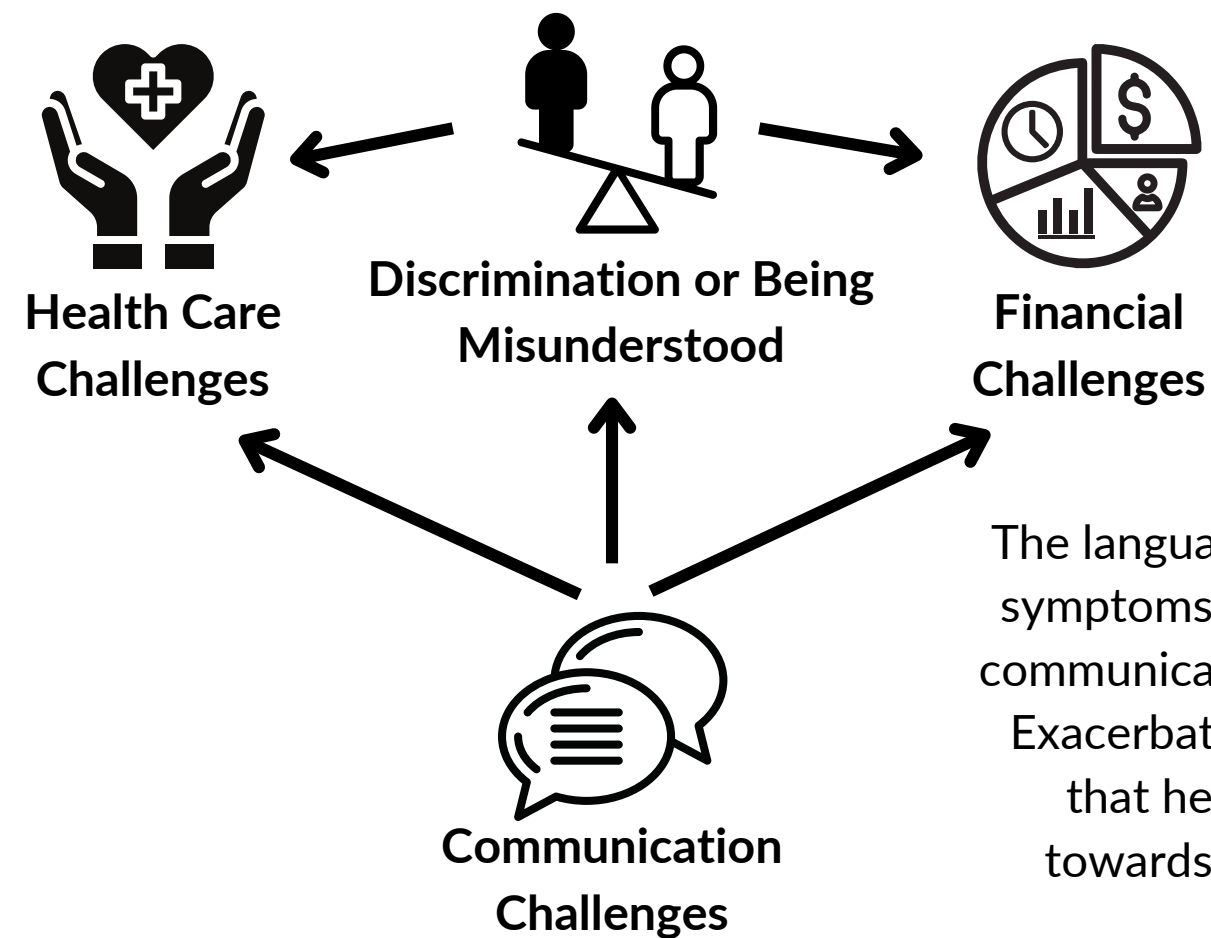


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Group Summaries - Relationship Diagrams

SDOH Relationships Discussed in the Puerto Rican Focus Group



The language barrier is a challenge when communicating symptoms and needs to health care providers as well as communicating skills and assets with potential employers. Exacerbating these challenges is the negative attitudes that health care providers and employers express towards people who require language interpreters.



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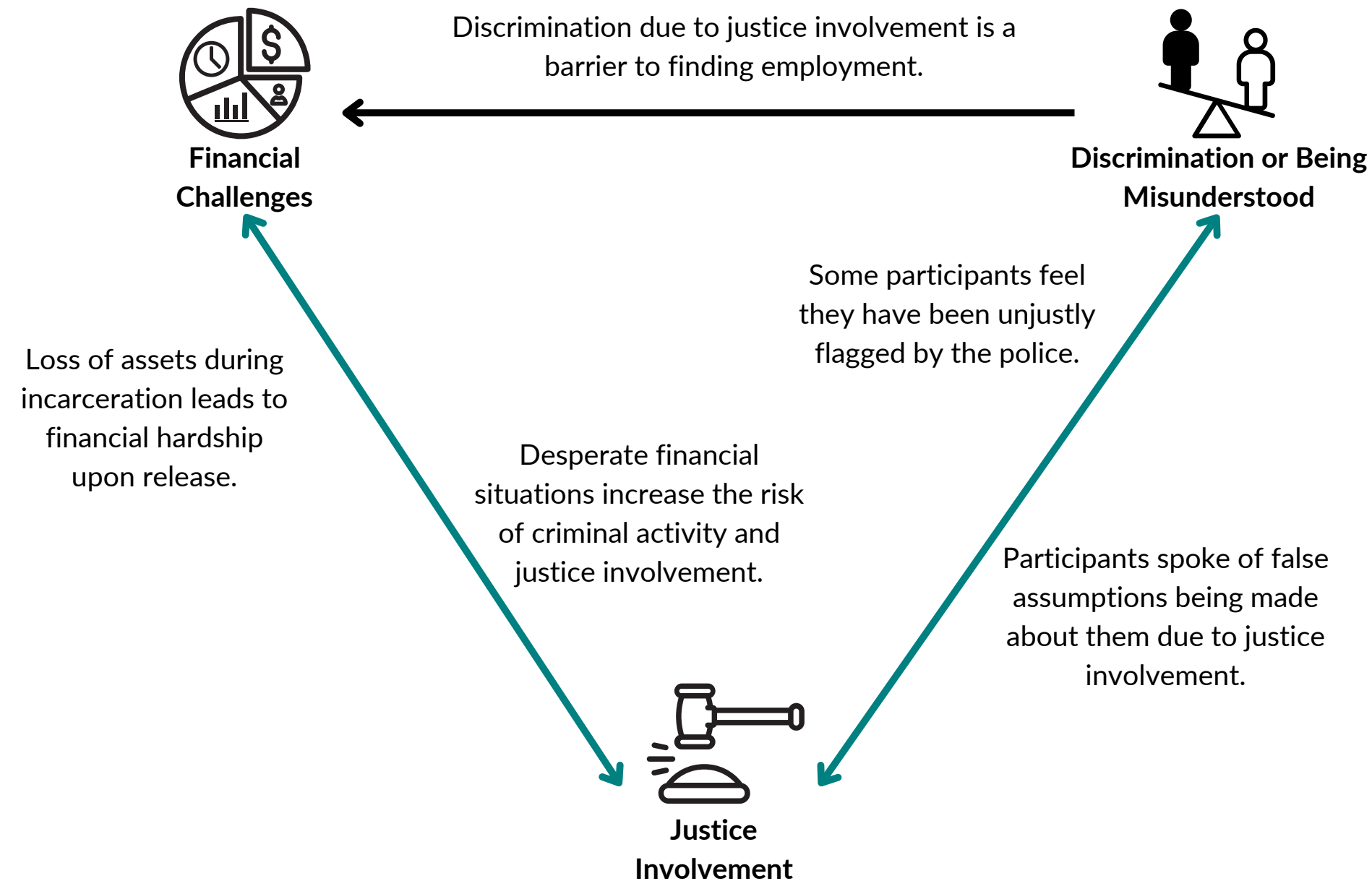


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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Focus Group Summaries - Relationship Diagrams

SDOH Relationships Discussed in the Incarcerated Men Focus Group



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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Focus Group Summaries - Wish Lists

Wish List From Bangladeshi Focus Group

- ☐ More large corporations for job opportunities
- ☐ Classes for Bangladeshi women to learn skills such as driving and English proficiency to make them more independent
- ☐ More awareness of the Halal diet and availability of Halal foods

Wish List From Incarcerated Women Focus Group

- ☐ More educational and self-improvement opportunities
- ☐ Religious counsel
- ☐ More access to mental health counseling and health care



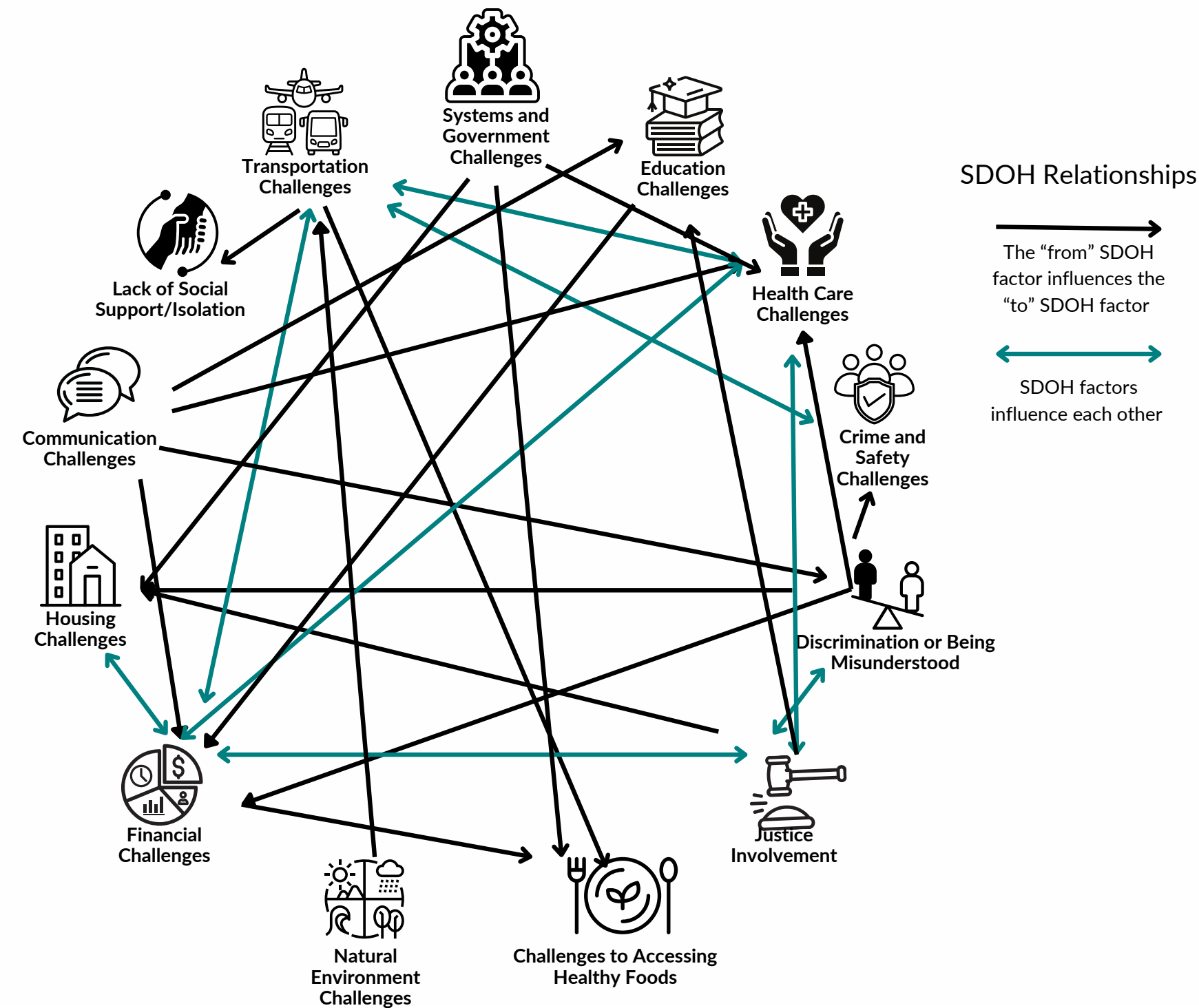
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FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

SDOH Relationships



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Q & A



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Contact Us:

erie.gov/healthequity

(716) 858-2385

healthequity@erie.gov



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