

Criminogenic risk factors among immigrants in the U.S.- México border region

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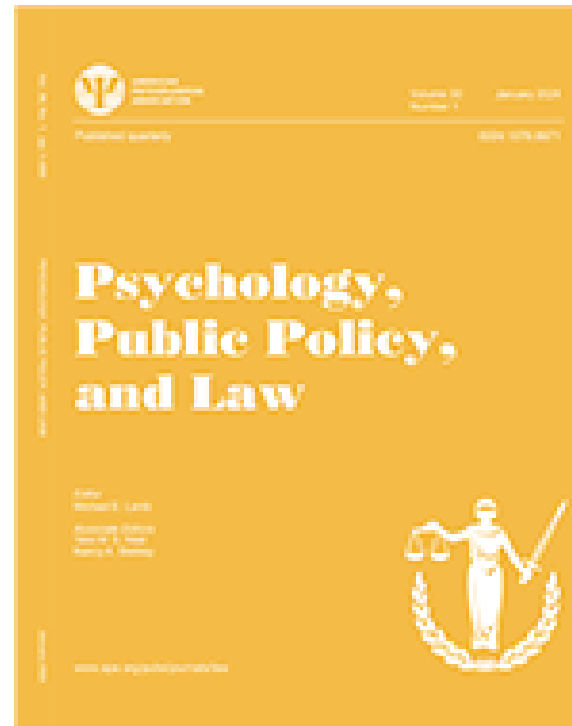
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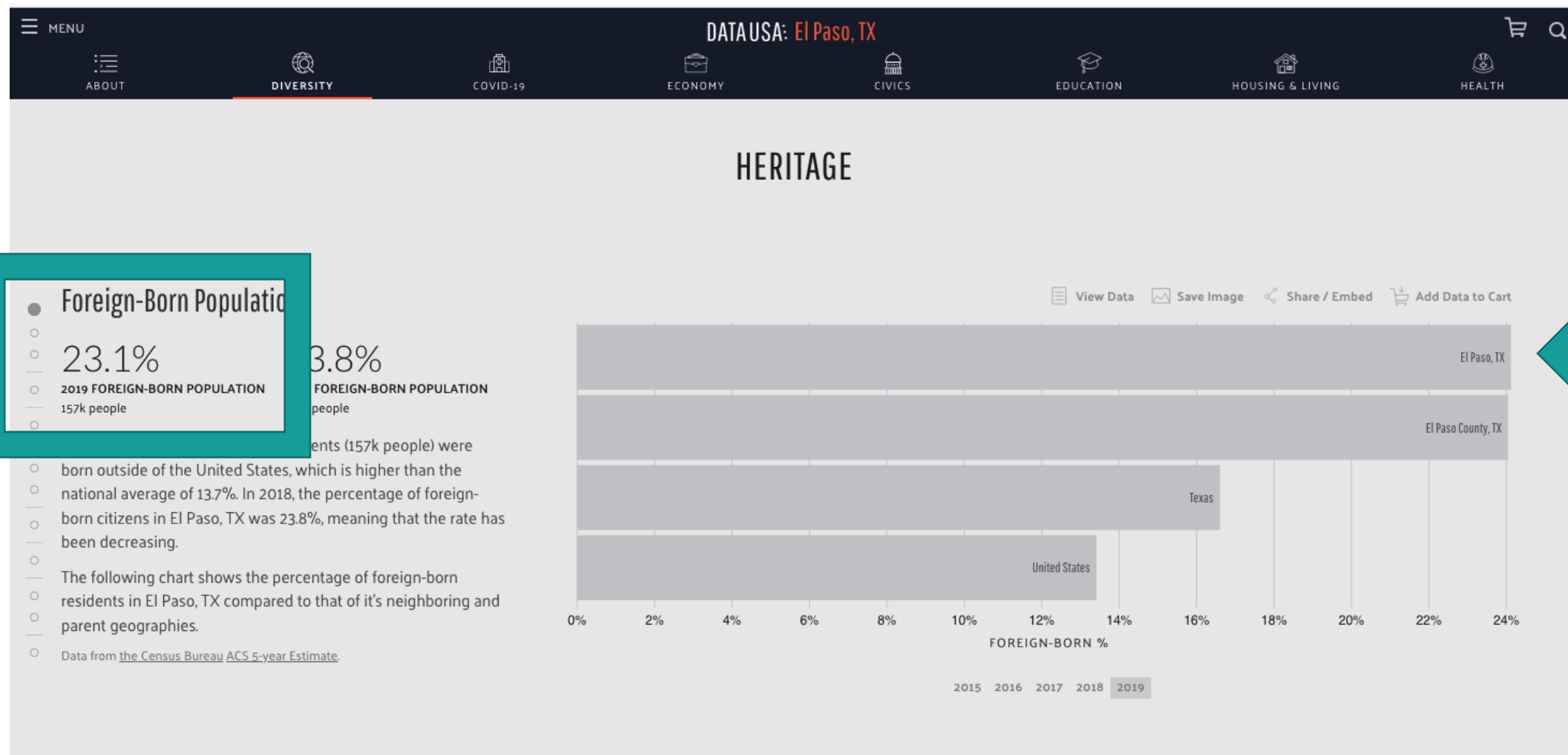
Preprint:



Immigration & low levels of crime

- Immigrants tend to have lower crime rates than native-born U.S. citizens
- Heavily immigrant neighborhoods and cities also tend to have low crime rates
- These findings are surprising because immigrants have high rates of poverty, tend to be young and male, and may experience high levels of stress due to language difficulties and other aspects of living in a new culture
- Our goals are to better understand why immigrants may have low levels of crime using samples of justice-involved individuals in El Paso County
- Study 1 compares immigrants and U.S.-born citizens regarding offense type and risk assessment scores
- Study 2 compares undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, and native-born U.S. citizens regarding criminal behavior and criminogenic risk factors

Immigration in El Paso



Immigration in El Paso

PEW RESEARCH CENTER | MARCH 11, 2019



Estimates of U.S. unauthorized immigrant population, by metro area, 2016 and 2007

Metro area	Estimate, 2016	Margin of error, 2016	Estimate, 2007	2007 to 2016 change	Unauthorized immigrant % of ...		Rank of unauthorized immigrant population	
					Total, 2016	Foreign born, 2016	2016	2007
El Paso, TX	55,000	+/-10,000	50,000	Not sig.	6.6%	27%	33	38

Immigration and crime

CONSISTENT FINDINGS

- Immigrants commit less crime than non-immigrants
- El Paso is one of the safest cities in the U.S.

LESS UNDERSTOOD

- Individual-level factors driving criminal behavior among immigrants

Study 1

Secondary analysis of booking data

Study 1 Method

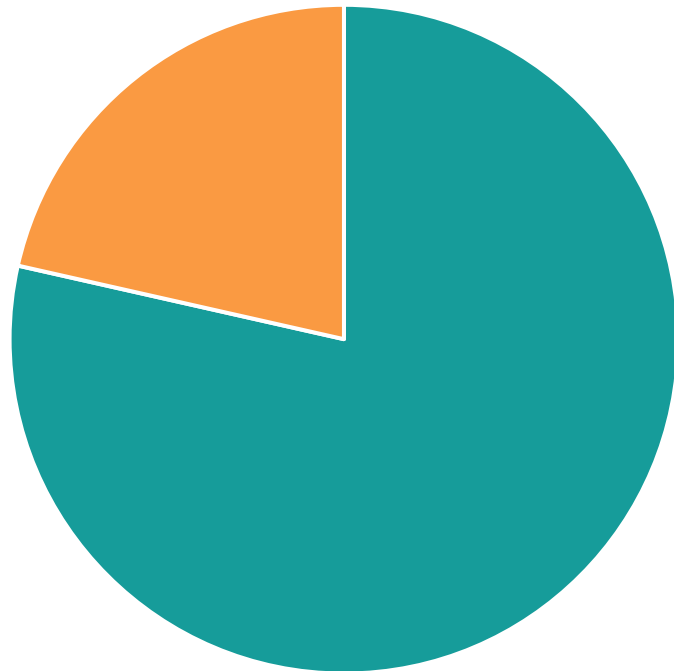
Analysis of secondary data

- Booking data from El Paso County jails
 - Current charges
 - Criminal history
 - Pretrial risk assessment tool
- U.S. Census data



Study 1 Participants ($N = 5,014$)

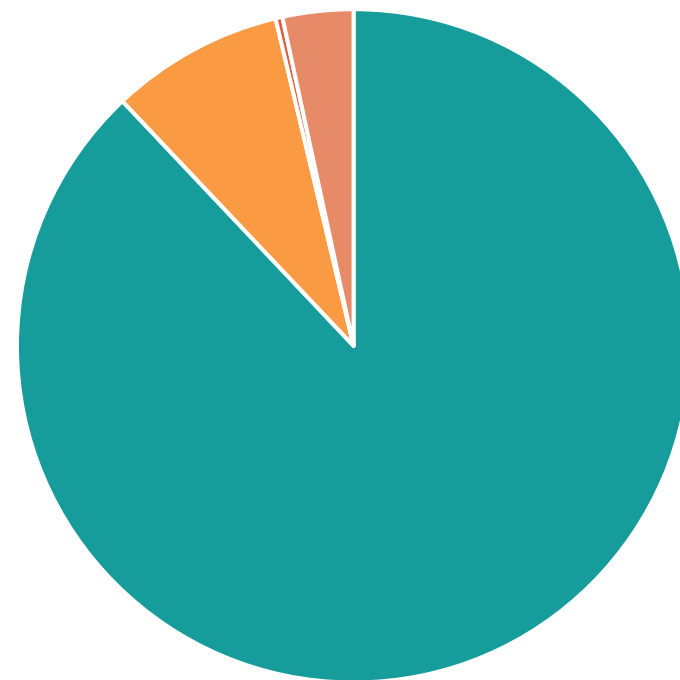
Gender



■ Male ■ Female

M Age= 31.61 ($SD = 11.35$)
Range= 18-88

Race

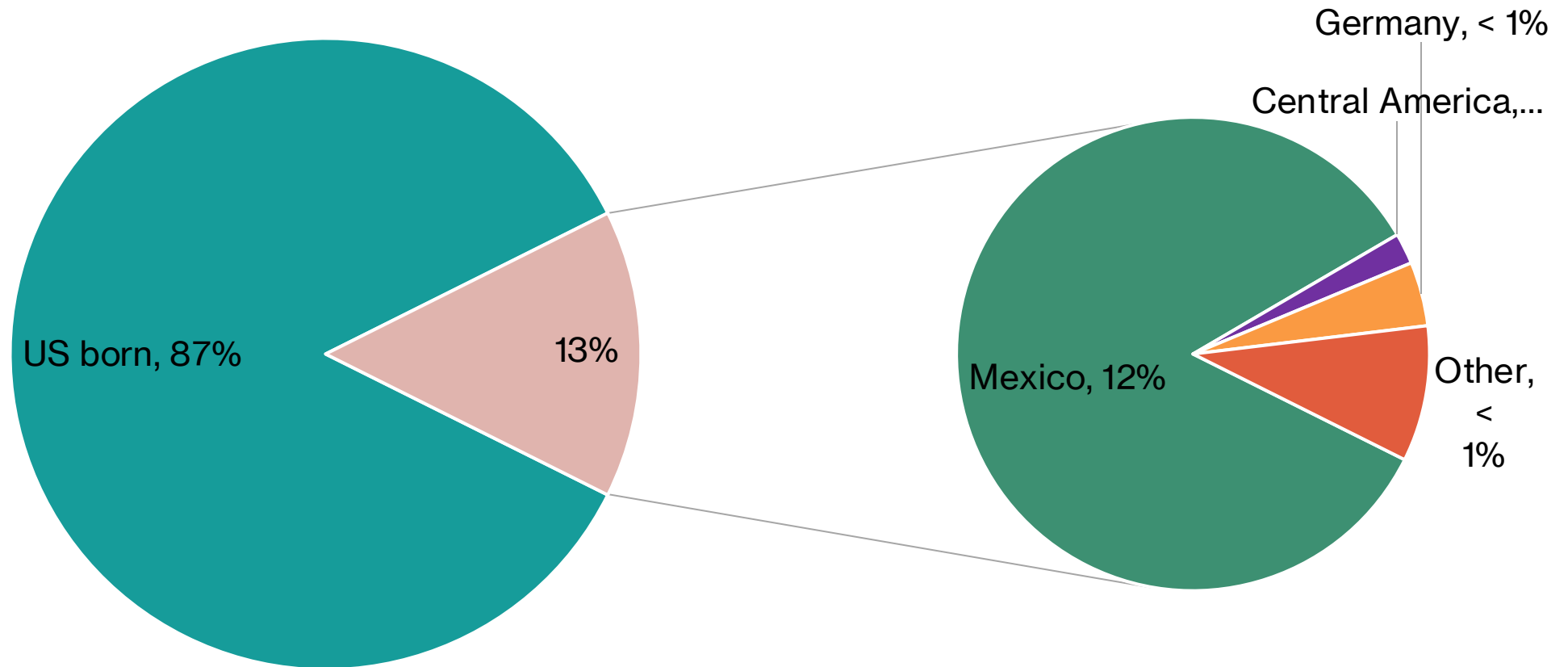


■ White ■ Black/African American ■ Asian ■ Other

84.4% Hispanic/Latinx

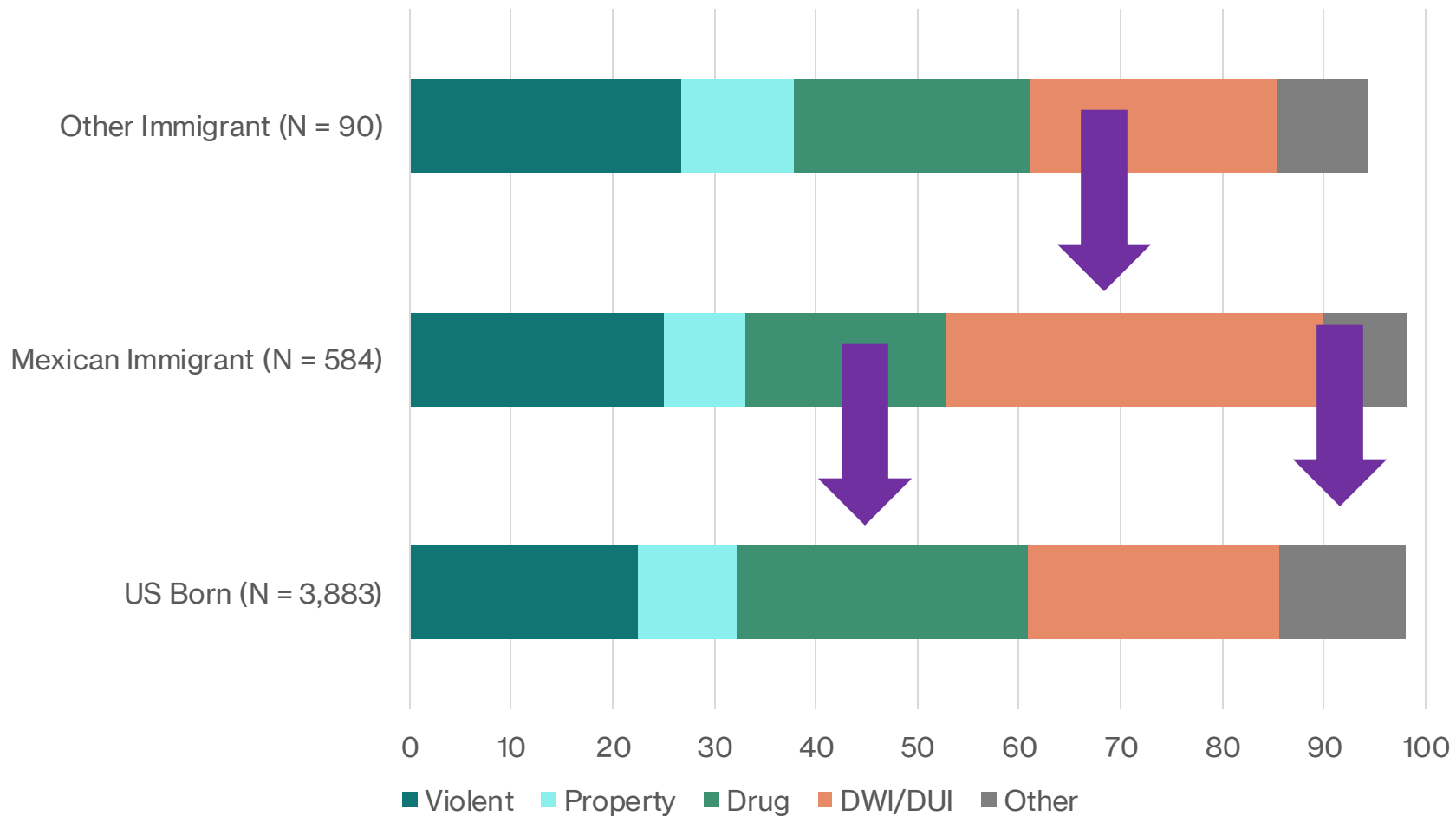
Citizenship status of those booked into El Paso jails

Participants $N = 5,014$



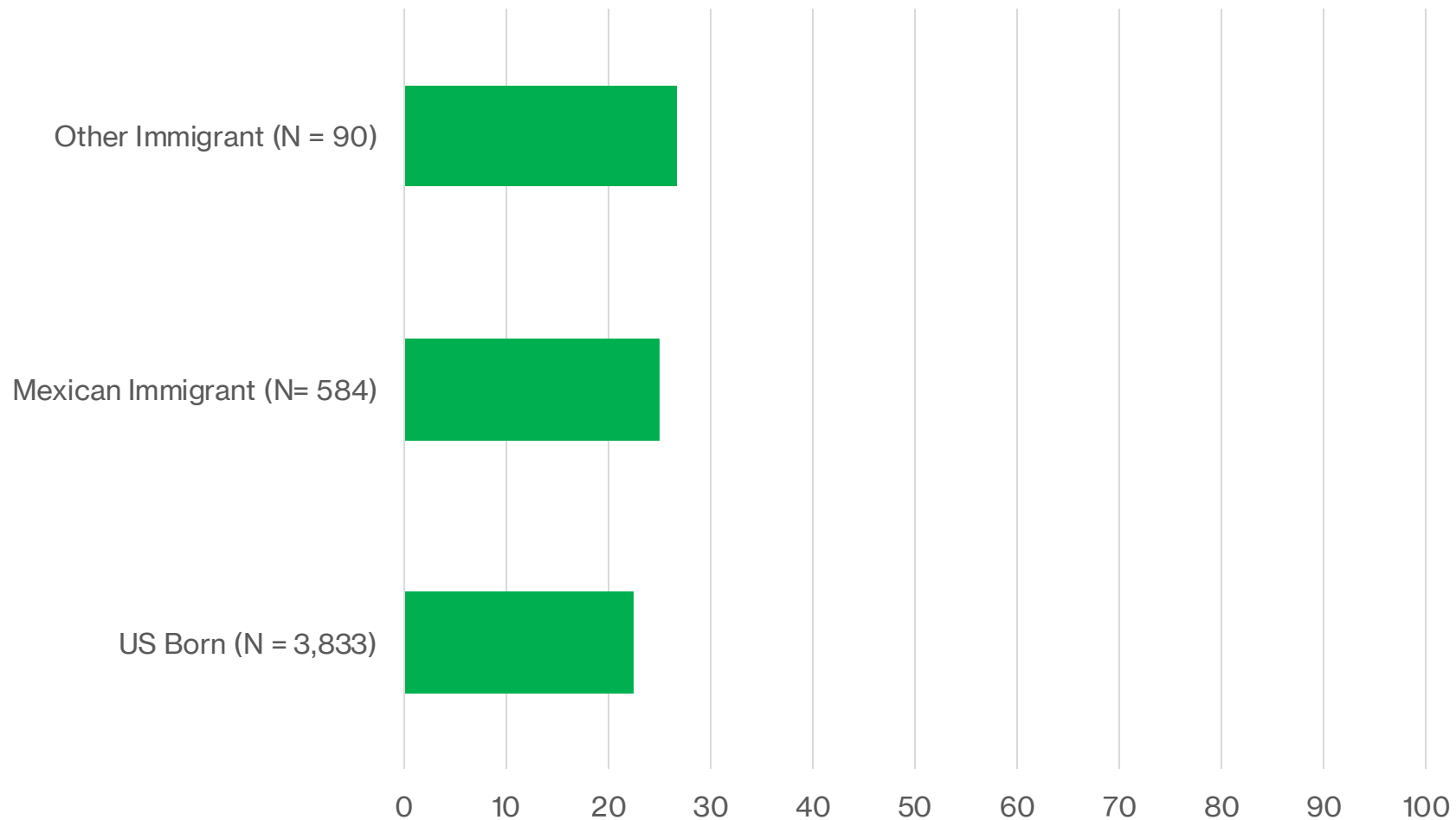
Current charges by immigration status

Current Charges %



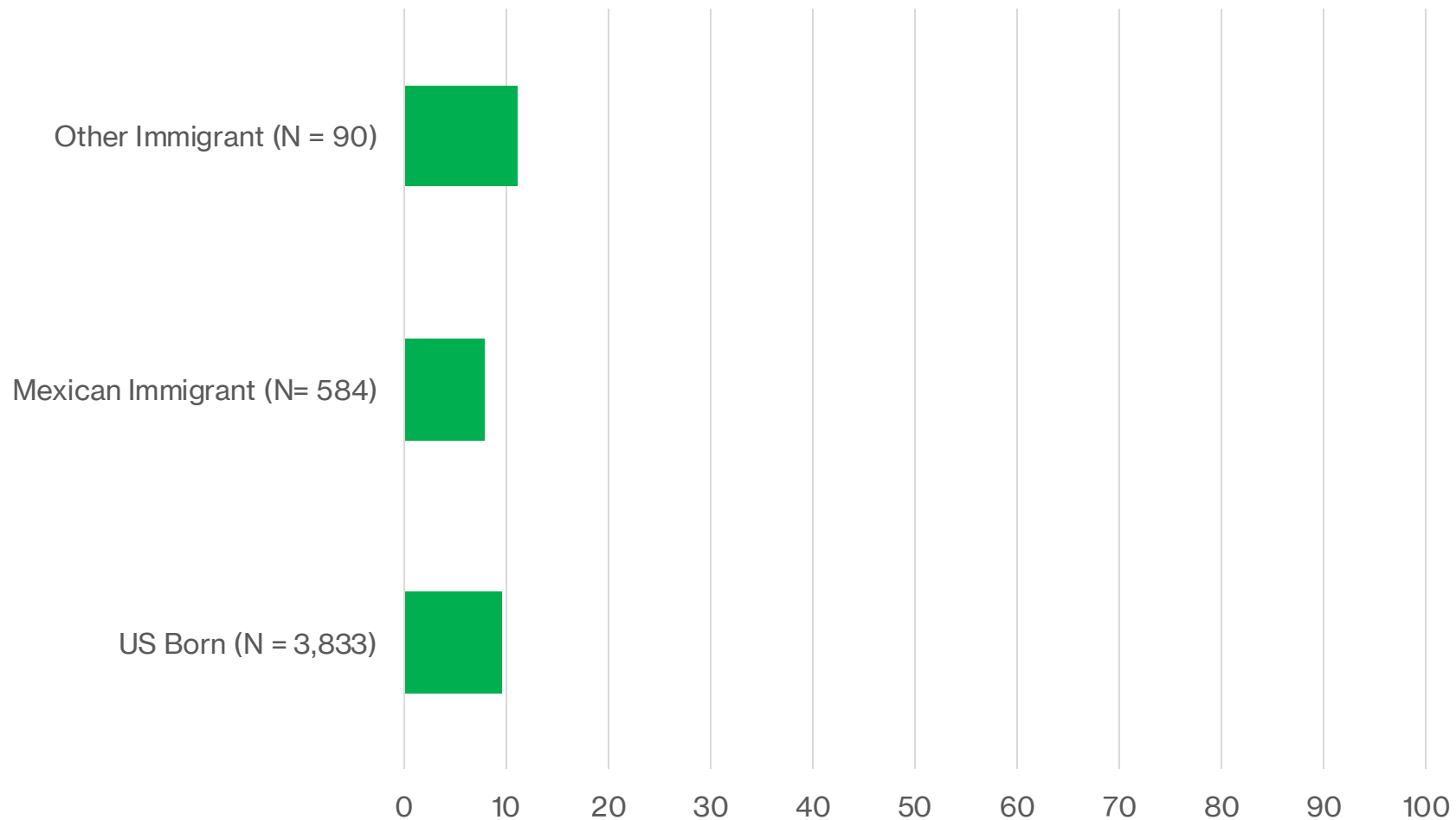
Proportion with charges for Violent Offense

Current Charges %

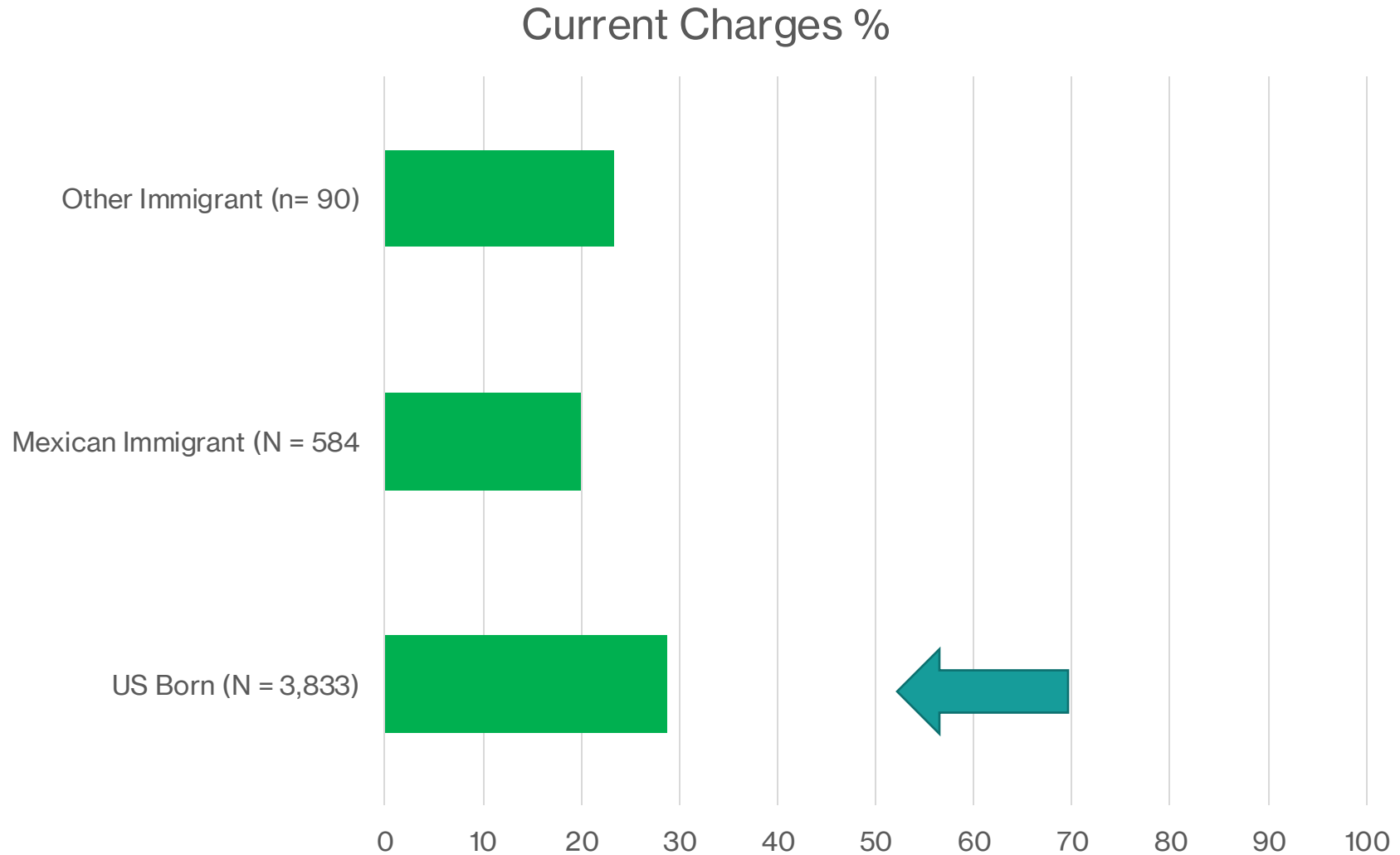


Proportion with charges for Property Offense

Current Charges %

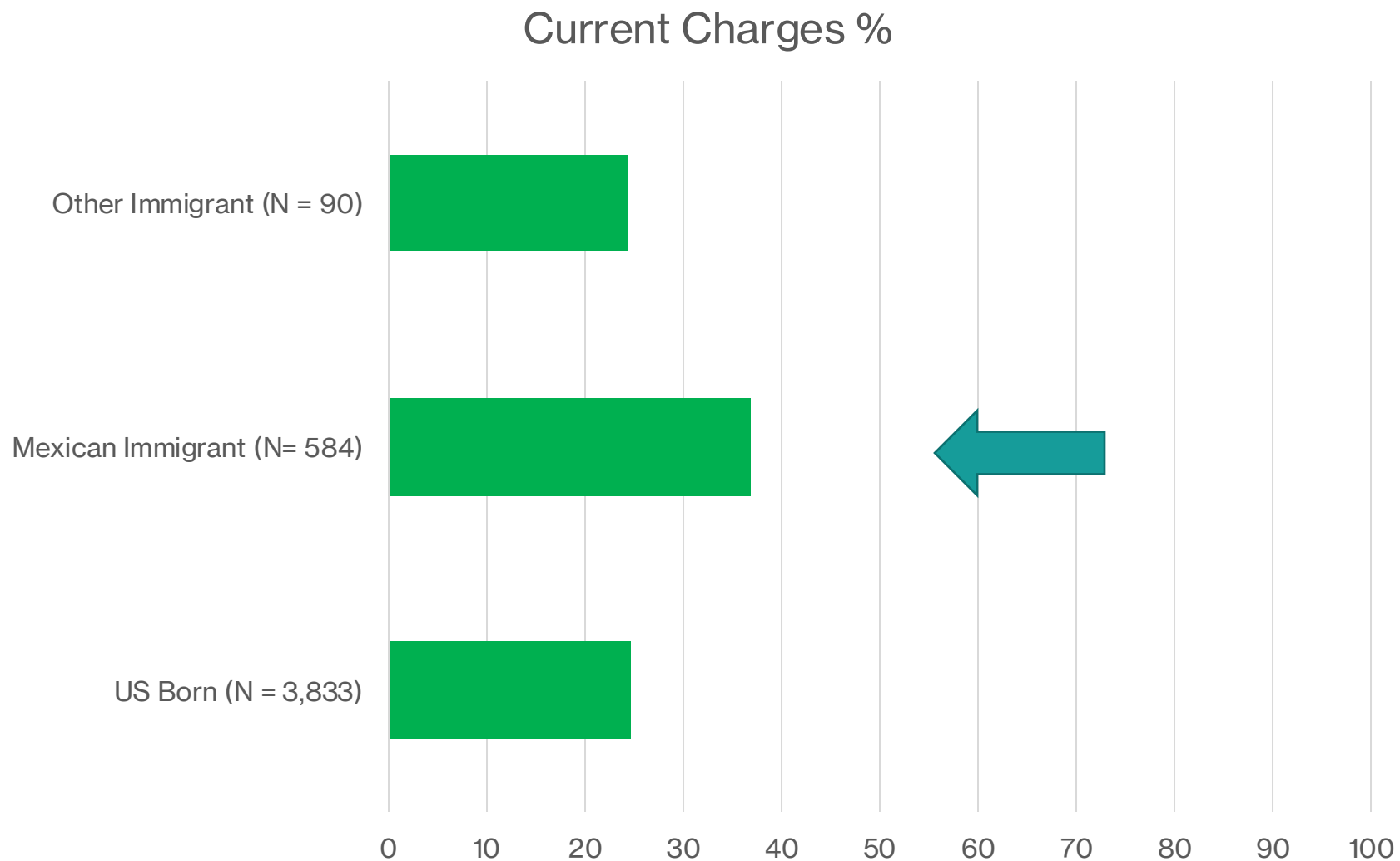


Proportion with charges for Drug Offenses



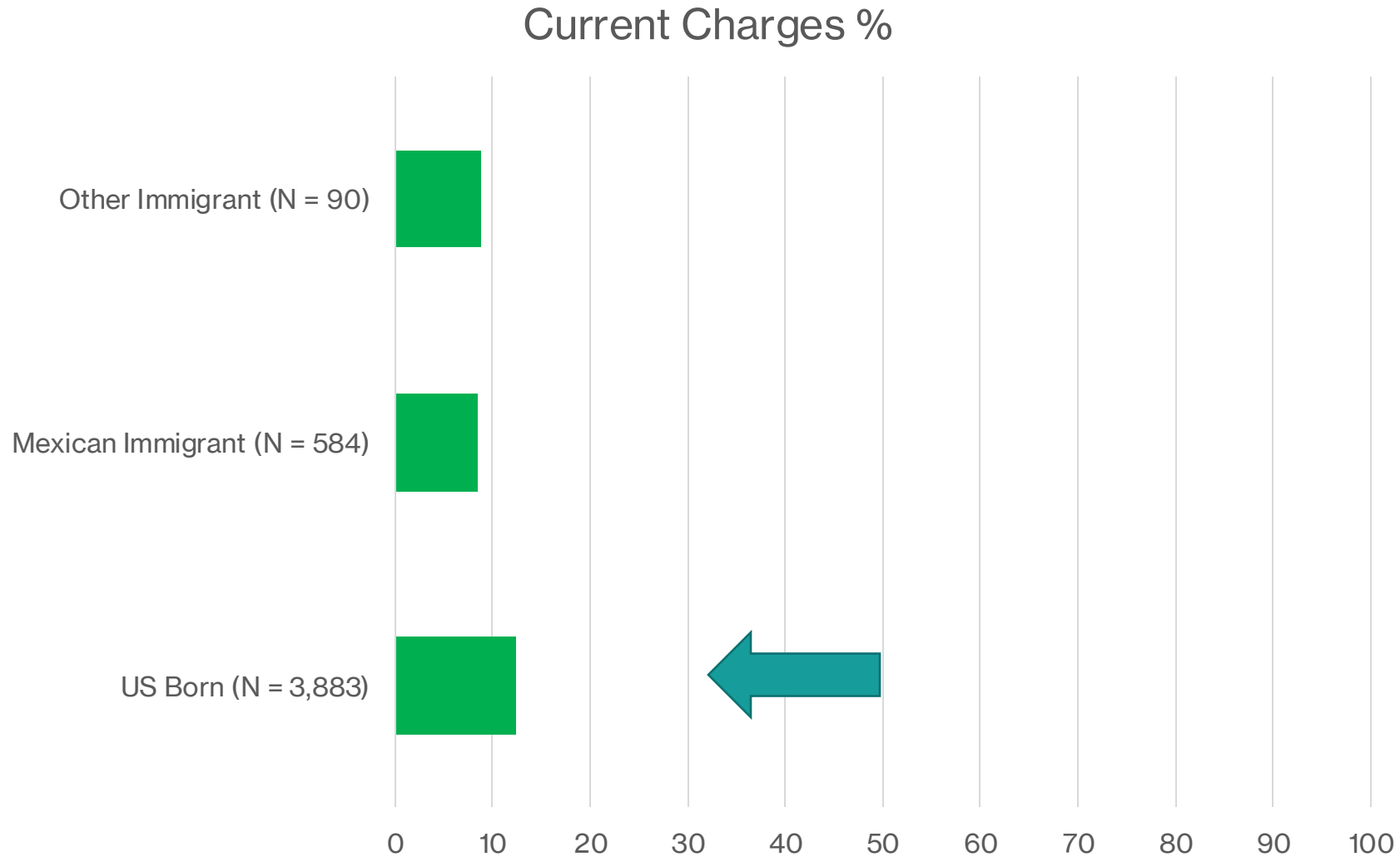
$\chi^2(2)=20.531, p < .001$

Proportion with charges for DWI/ DUI



$\chi^2(2)=39.226, p < .001$

Proportion with charges for “Other” Offense

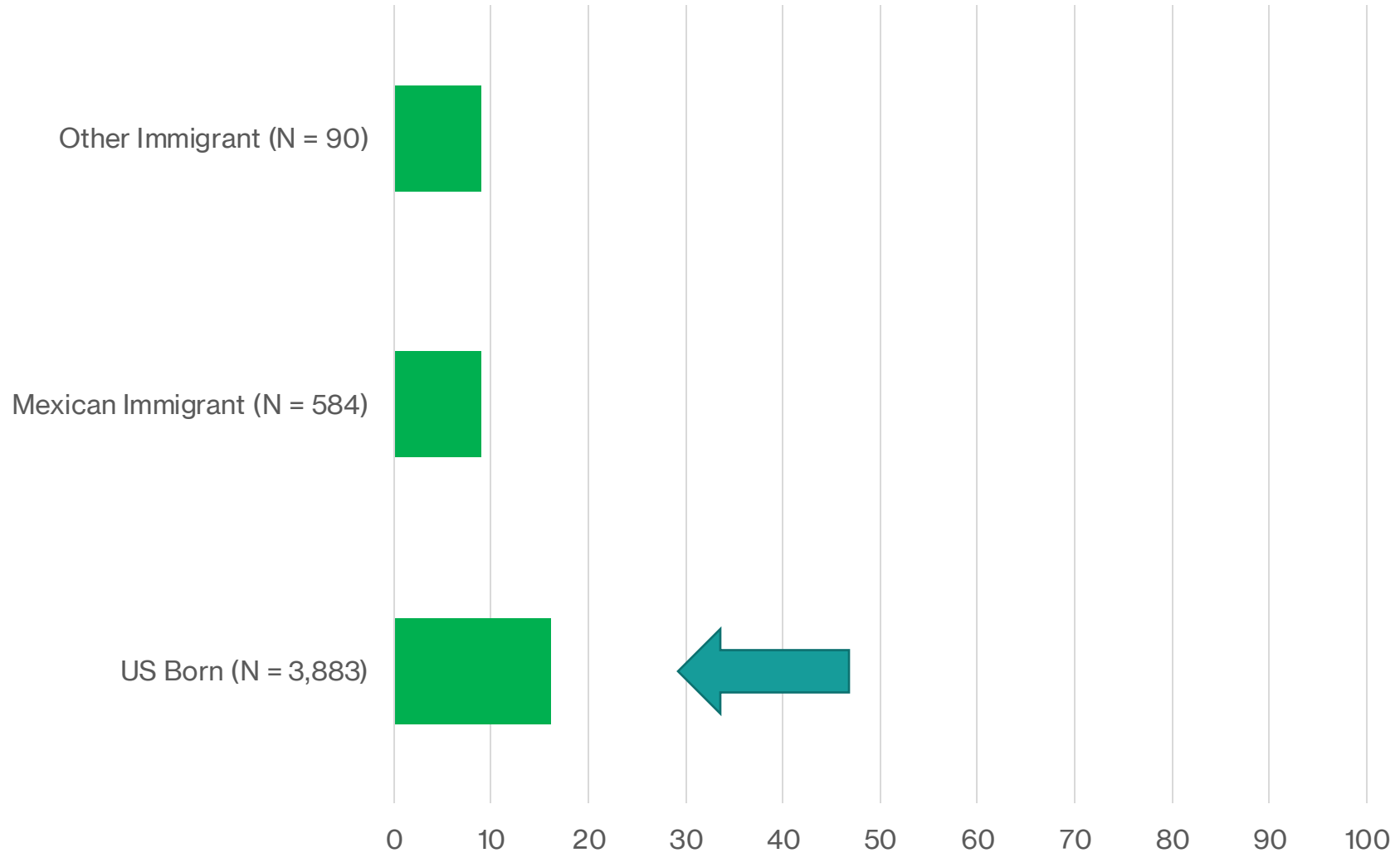


$\chi^2(2)=8.654, p < .001$

Pretrial Risk Assessment Results

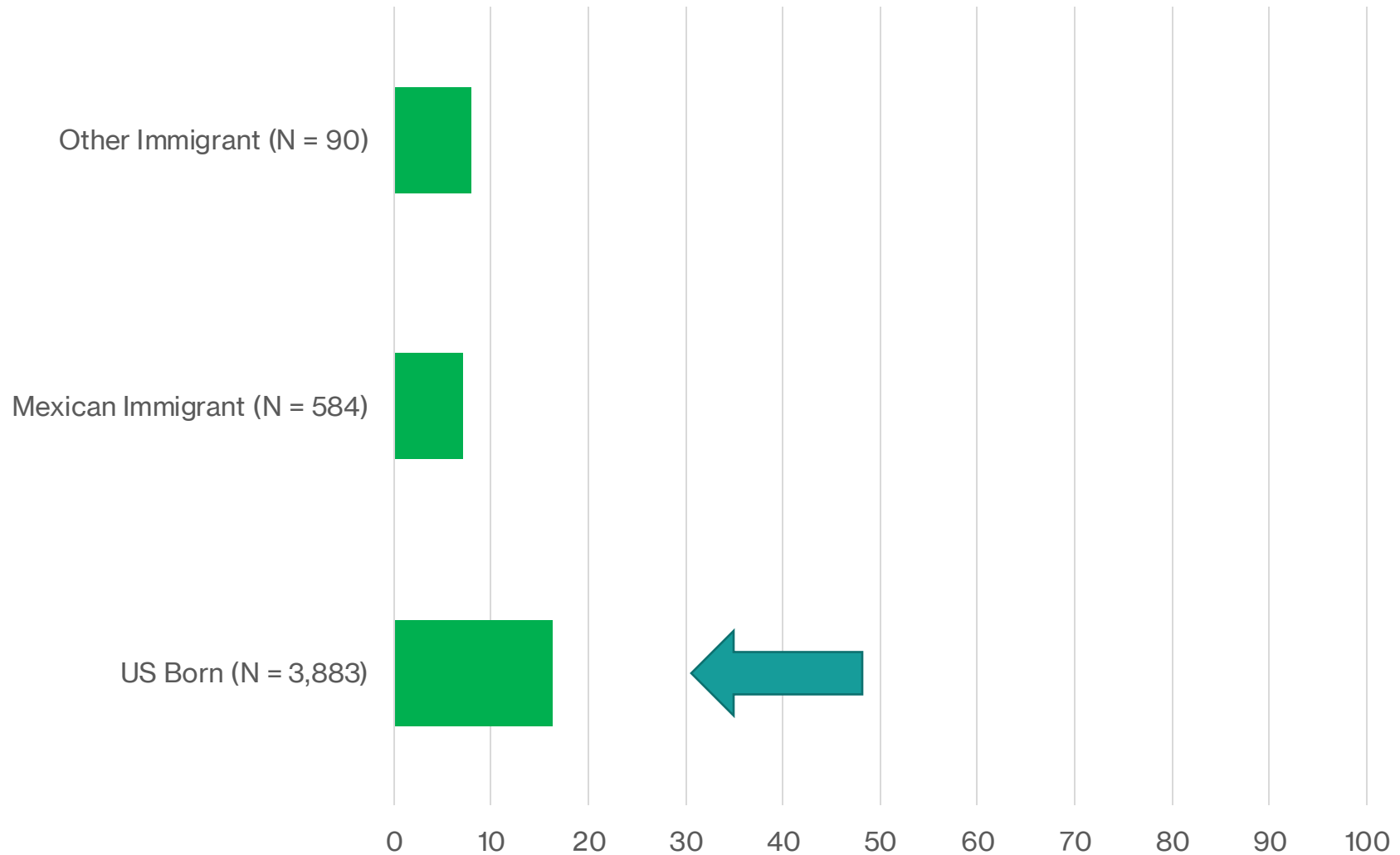
1. Currently under supervision
2. Have prior violent or felony conviction
3. Have pending charges
4. Under age 18.5
5. Live at current home less than 1 year
6. Current employment 6 months or more

Proportion Currently Under Supervision



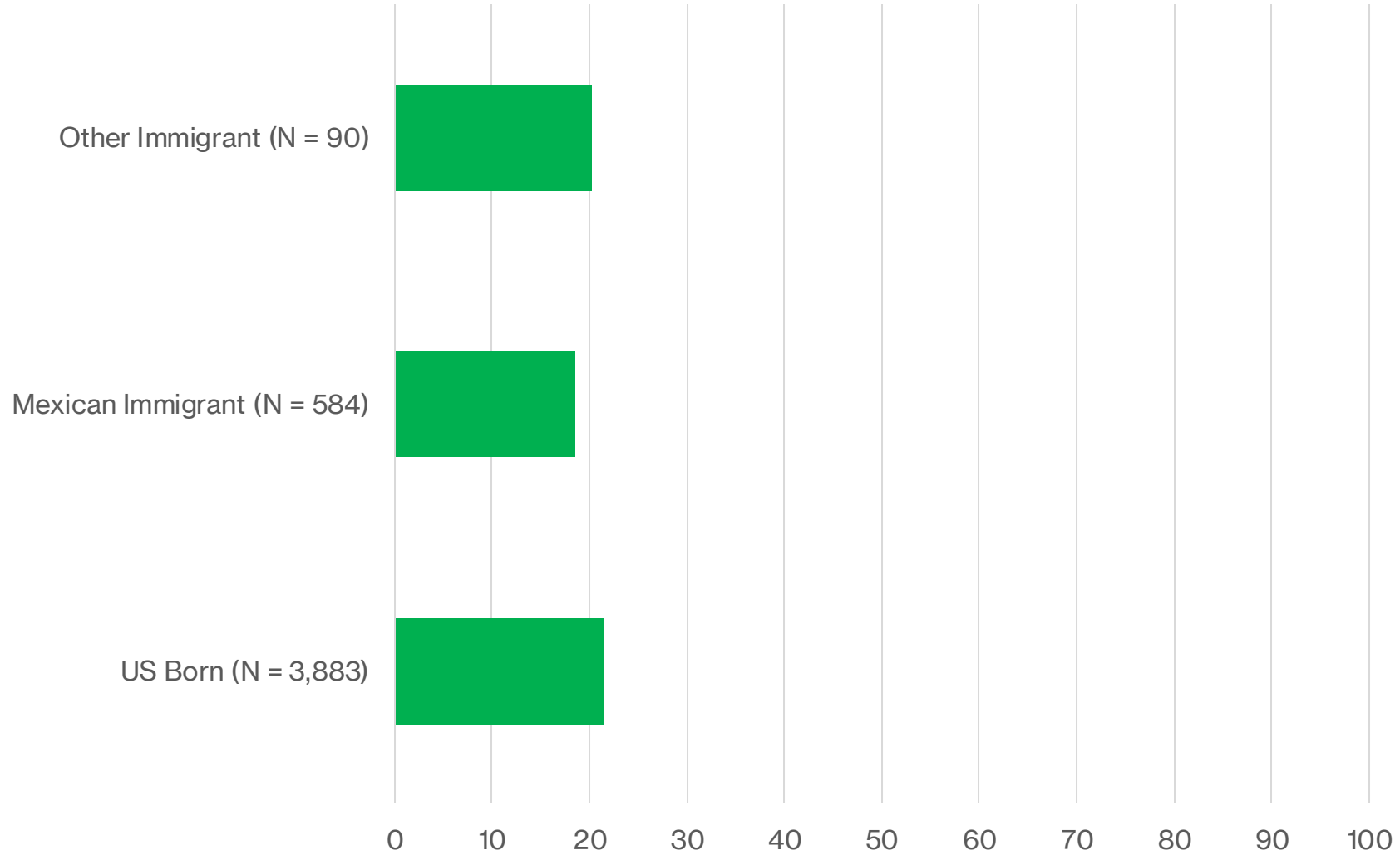
$\chi^2(2)=23.447, p < .001$

Proportion w/ Prior Violent or Felony Convictions

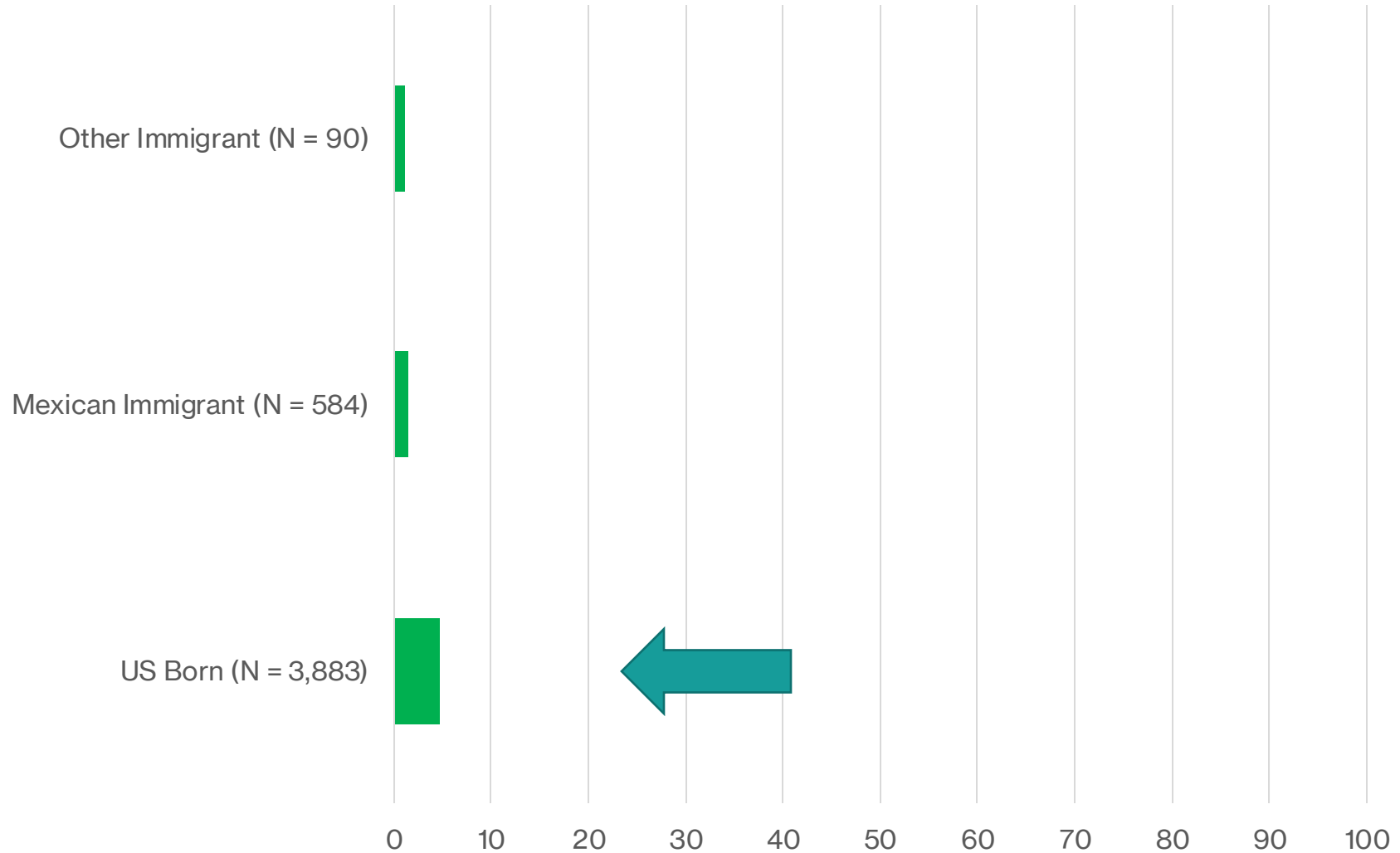


$\chi^2(2)=37.373, p < .001$

Proportion with Pending Charges

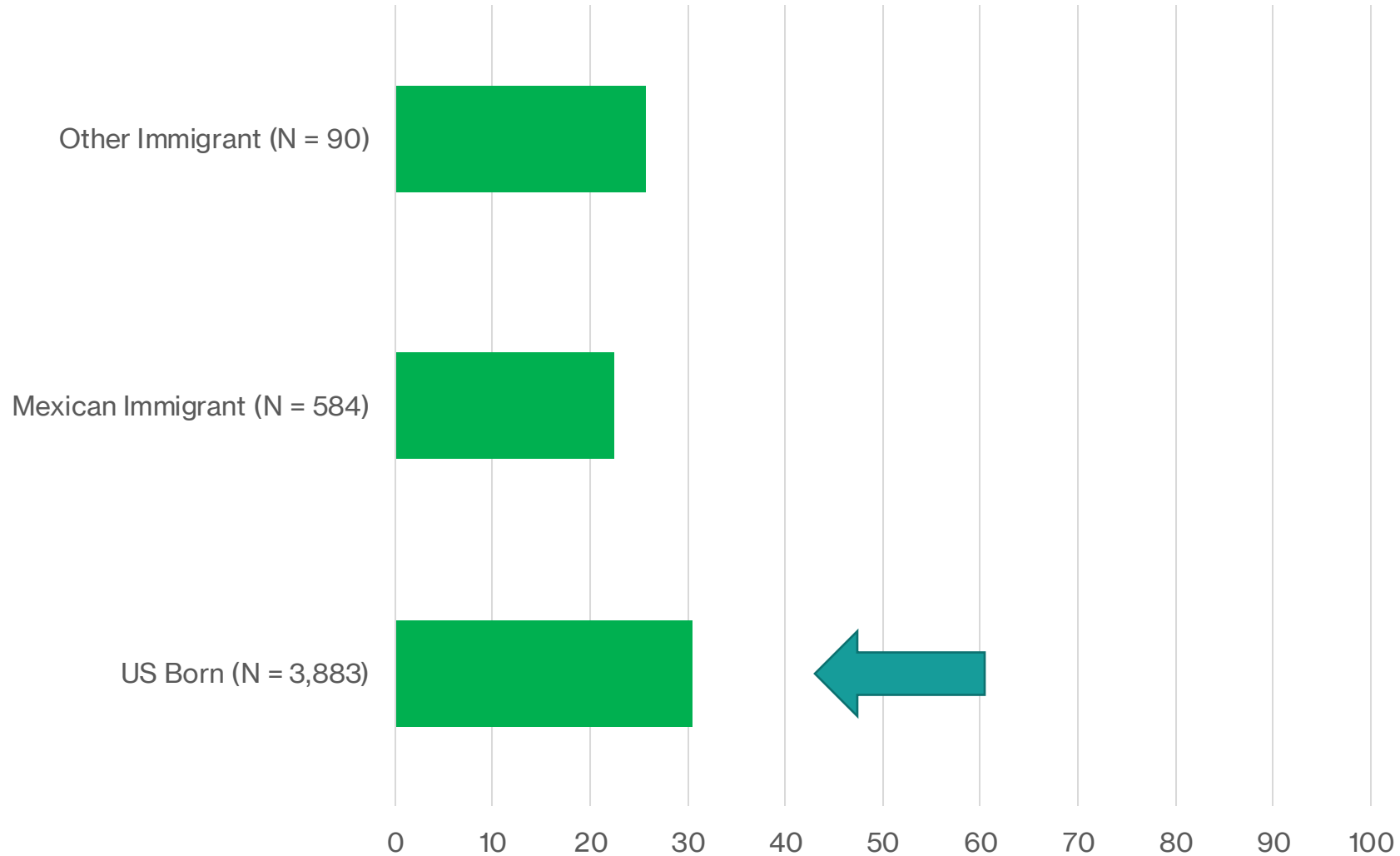


Proportion Aged 18.5 or Younger



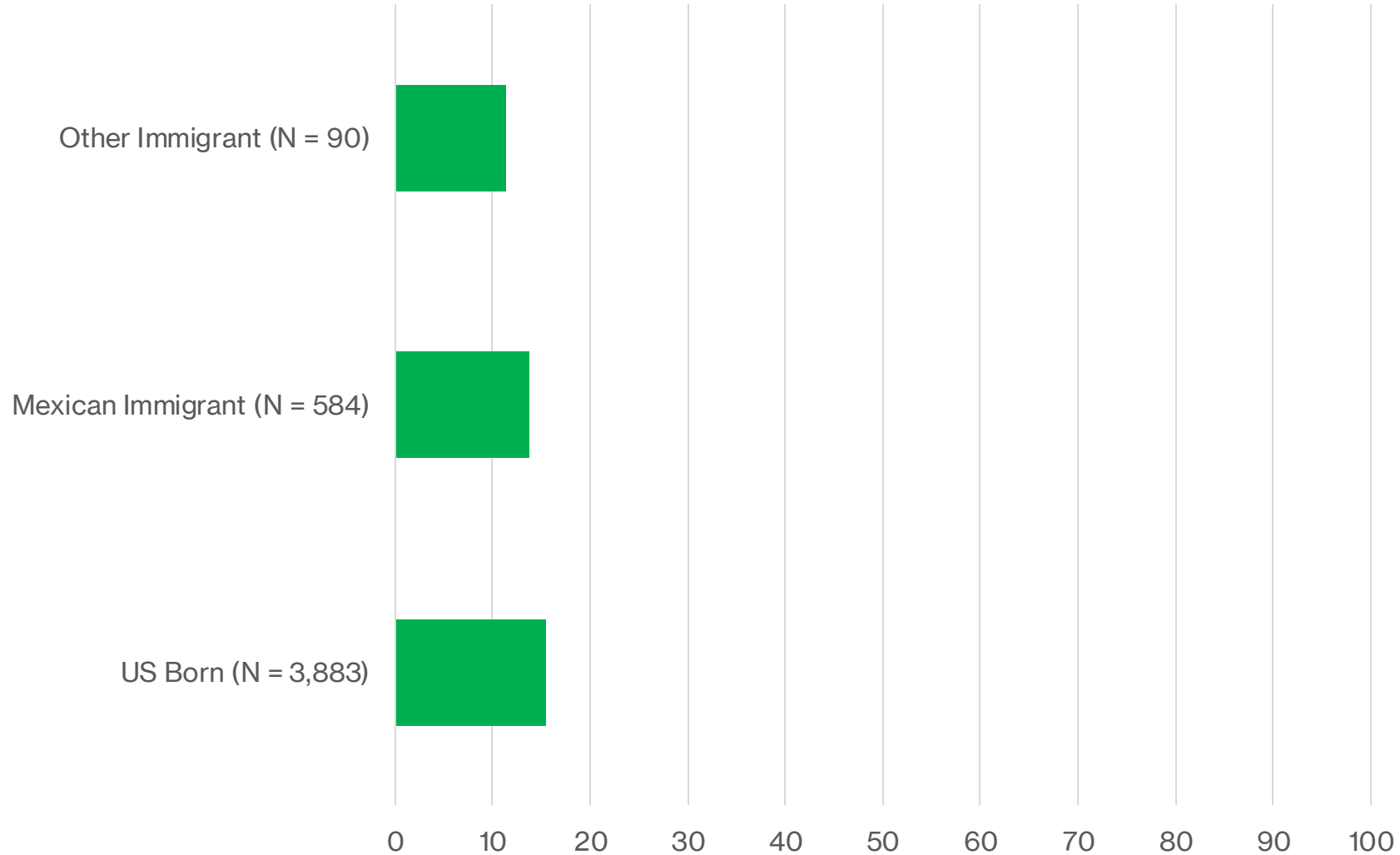
$\chi^2(2)=16.488, p < .001$

Proportion Living at Current Location Less than 1 Year

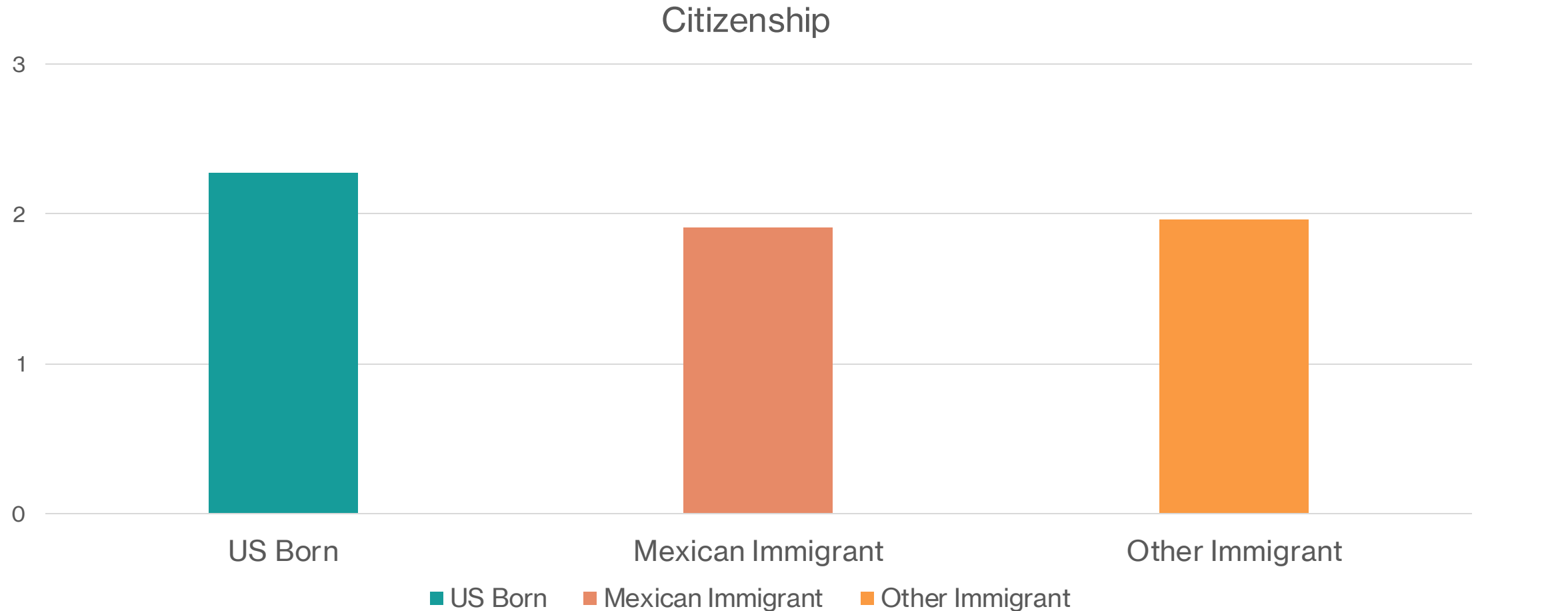


$\chi^2(2)=17.375, p < .001$

Proportion Employed 6 Months or Less



Average Risk Assessment Score



$\chi^2(2)=32.80, p < .001$

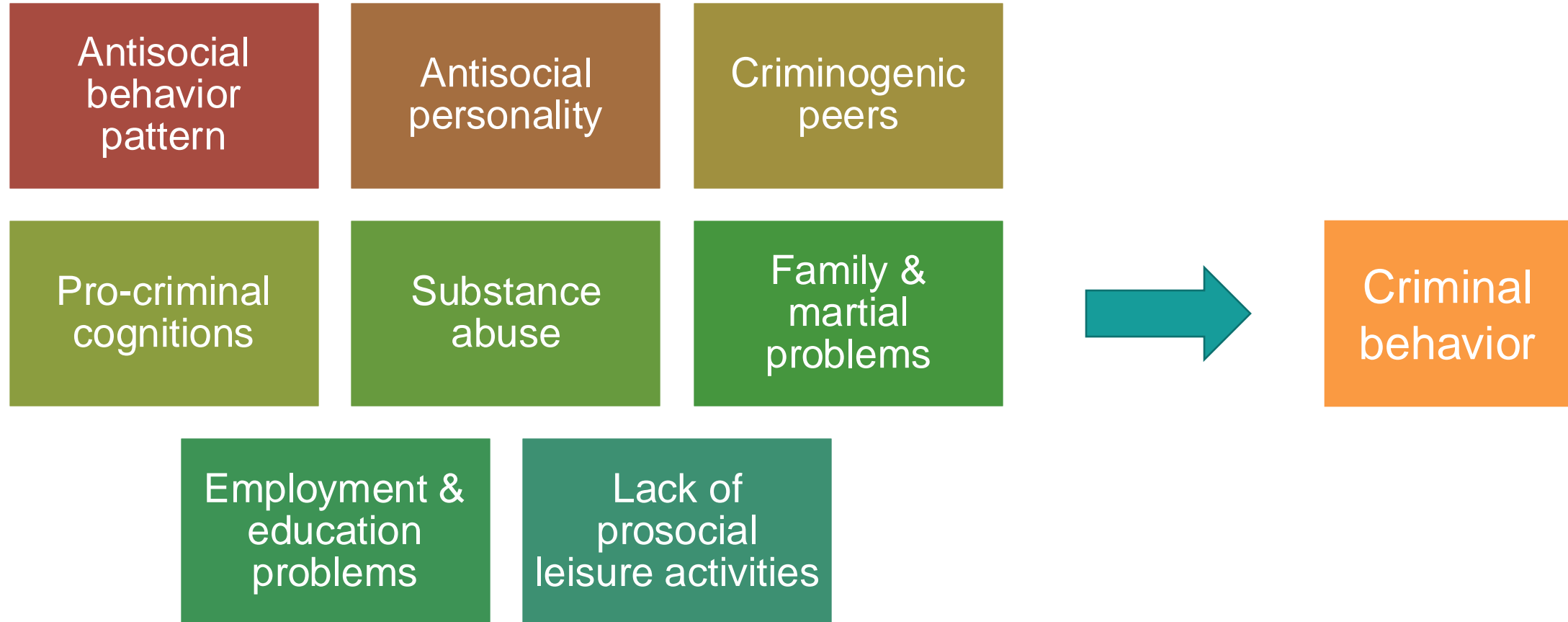
Study 1 key findings

1. Immigrants account for fewer jail bookings (15%) than would be predicted based on their representation in the community (23%)
2. Immigrants have less serious charges than U.S. born citizens
3. Immigrants have lower risk assessment scores
4. Immigrants are less likely to be under supervision or have prior violent or felony convictions, and more likely to have stable homes

Study 2

Interviews with individuals booked to jail

Are the Central 8 relevant?

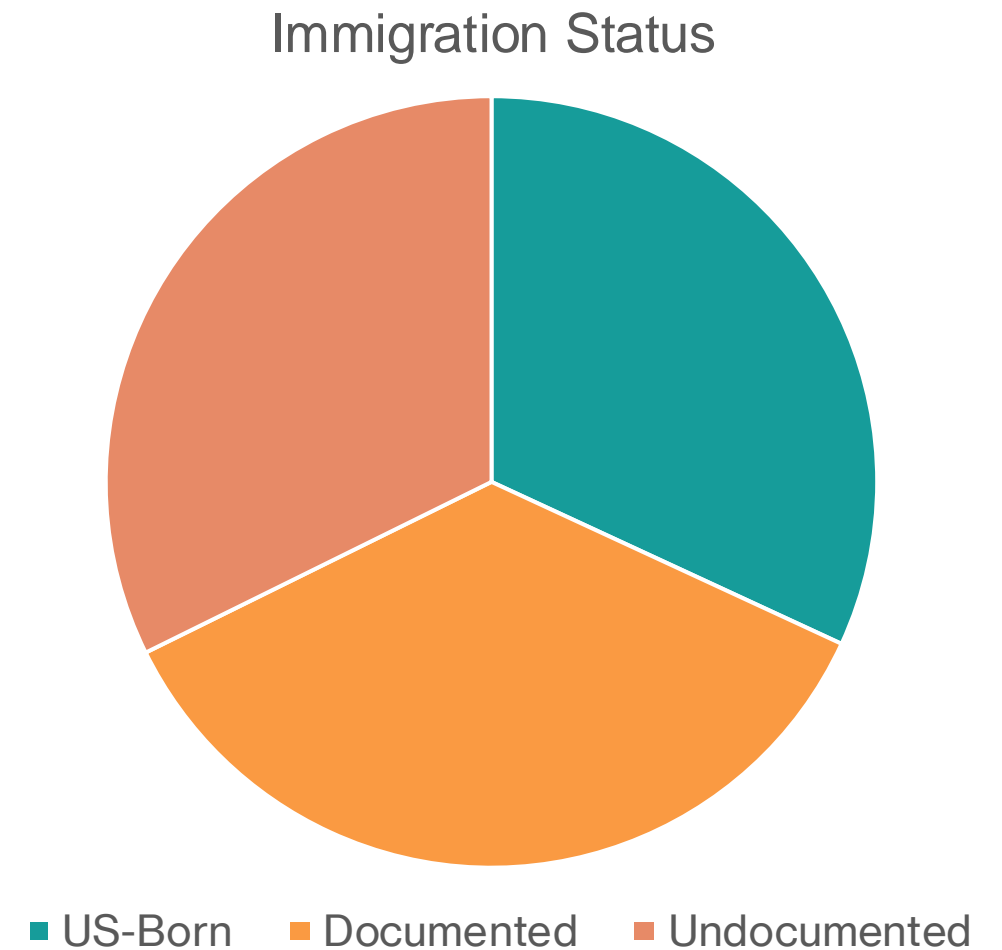


Study 2 research questions

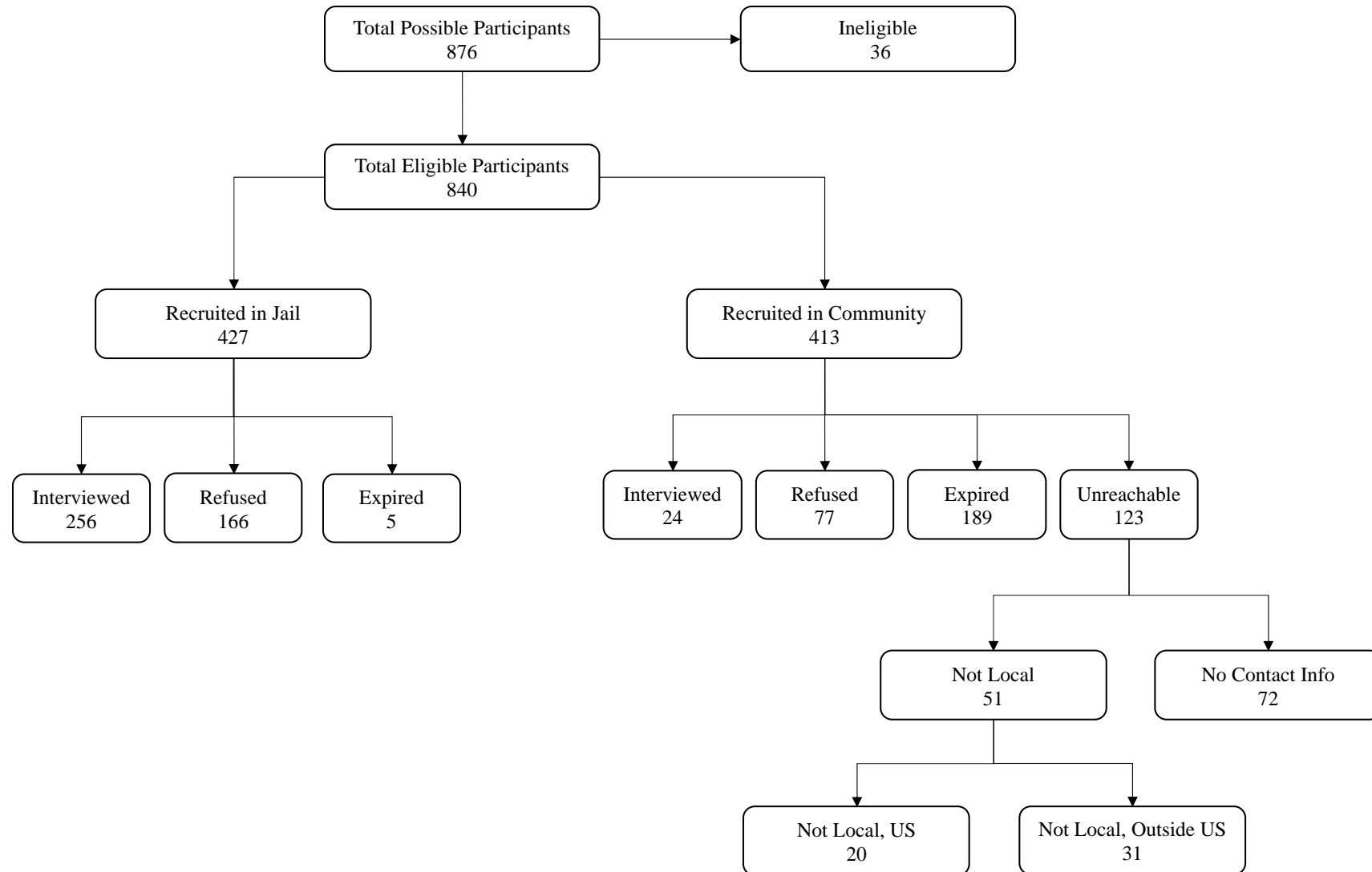
1. Are there differences in criminogenic risk factors for U.S.-born citizens, documented immigrants, and undocumented immigrants?
2. What is the relationship between criminogenic risk factors and acculturation?

Procedure

Stratified sampling of jail bookings

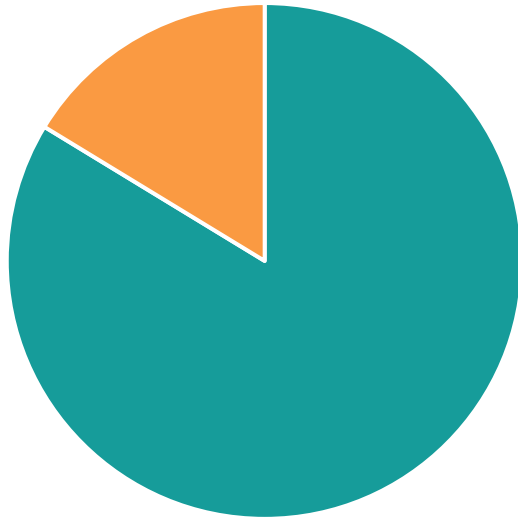


Recruitment



Study 2 participants ($N = 255$)

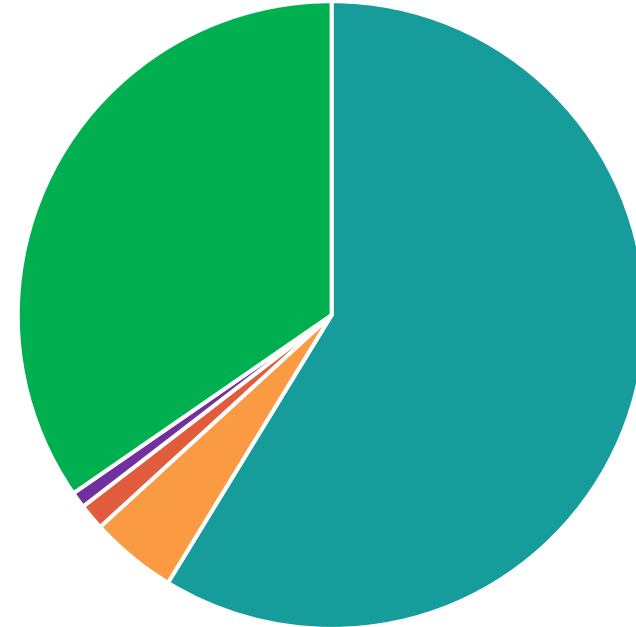
Gender



■ Male ■ Female

M Age = 35.3 ($SD = 11.2$)
Range = 18-65

Race

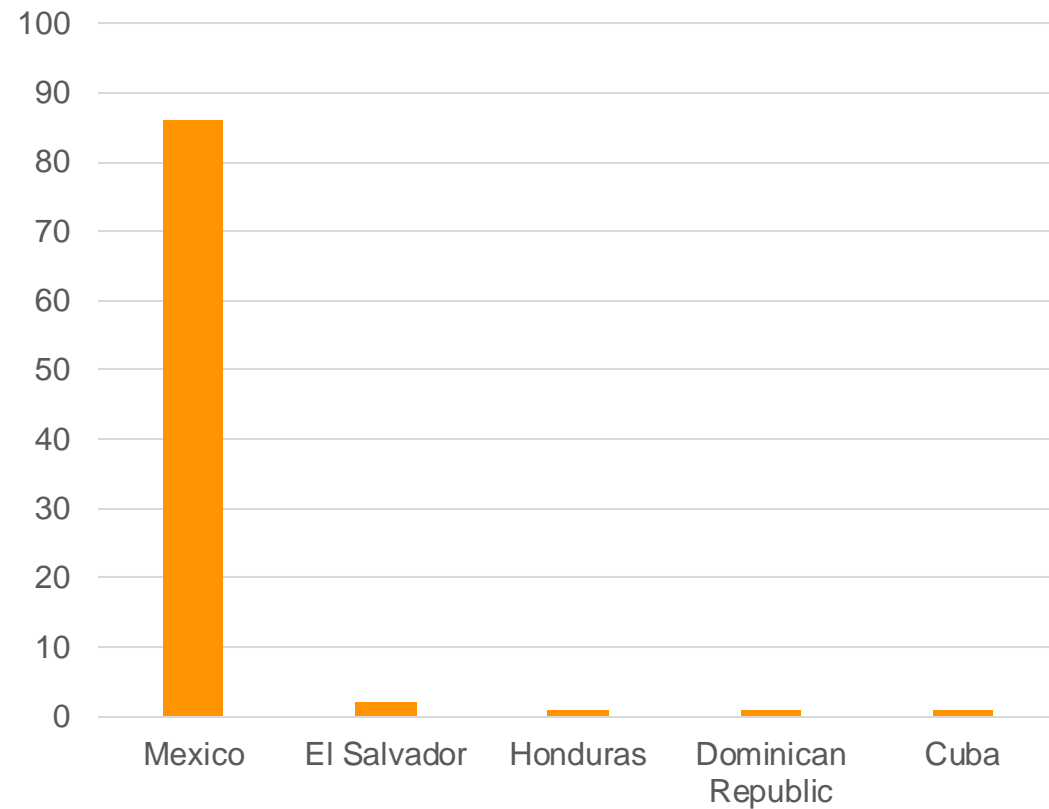


■ White ■ Black/African American
■ Native American ■ Asian
■ Other

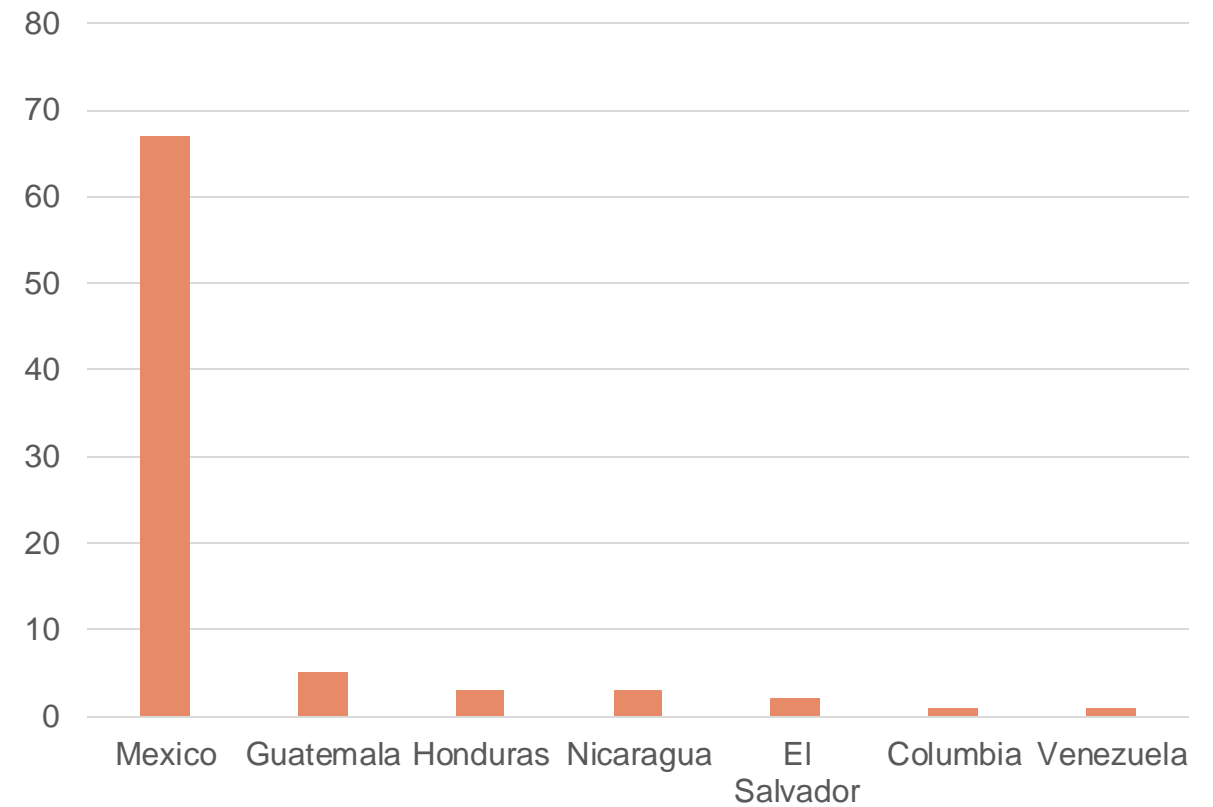
91.0% Hispanic/Latinx

Participants' country of origin

Documented immigrants $N = 91$



Undocumented immigrants $N = 82$

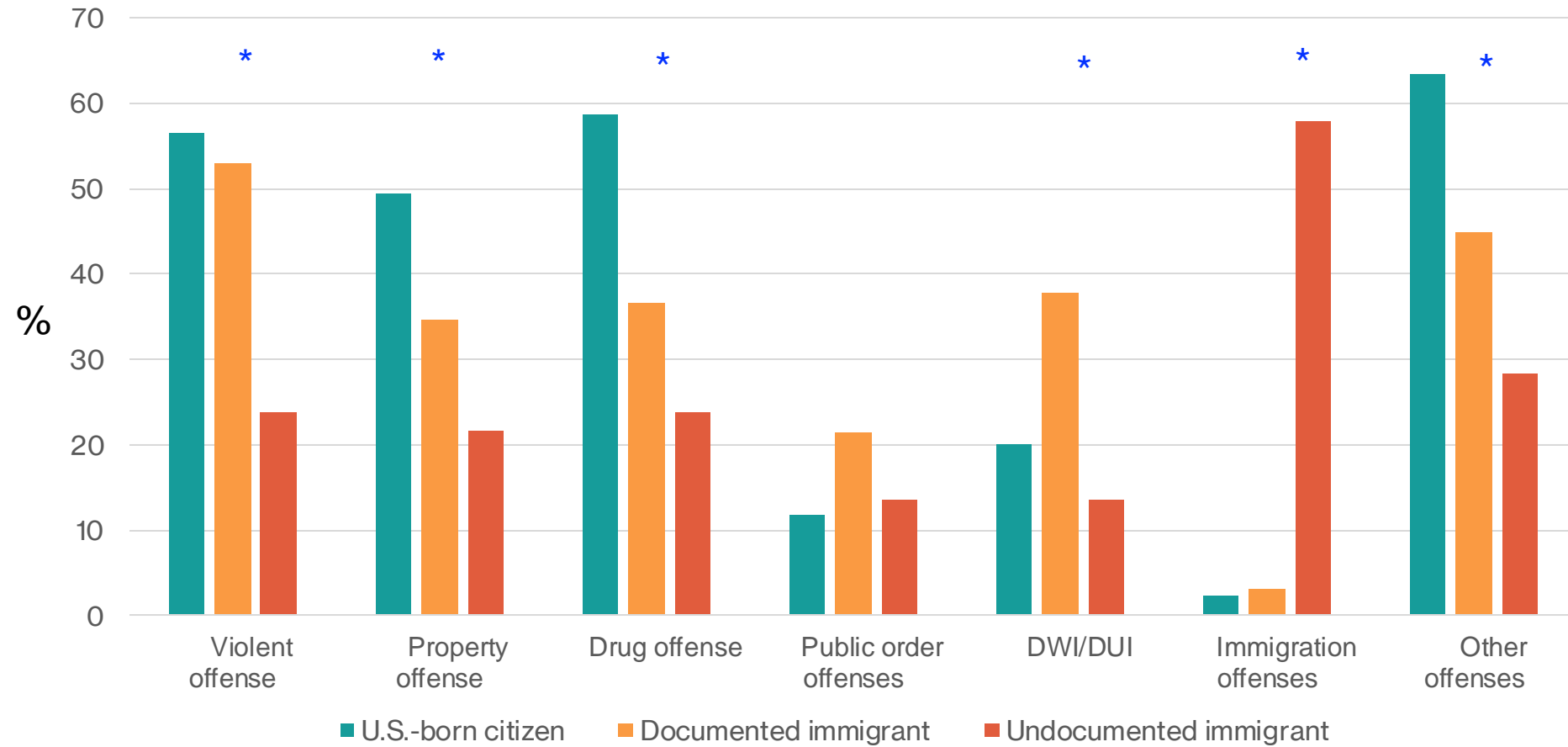


Measures

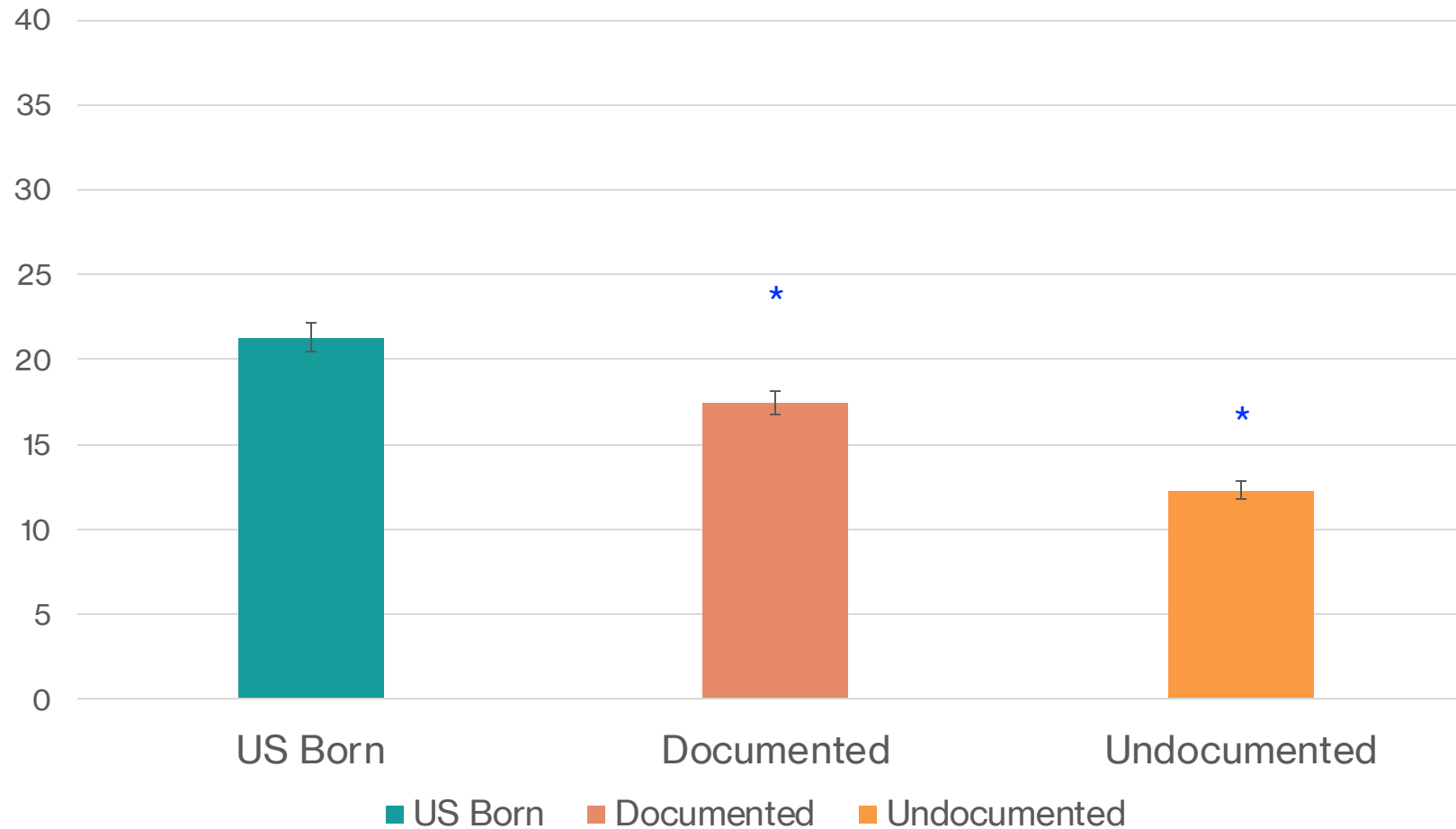
- Levels of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI; Andrews et al., 2004)
 - Measure of the Central 8
 - Scores range from 0 to 43
 - Research assistants certified in LS/CMI administration
 - *ICC* of 0.85 or above in training cases
 - *ICC* = 0.95 in live cases
- Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans (ARSMA-II; Cuellar et al., 1995)
- All study materials translated into Spanish



Criminal history by immigration status



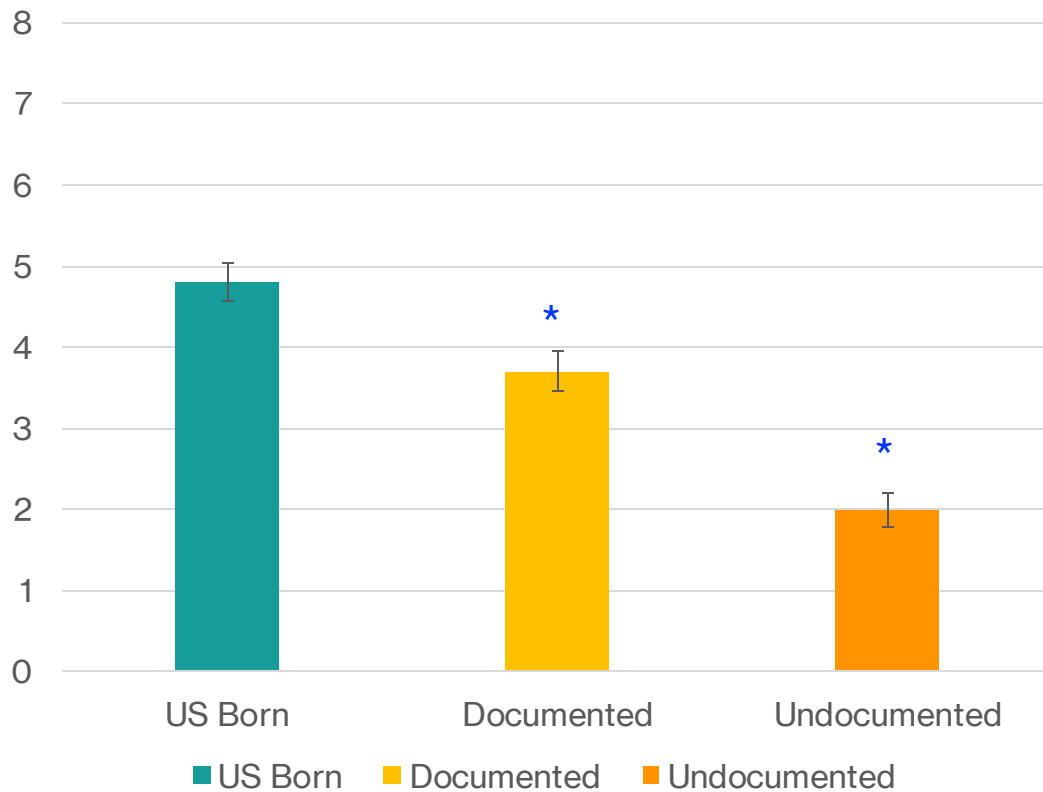
LS/CMI total by immigration status



$F(2)=36.90, p < .001$

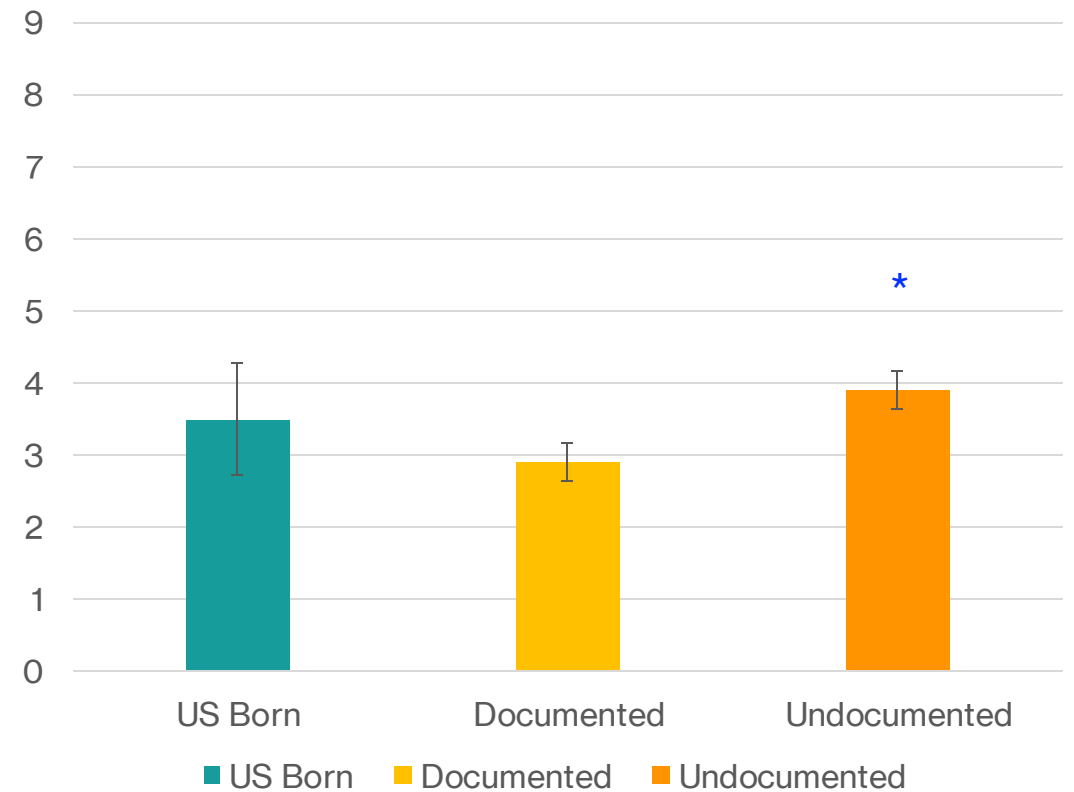
LS/CMI subscales by immigration status

Criminal History



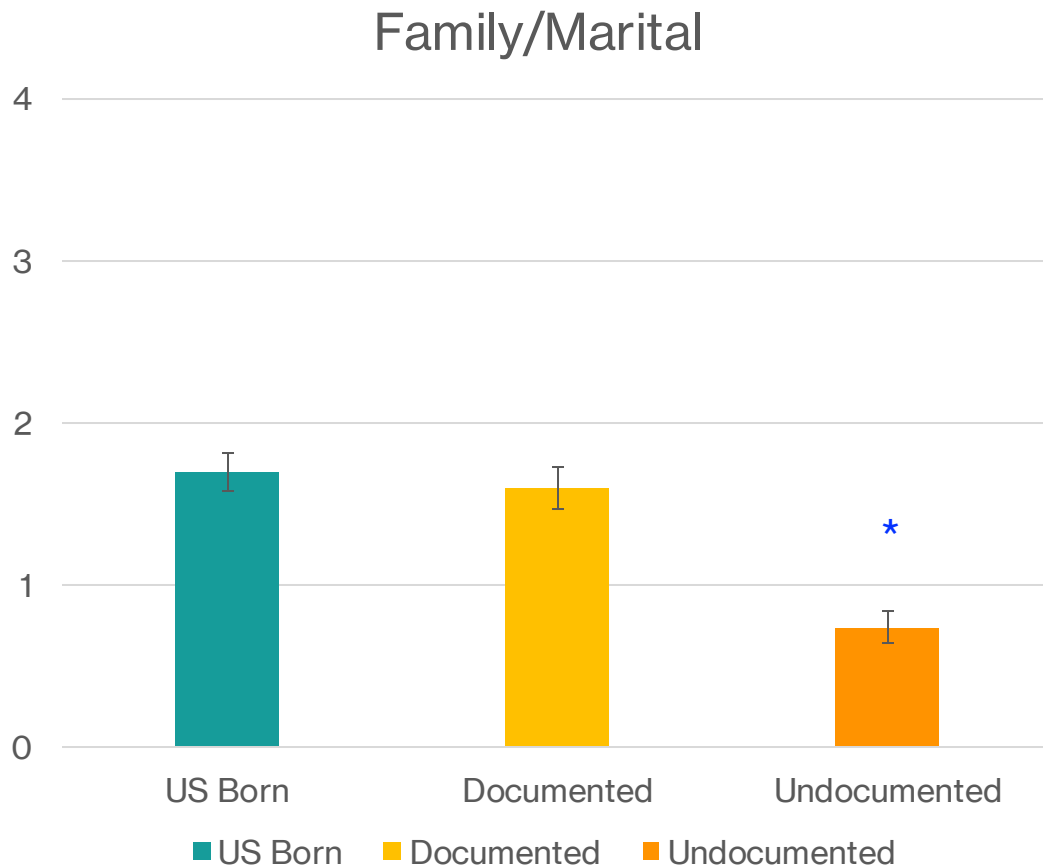
$F(2)=39.93, p < .001$

Education/Employment

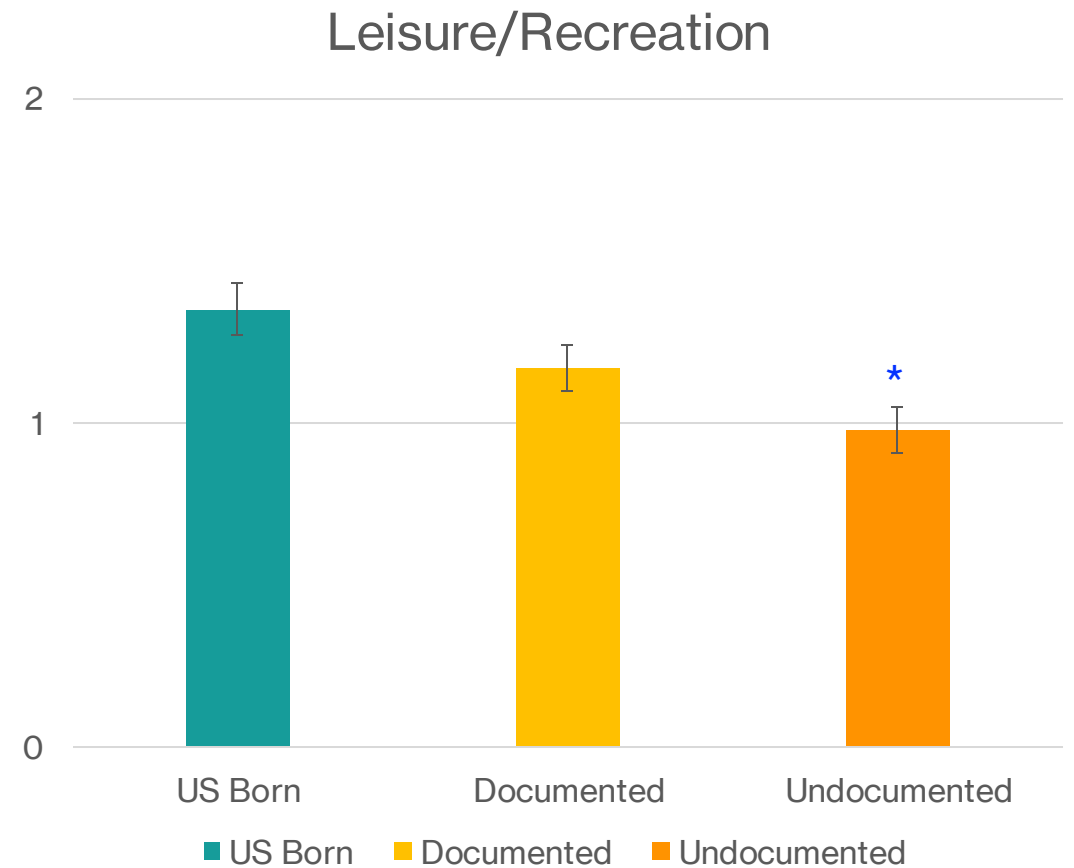


$F(2)=3.73, p < .05$

LS/CMI subscales by immigration status

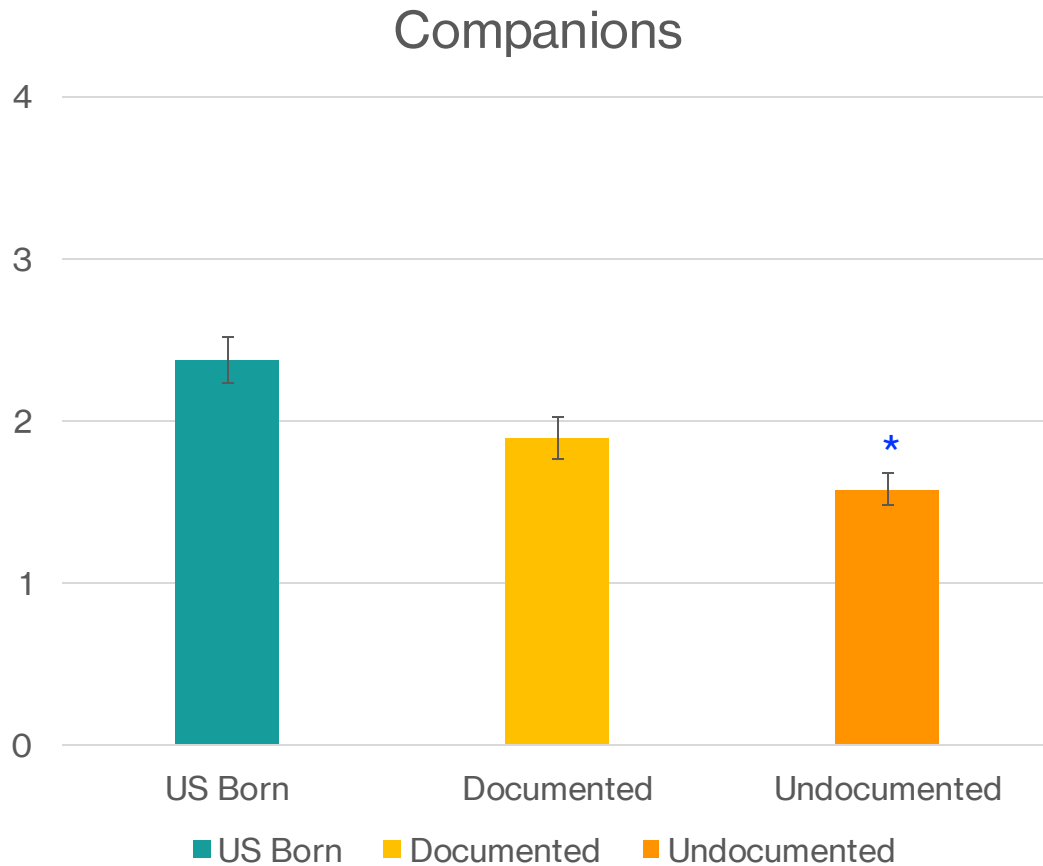


$F(2)=21.46, p < .001$

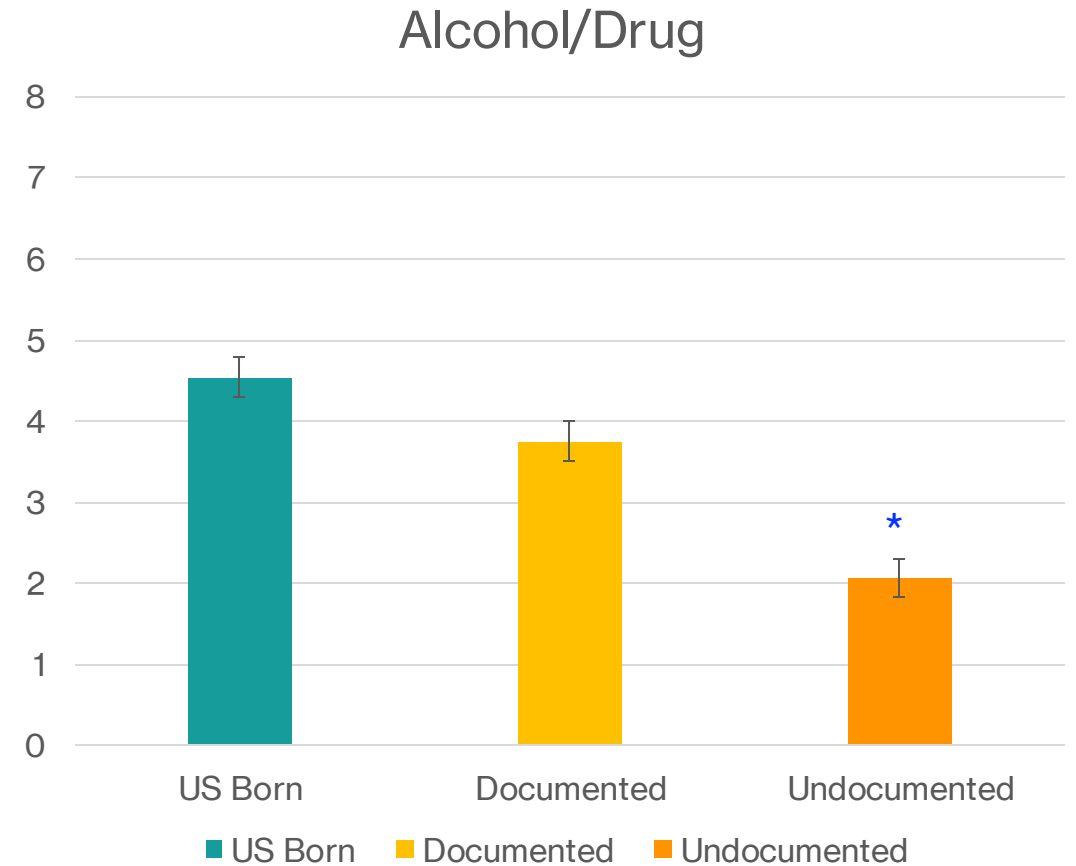


$F(2)=6.64, p < .01$

LS/CMI subscales by immigration status

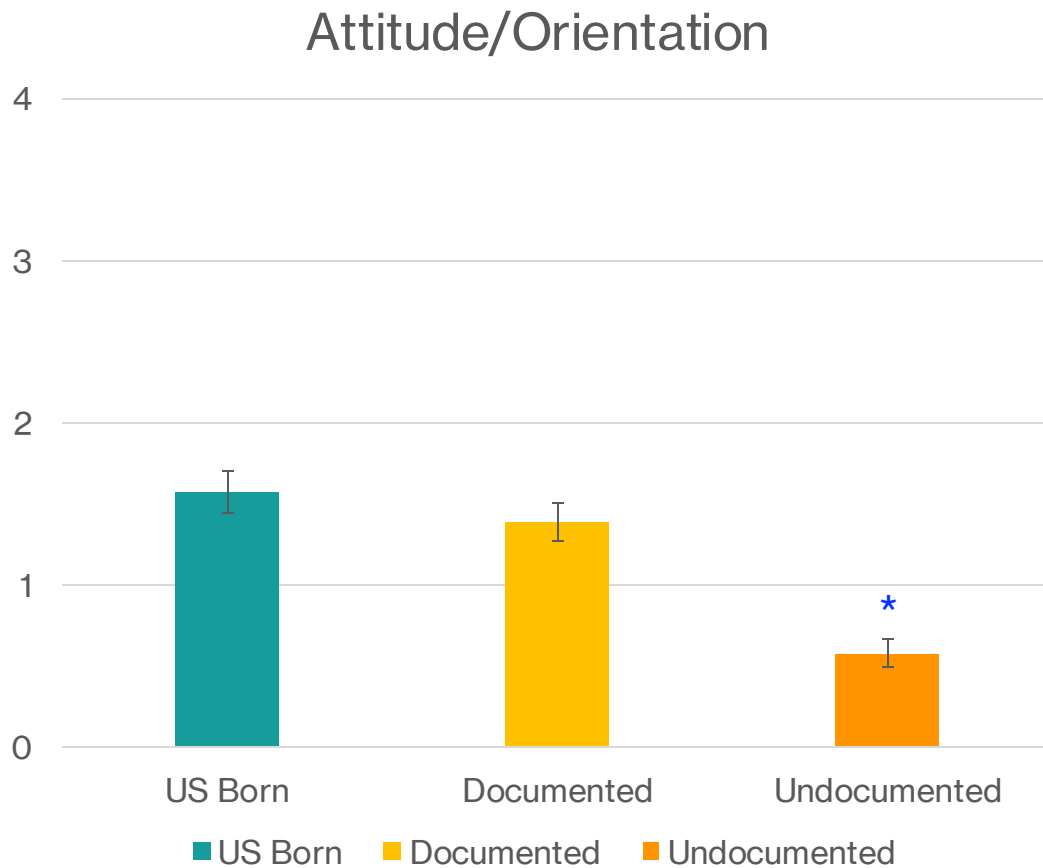


$F(2)=11.42, p < .001$

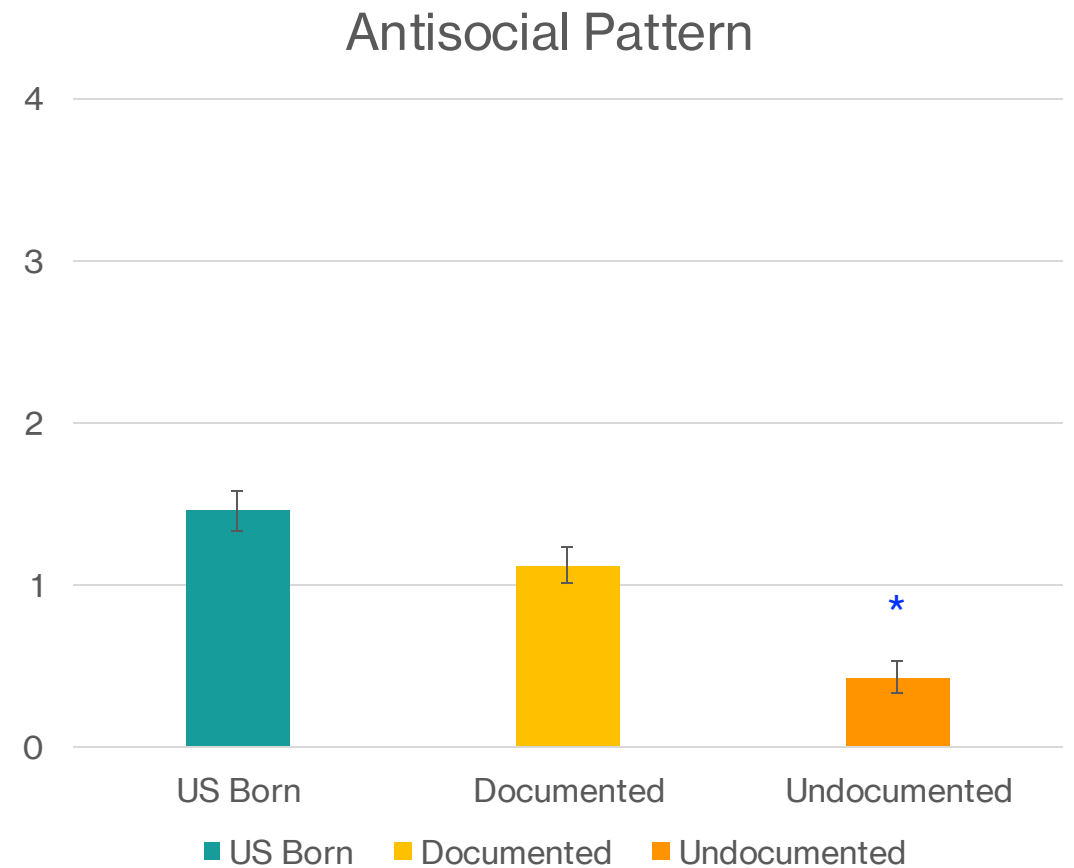


$F(2)=27.71, p < .001$

LS/CMI subscales by immigration status



$F(2)=23.81, p < .001$



$F(2)=27.03, p < .001$

Correlations between criminogenic risk and acculturation

Scale	Criminal History	Education/ Employment	Family/ Marital	Leisure/ Recreation	Companions	Alcohol/ Drug Problem	Procriminal Attitude/ Orientation	Antisocial Pattern
Mexican Orientation^	-.30**	-.02	-.32**	-.19**	-.25**	-.11	-.27**	-.36**
Anglo Orientation	.42**	-.17**	.33**	.25**	.26**	.35**	.35**	.37**

** = $p < .01$, ^ or orientation towards country of origin other than U.S.

Study 2 key findings

- Undocumented immigrants have lower levels of criminogenic risk than U.S. born citizens across most domains
 - Undocumented immigrants scored higher on Education/Employment problems
- Orientation towards Mexican culture is associated with lower levels of criminogenic needs

Discussion

- Key findings
 - Immigrants have less extensive criminal histories than U.S. citizens
 - Immigrants have lower levels of criminogenic risk factors than U.S. citizens
 - Acculturation is related to criminogenic risk
- Limitations
 - Data does not speak to crime rates in community
 - Self-report vs. official data
 - Selection effects

Implications

- Criminal justice policies such as Operation Lone Star may be counterproductive
- Acculturation may be useful to incorporate into risk assessments
- Future directions:
 - Recidivism data
 - Examining factors beyond Central 8
 - Understanding impacts of recent policies

Thank you!



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MHCJ LAB
MENTAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

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