

# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WORKFORCE

Bipartisan Policy Center

OCTOBER 2020

# KEY FINDINGS

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- 1 **About a quarter of women (22%) report they have left the workforce** during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2 **And, women with children are much more likely to have left the workforce.** Among women with children under 2 years old, 42% have left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 3 **Two in five (41%) adults know a woman that has left the workforce or is a woman who has left the workforce during COVID-19.**
- 4 **Women are twice as likely as men** to say they left the workforce for caregiving responsibilities due to childcare provider or school closures (16% vs. 8%).
- 5 **Eighteen percent of parents report they have left the workforce because of caregiving responsibilities due to childcare and school closures.**

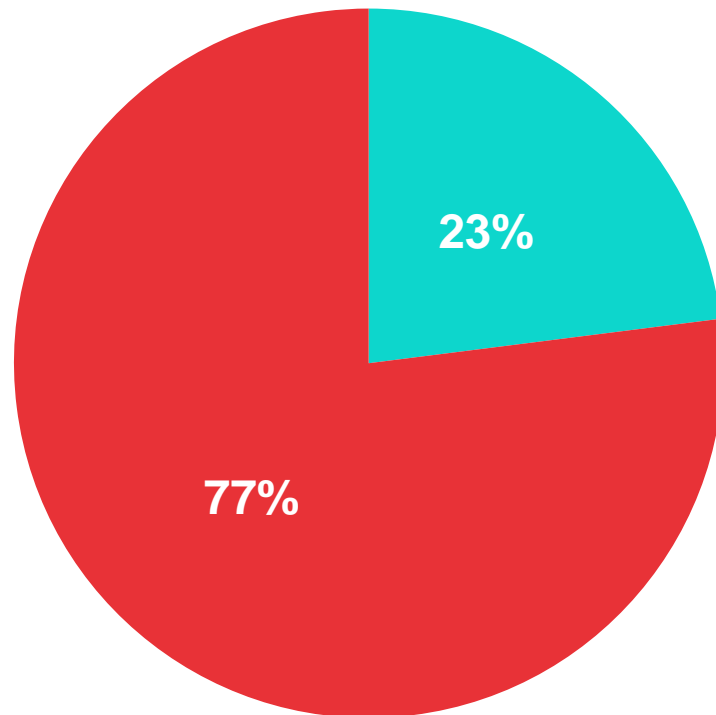
**Methodology:** This poll was conducted between October 23-October 25, 2020 among a national sample of 2,200 adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

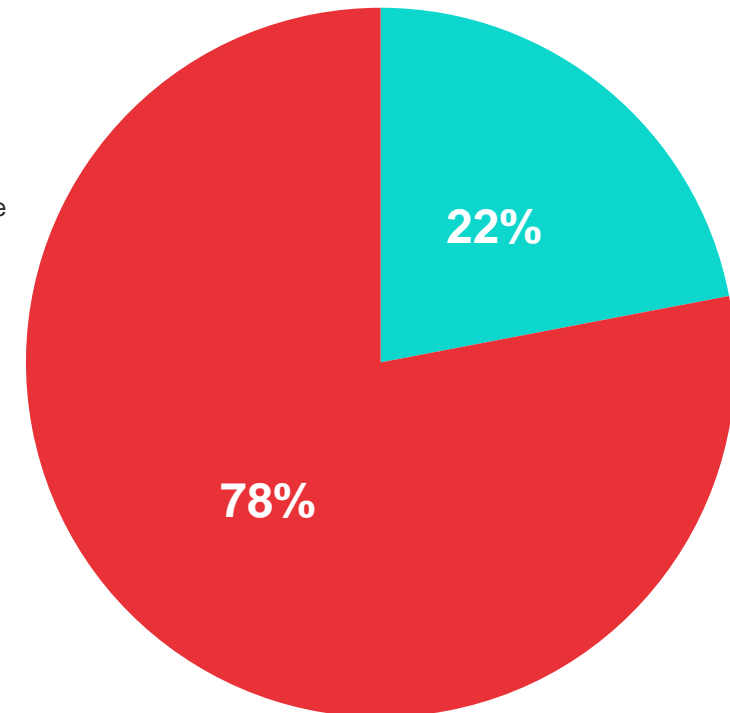
About a quarter of women (22%) have left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)



WOMEN (n=1,138)



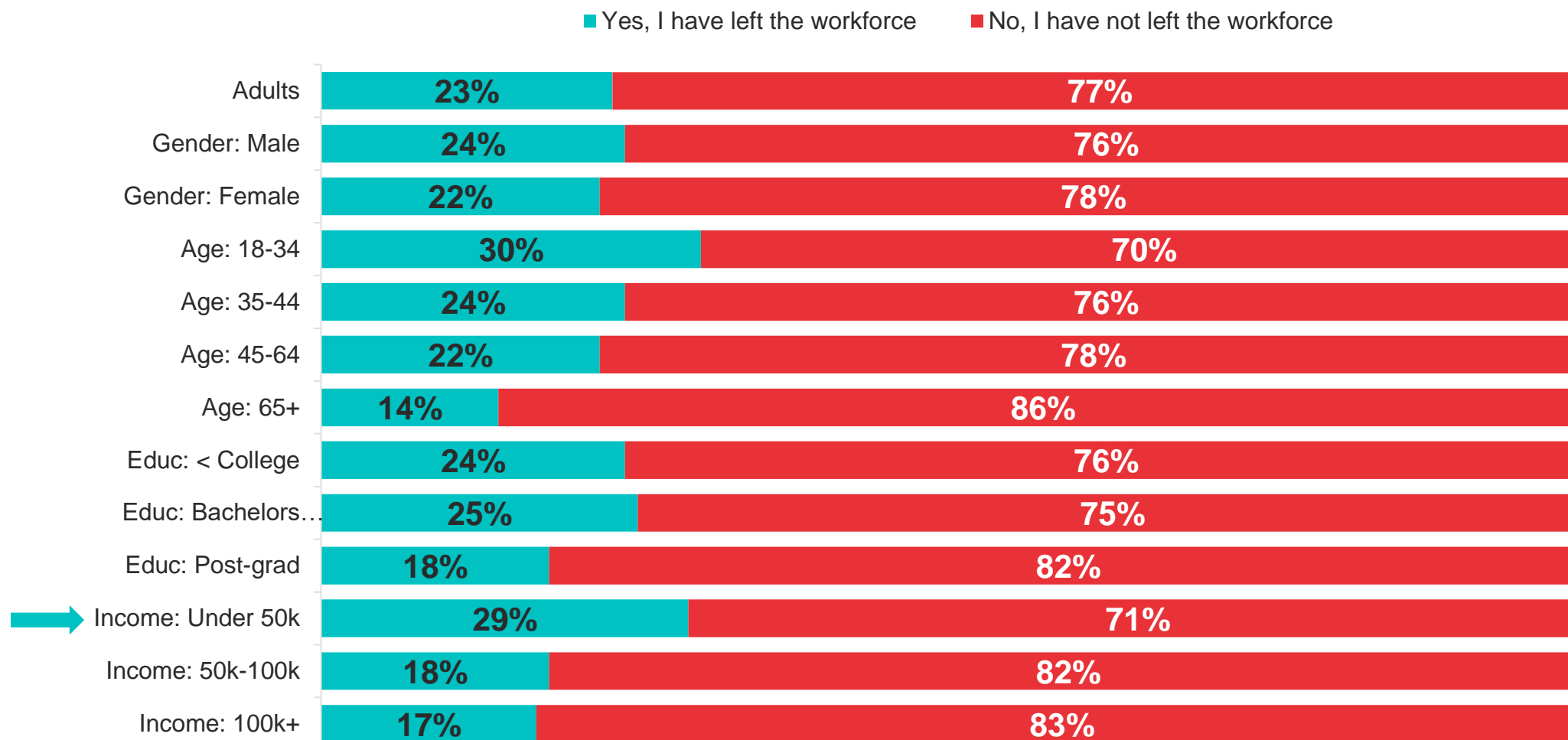
- Yes, I have left the workforce
- No, I have not left the workforce

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

# Among adults with an income under \$50k, 29% have left the workforce during COVID-19.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)

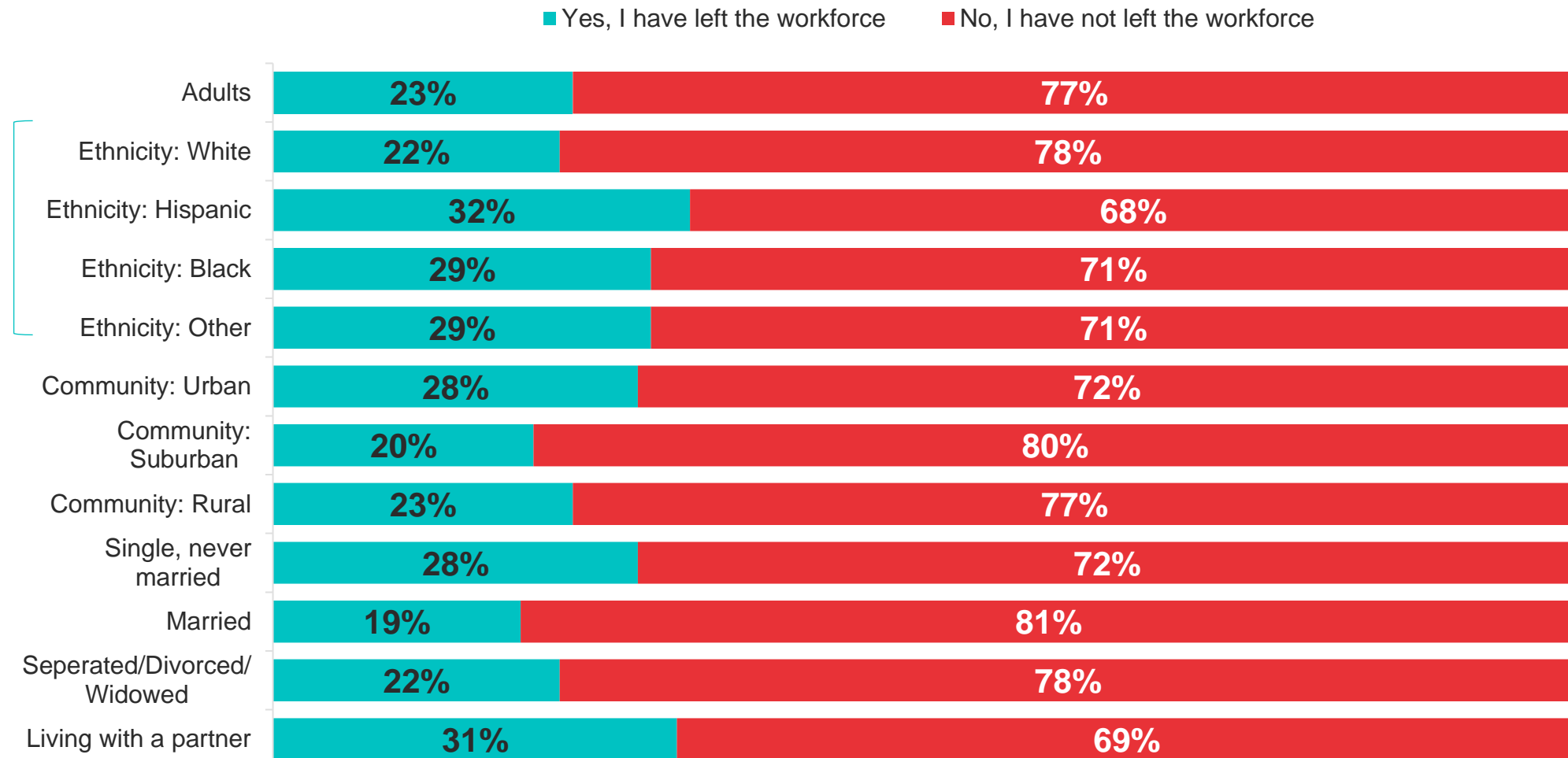


IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

White adults *are less likely* than adults of other ethnicity groups to have left the workplace during the coronavirus pandemic.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)



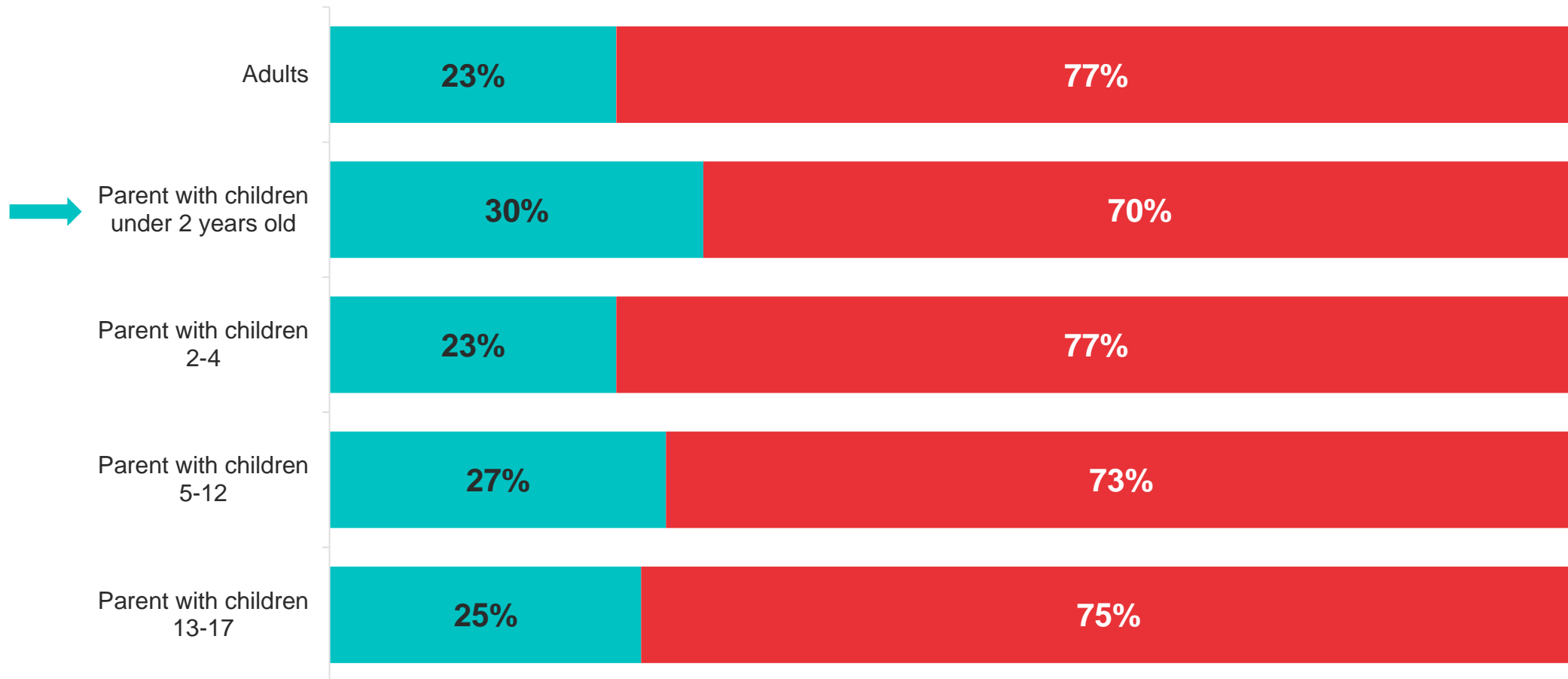
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

Among parents with children under the age of 2, 30% have left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)

■ Yes, I have left the workforce ■ No, I have not left the workforce



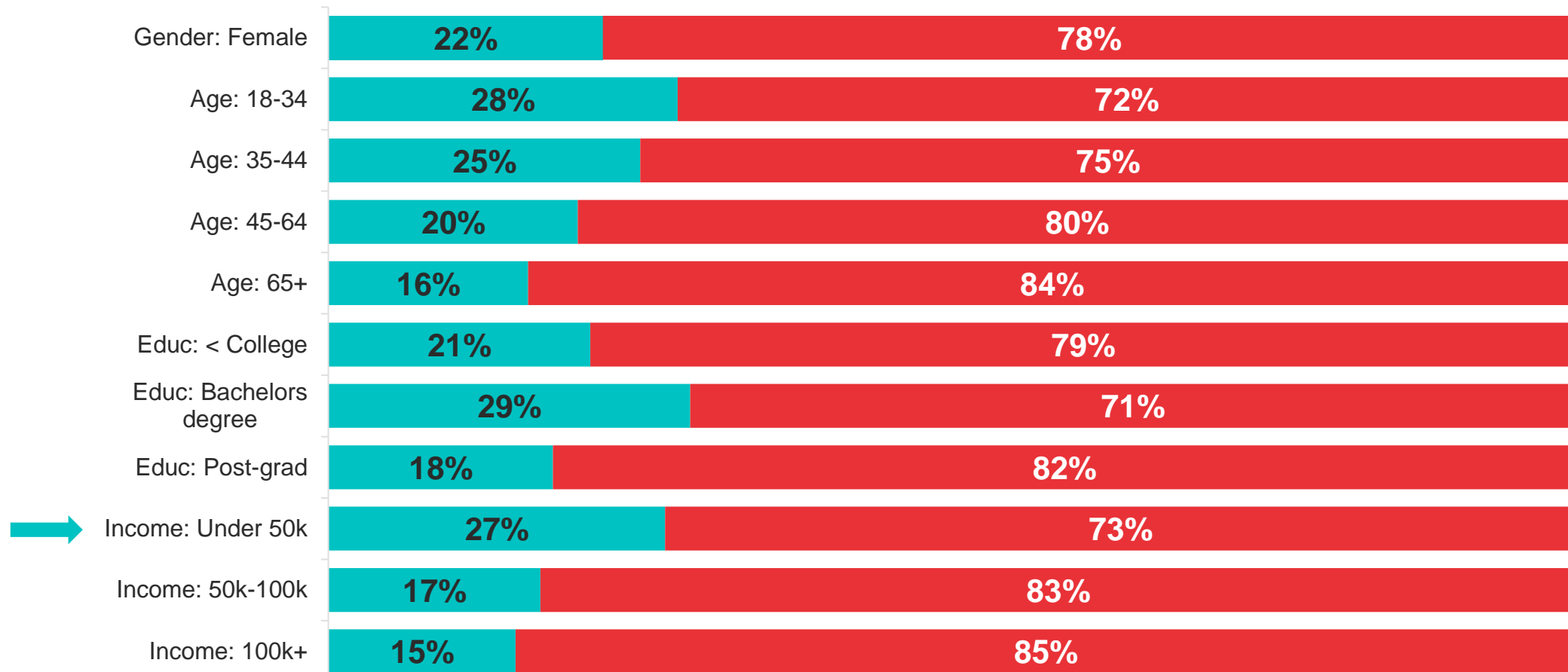
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

Over a quarter of women with income under \$50k (27%) have left the workforce during COVID-19.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

WOMEN (n=1,138)

Yes, I have left the workforce No, I have not left the workforce

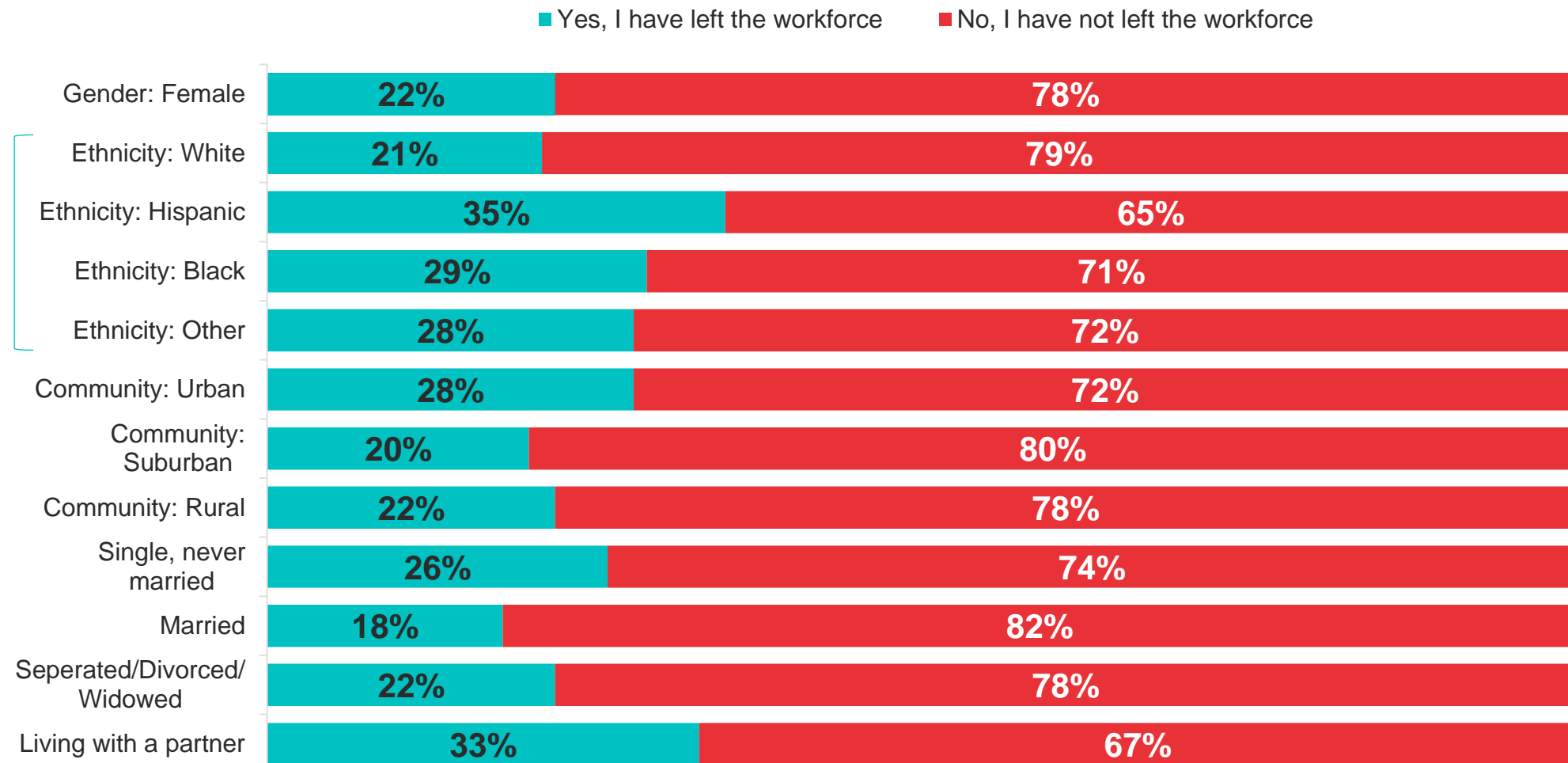


IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

White women *are less likely* than women of other ethnicity groups to have left the workplace during the coronavirus pandemic.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

WOMEN (n=1,138)





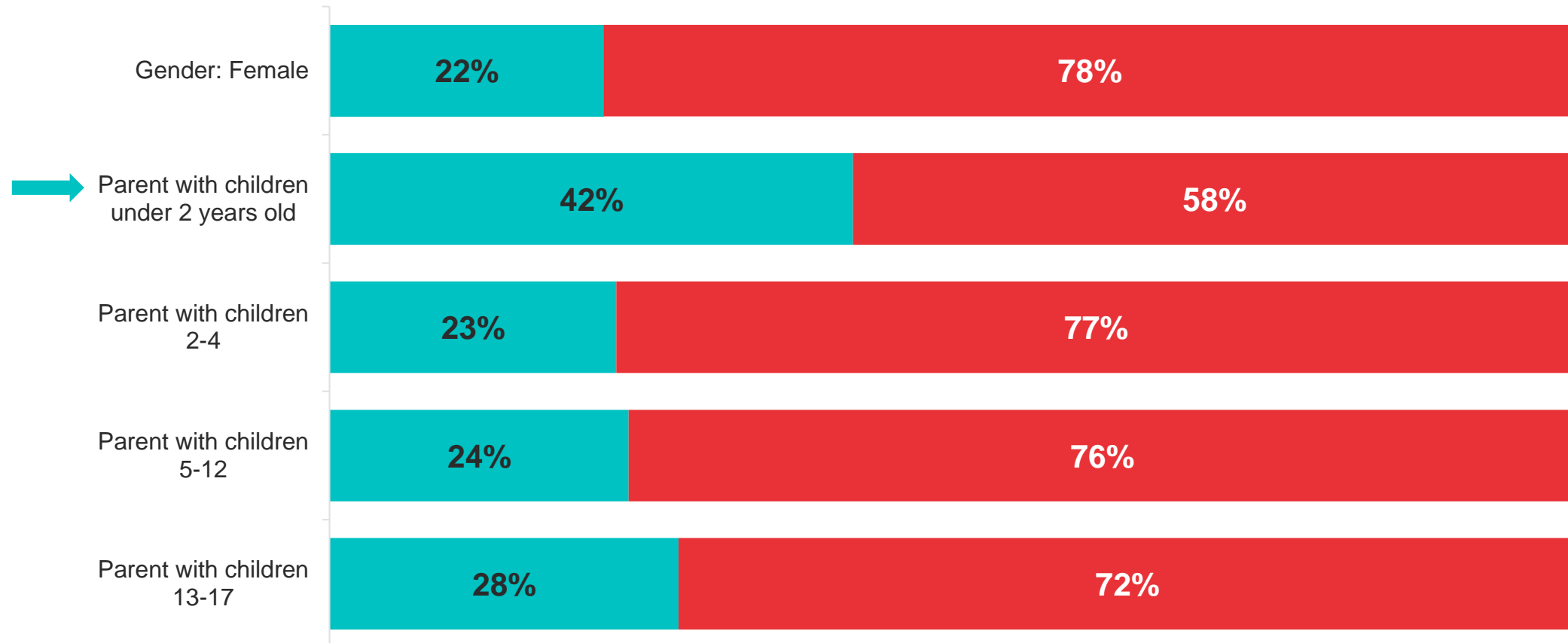
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

Among women with children under 2 years old, 42% have left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

WOMEN (n=1,138)

■ Yes, I have left the workforce ■ No, I have not left the workforce

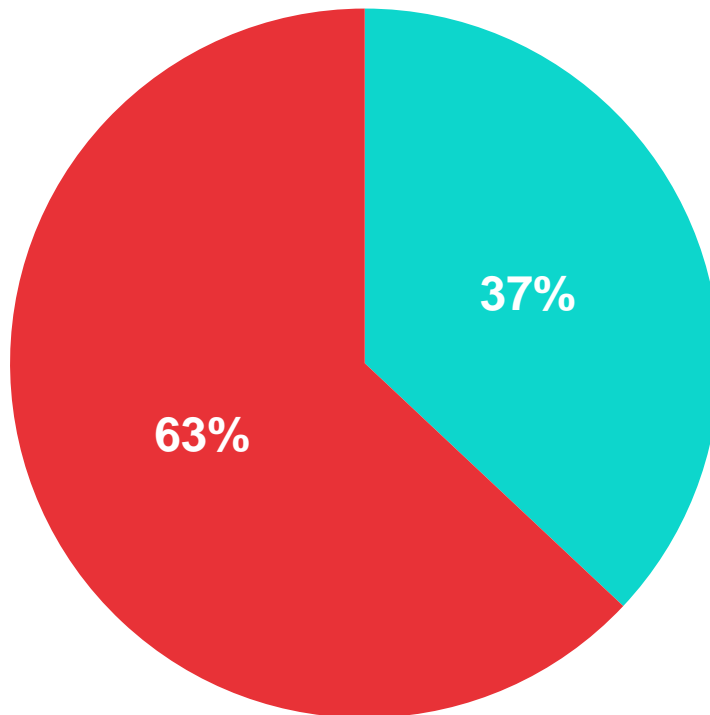


IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

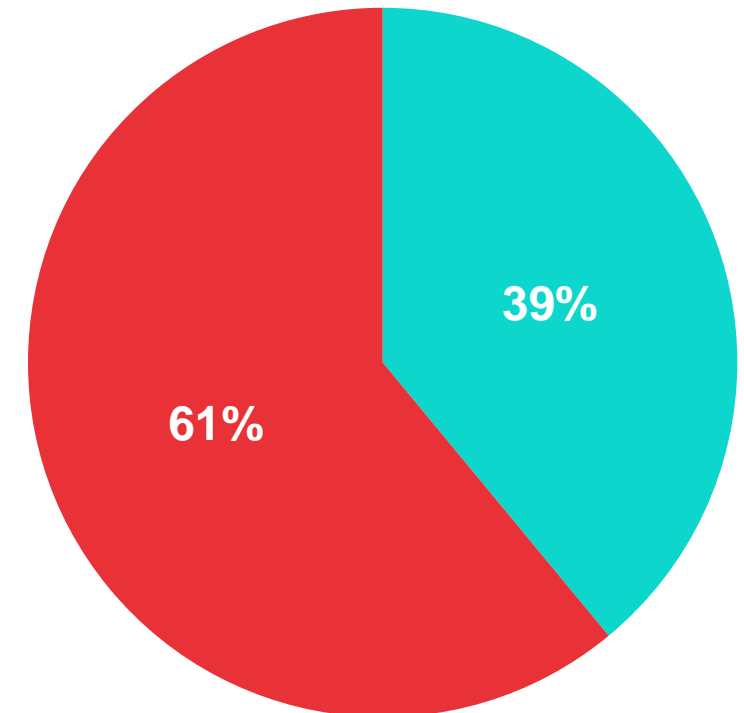
Over a third of adults (37%) know a woman who has left the workforce during COVID-19.

Do you know a woman who has left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)



WOMEN (n=1,138)



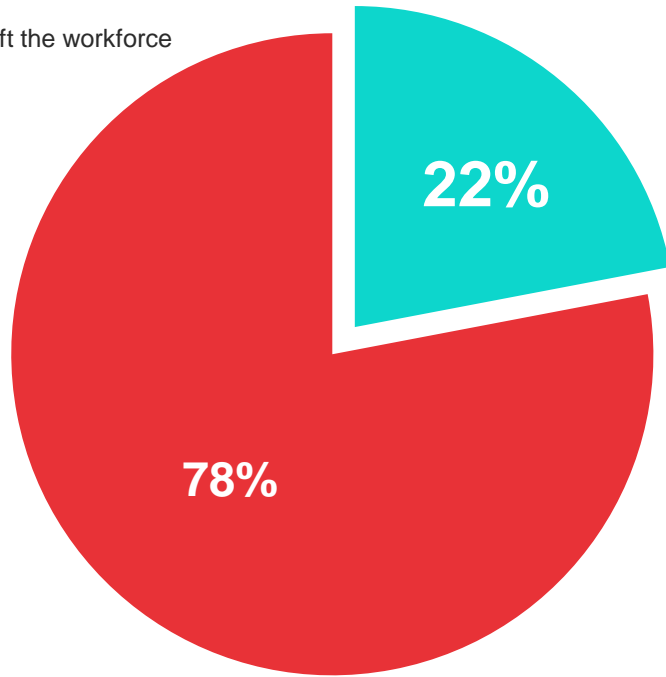
- Yes, I know a woman who has left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic
- No, I do not know a woman who has left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE

Have you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

WOMEN (n=1,138)

- Yes, I have left the workforce
- No, I have not left the workforce

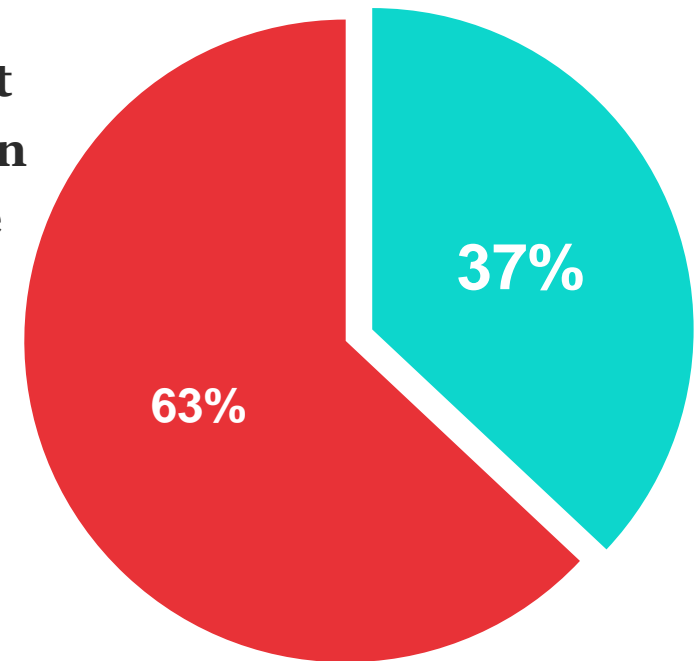


22% of women have left the workforce, and 37% of adults know a woman who has left the workforce due to COVID-19. **This means 41% of adults know a woman that has left the workforce or is a woman who has left the workforce during COVID-19.**

Do you know a woman who has left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic?

ADULTS (n=2,200)

- Yes
- No



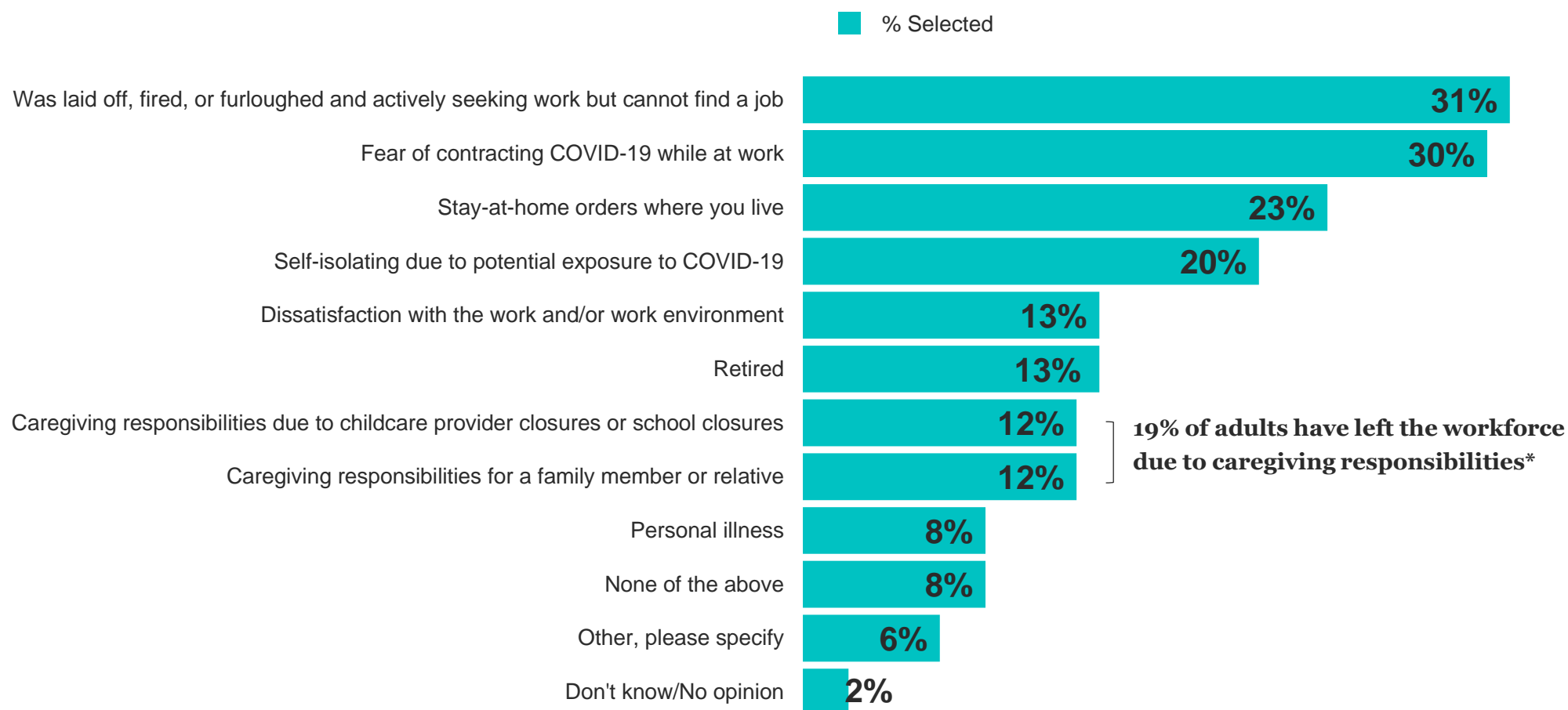
\*Net percentage of women who have left the workforce and adults who know a women who has left the workforce, deduplicates responses.

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

A fifth of adults (19%) have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)



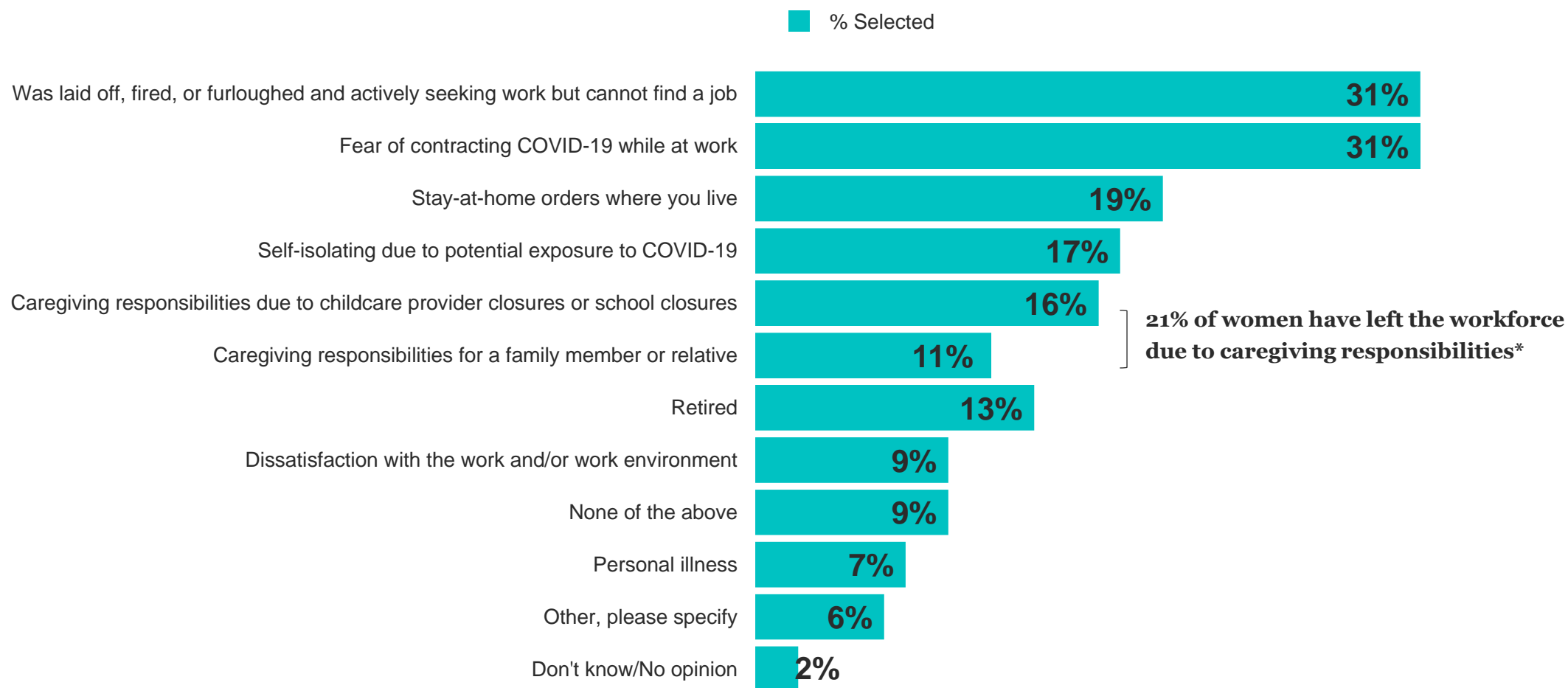
\*Net percentage, deduplicates responses

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Similarly, 21% of women have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

WOMEN WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=256)



\*Net percentage, deduplicates responses

## REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Women are twice as likely as men to say they left the workforce for caregiving responsibilities due to childcare provider or school closures (16% vs. 8%).

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

### ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)

Reason For Leaving Workforce By Gender		
	Gender: Male	Gender: Female
Was laid off, fired, or furloughed and actively seeking work but cannot find a job	30%	31%
Fear of contracting COVID-19 while at work	29%	31%
Stay-at-home orders where you live	27%	19%
Self-isolating due to potential exposure to COVID-19	22%	17%
Dissatisfaction with the work and/or work environment	17%	9%
Retired	13%	13%
Caregiving responsibilities for a family member or relative	12%	11%
Personal illness	9%	7%
Caregiving responsibilities due to childcare provider closures or school closures	8%	16%

## REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Adults with an income under \$100k are more likely to say they left the workforce because they lost their job and cannot find work.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

### ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)

Reason For Leaving Workforce By Income Level			
	Income: Under \$50k	Income: \$50k-\$100k	Income: \$100k+
Was laid off, fired, or furloughed and actively seeking work but cannot find a job	31%	36%	22%
Fear of contracting COVID-19 while at work	31%	30%	30%
Stay-at-home orders where you live	21%	23%	33%
Self-isolating due to potential exposure to COVID-19	19%	20%	22%
Dissatisfaction with the work and/or work environment	12%	14%	16%
Retired	13%	15%	12%
Caregiving responsibilities for a family member or relative	12%	6%	22%
Personal illness	9%	2%	13%
Caregiving responsibilities due to childcare provider closures or school closures	11%	11%	19%

## REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Nearly half of Black adults who left the workforce during COVID (44%) reference fear of contracting COVID-19 while at work being a reason they left the workforce.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

### ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)

Reason For Leaving Workforce By Ethnicity				
	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other
Was laid off, fired, or furloughed and actively seeking work but cannot find a job	32%	31%	26%	30%
Fear of contracting COVID-19 while at work	26%	28%	44%	39%
Stay-at-home orders where you live	23%	29%	22%	22%
Self-isolating due to potential exposure to COVID-19	17%	17%	25%	30%
Dissatisfaction with the work and/or work environment	14%	14%	6%	15%
Retired	15%	10%	4%	14%
Caregiving responsibilities for a family member or relative	11%	16%	13%	16%
Personal illness	9%	4%	9%	2%
Caregiving responsibilities due to childcare provider closures or school closures	12%	14%	11%	12%

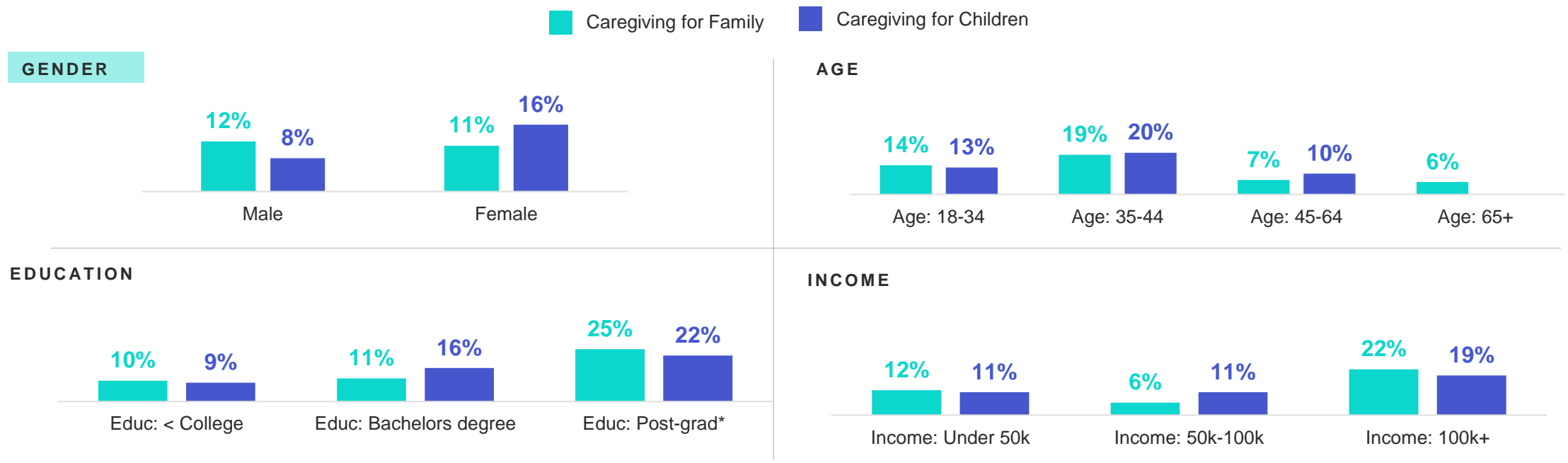


REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Looking at leaving the workforce for caregiving reasons specifically, men and women are equally likely to have left for caregiving for family, while women are twice as likely as men to have left the workforce to care for children.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)



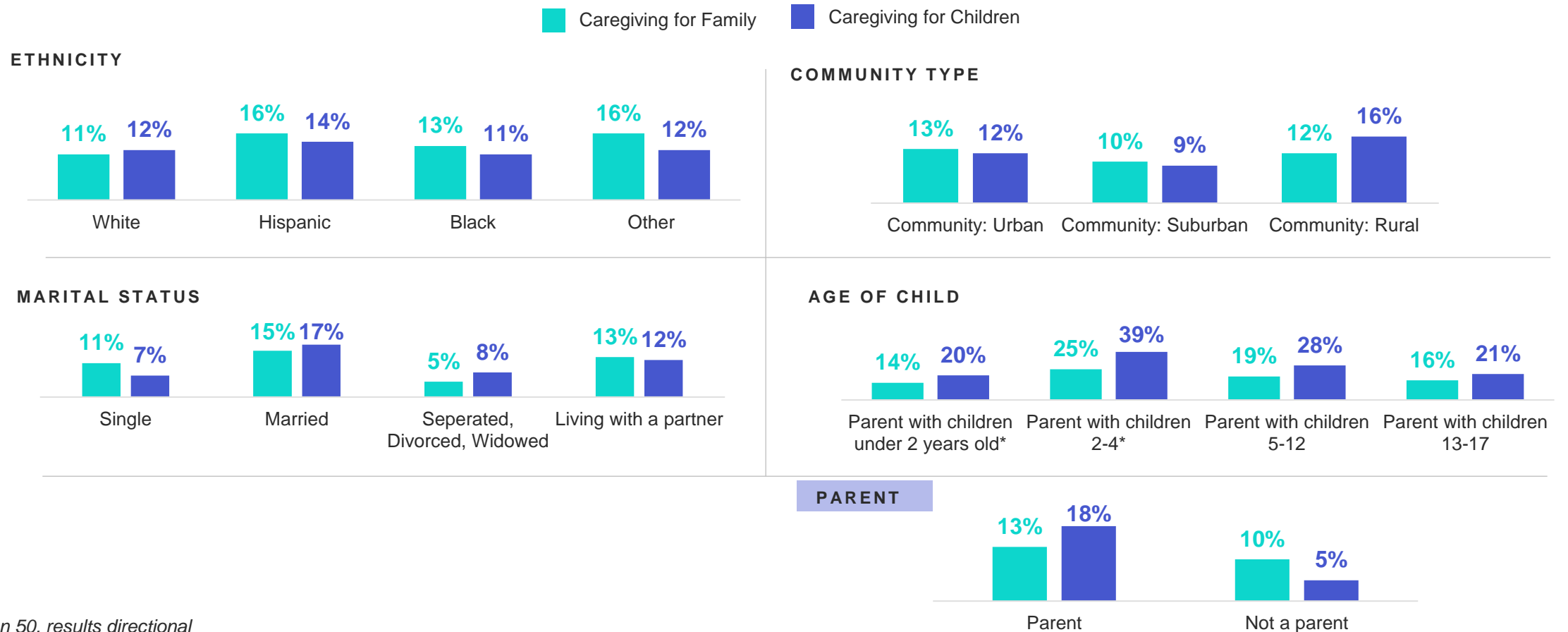
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Eighteen percent of parents report they have left the workforce because of caregiving responsibilities due to childcare and school closures.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)



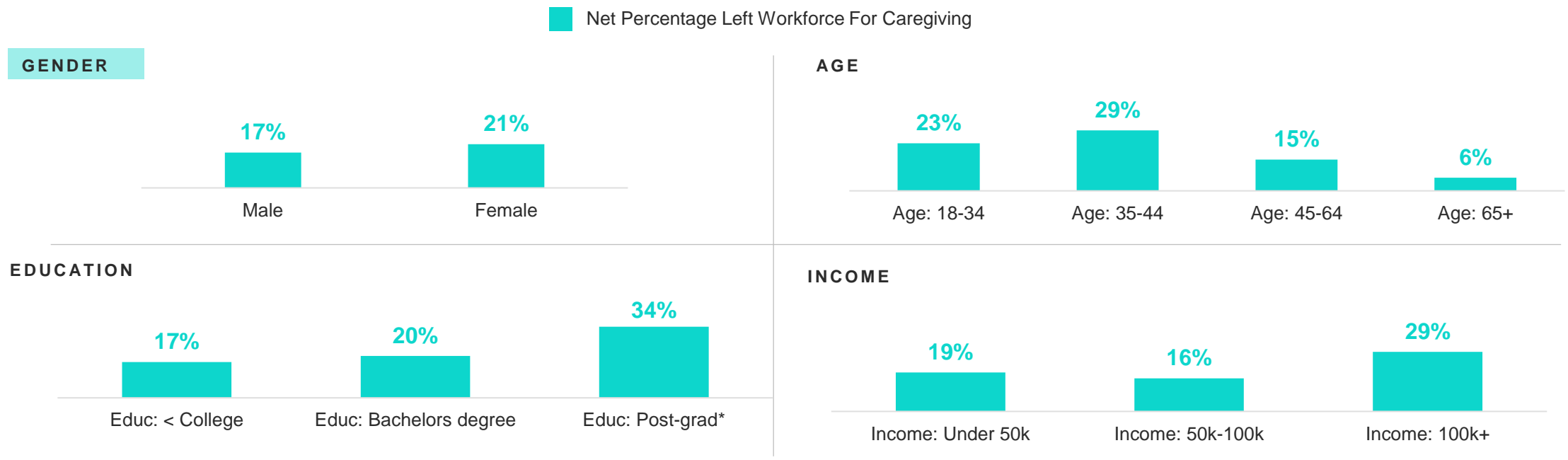
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Women are 4% more likely than men to say they have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)



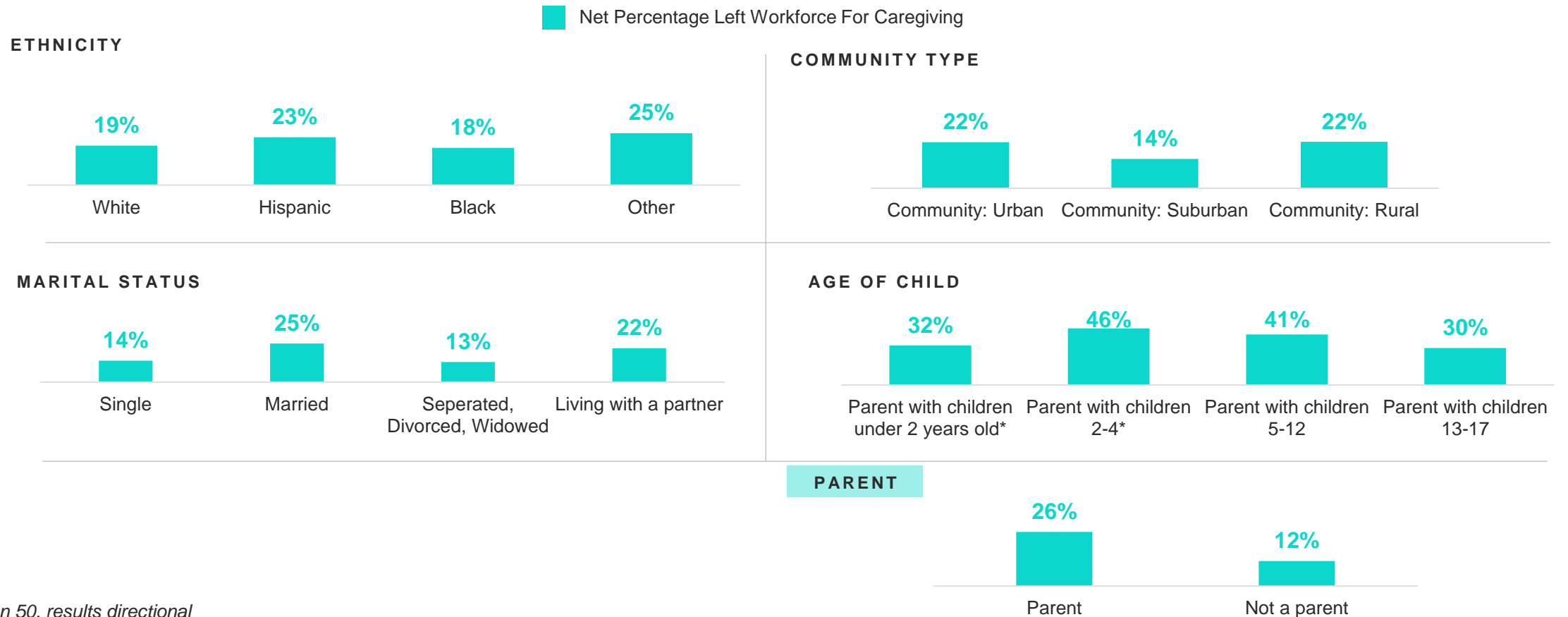
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

A quarter of parents (26%) have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=511)



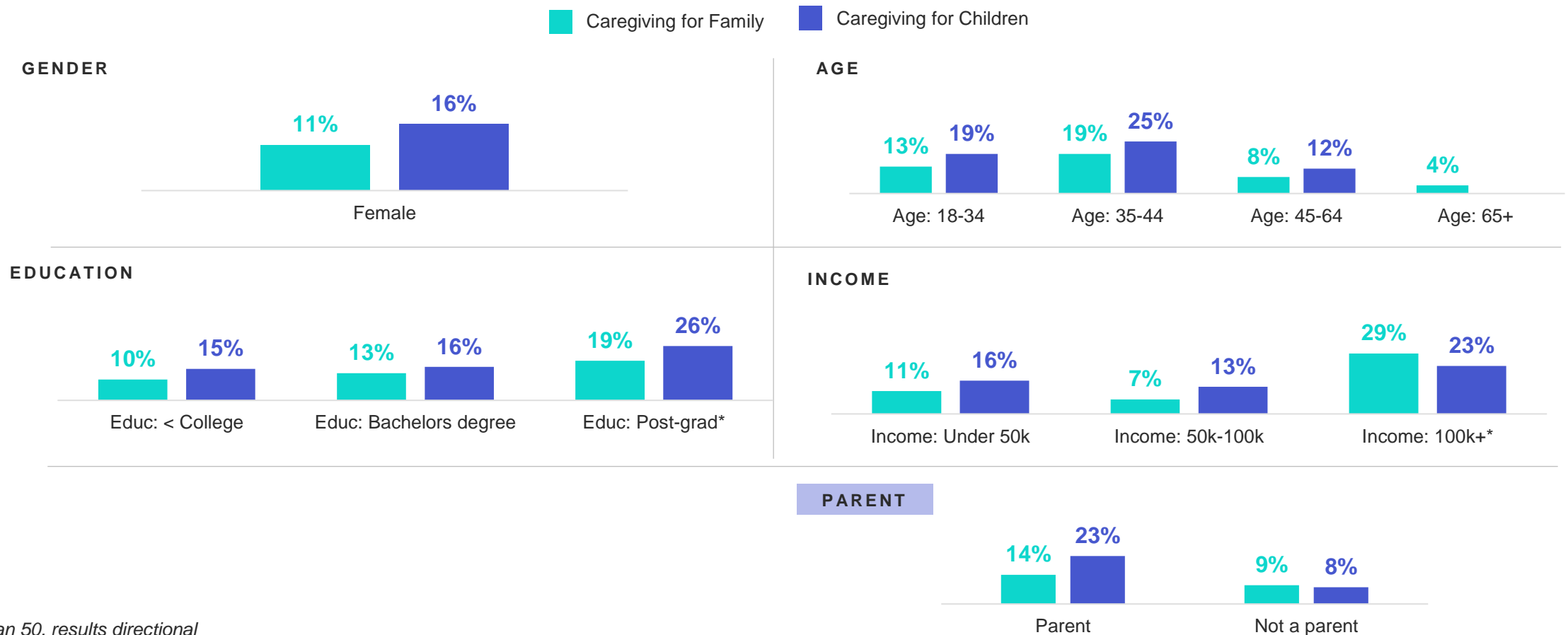
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

A quarter of moms (23%) report they have left the workforce due to caregiving responsibilities.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

WOMEN WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=256)



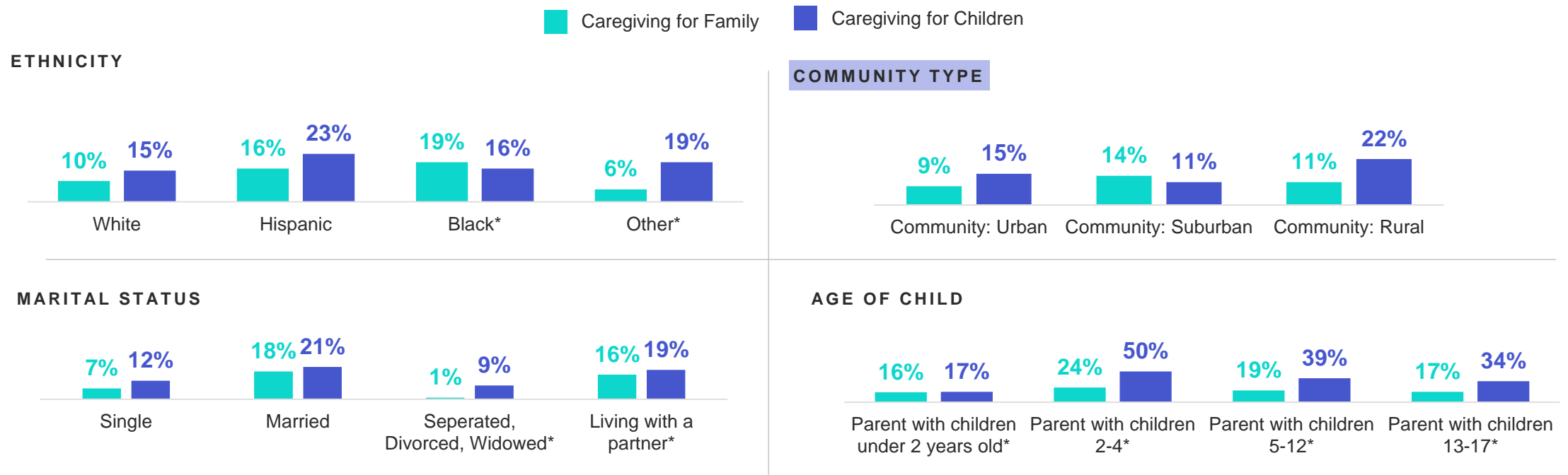
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Rural women are likely to say they have left the workforce during COVID-19 due to caregiving responsibilities due to childcare or school closures.

Did any of the following reasons apply to why you left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic? Please select all that apply.

WOMEN WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID (n=256)



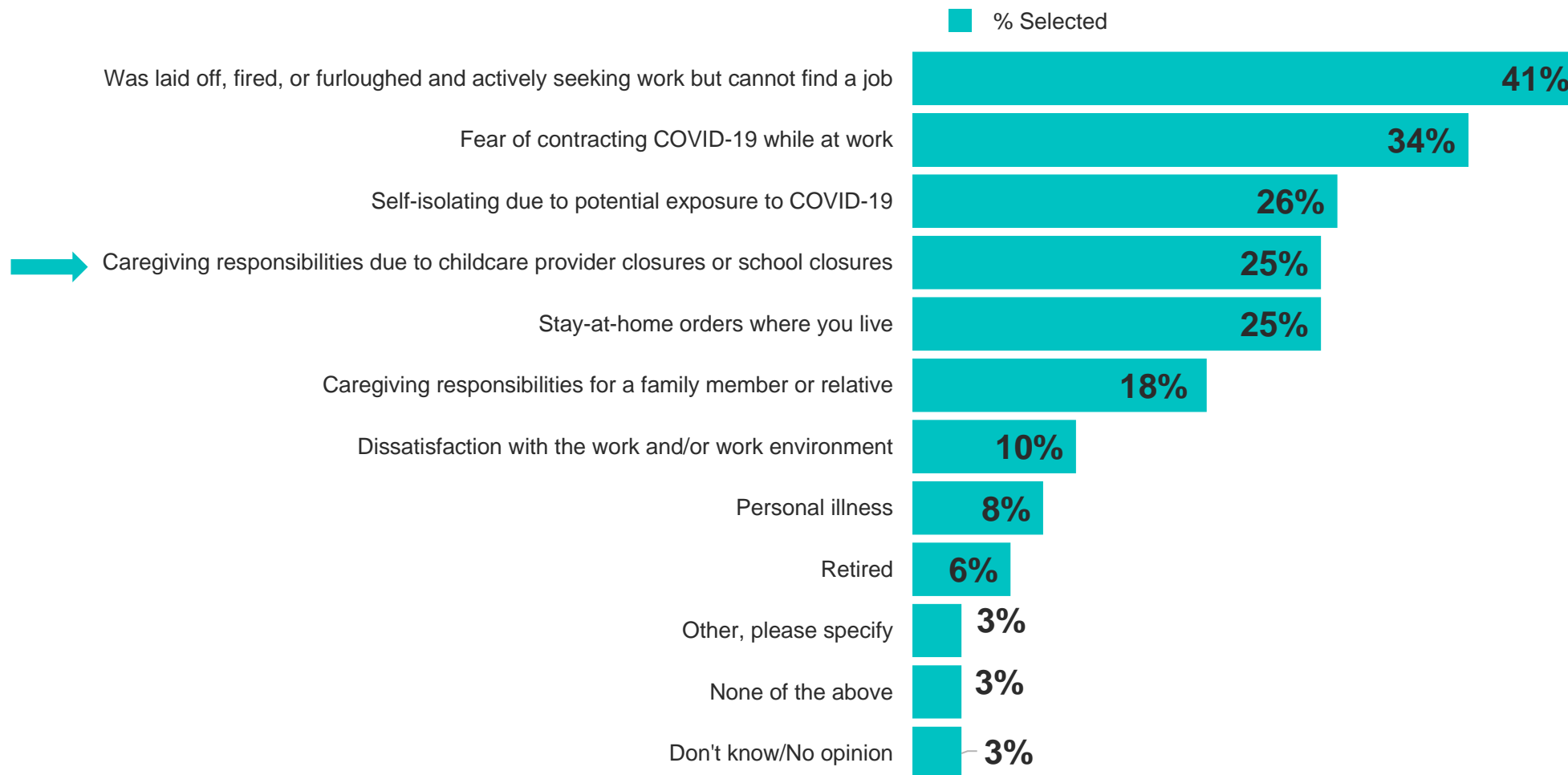
\*N size less than 50, results directional

REASONS FOR LEAVING WORKFORCE

Among adults who know a woman who left the workforce, a quarter say they left because of caregiving responsibilities due to childcare or school closures.

Thinking about the women you know who has left the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic, based on what you know, did any of the following reasons apply to why they left the workforce? Please select all that apply.

ADULTS WHO KNOW A WOMEN WHO LEFT WORKFORCE DURING COVID-19 (n=813)





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