

Guevara, M., Shanazari, E., Becerra, L., Nuñez, V., Robles, C., Forster, M. & Unger, J.
Department of Health Sciences, California State University, Northridge

BACKGROUND

Over 2.5 million youth in the US, especially youth living in underserved communities of color, have an incarcerated family member.

In California, across all populations, Hispanics have experienced the highest increase in felony convictions.



Very little is known about the impact of criminal justice involvement on incarcerated adults' children.

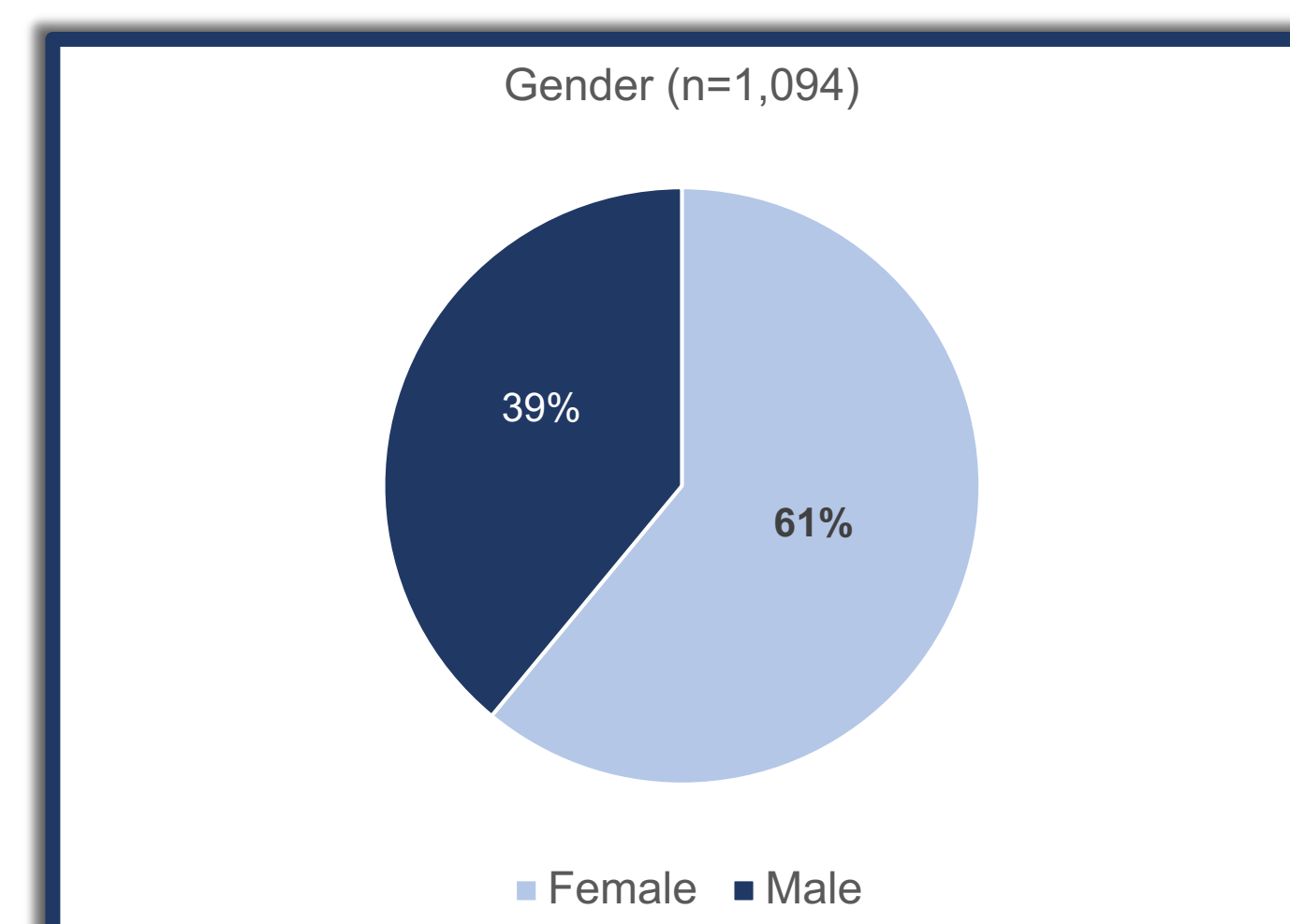
This study examines the long-term mental health effects of familial incarceration from adolescence to early adulthood.

METHODS

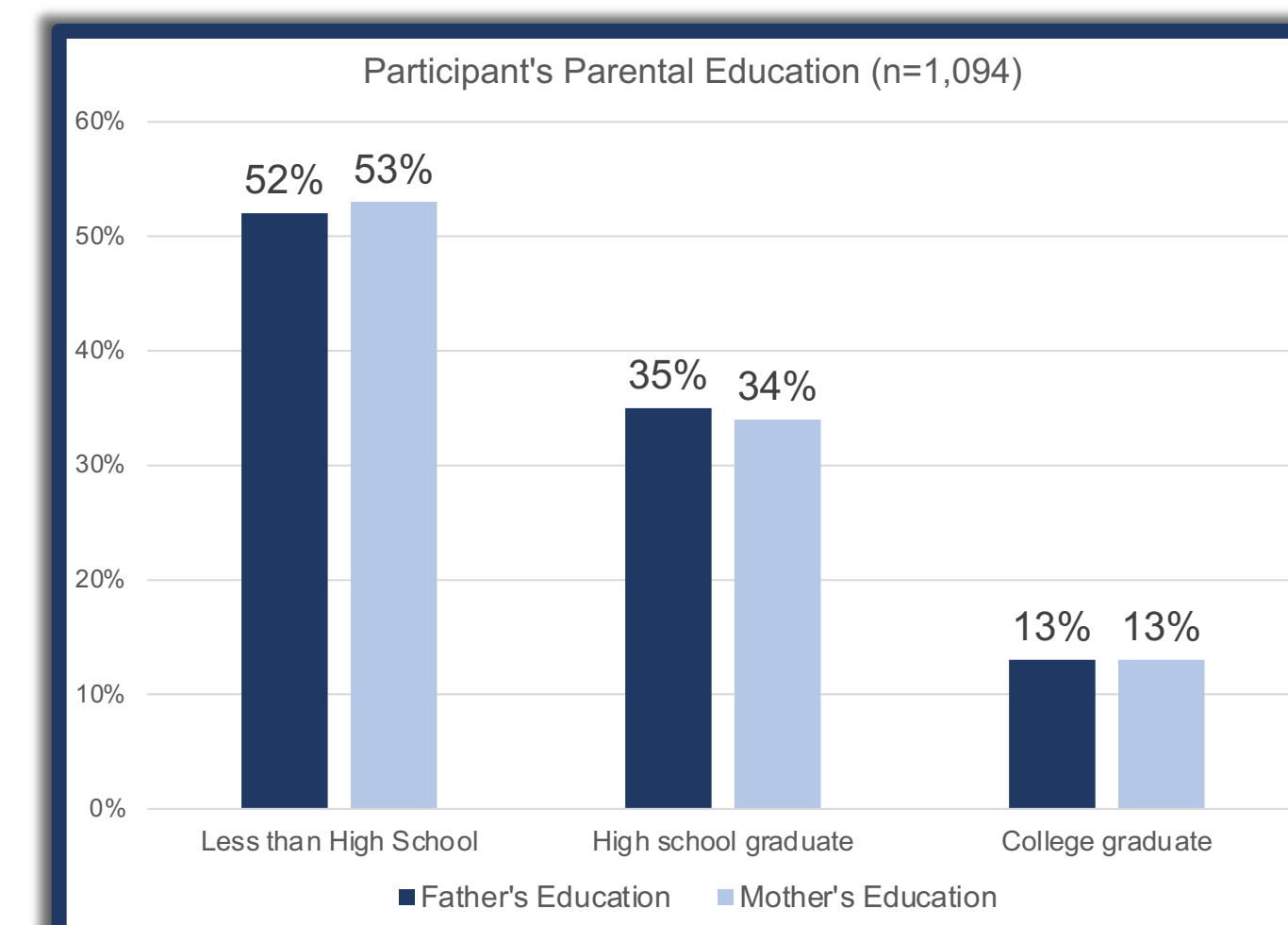
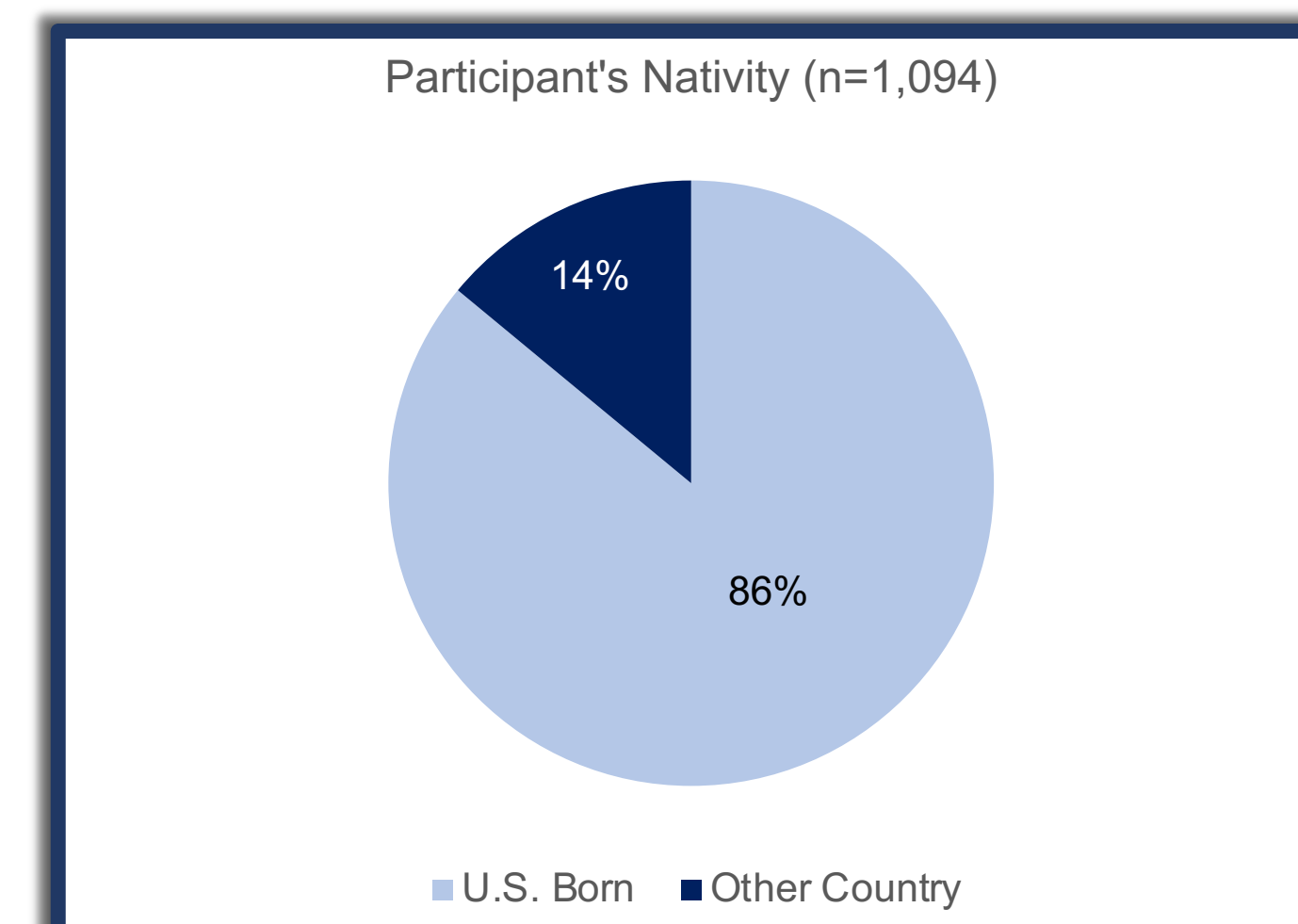
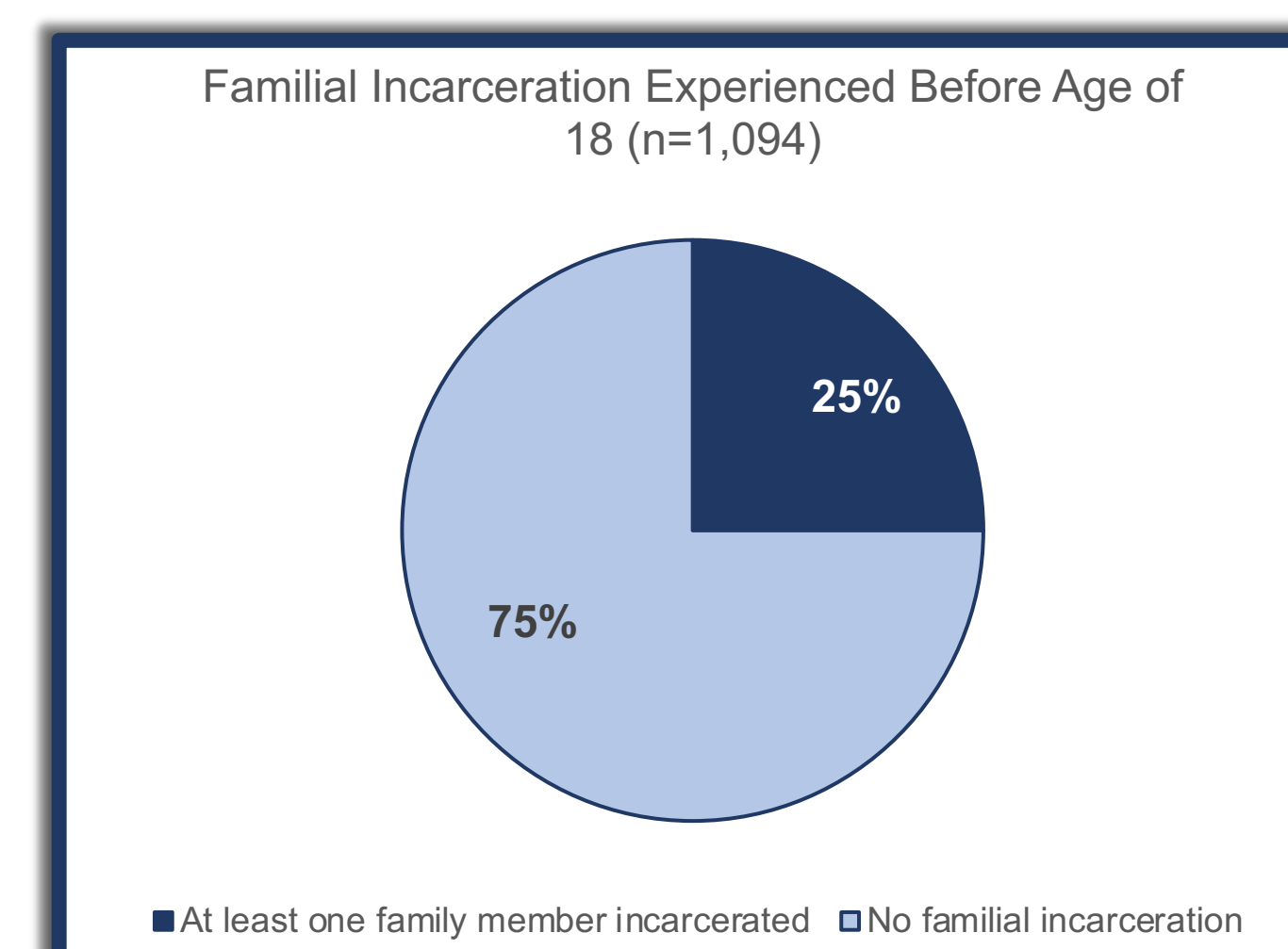
- Survey data was collected from Project RED, a longitudinal health study of Hispanic youth in Southern California (n=1,094) from 2008 to 2018.
- Participants were 15 and 25 years old when data was collected.
- Linear and logistic regression models assessed the association between familial incarceration at age 15 and 1) depression and 2) perceived stress during adolescence and again at age 25, adjusting for sex, nativity, parent education, ethnic identity, and income (in adulthood).

RESULTS

Demographics

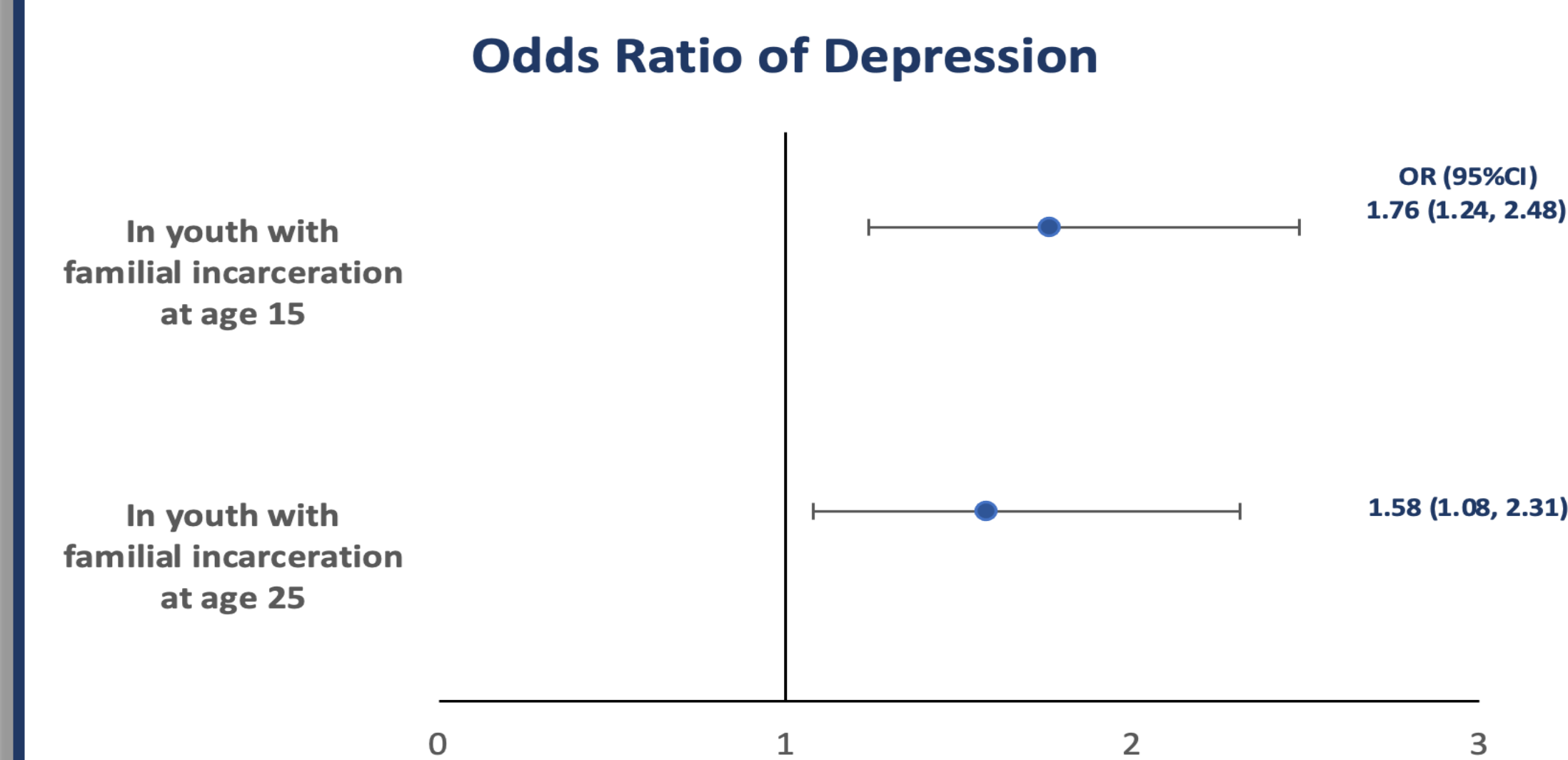


All of respondents were Hispanic/Latino (100%).



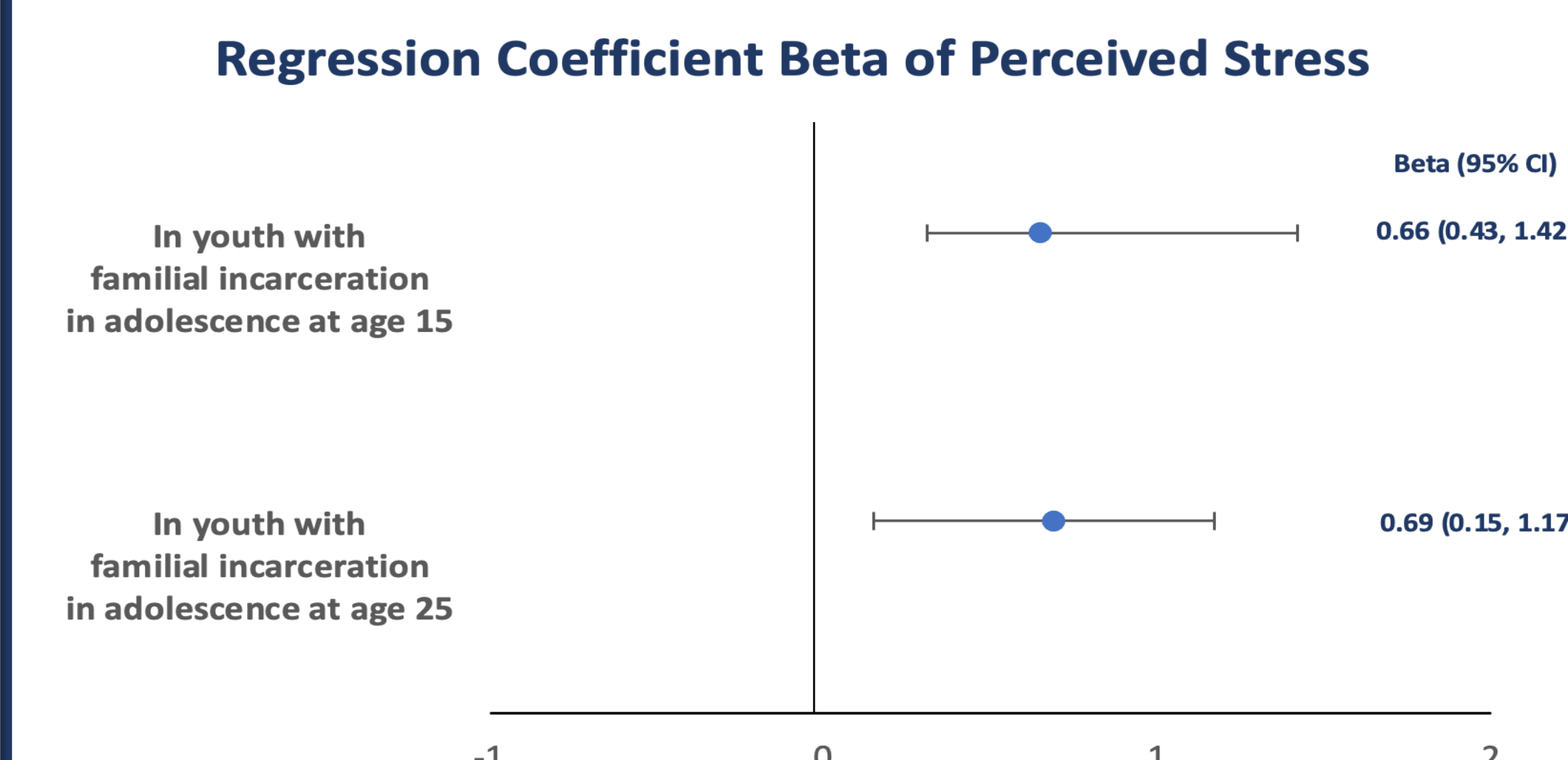
Main Effects

Figure 1: Odds Ratio (OR) of depression among youth with familial incarceration.



Note: Reference Group: No familial incarceration at respective age. Models adjusted for sex, nativity, parent education, ethnic identity, and income in young adulthood.

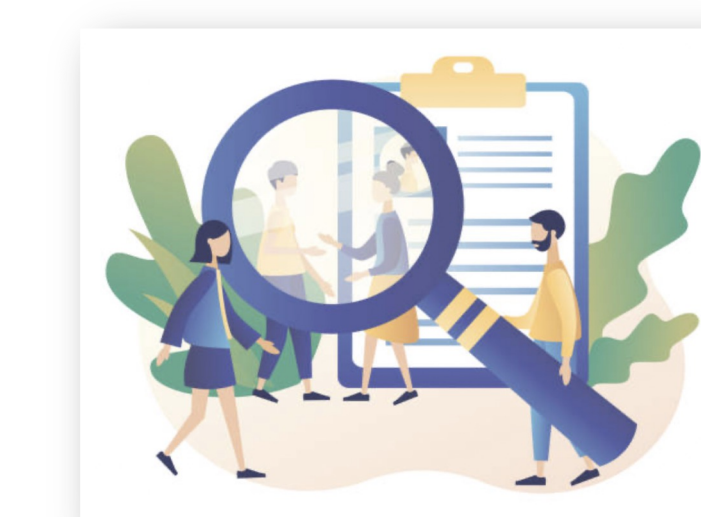
Figure 2: Beta Coefficient of perceived stress among youth with familial incarceration



Note: Reference Group: No familial incarceration at respective age. Models adjusted for sex, nativity, parent education, ethnic identity, and income in young adulthood.

DISCUSSION

- These results highlight the need for support services and programs tailored for adolescents who have been impacted by familial incarceration.
- Ongoing research is needed to identify the key ingredients of resilience that can be leveraged in services for youth and young adults impacted by parental or familial justice involvement.
- One ongoing study, **Supporting Student Health And ResiliencE (SHARE)** is currently evaluating the only school-based program designed to meet the needs of adolescents with incarcerated family members.



CONCLUSION

- Familial incarceration can have short and long-term negative mental health consequences.
- Nationally, there are few school-based support programs tailored to meet the needs of this segment of the youth populations and none of these programs have been evaluated.
- Future public health research needs to consider the stressors associated with familial incarceration and develop evidence-based programs that facilitate resilience among vulnerable youth.