Patient-Reported Health Inequities Among Breast Cancer Patients

Authors: Chris Hardy (Publicis Health Media), Beth Schneider (MyHealthTeam), Natalie D'angelo (MyHealthTeam), Dianna Cronin (MyHealthTeam) and Beth Luce (MyHealthTeam)

CONCLUSIONS

This study highlights that access to and quality of breast cancer care are highly dependent on who you are and where you live. An opportunity exists for doctors, Pharma, and insurers to reflect on how to ensure all their breast cancer patients are being provided with equitable care.

BACKGROUND

Equal access to and quality of care are critical for creating positive outcomes for women living with breast cancer. Despite increased awareness of health outcome disparities in the US, Black and Latina women still experience unique challenges in their breast cancer journey.

OBJECTIVES

To better understand potential disparities in healthcare quality, affordability, and access based on ethnicity or race among women living with breast cancer.

METHOD

In January 2023, an email invitation was sent to US members of MyBCTeam. In total, 945 women with breast cancer completed a 34-question online survey.



Breast cancer detrimentally impacts quality of life regardless of patient demographics; respondents indicated an impact on quality of life overall (73%), exercise (67%), everyday chores (67%), family (61%), social life (57%), and work (54%). (Figure 1)

Mental health challenges were particularly prevalent, including feeling stressed (86%) or depressed or anxious (81%). (Figure 2)



Despite the prevalence of mental health challenges, only 35% indicated their primary breast cancer doctor discusses emotional well-being with them, and 36% do not have convenient access to mental health resources. (Figure 3)

Access, affordability, and quality of care looked different based on ethnicity or race. For example, 22% of Black women (B) and 20% of Latina women (L) skipped appointments due to costs



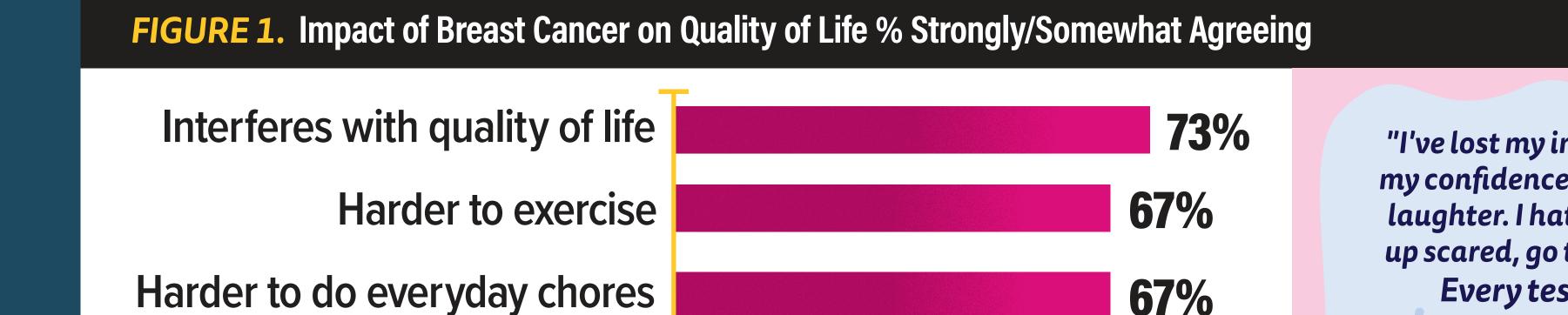
versus 9% of White women (W). Differences were also found in not being able to take time off from work for appointments (16% B, 13% L vs. 6% W). (Figure 4)

Black and Latina women also reported lower quality doctor interactions, such as whether they were recommended regular checkups (61% B, 65% L vs. 75% W), or felt their doctor was non-judgmental (53% B, 63% L vs 69% W). (Figure 5)

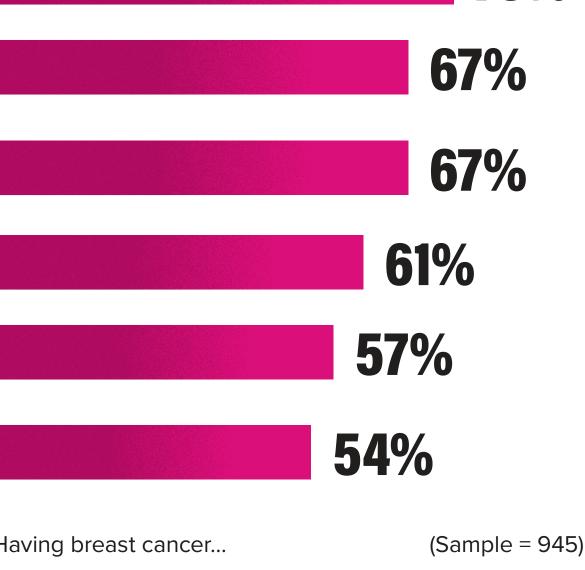
Latina women were least likely to have access to quality care (63% L vs. 81% B, 83% W) and to get insurance approval for treatment (50% L, vs. 77%) B, 72% W). (Figure 6)

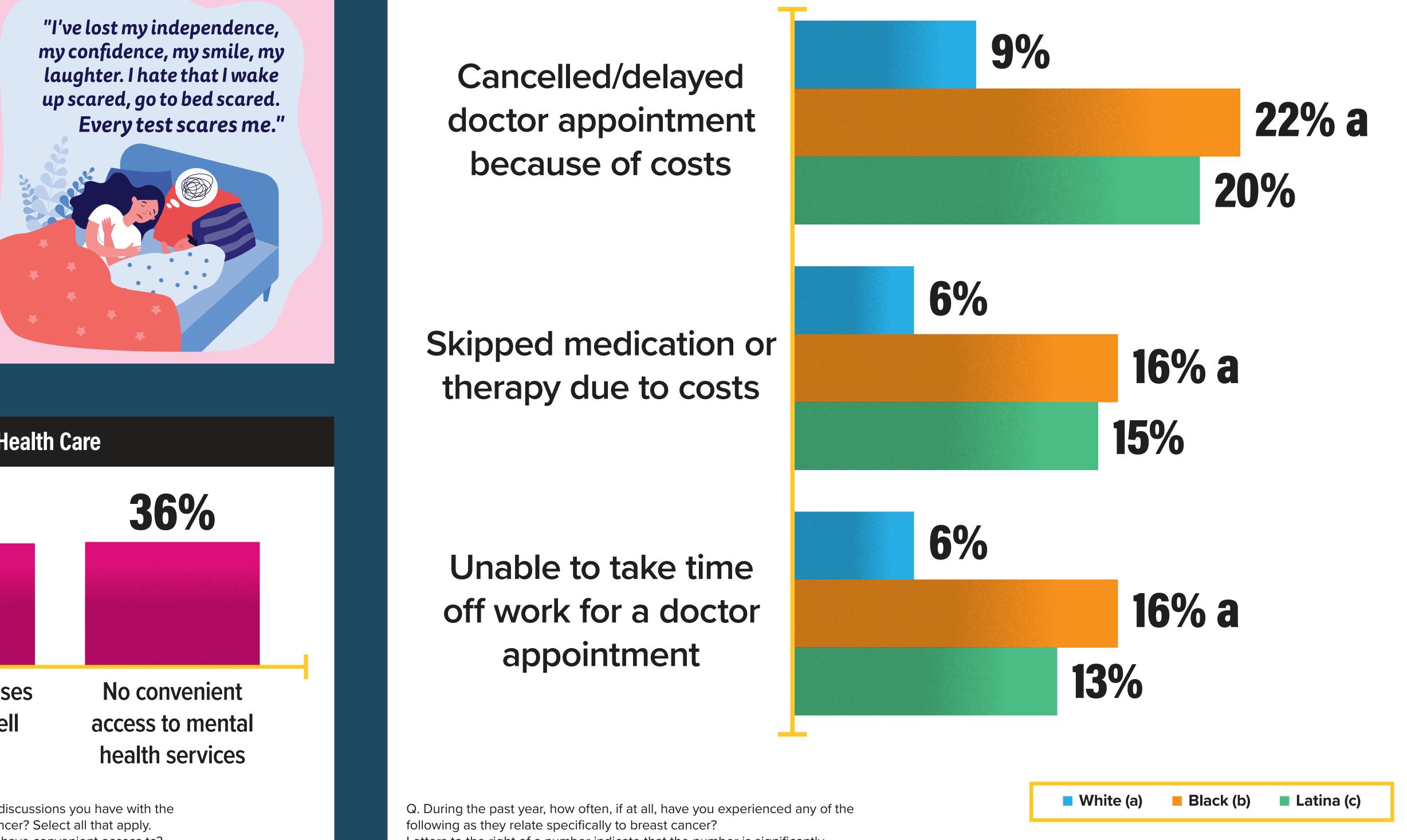
Black and Latina women were less likely to live in areas with easy access to hospitals/urgent care (82% B, 83% L vs 95% W), outpatient care (64% B, 72% L vs. 78% W), healthy foods (77% B, 72% L vs. 87% W), or places to exercise (74% B, 76% L vs. 91% W). (Figure 7)

Note that the research findings are representative of patients who choose to participate in a social network focused on providing information and emotional support, and may not be representative of all patients with breast cancer.



Negatively impacts family Interferes with social life **Disrupts work/employment**





agree or disagree with the following statements? Having breast cancer.

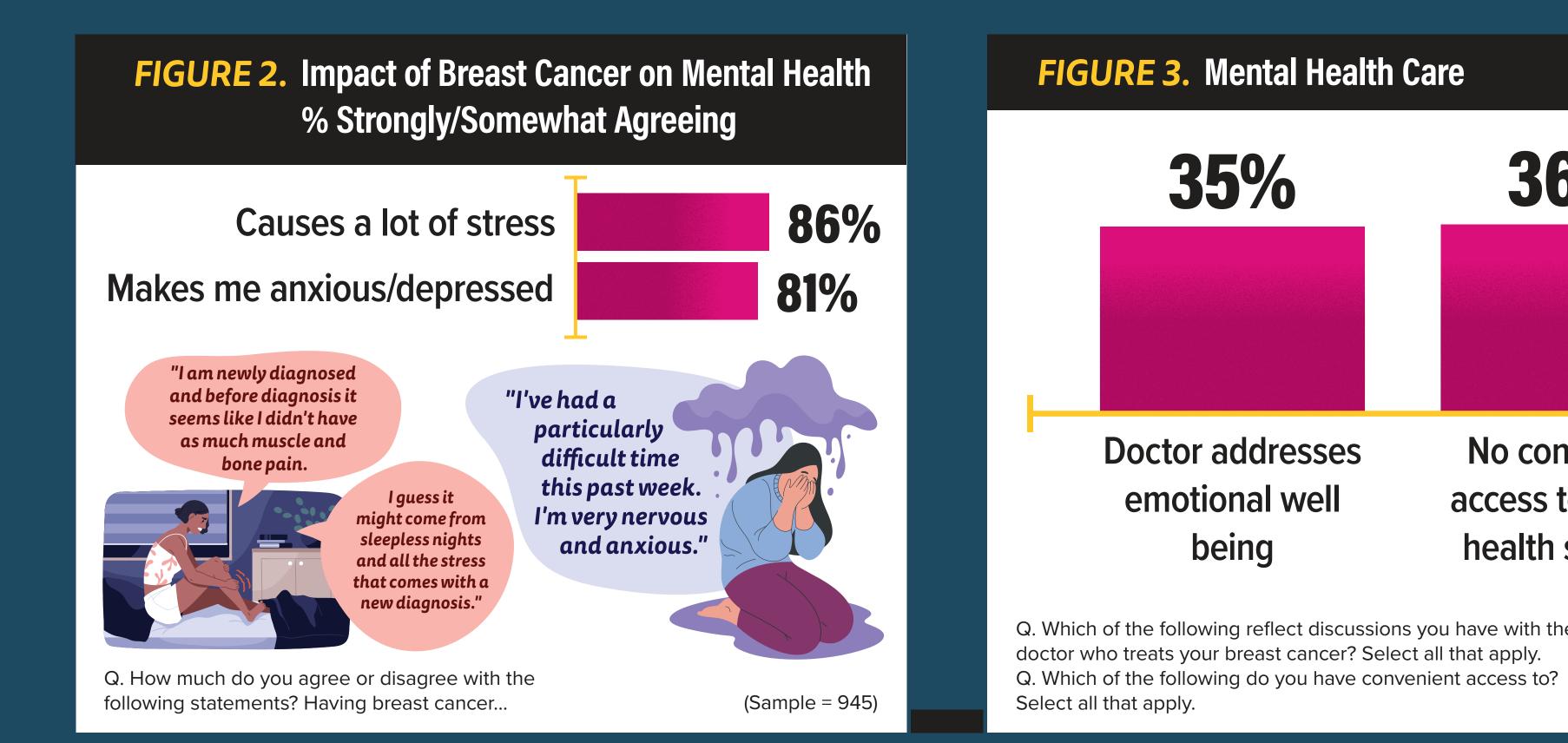


FIGURE 5. Discussions With Primary Breast Cancer Doctor Treats me with 79% respect 80% Explains breast cancer test results 72% 75% b Recommends regular check-ups 65% 69% b 53% Is non-judgmental 63% Spends enough time with me Recommends medicine based

54%

Get access to specialists

than the number in the column indicated at the 95% confidence level

tests/surgery in

with questions/

appointments

Get insurance

approval for

tests/surgeries

Get insurance

approval for

Q. Which of the following reflect the discussions you have with the primary healthcare provider who treats your breast cancer? Select all that apply etters to the right of a number indicate that the number is significantly highe. han the number in the column indicated at the 95% confidence leve

White (a)
Black (b)
Latina (c)

on my needs

(Sample Size = 800, 72, 46)

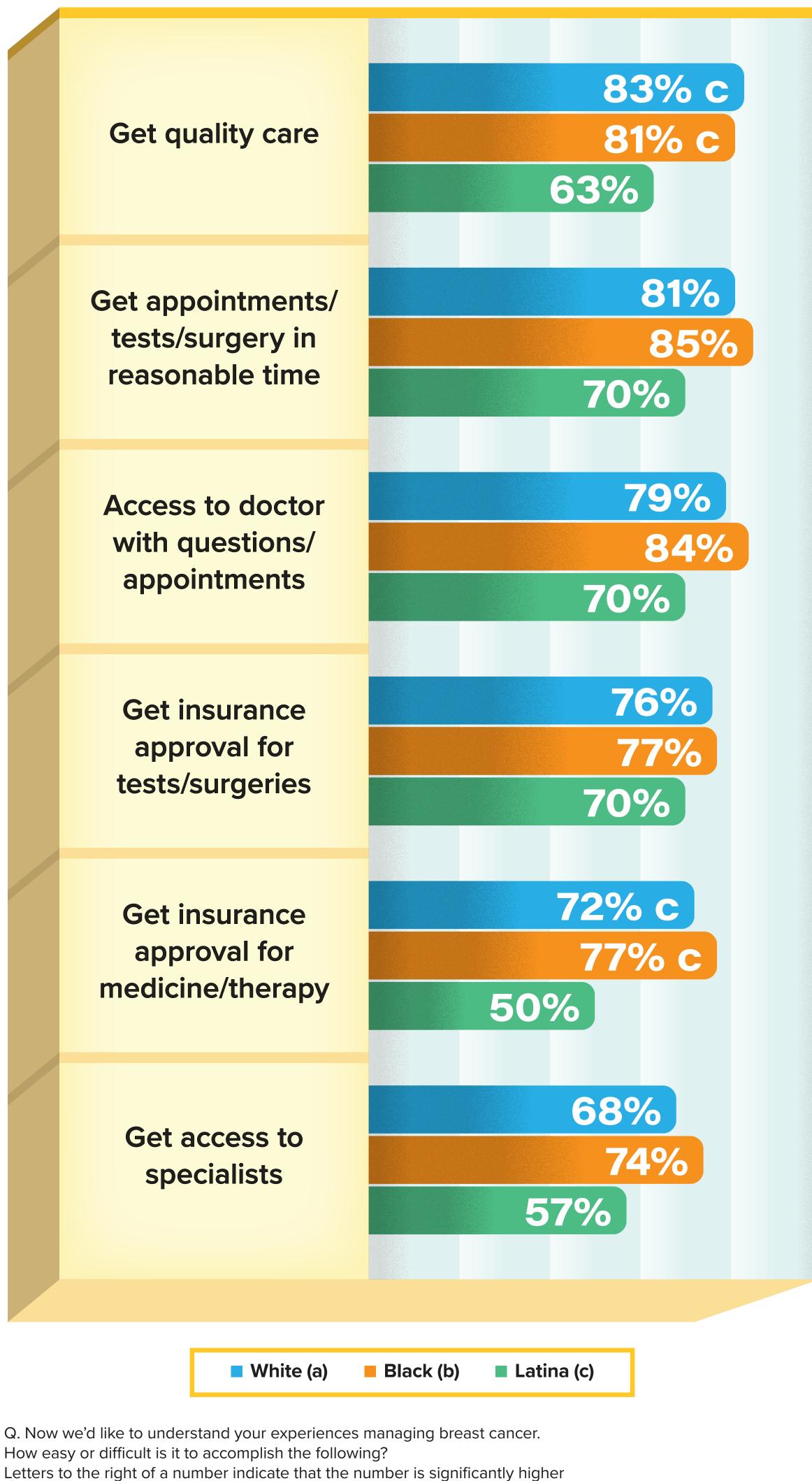
FIGURE 4. Breast Cancer Care Disruptions Past Year For Financial Reasons

Letters to the right of a number indicate that the number is significantly higher than the number in the column indicated at the 95% confidence level.

(Sample Size = 805, 74, 46)

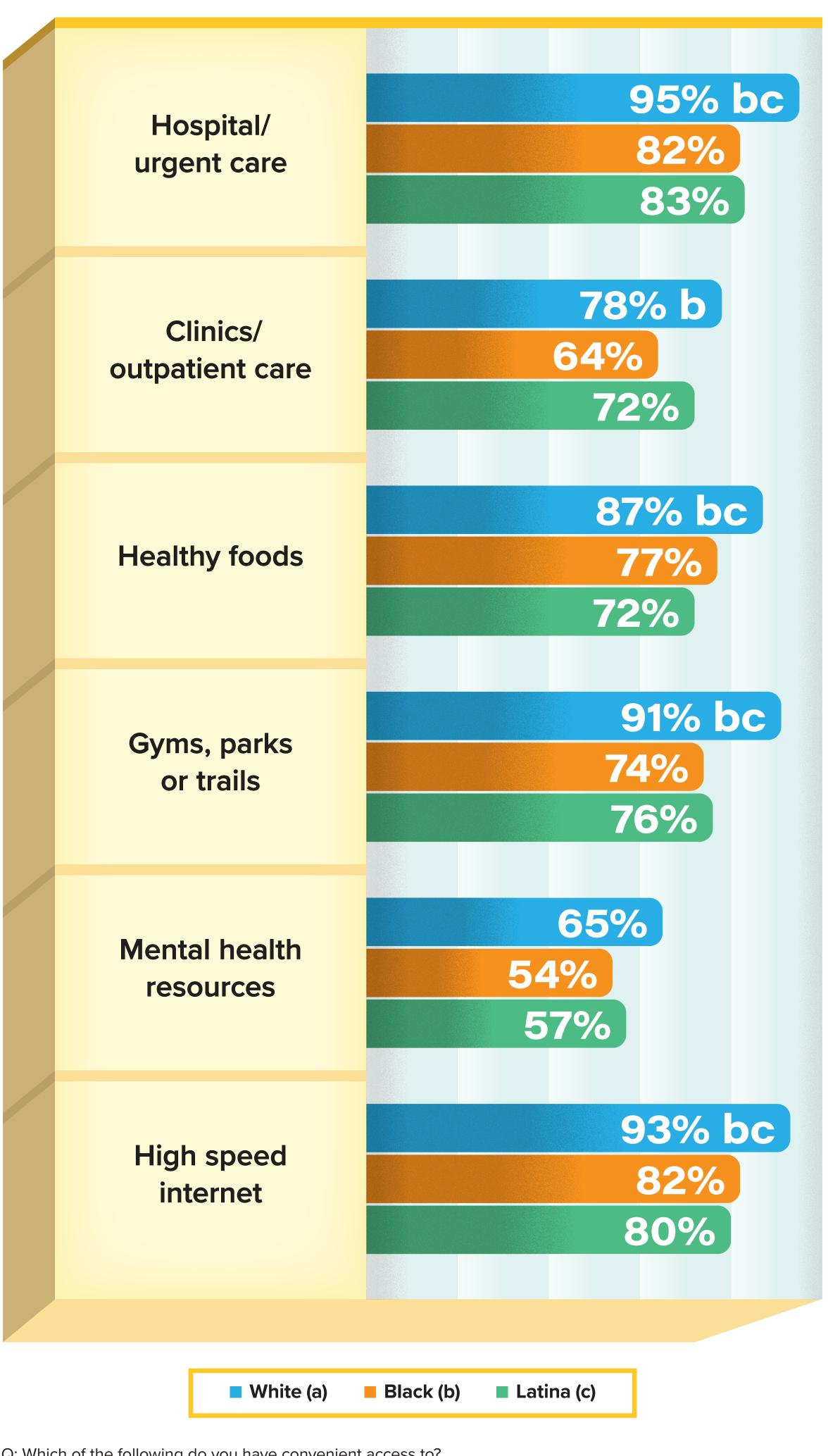
FIGURE 6. Access to Care % Indicating Extremely/Very Easy

(Sample = 938, 945)



(Sample Size = 805, 74, 46)

FIGURE 7. Access to Health-Related Resources



Q: Which of the following do you have convenient access to? elect all that apply

Letters to the right of a number indicate that the number is significantly higher than the number in the column indicated at the 95% confidence level.