

Disparities in Breast Reconstruction

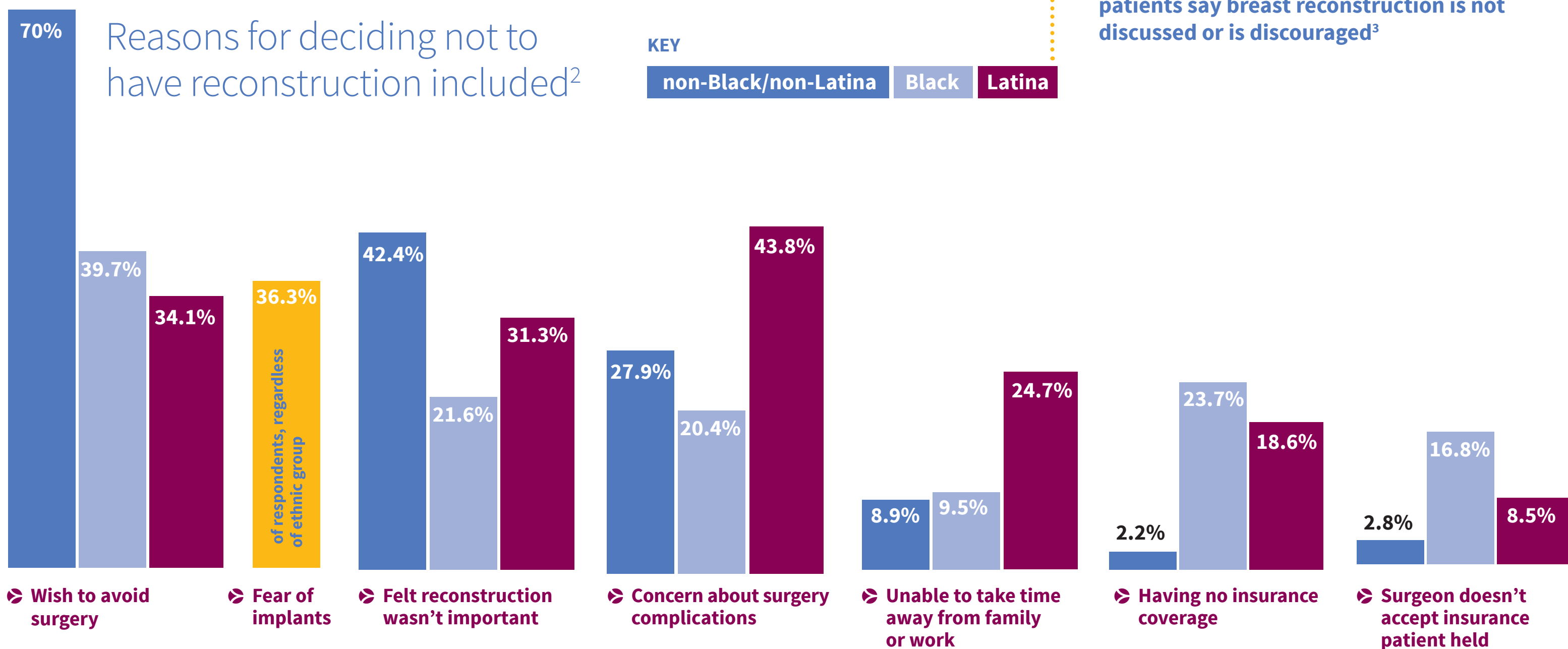
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RACIAL/ETHNIC

- Since the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act took effect in January 1999, reconstruction rates have increased overall. However, racial and ethnic disparities still exist
- A study published in 2014 found that of women who had mastectomy between 2001 and 2006
 - Minority women were less likely than white women to have breast reconstruction
 - This was true regardless of the type of insurance held
 - Uninsured women and those with public health insurance were less likely to have reconstruction than women with private health insurance
 - Within insurance types, race and ethnic disparities were less prominent¹

OF WOMEN WITH STAGE I-III BREAST CANCER

- Black women were significantly less likely to have reconstruction
- Black and Latina women were significantly more likely to be dissatisfied with the process of deciding whether to have reconstruction
- Most women undergoing mastectomy for breast cancer do not undergo breast reconstruction²
- More often than white patients, black patients say breast reconstruction is not discussed or is discouraged³

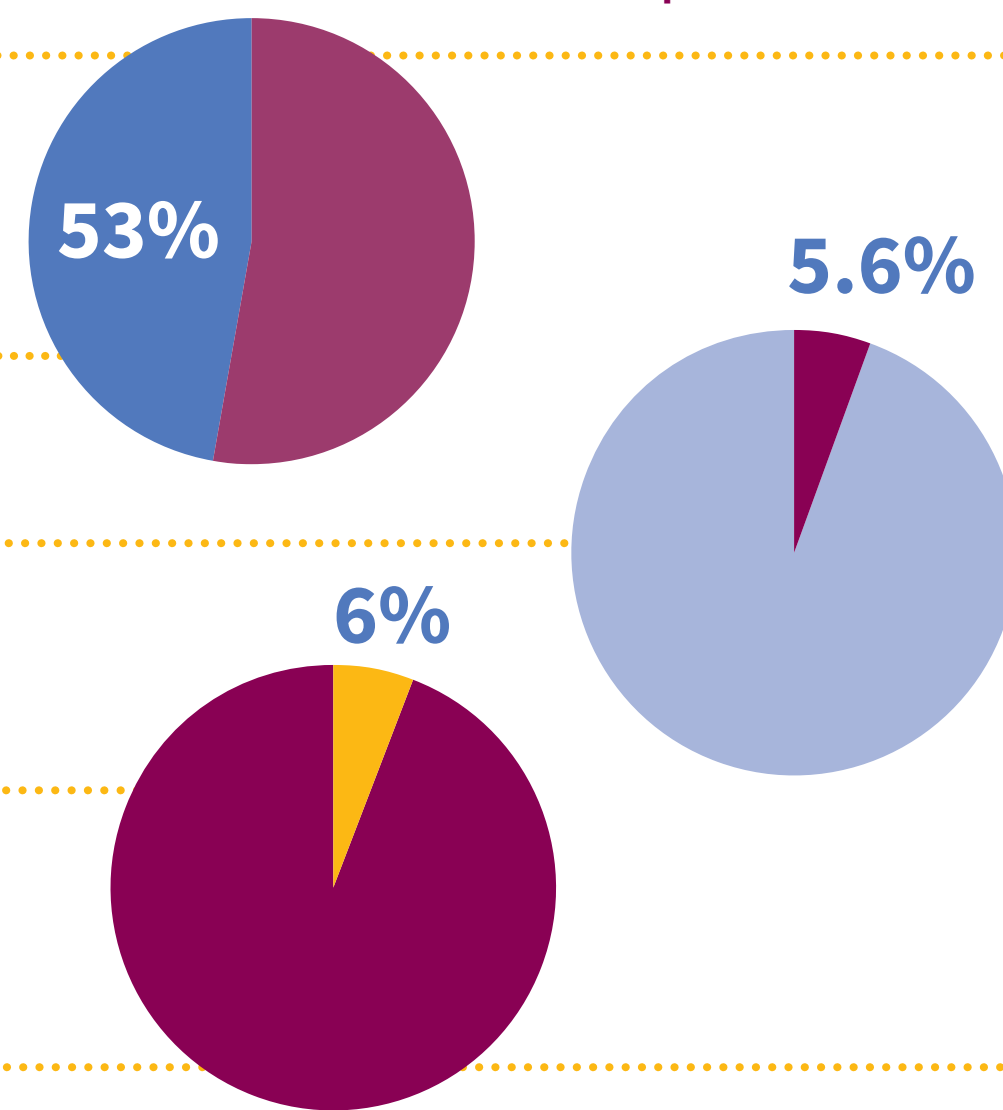


ECONOMIC

- From 2000–2009, rates of immediate breast reconstruction increased
 - 4.2-fold in people covered by Medicaid
 - 2.9-fold in people covered by Medicare
 - 2.6-fold in people covered by private health insurance⁴

AGE

- Of 716 institutions in the US
 - 53% reported that they performed no reconstructions on women over 65
 - 5.6% performed reconstruction on more than 20% of women over 65
 - Only 6% of women over 65 had reconstruction (of 19,234 treated at those 716 institutions between 2000–2005)⁵



REGION

- Rates of reconstruction varied “dramatically” by geographic region in an analysis of 20,566 women who underwent mastectomy in the United States from 1998–2007⁶
 - Associated factors included number of plastic surgeons available in the region and county-level income
- Reconstructed women more often lived in urban areas and zip codes with higher average incomes⁷

SOURCES

- Health insurance coverage and racial disparities in breast reconstruction after mastectomy, 2014
- Access to Breast Reconstruction After Mastectomy and Patient Perspectives on Reconstruction Decision Making, 2014
- Racial Disparities in immediate breast reconstruction after mastectomy: impact of state and federal health policy changes, 2013
- Trends in immediate breast reconstruction across insurance groups after enactment of breast cancer legislation, 2013
- Variation in the utilization of reconstruction following mastectomy in elderly women, 2013
- Trends and variation in use of breast reconstruction in patients with breast cancer undergoing mastectomy in the United States, 2014
- Socioeconomic and geographic differences in immediate reconstruction after mastectomy in the U.S., 2014



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