



September 2020

# Preliminary insights from the most recent Census Household Pulse Survey, Phase 2

Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center



# Census Household Pulse Survey

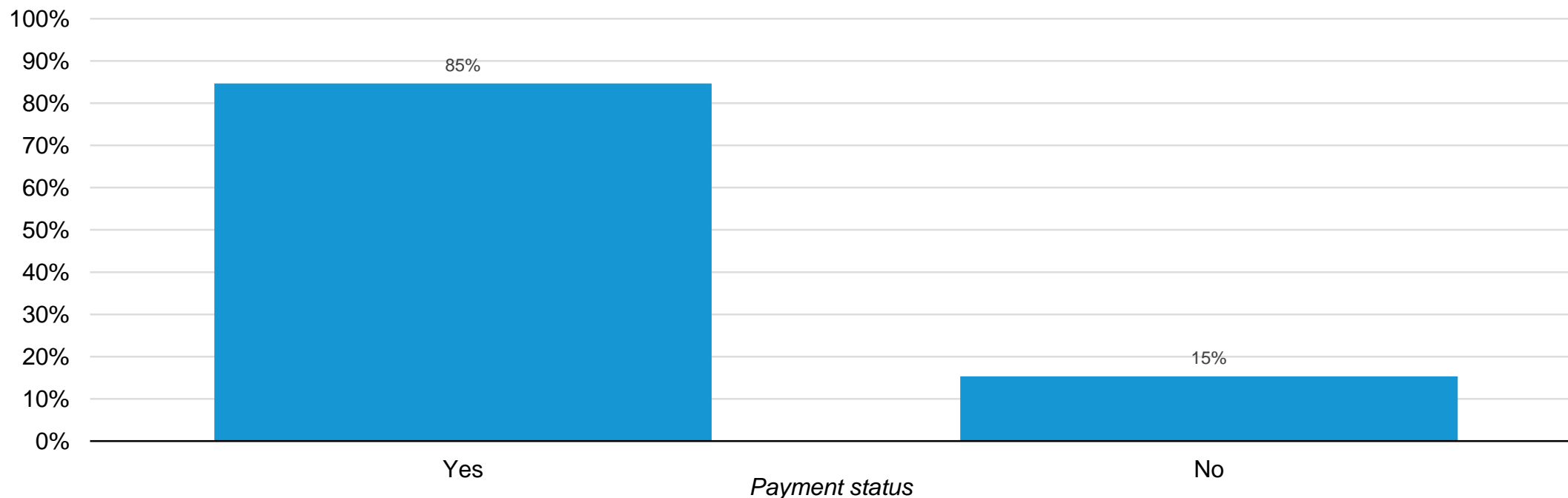
- Census Pulse Survey, Phase 2 was fielded between **August 19 and August 31**.
- Provides a picture of renters *right before* the CDC Moratorium, in effect September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Changed some questions – notably asks “Is this household currently caught up on rent payments?” instead of “Did you pay last months rent or mortgage on time?”
- Added some questions: Building type (i.e., mobile homes, single family (attached and detached), and number of apartments in buildings); number of bedrooms; likelihood of eviction asked of who report not being caught up on rent.
- Two week data collection and dissemination period
- Data table released followed by public use files (coming on September 23<sup>rd</sup>)

# Across the country, nearly 85 percent of adults in renter households current on rent

## Renters in the United States

Share of renters currently caught up on rent

*Share of adults in renter households*



**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

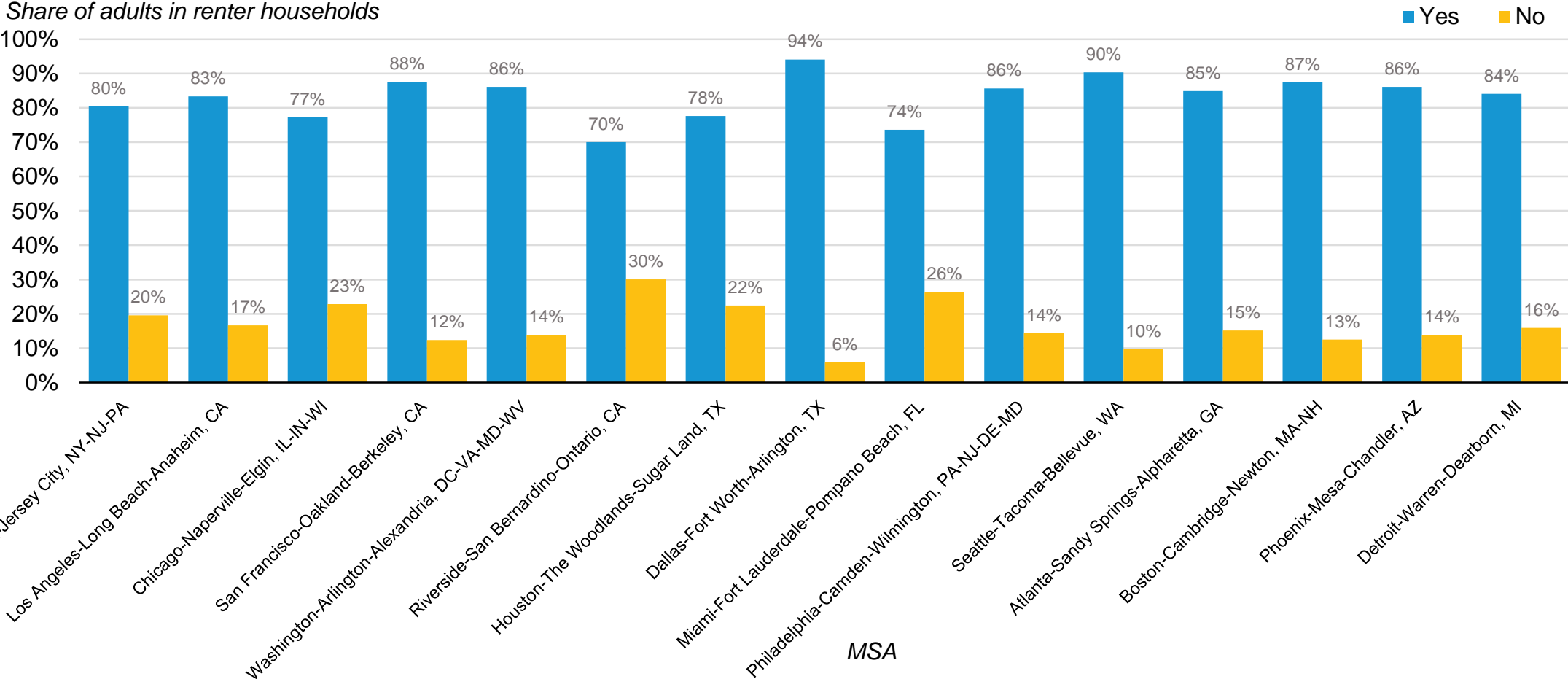
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**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. The Pulse

# But this varies by metropolitan area

## Renters by Metropolitan Area

Share of renters currently caught up on rent



**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

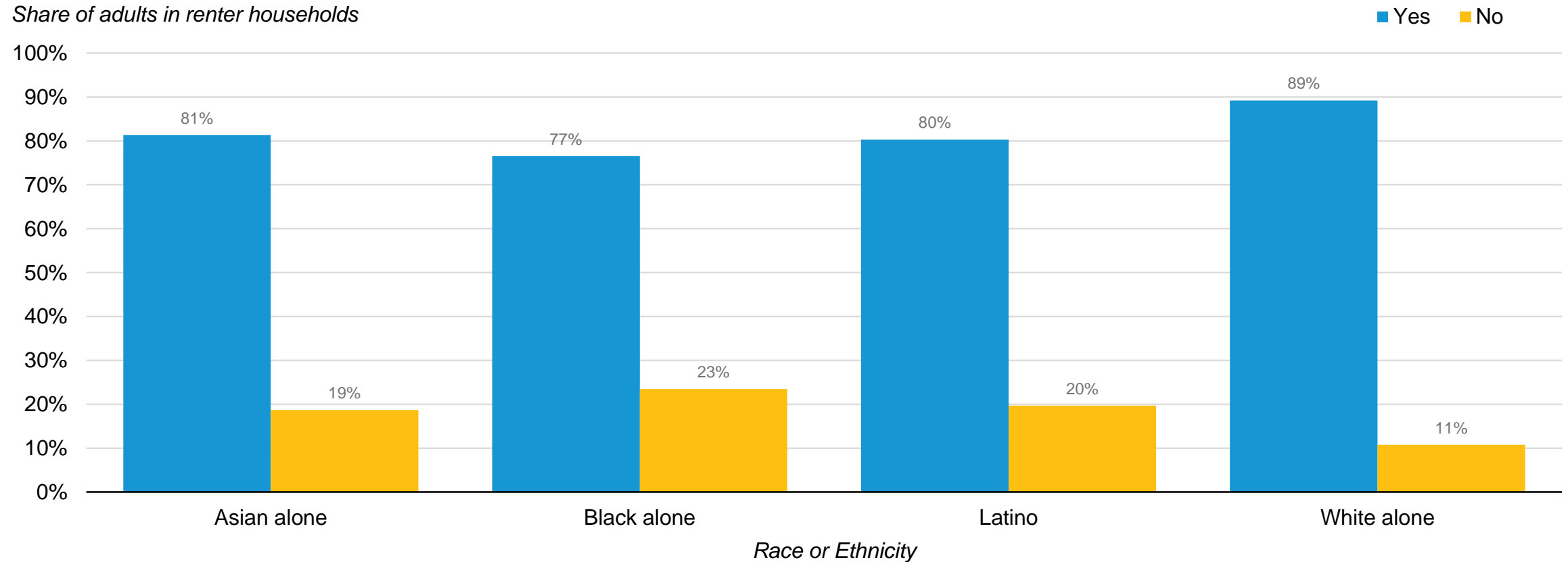
**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. The

# As well as by race and ethnicity

## Renters by Race and Ethnicity

Share of renters currently caught up on rent

Share of adults in renter households



**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. The Pulse Survey provides estimates for all adults in households; therefore, percentages should be interpreted as the share of adults in households who pay rent. "Latino" includes respondents who identified as "Hispanic or Latino" of any race. "White," "Black," and "Asian" exclude

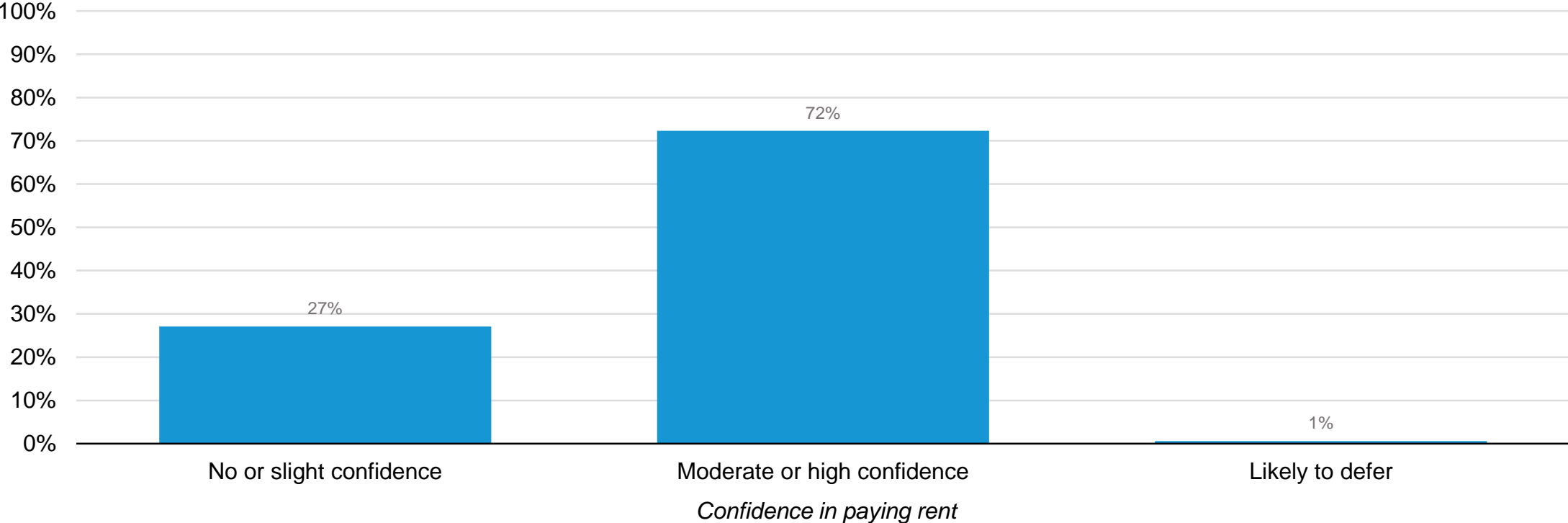
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# More than 1 in 4 renters had no or slight confidence in ability to pay in September

## Renters in the United States

Confidence in paying September rent

Share of adults in renter households



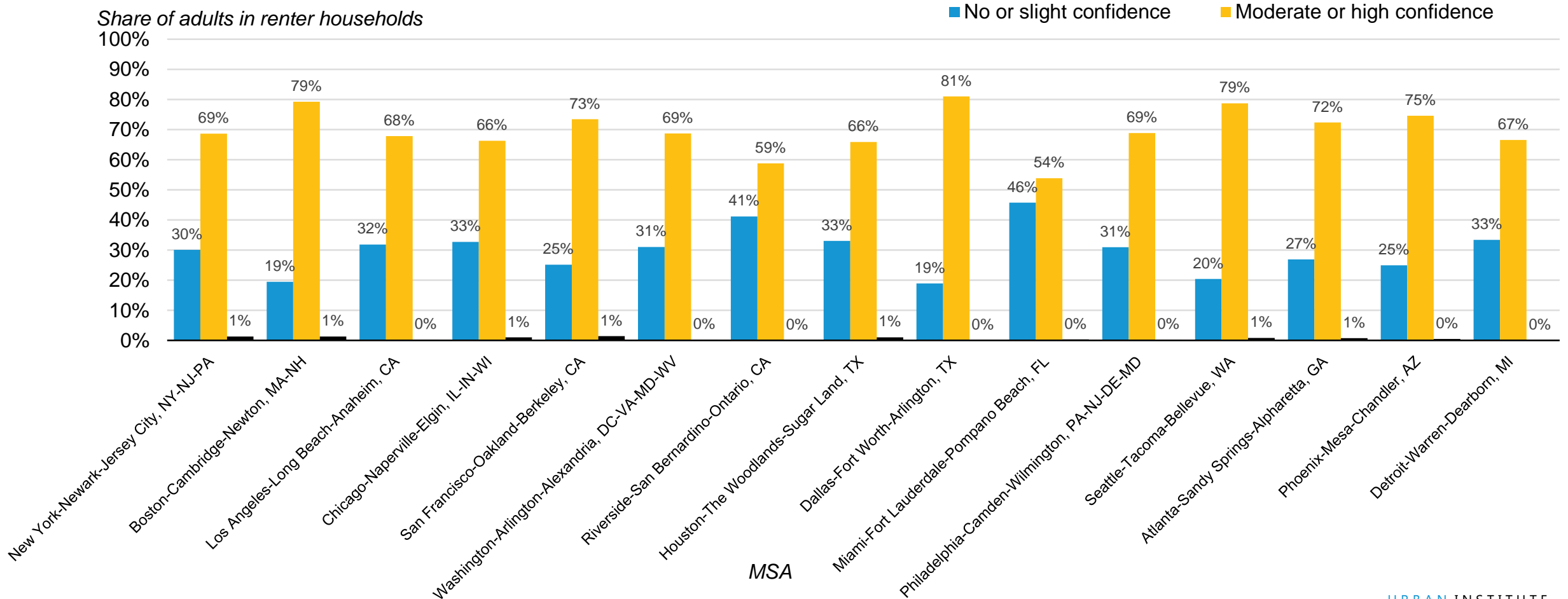
**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. The Pulse Survey provides estimates for all adults in households; therefore, percentages should be interpreted as the share of adults in households who pay

# But this varied by metropolitan area

## Renters by Metropolitan Area

Renters confidence in paying September rent



Source: Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

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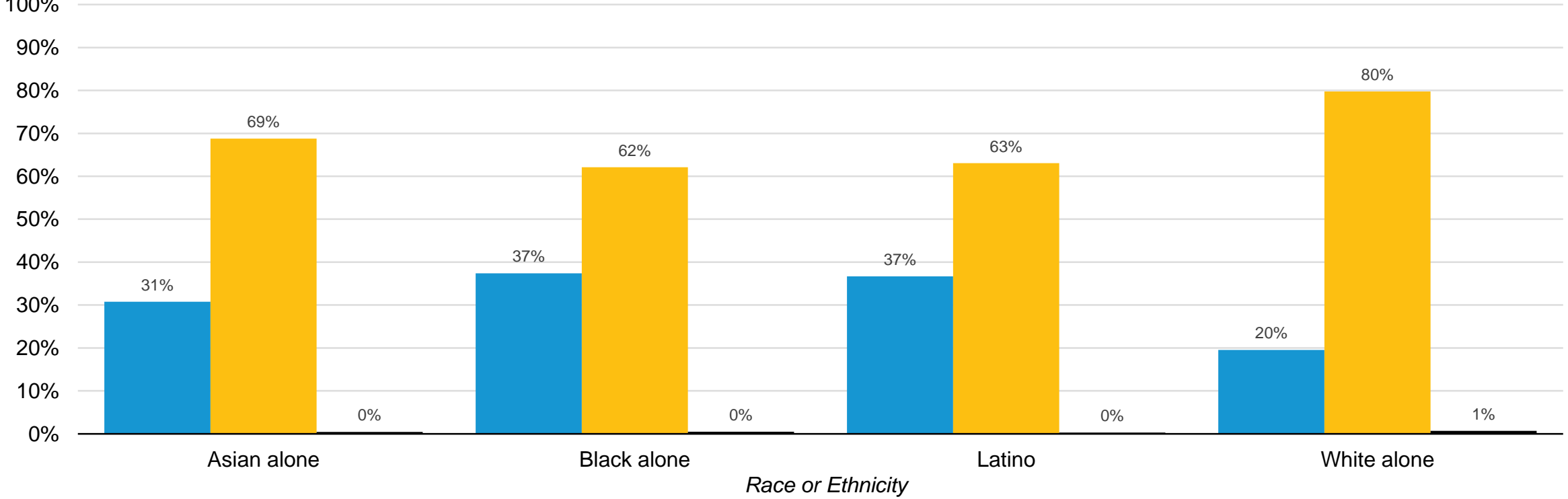
# People of Color reported lower confidence in ability paying rent in September

## Renters by Race and Ethnicity

Confidence in paying September rent

Share of adults in renter households

■ No or slight confidence ■ Moderate or high confidence ■ Likely to defer



Source: Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

Note: Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. The Pulse Survey provides estimates for all adults in households; therefore, percentages should be interpreted as the share of adults in households who pay rent. "Latino" includes respondents who identified as "Hispanic or Latino" of any race. "White," "Black," and "Asian" exclude respondents who identified as "Hispanic or Latino."

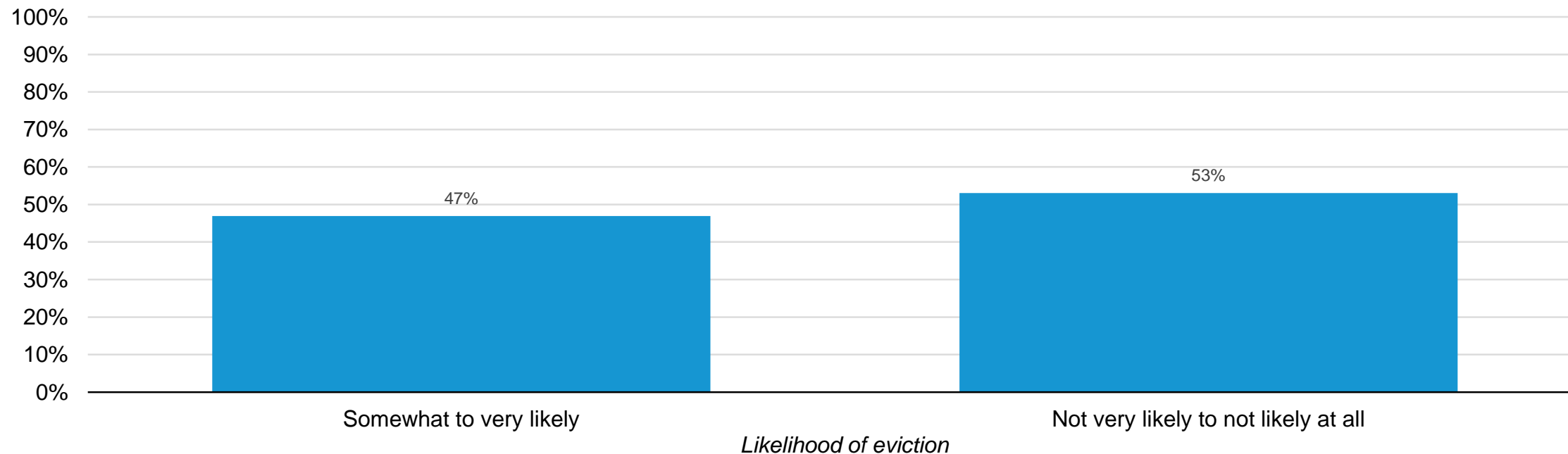
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# Before the CDC moratorium, half of renters not caught up on rent reported likelihood of eviction in the next two months

## Renters in the United States

Likelihood of eviction in the next 2 months

*Share of adults renters not caught up on rent*



**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent.

Respondents were asked about the likelihood of eviction if they were not currently caught up on rent; the percentages should be interpreted as the share of adults renters not caught up on rent.

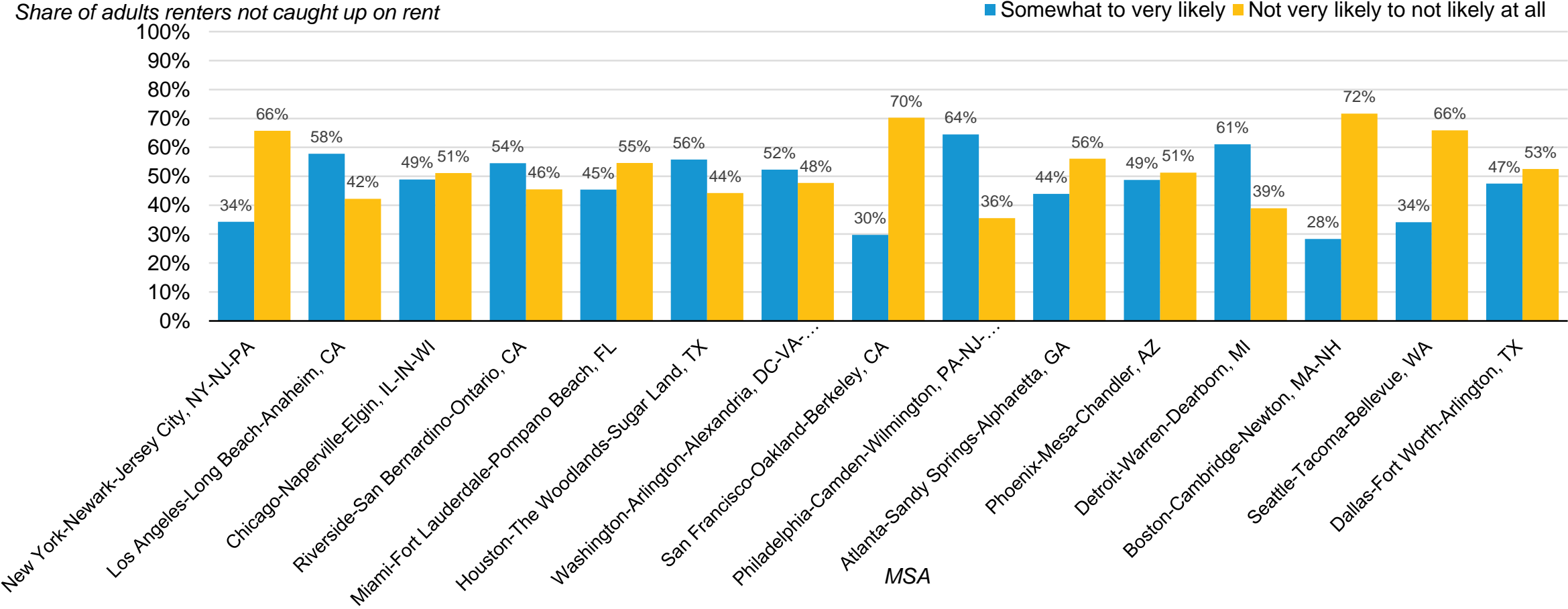
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# But this varied by metropolitan area

## Renters by Metropolitan Area

Likelihood of eviction in next 2 months

Share of adults renters not caught up on rent



**Source:** Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

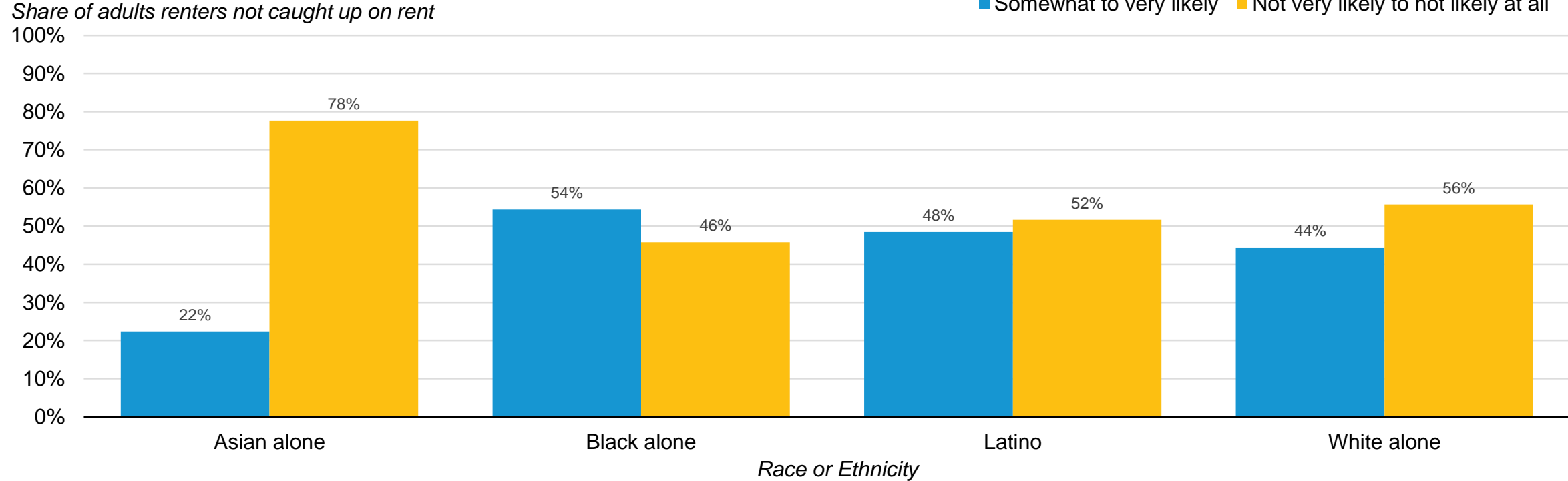
**Note:** Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent.

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# People of Color more likely to report threat of eviction

## Renters by Race and Ethnicity

Likelihood of eviction in next 2 months



Source: Authors' calculations using U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Data collected between August 19 and August 31.

Note: Results include estimates for renters who responded to the survey and answered specific questions about their ability to pay rent. Respondents were asked about the likelihood of eviction if they were not currently caught up on rent; the percentages should be interpreted as the share of adults renters not