



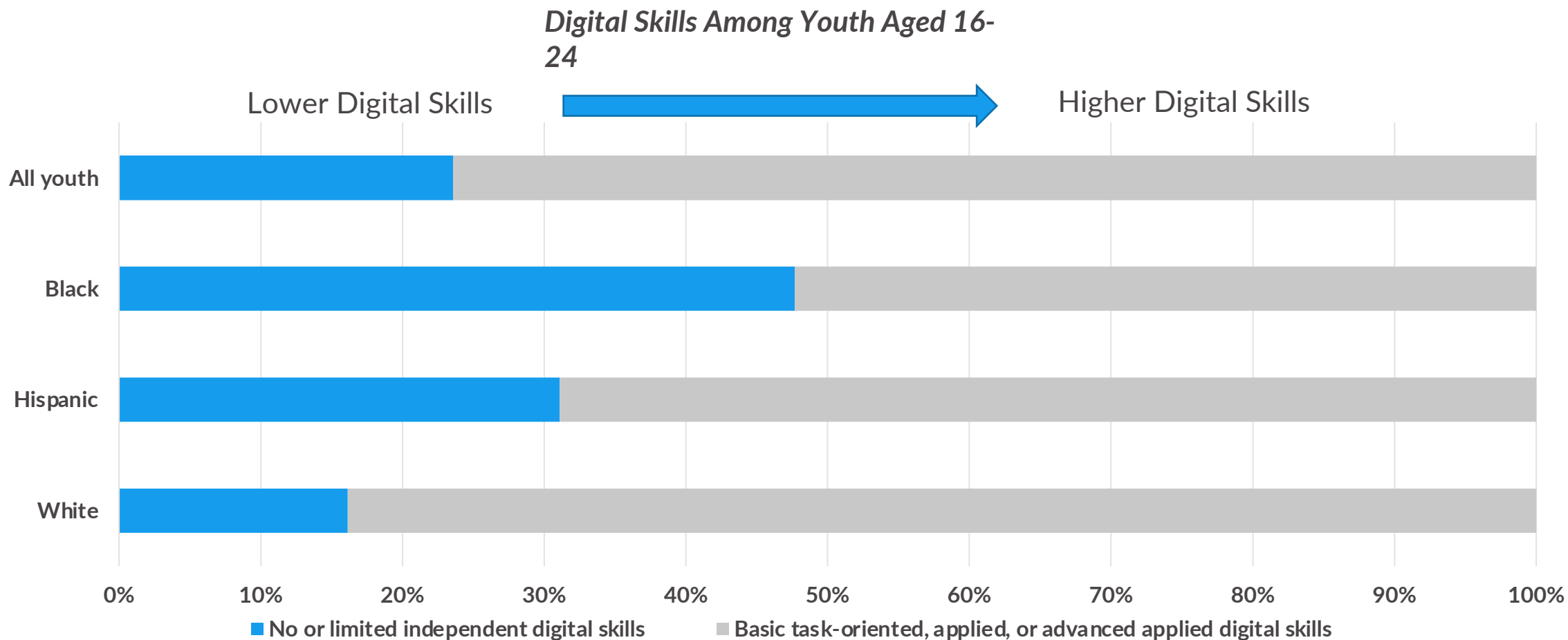
Overlooked and Underconnected; *Exploring Disparities in Digital Skill Levels by Race among Older Youth in the US*

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Digital skills are critical for education and employment success

- Youth are often assumed to be “digital natives” who do not require digital skills training, but evidence suggests that many younger Americans do not have digital skills
- Digital skills are needed for work, job search, education and training, and social connection, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted skills gaps
- Data Source: Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) data from 2017

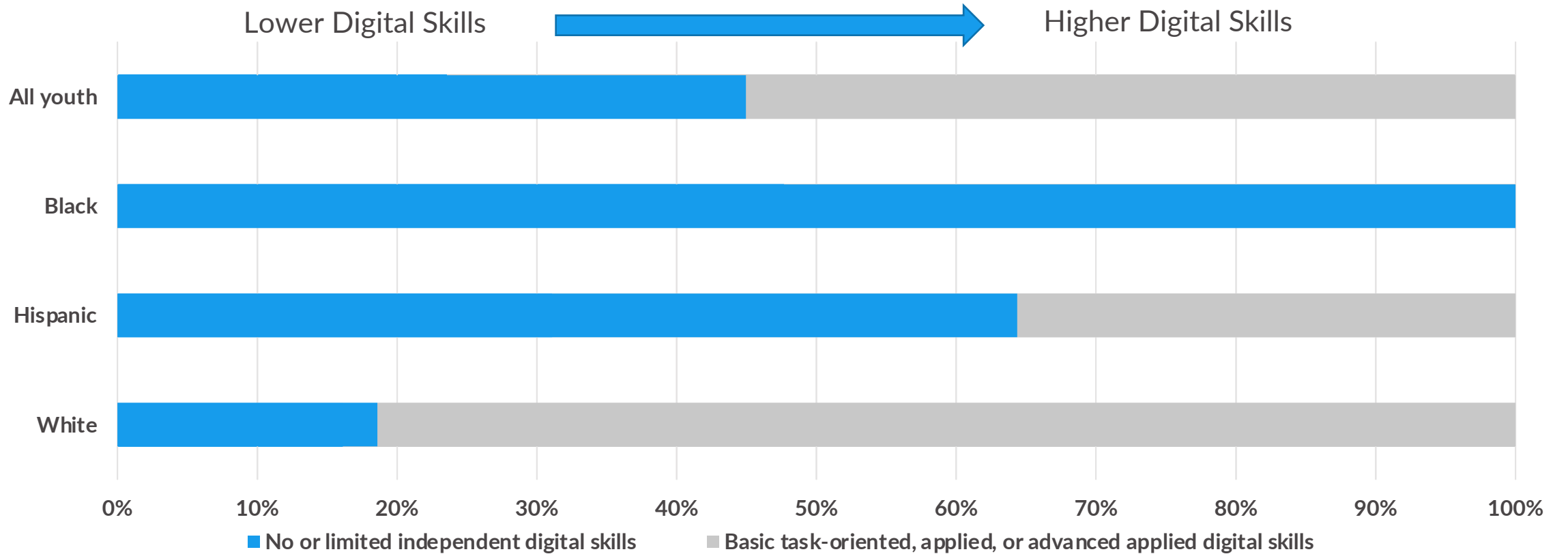
Black and Hispanic youth have lower digital skill levels than White youth, even among disconnected youth



Source: Author calculations of PIAAC United States 2017 data

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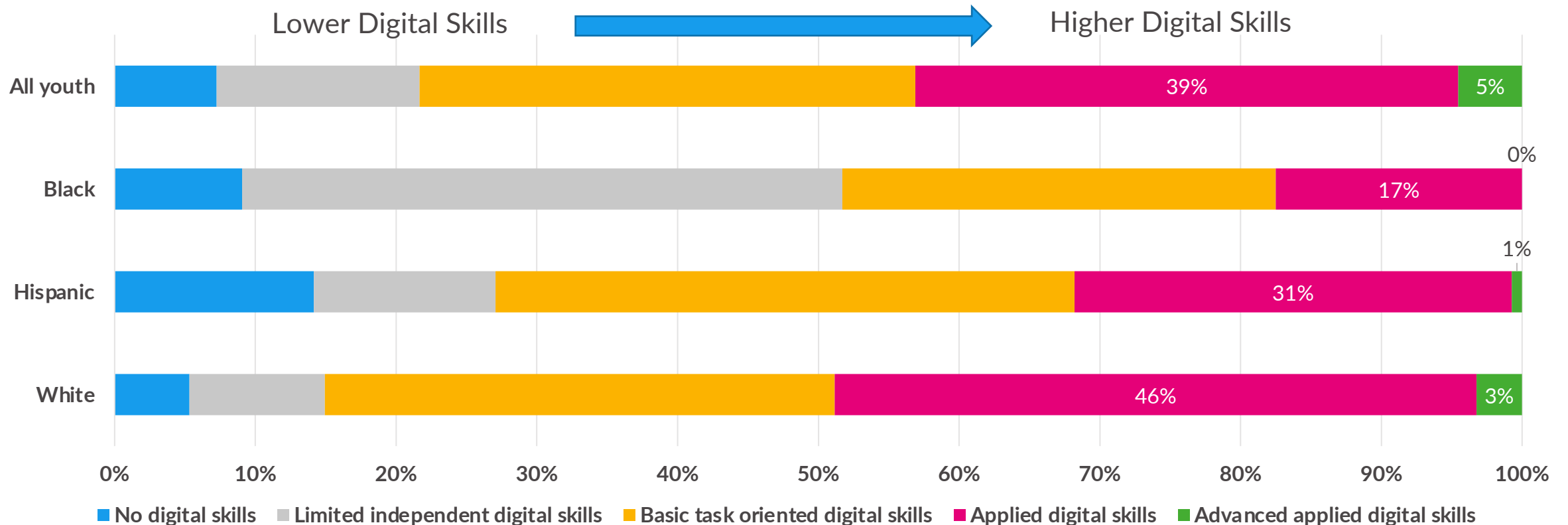
Digital Skills Among Youth Aged 16-24 Who Are Disconnected



Source: Author calculations of PIAAC United States 2017 data

Employed youth have higher digital skill levels overall, but digital skill gaps by race persist among the employed

Digital Skills Among Youth Aged 16-24 Who Are Employed



Source: Author calculations of PIAAC United States 2017 data



Many youth have no or low digital skills, and youth of color have lower digital skills than white youth

Low digital skills makes it hard to reconnect to school, training, and the labor market, which has implications for long term mobility



Even among disconnected youth and youth who are employed, disparities in skill levels by race persist

Increasing understanding of these digital skills can help dismantle disparities and develop targeted policy solutions that mitigate barriers to labor market success for youth of color

Opportunities for Philanthropic Action



Invest in additional research with an explicit racial equity lens



Invest in communities and programs that serve youth



Combine public and private investment to increase impact