



INTRODUCTION

- Social determinants of health (SDOH) can influence health outcomes and well-being, and include:
 - Income, education, employment status and job security, housing, and access to affordable health care¹
 - Social inclusion and nondiscrimination are also considered SDOH¹
- Health care inequities are differences in health status or distribution of health care resources²
- Racial/ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are more likely to face barriers in accessing health care³

Patients with generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) face SDOH challenges that need to be addressed for health care providers to more effectively deliver therapy resources among population groups.

OBJECTIVE

To better understand the impact of SDOH challenges on treatment access and utilization in patients with gMG facing health care access inequities

METHODS

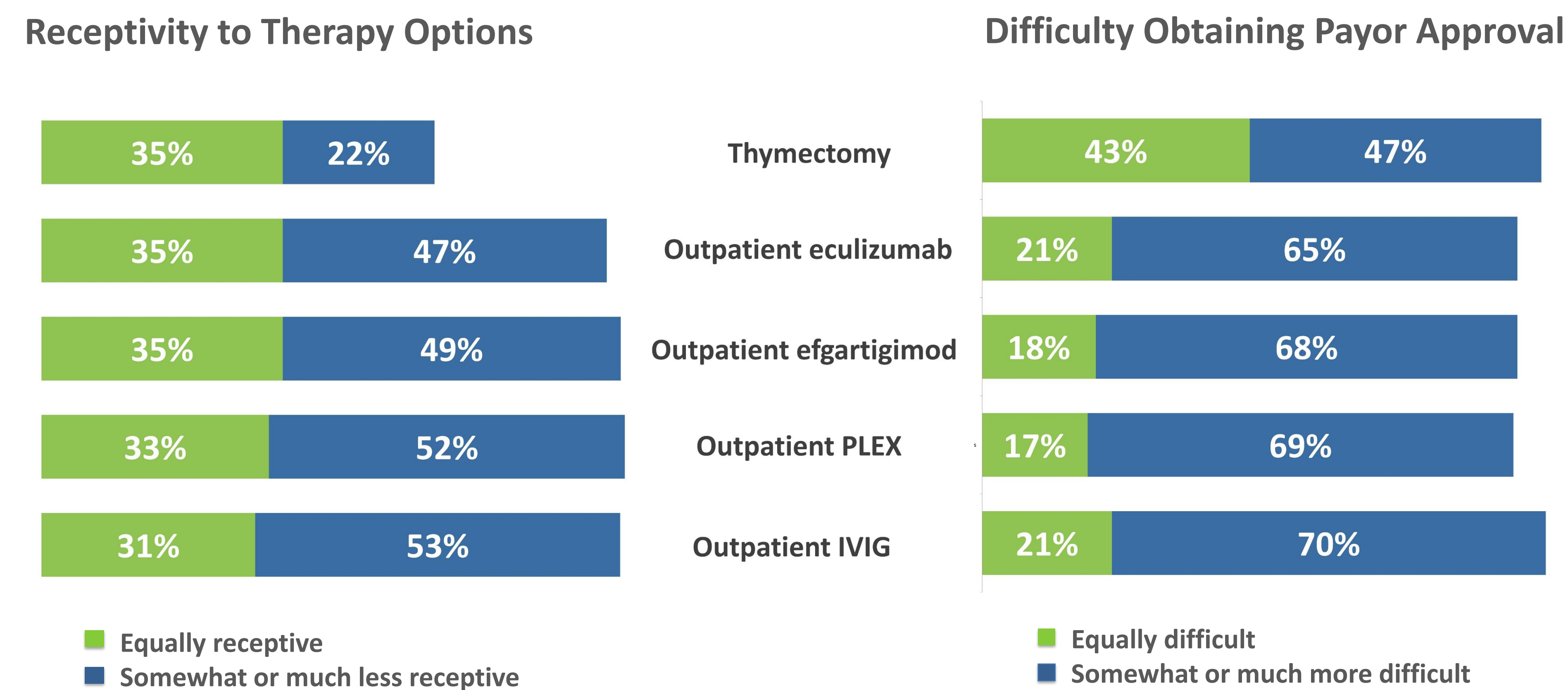
- Cross-sectional study using an online survey was deployed in October 2022
- Survey consisted of 37 items, including an 8-question screener to determine qualification (N=150)
- Respondents had to meet the following criteria:
 - Specialize and be board certified in neurology
 - In practice in the US for ≥2 years since residency
 - Have treated or consulted on ≥5 patients with gMG within last 12 months (at least 1 of whom was considered to be facing SDOH challenges)
- Treatment-related survey items focused on patients' access and receptivity to various therapies for gMG, challenges with treatment continuation, and response to therapies

SUMMARY AND PERSPECTIVE

- Patients with gMG facing SDOH challenges experience health care access inequities when initiating and continuing treatment
- Neurologists reported that patients with gMG and SDOH challenges are more likely to experience difficulties with:
 - Affording therapies (74%) and continuing therapies (66%)
 - Managing travel involved in outpatient infusion therapies (84%)
 - Unplanned hospitalizations due to myasthenia gravis (MG) exacerbation/crisis (59%)
 - Rates in some racial/ethnic groups differ significantly (Figure 3)

RESULTS

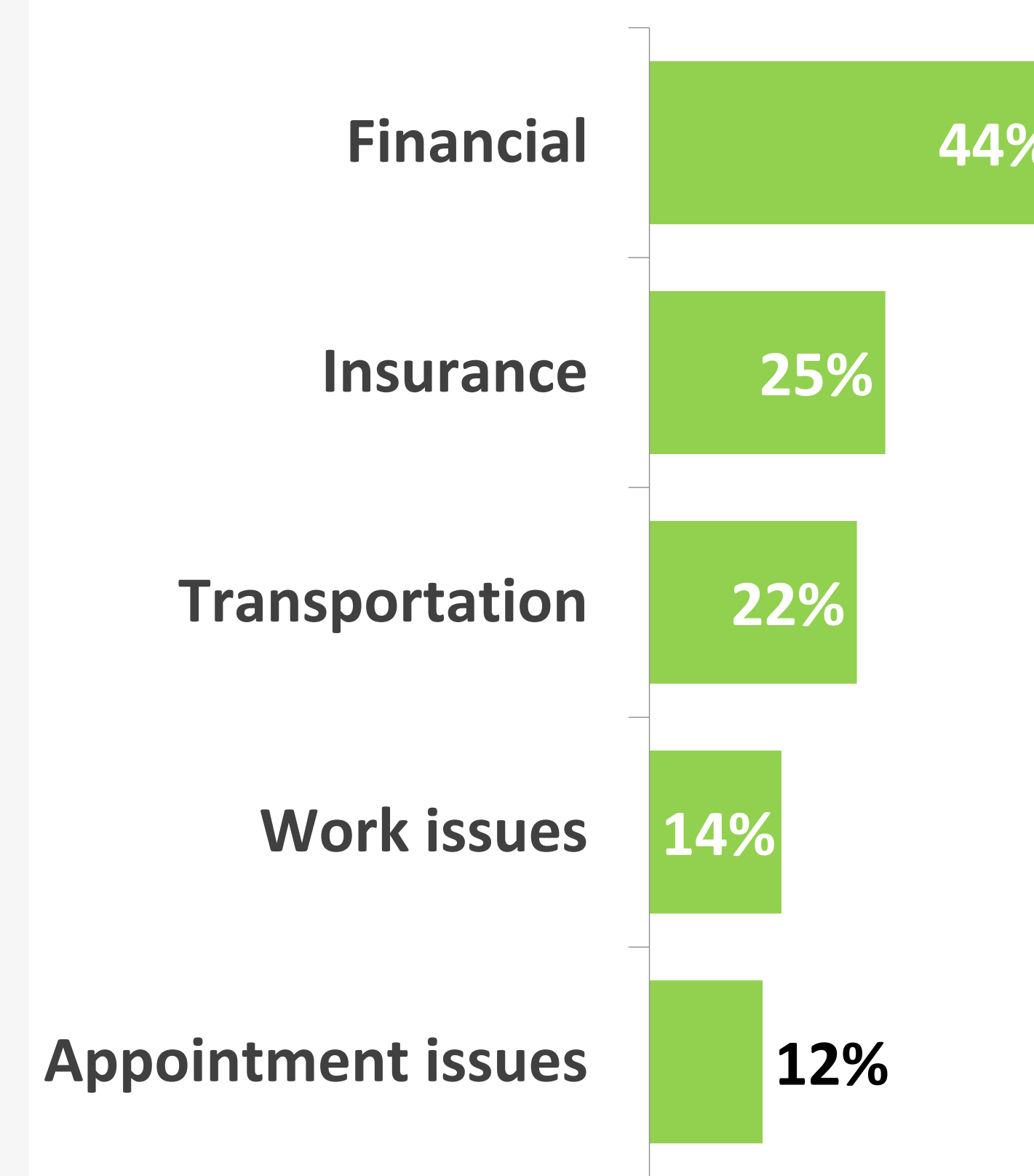
Figure 1. Treatment Initiation Inequities in Patients Facing SDOH Challenges



IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulin G; PLEX, plasma exchange.

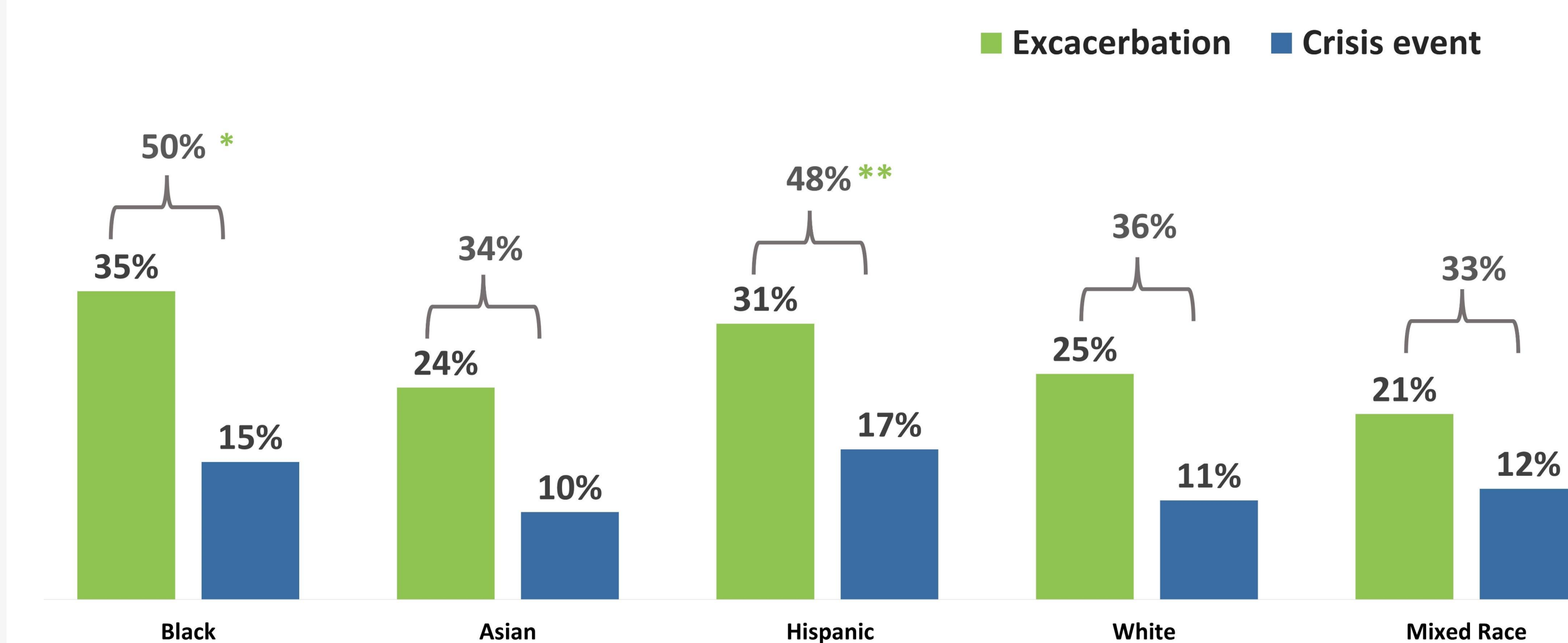
Survey Questions: Therapy Options: When you discuss the following gMG treatment options with patients when appropriate, compared to other patients with gMG, do you find patients with gMG facing inequalities in accessing health care to be more, less, or equally receptive to starting the therapy? **Payor Approval:** Compared to the experiences of your other patients with gMG, how difficult or easy has it been for patients with gMG facing inequalities in accessing health care to receive payor approval to start each of the following therapies for a gMG therapy?

Figure 2: Top 5 Challenges for Patients Facing SDOH Challenges in Continuing Treatment



Survey Question: Please briefly describe why you feel being able to continue treatment is [more difficult] for patients facing inequalities in accessing health care than for other patients with gMG.

Figure 3. Percentage of Patients Experiencing Unplanned Hospitalization, by Race and Ethnicity



*Black patients with gMG were noted by respondents as significantly more likely to experience unplanned hospitalization (50%) compared with patients who are White (36%), Asian (34%), or Mixed Race (33%; $P < .05$).

**Hispanic patients with gMG were noted by respondents as significantly more likely to experience unplanned hospitalization (48%) compared with patients who are Asian (34%) or Mixed Race (33%; $P < .05$).

Survey Question: Below are the number of patients with gMG per category that you indicated you manage or treat in a year. For each category, please indicate the number of those patients who have had an unplanned hospitalization within the past 12 months due to exacerbation or crisis events (if "None," please simply enter "0"). [Percentages derived from counts.]

Respondent Suggestions to Mitigate Treatment-Related Inequities

- Assist with drug costs
- Facilitate transportation
- Recognize patients' work-related barriers to optimum care
- Provide in-home infusion therapies
- Increase patient/provider awareness, education, and patient advocacy on gMG diagnosis and treatment