



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

Immigrant integration and criminalization

**A FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING IMMIGRATION
POLICY AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES' EXCLUSION FROM
THE SAFETY NET**

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A faint, large-scale image of the Statue of Liberty serves as a background for the slide. The statue is shown from the waist up, holding a tablet in its left arm and a torch in its right. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Immigrant policies reinforce structural racism

- ▶ Admissions and enforcement policies have long been used as *intentional* mechanisms of racialized exclusion (Gee and Ford 2012; Young and Wallace 2019)
 - ▶ The Chinese Exclusion Acts of the late 19th century (Ngai 2004)
 - ▶ The creation in 1924 of the Border Patrol (Ngai 2004)
 - ▶ The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (Hernandez 2009)
- ▶ Health care, social welfare, labor, and policing policy also function to reinforce racialized exclusion.



In contexts of racialized
exclusion....

Immigrant
families avoid
or disenroll
from public
benefits



Immigrant families avoid or disenroll from public benefits

- ▶ Welfare reform triggered huge drops in enrollment by eligible immigrants (Van Hooke, 2003).
- ▶ Immigration enforcement also reduces immigrants' access to essential health care, public benefits, and political participation (Toomey et al, 2014; Alsan & Yang, 2019; Vargas et al 2015; Auedo-Dorantes and Lopez 2017).
- ▶ Fear that changes to the public charge rule could impact families' ability to secure legal permanent status is also linked to immigrant families unenrolling from benefits (Capps et al., 2020; Barofsky et al 2020).

Children of
immigrants
are at risk of
poor
cognitive and
behavioral
health
outcomes

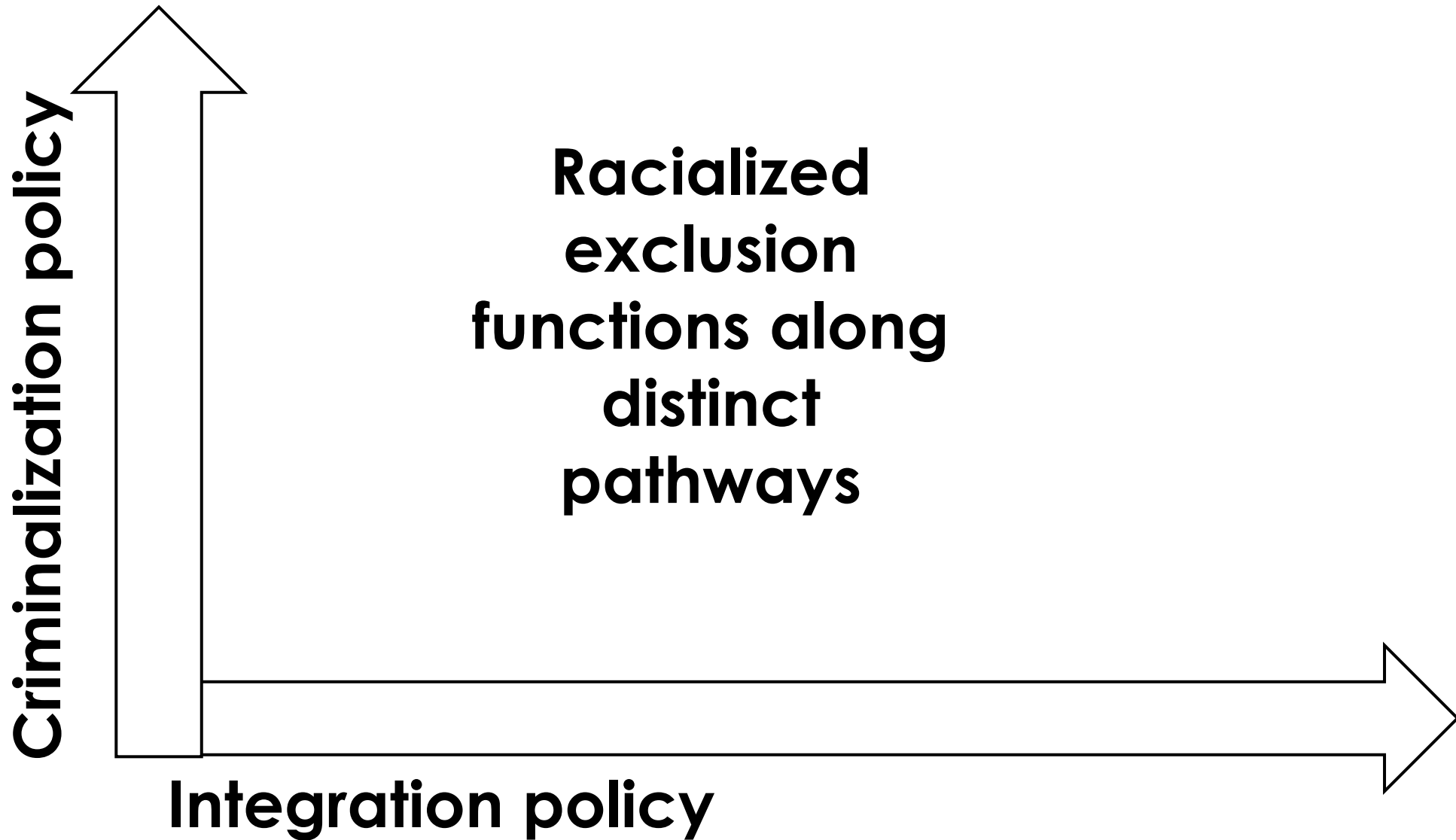


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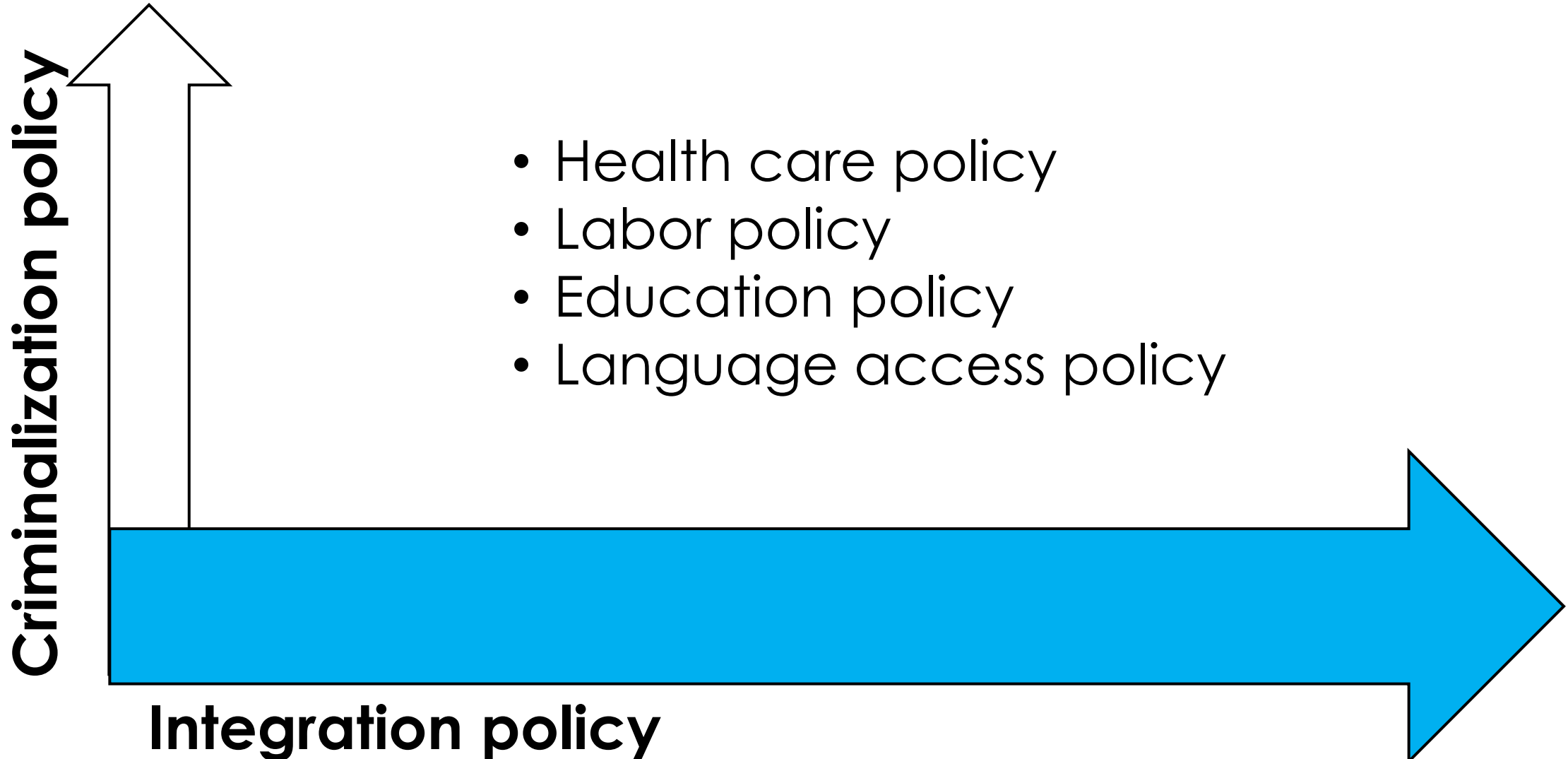
- ▶ The toxic stress associated with undocumented status is linked with children of undocumented parents having higher risks of developmental delays. (Ortega, 2009; Yoshikawa, 2011).
- ▶ Fear of immigration enforcement and family separation is associated with high levels of emotional distress for both Hispanic noncitizens and citizens (Barbeck & Xu, 2010; Dreby, 2012; Quiroga, 2014).
- ▶ Immigration enforcement, like workplace raids, is linked with increases in depression and PTSD symptoms among children (Chaudry, 2010; Juby, 2011; Shonkoff, 2019).



Racialized exclusion is the
result of processes of
integration and criminalization



Integration policies determine immigrants' rights, protections, and eligibility for public benefits



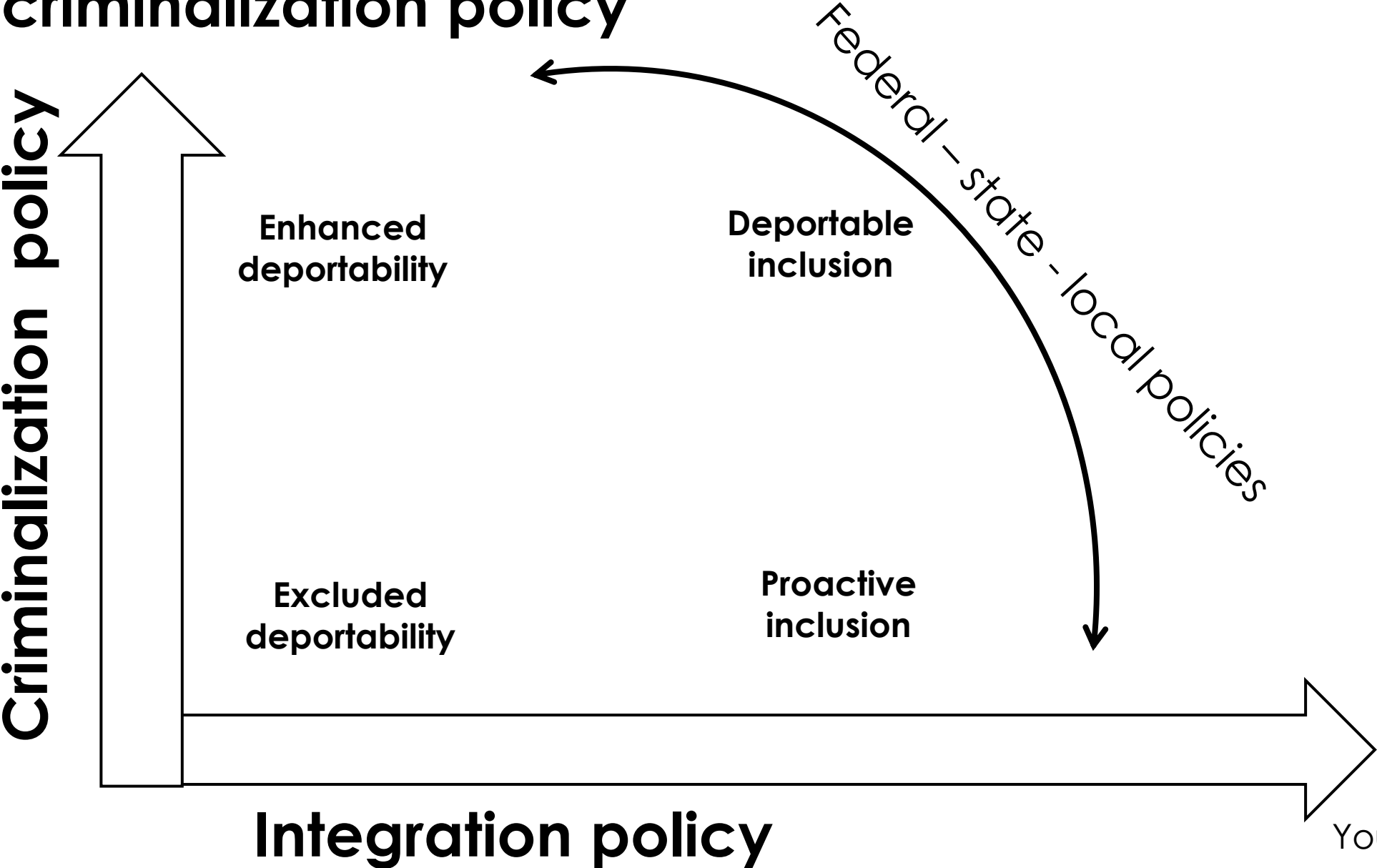
Criminalization policies expand surveillance, policing, and deportation of noncitizens


Criminalization policy

- Police/sheriff collaboration with federal enforcement
- E-Verify work authorization
- Legal status checks by law enforcement
- IDs & driver's licenses
- Sentencing laws

Integration policy

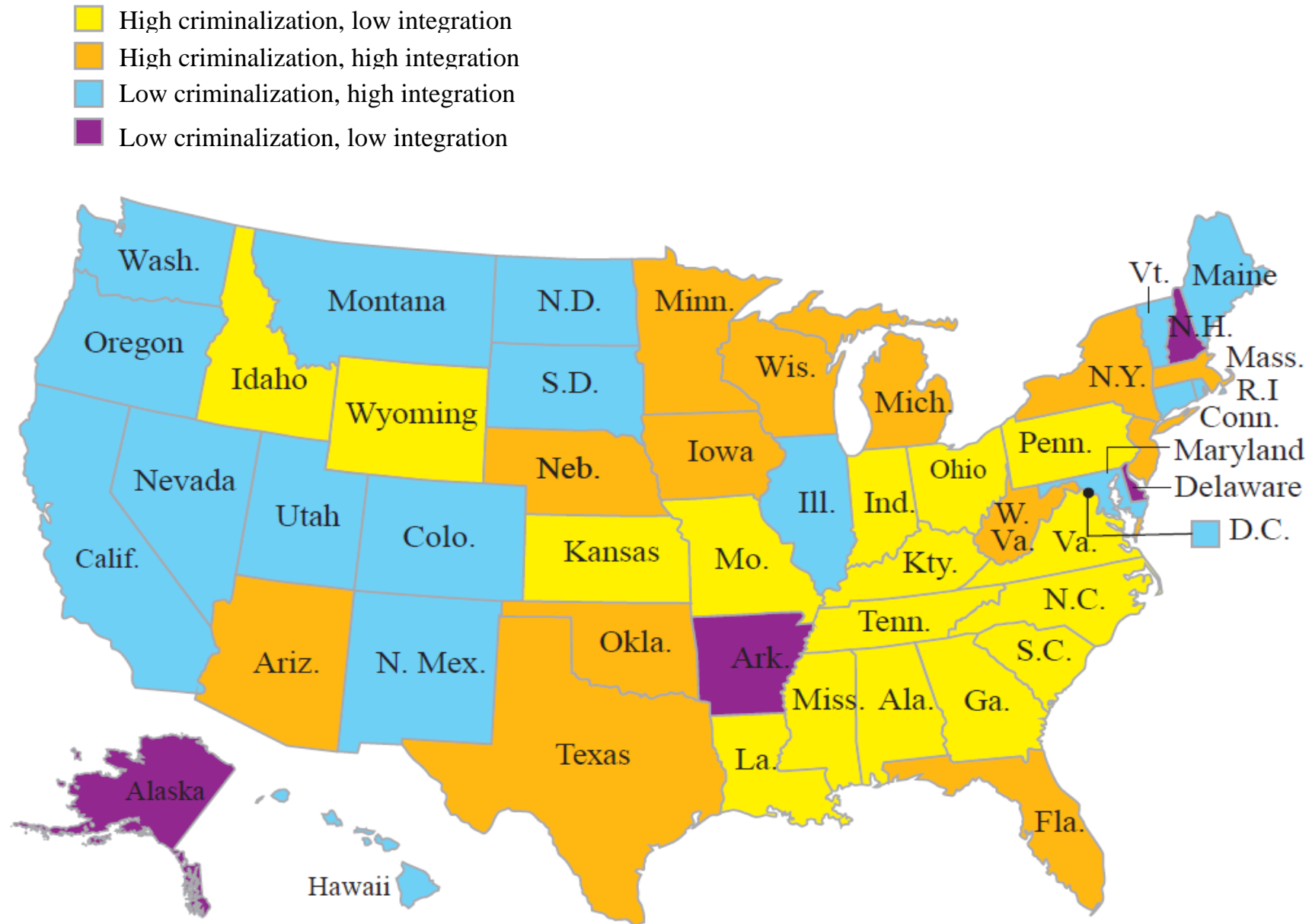
Figure 1. Framework of immigrant integration & criminalization policy



A photograph of police officers in tactical gear, including vests with "POLICE" written on them, surrounding a person who is lying on the ground. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly on a street. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. A solid green vertical bar is located in the top right corner.

Immigrant families live in
contexts of simultaneous
integration and criminalization

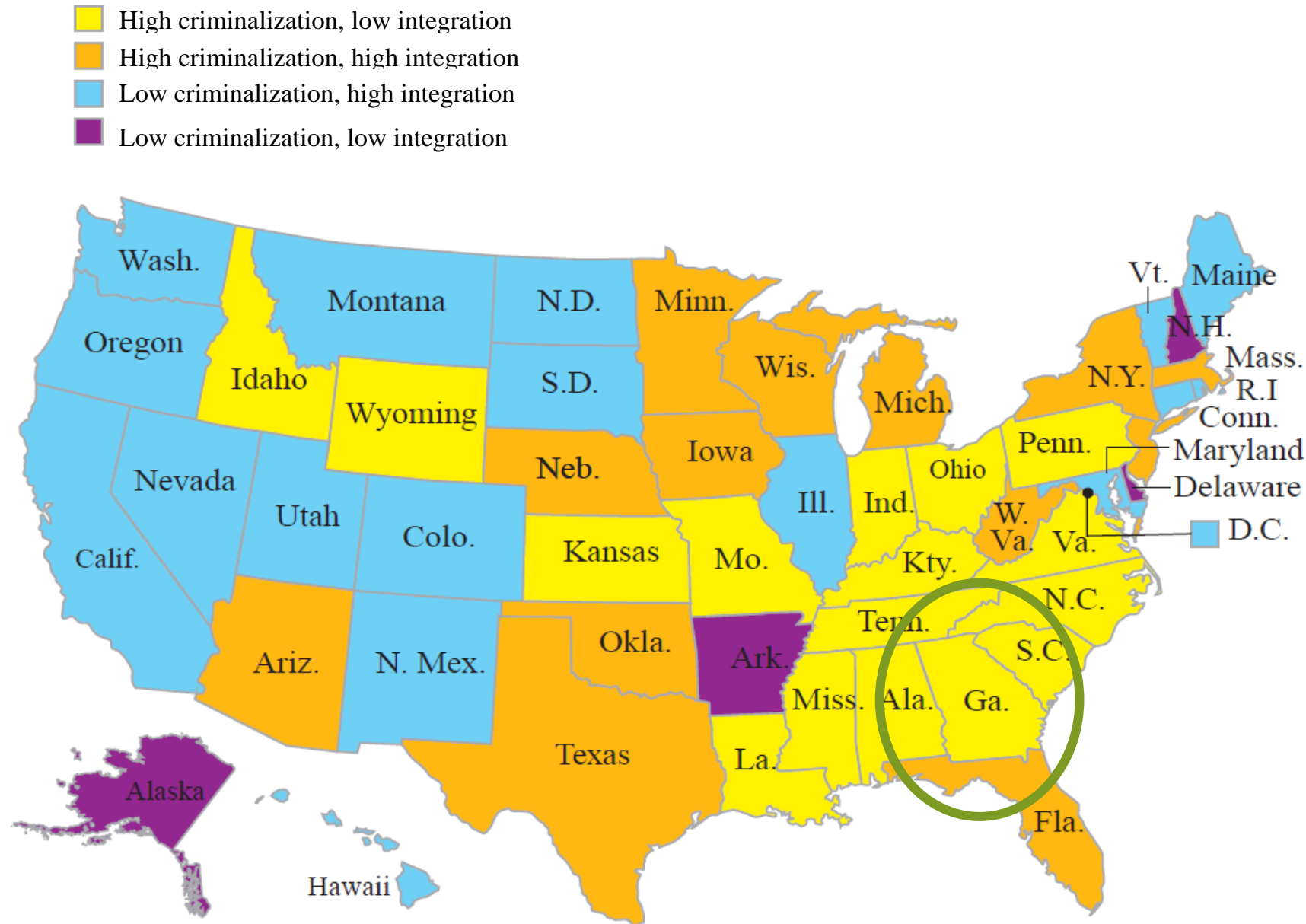
Figure 2. Immigrant policy contexts across US States



Young and Wallace, 2019

Note: Policies enacted in US states by December 31, 2016

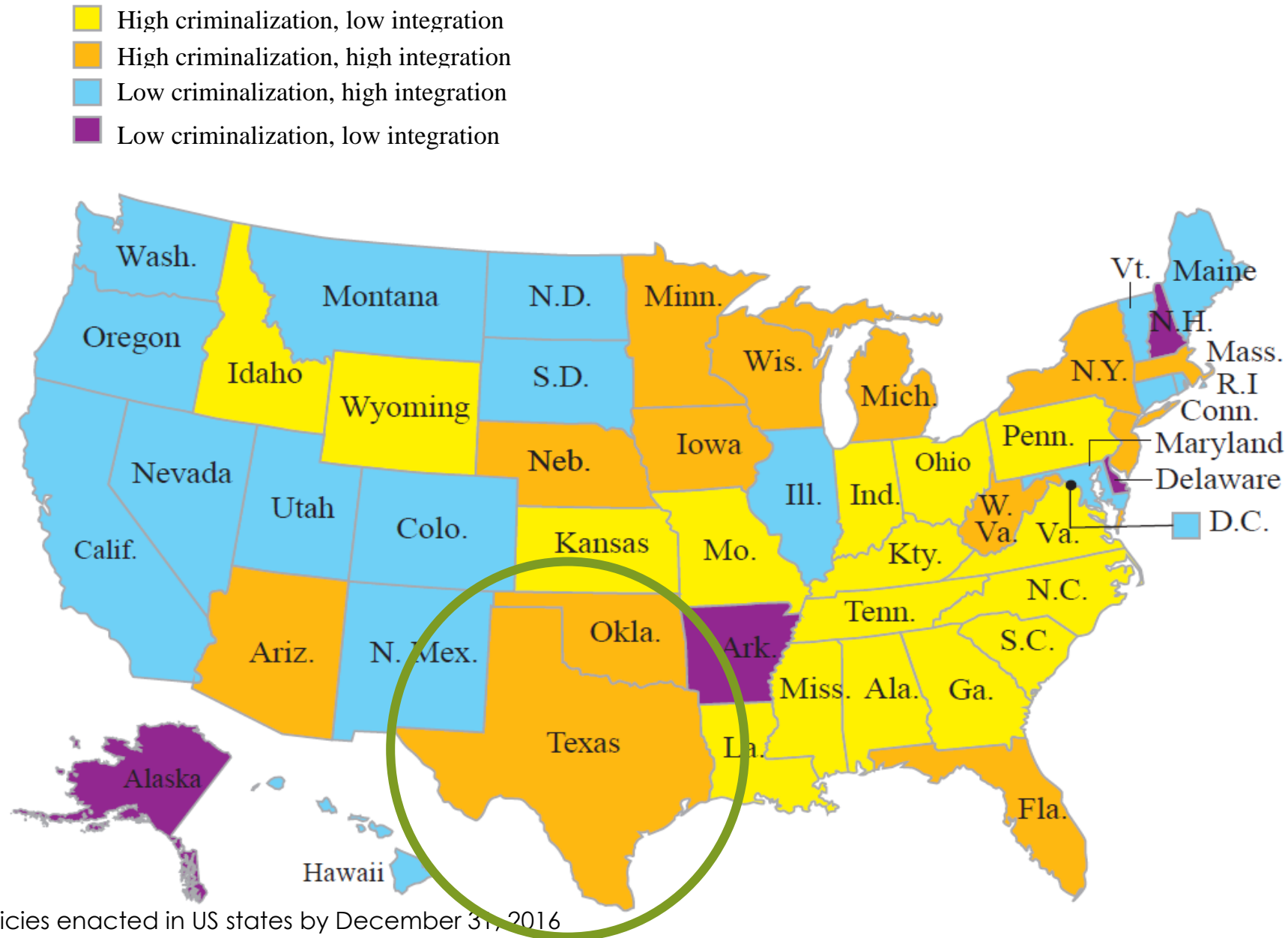
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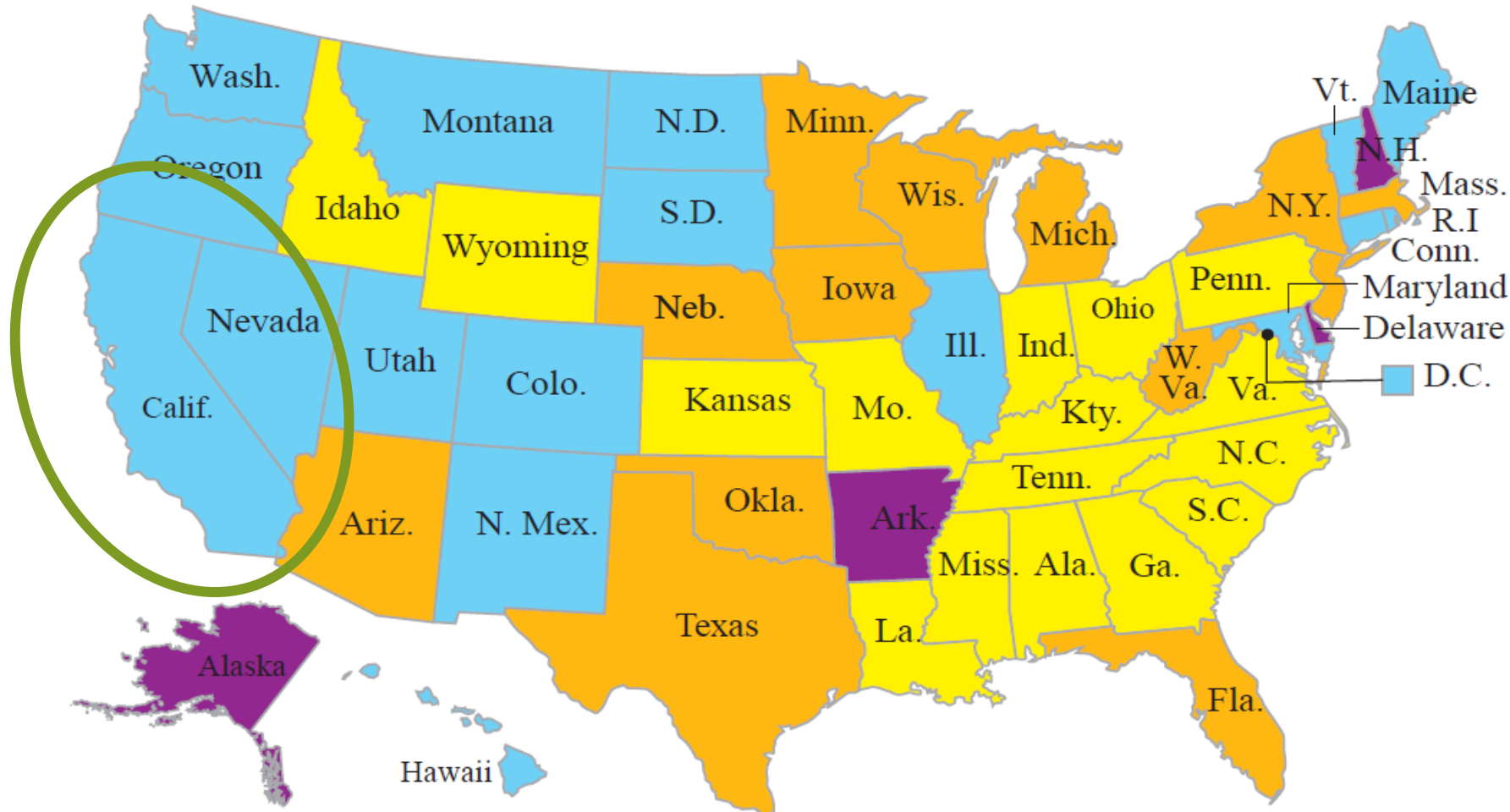


Young and Wallace, 2019

Note: Policies enacted in US states by December 31, 2016

Figure 2. Immigrant policy contexts across US States

- High criminalization, low integration
- High criminalization, high integration
- Low criminalization, high integration
- Low criminalization, low integration



Young and Wallace, 2019

Note: Policies enacted in US states by December 31, 2016

States that have
numerous
**criminalization
policies** have
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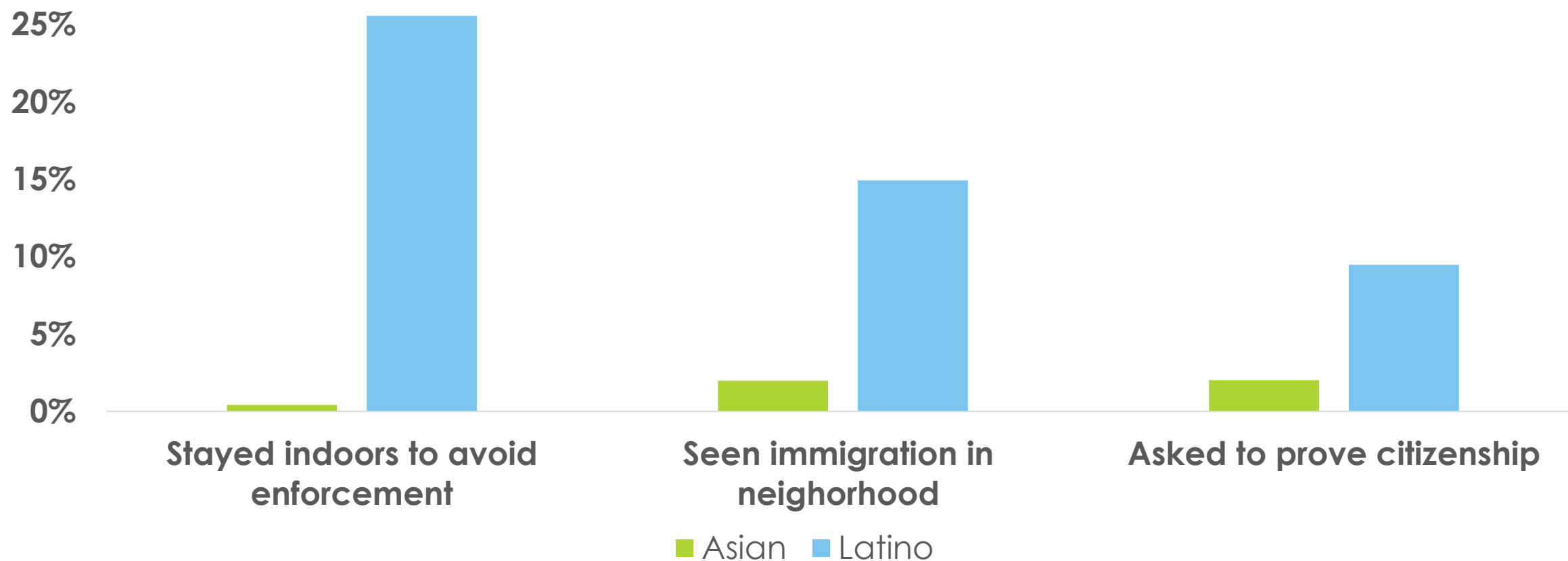
States that have numerous **criminalization policies** have **greater health inequities**, even if they have numerous **integration policies**

- ▶ **In states with more integration policies:**
 - ▶ Latino noncitizens are more likely to have health insurance (Young et al 2017)
 - ▶ Latino noncitizens have better mental health outcomes (Hatzenbuehler et al 2017)
 - ▶ Asian noncitizens are less likely to live in poverty (Young et al 2018)
- ▶ **Despite having some integration policies, in states with more criminalization policies:**
 - ▶ All noncitizens are less likely to have a usual source of care (Young et al 2019)
 - ▶ Children of noncitizen Latina mothers are less likely to have health insurance (Alberto et al 2020)
 - ▶ Black noncitizens are more likely to have poor birth outcomes (Sudhinaraset et al 2021)

A photograph of police officers and a detainee, overlaid with a blue tint. Three officers in tactical vests with "POLICE" on the back are in the foreground, facing away from the camera. They are looking at a man in a dark shirt who is being restrained. In the background, another officer is visible near a car. A solid green vertical bar is located in the top right corner of the image.

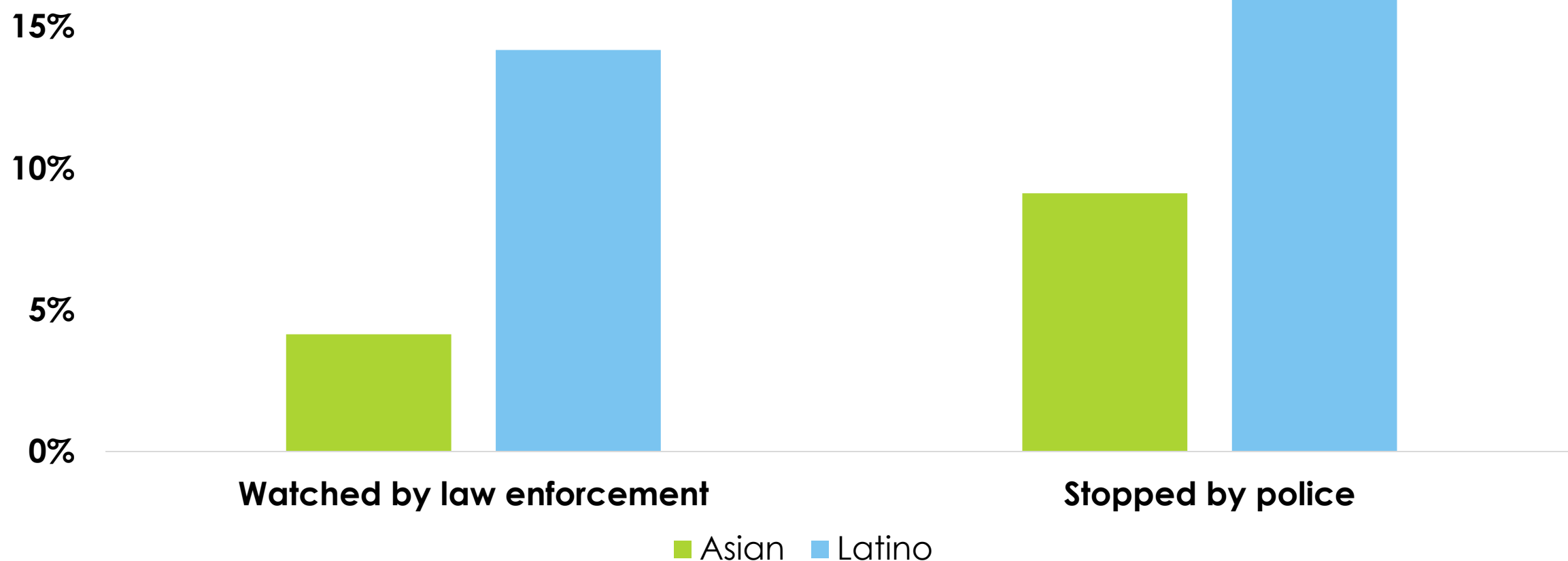
Experiences of criminalization and integration in California

Experiences of surveillance by immigration or law enforcement officials



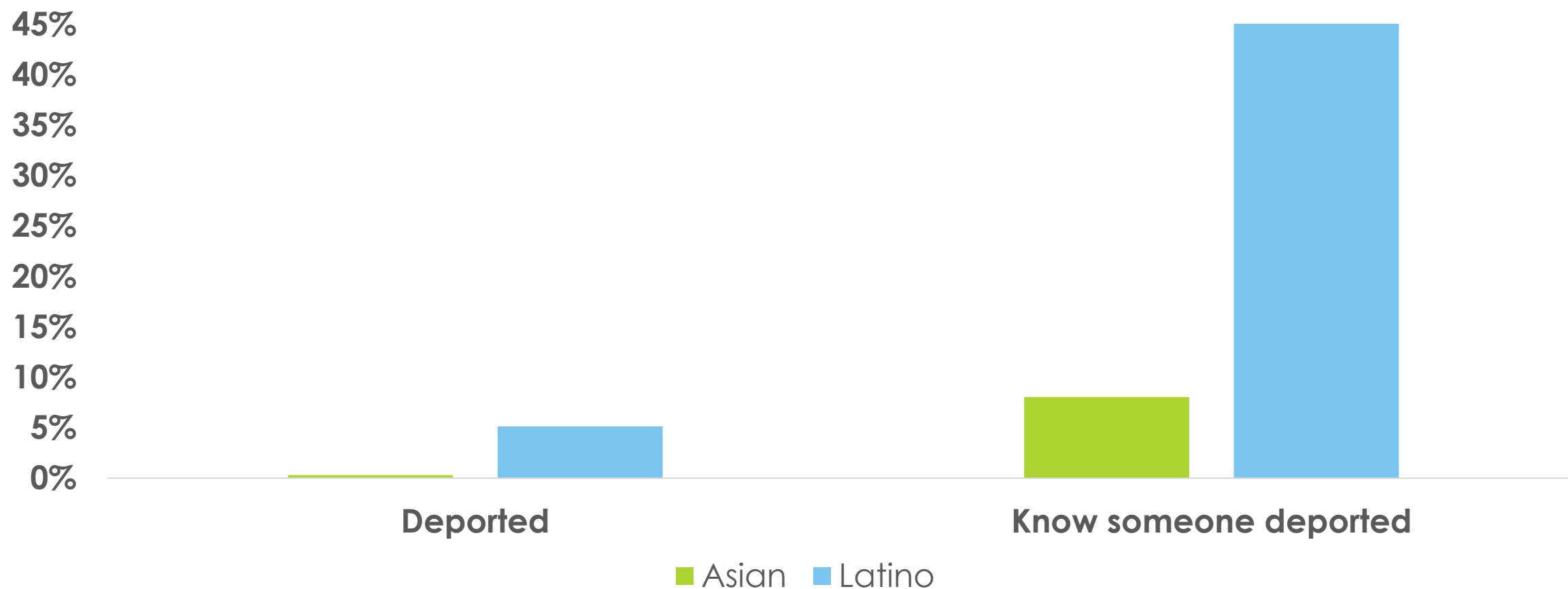
Source: Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy Survey, 2018

Experiences of profiling by immigration or law enforcement officials



Source: Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy Survey, 2018

Experiences with deportation



Source: Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy Survey, 2018

Experiences with exclusion from COVID-19 relief and exclusion due to public charge

There was some help, some food stamps which came out to \$360 for each kid. But because we don't qualify for the other help of \$1200 not even the kids got the \$500.

– Daniel, Tulare County, CA

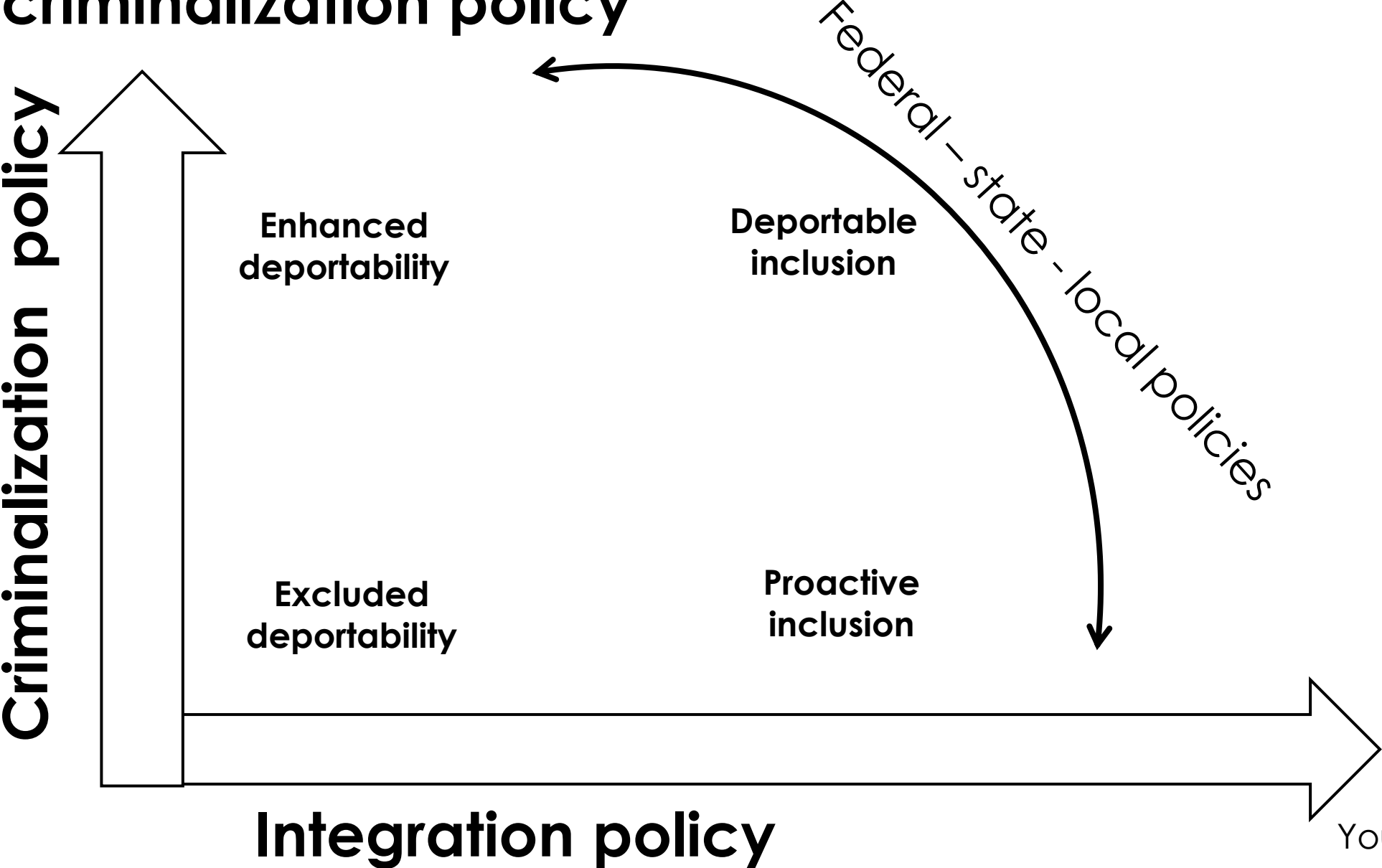
As immigrants, we can't receive help. [The COVID-19 pandemic] didn't have such a huge impact because we've always had to keep working and not been waiting for someone to help out...They've never provided us anything, because we are immigrants.

– Lily, Fresno County, CA

Public charge corroborated what everybody in the immigrant community was already thinking and saying. It was it was no surprise because everything is building up when you're in that community. It's just layers upon layers of information and acts and examples [of exclusion]. It's very clear.

- Immigrant service provider, Merced County, CA

Figure 1. Framework of immigrant integration & criminalization policy



Policy principles and recommendations

Decriminalize

Decriminalize immigrants and people of color

- End local police and ICE collaboration and mandatory detention

Dismantle

Dismantle categories of “deservingness”

- Extend public benefit eligibility to noncitizens currently excluded

Stand behind

Stand behind the power of immigrant communities

- Invest in immigrant-led health efforts



Remembering
**Dr. Steven Paul
Wallace, PhD**
1957-2021

*A tireless champion for immigrant health equity,
world-renowned researcher,
and extraordinary mentor*



Thank you!

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Appendices



RIGHTS Survey

- ▶ 75 questions about experiences of exclusion
- ▶ Latino and Asian immigrant respondents to the California Health Interview Survey
- ▶ 15-minute phone survey in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, & Vietnamese
- ▶ Over two years: 1,000 Asian and 1,000 Latino immigrants
- ▶ Year One: 1,060 Asian and Latino immigrants

More experiences of enforcement associated with an increase in distress

OLS Model of Distress (K6)		β	P-value
Experiences of enforcement		0.5	0.01
Ethnicity			
	Latino	-0.1	0.86
	Asian	(ref)	
Citizenship			
	Noncitizen, non-green-card holder	0.6	0.1
	Noncitizen, green-card holder	0.8	0.4
	Naturalized citizen	(ref)	
Age		0.0	0.08
Sex			
	Female	1.2	0.02
	Male	(ref)	
Education Level			
	High school graduation or higher	-0.7	0.24
	No high school graduation	(ref)	
Employment status			
	Unemployed	-2.2	0.01
	Out of labor force	0.6	0.37
	Employed	(ref)	
Poverty level			
	Below 200% Federal Poverty Level	0.0	0.83
	At or above 200% Federal Poverty Level	(ref)	
Interview language			
	English	1.0	0.12
	Non-English	(ref)	