

Experiencing Discrimination and Linguicism in Québec and Canada

Richard Y. Bourhis

*Professeur, Département de psychologie
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada*

bourhis.richard@uqam.ca

www.psychu.uqam.ca/NUN/d_pages_profs/d_Bourhis/accueil.htm

Language Matters: Policy-Research Seminar on Language
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Prejudice and Discrimination

- **PREJUDICE** is a **negative attitude** towards outgroup members which occurs despite the reality of individual differences within and across groups
- **DISCRIMINATION** is an unjustified negative **behaviour** towards members of a **devalued** outgroup
- In Canada as elsewhere in the world, **discrimination** remains a pervasive phenomenon that is *corrosive* for its **victims** and ultimately *dehumanising* for its **perpetrators**
- **Immigrants** who are **victim of discrimination** feel rejected by members of the host majority, an experience which undermines their cultural and linguistic **integration** within the receiving society

Discrimination

Discriminatory behavior can range in **severity** :
silent avoidance, depreciating humour, hate stares, hate speech, mental & physical harassment, differential allocation of valued resources (jobs, housing), attacks on property and persons (hate crimes), deportation and genocide.

Discrimination can occur in **public settings** such as: the work world, in school & university, on the street, in hospitals, banks, commerce, restaurants, rental housing. It also occurs in contact with the police and judiciary, government services, health & community services, leisure, sport and religious activities

Discrimination can occur in **private settings** such as interpersonal relations with acquaintances, friends, colleagues and in dating

From Racism to Linguicism

- When discrimination is targeted against ethnic outgroups, we talk about **racism**
- When discrimination is targeted against men or women we talk about **sexism**
- When discrimination is targeted at young or old people we talk about **agism**
- When discrimination is targeted against speakers of a language or accent outgroup we talk about **linguicism**

Institutional Linguicism

- **Institutional linguicism** occurs when a linguistic majority adopts language rules or laws which impose restrictive and unequal treatments on targeted language minorities
- **Institutional linguicism in education**: the teaching of a minority language is banned from the school system because it is considered inferior, anachronistic or threatening by members of the dominant language majority
- **Residential schools** which forced Amerindian pupils to learn French in Quebec and English in Canada while banning First Nation languages and cultures: resulting in **assimilation** and **deculturation**
- The Ontario government adopts **Article 17** in 1927, banning the teaching of French in public schools thus fostering the **linguistic assimilation** of **Franco-Ontarians** in the Province

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS, 2002) was designed by Statistics Canada & Canadian Heritage

- The EDS focussed on how ethnic and linguistic communities perceive their circumstances in Canada
- Goals of the EDS survey:
 - To provide information on ethnic diversity in Canada: **French** and **English** Canadians, **Immigrants 1st, 2nd, 3rd generation**
 - To obtain a better understanding of how Canadians of different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds interpret and report their category belonging including their experience of **discrimination**

Representative Sampling of the Ethnic Diversity Survey: 2002)

- **Computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI): 35 min.**
 - in English, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Punjabi, etc.
- **Respondents: 15 years or older**
 - living in private dwellings in provinces and territories of Canada
- **Respondents were selected from 2001 Census, interviewed in 2002, post 9/11**
- **Stratified on ethnic origin, place of birth, place of birth of parents**
 - post-stratification: sexe, age, generation, language, region,
 - Over-representation of 2nd generation immigrants (37% of sample)
- **Achieved sample size: N= 42,476/57,200**
76% response rate, Cost: \$7 million

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS, 2002) Statistics Canada and Canadian Heritage

- Many themes covered in the EDS telephone interviews.
- Focus today is on **being personally victim of discrimination**
- EDS Modules:
 - Self-definition, respondent background, language competence and language use in family, parents' background, spouse and child
 - **Family interaction**
 - **Social networks**
 - **Civic participation**
 - **Interaction with society and discrimination**
 - **Attitudes and sense of belonging**
 - **Trust and satisfaction**
 - **Socio-economic activities**
 - **Who completed the census questionnaire**

EDS Discrimination question No. 100

Discrimination may happen when people are treated unfairly because they are seen as being different from others.

In the past 5 years or since arriving in Canada, do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada because of your ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion?

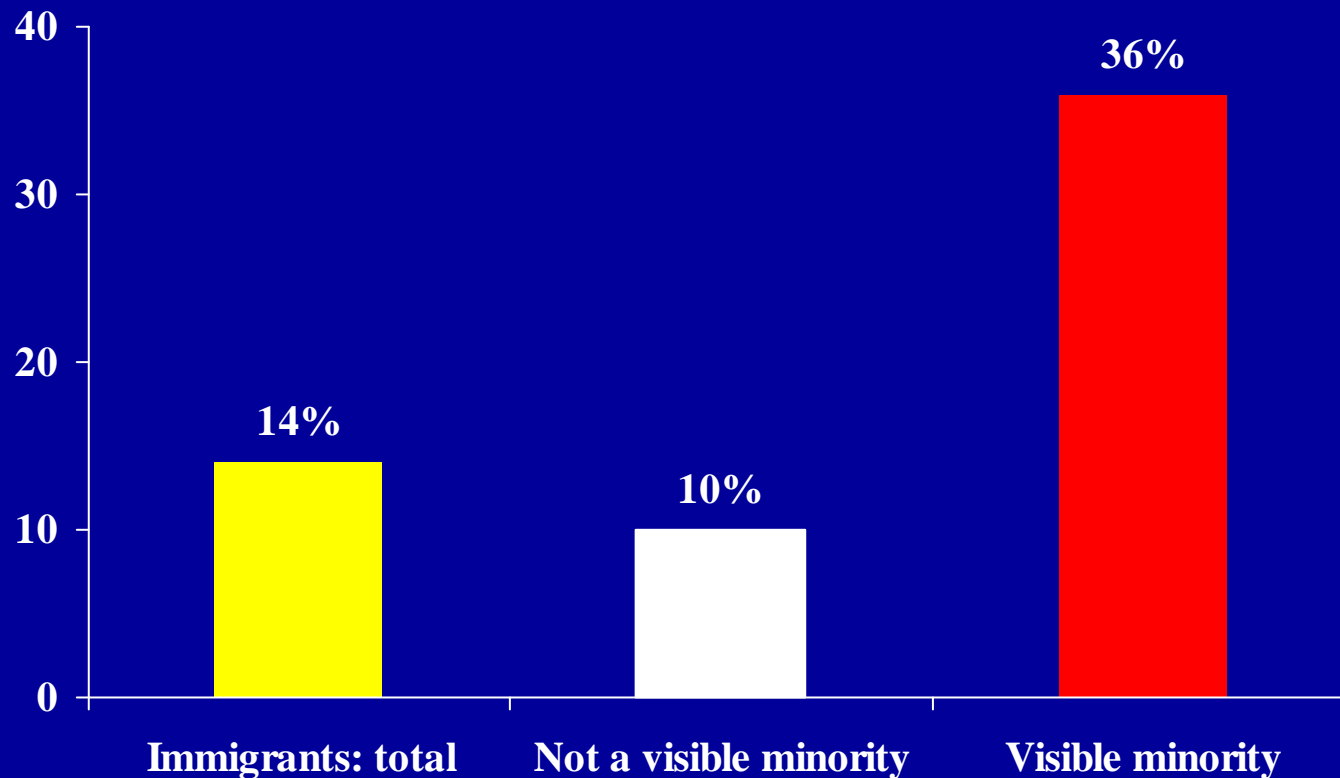
Yes _____ ; No _____

Perceptions of having been victim of discrimination: General results from EDS (2002)

- Across Canada, **men** (8%) as much as **women** (7%) declared having been victim of discrimination in the last five years
- **First generation** immigrants were more likely to having been victim of discrimination (13%) than **second** (6%) and **third** generation immigrants (5%)
- The percentage of respondents declaring having been victim of discrimination was similar in **Toronto** (11%), **Vancouver** (11%), and **Montreal** (9%)
- **Visible minority** immigrants experienced more discrimination than immigrants who were not visible minorities

Experience of having been victim of discrimination in the last 5 years (EDS, 2002)

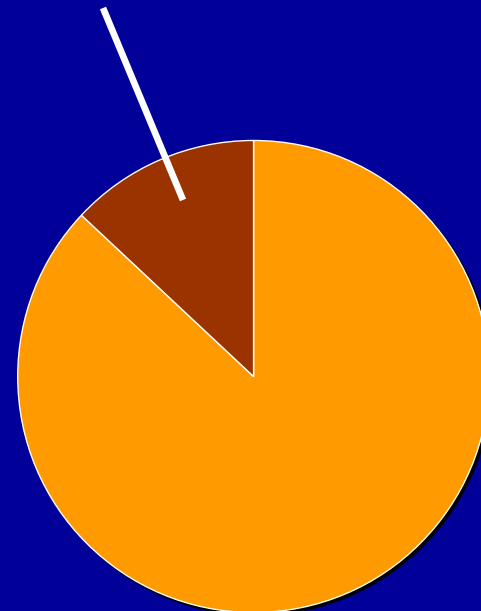
Immigrants (1st& 2nd generation) who experienced discrimination and unfair treatment (%)



Visible Minorities in Canada: Canadian Census (2001) and EDS (2002)

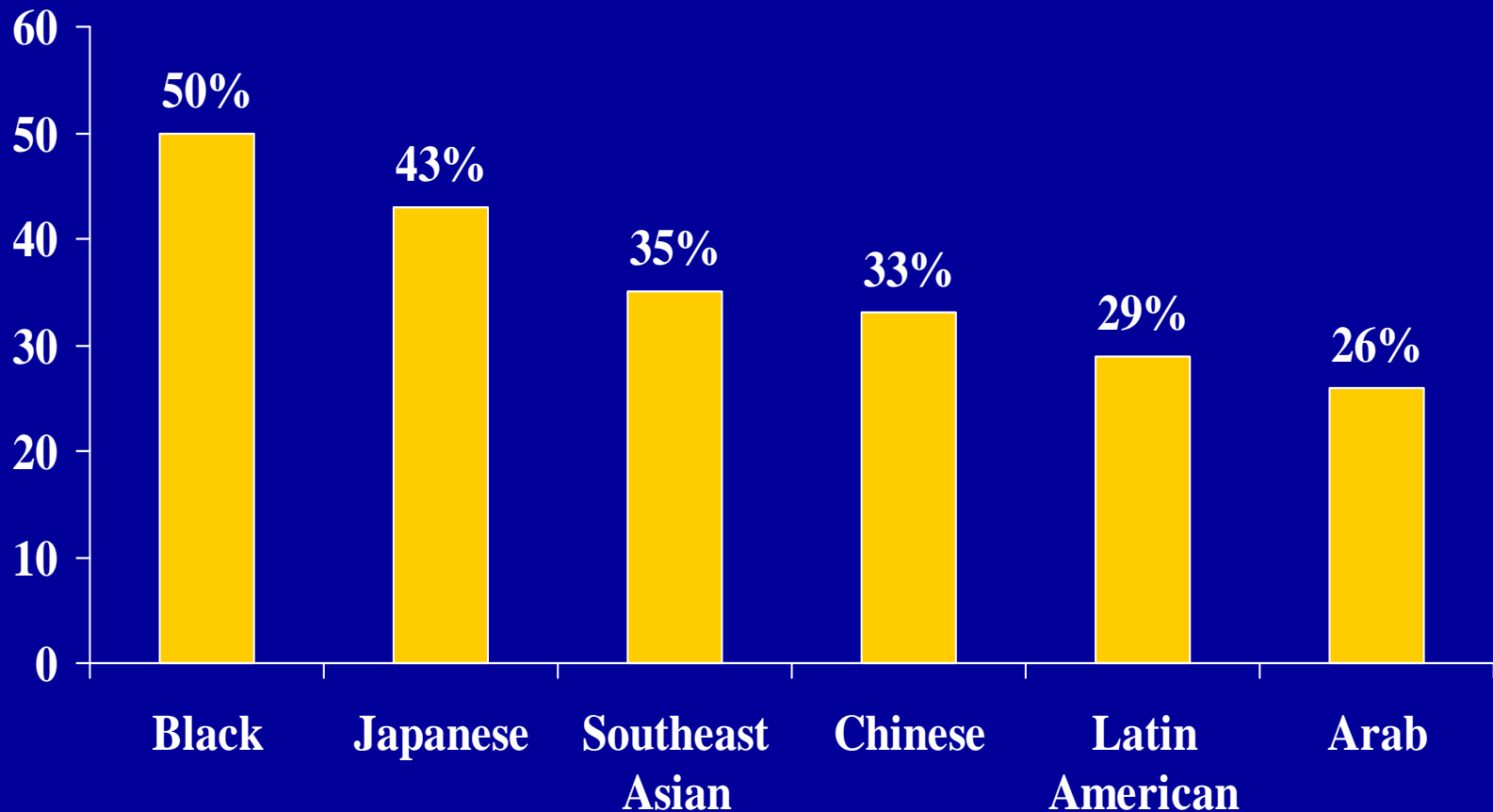
- East Indian,
- Pakistani
- Black
- Latin American
- Southeast Asian
- Arab
- Afghan
- Iranian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Chinese

13% (3 millions) de la
population canadienne
totale (32 millions)



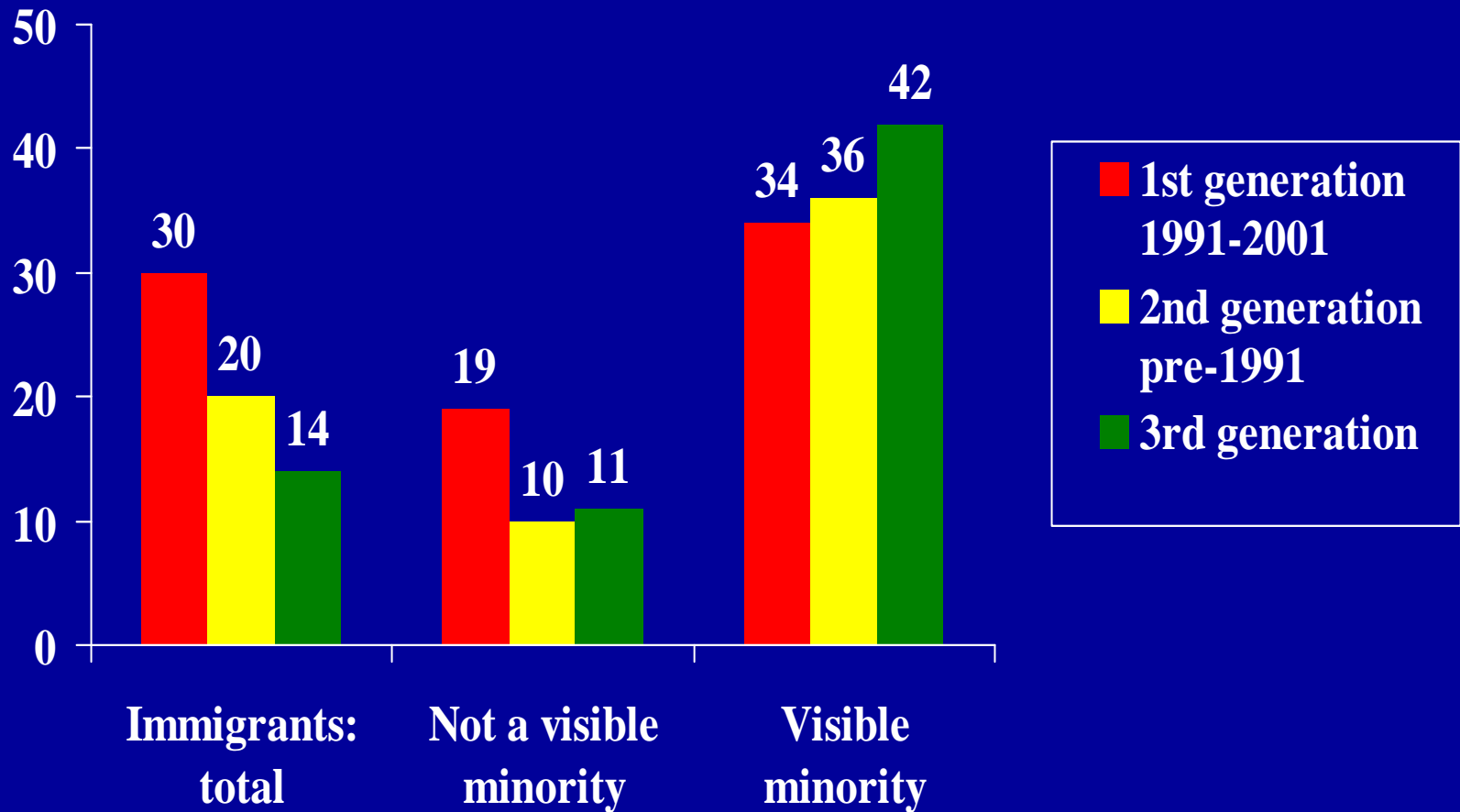
Experience of discrimination by various visible minority immigrants in the last 5 years (EDS, 2002)

Visible minority immigrants who experienced discrimination/unfair treatment (%)



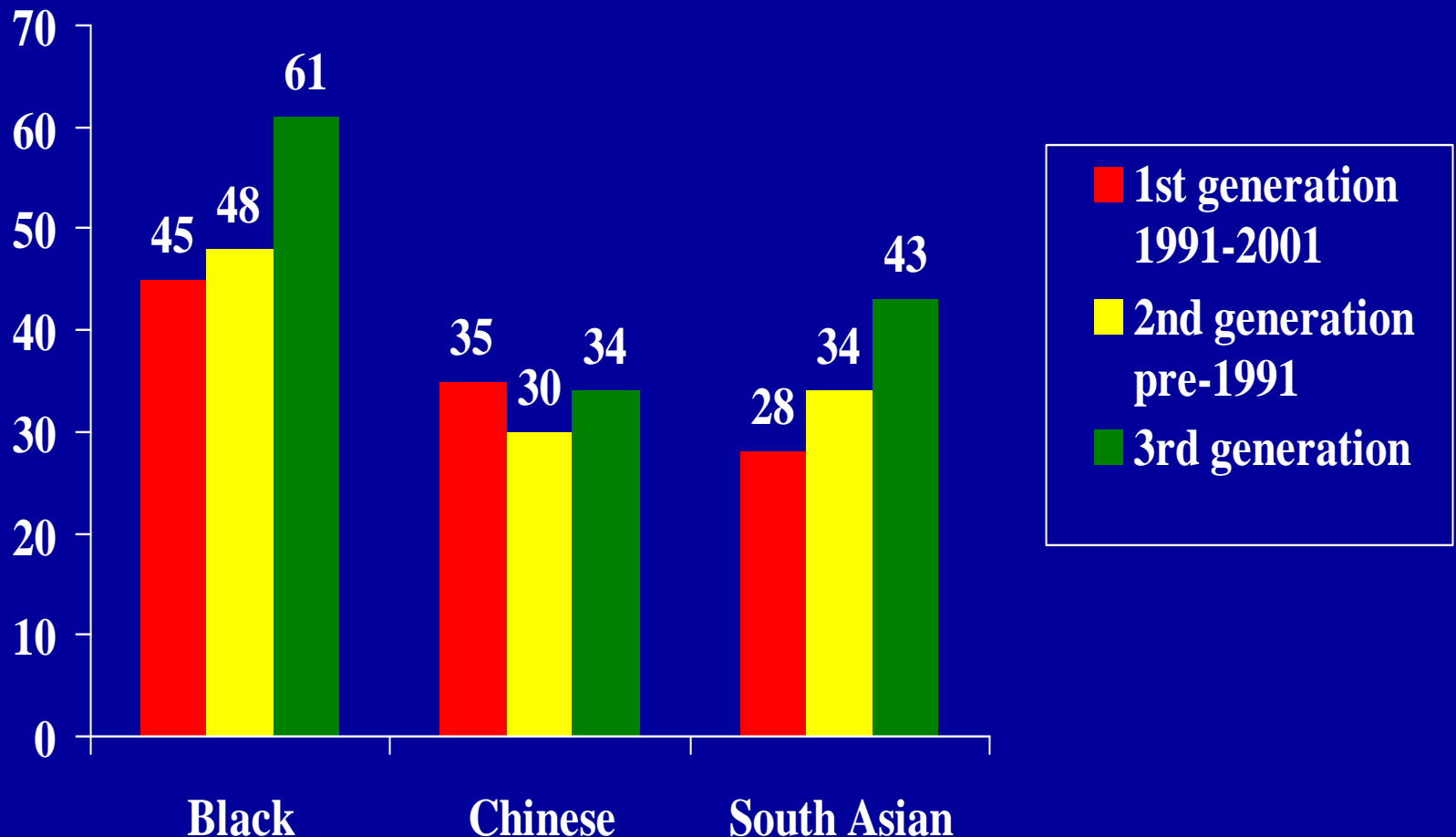
Experience of discrimination by first and second generation immigrants (EDS, 2002)

Immigrants who experienced discrimination/ unfair treatment (%)



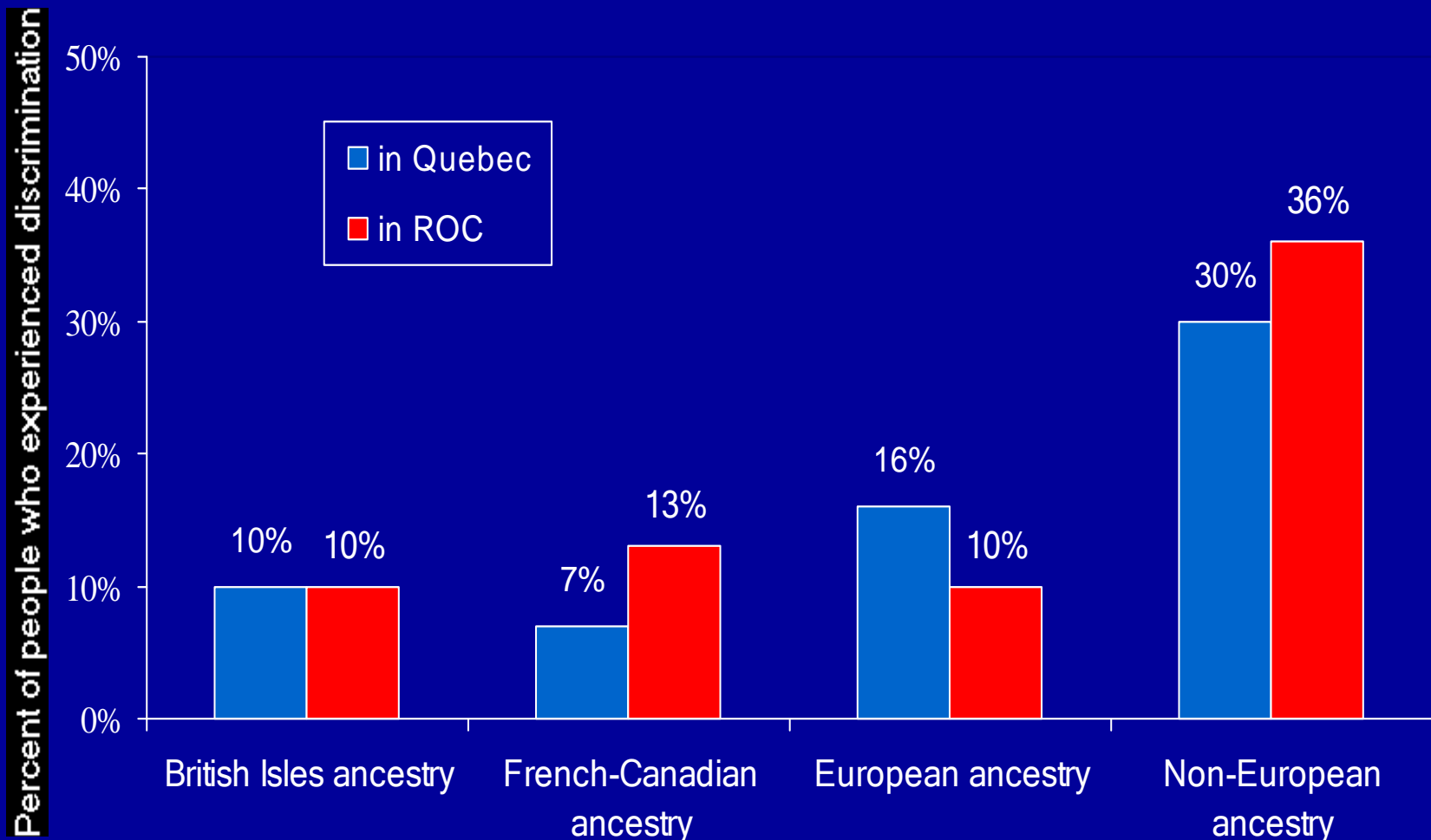
Experience of discrimination by 1st & 2nd generation visible minority immigrants (EDS, 2002)

Immigrants who experienced discrimination/unfair treatment (%)



Discrimination (%) experienced because of ethnic characteristics by Ethnic ancestry (single only) for **Quebec** and the **Rest of Canada (ROC)** based on item 100 of the EDS survey (2002).

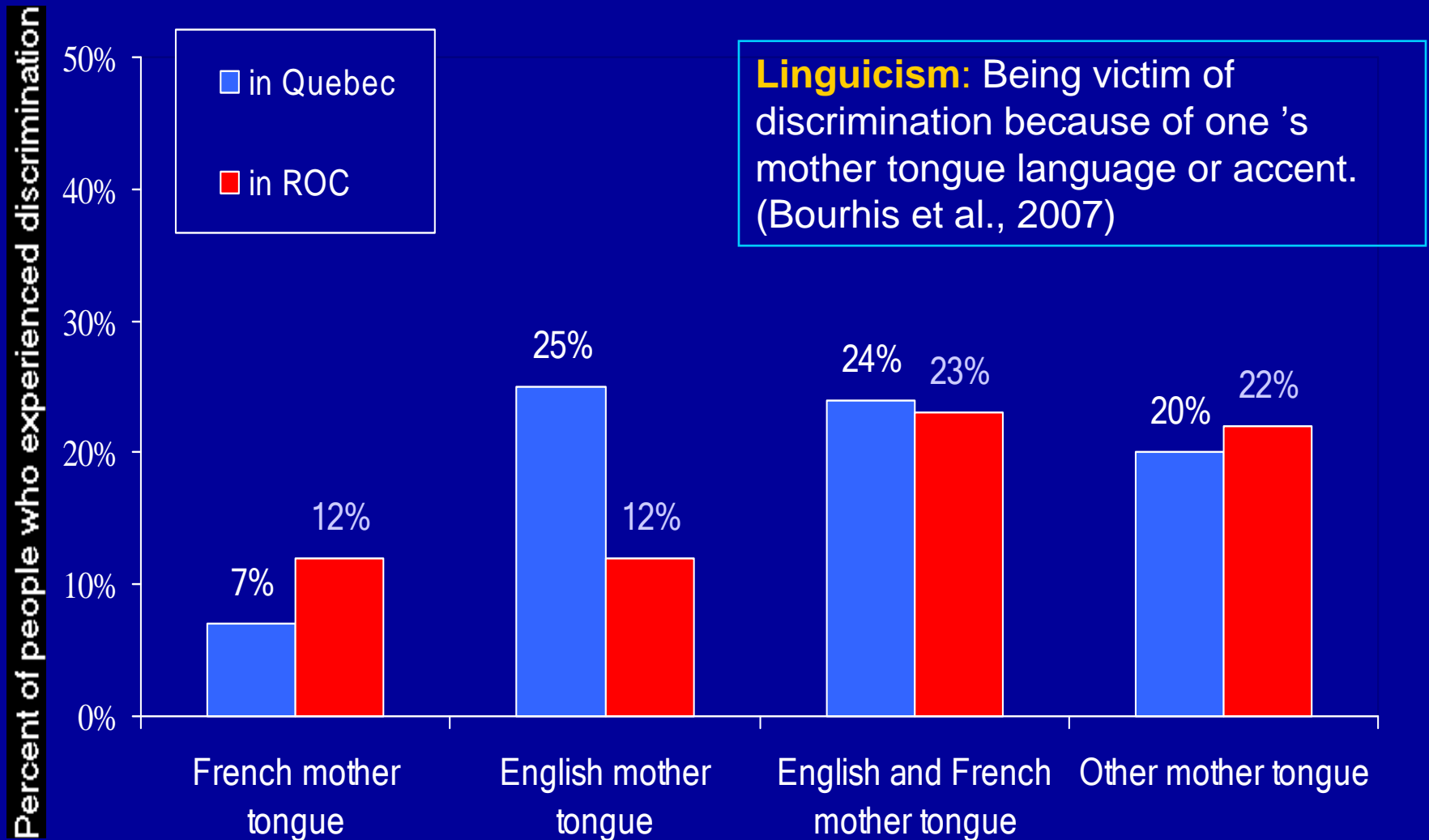
Bourhis, Montreuil, Helly & Jantzen (2007). *Canadian Ethnic Studies*.



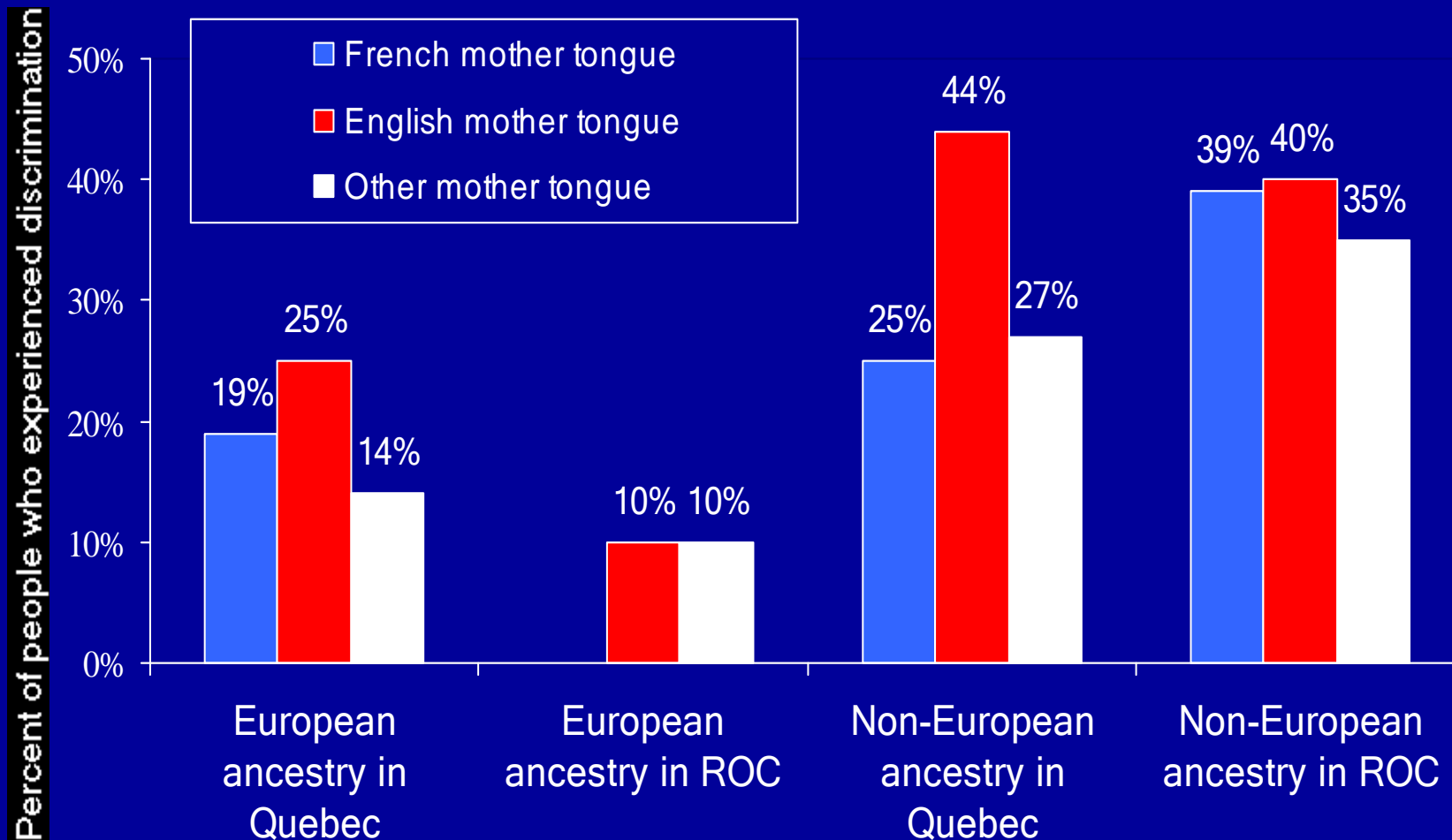
European ancestry: Origins may include Italian, German, Portuguese, Polish, Dutch, Ukrainian, Greek.

Non-European ancestry: Origins may include Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese), South Asian (Indian, Pakistani), Arab, African, Central/South American, Caribbean

Discrimination (%) experienced because of Mother tongue for **Quebec** and the **Rest of Canada (ROC)** based on item Q100 of the EDS (2002)



Discrimination (%) experienced because of ethnic ancestry (single only) and Mother tongue for Quebec and ROC based on item 100 of EDS (2002)



European ancestry: Origins may include Italian, German, Portuguese, Polish, Dutch, Ukrainian, Greek.

Non-European ancestry: Origins may include Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese), South Asian (Indian, Pakistani), Arab, African, Central/South American, Caribbean

Reasons for discrimination EDS (Q120)

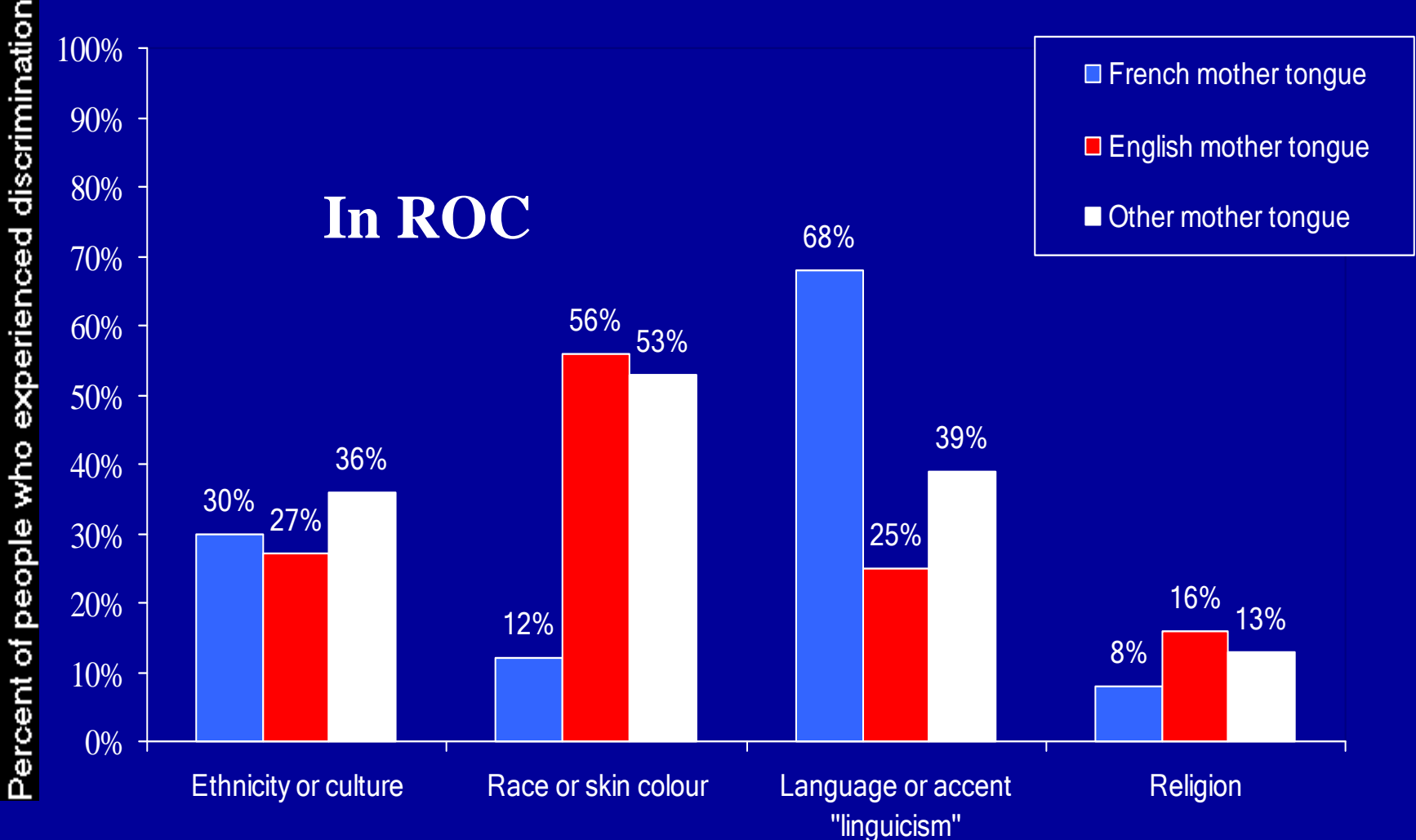
Amongst respondents having declared being victims of discrimination:

In the past 5 years or since arriving in Canada, for which reason or reasons do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly in Canada?

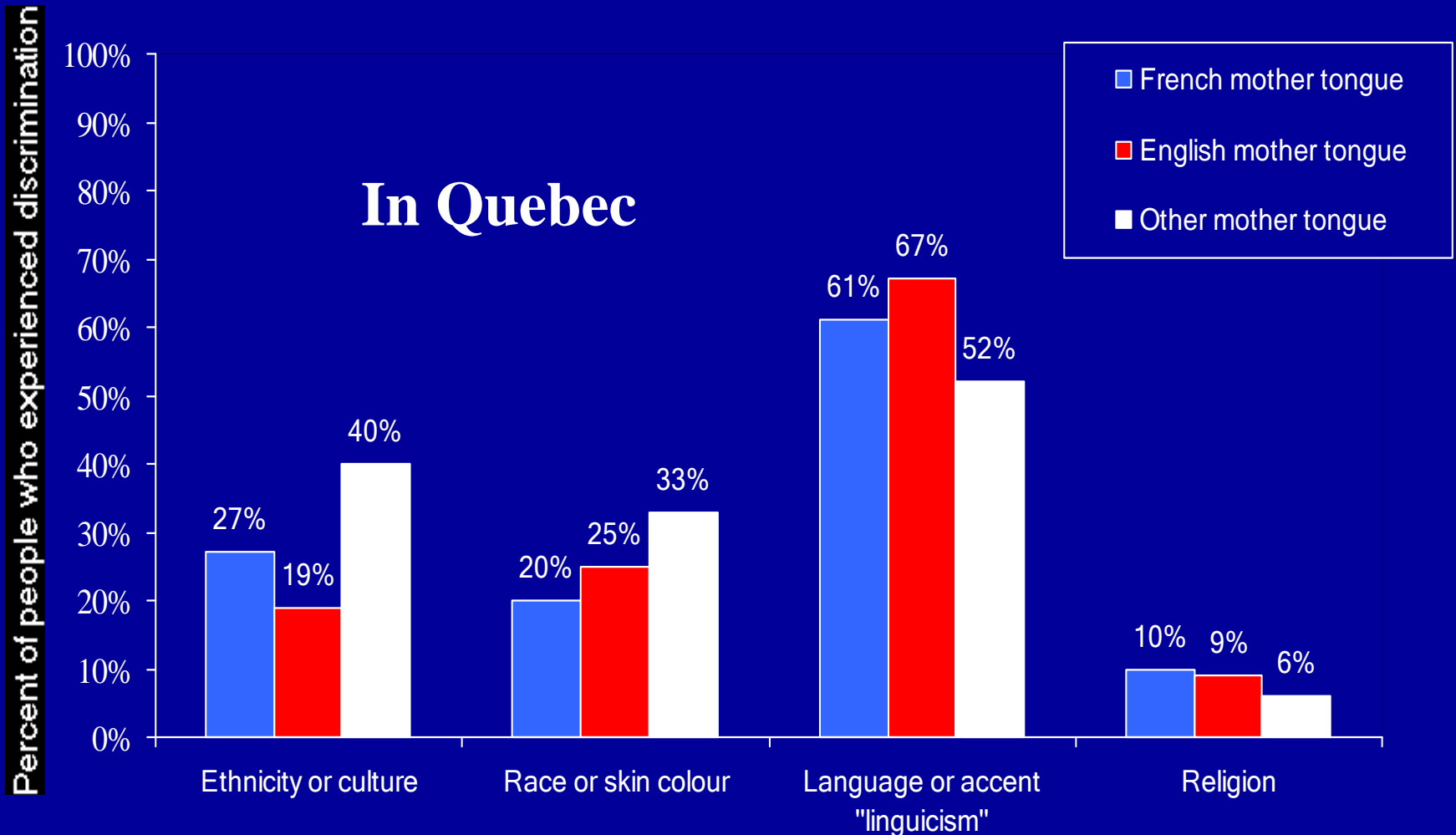
Was it or is it because of ...

- your ethnicity or culture?
- your race or skin colour?
- your language or accent?
- your religion? »

Perceived reasons of discrimination (%) of the respondents who experienced discrimination by Mother tongue for Rest of Canada (ROC). Based on item 120 of the EDS survey (2002)



Perceived reasons of discrimination (%) of the respondents who experienced discrimination by Mother tongue for Quebec, Based on item 120 of the EDS (2002)



Places or situations of discrimination EDS (Q130)

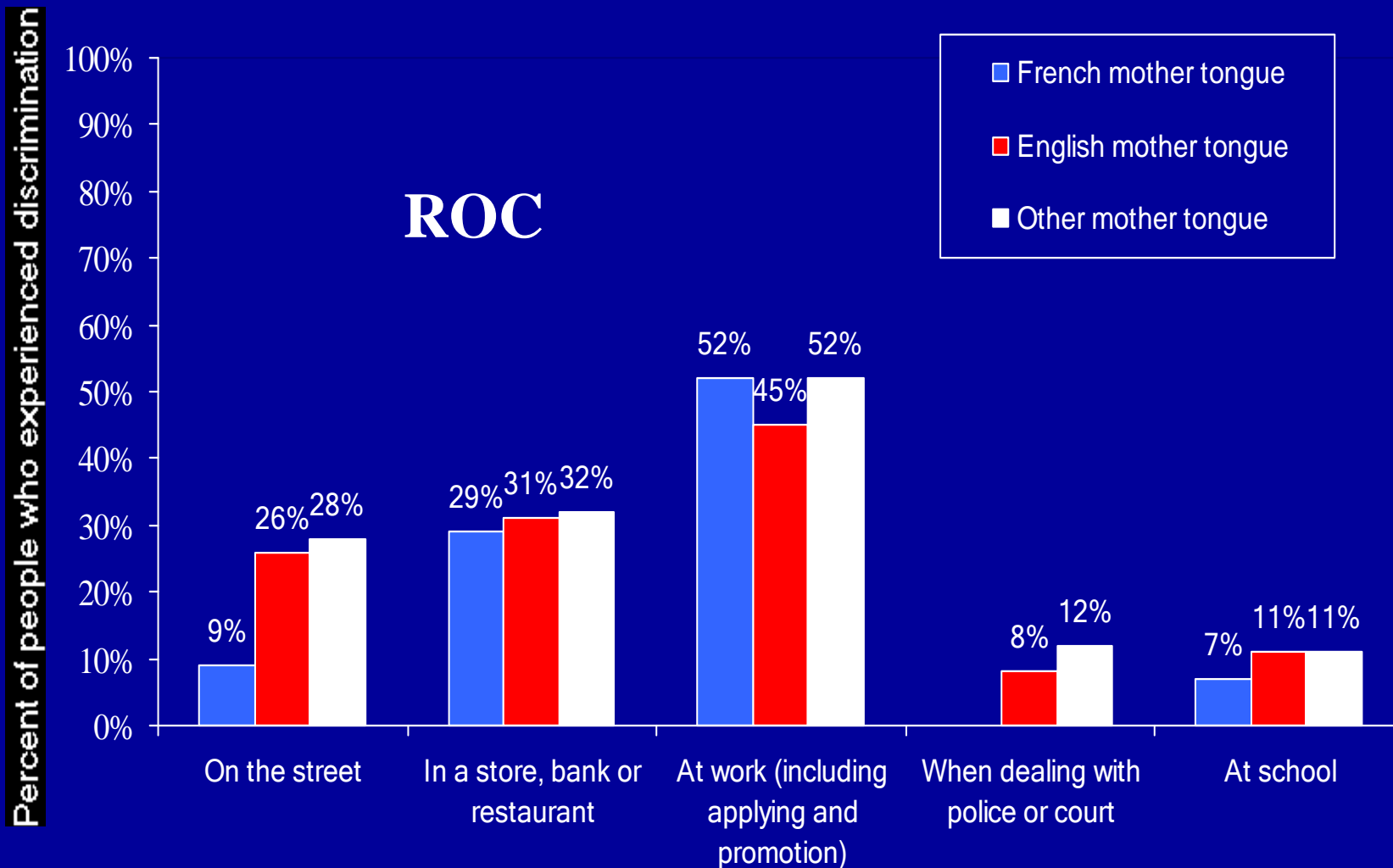
Amongst respondents having declared being victims of discrimination:

In the past 5 years or since arriving in Canada, in which places or situations do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly in Canada?

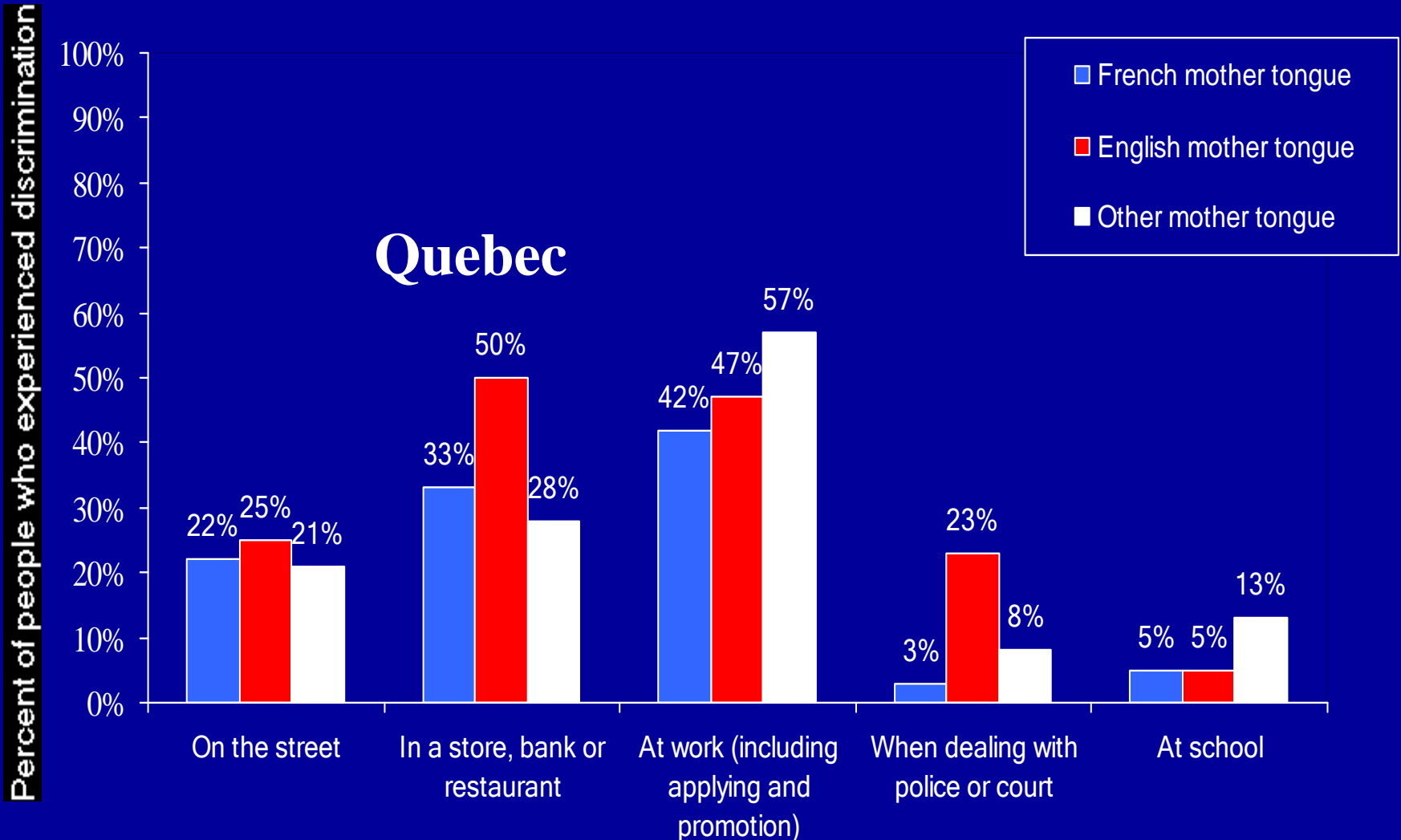
Was it...

- **On the street?**
- **In a store, bank or restaurant?**
- **At work or when applying for a job or promotion?**
- **When dealing with the police or courts?**
- **Or somewhere else? Specify »**

Situations and places where discrimination occurred for respondents who experienced discrimination by Mother tongue for **Rest of Canada (ROC)**. Based on item Q130 of the EDS survey (2002)

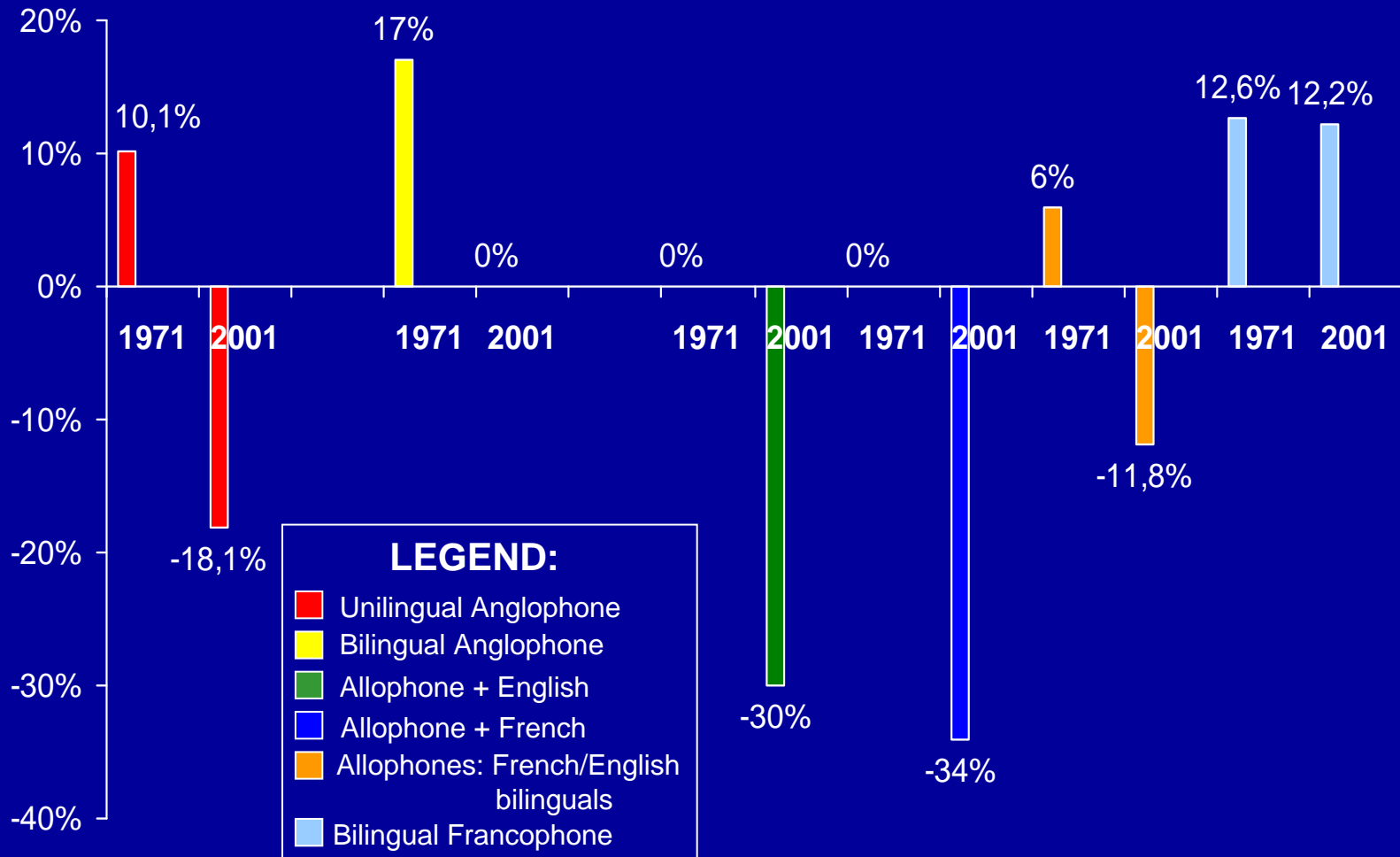


Situations and places where discrimination occurred : respondents who experienced discrimination by Mother tongue for **Quebec**, Based on item 130 of the EDS survey (2002)



Income differential of unilingual and bilingual Anglophones and Allophones relative to unilingual Francophones in Quebec: 1971 vs 2001

(Vaillancourt, Lemay, & Vaillancourt, 2007)



Controlling for age, level of education, years of experience in Quebec

Conclusion:

Ethnicity & Linguicism in Quebec & ROC

- **Visible minority** immigrants experience the most discrimination in Canada. **3rd generation** visible minorities (**42%**) experience even MORE discrimination than 2nd (**36%**) and 1st generation (**34%**) visible minority immigrants.
- It is visible minorities who are **Black** and **3rd generation** (**61%**) who experience the most discrimination relative to all other visible minorities across Canada

Conclusion:

Ethnicity & Linguicism in Québec & ROC

- In Quebec discrimination is experienced mainly because of **linguicism** : language & accent.
- In ROC discrimination is experienced mostly because of **race** but for French Canadians in ROC it is because of **linguicism** :language/accnt.
- In Quebec, it is **visible minorities** who have a mother tongue other than French who experience the most discrimination : ***racism + linguicism***
- *visible minorities with English /other as L1: 41%;*
- *visible minorities with French as L1: 28%*

Merci !

Thank You !

Ciao !

¡ Gracias !



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