

# DISCRIMINATION IN AMERICA:

# EXPERIENCES AND VIEWS OF ASIAN AMERICANS

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Survey Background

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, whites, men, women, and LGBTQ adults. This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability sample of 500 Asian American adults. Other reports will analyze each other group, and the final report will discuss major highlights from the series.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

### Summary: Personal Experiences of Discrimination

Overall, Asian Americans report numerous personal experiences of discrimination, across many areas of life. In the context of institutional forms of discrimination, a quarter or more of Asian Americans say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Asian when applying for jobs (27%), when being paid equally or considered for promotions (25%), and when trying to rent or buy housing (25%).

Additionally, more than one in ten (12%) Asian Americans say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by police because they are Asian. Indian Americans are significantly more likely (17%) than Chinese Americans (2%) to report this experience.

In the context of individual forms of discrimination, about a third of Asian Americans say they have personally experienced racial or ethnic slurs (32%) and people making negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity (35%).

Non-immigrant Asian Americans are significantly more likely than their immigrant counterparts to report multiple forms of individual discrimination, including threats or non-sexual harassment, sexual harassment, and violence. Immigrants, however, are more likely to report experiencing discrimination when seeking healthcare.

Asian Americans with a college degree are more than twice as likely (25%) as those without a college degree (12%) to report being discriminated against when interacting with police. They are also more likely (41%) to report having experienced insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity, compared to Asian Americans without a college degree (25%).

### Summary: Perceptions of Local Community

In partial contrast to personal experiences, Asian Americans most frequently say that, where they live, other Asian Americans are “often” discriminated against are when being paid equally or considered for promotions (12%) and when applying to or attending college (11%).

Generally, a majority of Asian Americans believe that Asian people in their neighborhood have roughly equal educational and employment opportunities. However, 28% of Asian Americans believe that, where they live, Asians have fewer employment opportunities simply because they are Asian American, and 40% believe that Asians are paid less than white people for equal work.

Asian Americans were also asked whether elements of their neighborhood are better, worse, or about the same as other places to live. Asian Americans most frequently rate the amount of crime and the availability of grocery stores as “better.” The availability of public transportation, the quality of available housing, and the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas are most frequently rated as “worse.”

### Summary: National Beliefs & Political Contact

Overall, 61% of Asian Americans believe that there is discrimination against Asian Americans in the U.S. today, and younger Asian Americans are significantly more likely to believe such discrimination exists.

Among all those who believe anti-Asian discrimination exists in America today, a two-thirds majority (68%) say that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people is the bigger problem, while only 14% say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the bigger problem. Another 16% say both are equally problematic.

With regard to party affiliation, 35% of Asian Americans describe themselves as Democrat, 35% identify as Independent, 14% as Republican, and 7% as other. There are significant variations in party affiliation by Asian ethnicity.

Finally, 41% of Asian Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, organization, or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause in an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation.

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These findings illustrate that Asian Americans report and perceive discrimination across a wide range of areas of life. They also highlight that lower income and non-immigrant Asian Americans are more likely to report various experiences and perceptions of discrimination.

## Notes on Report Language

Participants were not asked about their citizenship status. They were asked only whether they were born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or in another country. This report refers to those born in the U.S. and Puerto Rico as non-immigrant Asian Americans, and to those born in another country as immigrant Asian Americans.

Asian American participants were also asked about their family's heritage. This report refers to those who responded that their families are Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian or Malaysian as "Southeast Asian Americans" for the purposes of comparison across ethnic clusters. This report refers to Asian Americans of Chinese heritage as "Chinese Americans," but this grouping does not include people who say their families are Taiwanese. Lastly, Asian Americans who say their families are from the Indian subcontinent are referred to as "Indian American" in the report; not to be confused with Native Americans, whose experiences are covered in a separate report in this series. These three groups (Southeast Asian, Chinese, and Indian) are not exhaustive of the entire Asian American sample. This report refers only to these subgroups because there were not enough members of other subgroups (e.g., Taiwanese Americans) to analyze their responses separately. Individuals from these other subgroups are included in the total sample ("All Asian Americans") but are not analyzed separately due to insufficient sample size.

This report distinguishes between institutional and individual forms of discrimination, though discrimination comes in many forms.<sup>1</sup> In this report, "institutional discrimination" refers to forms of discrimination based on laws, policies, institutions, and the related behavior of individuals who work in or control those laws, policies, or institutions. "Individual discrimination" refers to forms of discrimination based in individual people's prejudicial beliefs, words, and behavior. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive, but the distinction is used for organizing purposes.

In this survey, people were asked whether they had ever personally experienced discrimination related to racism, sexism, and – for LGBTQ people – homophobia and transphobia. Questions about these experiences were asked in the same way, differing only in the perceived motivation for the discrimination (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia). For example, respondents were asked, "Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *Asian American*?" and "Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *a woman*?" Therefore, to mirror the question wording used in the survey, this report uses phrases such as "because they are Asian American" or "because of their race or ethnicity." These phrases describe respondents' impressions of the motivating prejudice behind their experiences, and they do not imply blaming respondents for others' discriminatory actions.

Additionally, these questions did not ask about the identity of the perceived discriminator. Respondents' answers could therefore refer to experiences of discrimination committed by individuals of any race or ethnicity (or any other identity category). As with other forms of self-reported data, these findings rely on respondents' perceptions. While these experiences could be related to other factors, the fact that respondents believe they are due to discrimination is significant.

Any references to gender are based on respondents' self-identified gender.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Fred Pincus (1996), "Discrimination Comes in Many Forms," *American Behavioral Scientist* 40(2):186-194, for distinctions between structural, institutional, and individual forms of discrimination.

# INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

This report presents Asian Americans’ personal experiences with racism and discrimination, as well as their perceptions of discrimination in their local area and in the nation.

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All reported differences are statistically significant. Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender.

This survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative telephone sample that included 500 Asian American U.S. adults. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for the Asian American sample in this report is  $\pm 5.8$  percentage points.

Interviews were conducted in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese; a total of 34 interviews (7% of Asian total) were conducted in Mandarin, Cantonese, or Vietnamese. Further methodological information is included at the end of the report.

## I. Personal Experiences of Discrimination

In this survey, Asian Americans were asked about their personal experiences with racism and discrimination, across a range of areas of life. Overall, Asian Americans report significant experiences of both institutional and individual forms of discrimination.

### **Personal Experiences of Institutional Discrimination**

People were asked whether they believe they have ever personally experienced discrimination because they are Asian American, across a variety of situations. In the context of institutional discrimination, these situations were: when applying to jobs; when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions; when interacting with police; when trying to vote or participate in politics; when going to a doctor or health clinic; when applying to college or while at college; or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

People were only asked about situations in which they had personally participated. For example, people were only asked if they had been discriminated against when applying to college if they had ever applied to college.

Among all Asian American respondents, 87% have ever applied for a job; 87% have ever been employed for pay; 72% have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time; and 75% have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home. For the remaining areas, screening questions were not used, but people could volunteer that they had never had these experiences.<sup>2</sup>

Low income Asian Americans are less likely than higher income Asian Americans to have participated in some of these situations: 76% of Asian Americans who make less than \$25,000 per year have ever applied for a job, compared to 94% of those making \$75,000 or more annually. Similarly, low income Asian Americans (44%) are less likely than their higher earning counterparts (91%) to have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time. Lower earning Asian Americans (63%) are also less likely to report having ever tried to rent a room or apartment, or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home, compare to higher earning Asian Americans (84%).

Differences in these experiences also vary by ethnicity. Indian Americans, or Asian Americans of Indian heritage, are significantly more likely (96%) than those of Chinese heritage (81%) to say they have ever been employed for pay. Indian Americans are also more likely (90%) to say they have ever applied for college or attended college for any amount of time, compared to those of Chinese (60%) or Southeast Asian (63%) heritage.

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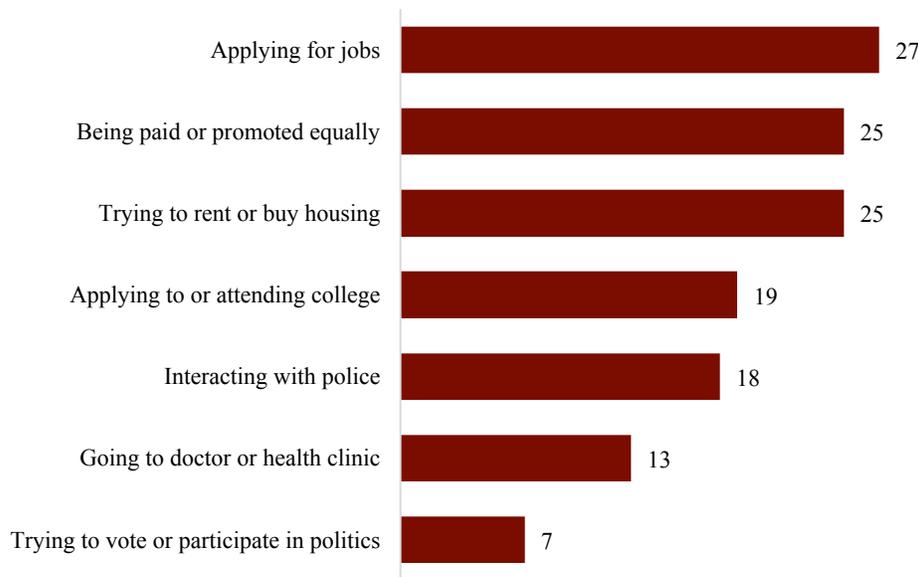
<sup>2</sup> Screening questions were not used for interacting with police given the potential sensitivity of the question; for going to the doctor, given that 83% of adults have seen a doctor in the last year alone (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2015, Table A-18," <https://goo.gl/AVfJPq>) and this question covers a lifetime span; or for trying to vote or participate in politics, as the question was worded intentionally broadly to capture a wide range of what might constitute political participation to the individual.

*A quarter or more of Asian Americans report personally experiencing anti-Asian discrimination in the workplace and when seeking housing*

Figure 1 shows the overall reporting of perceived experiences of discrimination in each area.

A quarter or more of Asian Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Asian when it comes to applying for jobs (27%), being paid equally or considered for promotion (25%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (25%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1:  
Percent of Asian Americans Saying They Have Ever Been Personally Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Asian



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q13, S6/Q15, Q17, Q19, Q21, S7/Q23, S8/Q25. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Just under one in five (19%) Asian Americans who have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time say that they personally experienced discrimination because they are Asian while applying to or while at college (Figure 1).

About one in six (18%) of all Asian Americans say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Asian when interacting with police (Figure 1). Asian Americans with a college degree are more than twice as likely (25%) as those without a college degree (12%) to report being discriminated against when interacting with police.<sup>3</sup>

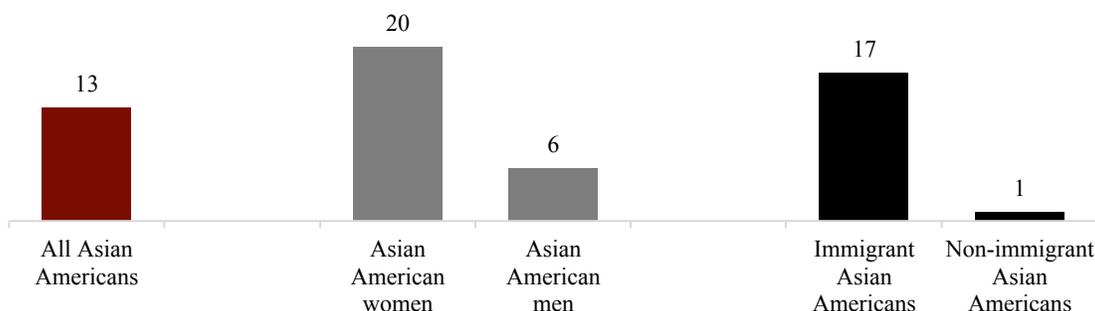
<sup>3</sup> “Those without a college degree” combines those with some college experience and those with a high school degree or less. There were too few Asian Americans with a high school degree or less to analyze separately, so to allow for analysis of education differences, those with a high school degree or less were combined with those with some college experience.

Thirteen percent (13%) of Asian Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Asian when going to a doctor or health clinic, and 7% say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Asian when trying to vote or participate in politics (Figure 1).

*Asian American women, immigrants more than three times as likely to report discrimination when seeking healthcare*

Figure 2 shows that 20% of Asian American women say they have personally experienced discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic. By comparison, only 6% of Asian American men report this same experience.

Figure 2:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Gender and Immigration Status, Saying They Have Been Personally Discriminated Against When Going to a Doctor or Health Clinic



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q21. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Figure 2 also shows that 17% of immigrant Asian Americans say they have personally experienced discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic, compared to 1% of non-immigrant Asian Americans.

*Roughly one in eight Asian Americans say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by police*

In a separate question, people were asked whether they believe they or a family member had experienced unfair treatment by the police or by the court system because they are Asian.<sup>4</sup> This question referred to unfair treatment rather than discrimination to capture potential differences in

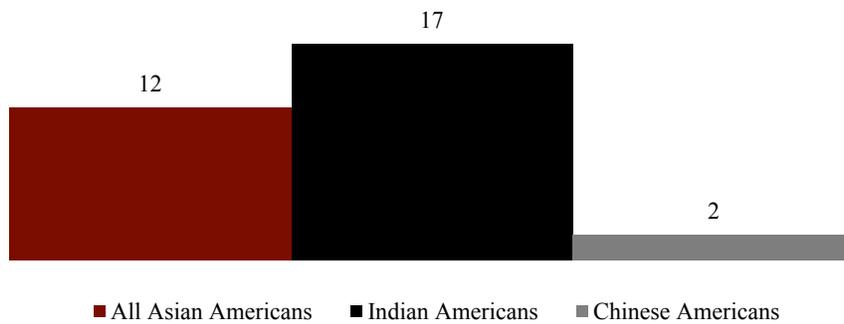
<sup>4</sup> These questions asked whether “you or a family member” had experienced these forms of violence or discrimination. Respondents may be less willing to answer sensitive questions about their personal experiences, so family members’ experiences are included in the question to provide respondents an opportunity to indirectly disclose their own experiences, while also potentially capturing experiences of violence and discrimination in respondents’ immediate family. See Roger Tourangeau and Ting Yan (2007), “Sensitive Questions in Surveys,” *Psychological Bulletin* 133(5): 859-883, DOI: 10.1037/0033-2909.133.5.859.

perception of individuals' experiences (i.e., people who might perceive an experience as unfair but would not call it discriminatory).

Overall, 12% of Asian Americans say that they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because they are Asian.

As Figure 3 shows, Indian Americans are significantly more likely (17%) than Chinese Americans (2%) to say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because they are Asian.

Figure 3:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Ethnicity, Saying They or a Family Member Have Experienced Unfair Police Stops or Treatment Because They Are Asian



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91c. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

With regards to unfair treatment by the courts, 6% of Asian Americans say they or a family member have been unfairly treated by the courts because they are Asian. There are no significant demographic differences in reporting this experience.

## Personal Experiences of Individual Discrimination

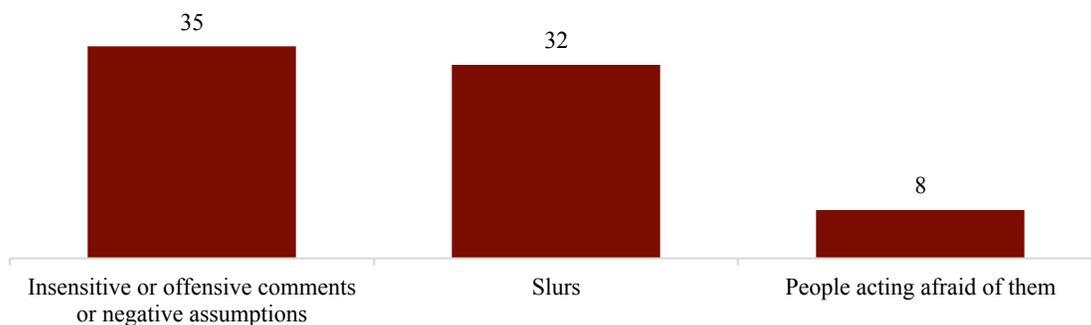
People were asked about their experiences with individual or interpersonal forms of discrimination, such as slurs, insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions, sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, and violence.

*About a third of Asian Americans have experienced slurs and insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity*

Recall that in this report, phrases such as “because of their race or ethnicity” or “because they are Asian American” are used to mirror the question wording and to describe individuals’ impressions of the prejudice behind these experiences, and are not intended to place blame on those who have been discriminated against.

Figure 4 shows that 35% of Asian Americans say that someone has made insensitive or offensive comments toward them about their race or ethnicity. Similarly, 32% of all Asian Americans report that someone has used slurs about them or a group they belong to specifically because of their race or ethnicity. Eight percent (8%) say someone has acted afraid of them because of their race or ethnicity.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 4:  
Percent of Asian Americans Saying They Have Personally Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because of Their Race or Ethnicity



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Asian Americans with a college degree are more likely (41%) to report having experienced insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity, compared to Asian Americans without a college degree (25%).

<sup>5</sup> Multiple responses were allowed; respondents could answer that these occurrences were based on their race or ethnicity, their gender, their sexual orientation or gender identity, and/or some other reason. The category of “Some other reason” includes volunteered responses such as religion, personal appearance (e.g., weight), political affiliation, disability, and not knowing the basis of the slur, negative comment, or expression of fear.

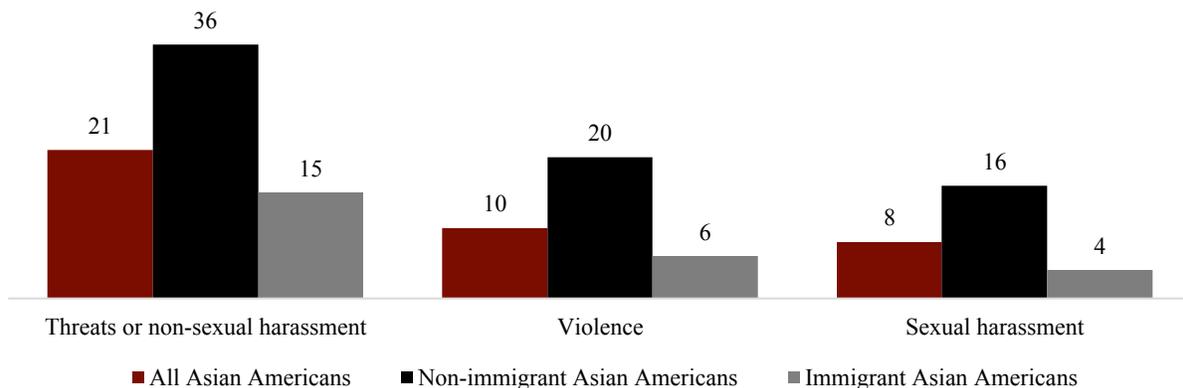
*One in five Asian Americans report being threatened or harassed;  
Non-immigrant Asian Americans much more likely to report threats, violence, sexual harassment*

People were asked whether they believe they or a family member had experienced sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, or violence, specifically because they are Asian American.

Figure 5 shows that 21% of all Asian Americans say that they or a family member have been threatened or non-sexually harassed because they are Asian American. Another 10% say that they or a family member have experienced violence, and 8% say they have experienced sexual harassment because they are Asian American.

Figure 5 further shows that non-immigrant Asian Americans are more than twice as likely as immigrant Asian Americans to say they have experienced these forms of discrimination. For example, non-immigrant Asian Americans are more than twice as likely to say they or a family member have been threatened or non-sexually harassed (36%) because they are Asian, compared to immigrant Asian Americans (15%).

Figure 5:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Immigrant Status, Saying They or a Family Member Have Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination Because They Are Asian



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Similarly, non-immigrant Asian Americans are more than three times as likely to say they have experienced violence (20%), compared to immigrant Asian Americans (6%). Non-immigrant Asian Americans are four times more likely (16%) than immigrant Asian Americans (4%) to report that they or a family member have experienced sexual harassment (16%) because they are Asian (Figure 5).

*Roughly one in eight Asian Americans they or have been told or felt they would not be welcome in a neighborhood because they are Asian*

In a separate question on harassment, 12% of Asian Americans say that they or a family member have been told or felt as though they would not be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development because they are Asian.

### **Avoidance of Discrimination**

People were asked whether they ever avoid engaging in certain behaviors, such as seeking medical care or calling the police when in need, to avoid potential anti-Asian discrimination.

*Nearly one in ten Asian Americans have avoided medical care and calling police, even when in need, due to concern of discrimination*

Roughly one in ten (9%) Asian Americans say they have avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly because they are Asian. Low income Asian Americans (those earning less than \$25,000 per year) are nearly four times as likely as high income Asian Americans (those earning \$75,000 or more per year) to report avoiding medical care due to concern for discrimination: 19% of low income Asian Americans report this behavior, compared to only 5% of high income Asian Americans.

Similarly, 8% of Asian Americans say they have avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that they or others in their family would be discriminated against because they are Asian.

*One in ten Asian Americans say they have considered moving because of discrimination*

In addition to avoiding care with medical professionals and police, 10% of Asian Americans say they have thought about moving or relocating to another area because they experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they live.

*Fewer than one in ten Asian Americans avoid normal tasks such as using a car or seeking medical care to avoid possibly interacting with police or government authority figures*

People were also asked, “Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?” Seven percent (7%) of Asian Americans say they have avoided these normal day-to-day tasks to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures.

*Four in ten Asian Americans have avoided going to a doctor due to concern for the cost*

In a separate question not related to explicit discrimination, 40% of Asian Americans say they have avoided seeking medical care for themselves or family members out of concern for the cost. Asian women are more likely (48%) than Asian men (30%) to report avoiding care due to cost.

## II. Perceptions of Local Community

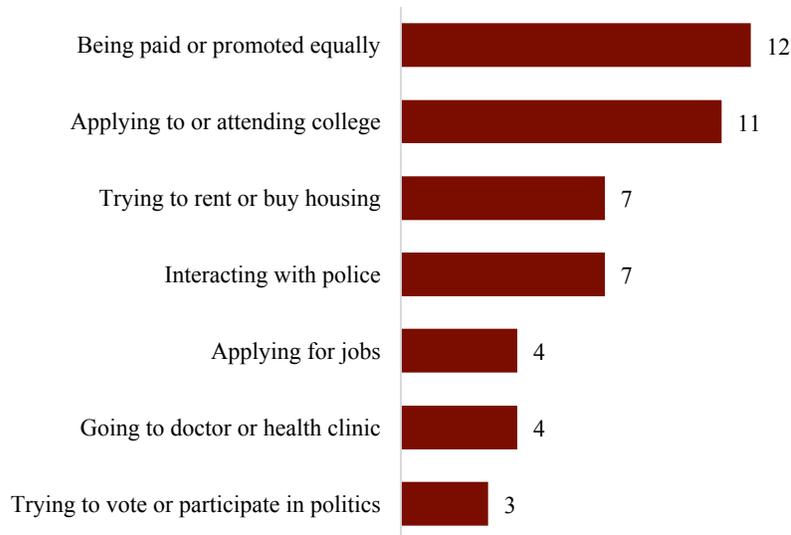
People were asked to evaluate aspects of life where they live, including how often discrimination happens to other Asian Americans there, local employment opportunities, and how their neighborhood compares to other places to live.

### Perceptions of Local Discrimination

In addition to their personal experiences of discrimination, people were also asked about discrimination that occurs where they live, across a variety of situations.<sup>6</sup> People were asked how often, if ever, they believe such discrimination occurs to other Asian Americans, using a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, or often.

As Figure 6 shows, just over one in ten Asian Americans say that where they live, other Asian Americans “often” experience discrimination specifically because they are Asian when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions (12%) and when applying to or while attending college (11%).

Figure 6:  
Percent of Asian Americans Saying Where They Live, Other Asian Americans Are "Often" Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Asian



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q12, Q14, Q16, Q18, Q20, Q22, Q24. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

<sup>6</sup> These were the same situations discussed in personal experiences of discrimination: applying to jobs; being paid equally or considered for promotions; interacting with police; trying to vote or participate in politics; going to a doctor or health clinic; applying to college or while at college; trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

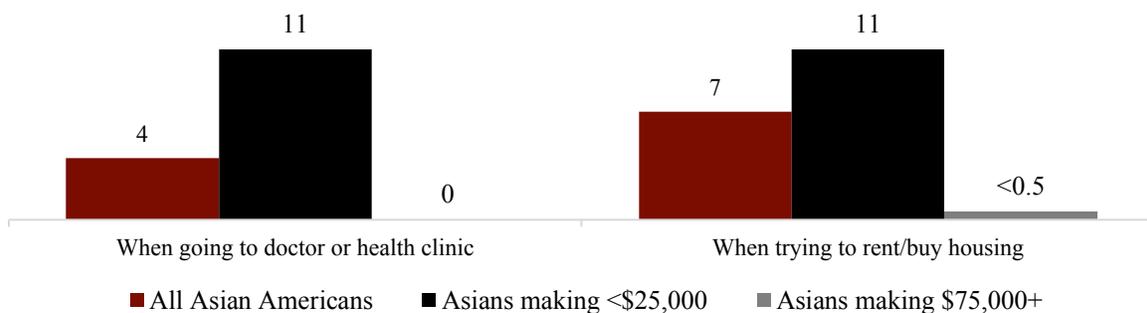
Fewer than 10% of Asian Americans say that other Asian Americans often experience discrimination when seeking housing (7%) and when interacting with police (7%) (Figure 6).

Fewer than 5% of Asian Americans say that other Asian Americans are often discriminated against when applying for jobs (4%), going to a doctor or health clinic (4%), or trying to vote or participate in politics (3%) (Figure 6).

*Low income Asian Americans more likely to perceive discrimination in health care and housing*

Figure 7 shows that lower earning Asian Americans (those making less than \$25,000 per year) are significantly more likely to perceive discrimination against other Asian Americans in their neighborhood, compared to higher earning Asian Americans (those making \$75,000 or more per year). About one in ten low income Asian Americans say that discrimination against other Asian Americans often occurs both when going to a doctor or health clinic (11%), and when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (11%).

Figure 7:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Income, Saying Where They Live, Other Asian Americans Are Often Discriminated Against in Each Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q21, Q25. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

In both cases, less than 0.5% of high income Asian Americans report this perception (Figure 7).

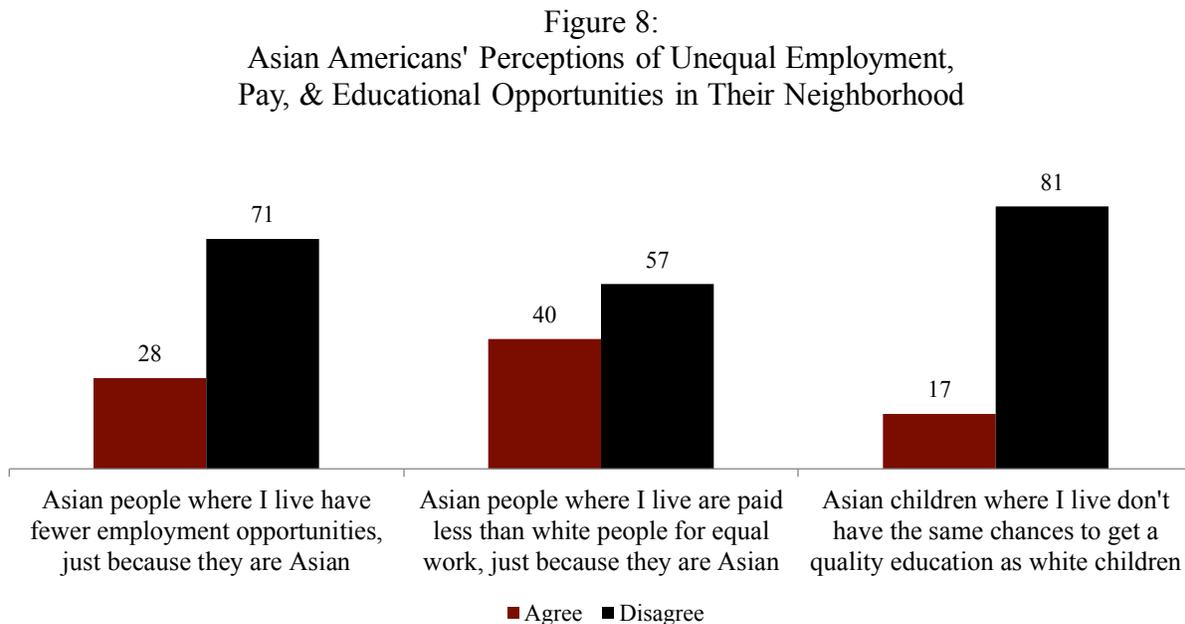
Additionally, 10% of non-immigrant Asian Americans say that other Asian Americans where they live often experience discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic. In contrast, just 3% of immigrant Asian Americans perceive the same type of discrimination as occurring often.

## Perceptions of Local Opportunity

People were asked to agree or disagree with statements about local employment and educational opportunities, as well as whether they were encouraged while growing up to apply for college.

As Figure 8 shows, a majority of Asian Americans generally believe that Asian people where they live have comparable employment and educational opportunities, relative to white people.

A minority of Asian Americans agree that Asian people have fewer employment opportunities (28%), are paid less for equal work (40%), and that Asian children do not have the same chances to get a quality education as do white children (17%) (Figure 8).



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q65, Q68, Q72. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

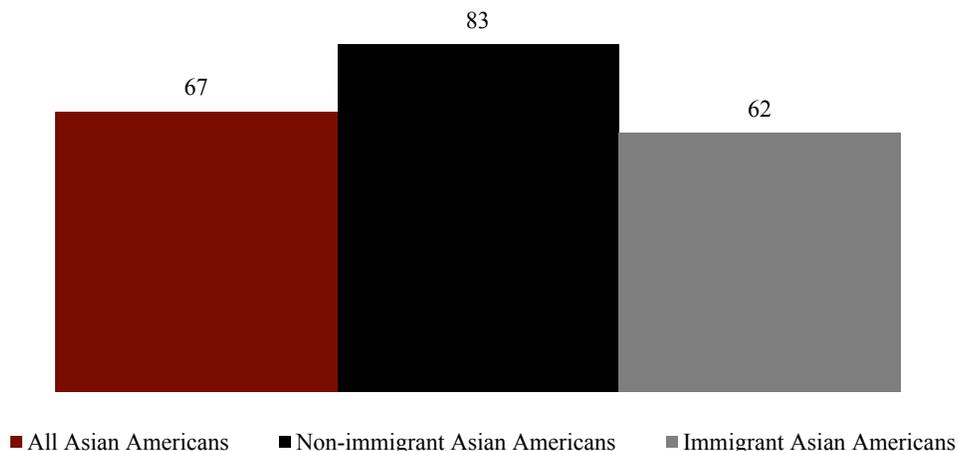
Demographically, low income Asian Americans are more likely (24%) than high income Asian Americans (7%) to believe that, where they live, Asian children do not have the same chances for a quality education as do white children.

*Two-thirds of Asian Americans say they were encouraged to apply to college while growing up; 29% say applying for college was never discussed*

In a separate question related to educational opportunity, people were asked if, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college, discouraged from applying, or whether this was never discussed. Overall, 67% of all Asian Americans say they were encouraged to apply for college, while 29% say that applying to college was never discussed. Another 2% say they were actively discouraged from applying.

Figure 9 shows that non-immigrant Asian Americans are more likely (83%) than immigrant Asian Americans (62%) to say they were encouraged to apply for college while growing up.

Figure 9:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Immigrant Status,  
Saying They Were Encouraged to Apply for College While Growing Up



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q76. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

However, a majority (62%) of immigrant Asian Americans still say they were encouraged to apply for college (Figure 8). They are more likely to say that applying to college was simply never discussed (33%), rather than that they were discouraged from applying (2%) (not shown).

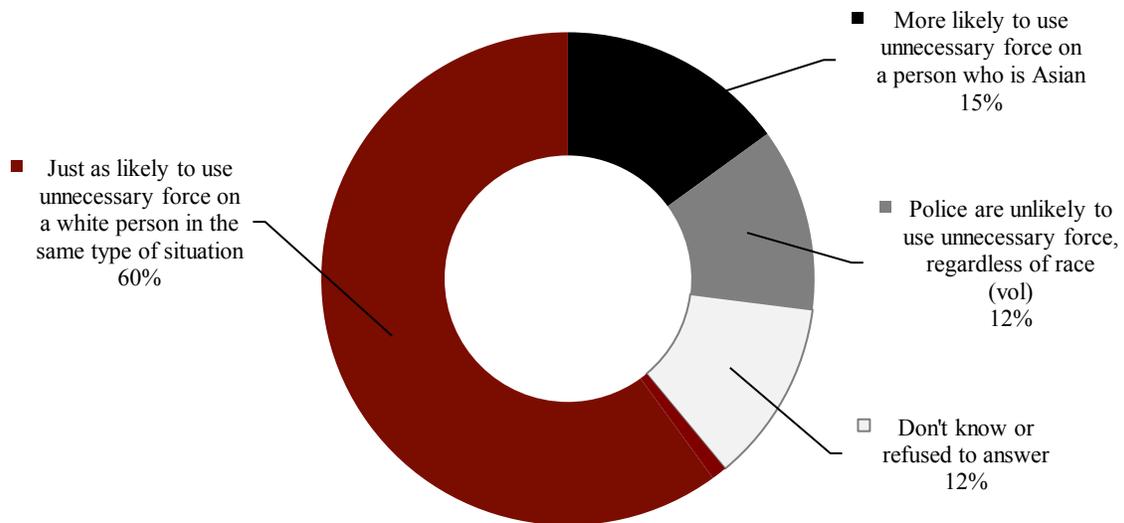
## Perceptions of Local Police & Government

People were also asked about their experiences and perceptions of police and public safety in their own neighborhoods. To emphasize their own experiences, rather than national events, respondents were first told: “Now I’d like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.”

*60% of Asian Americans believe their local police are just as likely to use unnecessary force on an Asian person or a white person in the same situation*

Overall, as Figure 10 shows, 60% of Asian Americans believe that, where they live, their local police are just as likely to use force on an Asian person as they are on a white person in the same type of situation. Fifteen percent (15%) of Asian Americans believe their local police are more likely to use unnecessary force on an Asian person than on a white person in the same type of situation, while 12% say the police are unlikely to use unnecessary force, regardless of race, and 12% say they don’t know or refused to answer.

Figure 10:  
Asian Americans' Beliefs on Likelihood of Police Officers To Use Unnecessary Force Against Asian and White People in Same Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q86. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

When asked about the racial or ethnic background of the police in their neighborhood, 41% of Asian Americans say the police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living

in their area, while 34% say the police are mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in their area. One quarter (25%) did not know, or declined to offer an answer.

*About two-thirds of Asian Americans believe local government represents their views well, and that they can affect what local government does*

When asked, “How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you,” 72% of Asian Americans say their local government represents these views somewhat or very well. One in six (18%) say not too well or not well at all. Asian Americans living in the West are significantly more likely (78%) than those living in the Northeast (58%) to say their local government represents their views somewhat or very well.<sup>7</sup>

Additionally, when asked, “How much can people like you affect what your local government does,” 65% of Asian Americans say some or a great deal, while 29% say only a little or not at all. Non-immigrant Asian Americans are more likely (79%) than immigrant Asian Americans (60%) to believe they can influence their local government some or a great deal.

### **Perceptions & Evaluations of Community Environment**

People were asked to describe and evaluate aspects of the area where they live, including its racial composition and the general economic and health status of the neighborhood.

Overall, 20% of Asian Americans say they live in an area or neighborhood that is predominantly Asian. Chinese Americans are nearly twice as likely (29%) as Southeast Asian Americans (15%) to say this.

When describing the general economic status of the area in which they live, 21% say they live in a mostly upper income area, while 47% say they live in a mostly middle income area. Another 10% say they live in a mainly lower income area, and 22% say they do not have enough information to say. Indian Americans are more likely (33%) than both Chinese Americans (16%) and Southeast Asian Americans (11%) to say they live in a predominantly upper income area.

Similarly, respondents were asked to describe the overall health and well-being of the place they live. Three in five (60%) say their neighborhood is in excellent or good health, 14% say fair or poor health, and 26% say they do not have enough information to say.

*Asian Americans are most likely to rate availability of public transportation, parks, and quality housing as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live*

Asian Americans were asked to describe and evaluate environmental aspects of the area in which they live. Specifically, they were asked to consider ten elements that affect quality of life, and to compare these elements to other places to live: “Compared to other places to live, do you think the (element) where you live is better, worse, or about the same as other places to live?”

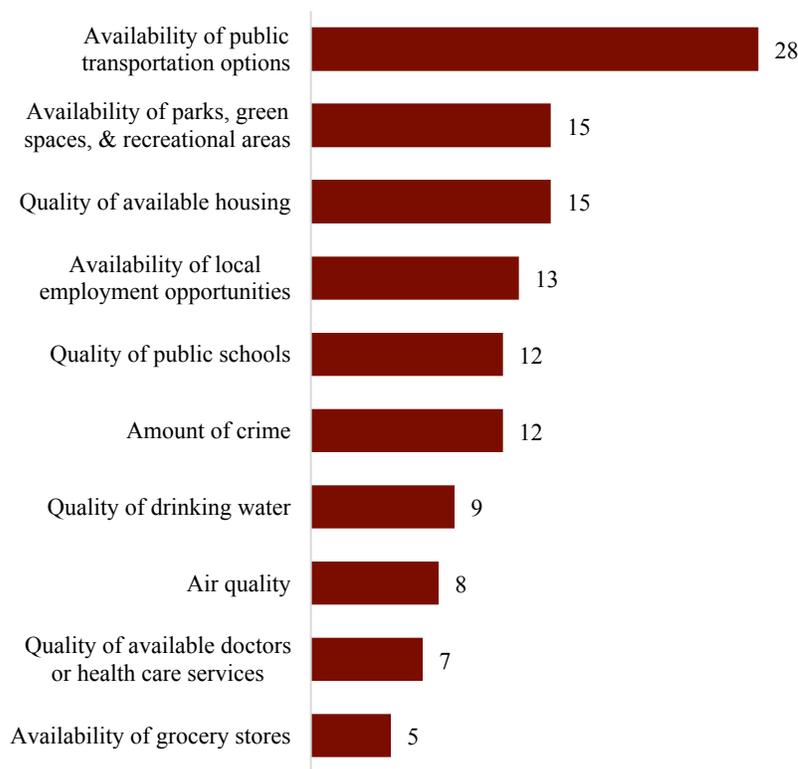
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<sup>7</sup> “West,” as defined by U.S. Census 4-Region division, includes: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming. “Northeast” includes: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

These elements include: availability of grocery stores; air quality; quality of drinking water; quality of available housing; quality of available doctors or health care services; quality of public schools; availability of local employment opportunities; amount of crime; availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas; and, availability of public transportation options.

In most cases, a plurality of Asian Americans says that these aspects of their neighborhood are about the same as other places to live or better. However, as Figure 11 shows, the top aspect of community environment that Asian Americans most frequently rate as worse in their area than in other places to live is the availability of public transportation options (28%).

Figure 11:  
Percent of Asian Americans Saying Each Element of Their  
Community Environment Is **Worse** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Fewer than one in six Asian Americans rank the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas (15%), quality of available housing (15%), availability of local employment opportunities (13%), the quality of public schools (12%), and the amount of crime (12%) in their area as worse than in other places to live (Figure 11).

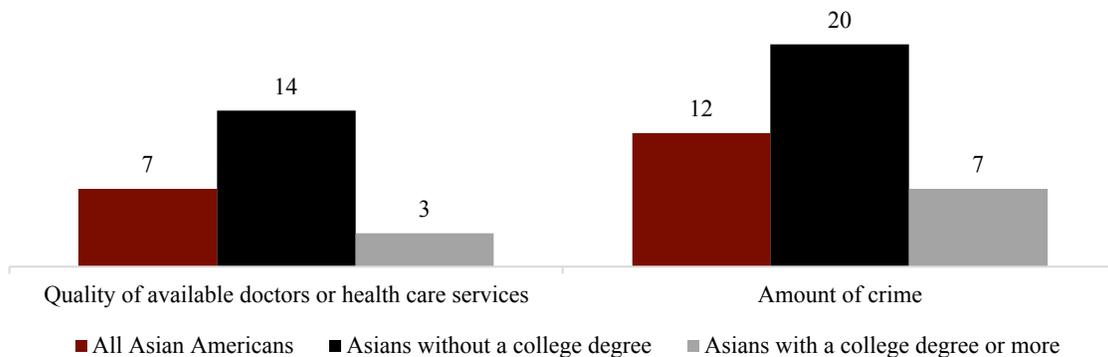
Fewer than one in ten Asian Americans rate the quality of drinking water (9%), air quality (8%), quality of available doctors or health care services (7%) and availability of grocery stores (5%) as worse than in other places to live (Figure 11).

*Non-immigrant Asian Americans and Asian Americans without a college degree more likely to negatively rate some neighborhood elements*

Non-immigrant Asian Americans are more than twice as likely (26%) as immigrant Asian Americans (12%) to rate the quality of available housing in their neighborhood as worse than in other places to live.

Additionally, as Figure 12 shows, Asian Americans without a college degree are more likely than those with a college degree to rate the quality of available doctors or health care services (14% vs. 3%, respectively) and the amount of crime (20% vs. 7%) as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live.

Figure 12:  
Percent of Asian Americans, By Education, Saying Each Element of Their Community Environment Is **Worse** Than In Other Places to Live



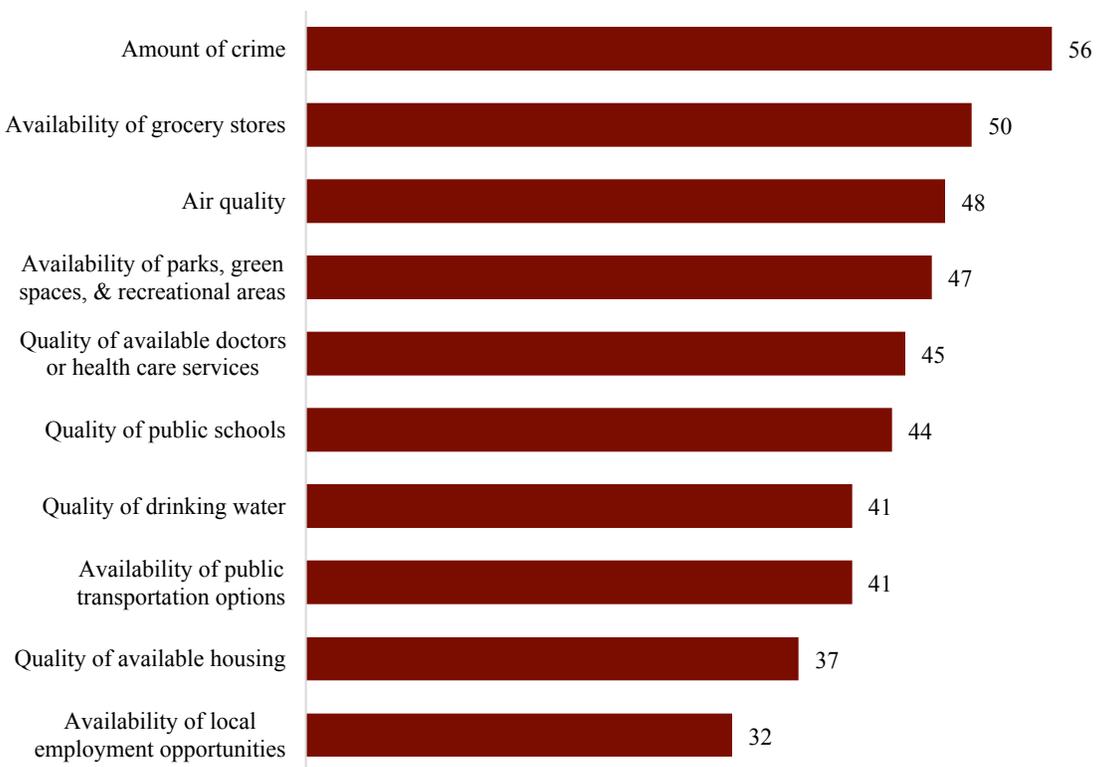
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85d. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

*Asian Americans are most likely to rate the amount of crime, availability of grocery stores, and air quality as better in their neighborhood than in other places to live*

Figure 13 shows the elements of their neighborhoods that Asian Americans rate as “better” than in other places to live.

The top three elements that Asian Americans most frequently say are better in their neighborhoods than in other places to live are the amount of crime (56%), the availability of grocery stores (50%), and the air quality (48%) (Figure 13).

Figure 13:  
Percent of Asian Americans Saying Each Element of Their  
Community Environment Is **Better** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

### III. National Beliefs & Political Contact

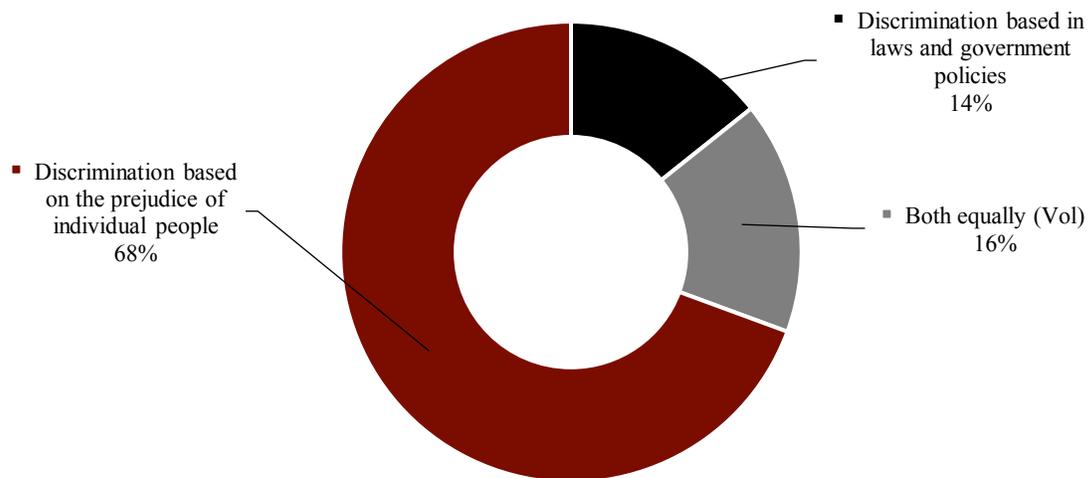
Overall, 61% of Asian Americans believe that there is discrimination against Asian Americans in the U.S. today. Younger Asian Americans are significantly more likely to believe such discrimination exists: 68% of 18-29-year-old Asian Americans believe anti-Asian discrimination exists, compared to 40% of Asian Americans 65 and older.

#### **Institutional vs. Individual Discrimination**

Those who believe discrimination exists today were also asked: “When it comes to discrimination against Asian Americans in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem? Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies, or discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people?”

A strong majority of Asian Americans (68%) say discrimination based on individuals’ prejudice is the bigger problem, while 14% say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies. Another 16% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem (Figure 14).

Figure 14:  
Asian Americans' Perceptions of Which is the Larger Problem:  
Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or  
Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q2. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=500 Asian American U.S. adults.

Non-immigrant Asian Americans are significantly more likely (83%) to say that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people is the bigger problem, compared to 62% of immigrant Asian Americans.

## Political Contact

Overall, 41% of Asian Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation, particularly among racial and ethnic minority communities.<sup>8</sup>

With regard to party affiliation, 35% of Asian Americans describe themselves as Democrat, 35% identify as Independent, 14% as Republican, and 7% as other. There are significant variations in party affiliation by Asian ethnicity. Indian Americans are most likely to identify as Democrat (46%), while Chinese Americans are most likely to identify as Independent (51%). Southeast Asian Americans are roughly evenly divided in their affiliation as Democrats (26%), Independents (28%), and Republicans (27%).

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<sup>8</sup> See, for example, Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson's *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (2012, Yale University Press), and Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber's *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout* (2008, Brookings Institution Press).

## Conclusion

Asian Americans report notable discrimination in their own lives. Regarding institutional discrimination, a quarter or more of Asian Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Asian when applying to jobs, when being paid equally or considered for promotions, and when seeking housing. Nearly one in five report discriminatory experiences in college settings and when interacting with police.

Asian Americans also report significant levels of individual discrimination: about a third say they have personally experienced racial or ethnic slurs and people making insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity. Just over one in five say they or a family member have been threatened or harassed because they are Asian American.

Despite the discrimination that some Asian Americans report, a majority believes that Asian Americans in general have equal employment and educational opportunities and are paid equally to white people. Further, roughly two-thirds of Asian Americans believe their local government represents their views, and that they can influence what their local government does.

Regarding beliefs about the national environment, 61% of Asian Americans believe that discrimination against Asian Americans exists in the U.S. today. Among them, more than two-thirds (68%) say that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people is the bigger problem, compared to 14% of Asian Americans who say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the bigger problem. Another 16% say both are equally problematic.

Demographically, Indian Americans are significantly more likely (17%) than Chinese Americans (2%) to say they have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police. Indian Americans are also more likely (33%) than both Chinese Americans (16%) and Southeast Asian Americans (11%) to say they live in a predominantly upper income area.

Non-immigrant Asian Americans are significantly more likely than immigrant Asian Americans to report various forms of individual discrimination, including threats or non-sexual harassment, sexual harassment, and violence. They are also more likely to perceive frequent anti-Asian discrimination when seeking healthcare, and to negatively evaluate the quality of available housing in their local area. Immigrant Asian Americans, however, are more likely to say they have been personally discriminated against when seeking healthcare.

Additionally, low income Asian Americans (those making less than \$25,000 per year) are more likely than higher income Asian Americans (those making \$75,000 or more per year) to avoid seeking medical care due to concern for discrimination, to perceive anti-Asian discrimination in their neighborhood when going to a doctor or when seeking housing, and to perceive unequal educational opportunity in their neighborhood.

Finally, Asian Americans with a college degree are more likely than those without a college degree to say they have been personally discriminated against when interacting with police, to report having experienced insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity, and to negatively evaluate the quality of available doctors and the amount of crime in their local area.

The findings illustrate Asian Americans' experiences and perceptions of discrimination across a wide range of areas of life in America today.

## Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and National Public Radio. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health:** Robert J. Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; Logan S. Casey, Research Associate in Public Opinion; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Justin M. Sayde, Administrative and Research Manager; Caitlin L. McMurtry, Research Fellow; and Tiffany Chan, Research Fellow.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research and Evaluation; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; and Dwayne Proctor, Director, Achieving Health Equity Portfolio.

**NPR:** Anne Gudenkauf, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Keith Woods, Vice President, Diversity in News and Operations; Sara Goo, Acting Managing Editor, Digital News; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Luis Clemens, Supervising Editor, National Desk; Alison Macadam, Senior Editorial Specialist; Alison Kodjak, Correspondent, Science Desk; and Rae Ellen Bichell, Reporter, Science Desk.

Interviews were conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills (PA) via telephone (including both landline and cell phone) using random-digit dialing, January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans;<sup>9</sup> men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of **500 Asian American adults**. The margin of error for total Asian American respondents is  $\pm 5.8$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Interviews were conducted in English, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, education, and Census region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

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<sup>9</sup> African American, Asian American, and white American respondents who also identified as Hispanic or Latino were included only in the Latino sample.

**Methodology (continued)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number of Interviews (unweighted n)</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>
Total Asian Americans	500	100
Half-sample		
A	234	--
B	266	--
Gender		
Men	321	50
Women	178	50
Age		
18-29	185	24
30-49	141	39
50-64	109	22
65+	65	15
Education		
High school grad or less	71	27
Some college	96	19
College grad or more	330	54
Household income		
<\$25,000 per year	106	24
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	67	13
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	62	12
\$75,000 or more	224	41
Region		
Northeast	93	20
Midwest	54	10
South	110	19
West	215	45
Immigrant		
Yes	349	74
No	151	26
Heritage		
Chinese (not Taiwanese)	154	24
Asian Indian	141	27
Southeast Asian	87	23
Live in predominantly Asian American area		
Yes	107	20
No	388	78
Income of area where you live		
Upper	108	21
Middle	250	47
Lower	42	10

**NPR**  
**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION**  
**HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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## **Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Asian Americans**

The results presented here are from a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, via telephone (landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese using random-digit dialing, **January 26 – April 9, 2017**, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans; men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This document presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based sample of **500 Asian Americans**. The margin of error for total Asian American respondents is  $\pm 5.8$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

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VII. Demographics	27

**Responses shown in the tables that follow are percentages.**

## I. Introduction

**(Asked of half-sample A; n= 234)**

S5. Have you ever applied for a job?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has applied for a job	87
No, has not applied for a job	13
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample; n= 234)**

S6. Have you ever been employed for pay?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has been employed for pay	87
No, has not been employed for pay	13
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample B; n= 266)**

S7. Have you ever applied for college or attended college for any amount of time?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has applied for or attended college	72
No, has not applied for or attended college	28
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample B; n= 266)**

S8. Have you ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has tried	75
No, has not tried	24
DK/Ref	1

## II. Discrimination

Q1. Generally speaking, do you believe there is or is not discrimination against Asian American people in America today?

	Asian Americans
Yes	61
No	37
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of Asian Americans who believe discrimination against Asian Americans exists in America today; n= 313)**

Q2. When it comes to discrimination against Asian American people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem?

	Asian Americans
Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies	14
Discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people	68
Both equally (vol)	16
DK/Ref	2

Now we'd like to ask you some questions more specifically about what goes on in the general area where you live, as well as your personal experiences. When we say "the area where you live," we just mean the general neighborhood, town, or part of town where you live.

Q10. How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Very well	24
Somewhat well	48
Not too well	12
Not well at all	6
DK/Ref	10

Q11. How much can people like you affect what your local government does? Would you say...?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
A great deal	24
Some	41
Only a little	23
Not at all	6
DK/Ref	6

Now I have some questions about issues that may be facing people where you live. For each of the following, please tell me how frequently you think this happens to people where you live, using the scale OFTEN, SOMETIMES, RARELY, or NEVER. Then I'll ask if you've ever **personally** experienced this, not just where you currently live.

**(Asked of half-sample; n=234)**

Q12. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying for jobs?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	4
Sometimes	41
Rarely	24
Never	25
DK/Ref	6

**(Asked of Asian Americans in half-sample A who have ever applied for a job; n=206)**

Q13. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when applying for jobs?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	27
No	72
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q14. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	12
Sometimes	37
Rarely	20
Never	25
DK/Ref	6

**(Asked of Asian Americans in half-sample A who have ever been employed; n=205)**

Q15. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	25
No	72
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q16. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when interacting with police?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	7
Sometimes	27
Rarely	28
Never	33
DK/Ref	5

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q17. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when interacting with police?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	18
No	79
Have never interacted with the police (vol)	2
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q18. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	3
Sometimes	20
Rarely	26
Never	40
DK/Ref	11

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q19. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	7
No	83
Have never tried to vote or participate in politics (vol)	8
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q20. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	4
Sometimes	15
Rarely	31
Never	49
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q21. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	13
No	86
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q22. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying to college or while at college?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	11
Sometimes	20
Rarely	19
Never	37
DK/Ref	13

**(Asked of Asian Americans in half-sample B who have ever applied to or attended college; n=217)**

Q23. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when applying to college or while at college?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	19
No	77
DK/Ref	4

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q24. How often, if ever, do you believe Asian American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Often	7
Sometimes	22
Rarely	24
Never	44
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of Asian Americans in half-sample B who have ever tried to rent or buy a place to live; n=201)**

Q25. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Asian American **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	25
No	75
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q61. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern for the cost?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	40
No	60
DK/Ref	*

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q62a. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern that you would be discriminated against or treated poorly because you or they are Asian American?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	9
No	89
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q63. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

- a. Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	42
No, has not happened	58
DK/Ref	-

- b. Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	51
No, has not happened	49
DK/Ref	*

- c. People acted as if they were afraid of you

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	11
No, has not happened	89
DK/Ref	-

Q63a. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64a. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63a/Q64a Combo Table**  
**Based on total half-sample B; n=266**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Someone has referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word (total)	42
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	32
Gender	7
Sexual orientation	2
Gender identity	-
Religion/Religious views (vol)	1
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	-
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	*
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	*
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	-
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	1
Social Reasons (vol)	1
Some other reason	4
DK/Ref	1
No, has not happened	58
DK/Ref	-

Q63b. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64b. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63b/Q64b Combo Table**  
**Based on total half-sample B; n=266**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Someone has made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you (total)	51
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	35
Gender	12
Sexual orientation	1
Gender identity	-
Religion/Religious views (vol)	2
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	2
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	2
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	*
Social reasons (vol)	1
Some other reason	4
DK/Ref	4
No, has not happened	49
DK/Ref	*

Q63c. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

People acted as if they were afraid of you

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64c. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63c/Q64c Combo Table**  
**Based on total half-sample B; n=266**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
People have acted as if they were afraid to you (total)	11
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	8
Gender	1
Sexual orientation	-
Gender identity	-
Religion/Religious views (vol)	*
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	-
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	1
Envy/Jealousy	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	-
Handicap/disability (vol)	-
Personality (vol)	*
Social reasons (vol)	-
Some other reason	1
DK/Ref	-
No, has not happened	89
DK/Ref	-

### III. Employment & Education

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace. For each of the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q65. Asian American people where I live have fewer employment opportunities just because they are Asian American. Do you...?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Strongly agree	8
Somewhat agree	20
Somewhat disagree	33
Strongly disagree	38
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q68. Asian American people where I live are paid less than white people for equal work, because they are Asian American. Do you...?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Strongly agree	14
Somewhat agree	26
Somewhat disagree	22
Strongly disagree	35
DK/Ref	3

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about education and schooling. For each of the following statements about education and schooling, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q72. Because of the way the schools operate where I live, Asian American children here don't have the same chances to get a quality education as **white children**. Do you...?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Strongly agree	3
Somewhat agree	14
Somewhat disagree	22
Strongly disagree	59
DK/Ref	2

Now I have a different type of question, but still about education.

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q76. When you were growing up, were you encouraged to apply to college, discouraged from applying for college, or was this never discussed?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Encouraged to apply to college	67
Discouraged from applying for college	2
Never discussed	29
DK/Ref	2

#### IV. Community Environment

Q78. People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly black or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly Asian American, or not?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Predominantly Asian American	20
Not predominantly Asian American	78
DK/Ref	2

Q80. If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Upper income	21
Middle income	47
Lower income	10
Don't have enough information	22

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q81. If you were describing the health and well-being of the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly excellent health, good health, only fair health, or poor health, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Excellent health	22
Good health	38
Only fair health	12
Poor health	2
Don't have enough information	26

Q82. Have you or a family member who is also Asian American been told or felt as though you wouldn't be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development you were interested in because you are Asian American?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	12
No	87
DK/Ref	1

Q84. Have you ever thought about moving or relocating to another area because you experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where you were living?

**If Yes, ask:**

Have you thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved or have you actually moved or relocated because of discrimination?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
No, I've never thought about it	90
<b>Yes, have thought about moving because of discrimination where I live (NET)</b>	<b>10</b>
I've thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved	7
I've actually moved/relocated because of discrimination	3
DK/Ref	*

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=266)**

Q85. Compared to other places to live, do you think the (INSERT ITEM) where you live is BETTER, WORSE, or ABOUT THE SAME as other places to live?

- a. Availability of grocery stores

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	50
Worse	5
About the same	45
DK/Ref	*

- b. Air quality

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	48
Worse	8
About the same	43
DK/Ref	1

- c. Quality of drinking water

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	41
Worse	9
About the same	47
DK/Ref	3

- d. Quality of available housing

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	37
Worse	15
About the same	46
DK/Ref	2

- e. Quality of available doctors or health care services

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	45
Worse	7
About the same	43
DK/Ref	5

f. Quality of public schools

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	44
Worse	12
About the same	37
DK/Ref	7

g. Availability of local employment opportunities

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	32
Worse	13
About the same	50
DK/Ref	5

h. Amount of crime

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	56
Worse	12
About the same	30
DK/Ref	2

i. Availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	47
Worse	15
About the same	37
DK/Ref	1

j. Availability of public transportation options

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Better	41
Worse	28
About the same	29
DK/Ref	2

## V. Public Safety

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q86. Do you believe that police officers where you live are more likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is Asian American, or are they just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person given the same type of situation?

	Asian Americans
More likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is Asian American	15
Just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person	60
More likely to use unnecessary force against a white person (vol)	1
Police are unlikely to use unnecessary force, regardless of race (vol)	12
DK/Ref	12

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q88. Have you ever avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that you or others in your family would be discriminated against because you or they are Asian American?

	Asian Americans
Yes	8
No	91
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)**

Q89. Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?

**If Yes, ask:**

Q90. How often would you say you avoided doing things you might normally do, to avoid the police or government authority figures?

**Q89/Q90 Combo Table**

**Based on total half-sample A; n=234**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Have ever avoided doing things they might normally do because they wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures	7
Frequently	2
Sometimes	2
Not often	3
No, have not	92
DK/Ref	1

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about things that may have ever happened to you. Some of these may be difficult to think or talk about, but please do your best. Your honest answers can really help.

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q91. Do you believe that you or someone in your family has (INSERT ITEM) because you or they are Asian American?

**Q91 Summary Table: % saying "Yes"**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Experienced sexual harassment	8
Been threatened or non-sexually harassed	21
Been unfairly stopped or treated by the police	12
Been unfairly treated by the courts	6
Experienced violence	10

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=234)**

Q95. Do you believe that the police force in your area reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area, or are the police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area	41
Police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area	34
DK/Ref	25

Q96. In the past year, have you been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization, or ballot issue encouraging you to vote or support their cause during an election? For example, someone knocking on your door or calling you on the phone?

	Asian Americans
Yes	41
No	58
DK/Ref	1

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

	Asian Americans
<b>Registered to vote</b>	<b>60</b>
Registered at current address	55
Registered somewhere else	5
Not registered to vote	40
DK/Ref	*

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

**If registered to vote, ask:**

Q98. Did you vote in the 2016 presidential election when Hillary Clinton ran against Donald Trump, did something prevent you from voting, or did you choose not to vote?

**Q97/Q98 Combo Table  
Based on total respondents**

	Asian Americans
Registered to vote	60
Yes, voted	51
No, did not vote	9
Not registered to vote	40
DK/Ref	*

## VI. Health Demographics

Q99. In general, how would you describe your own physical health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Excellent	25
Very good	31
Good	30
Fair	13
Poor	1
DK/Ref	-

Q100. In general, how would you describe your own mental health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Excellent	37
Very good	31
Good	22
Fair	7
Poor	2
DK/Ref	*

Q101. Does any disability keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	9
No	91
DK/Ref	*

Q102. Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told you that you have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or haven't they?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	23
No	77
DK/Ref	*

Q103. Do you receive regular care from the Veterans Administration?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	6
No	92
DK/Ref	2

Q105. Do you have a regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of your health care when you are sick or have a health concern, or do you not?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	76
No	24
DK/Ref	*

Q106. Where do you usually go when you are sick or when you need advice about your health? Is it a hospital emergency room, a clinic at a hospital, a neighborhood clinic or health center, a private doctor's office, or do you have no usual place of care?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Hospital emergency room	4
Clinic at a hospital	16
Neighborhood clinic or health center	20
Private doctor's office	46
No usual place of care	11
Urgent Care (vol)	*
Veterans Administration/Military care (vol)	1
Other	2
DK/Ref	-

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes	89
No	11
DK/Ref	-

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

**If covered by health insurance, ask:**

Q108. Which of the following is your **main** source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse’s employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, a plan through your parents, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

**Q107/Q108 Combo Table  
Based on total respondents**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Yes, covered by health insurance	89
Plan through your employer	40
Plan through your spouse’s employer	10
Plan you purchased yourself either through an insurance company or state or federal marketplace	12
Medicare	13
Medicaid	5
Plan through your parents	7
Veterans administrative/Military (vol)	1
Somewhere else	1
DK/Ref	*
No, not covered by health insurance	11
DK/Ref	-

## VII. Demographics

### Self-Reported Gender Table

	Asian Americans
Male	50
Female	50

### Age Table

	Asian Americans
18 to 29	24
30 to 49	39
50 to 64	22
65 or older	15
Refused	-

D3. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	Asian Americans
<b>High school or less (NET)</b>	<b>27</b>
Less than high school (grades 1-11, grade 12, but no diploma)	8
High school graduate or equivalent (e.g. GED)	19
Some college but no degree (incl. 2 year occupational or vocational programs)	19
<b>College or post graduate (NET)</b>	<b>54</b>
College graduate (e.g. BA, AB, BS)	24
Postgraduate (e.g. MA, MS,, Med, MSW, MBA, MD, DDs, PhD, JD, LLB, DVM)	30
DK/Ref	*

D4. Are you currently employed full-time, part-time, or not currently employed?

	Asian Americans
Employed full-time	51
Employed part-time	15
Not currently employed	34
DK/Ref	*

### LGBTQ Identity Table

	Asian Americans
Straight and cisgender	91
LGBTQ	6
Refused	3

D7. Were you born in the United States or in another country?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
U.S.	26
Another country	74

D8. Now I want to ask you about you and your family's heritage. Are you Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, or are you and your ancestors from another country?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Chinese	24
<b>Southeast Asian (NET)</b>	<b>23</b>
Filipino	13
Vietnamese	8
Cambodian	1
Laotian	*
Malaysian	1
Indian	27
Japanese	7
Korean	6
Bangladeshi	2
Pakistani	1
Sri Lankan	1
Taiwanese	2
Other	6
Refused	1

D11. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Married	52
Living with a partner	2
Divorced	8
Separated	1
Widowed	4
Never been married	32
Refused	1

**D12/D12a/D12b Income Summary Table**

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
<\$25,000 per year	24
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	13
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	12
\$75,000 or more	41
Unspecified under \$100,000	3
Don't know	2
Refused	5

D15. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

	<b>Asian Americans</b>
Republican	14
Democrat	35
Independent	35
Other	7
DK/Ref	9