

Raising the Next Generation

Research with Asian American Pacific Islander Parents and Caregivers

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CONDUCTED FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

— BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's vision is a Culture of Health, where everyone in America has a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Through its work for healthy children and families, the Foundation sponsored this national survey with diverse parents and caregivers to hear directly from them about their aspirations for their children, the challenges they face, and what enables their families to thrive. PerryUndem, with guidance from GMMB and Betty&Smith, conducted the survey and analysis.

As America rapidly evolves into a more racially and ethnically diverse country, we see the future in today's generation of children. This survey was designed to give equal voice to parents from different backgrounds. It includes parents rarely included in national studies to explore their attitudes, perceptions, and experiences. For more information about this project, please visit: *EveryFamilyForward.org*.

— QUALITATIVE WORK

Qualitative work was used to inform the survey design.

Research methods

37 interviews with parents (<250% FPL) (February-March 2019; April-September 2020)
30 focus groups with parents (<250% FPL) (April-November 2019)
5 focus groups with service providers working with families (December 2019-January 2020)

Topics covered

Parents' optimism about their children's future
Feelings about parenting
Perceptions of inequity in America
Feelings about their neighborhoods / communities
Factors that impact children's ability to thrive
Challenges their children will likely experience
Positive experiences their children will likely have
Worries about children experiencing discrimination
Parents' experiences with discrimination
How discrimination has impacted parents' opportunities
What enables families to thrive

Reports on the qualitative work are available at EveryFamilyForward.org.

Study participants

Most have incomes <250% FPL (about \$54,000 for a family of three):

Alaska Native parents
Arab parents
Black parents
Chinese parents
Indian parents
Indigenous parents
Korean parents
Latino parents
LGBTQ parents
Native Hawaiian parents
Southeast Asian parents
Vietnamese parents
White parents

All participants were compensated for their participation.

Research conducted in...

Arabic
Cantonese
English
Korean
Mandarin
Spanish
Vietnamese

Study locations

In-person interviews and focus groups conducted in...

Albuquerque, NM
Anchorage, AK
Bismarck, ND
Buffalo, NY
Colorado Springs, CO
Fresno, CA
Honolulu, HI
Houston, TX
Irvine, CA
Newark, NJ
New York, NY
Pearl, MS
San Francisco, CA
Savannah, GA
Seattle, WA
Tulsa, OK

During COVID-19, 21 online interviews have been conducted with low-income parents living in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas in...

Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas

— SURVEY DETAILS

We conducted a national survey of 2,023 racially and ethnically diverse parents and caregivers raising children 0-17 years old.

The survey included roughly equal samples of Asian American Pacific Islander (417), Black (400), Indigenous (406), Latino (400) and white (400) parents and caregivers.

This report focuses on the 417 Asian American Pacific Islander parents and caregivers who participated in this survey. The sample size for this segment limits what subgroups we can analyze.

The Asian American Pacific Islander survey was offered in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The margin of sampling error for the survey of Asian American Pacific Islander parents is: +/- 6.6 percentage points.

More details on the survey methodology are available on *EveryFamilyForward.org*.

Key Findings.

— Optimism

More than 8 in 10 AAPI parents are optimistic about the future of the country for their children, with lower-income and those born outside the US especially optimistic.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I am optimistic about the future of this country for my children.”

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	81	37	44	15	3
<250% FPL	89	49	39	9	2
Non-college	83	45	38	10	4
Born outside US	83	38	45	13	2
Dads	81	37	44	14	3
Moms	81	37	44	15	4
College+	80	33	46	17	3
>250% FPL	78	33	45	17	4
Parents of children 0-5	77	43	33	19	2
US born	75	32	42	19	6

Case sizes: <250% FPL (N=171); >250% FPL (N=246); Dads (N=168); Moms (N=246); Non-college (N=109); College+ (N=308); Parents of children 0-5 (N=202); US born (N=242); Born outside US (N=173)

Total MOE: +/- 6.6 percentage points

— Opportunity

But most AAPI parents are worried that despite their efforts to give their children everything, America does not offer every child the same opportunities.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I try to give my children everything for them to succeed, but I worry that America doesn’t offer every child the same opportunities?”

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	78	41	37	13	9
Moms	84	52	32	9	7
US born	82	40	42	15	4
College+	81	41	39	11	9
<250% FPL	79	42	37	10	10
Born outside US	78	42	36	13	10
>250% FPL	78	41	37	14	8
Non-college	73	41	32	19	8
Parents of children 0-5	71	32	39	14	15
Dads	71	28	43	18	11

— Positive Experiences during Childhood

A majority of AAPI parents feel it is very likely that their children will receive a quality K-12 education, have a chance to go to college/vocational school, and grow up in a safe neighborhood.

Q: Now let me ask you about other experiences your children might have. How likely do you think it is that your children will experience the following during their childhood and teen years?

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Have a chance to go to college, vocational, or trade school after high school	98	76	22	1	1
A quality K-12 education	97	67	30	1	0
A safe neighborhood to grow up in	95	66	29	5	1
Strong, positive role models	95	65	30	3	1
More opportunity to succeed and thrive than you had	94	60	34	3	2
A strong social support network	93	60	33	6	0

— Challenges

But, a majority of AAPI parents feel it is likely that their children will experience bullying, racism, anxiety, or discrimination.

Q: How likely do you think it is that your children are or will experience (the following/any of these) during their childhood and teen years?

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not likely at all
Bullying	68	27	41	20	12
Racism	64	29	35	23	13
Anxiety	63	22	41	21	15
Discrimination on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation	52	19	33	25	22
Depression	49	14	35	29	21
Unfair discipline from teachers/administrators	46	13	33	33	21
Gun violence	38	10	28	33	27
Harassment and profiling by law enforcement	36	11	25	39	25

Total MOE: +/- 6.6 percentage points

— Place to Raise Children

Most AAPI parents feel like their community has a place to buy healthy foods, is a good place to raise children, and has parks and other safe places for outdoor activities. But, a quarter (26%) of AAPI parents feel like their communities are unsafe.

Q: Now think about where you live, your home and community. How well does each describe where you live?

	TOTAL Very/ pretty	Very well	Pretty well	Not too well	Not well at all
Has places to buy healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables nearby	96	70	26	3	0
A good place to raise children	95	57	38	3	2
Has parks, playgrounds, and safe places for outdoor activities	94	59	35	4	2
Has a good relationship between residents and law enforcement	94	44	50	4	1
Has good quality schools	90	50	40	8	2
Racially and culturally mixed	81	34	47	14	4
Unsafe	26	11	15	29	43
Has brown water or unsafe water	22	8	14	14	64

Total MOE: +/- 6.6 percentage points

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination on Children

Six in ten (61%) AAPI parents are concerned that racism and discrimination will limit their child’s opportunities, with lower-income parents most concerned.

Q: How concerned are you that racism and discrimination will limit your children's opportunities to get a quality education, go to college, or get a good job when they are an adult?

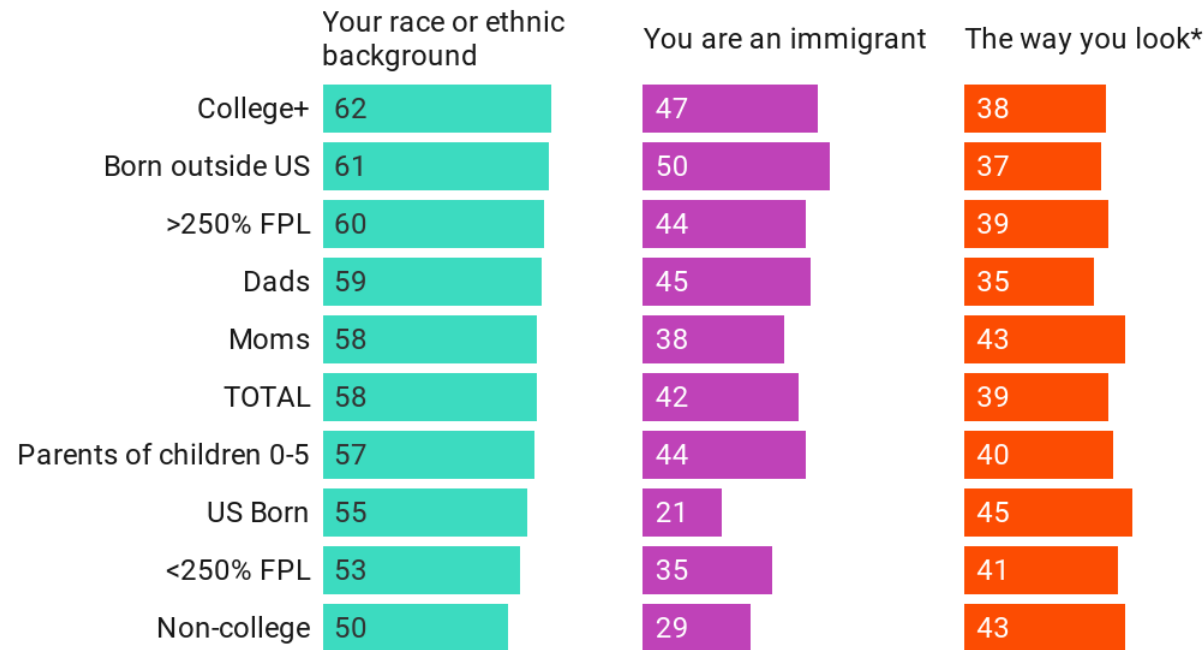
	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
Total	61	25	36	26	13
<250% FPL	69	41	28	19	12
Parents of children 0-5	67	28	40	18	15
Moms	64	29	35	23	12
Non-college	63	33	30	24	13
Born outside US	63	28	35	27	11
College+	60	21	39	27	13
US born	58	19	40	25	17
>250% FPL	58	19	39	28	14
Dads	57	20	37	29	14

— Experiences with Racism and Discrimination

And, a similar share (58%) of AAPI parents say they have felt discriminated against or treated unfairly because of their racial/ethnic background.

Q: Have you ever felt discriminated against or treated unfairly because of any of the following?

PERCENT WHO SAY "YES"



Full question options: Your race or ethnic background; Your gender; Your gender identity; Your income and financial situation; You are an immigrant; Your sexual orientation; Your religious or faith belief; The language you speak; The way you look

*For example, your hair length or style, the shape of your body, the clothes you wear

Total MOE: +/- 6.6 percentage points

— Effects of Racism and Discrimination

More than 1 in 2 (55%) of AAPI parents feel like discrimination and racism has limited their opportunities in life a lot or somewhat.

Q: What effect, if any, has racism or discrimination had on your opportunities in life? Has racism and discrimination...

	TOTAL A lot/ some	Limited your opportunities a lot	Limited your opportunities some	Did not limit your opportunities
Total	55	10	45	39
Parents of children 0-5	59	9	49	37
Born outside US	58	10	49	38
College+	56	9	47	40
Moms	55	11	45	36
>250% FPL	55	8	47	40
<250% FPL	54	15	38	39
Dads	53	9	44	44
Non-college	52	13	39	38
US born	47	11	36	41

— Systemic Racism

Lower-income and non-college AAPI parents are most likely to feel like systemic racism makes it harder for someone like them to get a good paying job or get good medical care.

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Systemic racism and discrimination can make it harder for someone like me to get a good paying job, live in a safe community, attend quality schools, and get good medical care.”

	TOTAL Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Total	73	37	36	16	11
Born outside US	75	39	36	13	12
College+	74	33	41	15	11
<250% FPL	73	48	25	15	11
Moms	73	38	35	17	10
Dads	73	35	38	14	13
>250% FPL	73	32	40	16	11
Non-college	71	45	26	17	12
US born	71	32	39	22	7
Parents of children 0-5	69	28	40	14	18

— Emotions

Eight in ten (81%) AAPI parents frequently feel lucky to be parents, and most feel like they provide their children with everything they need to be successful.

Q: As a parent or guardian of a child, how often do you feel _____. Would you say frequently, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

	TOTAL Frequently/ sometimes	Frequently	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Lucky to be a parent	99	81	18	1	0
That you provide your children with everything they need to be successful in life	98	67	31	2	1
Supported by family and friends	93	62	31	6	1
That you don't have enough time for your family	62	21	41	28	10

— Factors to Thrive

Strong work ethic, feeling you have the power to change your situation, and creativity in solving problems are seen as the most important assets for AAPI parents.

Q: How important is each of the following in helping your family get through hard times and to succeed:

	TOTAL Very/ somewhat	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all
A strong work ethic	97	79	18	3	0
A feeling you have the power to change your family's situation	97	69	28	3	0
Creativity in how you solve problems	95	69	26	5	1
A willingness to ask for help when you need it	94	63	31	4	2
Family and friends nearby who can help out	92	63	29	6	2
Cultural traditions you share as a family and with others	88	49	39	9	3
Close connections to neighbors and others in your community	85	43	42	13	2
Strong faith and spiritual beliefs	78	51	27	16	6

Total MOE: +/- 6.6 percentage points

**For more information or
further details about this
project, visit
EveryFamilyForward.org.**