

AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS' EXPERIENCES OF RACISM

In this series, Best Starts for Kids (BSK) shares survey results about seven questions related to racism from the 2019 BSK Health Survey, along with reactions and insights from families who reviewed these survey results for their community. Across the 10 BIPOC communities included, families faced racism to varying degrees in every facet of life, and families said that racism is under-reported in the BSK Health Survey. Families were commonly subjected to racism in public and professional settings. Families from most communities agreed that acts of racism were common at their child's school, and most communities described racist occurrences in the healthcare system. For more information about the café findings, please see the full Community Café Collaborative report at: <https://bit.ly/3pMbzgf>

71%

of African American parents said they experienced racism.

Among African American parents who experienced racism:

58% while receiving medical care

58% at child's activities

49% at child's school

Other common settings included at **work**, in **public places**, and in **social settings**.

307

African American parents took the survey in 2019.



Image credit: Carolyn Solitaire



Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

Participants in this café thought the percentage of African Americans experiencing racism in the survey data was too low. Racism is pervasive in their daily lives, almost to the point of saturation. Some expressed that it was hard to pinpoint what is a microaggression when the interactions are commonplace. They thought BIPOC might not even see microaggressions for what they are: racism.

Most café participants had experienced racism while receiving and/or attempting to receive adequate healthcare. These are instances that were universal for the community pre-pandemic but have been compounded and accentuated by the effects of COVID. One participant related that she went to a hospital a couple times a week for an ailment and was sent home with pain pills, but when going to a different facility, with Black doctors, she was treated for the issue in a more comprehensive way. All the participants agreed that they would like to explore this thread of daily racism in more detail.



"People should not be experiencing racism in receiving medical care and at a child's school. That is a big problem."

– African American Café participant

"The neighborhoods are changing and don't have the same dynamic. Gentrification is changing the neighborhoods."

– African American Café participant



Notes:

African American parents are defined as parents who selected the "African American" group on the survey and did not select Somali, Ethiopian, or another African country. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected African American and Vietnamese on the survey would have their responses counted in both African American and Vietnamese results). Photos generously provided by members of the African American community.