



## SOMALI 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>

### Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

This community faces racism every day. Many participants stated that they are judged for their skin color, attire (including head scarves), religion, language, and accents, but feel largely invisible and discounted. Participants thought more of the Somali community should have been surveyed in order to get more accurate results. The group also thought that if the interpretation of "neighborhood" in the second data point was the wider Somali community, the percentage would be higher.



*"This injustice of racism has been going on before Somalis come to America and it did not get better. The system is built to benefit white people only."*

– Somali Café participant

*"I feel like we don't have a voice in this city and our voice doesn't matter."*

– Somali Café participant

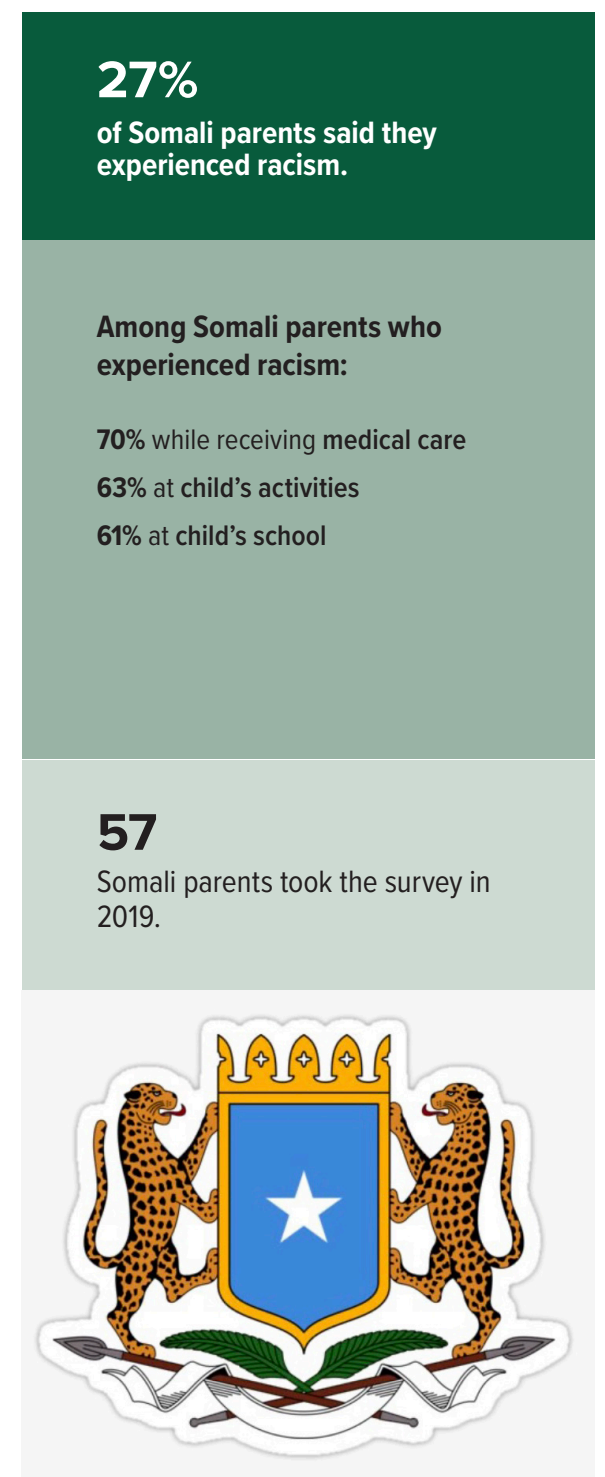


Image credit: Fahiima Abdule & Hanni Hassan

**Notes:**

The Somali café discussion was facilitated in Somali. The BSK Health Survey was available online and by phone in Somali. Somali parents are defined as parents who selected the Somali group on the survey. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Somali on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Somali results). Photos generously provided by members of the Somali community.