



AFRO-LATINA/X/O 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/3pMbzgfgf>

Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

The group agreed that there is a lot of discrimination that Afro-Latinos face, even within the Latino community (colorism, Spanish speaking vs. non-Spanish speaking, accent shaming, biases against those who present more indigenous, etc). Some expressed that they didn't experience racism, but went on to describe everyday experiences that can be defined as microaggressions. The group brought up the roots of bias/discrimination several times. Some pointed to these experiences in home countries and in adoptive families.



"If they hear our accent or see us (judge by our looks) automatically start assuming things."

– Afro-Latino Café participant

"Many times we choose to ignore the microaggression to protect ourselves, so we don't get hurt."

– Afro-Latino Café participant

"Sometimes racism is not visible."

– Afro-Latino Café participant

"We are taught racism should not affect us so our response is - I didn't even notice."

– Afro-Latino Café participant



41%

of Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents said they experienced racism.

Afro-Latino parents reflected on survey findings for all Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents due to small sample sizes for Afro-Latino parents.

Among Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents who experienced everyday racism:

46% while receiving medical care

37% at child's activities

30% at child's school

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

1,023

Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents took the survey in 2019.



Notes:

The Afro-Latino café discussion was facilitated in Spanish. The café hosts for this community identified participants as Afro-Latino, so we have used Afro-Latino when describing café findings. The BSK Health Survey was available online and by phone in Spanish. Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents are defined as parents who selected the Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Cuban or Puerto Rican, Other Latina/x/o groups, or wrote a Hispanic or Latina/x/o response in the open-ended category like "El Salvadorian" on the survey. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Mexican on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Hispanic/Latina/x/o results). Photos generously provided by members of the Afro-Latino community.