



## ETHIOPIAN 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>

**38%**

of Ethiopian parents said they experienced racism.

**Among Ethiopian parents who experienced everyday racism:**

**58%** while receiving medical care

**62%** at child's activities

**43%** at child's school

Other common settings included at **work**, when **shopping**, and in **public spaces**.

**106**

Ethiopian parents took the survey in 2019.

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

The Ethiopian community, largely immigrant, faces racism every day. Participants stated that they feel discrimination in numerous areas of their lives including their children's schools, in the workplace, on public transportation, and while receiving healthcare. Many said they feel judged for the color of their skin and their accents.



*"When sweeping the front of my house, there was a white man and asked...can you call the owner of the house? He assumed that I was the maid, but I told him it's my house."*

– Ethiopian Café participant

*"When I went shopping, I was choosing the clothes, but the salesperson came and she told me to stop touching all the clothes. I just folded them. I said I am here to shop. She assumes I can't afford to pay for the brand cloth that they were selling."*

– Ethiopian Café participant

*"When my children were enrolled in school, I was told they need an English class, but my children were born here and they speak perfect English."*

– Ethiopian Café participant

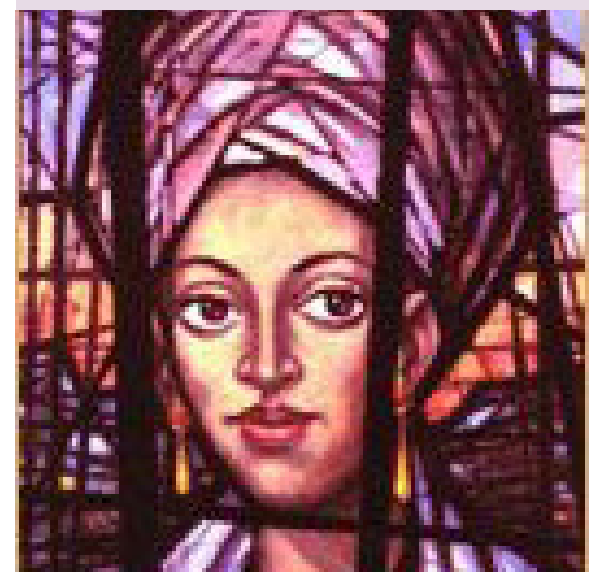


Image credit: Tewodros Ayele

**Notes:**

The Ethiopian café discussion was facilitated in Amharic. Ethiopian parents are defined as parents who selected the Ethiopian race/ethnicity group on the survey. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Ethiopian on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Ethiopian results). Photos generously provided by members of the Ethiopian community and artwork by Maitre Artist Afework Tekle.