



BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION

Key Insights into the experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander Californians from a Statewide Survey about COVID-19, Equity, and Domestic Violence

March 2021

Blue Shield of California Foundation sponsored a statewide survey of 1,918 California adults 18 and older to understand experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, equity, and domestic violence. The non-partisan research firm PerryUndem developed and analyzed the survey and Ipsos fielded the survey online January 6 – 22, 2021.¹

The survey found that many Californians are experiencing serious impacts from the pandemic, and provides insights to their experiences with race, health, finances, and a growth in the conditions that cause domestic violence. As the pandemic has fueled a dangerous rise in xenophobia and racism toward Asian Americans, the survey data offer insights into the experiences within diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, while revealing some of the stresses they are under. Following are some key insights from the 428 AAPI Californians who participated in our survey:

COVID-19 IMPACTS

Like other Californians of color in the survey, AAPI adults are experiencing serious impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic including feelings of isolation and concerns about their safety. Key findings include:

- 92% of AAPI respondents say the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major (38%) or minor (54%) effect on them and their families.

¹ The survey of 1,918 California adults included: 428 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults; 423 Black adults; 401 Latinx adults; and 293 LGBTQ adults. The survey was offered in English, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Tagalog, and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for total results is + 3.2 percentage points.

- Since the pandemic started, 72% of AAPI Californians say they have felt isolated from others and 64% say they have felt trapped in their homes.
- More than half (55%) report feeling unsafe and 41% say they have felt depressed.

RACISM

AAPI Californians also report feeling and experiencing the effects of racism in their lives. Key findings include:

- 90% of AAPI adults believe racism has increased (62%) or stayed the same (28%) in recent years.
- More than half feel it is a “bad time” to be an Asian woman (54%) or Asian man (53%) in America.
- 1 in 5 (22%) say they do not feel personally accepted as an equal and valuable member of society.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One purpose of the survey was to better understand feelings about and experiences with domestic violence. The results show that the vast majority of AAPI Californians see this as a serious issue currently and believe the pandemic and stay-at-home orders in California may be impacting this issue. Key findings include:

- 90% of AAPI adults say domestic violence is a serious problem in society right now.
- 85% of AAPI adults think the pandemic and the stay-at home orders in California have made domestic violence incidents more likely to occur.
- 73% of AAPI adults believe the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders have made it harder for people experiencing domestic violence to reach out for help.
- 69% of AAPI adults say one partner feeling the need to dominate and control the other partner is a major cause of domestic violence (77% of AAPI women feel this way).
- 4 out of 5 (79%) AAPI adults support alternatives to jail for people who cause domestic violence. This could be counseling, including substance abuse counseling, supervision by a social worker, or restitution to the person who experienced the violence (for example, paying for their therapy, medical expenses, or loss of employment).
- 70% of AAPI adults feel that the police would “help the situation” if they were assaulted by a romantic partner or a spouse (15% feel the police would “make the situation worse” and 12% would not go to the police if assaulted).