COVID-19 & the Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities: Brief Report from the COMPASS Survey

Name of study: COVID-19 Effects on the Mental and Physical Health of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Survey Study (COMPASS), https://compass.ucsf.edu/

Purpose: COMPASS is a nationwide survey about the COVID-19 mental and physical health effects on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI). COMPASS findings may help to inform future policies, programs and additional research that can alleviate the adverse effects of COVID-19 for AAPI.

Participants: 5,420 AAPI adults completed the COMPASS survey online, by phone, or in-person.


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UCSF IRB Protocol #: 20-31925

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Community Partners

- American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, American Samoa
- Asian Resources, Inc., Sacramento, California
- Collaborative Approach for Research & Education (CARE) Community Advisory Board, https://careregistry.ucsf.edu/, California
- Chinese Community Center, Texas
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Massachusetts
- Hmong Community Center of Minnesota, Minnesota
- India Community Center, California
- International Children Assistance Network, California
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, US
- Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation, Pennsylvania
- Pistos Korean Presbyterian Church, California
- United SIKHS, New York
- Yu-Ai Kai, California
**COMPASS Participants**

**Age**

- Mean Age: **47.2**
  - Range: 19 - 98 years
  - 47.1% were 50 years and older
  - 16.8% were 65 years and older

**Language of survey completion**

- English: 68%
- Korean: 7%
- Vietnamese: 9%
- Chinese: 12%
- Samoan: 4%

**Gender**

- Female: 35.5%
- Male: 63.7%
- Other (0.3%)
- Prefer not to answer (0.5%)

**Regions**

- West: 66.1%
- Midwest: 8.6%
- Northeast: 11.8%
- South: 13.8%

**Cultural Groups**

- Ethnic Chinese: 36.0%
- Korean: 21.6%
- Vietnamese: 20.0%
- Asian Indian: 6.1%
- Taiwanese: 5.3%
- Japanese: 5.1%
- Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders: 4.9%
- Filipino: 4.7%
- Hmong: 2.2%
- Other: 1.8%
- More than one cultural group: 1.3%

- **66.6%** born outside the U.S.
- **24.9%** have limited English proficiency
- **14.7%** are caregivers of older adults or persons with special needs

*Note: Total of 5,242 participants who completed COMPASS survey between October 24, 2020 and March 6, 2021.*
Key COVID-19 Discrimination Findings

When asked how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their life, 41% said they have increased negative experience with racial discrimination (at mild to severe levels of change)

3 in 5 experienced discrimination in the past 6 months

Racial Bias Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59.0%</td>
<td>believed that the country has become more dangerous for their ethnic group</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>believed that negative social media posts against their race/ethnicity have increased because of COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>believed that most social/mass media reports about COVID-19 create bias against their race/ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>had seen a lot more cyberbullying of people of their race/ethnicity since the pandemic</td>
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<tr>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>worried about people thinking they have COVID-19 because of their race/ethnicity</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>believed that people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to lose their job</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>believed that people of their race/ethnicity will not receive as good COVID-19 healthcare as others</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>believed people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to get COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>reported being cyberbullied because of their race/ethnicity</td>
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Note: Based on data from 4,971 COMPASS participants who completed the survey between October 24, 2020 and February 13, 2021 and answered all the discrimination questions.

Key Vaccine Willingness & Concerns Findings

“unsure” or “probably/definitely no” to getting the vaccine

Certain AAPI subgroups (i.e., Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, Korean Americans, those aged 30-39 and 50-59) were significantly less willing to receive COVID-19 vaccine compared to their counterparts.

25.4%

25.4% of the 1,646 participants have at least one or more concerns about the vaccine, citing side effects as the most common concern.

Among 1,646 participants who completed the survey prior to December 11, 2020 (when the Food and Drug Administration authorized emergency use of the first COVID-19 vaccine)