

DISCRIMINATION
IN AMERICA:

EXPERIENCES
AND VIEWS OF
AFRICAN AMERICANS

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HARVARD
T.H. CHAN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Survey Background

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, whites, men, women, and LGBTQ adults. This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability sample of 802 African-American U.S. adults. Future reports will analyze each other group, and the final report will discuss major highlights from the series.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

Summary: Personal Experiences of Discrimination

Overall, African Americans report extensive experiences of discrimination, across a range of situations. In the context of institutional forms of discrimination, half or more of African Americans say they have personally been discriminated against because they are Black when interacting with police (50%), when applying to jobs (56%), and when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotion (57%).

Additionally, 60% of African Americans say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because they are Black, and 45% say the court system has treated them unfairly because they are Black. Blacks living in suburban areas are more likely than those in urban areas to report being unfairly stopped or treated by police and being threatened or harassed because they are Black.

In the context of individual discrimination, a majority of African Americans have personally experienced racial slurs (51%) and people making negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about their race (52%). Four in ten African Americans say people have acted afraid of them because of their race, and 42% have experienced racial violence. Higher income Black Americans are more likely to report these experiences.

African Americans also report efforts to avoid potential discrimination or to minimize their potential interactions with police. Nearly a third (31%) say they have avoided calling the police, and 22% say they have avoided medical care, even when in need, both for fear of discrimination. Similarly, 27% of Black Americans say they have avoided doing things they might normally, such as using a car or participating in social events, to avoid potentially interacting with police.

Summary: Perceptions of Local Community

Consistent with personal experiences of discrimination, the top situations where African Americans most frequently say racial discrimination “often” happens where they live are when interacting with police, being paid or promoted equally, and applying to jobs. More than 60% of all African Americans agree that other African Americans where they live have fewer employment opportunities just because they are Black (71%), that Black children do not have the same chances as white children do for a quality education (64%), and that Black people are paid less than white people for equal work (61%).

Additionally, 61% of African Americans believe that police officers in their area are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Black person than on a white person in the same situation. About four in ten (41%) say their local police force reflects the racial background of the neighborhood.

People were also asked whether elements of their neighborhood are better, worse, or about the same as other places to live. African Americans most frequently rate local employment opportunities, the quality of local public schools, and the availability of public transportation as “worse” in their area than in other places to live. African Americans most frequently rate the amount of crime and the availability of parks and green spaces as “better” in their neighborhood than in other places to live.

African Americans living in majority Black neighborhoods are consistently and significantly more likely to perceive discrimination in their neighborhood and to negatively evaluate their local community, compared to African Americans living in non-majority Black areas.

Summary: National Beliefs & Political Contact

Overall, 92% of African Americans believe that discrimination against African Americans exists in America today. Of these, nearly half (49%) say that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people is the bigger problem, compared to 25% who say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies. Another 25% say both are equally problematic.

Finally, 55% of African Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, organization or ballot issue. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic participation, particularly among racial and ethnic minority communities.

Overall, these findings illustrate that African Americans report significant and extensive experiences of discrimination, across many areas of life.

Notes on Report Language

In this report, the terms “Black” and “African American” are used interchangeably.

This report distinguishes between institutional and individual forms of discrimination, though discrimination comes in many forms.¹ In this report, the term “institutional discrimination” refers to forms of discrimination based on laws, policies, institutions, and the related behavior of individuals who work in or control those laws, policies, or institutions. The term “individual discrimination” refers to forms of discrimination based in individual people’s prejudicial beliefs, words, and behavior. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive, but the distinction is used for organizing purposes.

In this survey, people were asked whether they had ever personally experienced discrimination related to racism, sexism, and – for LGBTQ people – homophobia and transphobia. Questions about these experiences were asked in the same way, differing only in the perceived motivation for the discrimination (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia). For example, respondents were asked, “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *African American*?” and “Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *a woman*?” Therefore, to mirror the question wording used in the survey, this report uses phrases such as “because of their race” or “because they are Black.” These phrases describe respondents’ impressions of the motivating prejudice (i.e., racism) causing these experiences, and are not intended to blame respondents for others’ discriminatory actions.

Additionally, these questions did not ask about the identity of the perceived discriminator. Respondents’ answers could therefore refer to experiences of discrimination committed by individuals of any race or ethnicity (or any other identity category).

As with other forms of self-reported data, these findings rely on respondents’ perceptions. While these experiences could be related to other factors, the fact that people believe they are due to racial discrimination is significant.

Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender.

¹ See for example, Fred Pincus (1996), “Discrimination Comes in Many Forms,” *American Behavioral Scientist* 40(2):186-194, for distinctions between structural, institutional, and individual forms of discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a series titled “Discrimination in America.” The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

This report presents African Americans’ personal experiences of racism and discrimination, as well as their perceptions of discrimination in their local area and in the nation.

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In this report, the terms “Black” and “African American” are used interchangeably. Respondents are included in this sample if they identified as Black or African American in initial screening questions. If a respondent identified as mixed or multiple races, they were asked with which they most identify, and then were asked questions about that identity. Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender. All reported differences are statistically significant.

This survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample that included 802 African-American U.S. adults. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for the African American sample in this report is $\pm 4.1\%$. Further methodological information is included at the end of the report.

I. Personal Experiences of Discrimination

In this survey, African Americans were asked about their personal experiences with racism, sexism, and discrimination, across a range of areas of life.

Consistently, African Americans report significant experiences of both institutional and individual forms of discrimination, most notably in the workplace and when interacting with police or the courts. A majority of African Americans also report experiencing individual discrimination such as racial slurs and negative assumptions or insensitive comments made about their race.

Personal Experiences of Institutional Discrimination

People were asked whether they believe they have ever personally experienced discrimination because they are African American, across a variety of situations. In the context of institutional discrimination, these situations were: when applying to jobs; when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions; when interacting with police; when trying to vote or participate in politics; when going to a doctor or health clinic; when applying to college or while at college; or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

People were only asked about situations in which they had personally participated. For example, people were only asked if they had been discriminated against when applying to college if they had ever applied to college.

Among all African Americans, 97% have ever applied for a job; 95% have ever been employed for pay; 65% have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time; and 66% have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home. For the remaining situations, screening questions were not used, but people could volunteer that they had never had these experiences.²

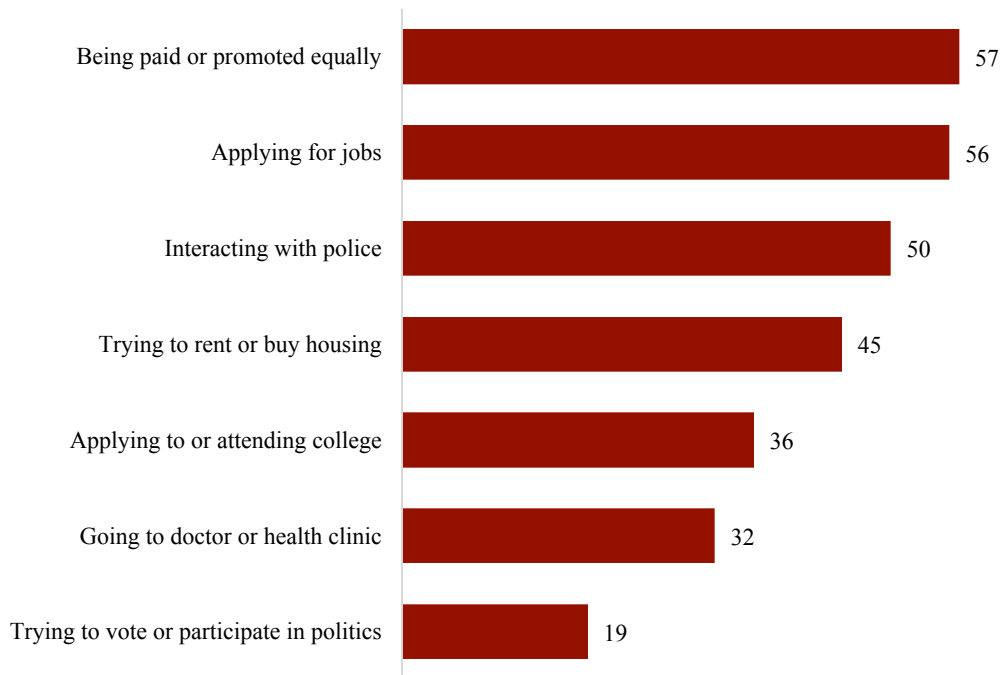
Half or more of African Americans report personally experiencing racial discrimination in the workplace or when interacting with police

Figure 1 shows the overall reporting of personal experiences of discrimination in each situation.

Half or more of African Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Black when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotion (57%), when applying for jobs (56%), or when interacting with police (50%) (Figure 1).

² Screening questions were not used for interacting with police, given the potential sensitivity of the question; for going to the doctor, given that 83% of adults have seen a doctor in the last year alone (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015), "Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, Table A-18," <https://goo.gl/AVfJPq>) and the question covers a lifetime span; or for trying to vote or participate in politics, as the question was worded intentionally broadly to capture a wide range of what might constitute political participation to the respondent.

Figure 1:
Percent of African Americans Saying They Have Ever Been Personally
Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q13, S6/Q15, Q17, Q19, Q21, S7/Q23, S8/Q25. Each question asked of half-sample and of those who have participated in each situation (e.g., among those who have ever applied for a job). Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Among those who have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or buy a house, 45% say they have experienced racial discrimination in the process (Figure 1).

Slightly more than a third (36%) of African Americans who have ever applied to or attended college say they have experienced discrimination while applying or at college because of their race. Roughly a third (32%) of all African Americans report being personally racially discriminated against when going to a doctor or health clinic (Figure 1).

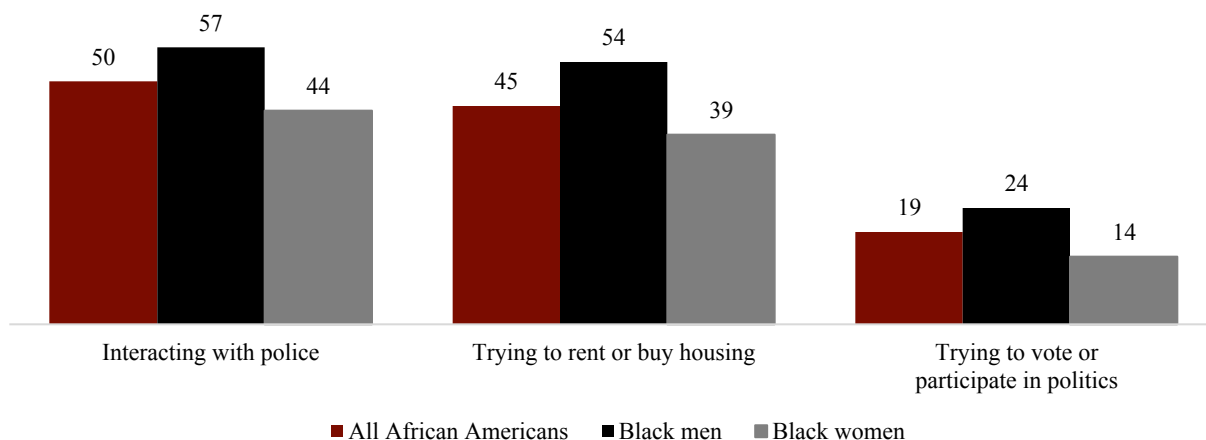
Finally, nearly one in five (19%) of all African Americans say they have been personally discriminated against when trying to vote or participate in politics (Figure 1).

Black men more likely than Black women to report personal experiences of discrimination when interacting with police, seeking housing, and voting

As Figure 2 shows, Black men are more likely than Black women to report having experienced discrimination in multiple situations. Nearly six in ten Black men (57%) say they have personally experienced discrimination when interacting with police, compared to 44% of Black women. Similarly, 54% of Black men and 39% of Black women report discrimination when

trying to rent an apartment or buy a home. In the context of trying to vote or participate in politics, 24% of Black men and 14% of Black women report discrimination.

Figure 2:
Percent of African Americans, By Gender, Saying They Have Ever Been Personally Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q17, Q19, S8/Q25. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

African Americans in the Midwest are more likely than those in the Northeast to say they have experienced racial discrimination when applying for jobs (67% Midwest, 46% Northeast) and when interacting with police (63% Midwest, 40% Northeast).³

60% of Black Americans report unfair police treatment, 45% report unfair treatment by courts

In a separate question, people were asked whether they believe they or a family member had experienced unfair treatment by the police or by the court system because they are African American.⁴ This question referred to unfair treatment rather than discrimination to capture potential differences in perception of individuals’ experiences (i.e., people who might perceive an experience as unfair but would not call it discriminatory).

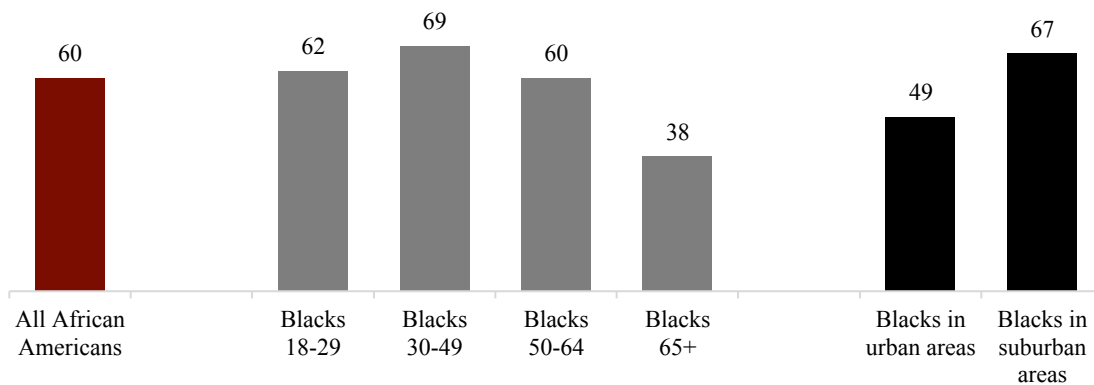
³ “Midwest,” defined by U.S. Census 4-Region division, includes: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

“Northeast,” defined by U.S. Census 4-Region division, includes: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

⁴ These questions asked whether “you or a family member” had experienced these forms of violence or discrimination. Respondents may be less willing to answer sensitive questions about their personal experiences, so family members’ experiences are included in the question to provide respondents an opportunity to indirectly disclose their own experiences, while also potentially capturing experiences of violence and discrimination in respondents’ immediate family. See Roger Tourangeau and Ting Yan (2007), “Sensitive Questions in Surveys,” *Psychological Bulletin* 133(5): 859-883, DOI: 10.1037/0033-2909.133.5.859.

Figure 3 shows that 60% of Black Americans say that they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because of their race. Additionally, younger African Americans are more likely than older (65+) African Americans to report this experience, as are African Americans living in suburban areas compared to those living in urban areas.

Figure 3:
Percent of African Americans, By Age Group and Metro Status,
Saying They or a Family Member Have Been Unfairly Stopped or
Treated By the Police Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

With regards to the court system, 45% of African Americans say they or a family member have been treated unfairly by the courts because they are Black.

African Americans who live in self-described mainly lower income neighborhoods are more likely (60%) to say they have been treated unfairly by the courts, compared to those in mainly middle income areas (36%).⁵

⁵ Neighborhood income level is self-reported, based on this question: “If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don’t have enough information about to say?” Overall, 9% of African Americans say they live in an upper income area, 41% say they live in a middle income area, 25% say lower income area, and 26% report that they do not have enough information to say.

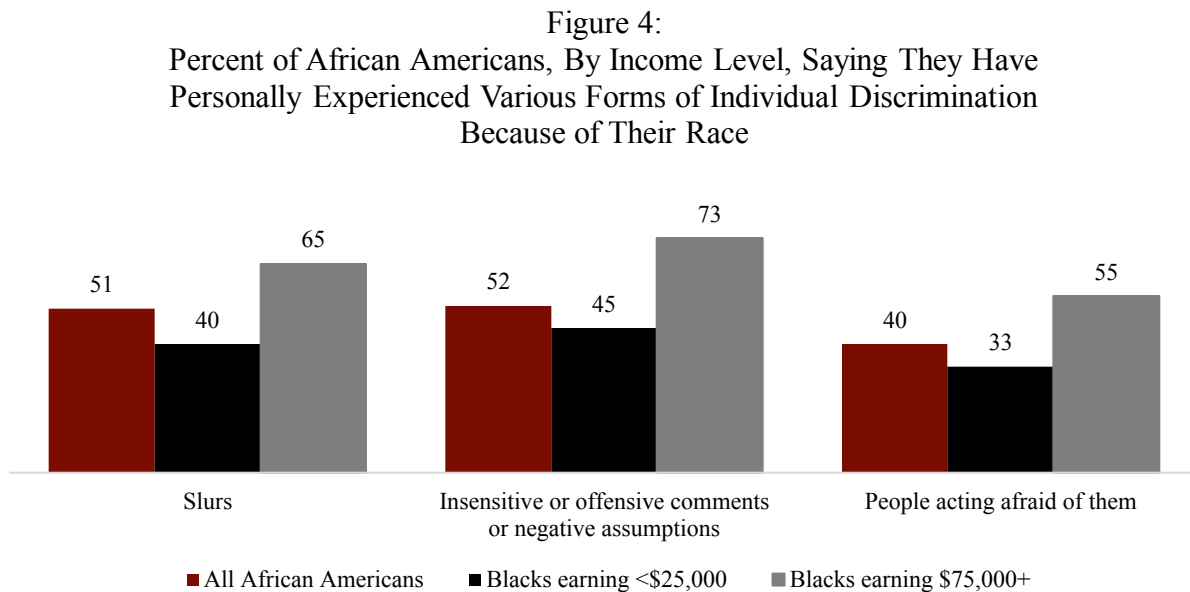
Personal Experiences of Individual Discrimination

People were asked experiences of individual or interpersonal forms of discrimination, such as slurs, negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments, sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, and violence.

Majority of Black Americans have experienced slurs and insensitive comments about their race

Recall that in this report, phrases such as “because of race” are used to mirror the question wording and to describe respondents’ impressions of the prejudice behind these experiences, and are not intended to place blame on those who have been discriminated against. Similar phrases about gender denote perceived experiences related to sexism or misogyny, and do not imply blaming respondents for others’ discriminatory actions.

Figure 4 shows that 51% of all African Americans report personally experiencing slurs that were specifically about their race. Similarly, 52% of African Americans say that someone has made insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions about their race. Forty percent say someone has acted afraid of them because of their race.⁶



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Based on half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

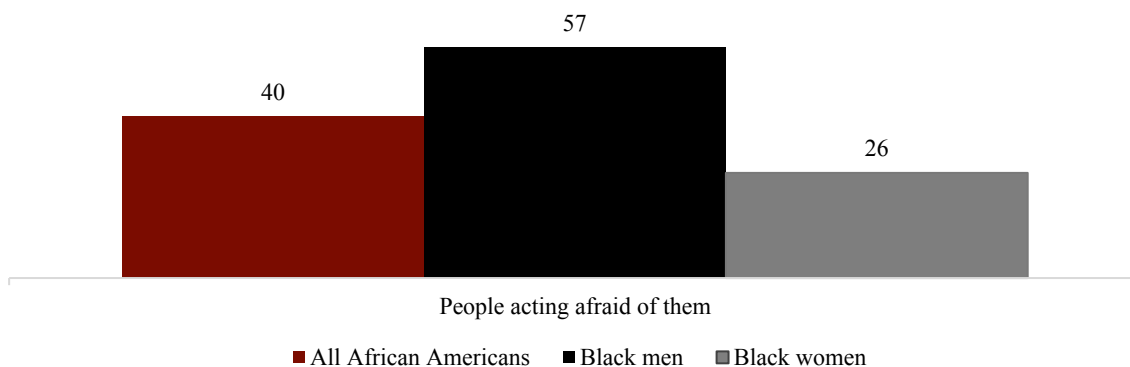
Figure 4 also shows that higher income African Americans are significantly more likely to report all these experiences, compared to lower income African Americans. For example, 73% of all Black respondents earning \$75,000 or more per year say that someone has referred to them or a

⁶ Multiple responses were allowed; respondents could answer that these occurrences were about their race, their gender, their sexual orientation or gender identity, and/or some other reason. The category of “Some other reason” includes volunteered responses such as religion, personal appearance (e.g., weight), political affiliation, disability, and not knowing the basis of the slur, negative comment, or expression of fear.

group they belong to using specifically racial slurs, compared to 45% of those earning \$25,000 or less per year.⁷

Additionally, Figure 5 shows that 57% of Black men report people acting afraid of them because of their race, compared to roughly one quarter (26%) of Black women.

Figure 5:
Percent of African Americans, By Gender, Saying They Have Personally Experienced People Acting Afraid of Them Because of Their Race



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63c/Q64c. Based on half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Significant numbers of African Americans, particularly in suburban areas, report they or family members have experienced violence, threats, harassment because they are Black

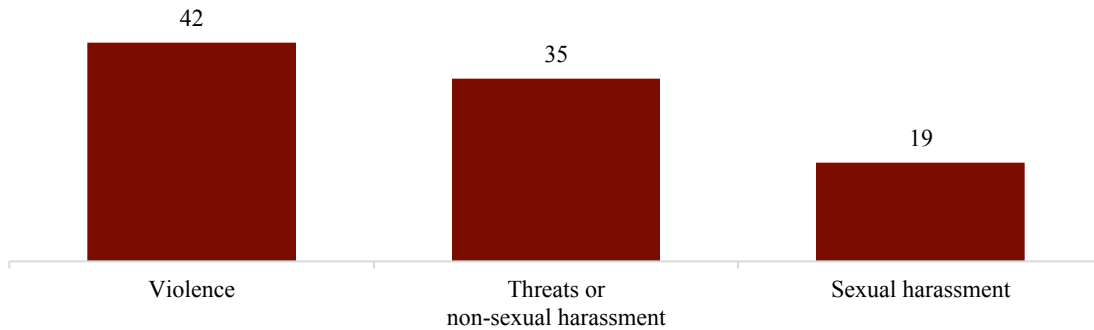
Figure 6 shows that 42% of all African Americans say that they or a family member have experienced violence because they are Black. Another 35% say they have been threatened or non-sexually harassed because they are Black, and 19% say they have experienced sexual harassment because they are Black. There are no differences between Black men and women in their reporting of experiencing sexual harassment because they are Black.⁸

Additionally, those living in the Midwest (41%) and South (38%) are more likely than their peers in the Northeast (22%) to say they or a family member have been threatened or non-sexually harassed because they are Black.

⁷ These same findings replicate for education differences: African Americans with a college degree are more likely than those with a high school degree or less to report all three types of experiences. See Pew Research Center (2016), “Blacks with college experience more likely to say they faced discrimination,” <http://pewrsr.ch/2abk7up>, for a similar finding.

⁸ Black women are, however, much more likely to say they have been sexually harassed because of their gender (35% of Black women, compared to 9% of Black men). Similarly, 31% of Black women report threats or non-sexual harassment because of their gender, compared to 19% of Black men. Gender-related findings will be further analyzed in future reports in this series.

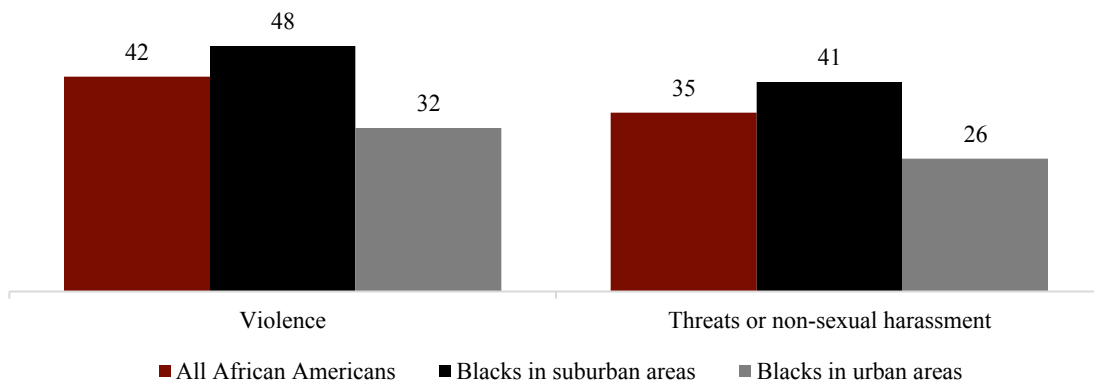
Figure 6:
Percent of African Americans Saying They or a Family Member
Have Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination
Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Additionally, Figure 7 shows that African Americans living in suburban areas are more likely to report some of these experiences than African Americans living in urban settings.

Figure 7:
Percent of African Americans, By Metro Status, Saying They or a
Family Member Have Experienced Various Forms of Individual
Discrimination Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

For example, 48% of African Americans in suburban areas report experiencing violence, compared to 32% of Black respondents living in urban settings (Figure 7). This is consistent with the urban-suburban difference in reporting unfair treatment by the police (Figure 3).

36% of Black people say they or a family member have been told or felt they would be unwelcome in a neighborhood because they are Black

In a separate question on harassment, 36% of African Americans say that they or a family member have been told or felt as though they would not be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development because they were Black. Black people living in lower income areas are more likely (45%) than those in middle income areas (32%) to report this experience.

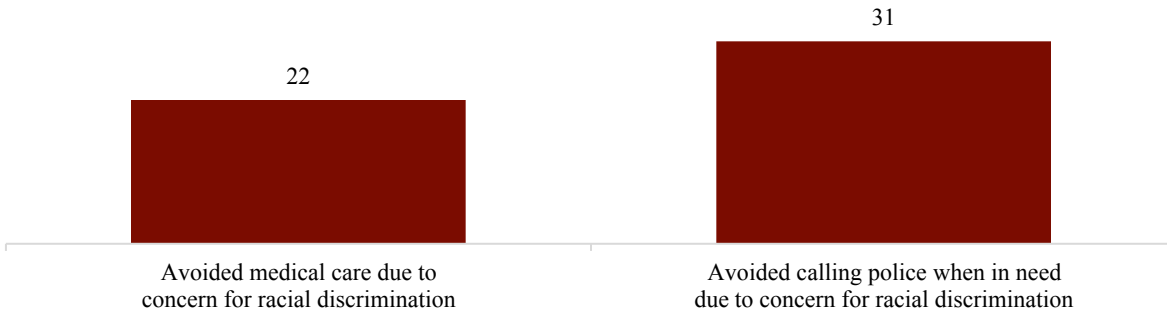
Avoidance of Discrimination

People were asked whether they ever avoid engaging in certain behaviors to avoid potential racial discrimination or potential interactions with police or authority figures.

31% of African Americans have avoided calling police when in need, and 22% have avoided medical care, due to concern of racial discrimination

Overall, 31% of African Americans say they have avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern they would be discriminated against because of their race. Additionally, 22% of African Americans say they have avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly because of their race (Figure 8).

Figure 8:
Percent of African Americans Saying They Have Avoided Medical Care or Calling the Police When In Need Due to Concern for Discrimination



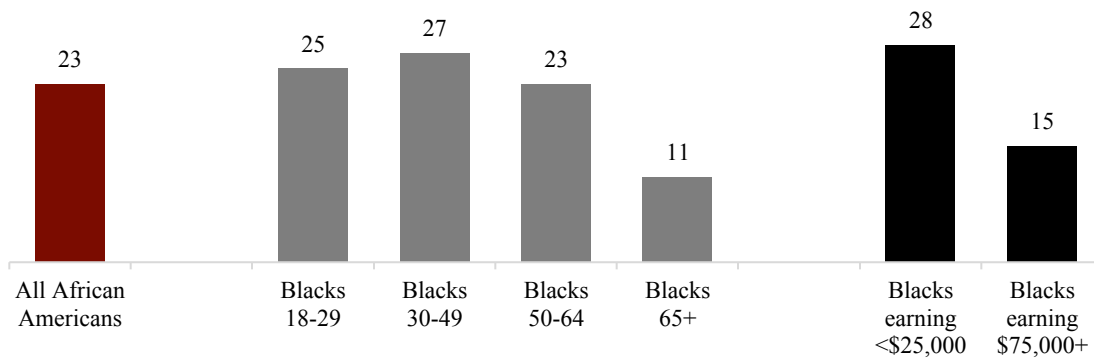
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q62a, Q88. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Nearly four in ten (37%) low-income African Americans (those earning \$25,000 or less per year) say they have avoided calling the police, compared to 17% of their higher income peers (those earning \$75,000 or more). There are no significant differences between Black men and women’s avoidance of calling the police out of concern for racial discrimination.

Nearly a quarter of African Americans have considered moving because of discrimination

Furthermore, 23% of African Americans say they have thought about moving or relocating because they have experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they live. As Figure 9 shows, younger and lower-earning African Americans are more likely to have considered moving because of discrimination compared to their older or higher-earning counterparts.

Figure 9:
Percent of African Americans, By Age Group and Income,
Saying They Have Considered Moving Because They Have
Experienced Discrimination or Unequal Treatment Where They Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q84. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Over a quarter of African Americans avoid normal tasks such as using a car or seeking medical care to avoid possibly interacting with police or government authority figures

People were also asked, “Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?” Over a quarter (27%) of Black respondents say they have avoided these normal day-to-day tasks to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures.

Over half of African Americans have avoided going to a doctor due to concern for the cost

In a separate question not related to anti-Black discrimination, 52% of Black people say they have avoided going to a doctor out of concern for the cost. There is no significant difference in responses to this question among individuals currently with or without health insurance, by respondent income, or by the income level of a respondent’s area.

II. Perceptions of Local Community

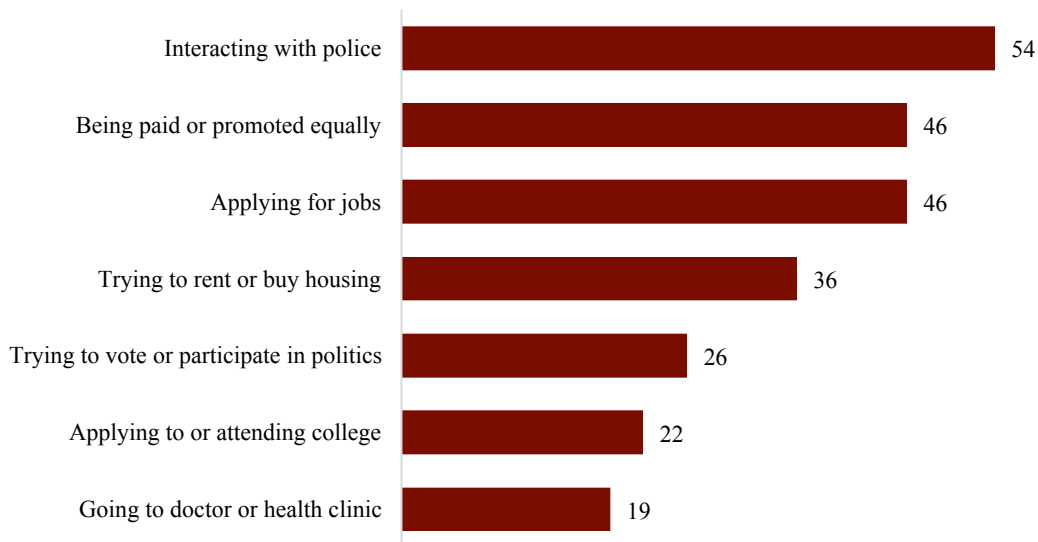
People were asked to evaluate aspects of life where they live, including how often discrimination happens to other African Americans there, local employment and educational opportunities, and how their neighborhood compares to other places to live. Consistently, there are significant differences between African Americans who say they live in a predominantly Black area and those who do not in their perceptions and evaluations of their neighborhoods.

Perceptions of Local Discrimination

In addition to their personal experiences of discrimination, people were asked about discrimination that occurs where they live, across a variety of situations.⁹ They were asked about their perceptions of how often, if ever, they believe such discrimination occurs to other African Americans, using a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, or often.

As Figure 10 shows, 54% of Black respondents say that where they live, other African Americans “often” experience discrimination when interacting with the police. Additionally, nearly half (46%) say that where they live, other African Americans often experience discrimination when both applying to jobs and being paid equally or considered for promotions.

Figure 10:
Percent of African Americans Saying Where They Live,
Other African Americans Are "Often" Discriminated Against
In Each Situation Because They Are Black



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q12, Q14, Q16, Q18, Q20, Q22, Q24. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

⁹ These were the same situations discussed in personal experiences of discrimination: applying to jobs; being paid equally or considered for promotions; interacting with police; trying to vote or participate in politics; going to a doctor or health clinic; applying to college or while at college; trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

African Americans living in the South are more likely than those in the Northeast to say racial discrimination often occurs to Blacks in their area when applying to jobs (51% South, 32% Northeast), when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions (51% South, 33% Northeast), and when interacting with police (62% South, 40% Northeast).

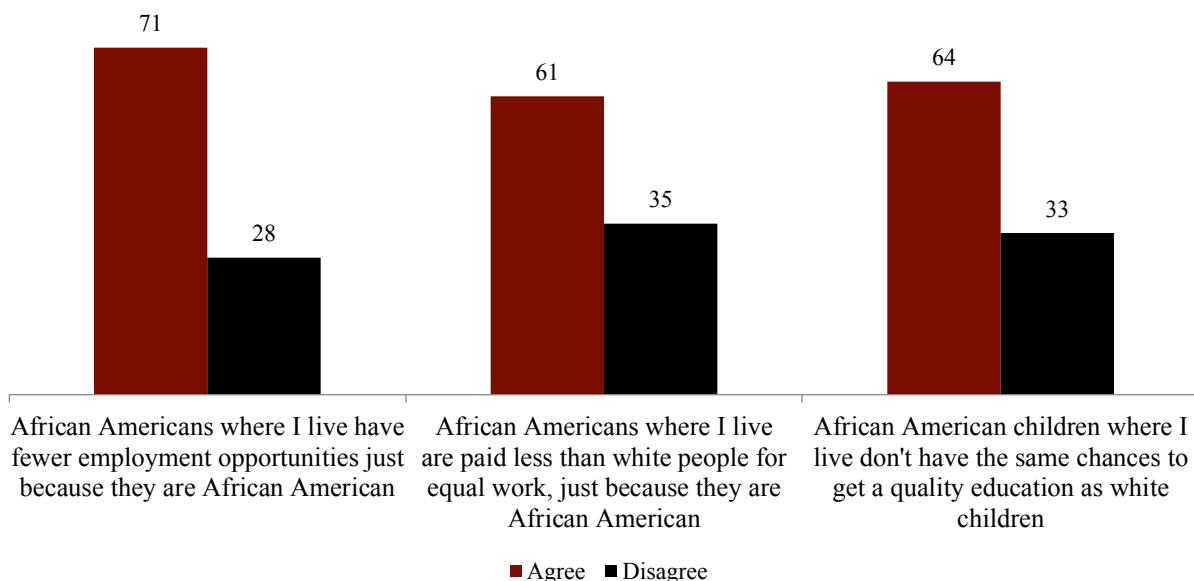
Those who live in urban areas are more likely (45%) than those in rural (37%) or suburban (31%) settings to say that African Americans in their area “often” experience discrimination when trying to rent an apartment or buy a house.

Perceptions of Local Opportunity

People were asked to agree or disagree with statements about employment, equal pay, and children’s educational opportunities in the area where they live. They were also asked whether, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college.

As Figure 11 shows, 71% of African Americans agree with the statement, “African American people where I live have fewer employment opportunities, just because they are African American.” Similarly, 61% agree that African Americans in their area are paid less than white people for equal work, and 64% agree that Black children where they live do not have the same chances as white children to get a quality education.

Figure 11:
African Americans' Perceptions of Unequal Employment, Pay, & Educational Opportunities in their Neighborhood



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q65, Q68, Q72. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

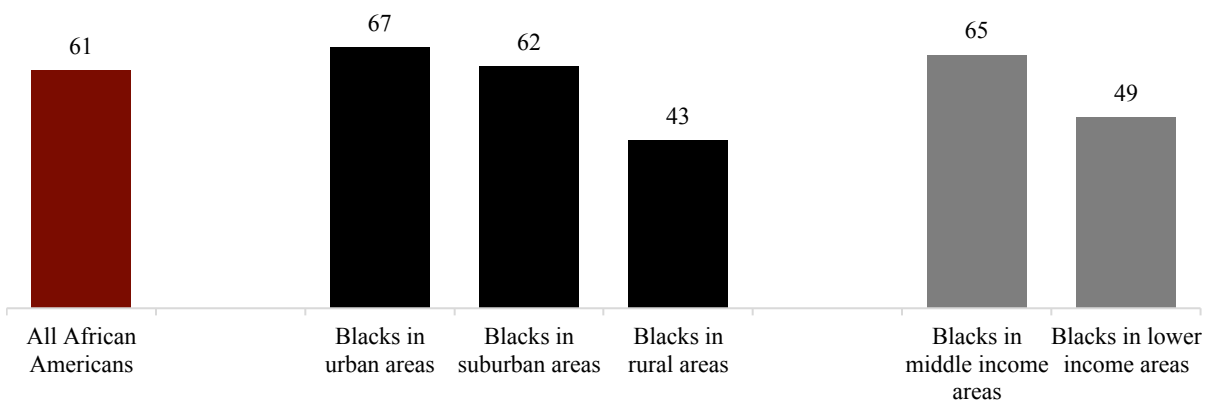
Regarding local educational opportunities, African Americans living in the Midwest (72%) and South (64%) are more likely to agree that Black children in their area do not have the same chances for a quality education as white children, compared to African Americans living in the West (46%).¹⁰ African Americans in urban areas (73%) are more likely than African Americans in suburban (61%) or rural (51%) settings to agree that Black children in their area do not have the same chances for a quality education as do white children.

African Americans in rural and low-income areas significantly less likely to have been encouraged to apply to college while growing up

In a separate question related to educational opportunity, people were asked if, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college, discouraged from applying, or whether this was never discussed. Overall, 61% of all Black respondents say that, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college (Figure 12). Only 5% say they were discouraged from applying.

Figure 12 shows that African Americans currently living in rural areas are significantly less likely to say they were encouraged to apply to college (43%) compared to their peers in urban (67%) or suburban (62%) settings.

Figure 12:
Percent of African Americans Who Were Encouraged to Apply to College While Growing Up, By Current Metro Status and Perceived Neighborhood Income Level



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q76. Question asked of half-sample. Total sample N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Similarly, Black respondents currently living in self-described predominantly low-income areas are also less likely to say they were encouraged to apply to college (49%) than African Americans living in predominantly middle income areas (65%) (Figure 12).

¹⁰ “West,” defined by U.S. Census 4-Region division, includes: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming.

However, African Americans living in rural areas and in lower-income areas are more likely to say college was never discussed, rather than that they were discouraged from applying.

Additionally, younger African Americans are significantly more likely to say they were encouraged while growing up to apply to college: roughly three quarters of African Americans ages 18-29 (79%) and 30-49 (71%) say they were encouraged to apply to college, compared to those ages 50-64 (45%) and 65 and older (38%).

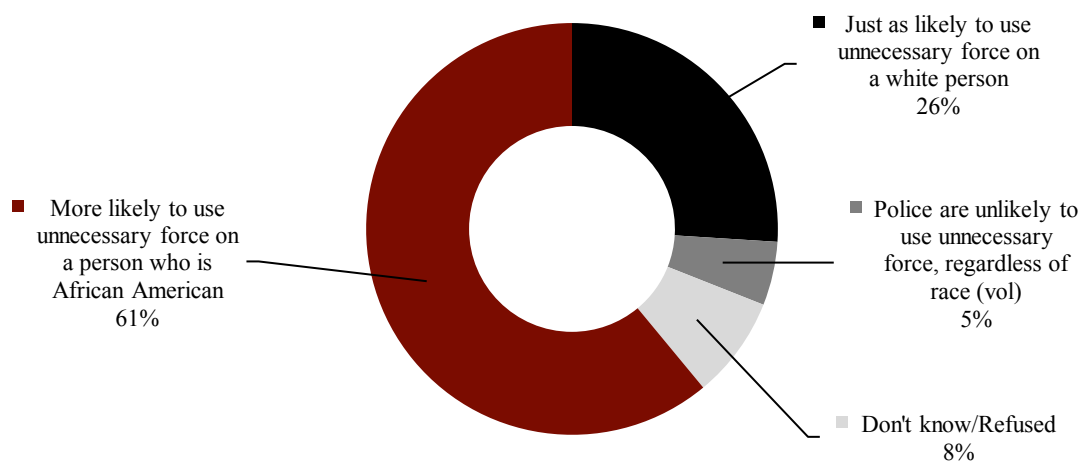
Perceptions of Local Police & Government

People were also asked about their experiences and perceptions of police and public safety in their own neighborhoods. To emphasize their own experiences, rather than national events, respondents were first told: “Now I’d like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.”

61% of African Americans believe their local police are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Black person than on a white person in the same situation

Overall, 61% of Black people believe that, where they live, police officers are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Black person than on a white person in the same type of situation (Figure 13). African Americans living in the Midwest are more likely to believe this (73%) than their peers in the Northeast (50%).

Figure 13:
African Americans' Beliefs on Likelihood of Police Officers To Use Unnecessary Force Against Black and White People in Same Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q86. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Another 26% of Black respondents say that police officers are just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person in the same type of situation (Figure 13). Five percent (5%) volunteered that police are unlikely to use unnecessary force, regardless of race.

Only four in ten Black Americans say their local police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of their neighborhood

When asked about the racial or ethnic background of the police in their neighborhood, 41% of African Americans say the police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in their area, while 45% say the police are mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in their area. Fourteen percent (14%) did not know, or declined to offer an answer.

African Americans in higher income areas are more likely to say local government represents their views well

When asked, “How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you,” 54% of African Americans say their local government represents these views somewhat or very well, while 43% say not too well or not well at all. Roughly two-thirds (67%) of Black people living in upper income areas and 56% of those living in middle income areas say very or somewhat well, compared to only 44% of Black respondents in lower income areas.

Additionally, when asked, “How much can people like you affect what your local government does,” 61% of African Americans say some or a great deal. Those with a college degree are more likely to say this than other African Americans with less education: 69% of those with a college degree say some or a great deal, compared to 59% of those with a high school education or less.

Perceptions & Evaluations of Community Environment

People were asked to describe and evaluate aspects of the area where they live, including its racial composition and their perceptions of the general economic and health status of the neighborhood.

Overall, 35% of Black respondents say they live in an area or neighborhood that is predominantly Black. When describing the general economic status of the area in which they live, 9% say they live in a mostly upper income area, while 41% say they live in a mostly middle income area. Another 25% say they live in a mainly lower income area, and 25% say they do not have enough information to say.

Similarly, respondents were asked to describe the overall health and well-being of the place they live. Forty percent (40%) say their neighborhood is in excellent or good health, 27% say fair or poor health, and 33% say they do not have enough information to say.

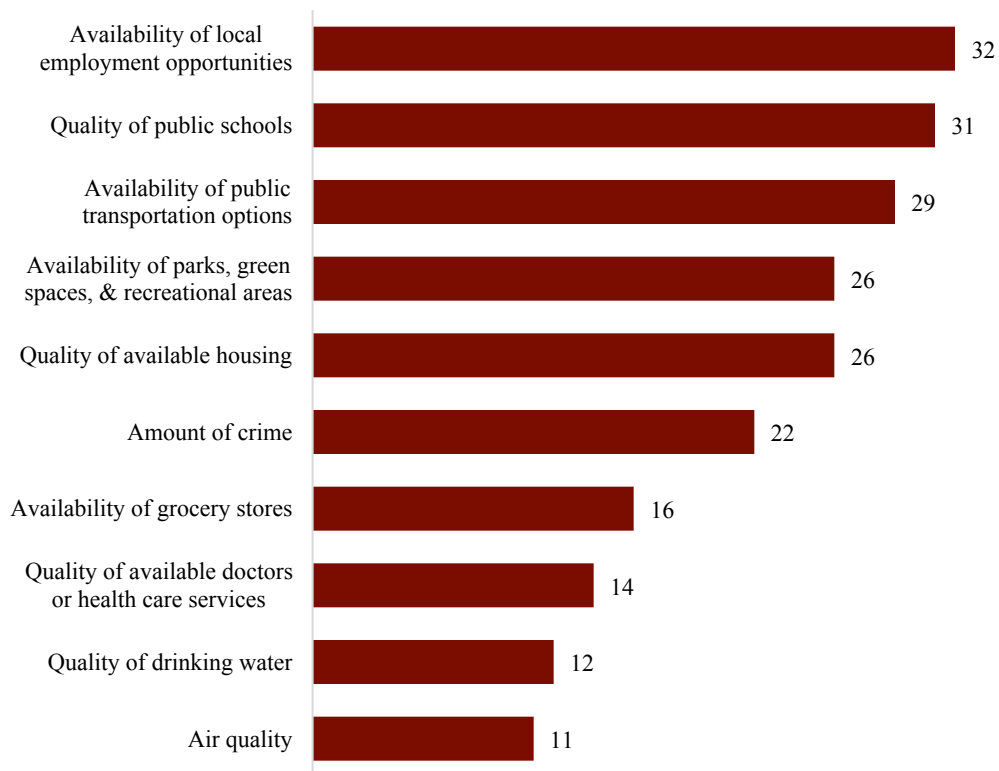
African Americans most likely to rate local employment opportunities, quality of public schools, and availability of public transportation as worse than in other places to live

People were asked to consider ten elements that affect quality of life in a neighborhood, and to compare these elements to other places to live: “Compared to other places to live, do you think the (element) where you live is better, worse, or about the same as other places to live?”

These elements include: availability of grocery stores; air quality; quality of drinking water; quality of available housing; quality of available doctors or health care services; quality of public schools; availability of local employment opportunities; amount of crime; availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas; and, availability of public transportation options.

In most cases, either the majority or plurality of respondents says that these aspects of their neighborhood are about the same as other places to live. However, as Figure 14 shows, the top three aspects of community environment that Black respondents rated as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live are: availability of local employment opportunities (32%), quality of public schools (31%), and availability of public transportation options (29%).

Figure 14:
Percent of African Americans Saying Each Element of Their
Community Environment Is **Worse** Than Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

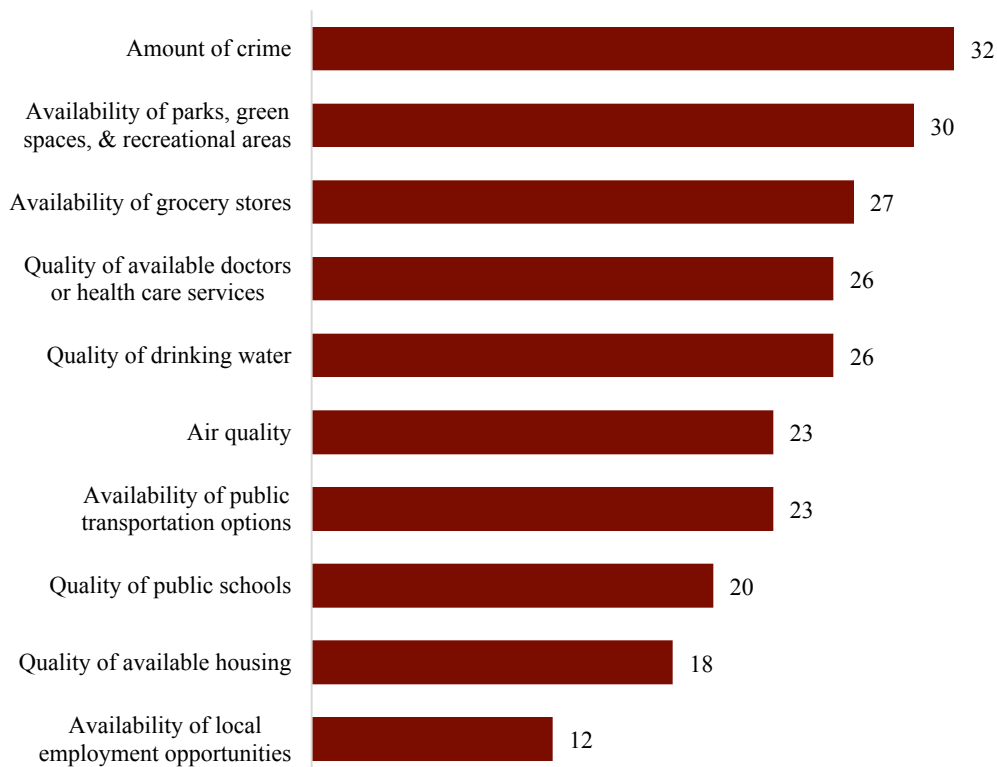
Roughly a quarter (26%) of African Americans also rank both the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas, as well as the quality of available housing, as worse than in other places to live (Figure 14).

There are significant differences in African Americans’ evaluations of their own neighborhoods between those who say they live in a predominantly Black area and those who do not. This is discussed in detail in a subsequent section.

African Americans most likely to rate amount of crime, availability of parks, and availability of grocery stores as better in their neighborhood than in other places to live

Figure 15 shows the elements of their neighborhoods that African Americans rate as “better” than in other places to live. The top three elements most frequently rated as better in their neighborhoods than in other places to live are the amount of crime (32%), the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas (30%), and the availability of grocery stores (27%).

Figure 15:
Percent of African Americans Saying Each Element of Their
Community Environment Is **Better** Than Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Majority Black vs. Non-Majority Black Neighborhoods

Overall, 35% of African Americans say they live in an area or neighborhood that is predominantly Black. Consistently, as shown in Table 1, those who say they live in a mainly Black neighborhood have significantly different experiences and perceptions of their local community, compared to African Americans who say they live in a non-majority Black area.

For example, Table 1 shows that those who live in a predominantly Black neighborhood are more likely than those in non-majority Black neighborhoods to say that other African Americans often experience discrimination when interacting with police (66% vs. 49%), and when trying to vote or participate in politics (36% vs. 20%).

Additionally, 74% of African Americans living in majority Black neighborhoods agree that Black children do not have the same chances as white children to get a quality education, compared to 58% of those living in non-majority Black areas.

Table 1 also shows that those living in majority Black neighborhoods hold significantly different views about the health and income of the area where they live, as well as the background of the local police. For example, 58% of those in majority Black areas say their local police force reflects a different racial or ethnic background of the people in that neighborhood, while 39% of African Americans in non-majority Black areas say this.

When describing quality of life elements in their neighborhood compared to other places to live (as in Figure 14), once again, African Americans living in majority Black areas have significantly different – and more negative – beliefs about their neighborhoods.

Table 1 shows that for six of the ten studied neighborhood elements, people living in majority Black areas were more likely to rate their neighborhood as worse than other places to live.¹¹

For example, 45% of African Americans living in majority Black neighborhoods say that the quality of public schools where they live is worse than in other places to live. In non-majority Black neighborhoods, only 23% of African Americans say this.

¹¹ There are also significant differences among African Americans who say they live in a predominantly lower-income area, compared to those living in a predominantly middle-income area. These differences emerge for the same six community environment elements presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:
Percent of African Americans Who Report Various Perceptions of Their Local Community,
Among Those Who Live in Majority vs. Non-Majority Black Areas**

<u>Perceptions of Local Community</u>	African Americans living in...	
	Majority Black areas (35% of Blacks)	Non-Majority Black areas (64% of Blacks)
Perceptions of Local Discrimination		
<i>Percent of Black Americans who say, where they live, other Blacks are “often” discriminated against because they are Black when...</i>		
...Interacting with police	66	49
...Trying to vote or participate in politics	36	20
Perceptions of Local Opportunity		
<i>Percent of Black Americans who agree that...</i>		
...Black children where they live do not have the same chances as white children to get a quality education	74	58
Perceptions of Local Police & Government		
<i>Percent of Black Americans who say...</i>		
...Their local police force is mostly of a <u>different</u> racial or ethnic background than the people living in the neighborhood	58	39
Perceptions & Evaluations of Community Environment		
<i>Percent of Black Americans who say, where they live, the...</i>		
... <u>Quality of public schools</u> is worse than in other places	45	23
... <u>Availability of local employment opportunities</u> is worse than in other places	43	26
... <u>Availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas</u> is worse than in other places	37	20
... <u>Amount of crime</u> is worse than in other places	37	14
... <u>Quality of available housing</u> is worse than in other places	34	22
... <u>Availability of grocery stores</u> is worse than in other places	26	11
<i>Percent of Black Americans who say they...</i>		
...Live in a predominantly low income area	40	16
...Live in an area that is mostly in fair or poor health	42	19

NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q16, Q18, Q72, Q80, Q81, Q85a/d/f/g/h/i, Q95. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

III. National Beliefs & Political Contact

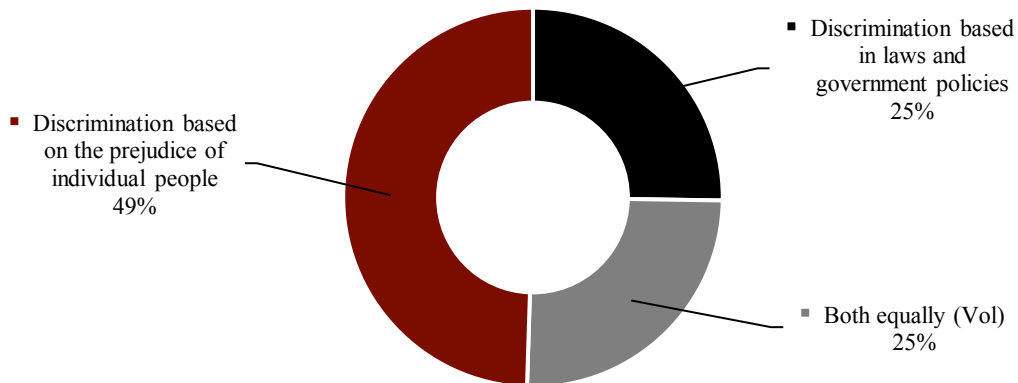
Overall, 92% of African Americans believe that there is discrimination against African Americans in America today.

Institutional vs. Individual Discrimination

Those who believe discrimination exists today were also asked: “When it comes to discrimination against African American people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem? Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies, or discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people?”

One-quarter (25%) of African Americans say the bigger problem is discrimination based in laws and government policies, while 49% say discrimination based on individuals’ prejudice. Another 25% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem (Figure 16).

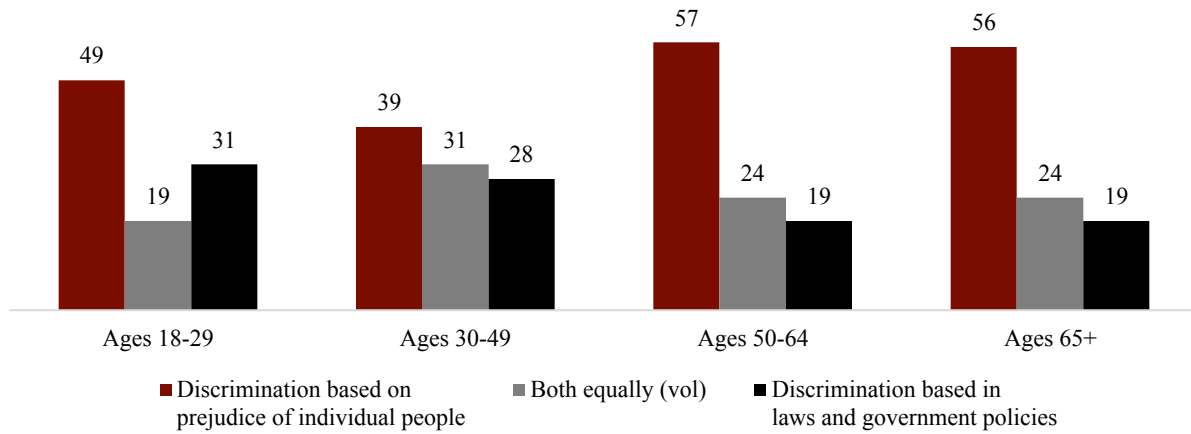
Figure 16:
African Americans' Perceptions of Which is the Larger Problem:
Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or
Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q2. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

As Figure 17 shows, the majority or plurality of all age groups identifies individual prejudice as the larger problem. However, younger African Americans are more likely than their older peers to identify discrimination based in laws and government policies as the bigger problem: 31% of those 18-29, compared to 19% of those ages 50 and up, say that discrimination based in laws and government policies is the bigger problem today.

Figure 17:
Percent of African Americans, by Age Group, Saying Which is the Larger Problem: Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q2. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=802 African-American U.S. adults.

Similarly, 31% of Black respondents in urban areas say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the larger problem, compared to 18% of those in rural areas. The majority (51%) of both groups nonetheless identify discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people as the larger problem.

Political Contact

Overall, 55% of African Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation, particularly among racial and ethnic minority communities.¹²

More Black women report being contacted in the last year (59%) than do Black men (50%). Additionally, Black people earning less than \$25,000 per year are significantly less likely to be contacted than their higher income peers: only 42% of those earning under \$25,000 they have been contacted in the last year, compared to 70% of those earning \$75,000 or more.

With regard to party affiliation, 66% of African Americans describe themselves as Democrat, while 18% identify as Independent, 6% as Republican, and 6% as other.

¹² See, for example, Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson's *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (2012, Yale University Press), and Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber's *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout* (2008, Brookings Institution Press).

Conclusion

African Americans report significant and extensive personal experiences of racial discrimination. Half or more of African Americans say that they have been personally discriminated against because they are Black when interacting with police (50%), when applying for jobs (56%), and when being paid equally or considered for promotions (57%). Furthermore, 45% say they or a family member have been treated unfairly by the court system because they are Black.

A majority of African Americans also report experiencing multiple forms of individual or interpersonal discrimination, including racial slurs and people making negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about their race. Nearly half of all African Americans say people have acted afraid of them because of their race, and 42% also say they have personally experienced violence because they are Black.

When evaluating their local community, African Americans report beliefs consistent with their personal experiences: the top areas where African Americans say racial discrimination “often” happens where they live are when interacting with police and in the workplace. Regarding the police, 61% of African Americans believe that police officers in their area are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Black person than on a white person in the same situation. Only 41% say their local police force reflects the racial background of the neighborhood. Additionally, more than 60% of all African Americans agree that African Americans where they live are paid less for equal work and have fewer employment and educational opportunities.

However, younger African Americans (ages 18-29 and 30-49) are more likely to report being encouraged while growing up to apply for college, compared to older African Americans (ages 50-64 and 65+). Despite the racism many African Americans have experienced, a majority believes that they and others like them can influence their local government.

In the context of beliefs about the national environment, 92% of all African Americans believe that discrimination against African Americans exists in America today. Nearly half (49%) of African Americans believe that discrimination based on individual prejudice is the bigger problem, compared to 25% of African Americans who say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the bigger problem. Another 25% say both are equally problematic.

Demographically, Black men are more likely than Black women to report being racially discriminated against when interacting with the police, trying to secure housing, and trying to vote. They are also more likely to say people have acted afraid of them because of their race.

There are significant differences in perceptions of local community between African Americans living in majority Black and non-majority Black neighborhoods. Those in majority Black neighborhoods are more likely to say that racial discrimination often occurs when interacting with police or when trying to vote; to describe their area as low income and in fair or poor health; to say their local police force does not reflect the racial background of the people living there; and to rate elements of their neighborhoods as worse than in other places to live.

Overall, these findings illustrate the persistent and complex experiences of discrimination and racism in African Americans’ lives in America today.

Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and National Public Radio. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: Robert J. Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; Logan S. Casey, Research Associate in Public Opinion; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Justin M. Sayde, Administrative and Research Manager; and Tiffany Chan, Research Fellow.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research and Evaluation; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; and Dwayne Proctor, Director, Achieving Health Equity Portfolio.

NPR: Anne Gudenkauf, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Keith Woods, Vice President, Diversity in News and Operations; Sara Goo, Acting Managing Editor, Digital News; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Luis Clemens, Supervising Editor, National Desk; Alison Macadam, Senior Editorial Specialist; Alison Kodjak, Correspondent, Science Desk; and Rae Ellen Bichell, Reporter, Science Desk.

Interviews were conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills (PA) via telephone (including both landline and cell phone) using random-digit dialing, January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans;¹³ men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of **802 African Americans**. The margin of error for total African American respondents is ± 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, education, and Census region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

¹³ African American, Asian American, and white American respondents who also identified as Hispanic or Latino were included only in the Latino sample.

Methodology (continued)

Group	Number of Interviews (unweighted n)	Weighted %
Total African Americans	802	100
Half-sample		
A	384	--
B	418	--
Gender		
Men	369	46
Women	428	54
Age		
18-29	151	26
30-49	220	33
50-64	235	26
65+	192	15
Education		
High school grad or less	308	50
Some college	239	28
College grad or more	255	22
Household income		
<\$25,000 per year	280	41
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	180	21
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	112	14
\$75,000 or more	164	15
Region		
Northeast	137	17
Midwest	127	16
South	423	56
West	95	8
Metro status		
Urban	247	32
Suburban	430	52
Rural	102	12
LGBTQ		
Yes	48	6
No	739	92
Live in predominantly African American area		
Yes	280	35
No	514	64
Income of area where you live		
Upper	78	9
Middle	362	41
Lower	172	25

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HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of African Americans

The results presented here are part of a series based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, via telephone (landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted using random-digit dialing, **January 26 – April 9, 2017**, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans; men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This document presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based sample of **802 African Americans**. The margin of error for total African American respondents is ± 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

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VII. Demographics	27

Responses shown in the tables that follow are percentages.

I. Introduction

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 384)

S5. Have you ever applied for a job?

	African Americans
Yes, has applied for a job	97
No, has not applied for a job	3
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 384)

S6. Have you ever been employed for pay?

	African Americans
Yes, has been employed for pay	95
No, has not been employed for pay	5
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 418)

S7. Have you ever applied for college or attended college for any amount of time?

	African Americans
Yes, has applied for or attended college	65
No, has not applied for or attended college	35
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 418)

S8. Have you ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home?

	African Americans
Yes, has tried	66
No, has not tried	34
DK/Ref	-

II. Discrimination

Q1. Generally speaking, do you believe there is or is not discrimination against African American people in America today?

	African Americans
Yes	92
No	7
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of African Americans who believe there is discrimination against African American people in America today; n= 743)

Q2. When it comes to discrimination against African American people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem?

	African Americans
Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies	25
Discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people	49
Both equally (vol)	25
DK/Ref	1

Now we'd like to ask you some questions more specifically about what goes on in the general area where you live, as well as your personal experiences. When we say "the area where you live," we just mean the general neighborhood, town, or part of town where you live.

Q10. How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you?

	African Americans
Very well	14
Somewhat well	40
Not too well	25
Not well at all	18
DK/Ref	3

Q11. How much can people like you affect what your local government does? Would you say...?

	African Americans
A great deal	26
Some	35
Only a little	26
Not at all	11
DK/Ref	2

Now I have some questions about issues that may be facing people where you live. For each of the following, please tell me how frequently you think this happens to people where you live, using the scale OFTEN, SOMETIMES, RARELY, or NEVER. Then I'll ask if you've ever **personally** experienced this, not just where you currently live.

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q12. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying for jobs?**

	African Americans
Often	46
Sometimes	37
Rarely	11
Never	3
DK/Ref	3

(Asked of African Americans in half-sample A who have ever applied for a job; n=374)

Q13. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when applying for jobs?**

	African Americans
Yes	56
No	43
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q14. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

	African Americans
Often	46
Sometimes	31
Rarely	14
Never	6
DK/Ref	3

(Asked of African Americans in half-sample A who have ever been employed; n=367)

Q15. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions?**

	African Americans
Yes	57
No	42
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q16. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when interacting with police?**

	African Americans
Often	54
Sometimes	29
Rarely	9
Never	4
DK/Ref	4

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q17. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when interacting with police?**

	African Americans
Yes	50
No	47
Have never interacted with the police (vol)	3
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q18. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	African Americans
Often	26
Sometimes	30
Rarely	23
Never	16
DK/Ref	5

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q19. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	African Americans
Yes	19
No	78
Have never tried to vote or participate in politics (vol)	3
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q20. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	African Americans
Often	19
Sometimes	36
Rarely	26
Never	15
DK/Ref	4

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q21. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	African Americans
Yes	32
No	67
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q22. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying to college or while at college?**

	African Americans
Often	22
Sometimes	42
Rarely	16
Never	13
DK/Ref	7

(Asked of African Americans in half-sample B who have ever applied to or attended college; n=298)

Q23. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when applying to college or while at college?**

	African Americans
Yes	36
No	62
DK/Ref	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q24. How often, if ever, do you believe African American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	African Americans
Often	36
Sometimes	38
Rarely	13
Never	10
DK/Ref	3

(Asked of African Americans in half-sample B who have ever tried to rent or buy a place to live; n=307)

Q25. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are African American **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	African Americans
Yes	45
No	54
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q61. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern for the cost?

	African Americans
Yes	52
No	48
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q62a. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern that you would be discriminated against or treated poorly because you or they are African American?

	African Americans
Yes	22
No	78
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q63. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

- a. Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

	African Americans
Yes, has happened	58
No, has not happened	42
DK/Ref	-

- b. Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

	African Americans
Yes, has happened	66
No, has not happened	33
DK/Ref	1

- c. People acted as if they were afraid of you

	African Americans
Yes, has happened	48
No, has not happened	50
DK/Ref	2

Q63a. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

If Yes, ask:

Q64a. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

Q63a/Q64a Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=418

	African Americans
Someone has referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word (total)	58
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	51
Gender	14
Sexual orientation	3
Gender identity	1
Religion/Religious views (vol)	*
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	-
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	2
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	-
Personality (vol)	*
Social Reasons (vol)	*
Some other reason	2
DK/Ref	1
No, has not happened	42
DK/Ref	-

Q63b. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

If Yes, ask:

Q64b. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

Q63b/Q64b Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=418

	African Americans
Someone has made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you (total)	66
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	52
Gender	19
Sexual orientation	2
Gender identity	2
Religion/Religious views (vol)	1
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	2
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	*
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	2
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	1
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	*
Personality (vol)	*
Social reasons (vol)	*
Some other reason	4
DK/Ref	3
No, has not happened	33
DK/Ref	1

Q63c. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

People acted as if they were afraid of you

If Yes, ask:

Q64c. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

Q63c/Q64c Combo Table
Based on total half-sample B; n=418

	African Americans
People have acted as if they were afraid to you (total)	48
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	40
Gender	10
Sexual orientation	*
Gender identity	-
Religion/Religious views (vol)	*
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	3
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	-
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	1
Envy/Jealousy	*
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	-
Personality (vol)	2
Social reasons (vol)	*
Some other reason	3
DK/Ref	2
No, has not happened	50
DK/Ref	2

III. Employment & Education

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace. For each of the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q65. African American people where I live have fewer employment opportunities just because they are African American. Do you...?

	African Americans
Strongly agree	35
Somewhat agree	36
Somewhat disagree	18
Strongly disagree	10
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q68. African American people where I live are paid less than white people for equal work, because they are African American. Do you...?

	African Americans
Strongly agree	31
Somewhat agree	30
Somewhat disagree	23
Strongly disagree	12
DK/Ref	4

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about education and schooling. For each of the following statements about education and schooling, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q72. Because of the way the schools operate where I live, African American children here don't have the same chances to get a quality education as **white children**. Do you...?

	African Americans
Strongly agree	36
Somewhat agree	28
Somewhat disagree	21
Strongly disagree	12
DK/Ref	3

Now I have a different type of question, but still about education.

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q76. When you were growing up, were you encouraged to apply to college, discouraged from applying for college, or was this never discussed?

	African Americans
Encouraged to apply to college	61
Discouraged from applying for college	5
Never discussed	32
DK/Ref	2

IV. Community Environment

Q78. People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly African American or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly African American, or not?

	African Americans
Predominantly African American	35
Not predominantly African American	64
DK/Ref	1

Q80. If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	African Americans
Upper income	9
Middle income	41
Lower income	25
Don't have enough information	25

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q81. If you were describing the health and well-being of the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly excellent health, good health, only fair health, or poor health, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	African Americans
Excellent health	10
Good health	30
Only fair health	18
Poor health	9
Don't have enough information	33

Q82. Have you or a family member who is also African American been told or felt as though you wouldn't be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development you were interested in because you are African American?

	African Americans
Yes	36
No	63
DK/Ref	1

Q84. Have you ever thought about moving or relocating to another area because you experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where you were living?

If Yes, ask:

Have you thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved or have you actually moved or relocated because of discrimination?

	African Americans
No, I've never thought about it	77
Yes, have thought about moving because of discrimination where I live (NET)	23
I've thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved	16
I've actually moved/relocated because of discrimination	7
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n=418)

Q85. Compared to other places to live, do you think the (INSERT ITEM) where you live is BETTER, WORSE, or ABOUT THE SAME as other places to live?

- a. Availability of grocery stores

	African Americans
Better	27
Worse	16
About the same	55
DK/Ref	2

- b. Air quality

	African Americans
Better	23
Worse	11
About the same	63
DK/Ref	3

- c. Quality of drinking water

	African Americans
Better	26
Worse	12
About the same	56
DK/Ref	6

- d. Quality of available housing

	African Americans
Better	18
Worse	26
About the same	53
DK/Ref	3

- e. Quality of available doctors or health care services

	African Americans
Better	26
Worse	14
About the same	56
DK/Ref	4

f. Quality of public schools

	African Americans
Better	20
Worse	31
About the same	44
DK/Ref	5

g. Availability of local employment opportunities

	African Americans
Better	12
Worse	32
About the same	50
DK/Ref	6

h. Amount of crime

	African Americans
Better	32
Worse	22
About the same	44
DK/Ref	2

i. Availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas

	African Americans
Better	30
Worse	26
About the same	43
DK/Ref	1

j. Availability of public transportation options

	African Americans
Better	23
Worse	29
About the same	45
DK/Ref	3

V. Public Safety

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q86. Do you believe that police officers where you live are more likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is African American or are they just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person given the same type of situation?

	African Americans
More likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is African American	61
Just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person	26
More likely to use unnecessary force against a white person (vol)	*
Police are unlikely to use unnecessary force, regardless of race (vol)	5
DK/Ref	8

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q88. Have you ever avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that you or others in your family would be discriminated against because you or they are African American?

	African Americans
Yes	31
No	67
DK/Ref	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q89. Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?

If Yes, ask:

Q90. How often would you say you avoided doing things you might normally do, to avoid the police or government authority figures?

Q89/Q90 Combo Table

Based on total half-sample A; n=384

	African Americans
Have ever avoided doing things they might normally do because they wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures	27
Frequently	8
Sometimes	13
Not often	6
No, have not	73
DK/Ref	-

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about things that may have ever happened to you. Some of these may be difficult to think or talk about, but please do your best. Your honest answers can really help.

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q91. Do you believe that you or someone in your family has (INSERT ITEM) because you or they are African American?

Q91 Summary Table: % saying "Yes"

	African Americans
Experienced sexual harassment	19
Been threatened or non-sexually harassed	35
Been unfairly stopped or treated by the police	60
Been unfairly treated by the courts	45
Experienced violence	42

(Asked of half-sample A; n=384)

Q95. Do you believe that the police force in your area reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area, or are the police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area?

	African Americans
Police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area	41
Police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area	45
DK/Ref	14

Q96. In the past year, have you been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization, or ballot issue encouraging you to vote or support their cause during an election? For example, someone knocking on your door or calling you on the phone?

	African Americans
Yes	55
No	45
DK/Ref	-

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

	African Americans
Registered to vote	84
Registered at current address	73
Registered somewhere else	11
Not registered to vote	15
DK/Ref	1

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

If registered to vote (n=706), ask:

Q98. Did you vote in the 2016 presidential election when Hillary Clinton ran against Donald Trump, did something prevent you from voting, or did you choose not to vote?

**Q97/Q98 Combo Table
Based on total respondents**

	African Americans
Registered to vote	84
Yes, voted	68
No, did not vote	16
Not registered to vote	15
DK/Ref	1

VI. Health Demographics

Q99. In general, how would you describe your own physical health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	African Americans
Excellent	19
Very good	26
Good	28
Fair	21
Poor	6
DK/Ref	*

Q100. In general, how would you describe your own mental health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	African Americans
Excellent	38
Very good	24
Good	24
Fair	11
Poor	3
DK/Ref	-

Q101. Does any disability keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	African Americans
Yes	27
No	73
DK/Ref	*

Q102. Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told you that you have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or haven't they?

	African Americans
Yes	50
No	50
DK/Ref	*

Q103. Do you receive regular care from the Veterans Administration?

	African Americans
Yes	8
No	92
DK/Ref	*

Q105. Do you have a regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of your health care when you are sick or have a health concern, or do you not?

	African Americans
Yes	82
No	18
DK/Ref	*

Q106. Where do you usually go when you are sick or when you need advice about your health? Is it a hospital emergency room, a clinic at a hospital, a neighborhood clinic or health center, a private doctor's office, or do you have no usual place of care?

	African Americans
Hospital emergency room	14
Clinic at a hospital	13
Neighborhood clinic or health center	15
Private doctor's office	48
No usual place of care	8
Urgent Care (vol)	*
Veterans Administration/Military care (vol)	1
Other	1
DK/Ref	-

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

	African Americans
Yes	88
No	11
DK/Ref	1

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

If covered by health insurance, ask:

Q108. Which of the following is your **main** source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, a plan through your parents, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

**Q107/Q108 Combo Table
Based on total respondents**

	African Americans
Yes, covered by health insurance	88
Plan through your employer	27
Plan through your spouse's employer	5
Plan you purchased yourself either through an insurance company or state or federal marketplace	9
Medicare	17
Medicaid	16
Plan through your parents	9
Veterans administrative/Military (vol)	2
Somewhere else	1
DK/Ref	2
No, not covered by health insurance	11
DK/Ref	1

VII. Demographics

Self-Reported Gender

	African Americans
Male	46
Female	54

Age Table

	African Americans
18 to 29	26
30 to 49	33
50 to 64	26
65 or older	15
Refused	*

D3. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	African Americans
High school or less (NET)	50
Less than high school (grades 1-11, grade 12, but no diploma)	13
High school graduate or equivalent (e.g. GED)	37
Some college but no degree (incl. 2 year occupational or vocational programs)	29
College or post graduate (NET)	22
College graduate (e.g. BA, AB, BS)	15
Postgraduate (e.g. MA, MS,, Med, MSW, MBA, MD, DDs, PhD, JD, LLB, DVM)	7
DK/Ref	-

D4. Are you currently employed full-time, part-time, or not currently employed?

	African Americans
Employed full-time	41
Employed part-time	15
Not currently employed	44
DK/Ref	*

LGBTQ Identity Table

	African Americans
Straight and cisgender	92
LGBTQ	6
Refused	2

D11. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

	African Americans
Married	26
Living with a partner	5
Divorced	12
Separated	6
Widowed	7
Never been married	44
Refused	1

D12/D12a/D12b Income Summary Table

	African Americans
<\$25,000 per year	41
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	21
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	14
\$75,000 or more	15
Unspecified under \$100,000	4
Don't know	2
Refused	3

D15. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

	African Americans
Republican	6
Democrat	66
Independent	18
Other	6
DK/Ref	4