

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders on COVID-19 and Getting Vaccinated

Survey Findings Summary Updated July 21, 2021

About the study:

- This comprehensive [nationwide study](#) is focused specifically on COVID-19 vaccination-related attitudes and behaviors within the diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.
- The study was conducted between June 1 and June 15, 2021 by [Hart Research Associates](#) in partnership with the [COVID Collaborative](#) and the [Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum](#) (APIAHF). It was conducted among 1,550 people who self-identified as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and/or Pacific Islander (AANHPIs).
- Disaggregation:
 - The survey collected data on 29 different AANHPI ethnic groups.
 - Special care was taken to oversample Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in order to ensure they would be sufficiently represented, in light of evidence from other sources indicating their unique struggles with COVID.
 - To the maximum extent possible, given the numbers of survey respondents identifying with each AANHPI ethnic category, disaggregated data are presented in this and other reports.
 - For reporting purposes, ethnic groups are sometimes combined into larger categories when they do not have enough respondents to allow for disaggregated reporting. In these cases, the following aggregated categories are used: East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander. People who self-identified as Native Hawaiians were not combined into any such overarching category.
 - See “Technical Notes” below for further details.

COVID and vaccination:

- Over one-third (37%) reported knowing someone who had died from COVID-19.
- Over one in five (22%) lost a job or wages because of COVID-19.
- Four out of five community members (80%) think that COVID-19 is still a serious problem or that the worst is yet to come, including 84% of Southeast Asians, 79% of South Asians and East Asians, 83% of Native Hawaiians, and 77% of Pacific Islanders.
- Eight out of 10 people who participated in the survey (82%) had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, and 6% more said they had vaccination appointments.
- Vaccination rates were lower among NHPs: 63% of Native Hawaiians said they had been vaccinated, 9% said they had an appointment, and 18% said they would not be vaccinated; 55% of Pacific Islanders said they were vaccinated at least partially, 17% said they had an appointment, and 19% said they would not get the vaccine.
- People who had not attended college or were uninsured were less likely to say they were vaccinated (62%). Ten percent (10%) of people in each of those groups said they would not get vaccinated.

- About three out of four AANHPI parents (76%) said their children under the age of 18 were vaccinated or that they planned to get them vaccinated. People without college degrees were the most likely to say that they would not have their children vaccinated (21%).
- The biggest concerns for people who were not confident about getting vaccinated were safety (78%), doubts about vaccine effectiveness (70%), not having enough information to decide (65%), and not trusting vaccines in general (62%).

Discrimination:

- 70% of AANHPIs think discrimination against their communities has become more common than it was before the coronavirus. Americans of Chinese (83%), Filipino (79%), and Korean (77%) descent were especially likely to feel this way, as were people in the 50 to 64 age group (76%) and first-generation people born in the U.S. (80%).
- Nearly half (49%) of AANHPIs say they or an immediate family member have experienced at last one form of discrimination since the advent of COVID-19. The most common forms of discrimination were in-person verbal harassment or bullying (34%), being shunned or ignored (34%), or online verbal harassment or bullying (31%).
- More than one-quarter (26%) said they or a family member had felt physically threatened, 18% that they had been refused service at a place of business, and 16% that they had been the victim of physical assault.
- Reports of discrimination were most common among people of Korean (64%), Native Hawaiian (60%), and Pacific Islander (59%) descent, younger adults aged 18-34 (65%), and people living in the southern United States (55%).

Mental and physical health:

- Over one-third of community members (35%) said that their mental health had deteriorated since the advent of COVID-19. This was most pronounced among people aged 18-34, over half of whom (51%) said their mental health had worsened.
- One-third (33%) of younger adults also reported that their physical health had deteriorated since the beginning of the pandemic. People aged 65 and older were the least likely to report deteriorations of their mental (13%) or physical (15%) health.

What remains to be done:

- People from the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, adults without a college degree, and people who are not insured are in need of particular attention in the fight against COVID-19. This survey indicates that most AANHPIs recognize the importance of vaccination for themselves, their families, and their children, but we need to keep working to make sure that those who have not been vaccinated, do indeed become vaccinated.
- Working with parents to help them better understand the safety of, and need for, vaccination must be a priority. About three-quarters (76%) of AANHPI parents have either had their children vaccinated against COVID-19 or intend to do so. While that finding is promising, it also indicates that approximately one-quarter of AANHPI children may not be headed towards vaccination.
- Discrimination against AANHPI communities became increasingly prevalent with the rise of the coronavirus. This survey suggests that people of Korean, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent have been particularly hard-hit. All of us need to continue our efforts to stamp out this menace.

- The mental health needs of all community members, and particularly young adults, need to be prioritized. This study tells us that the mental health of AANHPI community members has deteriorated seriously since the advent of the coronavirus.
- More disaggregated data are needed. This study illustrates that it is possible to conduct high-quality survey research that includes attention to the diversity of the AANHPI communities by disaggregating data by ethnicity and other factors. More disaggregated data must be collected and presented in order for assistance to be directed towards those who need it most.
- AANHPI community-based organizations at the national, regional, and grassroots levels have been crucial partners for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the fight against the coronavirus. This effort is yielding impressive bottom-line results and demonstrating the importance of working hand-in-hand with community leaders, activists, and health care providers. These partnerships need to be nurtured beyond the current crisis and serve as the basis for future progress in all aspects of public health.

The role APIAHF and partners have played in promoting vaccination among AANHPIs:

- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum and 27 national and community Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, launched the National AA and NH/PI Health Response Partnership (the Partnership) to offer culturally and linguistically accessible resources for AANHPI communities. The Partnership is a community-centered model that provides on-the-ground public health resources and assistance across the nation. Resources focus on vaccinations, data accumulation efforts, public service announcements, and health education. Materials are provided in more than 20 AANHPI languages, as well as English. The Partnership also provides multilingual outreach, training, education, and patient navigation, as well as opportunities for sharing best practices.
- Resources developed through these partnerships are available at the [AA and NH/PI Health Response Partnership](#) website.

Technical notes:

- The survey was conducted only in English.
- For reporting purposes, ethnic groups were later combined into larger categories in some cases because most ethnic groups listed in the survey instrument did not have enough respondents to allow for independent reporting.
 - “East Asian” includes respondents who identified themselves as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese.
 - “Native Hawaiians” were not combined with other categories, but are consistently described separately in reports from this survey.
 - “Pacific Islanders” includes respondents who identified as Fijian, Guamanian/Chamorro, Marshallese, Pacific Islander, Samoan, and Tongan,
 - “South Asian” includes respondents who identified themselves as Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian/Asian Indian, Nepali, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.
 - “Southeast Asian” includes respondents who identified as Burmese, Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, and Vietnamese.
 - Respondents who identified as “Iranian/Arab/Persian” and “Mongolian” were not grouped into any larger category.
- Characteristics of survey respondents:
 - Gender: 52% women, 48% men
 - Parents with children under 18 in their household: 31%

- Age:
 - 18-34: 40%
 - 35-49: 30%
 - 50-64: 18%
 - 65+: 12%
- Ethnicity:
 - Chinese: 23%
 - Indian: 21%
 - Filipino: 18%
 - Korean: 9%
 - Japanese: 8%
 - Vietnamese: 6%
 - Pacific Islander: 6%
 - Native Hawaiian: 5%
 - All other ethnicities: 2% or less
- Geography:
 - Western U.S. and Hawaii: 46%
 - Northeast: 21%
 - South: 21%
 - Midwest: 12%
- Education:
 - Individuals who had not attended college: 17%
 - Individuals who had attended college but not earned a four-year degree: 23%
 - Individuals who had earned a four-year college degree, but not a postgraduate degree: 33%
 - Individuals who had earned a postgraduate degree: 27%
- Employment:
 - Employed full-time: 47%
 - Employed part-time: 13%
 - Student or at-home parent: 18%
 - Retired: 12%
- Political alignment:
 - Moderates: 40%
 - Liberals: 32%
 - Conservatives: 23%
- More detailed results from the survey can be found [here](#).

Related Studies:

- [APM Research Lab](#)
- [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)
- [New York City](#)