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

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

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

Participants: 5,242 AAPI adults completed the COMPASS survey online, by phone, or in-person.

Survey Period: October 24, 2020 - January 26, 2021 for the publicly available survey via COMPASS website (COMPASS is still conducting targeted recruitment with underrepresented AAPI via community partners)

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Community Partners

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

COMPASS Participants

- Range: 19 - 98 years
- 42.5% were 50 years and older
- 15.3% were 65 years and older

![Mean Age 45.7](image)
Cultural groups: 31.8% Chinese, 22.3% Korean, 20.6% Vietnamese, 6.3% Asian Indian, 5.4% Taiwanese, 5.3% Japanese, 4.6% Filipino, 3.9% Other, 2.1% Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders (NHPI), 1.3% More than one cultural group
- 65.7% born outside the U.S.
- Survey was completed in English (71.0%), Korean (11.9%), Vietnamese (9.4%), & Chinese (7.6%)
- 22.3% have limited English proficiency
- 15.0% are caregivers (13.3% are caregivers of older adults & 1.7% are caregivers of persons with special needs)
- US Regions - 64.8% West; 14.3% South; 12.2% Northeast; 8.7% Midwest

Note: Total of 5,242 participants who completed COMPASS survey between October 24, 2020 and March 6, 2021.

Key COVID-19 Discrimination Findings
- When asked how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their life, 41% said they have experienced some (mild/moderate/severe) changes in their experience with racial discrimination
- % who strongly/somewhat agree with beliefs concerning how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting AAPI
  - 59.0% believe that the country has become more dangerous for their ethnic group
  - 40.6% believe that most social/mass media reports about COVID-19 create bias against their race/ethnicity
  - 39.0% have seen a lot more cyberbullying of people of their race/ethnicity since the pandemic
  - 34.1% worry about people thinking they have COVID-19 because of their race/ethnicity
  - 31.5% believe that people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to lose their job
  - 15.3% believe that people of their race/ethnicity will not receive as good COVID-19 healthcare as others
  - 10.6% believe people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to get COVID-19
  - 10.4% reported being cyberbullied because of their race/ethnicity

Note: Based on data from 4,971 COMPASS participants who completed the survey between October 24, 2020 and February 13, 2021 and answered all the discrimination questions.

Key Vaccine Willingness & Concerns Findings
- 25.4% said they were “unsure” or “probably/definitely no” to getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - 24.8% for Asian Americans; 48.4% for NHPI
- 76% reported having ≥1 concerns about the vaccine. The most common concern was side effects (65%).

Proportion of Participants Willing to Receive COVID-19 Vaccination by Age Group

Note: Based on data from 1,646 COMPASS participants who completed the survey between October 24, 2020 and December 11, 2020, which was selected as the cutoff date for this analysis since it was the first day that the FDA authorized a COVID-19 vaccine. A potential follow-up survey with these participants will be conducted pending review of our application for funding for COMPASS II.