



MIDDLE EASTERN/ NORTH AFRICAN PARENTS' EXPERIENCES OF RACISM

In this series, Best Starts for Kids (BSK) shares survey results about seven questions related to racism from the 2019 BSK Health Survey, along with reactions and insights from families who reviewed these survey results for their community. Across the 10 BIPOC communities included, families faced racism to varying degrees in every facet of life, and families said that racism is under-reported in the BSK Health Survey. Families were commonly subjected to racism in public and professional settings. Families from most communities agreed that acts of racism were common at their child's school, and most communities described racist occurrences in the healthcare system. For more information about the café findings, please see the full Community Café Collaborative report at: <https://bit.ly/3pMbzgf>

Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

The term “racism” did not resonate with the participants as something that happens in or to their community. It is viewed as something that happens in the context of Black versus White in American culture. However, there were stories shared that could be defined as everyday racism or microaggressions. Some participants thought that if more people took the survey, particularly people who do not speak English well, the results might look different.

There was a mixed reaction to the data as it relates to community experiences. Some participants identified with experiences of discrimination they have felt as an immigrant, specifically negative sentiments related to their home countries. Participants used other words for daily racism like “discrimination” or “judgement.” In general, the consensus was that the data did not resonate with their (limited and short) experiences in the United States. Many shared the idea that the racial categories presented with the data were too broad and not specific enough.



“In 2011, two kids were playing in the park, another white family was playing in the park, at the end they asked where are you from. After responding Afghanistan, their faces changed and they just took their kids and left. I felt shocked and upset.”

– Middle Eastern/North African Café participant



37%

of Middle Eastern/North African parents said they experienced racism.

Among Middle Eastern/North African parents who experienced everyday racism:

51% while receiving medical care

53% at child's activities

49% at child's school

Other common settings included when **shopping** and at **work**.

72

Middle Eastern/North African parents took the survey in 2019.

Notes:

The Middle Eastern/North African café discussion was facilitated in Dari. Middle Eastern or North African parents are defined as parents who selected the Middle Eastern or North African group on the survey or wrote in a Middle Eastern or North African country (e.g., Turkey) in the “Another race” group. Multiracial people are reflected in each group that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Middle Eastern or North African on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Middle Eastern or North African results). Photos generously provided by members of the Middle Eastern/North African community.