

## PASIFIKA (NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER) 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>



Image credit: Toka Valu

Depicted here is a typical day at a PICA-WA food distribution site. In times of hardship, our Pasifika communities have always responded by rallying to support each other, a demonstration of the resilience of our community.

### Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

The percentage of people experiencing microaggressions was too low and racism occurred in many places, including at school and at work. Reasons the results were not accurate included the low number of participants. One person suggested the survey was “taken lightly.” The group thought the question regarding community support was confusing.



*“The numbers are way too low. I am always experiencing racism.”*  
– Pasifika Café participant

*“They get looked at in a different way. Most all spoke of their negative school experiences such as not being treated the same, feeling judged, that they get looked at differently, kids being treated like they are the problem...”*  
– Pasifika Café host

*“We have many talents but have been limited. Nobody asks us what we know but say they know what we can do.”*  
– Pasifika Café participant



**39%**

of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander parents said they experienced racism.

**Among Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander parents who experienced racism:**

**72%** while receiving medical care

**70%** at child's activities

**65%** at child's school

Other common settings included at **work**, when **shopping**, and when in **public spaces**.

**95**

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander parents took the survey in 2019.



**Notes:**

The café hosts for this community identified participants as Pasifika, so we have used Pasifika when describing café findings. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander parents are defined as parents who selected Native Hawaiian, Samoan, or wrote in another Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island race in the “Another race” group (e.g., Marshallese) on the survey. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Samoan on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Samoan results). Photos generously provided by members of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community.