



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# MANY FROM AAPI COMMUNITIES HAVE ENDURED DISCRIMINATION, AND A THIRD EXPERIENCED A HATE INCIDENT IN THE LAST YEAR.

A new AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll finds that 86% of people from Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities say that racism is a serious problem in the United States. Roughly half have faced discrimination based on their race or ethnicity, and 16% report being a victim of a hate crime including experiencing physical assault, property damage, or threats of assault or property damage because of their race or ethnic background in the last year.



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About a third (34%) of AAPI adults report experiencing some sort of hate incident, including verbal harassment (23%), being called racial slurs (22%), or threats of physical assault (11%) in the same period. The findings echo research documenting the rise of attacks against AAPI communities since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

While most AAPI adults express satisfaction with their mental health, seven in ten say they have experienced at least one stressor such as feeling irritable (50%), worrying too much (49%), or having trouble relaxing (46%) in the last two weeks. These are items on the General Anxiety Disorder scale, a seven-item screening tool measuring levels of anxiety, worry, and nervousness.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Justice. (2022). Raising Awareness of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Three Things You Should Know

About the AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults in the U.S.:

- 1) 86% say racism is a serious issue in this country, including 51% who say it's very or extremely serious.
- 2) 34% report experiencing some sort of hate incident, and an additional 16% report being a victim of a hate crime in the last year.
- 3) 52% hold a favorable opinion of President Biden. Just about a quarter have favorable views of any of the Republican presidential candidates.

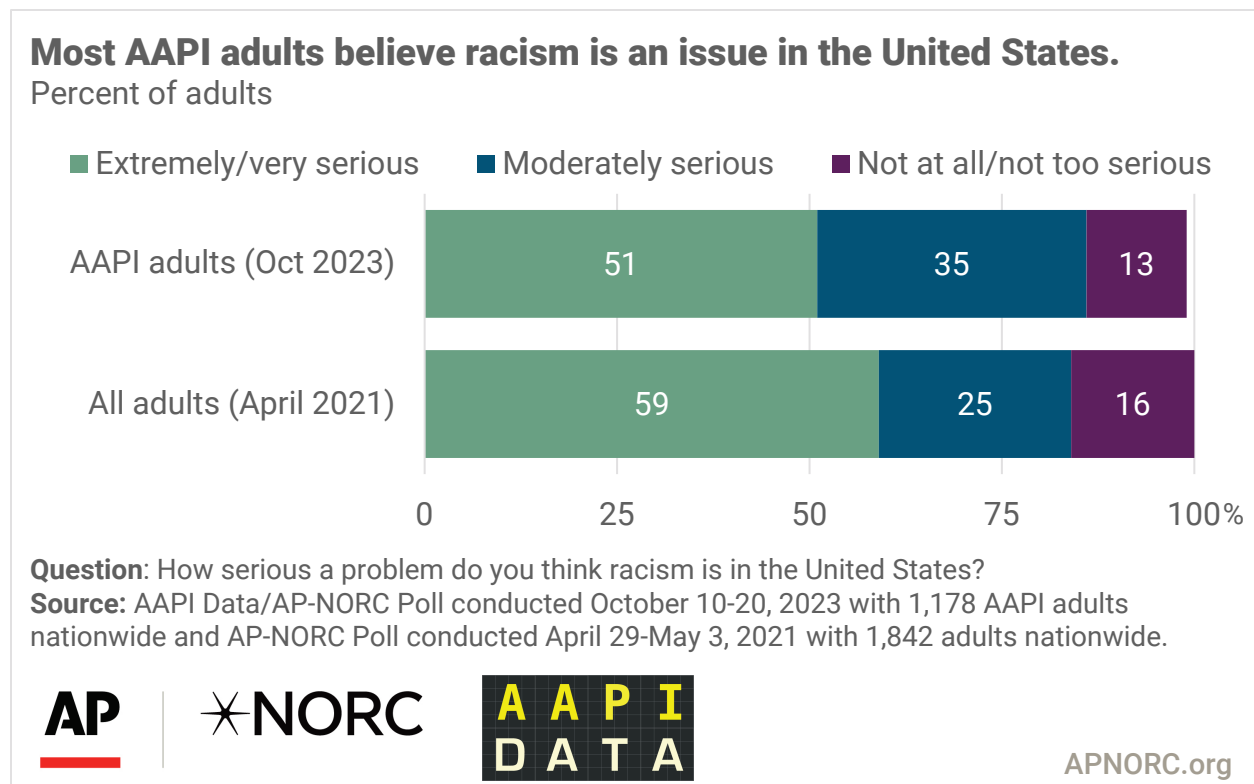
Those with an overall score of 10 or above face a higher risk of an anxiety disorder. The survey reveals that 12% of individuals within AAPI communities meet this threshold, indicating an increased vulnerability to anxiety.

The survey also unpacks the political leanings of AAPI communities, with about half identifying as Democrats, just over a quarter identifying as Republican, and about one in five identifying as independent or having no party attachment. Both Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are viewed more favorably than unfavorably, while majorities of AAPI adults view Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis unfavorably. In addition, while more AAPI adults have unfavorable views of Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy than favorable views, a large proportion say that they don't know enough about the two candidates (40% and 46%, respectively) to form an opinion.

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from October 10-20, 2023, using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander household population. Online and telephone interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,178 Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.2 percentage points.

## MOST AAPI ADULTS SAY RACISM IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE U.S.

Eighty-six percent of AAPI adults believe racism is at least a moderately serious issue, including over half (51%) who think it is an extremely or very serious issue in the United States. In April 2021, the last time this item was asked of the general population, a similar percentage of all U.S. adults felt the same, with 84% saying it was at least moderately serious and 59% saying it was extremely or very serious.

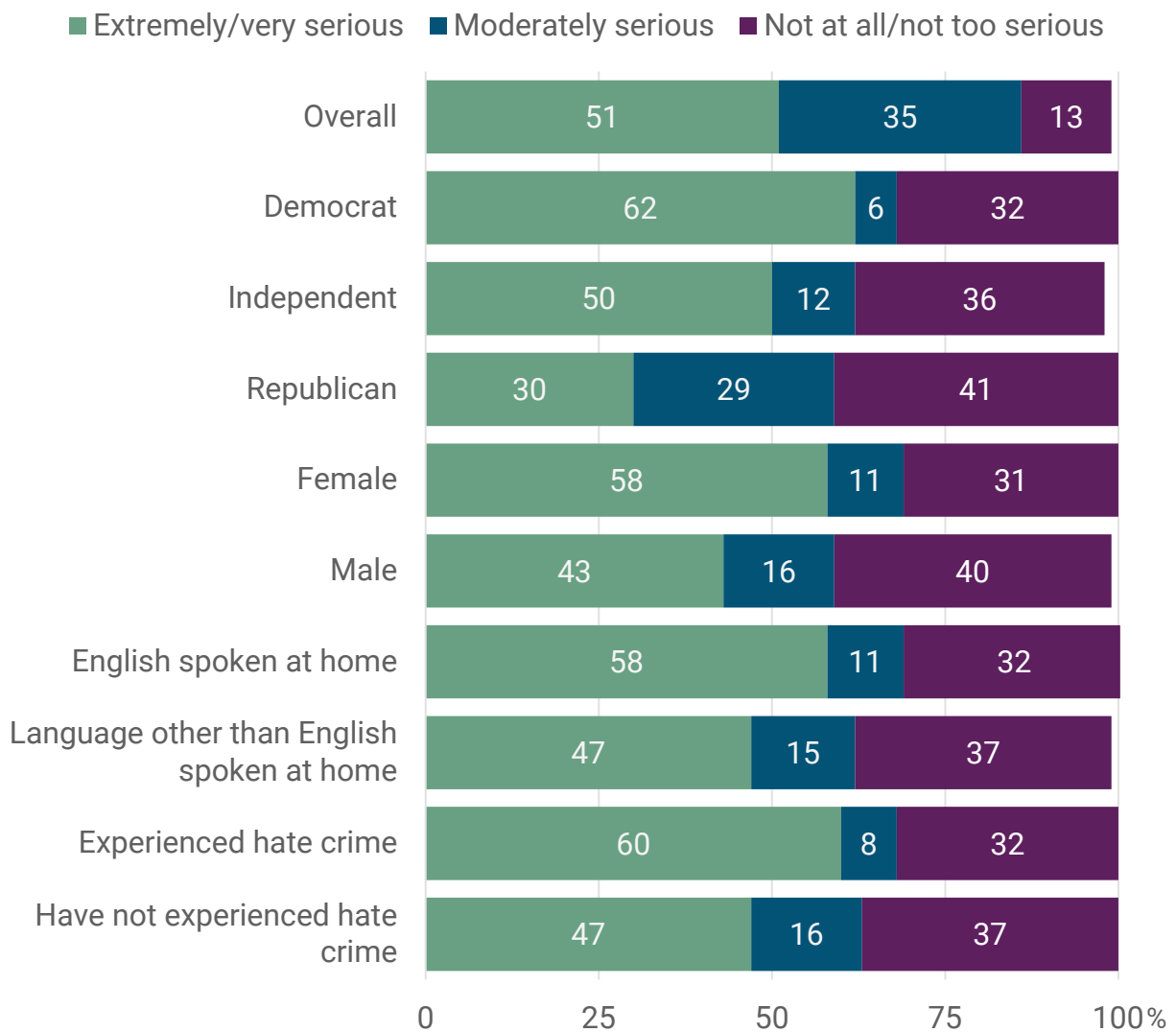


Within AAPI communities, Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans to believe that racism is a serious issue in the country, and women are more likely to think so than men. In addition, those who primarily speak English at home are more likely to consider racism a serious problem than those who speak a language other than English, as are those who have personally experienced a hate crime compared to those who have not.

There are also significant differences according to religious beliefs, with those who are Protestant less likely to think racism is a major issue (36%) than those who are Catholic (56%), do not practice any religion in particular (57%), or are atheist or agnostic (53%).

## AAPI Democrats are twice as likely as AAPI Republicans to believe racism is a very serious issue in the United States.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** How serious a problem do you think racism is in the United States?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



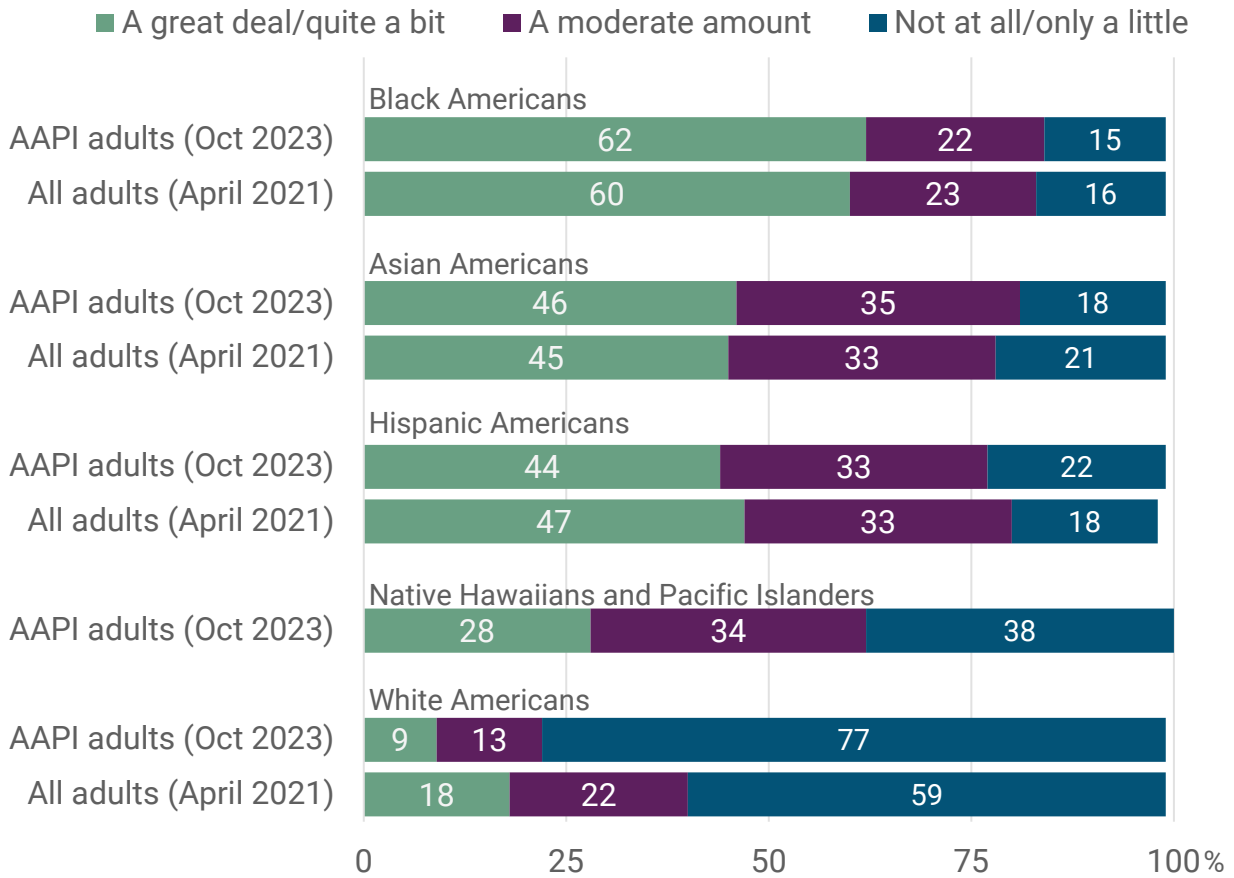
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Regarding the experiences of specific communities, most AAPI adults believe that Black adults face significant discrimination, and many think Hispanic and Asian adults do as well. These findings are consistent with an April 2021 AP-NORC poll of U.S. adults.

However, only a quarter think Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders face significant discrimination. Less than 1 in 10 believe discrimination is an issue for white adults.

### Most AAPI adults believe that Black adults experience significant discrimination.

Percent of adults



**Question:** How much discrimination do you think each of the following groups face in the United States today?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll April 29-May 5, 2021 with 1,842 adults nationwide.



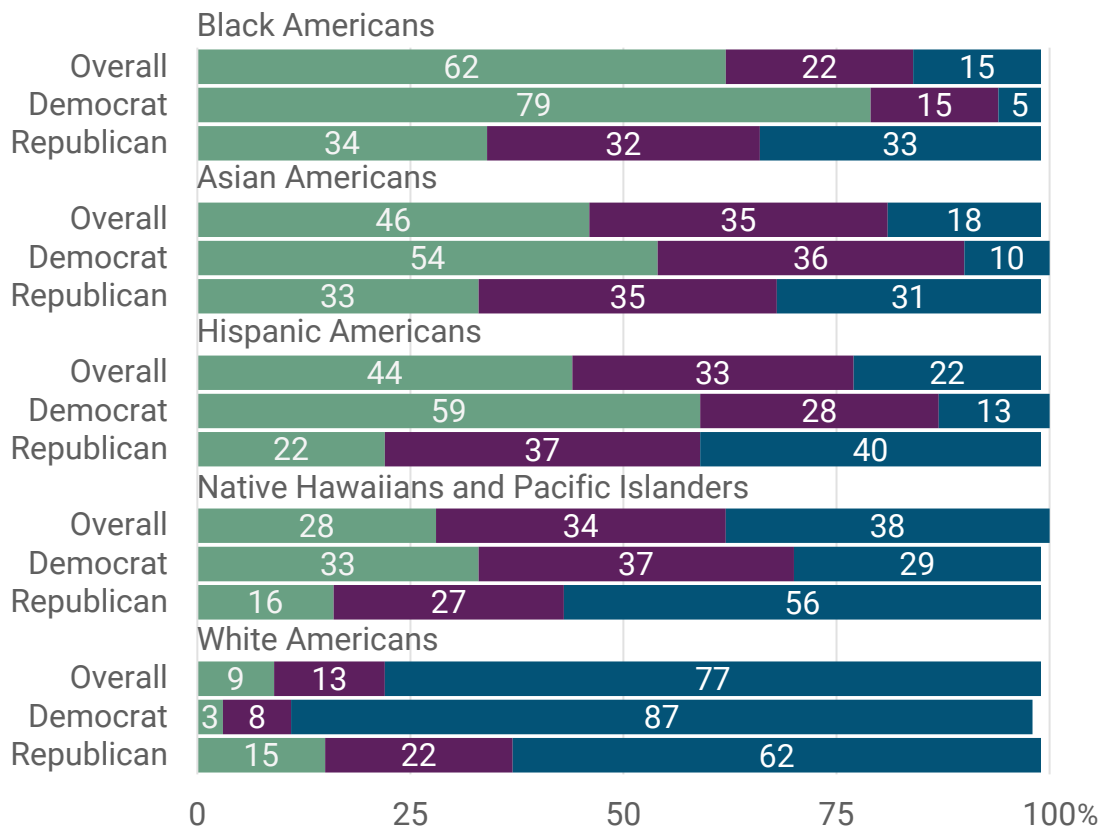
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Within AAPI communities, views on the level of discrimination faced by specific communities are heavily influenced by partisanship. Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans to say that Black, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults face at least quite a bit of discrimination. While most agree that white Americans do not face discrimination, Democrats are more likely to think so than Republicans.

## Democrats within AAPI communities are more likely than Republicans to believe minorities face discrimination.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ A great deal/quite a bit   ■ A moderate amount   ■ Not at all/only a little



**Question:** How much discrimination do you think each of the following groups face in the United States today?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



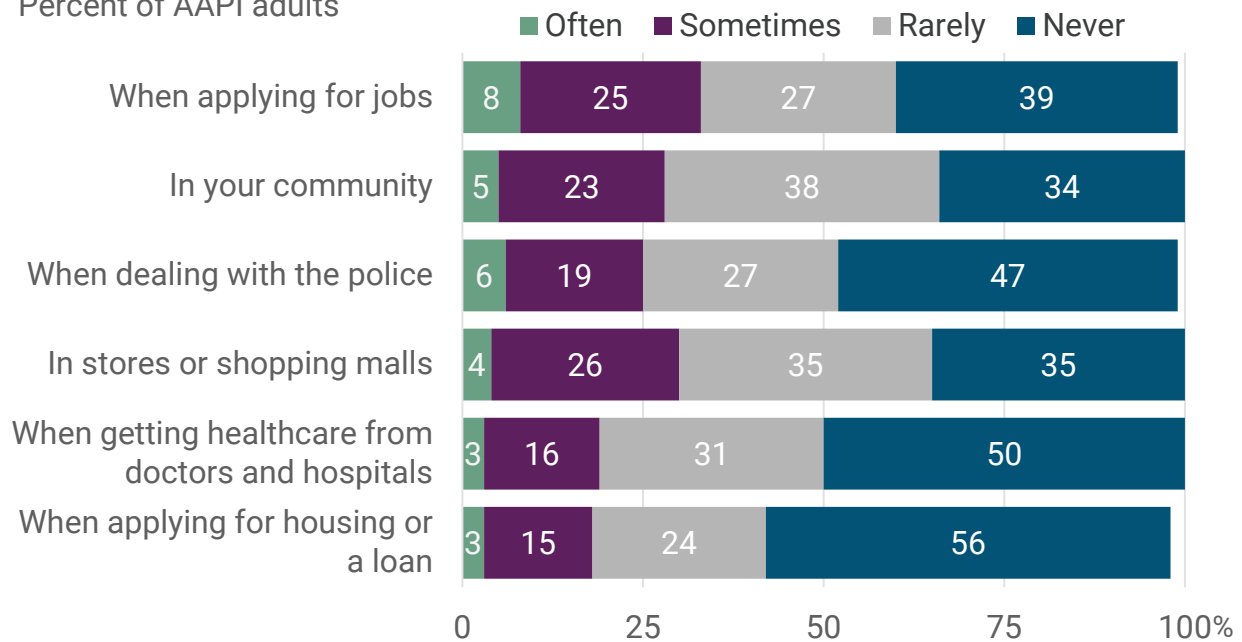
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## PEOPLE FROM AAPI COMMUNITIES ENCOUNTER DISCRIMINATION IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS.

Among AAPI adults, 52% report that they have been discriminated against based on their race or ethnicity in at least one type of situation, with most reporting it has occurred when applying for jobs (33%), in stores or shopping malls (30%), or in their communities (28%). In addition, about a quarter experienced discrimination while dealing with the police (25%), while fewer say they have been discriminated against when getting healthcare (19%) or applying for housing or a loan (18%).

## Many AAPI adults report discrimination based on their race or ethnicity.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** In each of the following situations, how often would you say you personally have been discriminated against because of your race or ethnicity?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



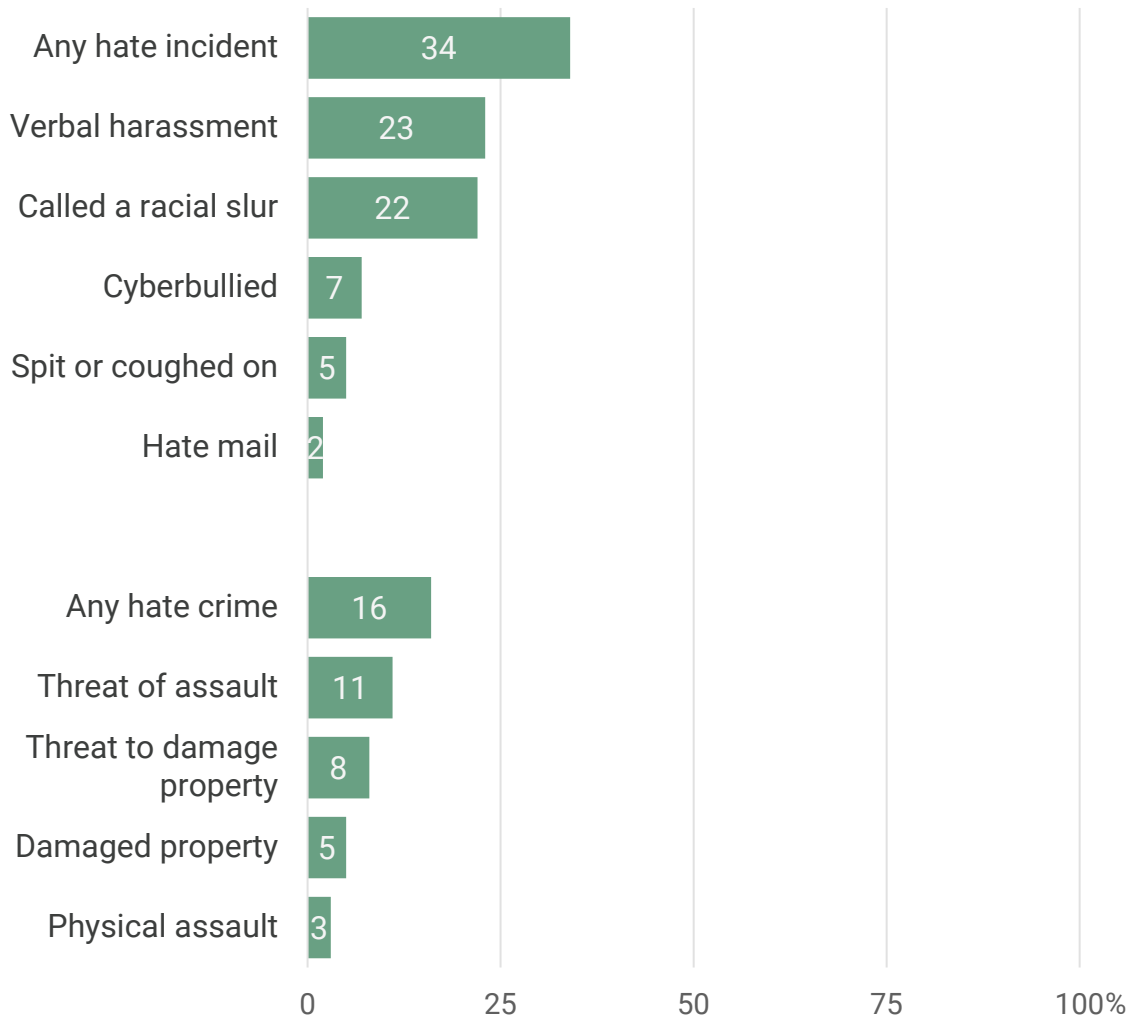
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## IN THE LAST YEAR, ROUGHLY ONE IN THREE AAPI ADULTS HAVE EXPERIENCED A HATE INCIDENT AND 16% REPORT BEING THE VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME.

When it comes to classifying experiences with hate, the survey uses the U.S. Department of Justice definition of hate crimes as involving physical assault, property damage, and threats of assault or property damage, and classify other actions, such as verbal harassment, racial or ethnic slurs, and being spit or coughed upon as hate incidents. In the last year, 16% of people from AAPI communities say they have been the victim of a hate crime specifically because of their race or ethnicity. And an additional 34% have experienced a hate incident in the last year, citing verbal harassment or racial or ethnic slurs as the most frequent forms of abuse.

## About a third of AAPI adults have suffered a hate incident in the past year.

Percent of AAPI adults that say yes



**Question:** Please indicate if you have experienced any of the following incidents in the last 12 months specifically because of your race or ethnicity.

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



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AAPI people born outside the United States are more likely than those born in the country to say their property was destroyed or damaged because of their race or ethnicity in the past year (9% vs. 3%). Further, men are more likely than women to report receiving verbal harassment (28% vs. 20%) or threats of assault related to their race or ethnicity (15% vs. 7%).

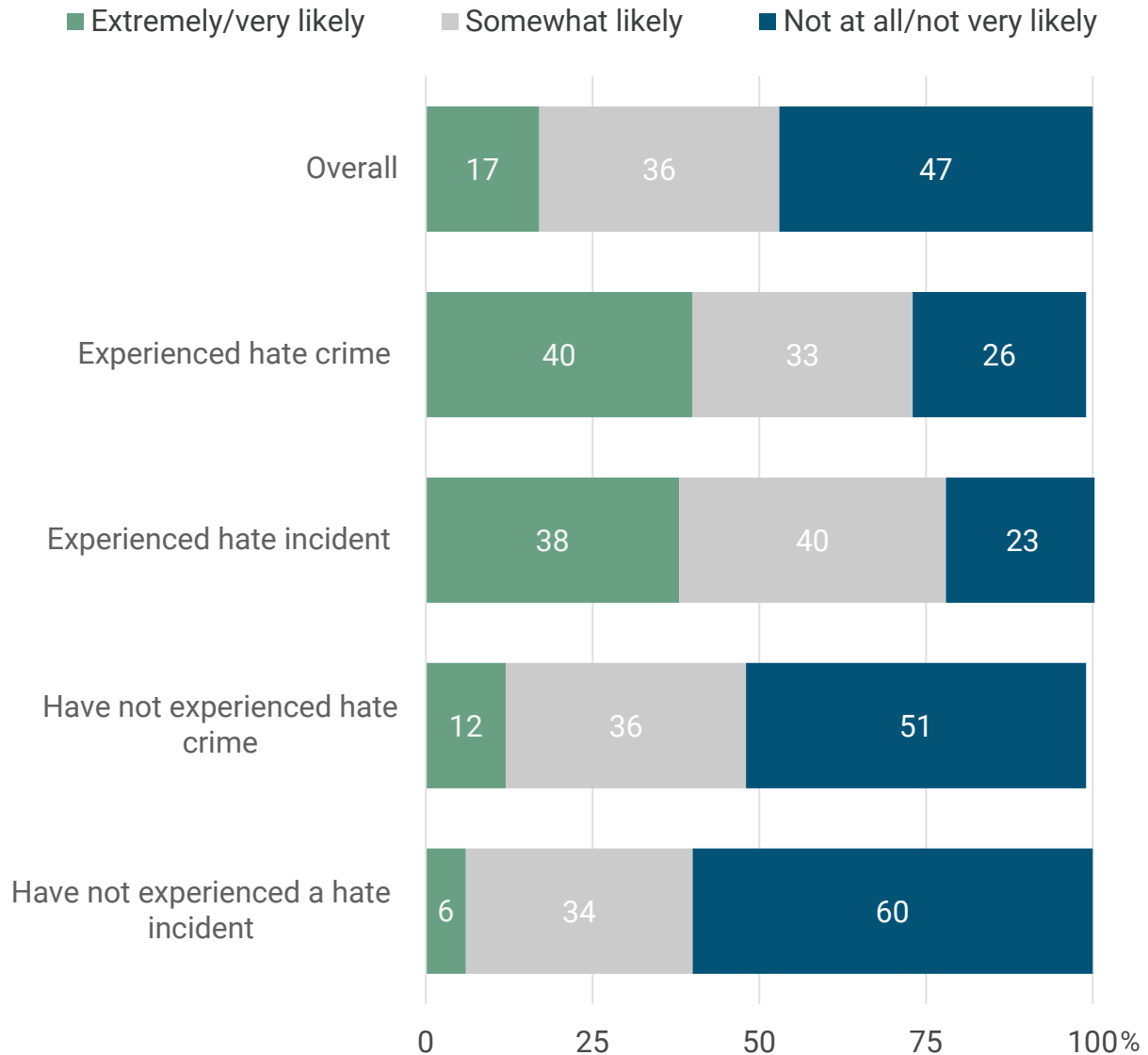
About half of AAPI adults believe they are at least somewhat likely to be a victim of discrimination because of their race or ethnicity within the next five years, and 40% believe they will be subject to a hate crime because of their race or ethnicity in the same time span.



AAPI adults who experienced a hate incident or crime recently are more likely to believe they will again be a victim of discrimination or hate in the future than those who have not experienced hate.

### AAPI victims of hate are more likely to expect future discrimination.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** [You will be the victim of discrimination] How likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you personally because of your race or ethnicity within the next five years?

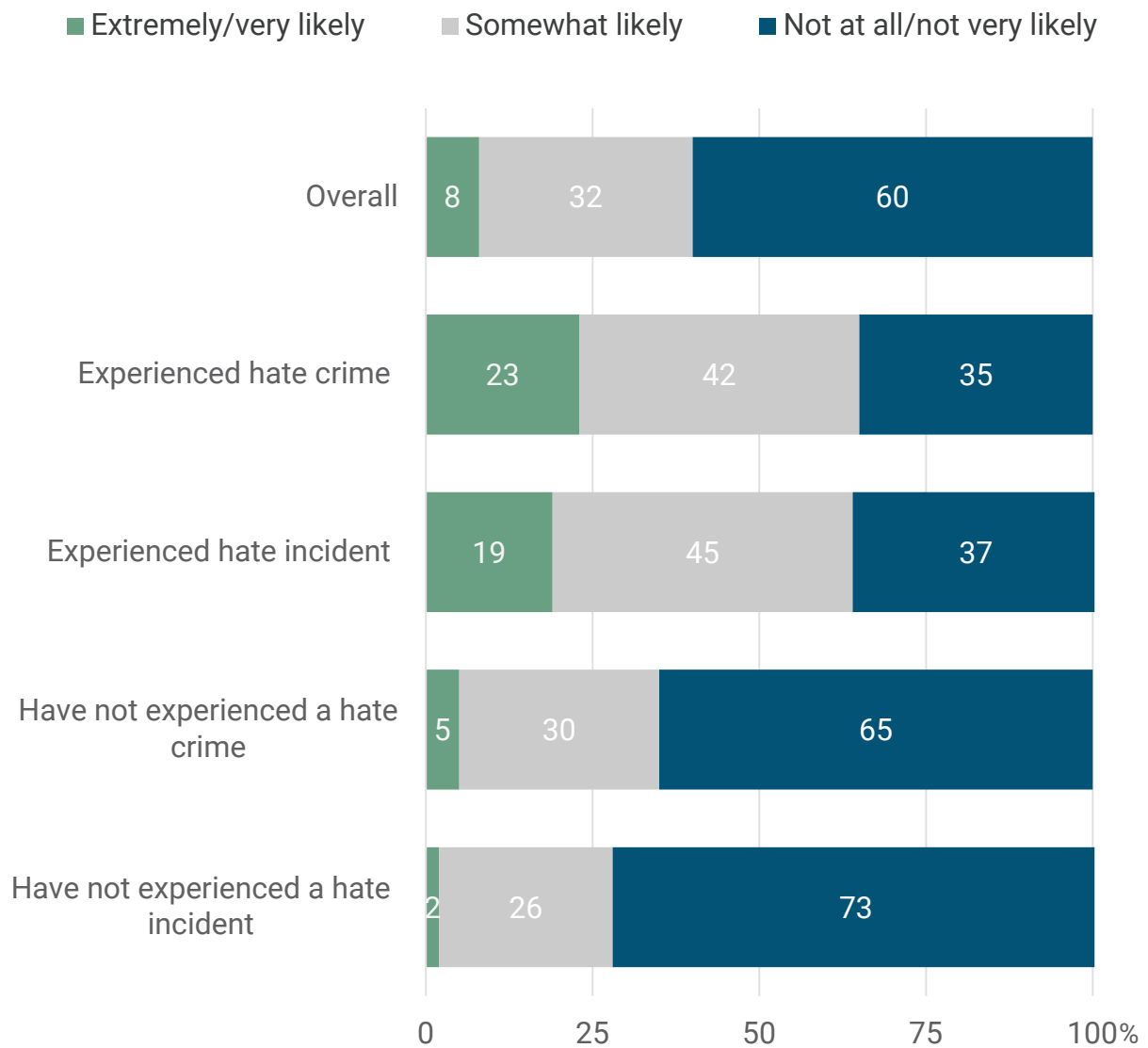
**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



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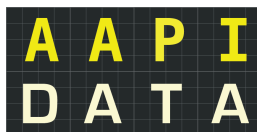
## AAPI victims of hate are more likely to anticipate becoming a target for a hate crime.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** [You will be the victim of a hate crime] How likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen to you personally because of your race or ethnicity within the next five years?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## **AAPI ADULTS WHO EXPERIENCE A HATE CRIME OR INCIDENT ARE AT A HIGHER RISK FOR ANXIETY.**

Sixty-nine percent of AAPI adults say their mental health is very good or excellent, while 23% saying good, and 8% say it is fair or poor. This result contrasts with the 40% of AAPI adults expecting to be subject to a hate crime, 23% having experienced verbal harassment, and 11% having experienced threats of assault.

Still, nearly seven in ten say they have experienced at least one stressor such as feeling irritable (50%), worrying too much (49%), or having trouble relaxing (46%) in the last two weeks. These are items on the General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) scale, a seven-item screening tool measuring levels of anxiety, worry, and nervousness.<sup>2</sup>

All responses are summed to calculate the total GAD-7 score. Scores range from 0-21 with increasing scores indicating greater severity of symptoms of anxiety.

The following cut-offs are associated with level of anxiety severity:

- Score 0-4: Minimal Anxiety
- Score 5-9: Mild Anxiety
- Score 10-14: Moderate Anxiety
- Score greater than 15: Severe Anxiety

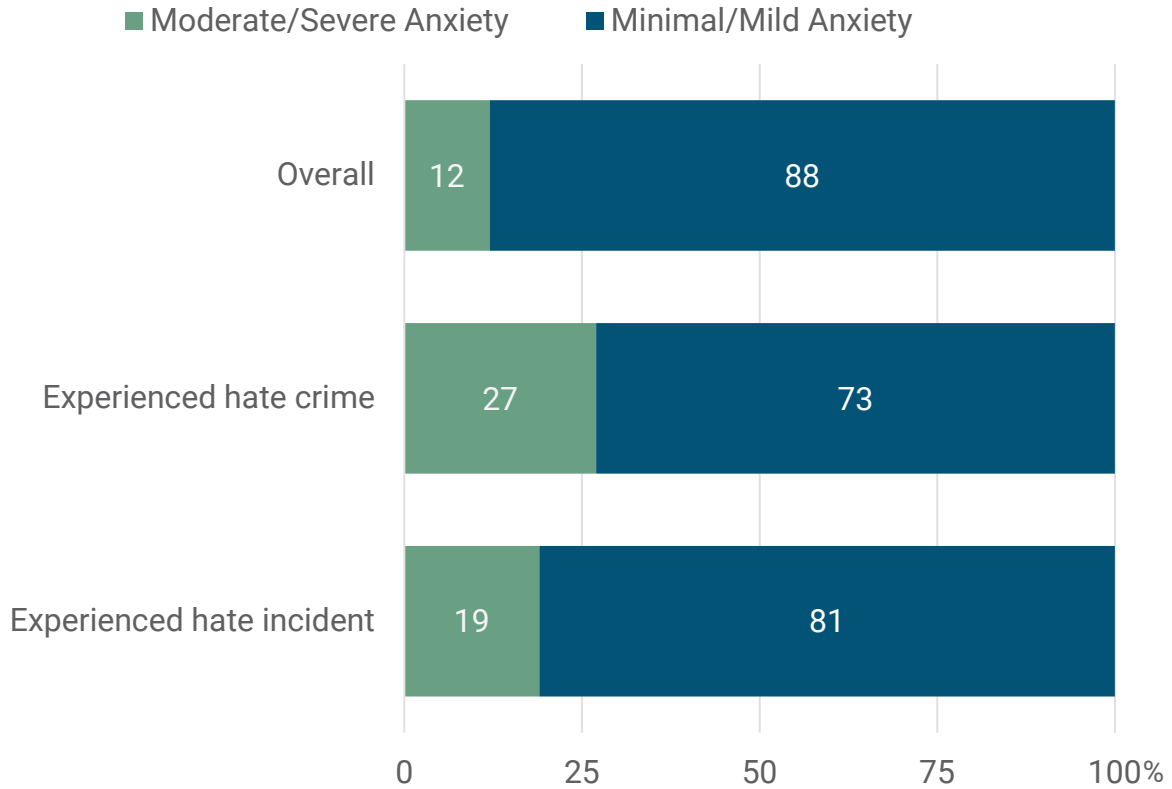
An overall score of 10 or above is considered a higher risk of an anxiety disorder. The survey finds 12% of those within AAPI communities meet this threshold - victims of a hate incident in the past year are twice as likely to experience anxiety (19% v 8%) while victims of a recent hate crime are three times as likely (27% v 9%).

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<sup>2</sup>The Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7) is an initial screening tool used to identify probable cases of generalized anxiety disorder. Source: Spitzer, R. L., Kroenke, K., Williams, J. B., & Löwe, B. (2006). A brief measure for assessing generalized anxiety disorder: the GAD-7. Archives of internal medicine, 166(10), 1092-1097. <<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16717171/>>

## AAPI adults who experienced a hate crime or incident have a higher risk for anxiety.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?/Please indicate if you have experienced any of the following incidents in the last 12 months specifically because of your race or ethnicity.

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## **AAPI ADULTS HAVE A POSITIVE VIEW OF BIDEN AND HARRIS, WHILE A MAJORITY VIEW TRUMP AND DESANTIS IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT.**

More within AAPI communities self-identify as Democrats than Republicans (53% vs. 27%). Twenty percent identify as independents, leaning towards neither major party. Democrats comprise a larger share of the AAPI population than they do of the general population (53% v 42%).<sup>3</sup>

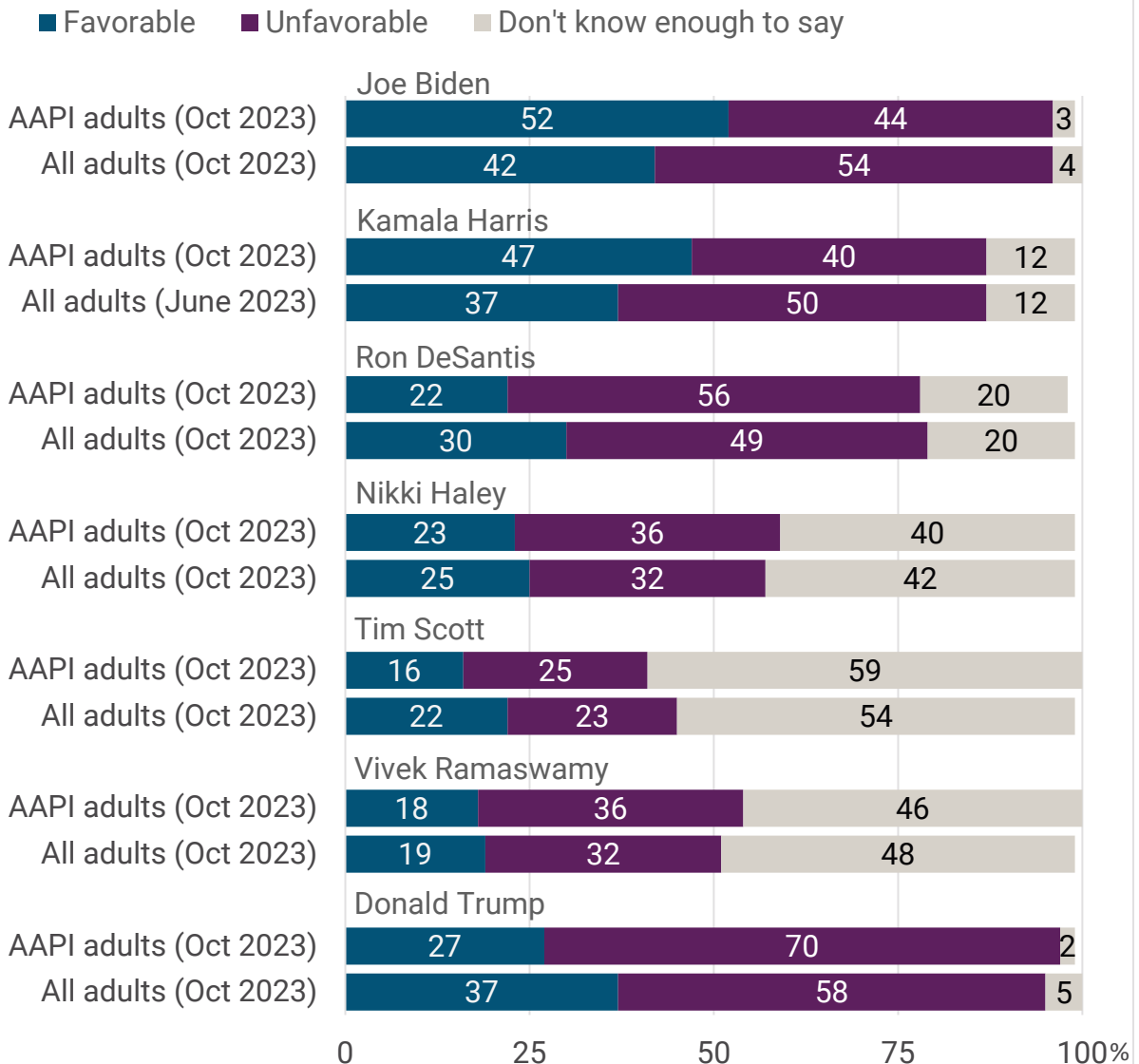
About half of AAPI adults have a favorable opinion of Biden and Harris. Most hold an unfavorable opinion of Trump. A majority view Republican presidential candidate DeSantis unfavorably and, like the general population, many report they don't know enough to have an opinion about candidates Nikki Haley, Tim Scott, or Vivek Ramaswamy.

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<sup>3</sup> The general population comparison comes from the AP VoteCast 2022 dataset. Source: <<https://apnorc.org/projects/ap-votecast-2022/>>

## About half of AAPI adults hold a favorable opinion of Biden and a majority view Trump unfavorably.

Percent of adults



**Question:** For each of the following please indicate if you have an unfavorable or favorable opinion. If you don't know enough to have an opinion, you can say that too.

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC poll conducted August 10-14, 2023 with 1,165 adults nationwide.

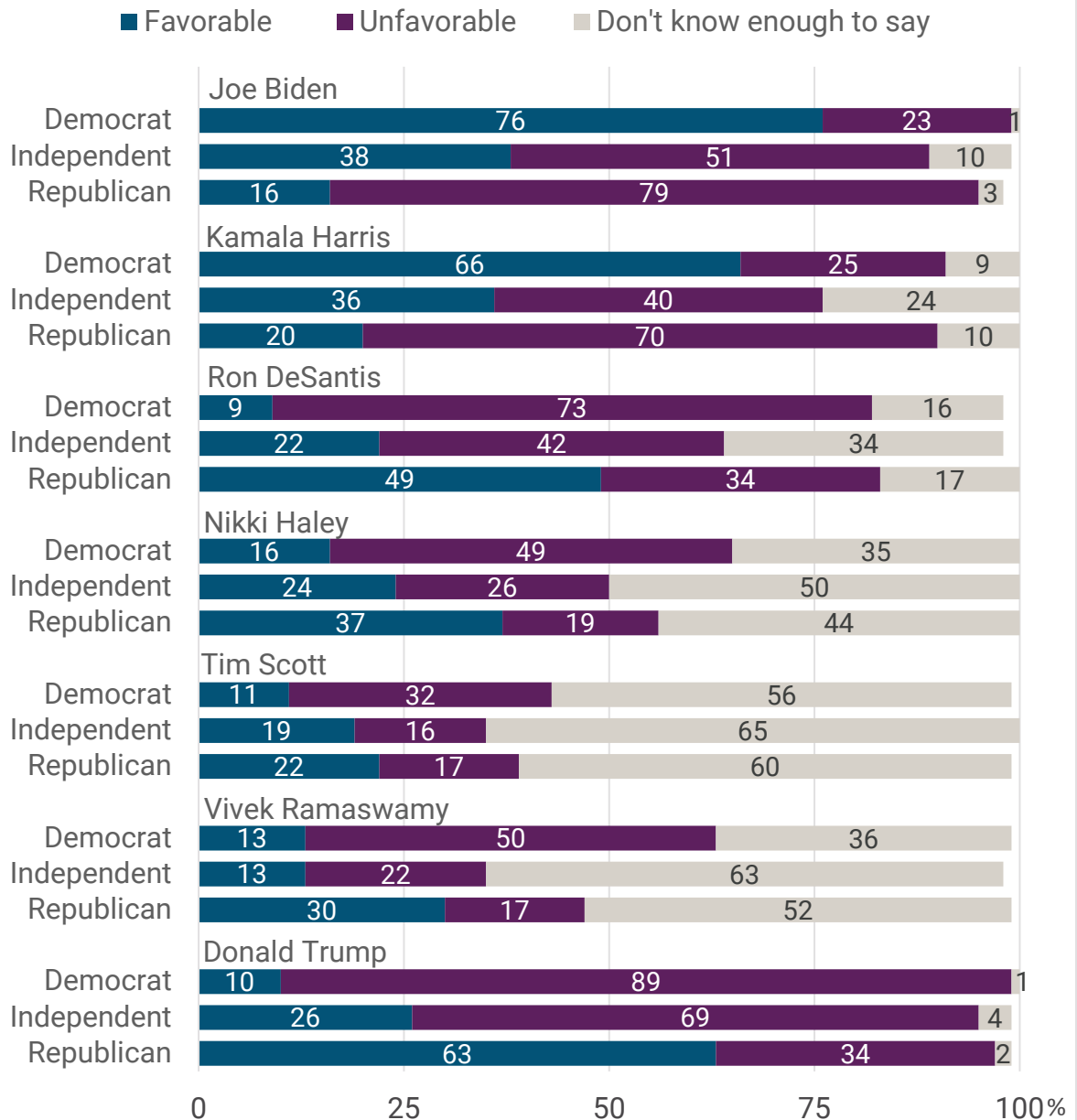


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Within AAPI communities, most Democrats view Biden (76%) and Harris (66%) favorably. Among AAPI Republicans, Trump remains the most favorable candidate at 63% and with DeSantis at 49% favorable. Less than half report holding favorable opinions of Haley, Scott, or Ramaswamy.

## AAPI communities' views on candidates are highly driven by partisanship.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** For each of the following please indicate if you have an unfavorable or favorable opinion. If you don't know enough to have an opinion, you can say that too.

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted October 10-20, 2023 with 1,178 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## METHODS

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data with funding from the University of California (UC) Riverside.

Data were collected using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between October 10-20, 2023 with Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders 18 years of age or older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from the Amplify AAPI Panel, and 1,178 completed the survey—1,173 via the web and five by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. In addition to English, the survey was offered in the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean, depending on respondent preference.

Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (either \$5 or \$10) for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 31.4 percent. Because the Amplify AAPI Panel is so new, the final weighted household panel response rate, weighted household panel retention rate, and cumulative response rate have not been calculated. All rates can be made available upon request by December 2023 and will be included in reports after that date. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Amplify AAPI is a blend of multiple sample designs. Each stage seeks to provide maximum coverage of the AAPI population, and all are combined through base-weighting to arrive at a representative overall cross-section of AAPI in the United States. The first stage included recruitment of approximately 850 active AAPI panelists from NORC's flagship probability panel, AmeriSpeak. These panelists now serve as members of both the AmeriSpeak and the Amplify AAPI panels. During the initial recruitment phase of the AmeriSpeak panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame or a secondary national address frame, both with over 96% coverage of all U.S. addresses, and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, or field interviewers (face to face).

The second stage began in the spring of 2022, when Amplify AAPI recruited 150 households from a 30,000-sample pool as a pilot to test the sample design's feasibility and participation rates. In 2023, Blue Shield Foundation of California and UC Riverside/AAPI Data sponsored a recruitment effort in California generating 1,150 additional panelists. Finally, the Rockefeller Foundation funded a national recruitment effort, including new recruits and those from the 2022 Pew Asian American Survey, generating 4,700 panelists who are eligible for the monthly survey.

By providing recruiting and interviewing in the languages noted earlier, Amplify AAPI covers approximately 90 percent of Asian language "linguistically isolated" households, that is, households in which no adult can speak English or Spanish at least "well." Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings population.



Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 21 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample was selected and fielded, and all the study data were collected and made final, a poststratification process was used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census region, race/ethnicity, education, U.S. born, and Asian origin. Weighting variables were obtained from the American Communities Survey (ACS) 5 years data 2017-2021. The weighted data reflect the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) household population, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Complete questions and results are available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org). For more information about the study, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

Additional information on the Amplify AAPI Panel methodology is available at: <https://amplifyaapi.norc.org/>. For more information about the panel, email [Amplifyaapi-bd@norc.org](mailto:Amplifyaapi-bd@norc.org).

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The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

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## **ABOUT AAPI DATA**

AAPI Data's reputation—among journalists, government agencies, community organizations, and scholars—is built on data, research, and narratives that are accurate, compelling, and timely.

Since 2018, the program has organized its work along the principles of DNA: Data, Narrative, Action, aiming for meaningful improvements in policies, practices, and investments that serve AAPI communities.

Email [info@aapidata.com](mailto:info@aapidata.com) for more questions.