



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# MOST AAPI ADULTS THINK K-12 STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT SLAVERY, RACISM, SEGREGATION, AND THE HISTORY OF AAPI COMMUNITIES

As the country grapples with debates about what should be taught in classrooms, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC survey reveals strong support among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults for teaching historical topics such as slavery, racism, and segregation (71%) along with the history of AAPI communities (71%). There is less consensus about teaching issues related to sex and sexuality, with 53% in favor and 19% opposed.



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Fifty-six percent of AAPI adults oppose individual school boards restricting specific

## Five 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) 7 in 10 support teaching historical topics such as slavery, racism, and segregation. An identical share says the same about teaching the history of AAPI communities.
- 2) 40% rate the quality of education in both public and private K-12 schools in their state positively, 51% feel the same about public 2-year colleges, and 65% have a favorable view of public 4-year colleges.
- 3) 79% believe it's fair for colleges to consider high school grades for admissions, while only 18% think race and ethnicity should be considered.
- 4) Most think skills development (83%), critical thinking (80%), and the free exchange of different ideas (69%) should be a major purpose of a college education, while 51% believe advancing equity and inclusion should be a main priority.
- 5) 48% believe a four-year college degree is essential to get a job that comfortably supports a family, 44% think it's necessary to increase wealth and minimize debt, and 42% say a degree is essential to become a well-informed citizen.

subjects and classroom discussions and 35% feel local school boards have too much influence on curricula. Nearly half believe parents (47%) and teachers (48%) have too little influence on public schools' curricula.

On school safety, 57% believe mandating mental health counselors is an effective approach to protect children's safety and well-being. About half consider bullying prevention programs (52%), practicing lockdowns (50%), and employing trained security guards (50%) helpful methods to ensure school safety.

Levels of satisfaction across AAPI communities on school quality are mixed. Four in 10 rate both public and private K-12 schools positively, and about half feel the same about public community colleges or 2-year institutions. Public 4-year colleges and universities receive higher marks with 65% deeming them excellent or good.

Direct engagement with the local school board is low among AAPI communities, as it is with the general public. Just 13% of AAPI adults report they attended a meeting and 18% reached out to a school board member in the last five years.

In terms of future success for children, most AAPI adults (85%) say hard work is a critical component, followed by the amount of time children spend with a parent (79%). These views largely mirror the general population when they were last asked in [March 2022](#), although AAPI adults are more likely to believe that neighborhoods (62% vs. 49%) and parental income (57% vs. 44%) plays a major role in a child's future success in adulthood.

The education survey was conducted prior to widespread protests on college campuses. Majorities of both AAPI communities and the general population surveyed in [September 2023](#) see teaching critical thinking (80% vs. 76%) and imparting workplace-relevant skills and knowledge (83% vs. 82%) as major purposes of universities. Lower, but similar shares of AAPI adults and the general public believe colleges should foster the free exchange and debate of ideas and values (69% vs. 62%) and advance equity and inclusion (51% vs. 46%) as major purposes for higher education institutions.

Nearly half (48%) of AAPI adults consider a four-year college degree essential for securing a job that comfortably supports a family, although this sentiment drops slightly for its role in wealth accumulation (44%) or citizen engagement (42%). Forty-eight perceive a degree as important, albeit not essential, for facilitating job mobility over the long term.

In terms of financing higher education, roughly half of AAPI adults view state governments (49%) and the federal government (48%) as bearing a large responsibility, while about a third hold individuals (36%) and families (32%) to the same standard.

Roughly 8 in 10 AAPI adults support college admission criteria based on high school grades (79%) and 65% think consideration of standardized test scores is fair. About 4 in 10 believe experiences with hardship or adversity should be considered. However, factors like athletic ability (42%), ability to pay full tuition (48%), or race and ethnicity (53%), are widely perceived as unfair. Additionally, most consider lineage-based considerations to be unfair, such as legacy admissions (69%) or being a first-generation college student (54%).

When it comes to creating a respectful and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and invited speakers from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, AAPI adults are less likely to perceive the

environment as equally inclusive for Asian or Pacific Islander students (31%), Black students (32%), or Hispanic or Latino students (30%) than for white students (48%).

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from April 8-17, 2024, 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 1,068 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.7 percentage points.

## **AAPI COMMUNITIES BACK TEACHING SENSITIVE TOPICS IN HISTORY, BUT HAVE MIXED VIEWS ON SEX ED.**

A majority of AAPI adults favor teaching the history of slavery, racism, and segregation as well as the history of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S. in K-12 public schools. AAPI Democrats are more likely to favor teaching these topics than AAPI Republicans.

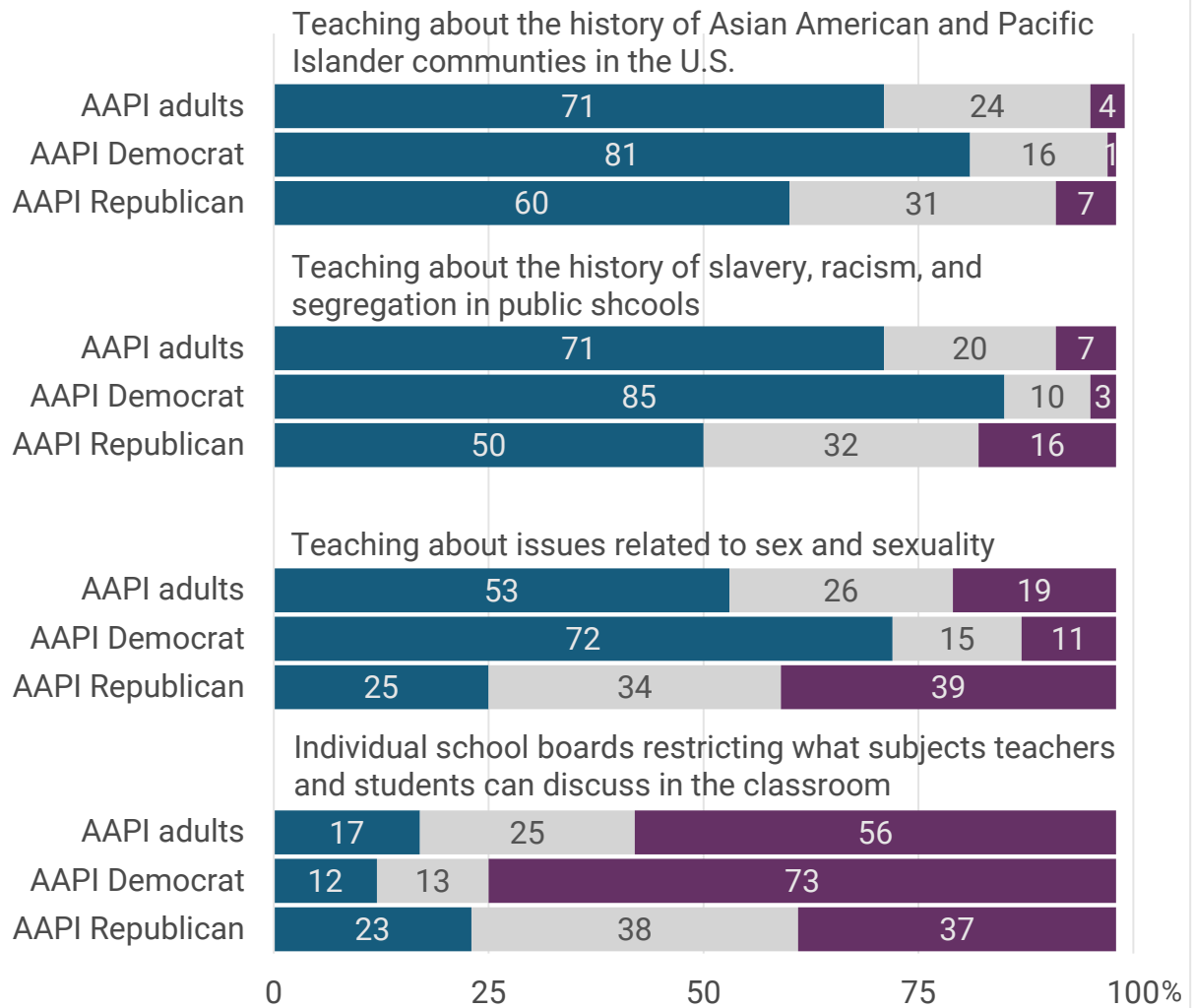
About half of AAPI adults support teaching about issues related to sex and sexuality. AAPI Democrats are nearly three times as likely to favor teaching on these topics than AAPI Republicans. Those who are not religious are also more likely to favor teaching topics concerning sex and sexuality in public schools than those who are religious (60% vs. 49%).

Few support school boards influencing what is taught in K-12 classrooms. Fifty-six percent of AAPI adults oppose individual school boards restricting what teachers and students discuss in the classroom, with just 17% approving such influence. AAPI Democrats are more likely to oppose these restrictions than AAPI Republicans, as are those who are not religious compared with those who are religious.

## A majority of AAPI adults favor teaching about racism and AAPI history in K-12 public schools.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Strongly/somewhat favor ■ Neither favor nor oppose ■ Strongly/somewhat oppose



**Questions:** Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following at K-12 public schools in your state?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide.



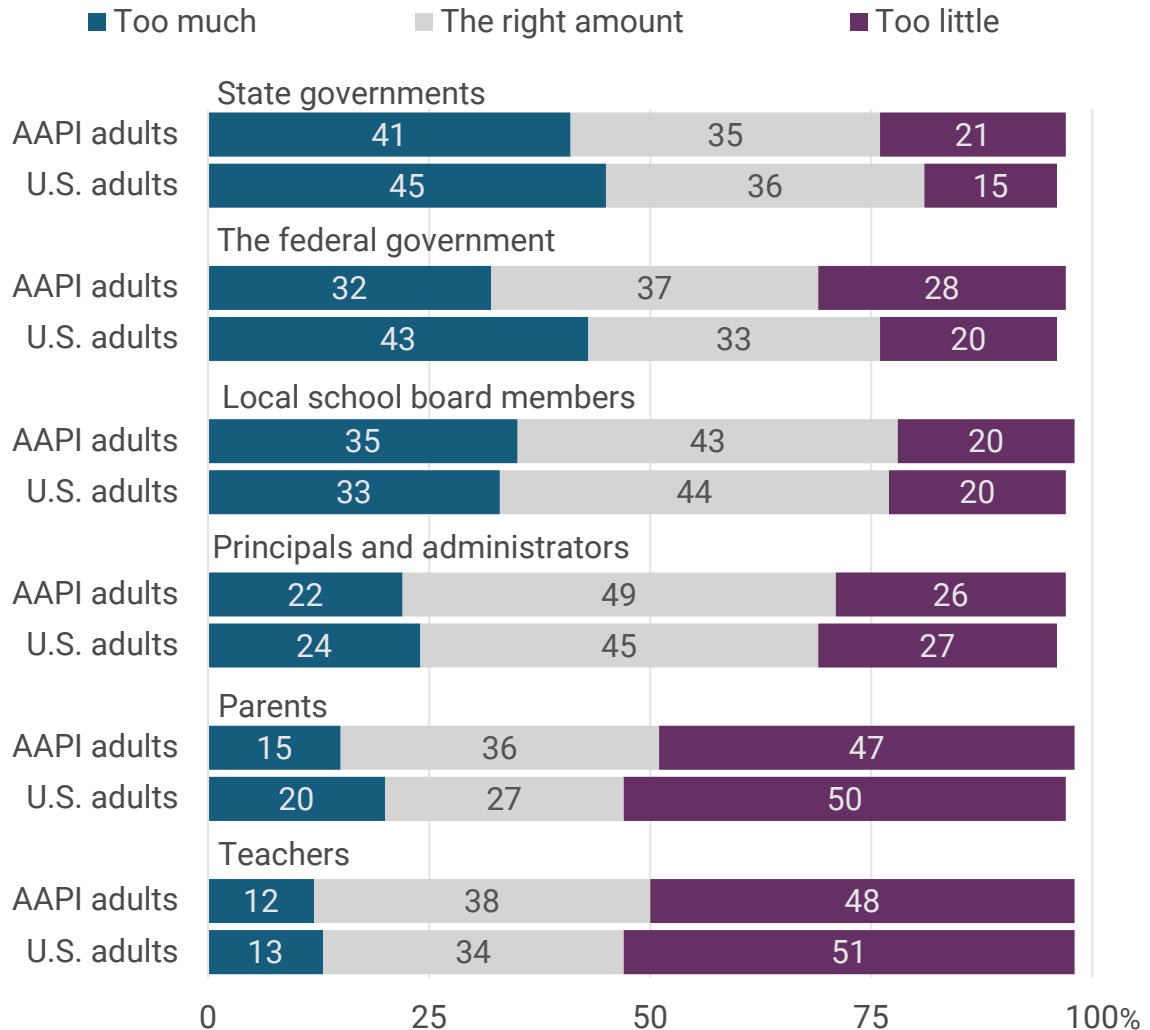
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When it comes to influence on curriculum in public schools, about half think parents and teachers have too little sway, and few believe they have too much. AAPI adults are most likely to be satisfied with the current amount of influence of local school board members or principals and administrators.

Similar shares believe state governments have either the right amount or too much influence on public schools' curriculum. However, there is little consensus on the role of the federal government, with 32% believing it has too much influence, 28% too little, and 37% the right amount. These views largely mirror those of the general public from a 2022 survey, but a higher share of U.S. adults believes the federal government has too much influence compared to AAPI adults (43% vs. 32%).

### More AAPI adults believe parents and teachers have too little influence on school curriculum in public schools than too much.

Percent of adults



**Questions:** Do each of the following have too much, too little, or about the right amount of influence on the curriculum in public schools?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago Harris/AP-NORC Poll conducted March 17-21, 2022 with 1,030 adults nationwide.



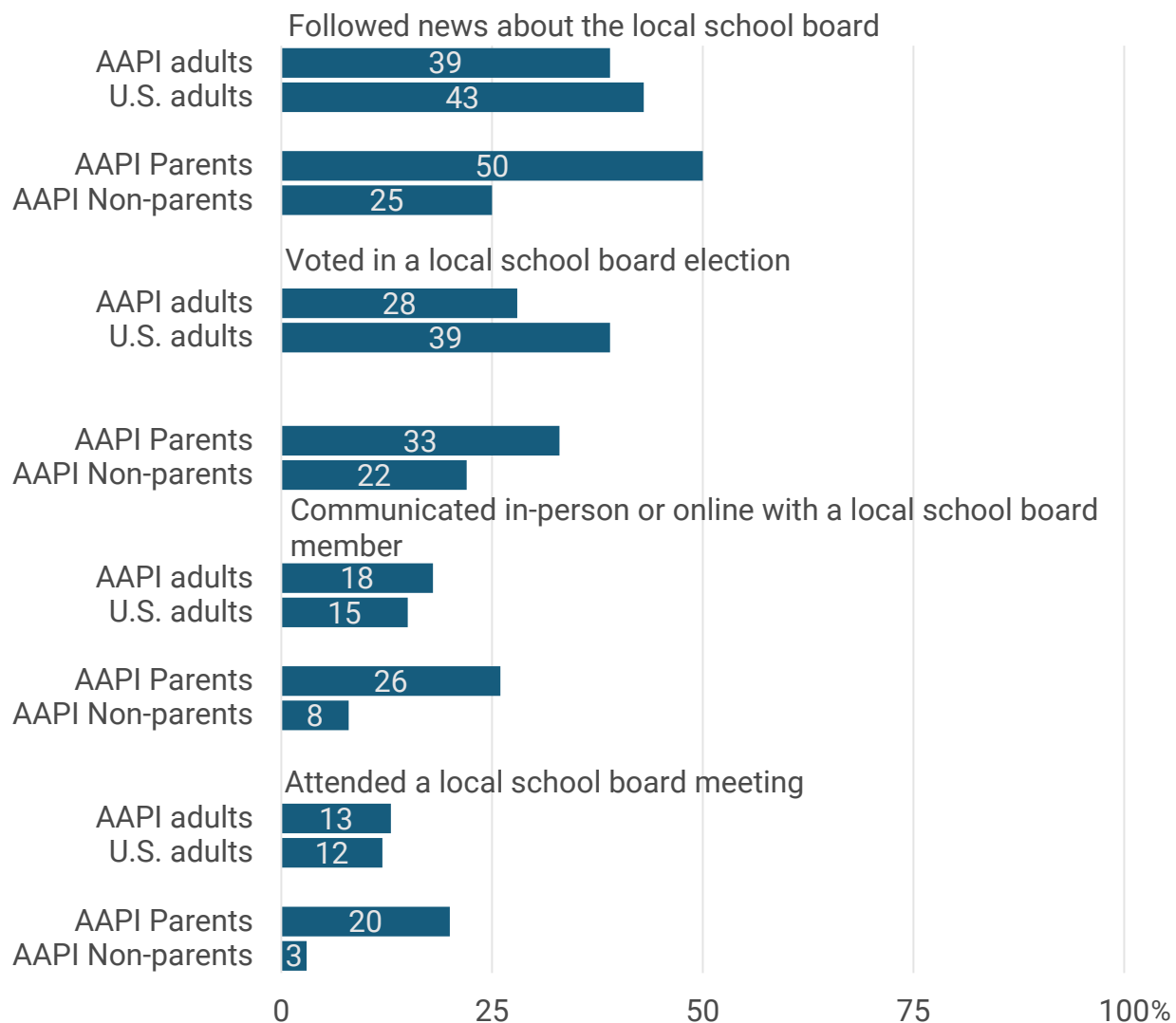
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## **AAPI COMMUNITIES' ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS MIRRORS THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

Few AAPI adults have engaged with their local school boards, similar to the general population. While 4 in 10 have followed news about their local school boards in the past five years, less than a third have voted in a school board election, and very few have communicated with a school board member or attended a meeting. AAPI parents are more likely than nonparents to have taken these actions.

## AAPI adults are similarly engaged to the general population on school issues, but AAPI parents are more involved.

Percent of adults who have done each of the following



**Questions:** Have you done any of the following in the last five years or not?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago Harris/AP-NORC Poll conducted March 17-21, 2022 with 1,030 adults nationwide.



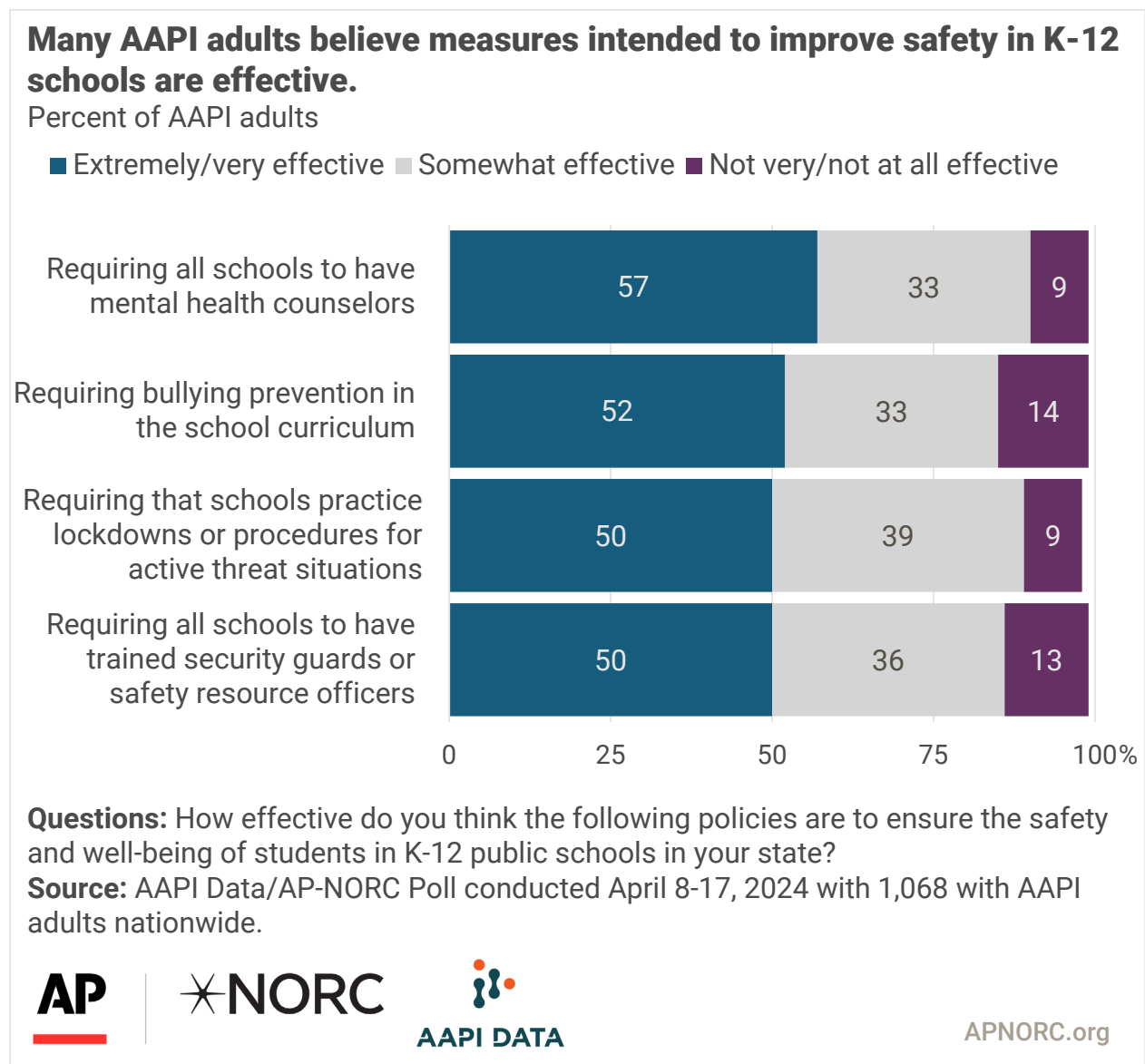
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## MANY AAPI ADULTS BELIEVE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS, BULLYING PREVENTION, SAFETY DRILLS, AND SECURITY RESOURCES ARE EFFECTIVE AT KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN SCHOOLS.

About 6 in 10 AAPI adults believe requiring all schools to have mental health counselors is an effective measure to ensure the safety and well-being of students in their state’s K-12 public schools. Approximately half think requiring bullying prevention in the school curriculum, practicing lockdowns or procedures for active threat situations, or having trained security guards or safety resource officers in all schools are effective safety measures as well.

AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to believe that requiring mental health counselors is effective (66% vs. 50%), while AAPI Republicans are more likely than AAPI Democrats to believe requiring schools to have trained security guards or safety resource officers is effective (64% vs. 45%).

There are no significant differences in views of parents versus nonparents.

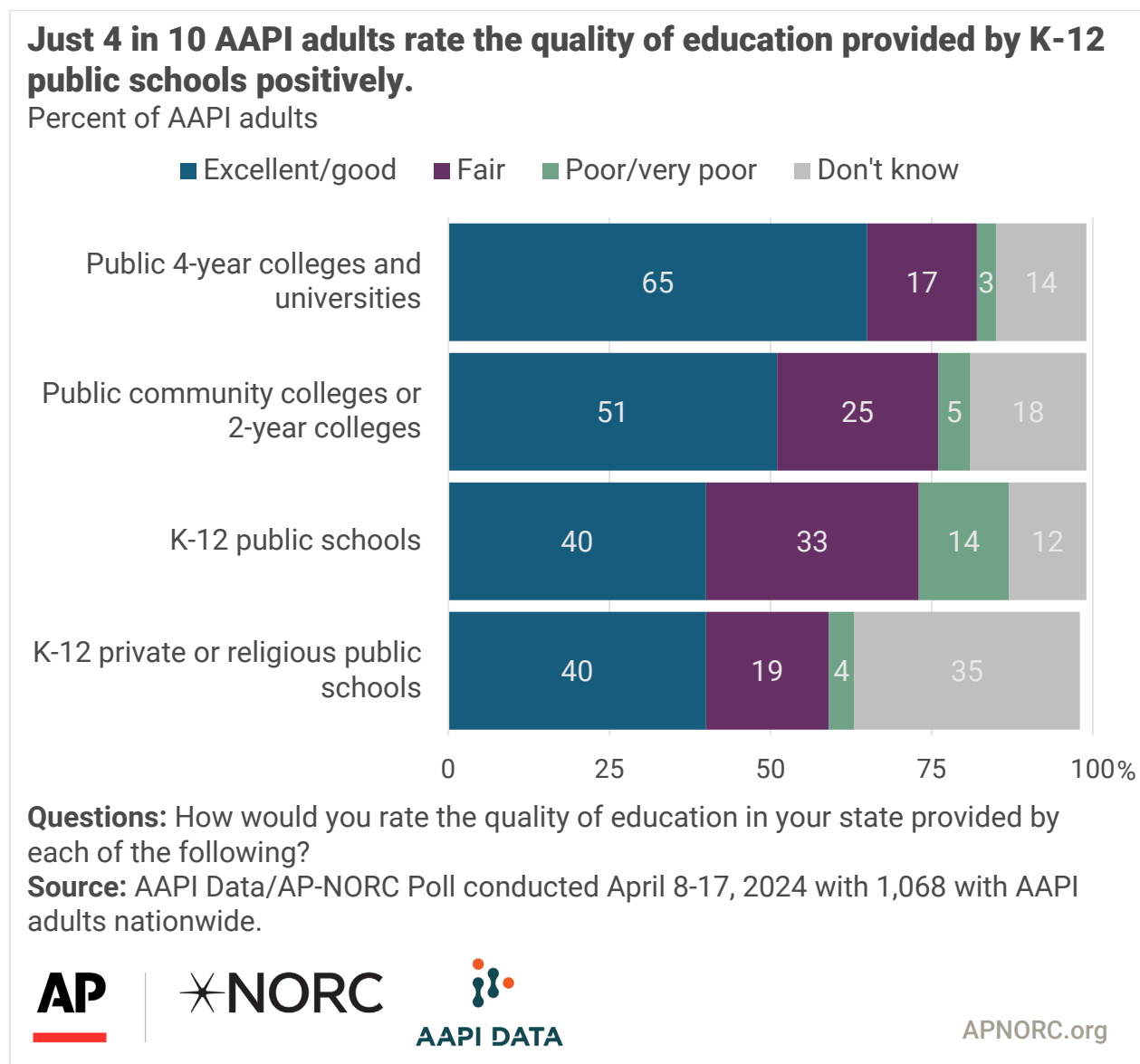




## JUST 4 IN 10 AAPI ADULTS BELIEVE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN GET A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, BUT TWO- AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES ARE RATED MORE POSITIVELY.

Just 40% of AAPI adults rate the quality of education provided by K-12 public schools in their state positively, while 33% say it is fair and 14% consider it to be poor. A similarly low share (40%) rate the quality of K-12 private or religious schools in their state as good, but about a third are unsure about its quality. Those who are religious are more likely to rate the quality of K-12 private or religious schools positively than those who are not religious (46% vs. 30%). Parents and those without children rate public and private K-12 schools in their state similarly.

When it comes to colleges and universities, about half rate the quality of education provided by public community colleges or 2-year colleges positively and about two-thirds say the same about public 4-year colleges and universities. AAPI Democrats are more likely to have a favorable view of public 4-year colleges and universities, with 73% rating the quality of education they provide as good compared to 56% of AAPI Republicans.



## **MOST AAPI ADULTS SEE HARD WORK AND PARENTAL ATTENTION AS IMPORTANT PREDICTORS OF A CHILD'S SUCCESS IN ADULTHOOD.**

Eight in 10 AAPI adults view hard work and time spent with a parent as integral to their success, and two-thirds say the same about what schools they attend, the neighborhood they live in, and whether they graduate from college. About half view parent income and inherent talent as important, while only about a quarter say the same about race and ethnicity or graduating from an Ivy League or other selective college.

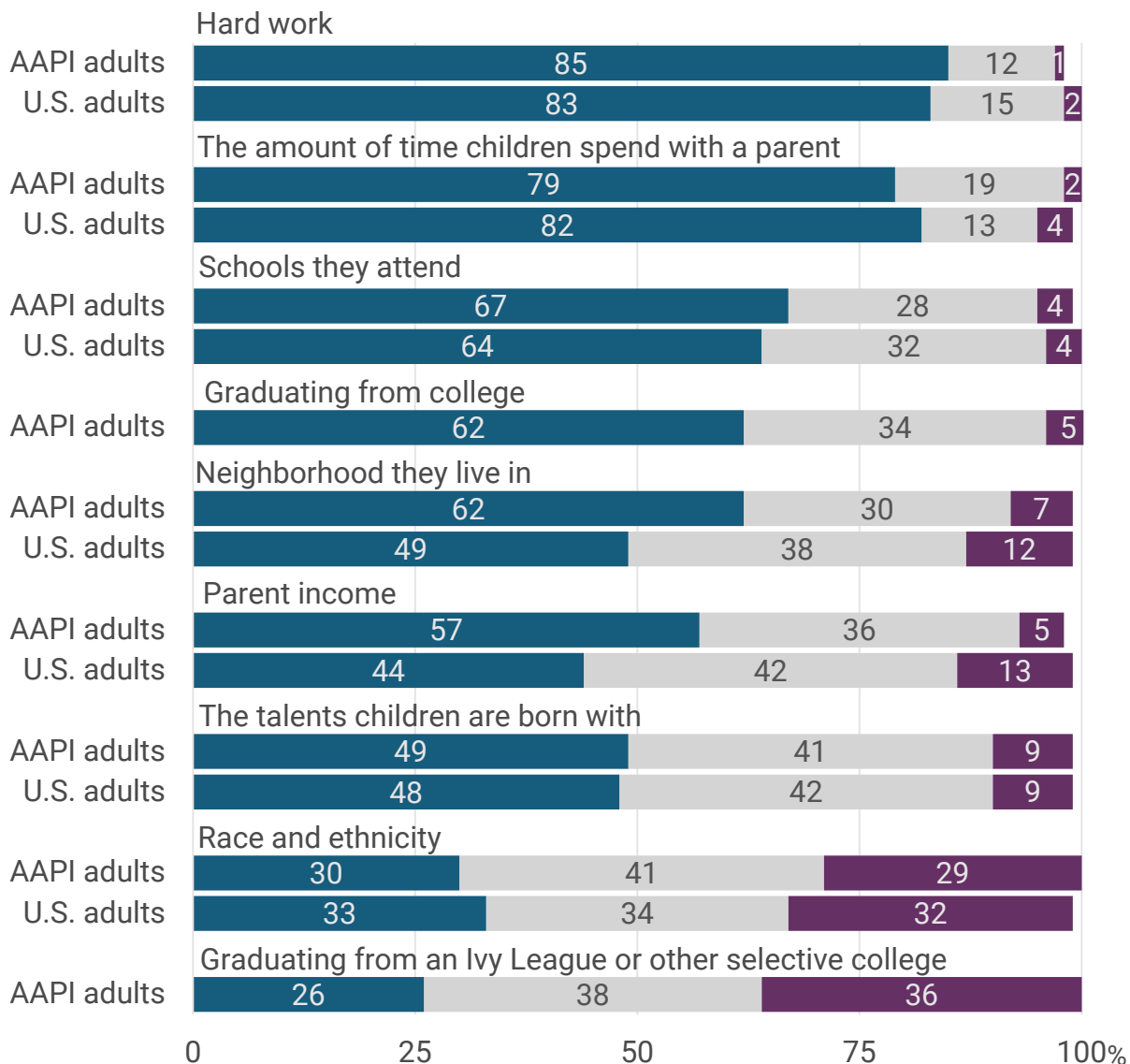
These views are largely similar to those of the general population. However, AAPI adults are more likely than U.S. adults overall to say parental income (57% vs. 44%) and their neighborhood (62% vs. 49%) play an important role in a child's success.

Within AAPI communities, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to view race and ethnicity as important (35% vs. 19%), while those who are religious are more likely than those who are not religious to say the same about hard work (89% vs. 78%), the amount of time children spend with a parent (82% vs. 72%), or inherent talent (54% vs. 39%).

## 8 in 10 AAPI adults view hard work and time spent with a parent as integral to children's success.

Percent of adults

■ Extremely/very important   ■ Somewhat important   ■ Not very/not at all important



**Questions:** Some children grow up to be more successful than others. How important are each of the following to children's success in adulthood?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago Harris/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 25-March 1, 2021 with 1,076 adults older nationwide.



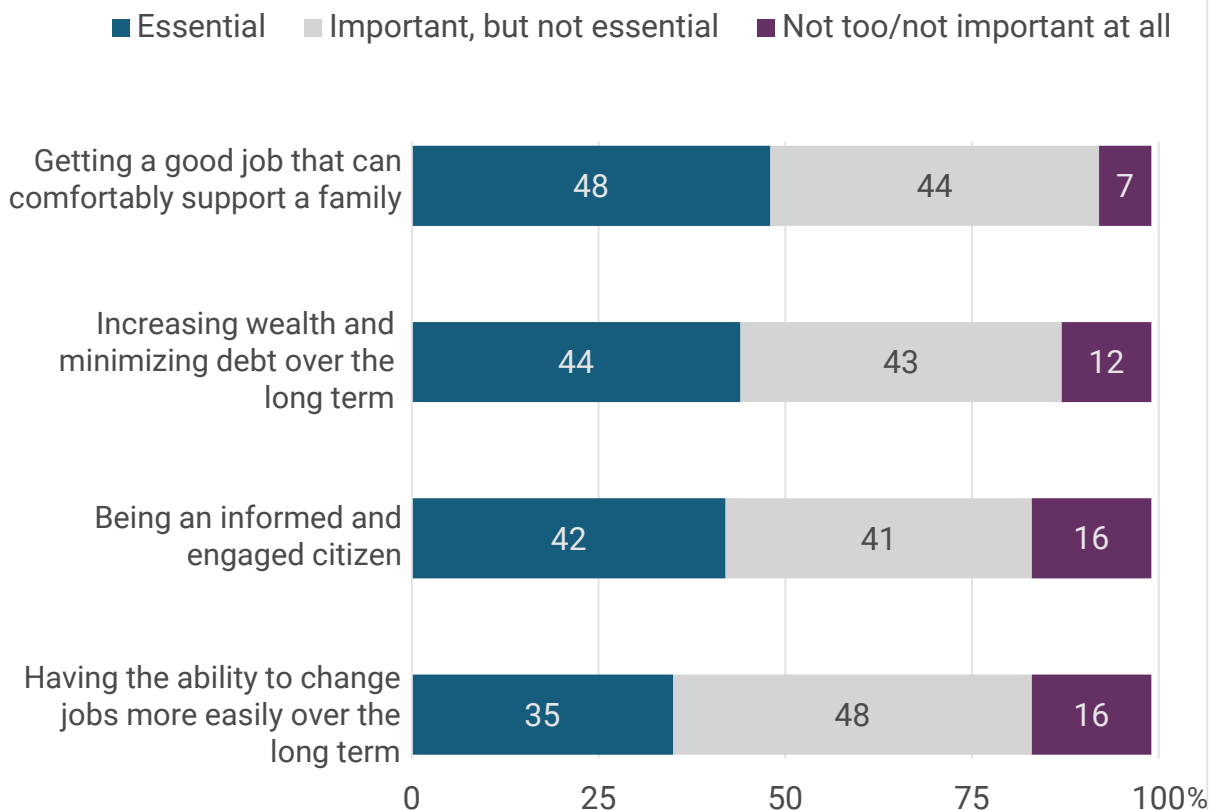
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## MANY AAPI ADULTS SEE A COLLEGE DEGREE AS ESSENTIAL FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

Most AAPI adults say a college degree is at least important, if not essential, for getting a good job that can comfortably support a family, increasing wealth and minimizing debt over the long term, becoming an informed and engaged citizen, or being able to easily change jobs in the long term.

### Most AAPI adults believe a college degree is important for achieving a variety of things.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Questions:** In general, how essential is a four-year college degree for a person to achieve each of the following?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide.



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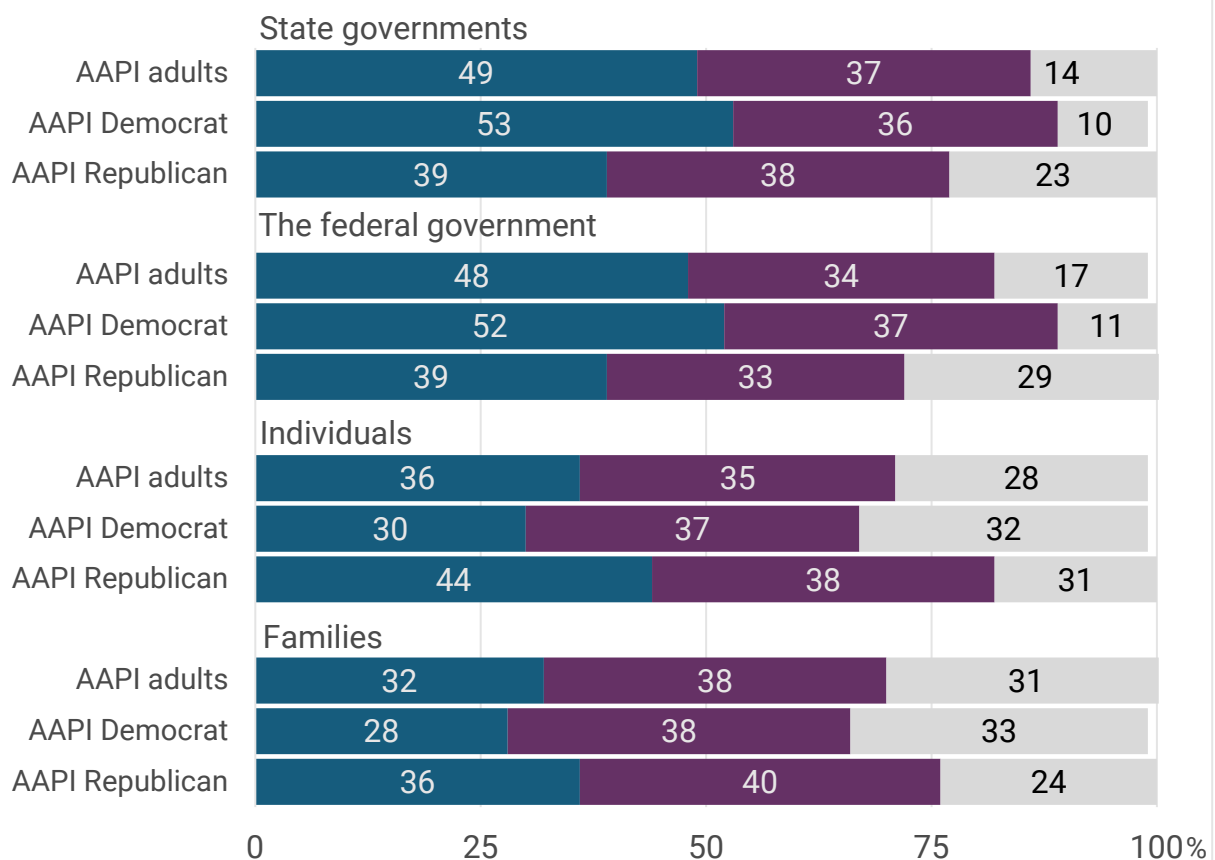
While most AAPI adults agree that state and federal governments, individuals, and families each have at least a moderate amount of responsibility when it comes to covering the costs of college, more say states and the federal government should have a large responsibility for the cost of higher education.

AAPI Republicans are more likely than AAPI Democrats to say individuals should carry a lot of the responsibility for paying their own way through college. AAPI Democrats more often say that the federal government and states have a responsibility to shoulder the cost of college.

### AAPI Democrats more likely than AAPI Republicans to place responsibility on government to cover the cost of college.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Very large/large responsibility ■ Moderate responsibility ■ Small responsibility/none at all



**Questions:** How much responsibility should each of the following have for paying the costs of higher education?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide.



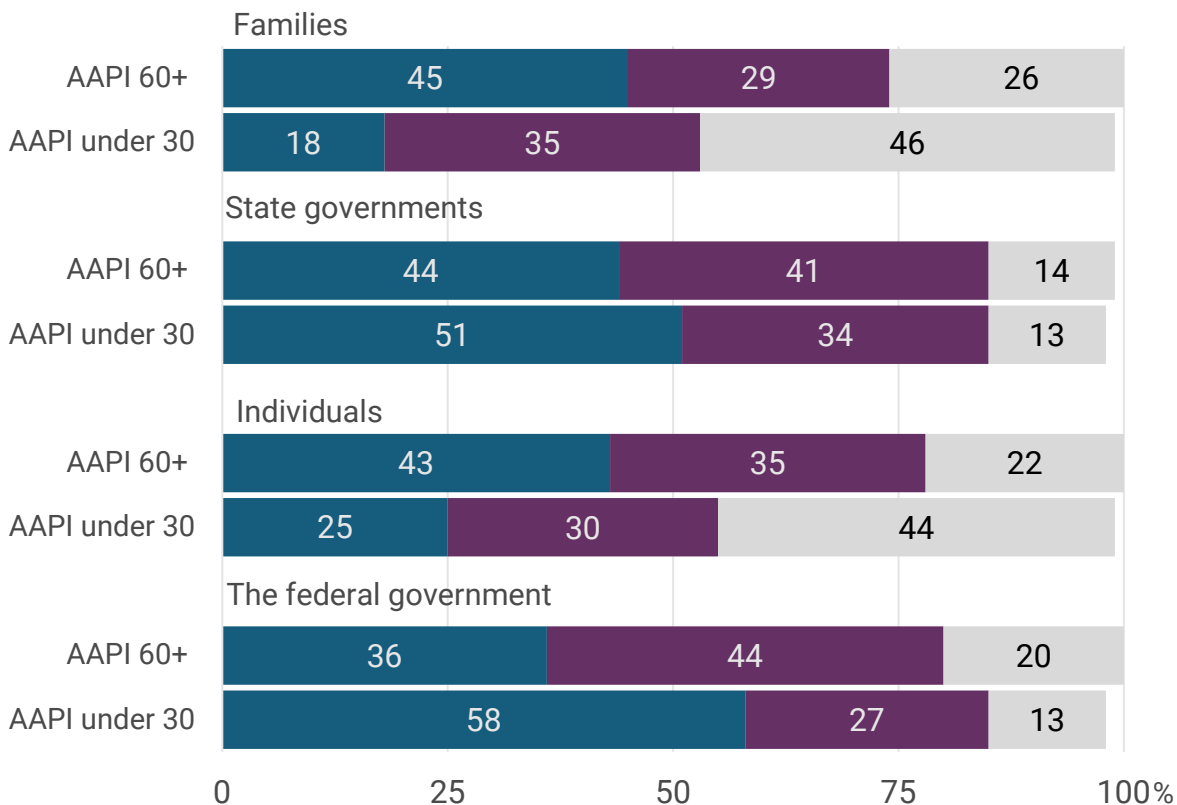
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Older AAPI adults more often believe that families and individuals, and not the federal government, should be largely responsible for covering the costs associated with getting a four-year degree compared to younger AAPI adults. There is no significant difference between older and younger AAPI adults regarding how responsible state governments should be.

### Older AAPI adults are more likely to believe families and individuals should be largely responsible for the costs of college.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Very large/large responsibility ■ Moderate responsibility ■ Small responsibility/none at all



**Questions:** How much responsibility should each of the following have for paying the costs of higher education?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide.



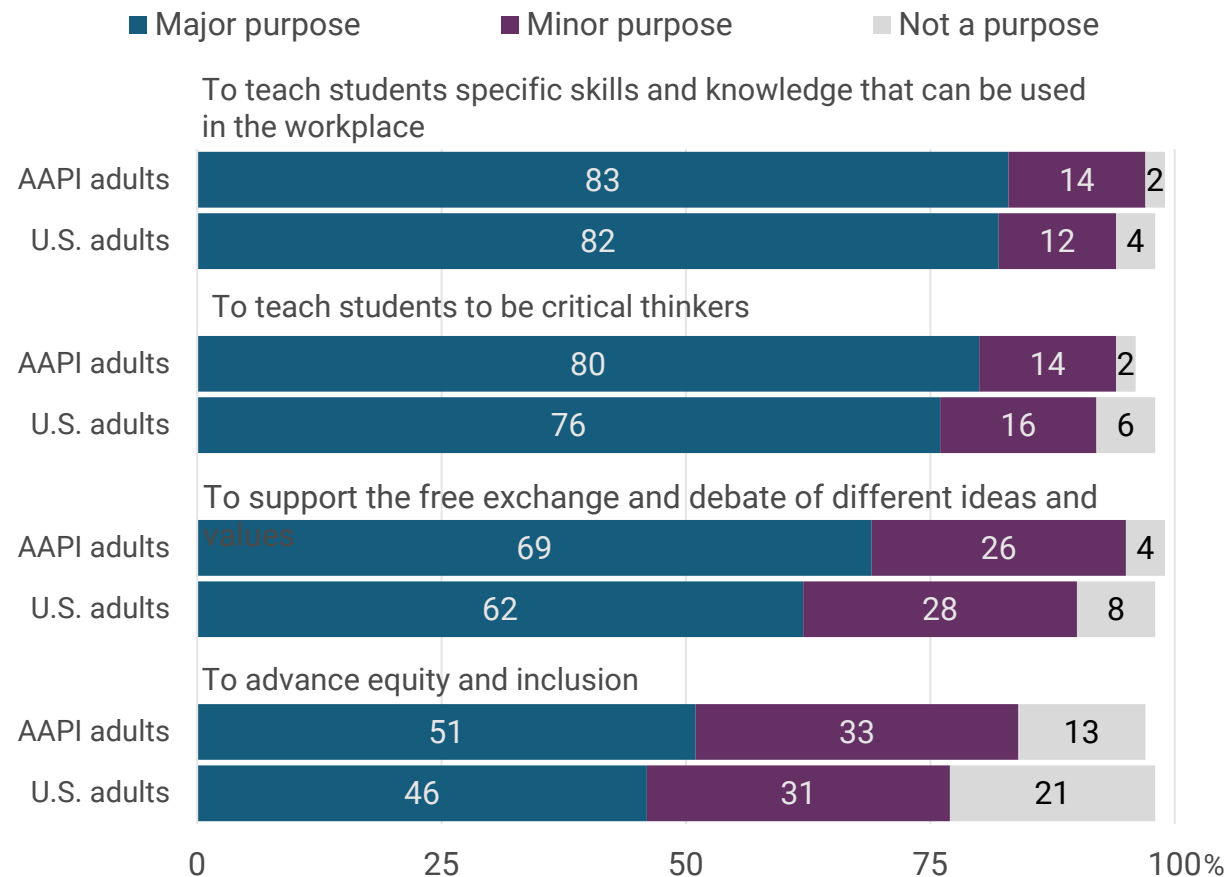
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## **AAPI ADULTS PRIORITIZE CRITICAL THINKING, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AT SIMILAR RATES OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

In the survey, which was administered before widespread protests on college campuses against the Israel-Hamas war, about 8 in 10 AAPI adults say teaching specific skills, knowledge to use in the workforce, and critical thinking should be major purposes of colleges and universities. Most also believe higher education should support the free exchange and debate of ideas. About half believe higher education should advance equity and inclusion. These findings are similar to those measured of the general public in [September 2023](#).

## More AAPI adults say college serves to teach students specific skills than to advance equity and inclusion.

Percent of adults



**Questions:** Do you think each of the following should be a major purpose, minor purpose, or not a purpose of colleges and universities in the United States?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago/AP-NORC Poll conducted September 7-11, 2023 with 1,095 U.S. adults nationwide.



AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to feel that skills and knowledge development (87% vs. 78%) and advancing equity and inclusion (62% vs. 29%) are major purposes of a college education.

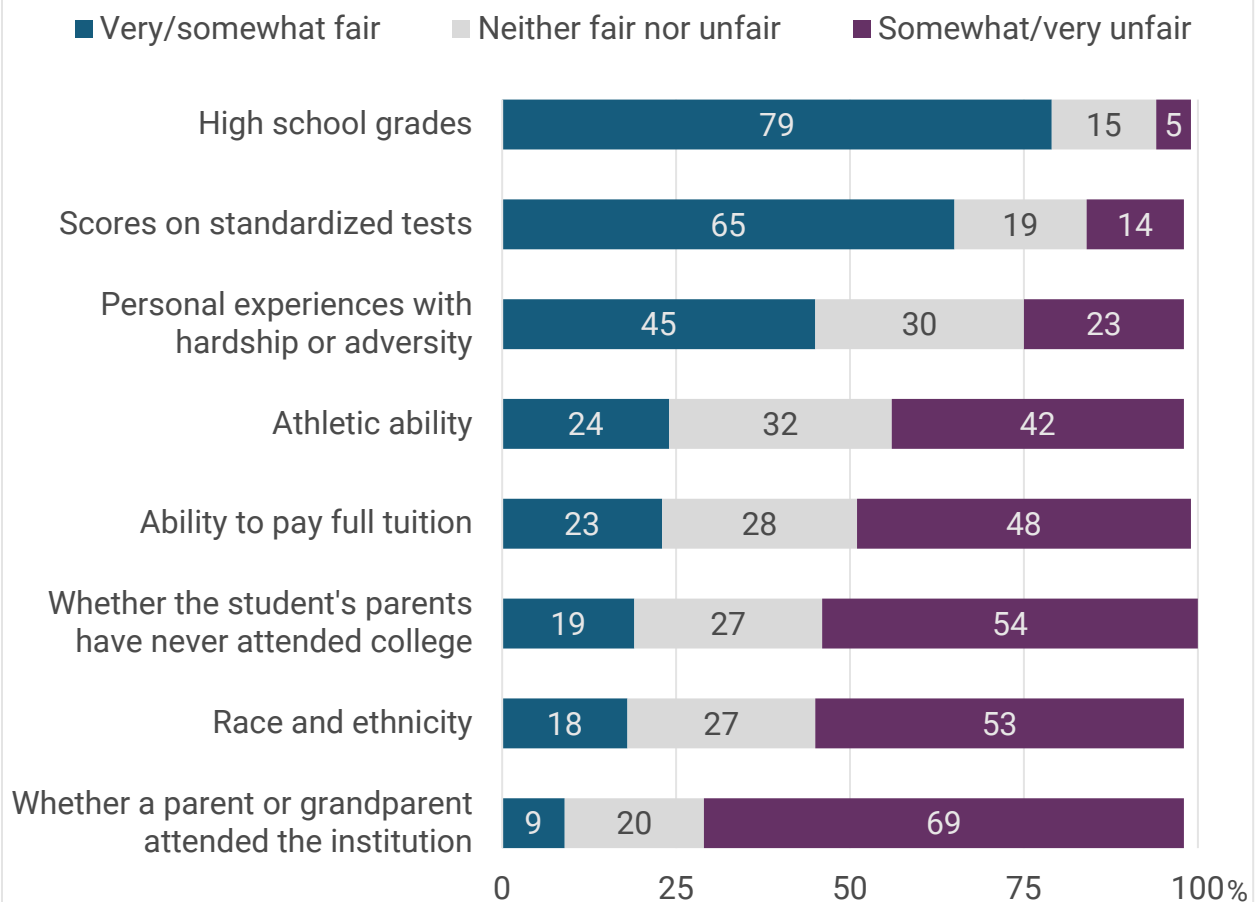


## MOST AAPI ADULTS SUPPORT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS BASED ON GRADES AND TEST SCORES, BUT VIEW FAMILY TIES TO A UNIVERSITY AS AN UNFAIR CONSIDERATION.

Most AAPI adults say admitting a student based on high school grades and standardized test scores is fair. Almost half say the same when it comes to personal experiences with hardship or adversity. However, fewer say it is fair to consider athletic ability, the ability to pay full tuition, whether the student's parents ever attended college, or race and ethnicity. Most AAPI adults say it is unfair for colleges to consider whether an applicant is the child or grandchild of an alumnus.

### AAPI adults think it's fair for college admissions to consider grades and test scores, while few say the same regarding race and ethnicity.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Questions:** Do you think it is fair, unfair, or neither fair nor unfair for colleges and universities to make decisions about admitting students based on the following factors?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide.



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AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to say it is fair for colleges to consider a student's race or ethnicity (26% vs. 11%) or personal experience with hardship or adversity (58% vs. 33%).

AAPI adults with a college degree are more likely than those without one to say it is unfair for college admissions to prioritize the ability to pay full tuition (52% vs. 42%) or legacy admissions (75% vs. 62%).

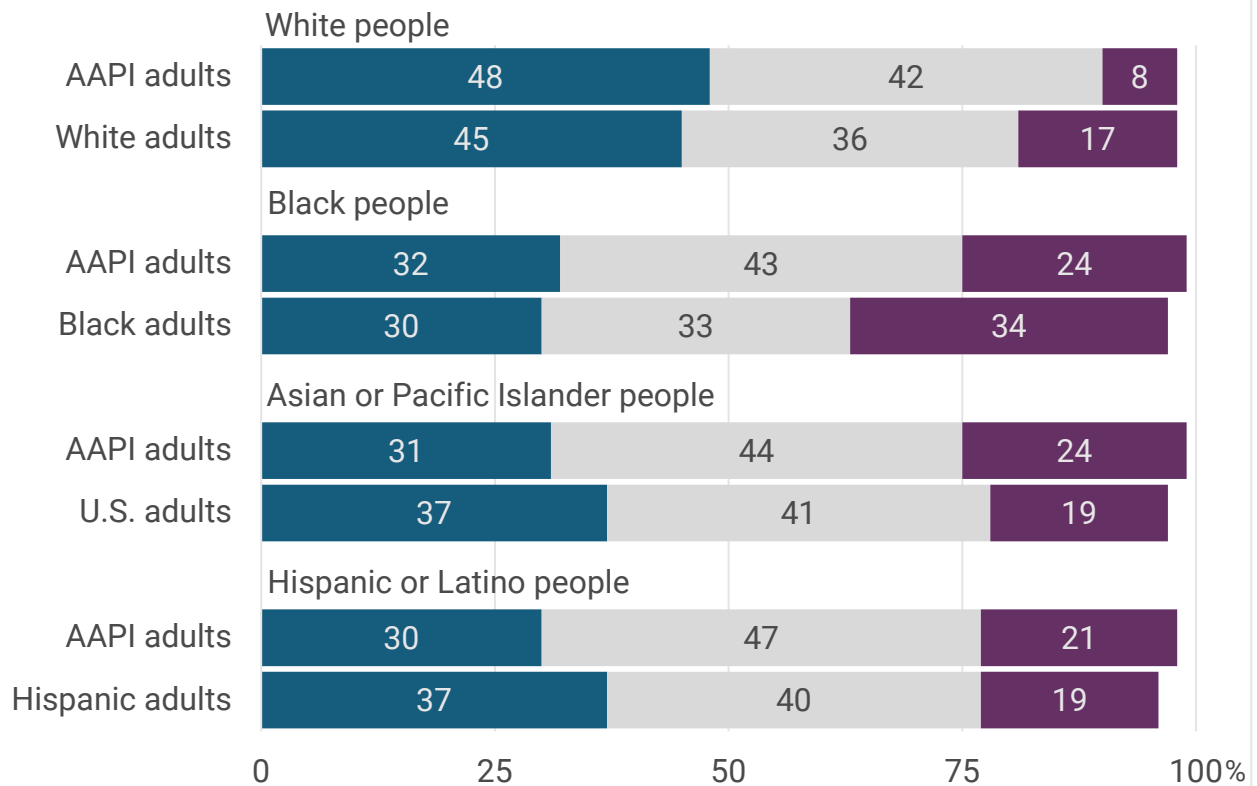
### **AAPI ADULTS PERCEIVE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AS SLIGHTLY LESS INCLUSIVE FOR ASIAN, BLACK, OR HISPANIC INDIVIDUALS COMPARED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

While almost half of AAPI adults say white people are being adequately included on college campuses, only a third say the same for Black people, Asian or Pacific Islander people, or Hispanic or Latino people. [The AP-NORC and UChicago Forum for Free Inquiry September 2023 Poll](#) found that Black, Hispanic, and white adults had similar views to AAPI adults on whether universities had provided an inclusive and respectful environment for each racial or ethnic group.

## Like many Americans, AAPI adults are ambivalent about colleges' ability to provide a respectful & inclusive environment for various ethnic groups.

Percent of adults

■ Very/somewhat good job ■ Neither a good job nor bad job ■ Very/somewhat bad job



**Questions:** In general, do you think colleges and universities do a good job, a bad job, or neither a good job nor bad job at providing a respectful and inclusive environment for each of the following groups?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago/AP-NORC poll conducted September 7-11, 2023 with 1,095 adults nationwide .



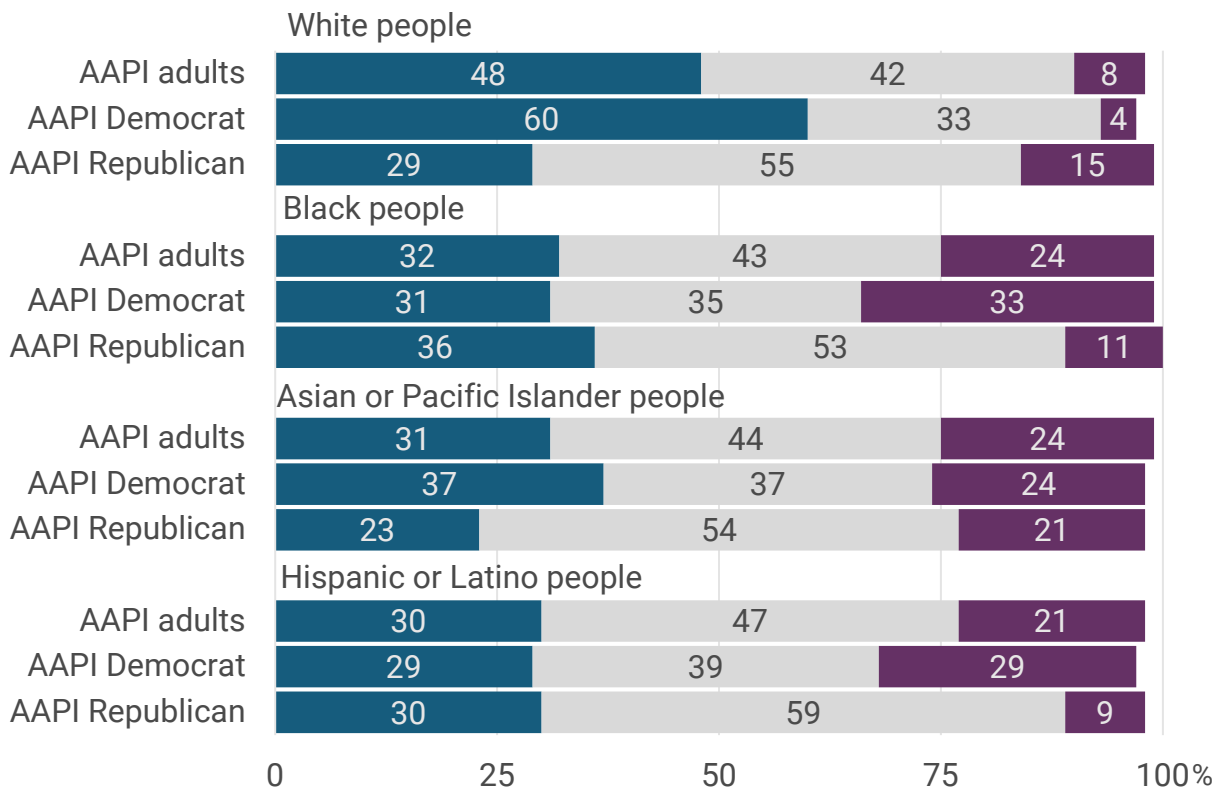
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AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to say colleges and universities do a good job of providing an inclusive environment for white (60% vs 29%) and Asian or Pacific Islander people (37% vs 23%). They are also more likely to say colleges do a bad job for Black (33% vs 11%) or Hispanic people (29% vs 9%).

## AAPI Democrats think colleges provide a respectful & inclusive environment for white and AAPI students, but could do more for Black and Hispanic students.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Very/somewhat good job ■ Neither a good job nor bad job ■ Very/somewhat bad job



**Questions:** In general, do you think colleges and universities do a good job, a bad job, or neither a good job nor bad job at providing a respectful and inclusive environment for each of the following groups?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted April 8-17, 2024 with 1,068 AAPI adults nationwide and UChicago/AP-NORC poll conducted September 7-11, 2023 with 1,095 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 (AANHPI) household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report.

Amplify AAPI is a blend of multiple sample designs. Each stage seeks to provide maximum coverage of the AANHPI population, and all are combined through base-weighting to arrive at a representative overall cross-section of AANHPI in the United States. The first stage included recruitment of approximately 850 active AANHPI 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 below, 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.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between April 8-17, 2024 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 1,068 completed the survey—1,065 via the web and 3 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 \$3 or \$10) for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

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, 118 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 (AANHPI) 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).

### **About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

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.

The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)

NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org)

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. Learn more at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).

### **About AAPI Data**

AAPI Data is a leading research and policy organization producing accurate data to shift narratives and drive action toward enduring solutions for Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities across the nation. AAPI Data aspires to transform public and private systems to ensure that all AA and NHPI communities are recognized, valued and prioritized. Learn more at [aapidata.com](http://aapidata.com).