





The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

MANY THINK THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS TOO LITTLE ON KEY POLICY AREAS

Most across AAPI communities think Congress should prioritize the high cost of health care, food, and housing.

As Congress faces a March 14 deadline to avoid a partial federal government shutdown, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll finds that most Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults think the federal government should prioritize addressing the costs of health care (79%), food (67%), and housing (61%). About 4 in 10 say the same about the cost of aging and long-term care



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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) Most think healthcare (79%), food (67%), and housing (61%) costs should be top priorities for the federal government to tackle. Many think the government spends too little on key priorities, with education (64%) and healthcare (59%) topping the list.
- 2) At least 6 in 10 see corruption (72%), inefficiency (68%), and red tape (61%) as major problems in federal government. Still, just 12% support eliminating federal agencies. About a quarter favor moving federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. or cutting a large number of federal jobs. 39% support requiring federal employees to return to the office full-time.
- 3) Roughly 6 in 10 worry that declining vaccination rates will lead to more disease outbreaks (64%) and deaths (61%).
- 4) 31% believe local police should always cooperate with federal immigration authorities on deportations, compared with 42% of the general population.
- 5) About 4 in 10 support increasing green cards for backlogged countries (44%), worker visas (43%), or family-sponsored green cards (40%). Similar shares think current levels are about right. Only a third support expanding the number of student visas.

(45%), childcare (43%), higher education (42%), gas (42%), and home energy (37%). These preferences to see progress on costs are persistent with views largely unchanged from over a year ago in December 2023.¹

Many believe the government is spending too little on a variety of policy areas, with education (64%) and healthcare (59%) topping the list. Similar shares also say funding is insufficient for tackling homelessness (57%), environmental protection (57%), childcare (56%), crime (54%), and drug addiction (48%). Defense is the only area where relatively few (12%) say spending is too low and about half (52%) believe the government spends too much.

The poll also shows that AAPI adults are not supportive of major changes to the federal workforce under President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative. About a quarter favor moving federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. (25%) and cutting a large number of federal jobs (24%), similar to the level of support of the general public in January 2025. About 4 in 10 of both AAPI and U.S. adults support a proposal that would bring federal employees back to an office five days a week, but just 12% of AAPI adults support eliminating entire federal agencies, even lower than the 23% of the general population.

Despite the lack of support for the DOGE proposals, AAPI communities see the issues that the initiative aims to address as major problems. A majority view corruption (72%), inefficiency (68%), and government red tape (61%) as major problems in the federal government, closely aligning with the general public. However, concerns about civil servants resisting the president's agenda are lower in both groups, with 30% of AAPI adults and 34% of the general population considering it a major issue.

As parts of the country grapple with a measles outbreak, about 6 in 10 AAPI adults are concerned that declining vaccination rates will lead to more disease outbreaks (64%) and deaths (61%).

Most across AAPI communities (72%) favor restrictions on processed foods, slightly higher than the general population (66%). There is less consensus on other recent health proposals. Views on removing fluoride from drinking water among AAPI adults are split: 31% favor, 32% oppose, while 37% remain neutral. Similarly, 27% support reconsidering vaccine recommendations, though 35% oppose the idea and 37% are neutral. Just 18% favor removing restrictions on raw milk sales, while 40% are opposed and 41% are neutral.

AAPI communities largely trust doctors (74%) and nurses (72%) to act in their best interest, similar to the general public in a 2021 survey conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacists (64%) are also trusted by most AAPI adults, though at a slightly lower level than the general public (75%). Trust declines for other healthcare professionals, including mental health counselors (52%), public health officials (43%), and alternative medicine practitioners (30%). Confidence is especially low for health insurance providers (23%) and hospital executives (19%).

Similar to the general population, most AAPI adults hold pharmaceutical companies (77%) and private health insurers (73%) responsible for the high cost of healthcare in the United States. About half also view the federal government (58%) and healthcare providers (51%) as contributing factors.

¹ The December 2023 AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll asked "How much of a priority for Congress should addressing the following be:"

On immigration policy priorities, AAPI adults express mixed views: 42% consider increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border a top priority for the federal government and 29% say the same about deporting undocumented immigrants. Thirty-three percent think expanding guest worker programs is also a pressing issue and 19% consider allowing refugees to enter the United States to escape violence a high priority.

AAPI adults are divided on expanding green cards and visa programs, with similar shares favoring increasing or maintaining current levels, with few supporting reductions. About 4 in 10 support increasing green cards for backlogged countries (44%), worker visas (43%), or family-sponsored green cards (40%), though nearly as many prefer to keep current levels unchanged. Student visas receive the least support for expansion at 34%, with half (50%) preferring no change.

Thirty-one percent of AAPI adults believe local police should always cooperate with federal immigration authorities on deportations, compared with 42% of the general population. More in both groups support cooperation in some cases (56% and 49%), while relatively few say local police should never cooperate with federal authorities (13% and 8%).

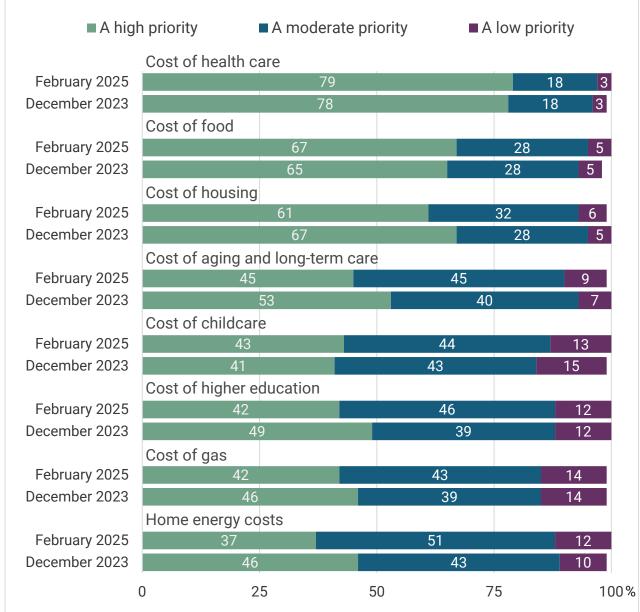
The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from February 4–11, 2025, using the Amplify AAPI Monthly Survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander household population. Online and telephone interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,170 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.

MOST CONTINUE TO THINK THE COST OF HEALTHCARE, FOOD, AND HOUSING SHOULD BE HIGH PRIORITIES FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

A majority of AAPI adults say the federal government should prioritize the cost of health care, housing, and food. Around 4 in 10 feel the same about higher education, aging and long-term care, childcare, gas, and home energy costs. These numbers are similar when last asked in $\underline{\text{December 2023}}$.

² The December 2023 AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll asked "How much of a priority for Congress should addressing the following be:"





Question: How much of a priority for Congress/the federal government should addressing the following be:

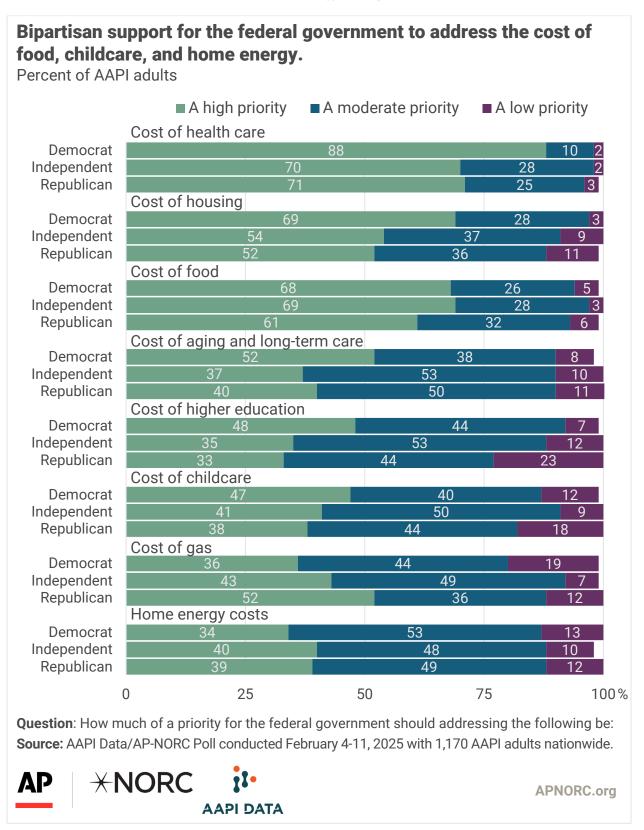
Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Polls conducted December 4-11 2023 with 1,091 AAPI adults and February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide.



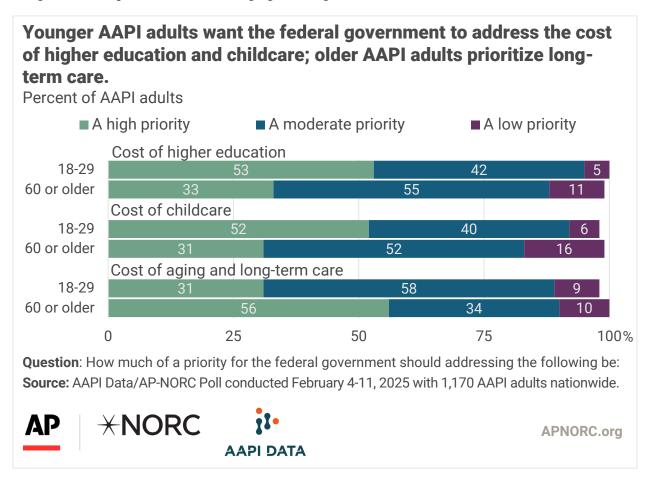




AAPI Democrats are more likely than Republicans to prioritize the cost of higher education, healthcare, housing, or aging and long-term care. AAPI Republicans are more likely than Democrats to want the federal government to tackle the cost of gas. Preferences for the federal government to take action on the costs of food, childcare, and home energy are bipartisan.

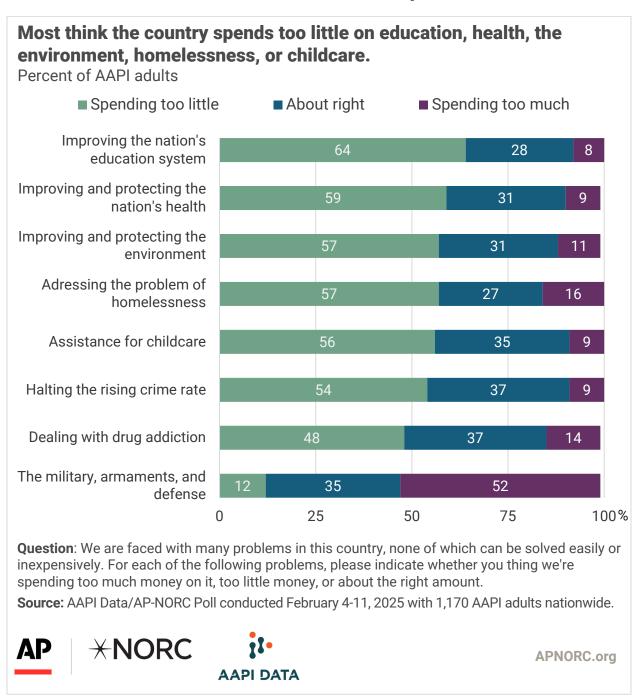


AAPI adults under the age of 30 are more likely than those 60 or older to say Congress should prioritize the cost of higher education and childcare, while those 60 or older are more likely to say Congress should prioritize the cost of aging and long-term care.



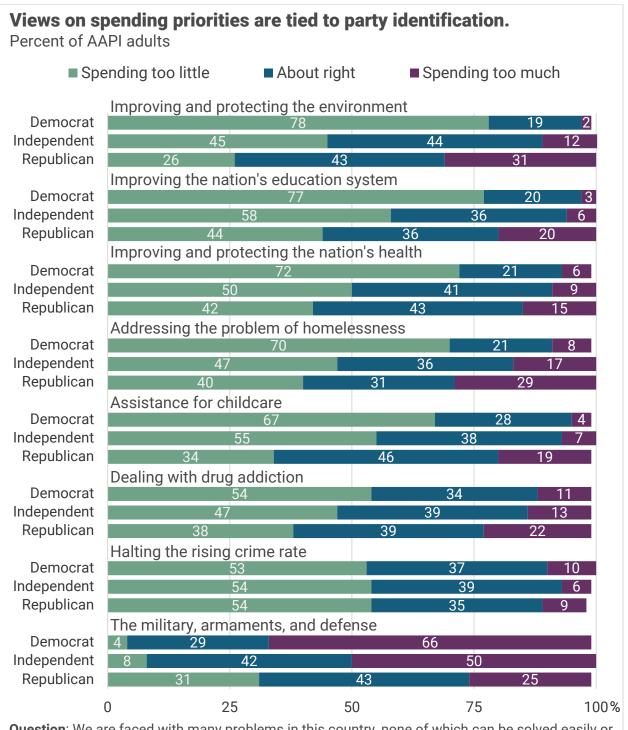
MANY THINK THE COUNTRY IS NOT SPENDING ENOUGH ON SEVERAL POLICY AREAS.

Most AAPI adults say the United States is spending too little to improve the country's education system, health care, the environment, childcare, or addressing problems related to homelessness. Around half feel the same when it comes to halting the rising crime rate or dealing with drug addiction. However, few across AAPI communities believe the nation underspends on defense.



Spending preferences are largely tied to party identification. AAPI Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say the United States is spending too little on health, education, the environment, dealing with drug addiction, assistance with childcare, or addressing homelessness. AAPI Republicans are more

likely than Democrats to say the United States should spend more on defense, though this ranks fairly low on their spending priorities. There is bipartisan agreement regarding spending to curb crime.



Question: We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. For each of the following problems, please indicate whether you thing we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount.

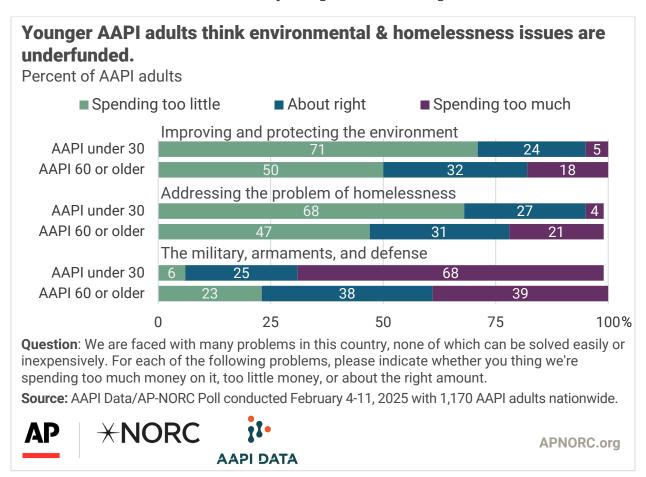
Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide.







AAPI adults under 30 are more likely than those 60 and older to say the country is spending too little on the environment or addressing homelessness. AAPI adults over 60 are about four times more likely than those under 30 to say the country is not spending enough on defense. Though, even among older AAPI adults, most feel the United States is spending too much or the right amount on defense.



AAPI women are more likely than men to think the country spends too little on improving the environment (64% vs. 50%).

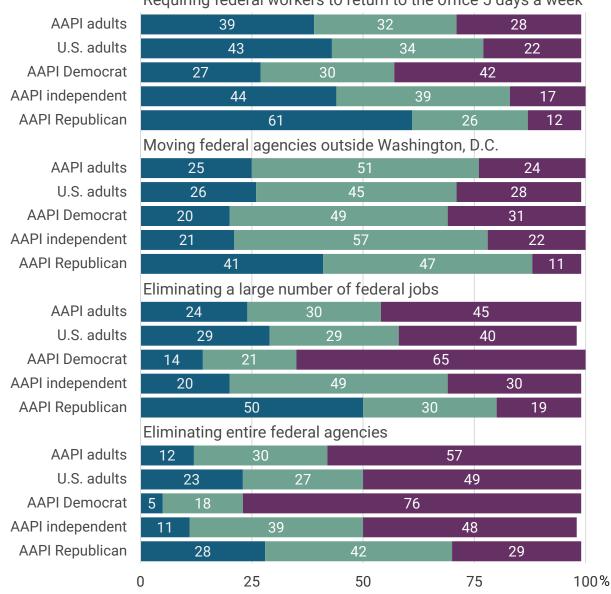
FEW FAVOR ELIMINATING ENTIRE FEDERAL AGENCIES, CUTTING JOBS, OR MOVING FEDERAL AGENCIES OUT OF THE CAPITAL.

Similar to the public overall, just 4 in 10 AAPI adults favor requiring federal workers to return to the office 5 days a week, and only about a quarter support moving federal agencies outside of Washington, D.C. or eliminating a large number of federal jobs. Even fewer, just 1 in 10, favor eliminating entire federal agencies, while about 2 in 10 of the general public agree.

Within AAPI adults, Republicans are far more likely to favor these measures than either independents or Democrats, with the divide especially pronounced regarding support for eliminating federal jobs or requiring federal workers to return full-time to the office.

Similar to adults overall, most AAPI adults do not support proposed changes to the federal workforce. Percent of adults ■ Strongly/somewhat favor ■ Neither favor nor oppose ■ Strongly/somewhat oppose

Requiring federal workers to return to the office 5 days a week



Question: Would you favor, neither favor nor oppose, or each of the following? **Source**: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted January 9-13, 2025 with 1,147 adults nationwide.



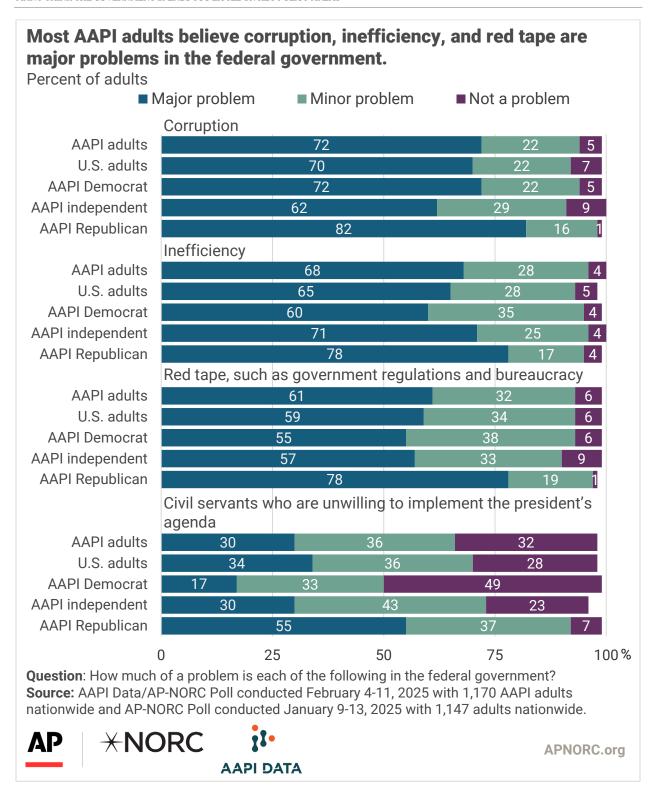




AAPI COMMUNITIES SEE CORRUPTION, INEFFICIENCY AND RED TAPE AS MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

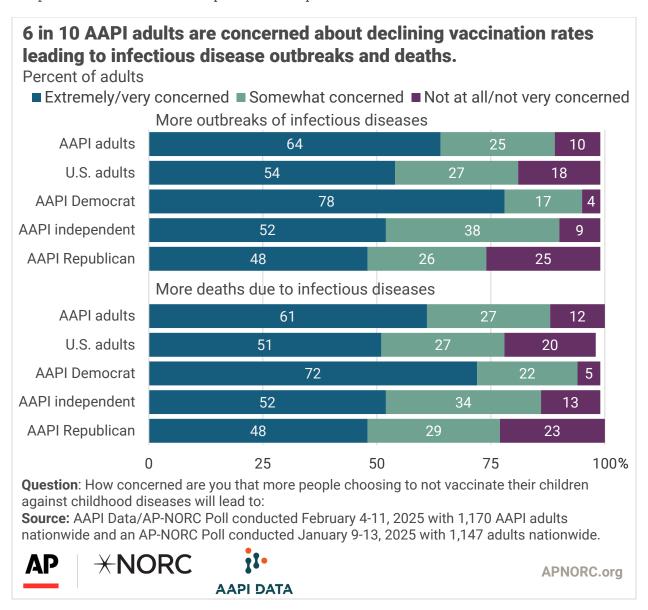
AAPI adults' perceptions of major problems in the federal government closely mirror those of the overall public, with 7 in 10 viewing corruption and inefficiency as major problems and 6 in 10 saying the same regarding red tape such as government regulations and bureaucracy. By contrast, only 3 in 10 think civil servants unwilling to implement the president's agenda is a significant issue.

However, within AAPI communities, views are heavily influenced by partisanship, with AAPI Republicans more likely to view corruption, inefficiency, and red tape as major problems in the federal government compared with Democrats. AAPI Republicans are also three times as likely as Democrats to say civil servants unwilling to implement the president's agenda is a significant issue.



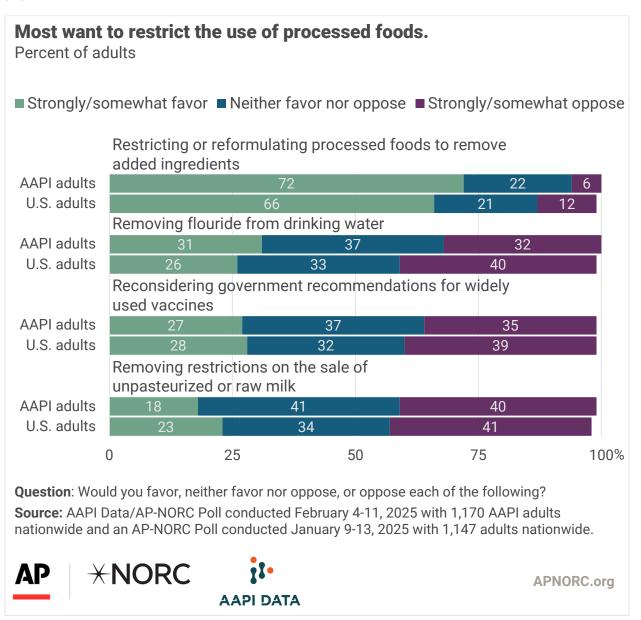
AAPI COMMUNITIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF DECLINING VACCINATION RATES.

Six in 10 AAPI adults are concerned that more people choosing not to vaccinate their children against childhood diseases will lead to increased outbreaks and deaths. In an AP-NORC survey taken in a month earlier, about half of the general population shares that concern. Opinions among AAPI adults are influenced by partisanship, with about three-quarters of AAPI Democrats expressing concern compared with about half of independents or Republicans.

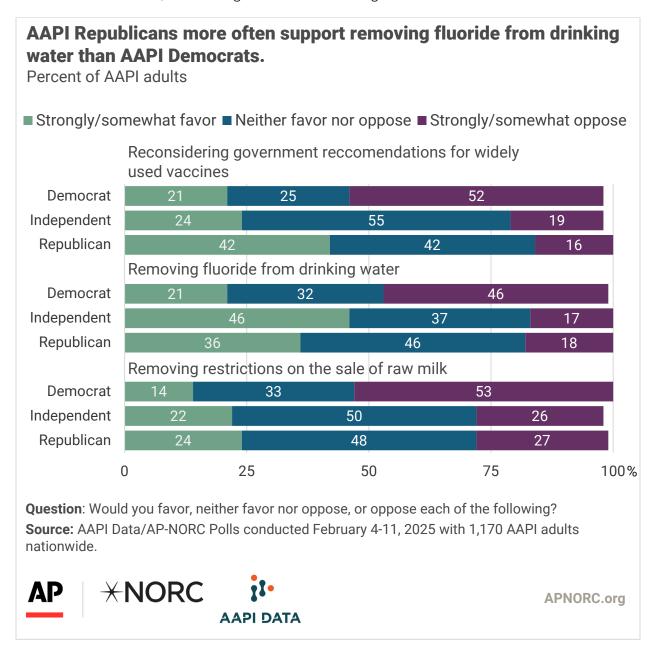


MOST ACROSS APPI COMMUNITIES FAVOR RESTRICTIONS ON PROCESSED FOODS, BUT THERE'S LESS CONSENSUS ON OTHER RECENT HEALTH PROPOSALS.

Most support restricting the ingredients in processed foods, but they are split on removing fluoride from drinking water, reconsidering government recommendations for vaccines, or removing restrictions on the sale of unpasteurized milk. These views largely align with those of the general population.



AAPI Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support policy changes to vaccines, loosening restrictions on raw milk, or removing fluoride from drinking water.



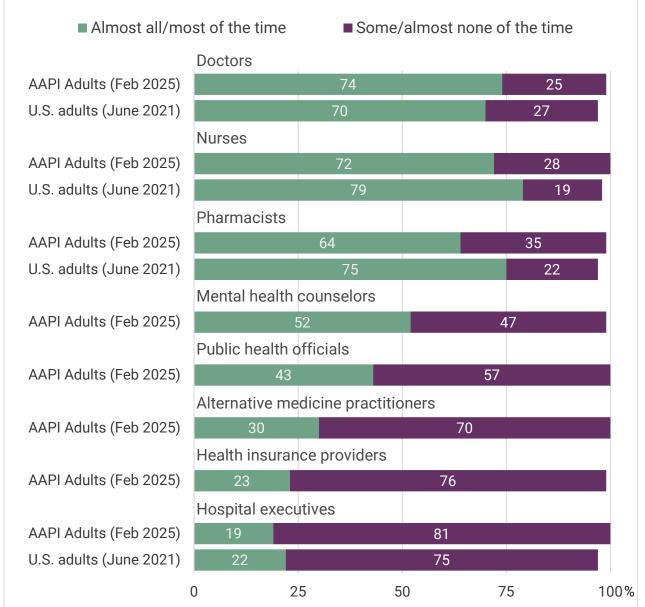
AAPI adults without a college degree are more likely than college graduates to support removing fluoride from water (38% vs. 25%). And college graduates are more likely to oppose reconsidering government recommendations for vaccines compared with those without a college degree (42% vs. 27%).

AAPI COMMUNITIES HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF TRUST IN DOCTORS AND NURSES BUT ARE LESS CONFIDENT IN HOSPITAL EXECUTIVES OR INSURANCE PROVIDERS.

Most across AAPI communities trust doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to do what is right for them and their family. About half have the same level of confidence in mental health counselors. Trust drops further for public health officials, alternative medicine practitioners, health insurance providers, and hospital executives. These findings are similar to those of the general public when they were last asked in <u>June of 2021</u> during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most AAPI adults trust doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to do what is right by them and their family.

Percent of adults



Question: How much of the time do you think you can trust the following health care professions to do what is right for you or your family?

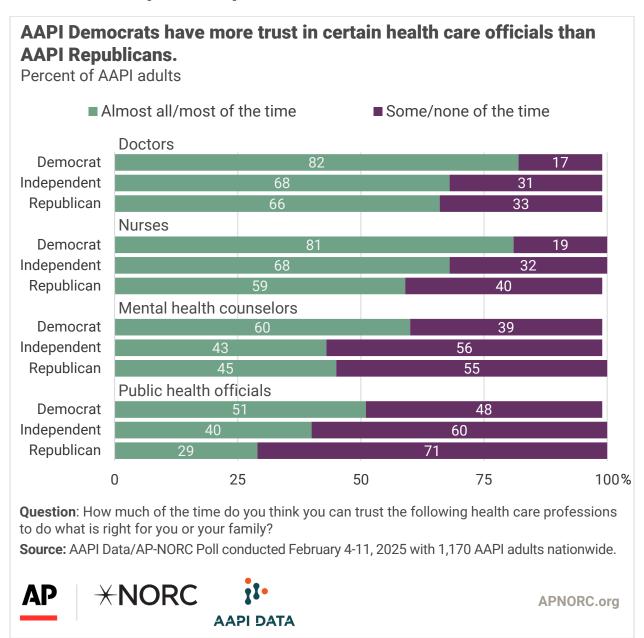
Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC/Harris Poll conducted June 10-14 2021 with 1,071 adults nationwide.







AAPI Democrats have higher levels of trust in doctors, nurses, public health officials, and mental health counselors compared with Republicans.

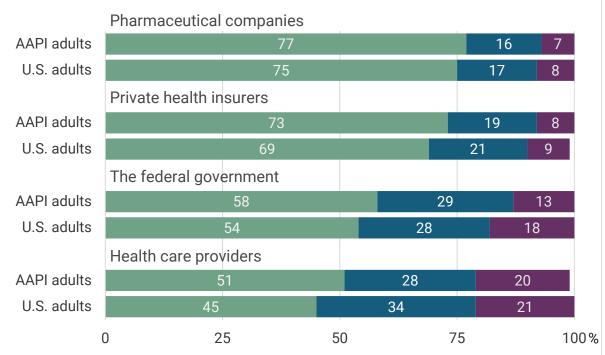


AAPI adults with a college degree have higher levels of trust than those without a degree for mental health counselors (58% vs. 46%) and nurses (77% vs. 67%), while those without a college degree have higher levels of trust for health insurance providers (30% vs. 16%).

MOST BELIEVE PARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND PRIVATE INSURERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH HEALTHCARE COSTS.

Roughly 3 in 4 AAPI adults say pharmaceutical companies and private health insurers are very responsible for the country's high healthcare costs, while about 3 in 5 believe the federal government plays a role. About half also attribute responsibility to healthcare providers. These views closely align with those of the general public, who were asked in <u>January 2025</u>.

Most assign responsibility for high health care costs to the health care sector and the federal government. Percent of adults ■ Extremely/very responsible ■ Moderately responsible ■ Slightly/not at all responsible



Question: How responsible do you think each of the following are for high health care costs in the United States?

Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted January 9-13, 2025 with 1,147 adults nationwide.



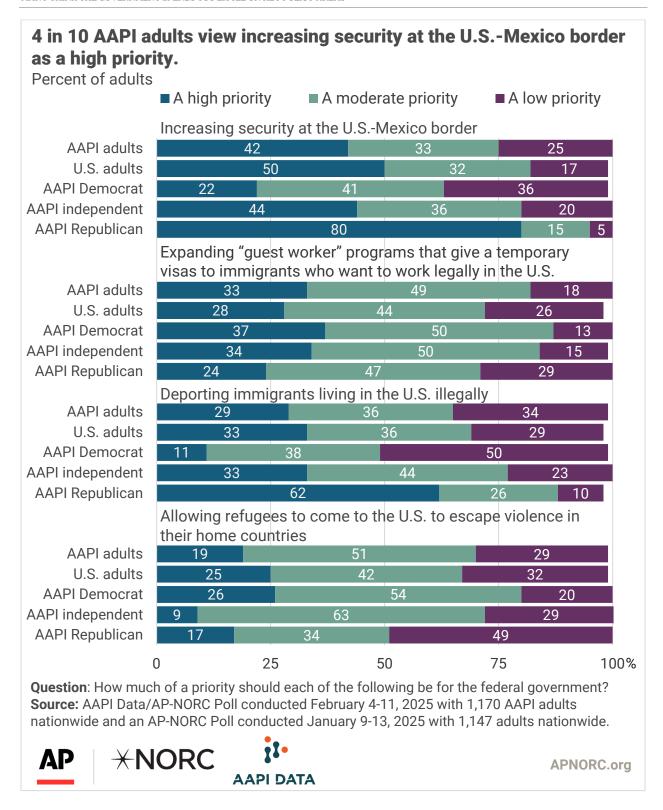




AAPI ADULTS HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON KEY IMMIGRATION POLICY PRIORITIES.

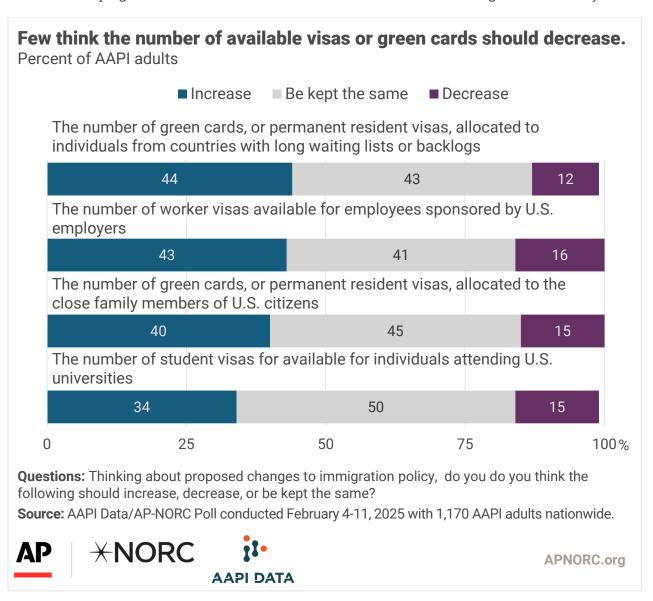
About 4 in 10 AAPI adults say increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border is a high priority, while about half of adults overall agree. A third of both AAPI adults and the general public think expanding guest worker programs and deporting immigrants who are living in the United States illegally should be a top priority, while only a fifth of AAPI adults and a quarter of adults overall agree with allowing refugees to come to the United States to escape violence in their home countries.

AAPI Democrats are slightly more likely than Republicans to consider expanding guest worker programs or allowing refugees to be high priorities, but AAPI Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to view increasing border security and deporting immigrants living in the country illegally as high priorities.



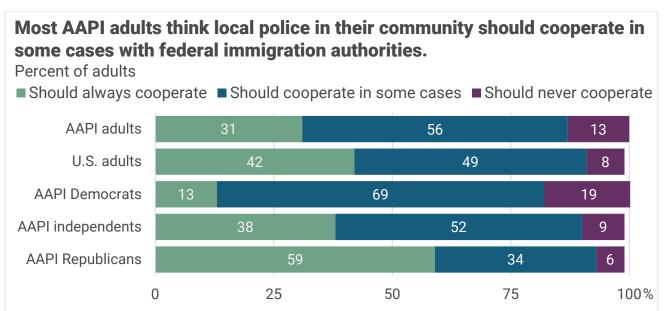
AAPI ADULTS ARE DIVIDED ON EXPANDING GREEN CARDS AND VISA PROGRAMS, BUT FEW SUPPORT REDUCTIONS.

Fewer than 1 in 5 believe that the number of green cards and visas available should be decreased, but there is little consensus regarding whether they should be increased or kept the same. About equal shares think the number of worker visas, green cards allocated to individuals from countries with long waiting lists, or close family members of American citizens should increase or be kept the same, while more favor keeping the number of student visas the same rather than increasing their availability.



AAPI COMMUNITIES ARE SLIGHTLY LESS LIKELY THAN THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO THINK THE POLICE SHOULD ALWAYS COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ON DEPORTATIONS.

Just 3 in 10 AAPI adults believe local police in their community should always cooperate with federal immigration authorities to deport people who are in the United States illegally, compared with about 4 in 10 among the general public. While 6 in 10 AAPI Republicans believe local police should cooperate with federal authorities in all instances, just 13% of Democrats agree.



Question: Do you think local police in your community should always cooperate, should cooperate in some cases, or should never cooperate with federal immigration authorities to deport people who are in the country illegally?

Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted February 4-11, 2025 with 1,170 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted January 9-13, 2025 with 1,147 adults nationwide.







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 recruitment 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.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 4-11, 2025 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 1,170 completed the survey—1,166 via the web with 4 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, 39 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. For more information about the study, email 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.

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.

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NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. 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.

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.