

HISPANIC/LATINA/X/O 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>

41%

of Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents said they experienced racism.

Among Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents who experienced everyday racism:

46% while receiving medical care

37% at child's activities

30% at child's school

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

1,023

Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents took the survey in 2019.

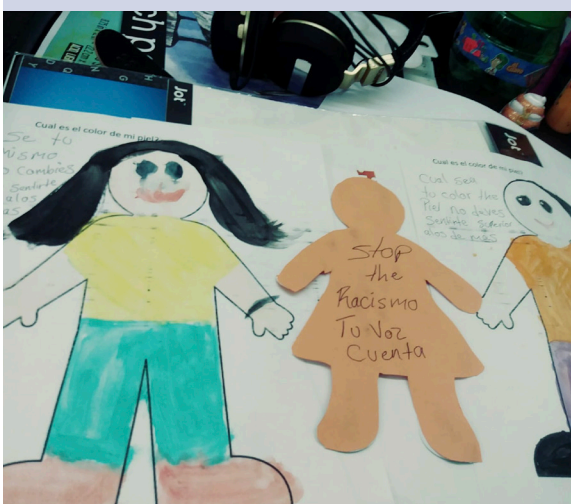


Image credit: Carmen Casillas



Major Takeaways, Insights, and Themes from Café Discussion:

One major theme of the café was the role parents needed to take to improve racism, especially as it pertained to their children. They talked about the need to end multi-generational racism and even racism and discriminatory behavior between people of color by speaking out, advocating to a higher authority, and being teachers and role models for their children.

Another recurring theme was that non-English speakers experienced more microaggressions, even from some other Latinx people who may have had more education or a higher job status than them. "We have personal prejudices that go from generation to generation, and because of these trends we intentionally or unintentionally discriminate. We need to take away our prejudices and teach our children to do the same because we too have somehow discriminated against each other."

They believe there needs to be a change among white people, that there is a lack of empathy with people from other countries and that people in power have made racism worse. In school, children need to be exposed to different cultures and more work needs to be done to address everyday racism experienced by Latinx students in school.

Participants also shared challenges with interpreters in health care settings.



"Please listen to your children. If they don't want to go to school, it's because something is wrong. Support your children, maybe they're experiencing discrimination and they don't know how to recognize it."

– Latinx Café participant

"At work, because of your accent they think that you can't do the job, and that limits us and makes us feel bad...and it makes us feel inferior."

– Latinx Café participant

"Whatever your color, the skin doesn't make you superior than others."

– Latinx youth Café participant

"Stop the Racismo, Tu voz cuenta."

English Translation: "Stop the racism. Your voice matters."

– Latinx youth Café participant



Notes:

The Latinx café discussion was facilitated in Spanish. The café hosts for this community identified participants as Latinx, so we have used Latinx when describing café findings. The BSK Health Survey was available online and by phone in Spanish. Hispanic/Latina/x/o parents are defined as parents who selected the Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Cuban or Puerto Rican, Other Latina/x/o groups, or wrote a Hispanic or Latina/x/o response in the open-ended category like "El Salvadorian" on the survey. Multiracial people are reflected in each category that they selected (e.g., a parent who selected Vietnamese and Mexican on the survey would have their responses counted in both Vietnamese and Hispanic/Latina/x/o results). Photos generously provided by members of the Latinx community.