

Poll finds one-third of Latinos say they have experienced discrimination in their jobs and when seeking housing

November 1 2017, by Todd Datz



Credit: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

This report is part of a series titled "Discrimination in America." The series is based on a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. While many surveys have explored Americans' beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

Participants were not asked about their citizenship status. They were asked only whether they were born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or in another country. This [report](#) refers to those born in the U.S. and Puerto Rico as non-immigrant Latinos, and to those born in another country as immigrant Latinos.

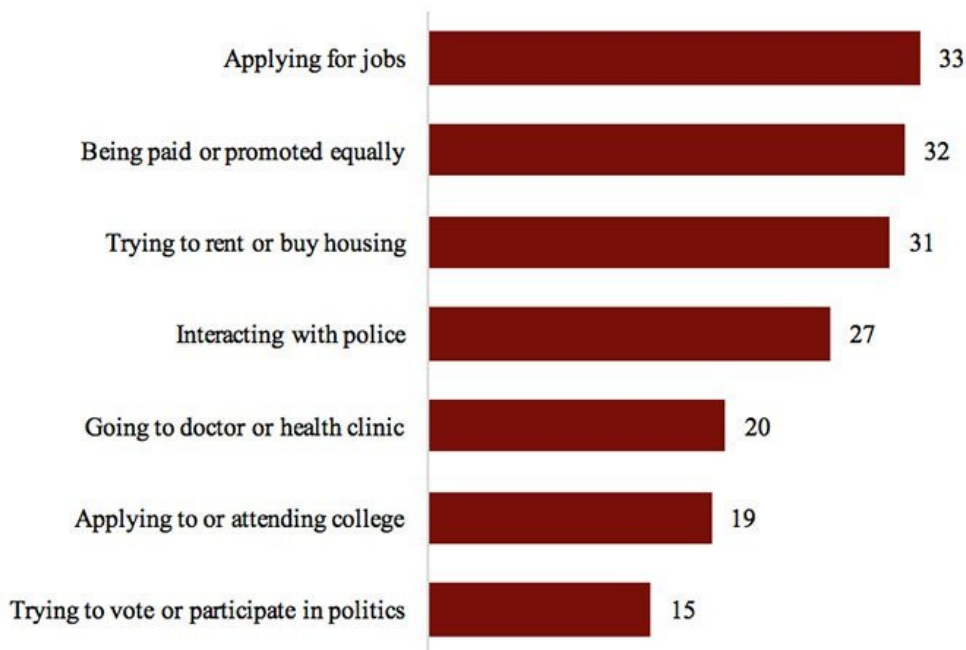
Roughly a third of Latinos report being personally discriminated against in the workplace and when seeking housing

In the context of institutional forms of discrimination, more than three in ten Latinos report having personally experienced discrimination because they are Latino when it comes to applying for jobs (33%), being paid equally or considered for promotion (32%), or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house (31%) (Chart 1).

Over a quarter of Latinos say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by police because they are Latino; non-immigrant Latinos more likely to report this

Additionally, 27% of Latinos say that they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because they are Latino, and 20% say they or a family member have been treated unfairly by the courts because they are Latino.

Chart 1:
Percent of Latinos Saying They Have Ever Been Personally
Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Latino



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Latinos*, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q13, S6/Q15, Q17, Q19, Q21, S7/Q23, S8/Q25. Each question asked of half-sample and of those who have participated in each situation (e.g., among those who have ever applied for a job). Total N=803 Latino U.S. adults.

Chart 2 shows that Latinos with a college degree are more likely (42%) than Latinos with a high school degree or less (25%) to report unfair police stops or treatment.

"Currently, there has been little media attention on issues directly affecting Latinos' lives, particularly with regard to their jobs and housing. What is also lost is the considerable variation we see within the

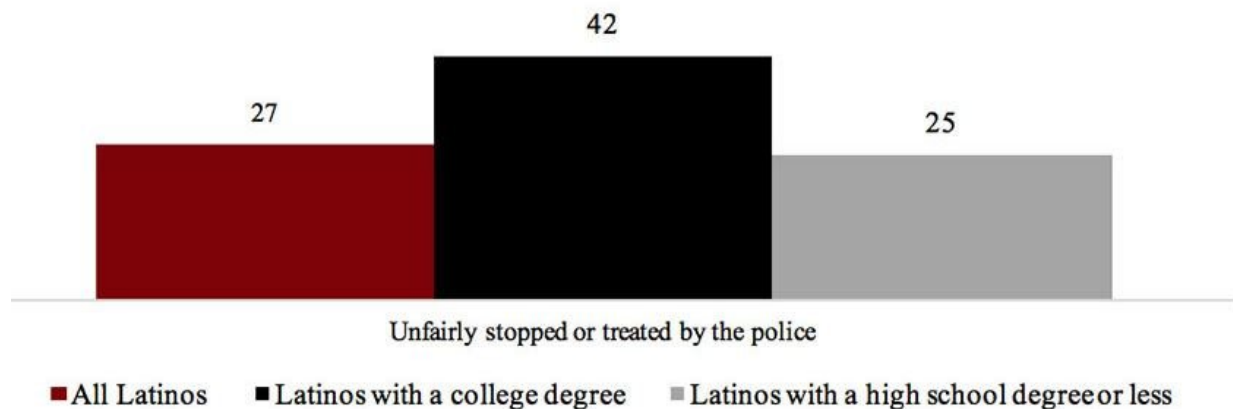
Latino community. For instance, Latinos with a college degree report more experiences of discrimination, including racial slurs and offensive comments and being unfairly treated by the police," says Robert Blendon, Richard L. Menschel Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, who co-directed the survey.

Additionally, non-immigrant Latinos are nearly twice as likely (36%) as immigrant Latinos (19%) to say they or a family member have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police because they are Latino.

One third of Latinos have experienced racial or ethnic slurs and insensitive comments; one in five report violence or threats or non-sexual harassment

In the context of individual or interpersonal forms of discrimination, one third or more of Latinos say they have personally experienced people using racial or ethnic slurs against them (37%) or making insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity (33%) (Chart 3).

Chart 2:
Percent of Latinos, By Education, Saying They or a Family Member Have
Been Unfairly Stopped or Treated By the Police Because They Are Latino



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Latinos, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=803 Latino U.S. adults. Credit: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Additionally, one in five Latinos say that they or a family member have experienced violence (20%) or threats or non-sexual harassment (19%) because they are Latino (Chart 3).

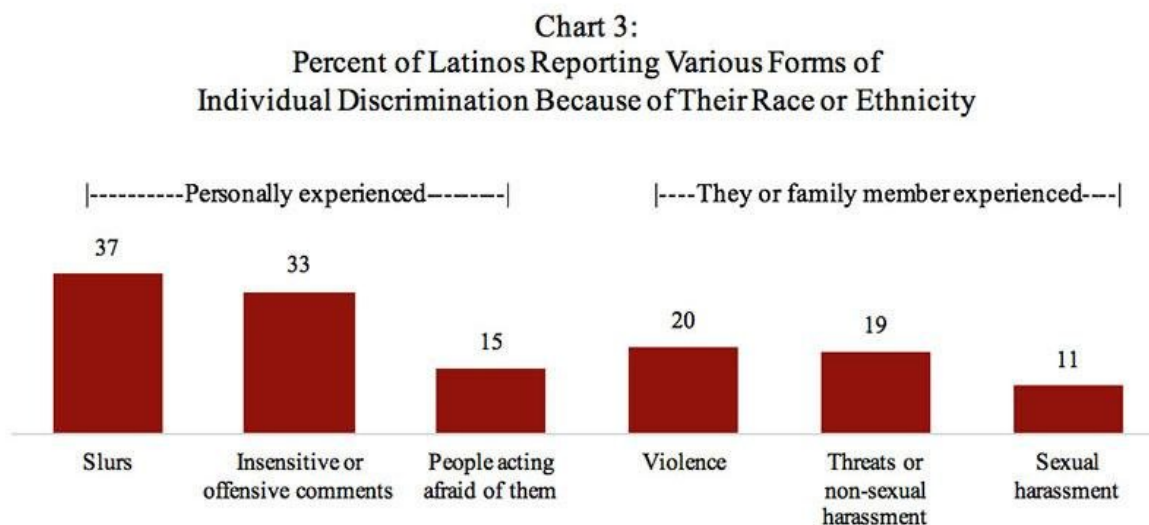
Latinos with college degrees and non-immigrant Latinos more likely to report various experiences of individual discrimination

As with police treatment, Latinos with a college degree are significantly more likely than those with a high school degree or less to report experiencing a range of forms of individual discrimination, including slurs, insensitive or offensive comments, people acting afraid of them, or being threatened or harassed because they are Latino. For example, 54%

of Latinos with a [college degree](#) say they have experienced racial or ethnic slurs, compared to 29% of Latinos with a high school degree or less.

Furthermore, Chart 4 shows that non-immigrant Latinos are more likely to report various forms of individual discrimination compared to immigrant Latinos. For example, nearly half (49%) of non-immigrant Latinos report experiencing slurs about their race or ethnicity, compared to 25% of immigrant Latinos.

Similarly, 44% of non-immigrant Latinos report other people making insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity, compared to 23% of immigrant Latinos (Chart 4).



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Latinos, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/ Q64b, Q63c/Q64c, Q91. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=803 Latino U.S. adults. Credit: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

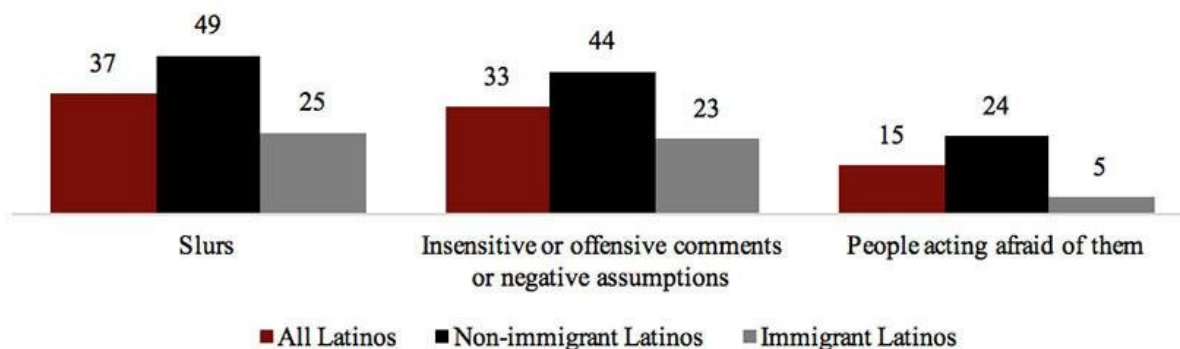
One in five Latinos have been personally discriminated against when seeking healthcare

In the context of healthcare, 20% of Latinos say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Latino when going to a doctor or health clinic (Chart 1). Additionally, 17% of Latinos say they have avoided seeking medical care for themselves or a member of their family out of concern they would be discriminated against or treated poorly because they are Latino.

Latinos divided over whether individuals' prejudice or laws and government policies are the bigger problem for discrimination against Latinos today

Overall, 78% of Latinos believe that discrimination against Latinos exists in America today. Nearly half (47%) of those say that discrimination based on individuals' prejudice is the larger problem, while 37% say discrimination based in laws and government policies is the larger problem. Another 14% say both forms of [discrimination](#) are equally a problem.

Chart 4:
Percent of Latinos, By Immigrant Status, Saying They Have
Personally Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination
Because of Their Race or Ethnicity



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Latinos, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=803 Latino U.S. adults. Credit: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Survey Background

The survey was conducted January 26-April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, as well as white Americans; men and women, and LGBTQ adults. This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability sample of 803 Latino U.S. adults. Other reports analyze each other group, and the final report will discuss major highlights from the series.

Provided by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

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