

# DISCRIMINATION IN AMERICA:

# EXPERIENCES AND VIEWS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

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**HARVARD**  
**T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Survey Background

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. 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, whites, men, women, and LGBTQ adults. This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability sample of 342 Native American U.S. adults. Other reports will analyze each other group, and the final report will discuss major highlights from the series.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

### Summary: Personal Experiences of Discrimination

Overall, Native Americans report substantial and significant personal experiences of discrimination, across many areas of life. In the context of institutional forms of discrimination, roughly three in ten Native Americans say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Native when being paid equally or considered for promotions (33%), when applying for jobs (31%), and when interacting with the police (29%).

Additionally, about a third of Native Americans believes they or someone in their family have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police (32%) or unfairly treated by the courts (32%) because they are Native American.

In the context of individual forms of discrimination, more than one-third of Native Americans say they have personally experienced racial or ethnic slurs (35%) and people making insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity (39%). Similarly, more than one-third of Native Americans report they or a family member have experienced violence (38%) or threats or non-sexual harassment (34%) because they are Native American. Nearly a quarter (23%) report that they or a family member have experienced sexual harassment.

Repeatedly, Native Americans living in majority Native areas are more likely than those living in non-majority Native areas to report various forms of institutional discrimination, as well as avoidance of discrimination.

### Summary: Perceptions of Local Community

Consistent with personal experiences of discrimination, the top areas where Native Americans say discrimination “often” happens to other Native people in their local community are when interacting with police and in the workplace. Nearly one in three (29%) believe that Native

people where they live are often discriminated against when interacting with the police, while roughly a quarter say Native Americans are often discriminated against when applying for jobs (26%) and when being paid equally or considered for promotions (23%).

Native Americans were also asked whether elements of their neighborhood are better, worse, or about the same as other places to live. Native Americans most frequently rate the air quality and the amount of crime in their communities as “better” than other places, while the availability of public transportation options and local employment opportunities are most often rated as “worse.”

While Native women are more likely to say that other Native people in their area are paid less than white people for equal work, Native men are significantly more likely to negatively evaluate some elements of their neighborhood.

### Summary: National Perceptions & Political Contact

Overall, 75% of Native Americans believe there is discrimination against Native people in America today. Among them, roughly equal proportions believe that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people (41%) or discrimination based in laws and government policies (39%) is the bigger problem. Another 16% say the two are equally problematic.

Finally, 55% of Native Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, organization, or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause in an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation.

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Overall, these findings illustrate that Native Americans face significant discrimination across a wide range of areas of life. They also highlight that Native Americans living in majority Native areas are more likely to report personal experiences of many forms of discrimination.

## Notes on Report Language

In the survey's screening questions, people were asked what race or races they consider themselves to be. One potential response was "American Indian or Alaska Native," following the language used by the U.S. Census. In all other questions throughout the survey, the term "Native American" was used. This report uses the terms "Native American," "Native," and "indigenous" interchangeably. Of note, Native communities have diverse preferences regarding terminology.<sup>1</sup>

This report distinguishes between institutional and individual forms of discrimination, though discrimination comes in many forms.<sup>2</sup> In this report, "institutional discrimination" refers to forms of discrimination based on laws, policies, institutions, and the related behavior of individuals who work in or control those laws, policies, or institutions. "Individual discrimination" refers to forms of discrimination based in individual people's prejudicial beliefs, words, and behavior. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive, but the distinction is used for organizing purposes.

This report also distinguishes between "tribal lands" and "majority Native areas." Native Americans were asked two separate questions about where they live. First, they were asked, "Do you live on tribal lands such as a reservation, pueblo, or Alaska Native village?" Second, they were asked, "People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly black or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly Native American, or not?" Self-described neighborhood composition, more frequently and consistently revealed statistically significant differences than did whether individuals reside on tribal lands. Therefore, and to avoid confusion from using two different neighborhood descriptors, this report presents findings on neighborhood composition, or "majority Native areas."

In this survey, people were asked whether they had ever personally experienced discrimination related to racism, sexism, and – for LGBTQ people – homophobia and transphobia. Questions about these experiences were asked in the same way, differing only in the perceived motivation for the discrimination (i.e., racism, sexism, homophobia). For example, respondents were asked, "Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *Native American*?" and "Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination when applying for jobs because you are *a woman*?" Therefore, to mirror the question wording used in the survey, this report uses phrases such as "because they are Native American." These phrases describe respondents' impressions of the motivating prejudice behind their experiences, and they do not imply blaming respondents for others' discriminatory actions.

Additionally, these questions did not ask about the identity of the perceived discriminator. Respondents' answers could therefore refer to experiences of discrimination committed by individuals of any race or ethnicity (or any other identity category).

As with other forms of self-reported data, these findings rely on respondents' perceptions. While these reported experiences of discrimination may be related to other factors, the fact that people believe they are due to discrimination is significant.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, this series of interviews with indigenous people conducted by Amanda Blackhorse in May 2015 and published online by *Indian Country Today*. Details of these interviews and the preferred terms participants highlighted are available at: <https://goo.gl/Q4BK1i>.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Fred Pincus (1996), "Discrimination Comes in Many Forms," *American Behavioral Scientist* 40(2):186-194, for distinctions between structural, institutional, and individual forms of discrimination.

# INTRODUCTION

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.

Discrimination is a prominent and critically important matter in American life and throughout American history. While many surveys have explored Americans’ beliefs about discrimination, this survey asks people about their own personal experiences with discrimination.

This report presents Native Americans’ personal experiences with racism and discrimination, as well as their perceptions of discrimination in their local area and in the nation.

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Respondents were asked what race or races they consider themselves to be, one category being “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AI/AN). Separately, respondents were asked if they were of Hispanic or Latino background. If they identified only as AI/AN, they were included in the Native American sample. If they identified as more than one race, or said they were both AI/AN and Hispanic or Latino, they were asked with which they more identified. If they said they identified more with AI/AN, they were included in the Native American sample. Any references to gender are based on respondents’ self-identified gender. All reported differences are statistically significant.

This survey was conducted January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative, probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample that included 342 Native American adults. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for the Native American sample in this report is  $\pm 8.0\%$ . Further methodological information is included at the end of the report.

## I. Personal Experiences of Discrimination

In this survey, Native Americans were asked about their personal experiences with racism and discrimination, across a range of areas of life.

Overall, Native Americans report substantial and significant experiences of both institutional and individual forms of discrimination. Native Americans living in predominantly Native areas are more likely than their counterparts in non-majority Native areas to report experiences of institutional discrimination.

### Differences by Neighborhood Composition

Native Americans who live in predominantly Native areas are significantly and consistently more likely to report that they have personally experienced institutional forms of discrimination, compared to Native Americans who live in non-majority Native areas. They are also more likely to take steps to avoid potential discrimination.

#### “Tribal Lands” vs. “Majority Native Areas”

Native Americans were asked two separate questions about the area in which they live.

First, they were asked, “Do you live on tribal lands such as a reservation, pueblo, or Alaska Native village?” Overall, 23% of Native Americans said they live on tribal lands. Second, they were asked, “People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly black or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly Native American, or not?” Overall, 31% of Native Americans describe their area or neighborhood as predominantly Native, while 68% describe their neighborhood as not a majority Native area.<sup>3</sup>

This latter question, self-described neighborhood composition, more frequently and consistently revealed statistically significant differences than did whether individuals reside on tribal lands. Therefore, and to avoid confusion from using two different neighborhood descriptors, this report presents findings on neighborhood composition, or “majority Native areas.”

Table 1 shows the overall differences in reported experiences and avoidance of discrimination between those who live in majority vs. non-majority Native areas.

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<sup>3</sup> Overall, 82% of Native Americans who live on tribal lands describe their neighborhood as a majority Native area, while 17% of Native Americans living on tribal lands say they live in a non-majority Native area.

**Table 1:**  
**Percent of Native Americans Who Report Various Experiences of Discrimination,**  
**Among Those Who Live in Majority vs. Non-Majority Native Areas**

<u>Personal Experiences of Discrimination</u>	Native Americans living in...	
	Majority Native areas (31% of Natives)	Non-Majority Native areas (68% of Natives)
<b>Institutional Discrimination</b>		
<i>Percent of Natives who say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Native when...</i>		
...Interacting with police	55	16
...Applying for jobs	54	22
...Being paid equally or considered for promotions	54	22
...Trying to vote or participate in politics	23	4
 <i>Percent of Native Americans who say, because they are Native, they or a family member have been...</i>		
...Unfairly treated by the courts	50	22
...Unfairly stopped or treated by the police	50	22
 <b>Avoidance of Discrimination</b>		
<i>Percent of Native Americans who say they...</i>		
... Have avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that they or members of their family would be discriminated against	36	14
...Have thought about moving or relocating to another area because they have experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they live	33	11

NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q78, S5/Q13, S6/Q15, Q17, Q19, Q84, Q88a, Q91. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

*Native Americans living in majority Native areas are at least  
twice as likely as to report discrimination in the workplace and legal system,  
more than 4 times as likely to report discrimination in voting or political participation*

As Table 1 shows, Native Americans who say they live in majority Native areas or neighborhoods are more than three times as likely (55%) as those in non-majority native areas (16%) to say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Native when interacting with police. In the workplace – both when applying to jobs and when being paid equally or considered for promotions – they are more than twice as likely (54%) as those living in non-majority Native areas (22%) to say they have faced anti-Native discrimination.

Half of Native Americans (50%) who live in areas with mostly other Native people report having been unfairly stopped or treated by police, compared to 22% of Native Americans who live in predominantly non-Native areas. Similarly, half (50%) of Native Americans who live in mostly

Native areas report being treated unfairly by the courts, as compared to just 22% of those who live in areas with people of other races (Table 1).

Additionally, Native Americans living in majority Native areas are more than four times as likely (23%) as those living in non-majority Native areas (4%) to report being discriminated against when trying to vote or participate in politics (Table 1).

*Native people in majority Native areas are also more likely to avoid potential discrimination*

There are also significant differences in avoidance of discrimination. More than one third (36%) of Native Americans who live in mostly Native areas say they have avoided calling the police, even when they were in need, out of concern that they or their family might experience discrimination, compared to 14% of Native Americans living in non-majority Native areas who report this. Additionally, one in three (33%) Native Americans in mostly Native areas report having considered relocating due to their experiences with discrimination and unequal treatment where they live. Just over one in ten (11%) Native Americans in mostly non-Native areas have considered moving (Table 1).

### **Personal Experiences of Institutional Discrimination**

People were asked whether they believe they have ever personally experienced discrimination because they are Native American, across a variety of situations. In the context of institutional discrimination, these situations were: when applying to jobs; when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions; when interacting with police; when trying to vote or participate in politics; when going to a doctor or health clinic; when applying to college or while at college; or when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.

People were only asked about situations in which they had personally participated. For example, people were only asked if they had been discriminated against when applying to college if they had ever applied to college.

Among all Native American respondents, 95% have ever applied for a job; 96% have ever been employed for pay; 53% have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time; and 57% have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home. For the remaining areas, screening questions were not used, but respondents could volunteer that they had never had these experiences.<sup>4</sup>

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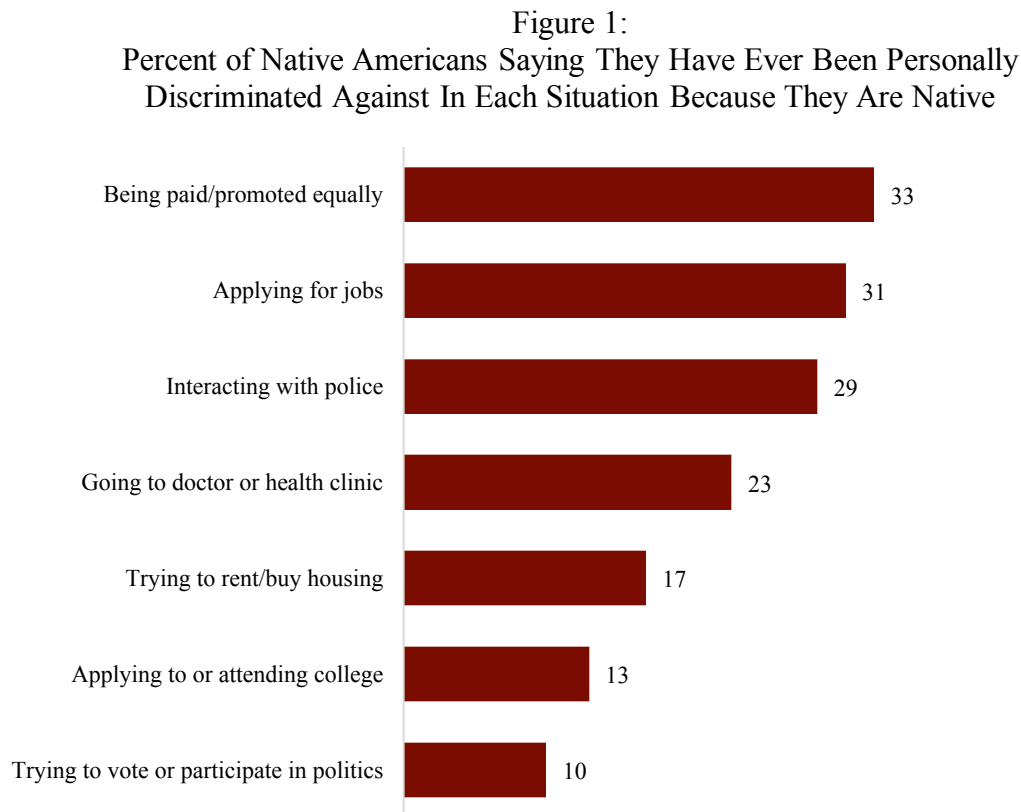
<sup>4</sup> Screening questions were not used for interacting with police given the potential sensitivity of the question; for going to the doctor, given that 83% of adults have seen a doctor in the last year alone (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2015, Table A-18,” <https://goo.gl/AVfJPq>) and this question covers a lifetime span; or for trying to vote or participate in politics, as the question was worded intentionally broadly to capture a wide range of what might constitute political participation to the individual.



*Roughly one third of Native Americans say they have personally experienced anti-Native discrimination in the workplace or when interacting with police*

Figure 1 shows the overall reporting of perceived experiences of discrimination in each area.

About three in ten Native Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Native when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotion (33%), applying for jobs (31%), and when interacting with the police (29%) (Figure 1).



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. S5/Q13, S6/Q15, Q17, Q19, Q21, S7/Q23, S8/Q25. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Just under a quarter (23%) of Native Americans say they have experienced anti-Native discrimination when going to a doctor or health clinic (Figure 1).

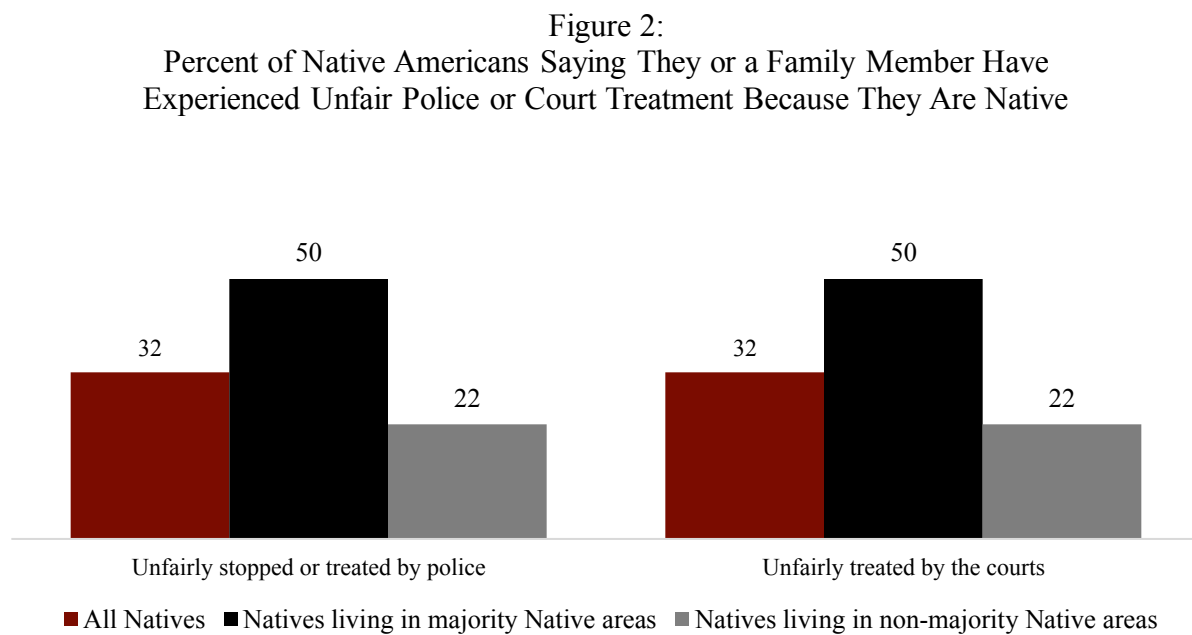
Among Native Americans who have ever tried to rent a room or apartment or buy a house, about one in six (17%) report personally experiencing anti-Native discrimination. Similarly, 13% of Native Americans who have ever applied to or attended college for any amount of time say that they personally experienced discrimination while applying to or while at college because they are Native (Figure 1).

One in ten (10%) Native Americans say they have been personally discriminated against because they are Native when trying to vote or participate in politics (Figure 1).

*Almost one-third of Native Americans, including half of those living in majority Native areas, say they or a family member have been unfairly treated by the courts or police*

In a separate question, people were asked whether they believe they or a family member had experienced unfair treatment by the police or by the court system because they are Native American.<sup>5</sup> This question referred to unfair treatment rather than discrimination to capture potential differences in perception of individuals' experiences (i.e., people who might perceive an experience as unfair but would not call it discriminatory).

Figure 2 shows that overall, about a third of Native Americans believes they or someone in their family have been unfairly stopped or treated by the police (32%) or by the courts (32%) because they are Native.



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

As discussed in Table 1 and shown again here in Figure 2, those living in majority Native areas are more than twice as likely as those living in non-majority Native areas to report these experiences.

<sup>5</sup> These questions asked whether “you or a family member” had experienced these forms of violence or discrimination. Respondents may be less willing to answer sensitive questions about their personal experiences in these contexts (e.g., sexual harassment), so family members’ experiences are included in the question to provide respondents an opportunity to indirectly disclose their own experiences, while also potentially capturing experiences of violence and discrimination in respondents’ immediate family. See Roger Tourangeau and Ting Yan (2007), “Sensitive Questions in Surveys,” *Psychological Bulletin* 133(5): 859-883, DOI: 10.1037/0033-2909.133.5.859.

## Personal Experiences of Individual Discrimination

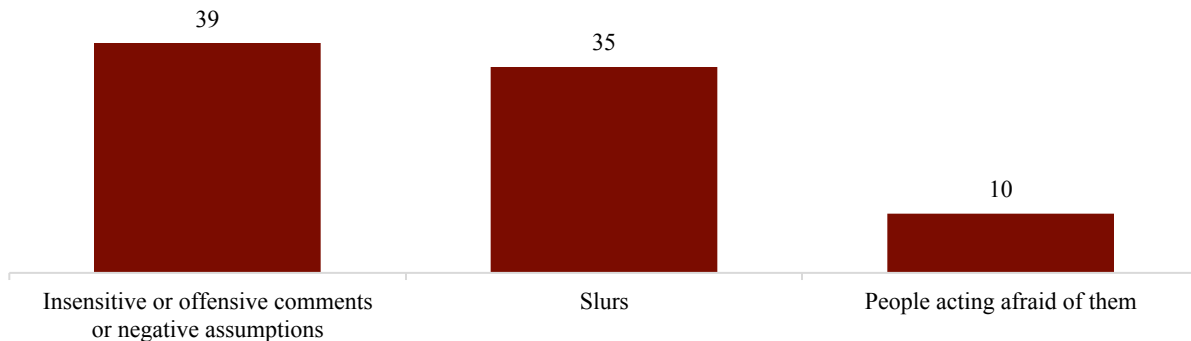
People were asked about experiences of individual or interpersonal forms of discrimination, such as slurs, insensitive or offensive comments or negative assumptions, sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, and violence.

*More than a third of Native Americans report experiencing racial slurs or offensive comments*

Recall that in this report, phrases such as “because of their race” or “because they are Native American” are used to mirror the question wording and to describe individuals’ impressions of the prejudice behind these experiences, and are not intended to place blame on those who have been discriminated against.

Figure 3 shows that 39% of Native Americans say that someone has made insensitive or offensive comments toward them about their race or ethnicity. Similarly, 35% of Native Americans report that someone referred to them or a group they belong to using a slur or other negative word specifically because of their race or ethnicity.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 3:  
Percent of Native Americans 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 Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q63a/Q64a, Q63b/Q64b, Q63c/Q64c. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Ten percent say someone has acted afraid of them because of their race or ethnicity (Figure 3).

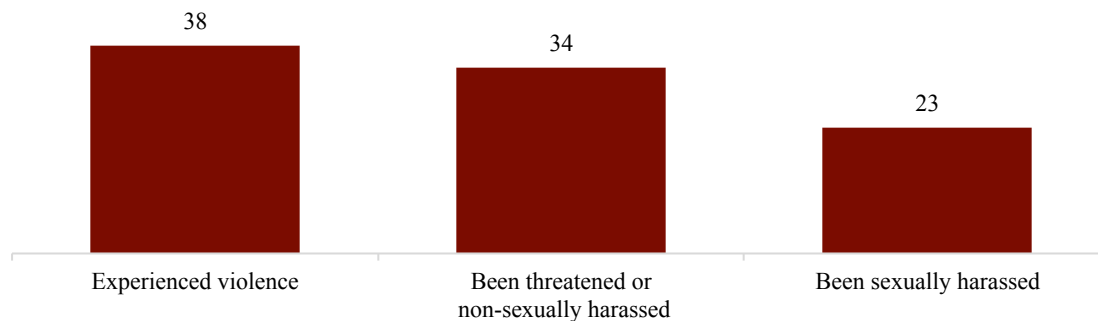
<sup>6</sup> Multiple responses were allowed; respondents could answer that these occurrences were based on their race or ethnicity, their gender, their sexual orientation or gender identity, and/or some other reason. The category of “Some other reason” includes volunteered responses such as religion, personal appearance (e.g., weight), political affiliation, disability, and not knowing the basis of the slur, offensive comment, or expression of fear.

*More than a third of Native Americans say they have experienced threats, harassment, or violence because they are Native*

People were asked whether they believe they or a family member had experienced sexual harassment, threats or non-sexual harassment, or violence, specifically because they are Native American.

Figure 4 shows that 38% of all Native Americans say that they or a family member have experienced violence because they are Native. Another 34% say they have been threatened or non-sexually harassed.

Figure 4:  
Percent of Native Americans Saying They or a Family Member  
Have Experienced Various Forms of Individual Discrimination  
Because They Are Native



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q91. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Additionally, nearly a quarter (23%) of Native Americans say they or a family member have been sexually harassed because they are indigenous (Figure 4).<sup>7</sup>

*Nearly a quarter of Native Americans say they have been told or felt they would be unwelcome in a neighborhood because they are Native*

In a separate question on harassment, 23% of Native Americans say that they or a family member have been told or felt as though they would not be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development because they are Native. Low income Native Americans (those earning less than \$25,000 per year) are more than three times as likely (32%) as high income Native Americans (9% of those earning \$75,000 or more per year) to report this experience.

<sup>7</sup> There are no differences between Native men and women in their reporting of experiencing sexual harassment because they are Native. However, Native women are much more likely to say they have been sexually harassed because of their gender (61% of Native women, compared to 11% of Native men). These findings will be further analyzed in future reports in this series.

## Avoidance of Discrimination

People were asked whether they ever avoid engaging in certain behaviors, such as seeking medical care or calling the police when in need, to avoid potential anti-Native discrimination. Similarly, people were asked whether they had ever considered moving to a new neighborhood because of discrimination. They were also asked whether they ever avoid normal life tasks such as using a car or public transportation, going to a doctor, or participating in social or political events to avoid potentially interacting with police.

*More than one in seven Native Americans have avoided medical care and calling the police, even when in need, due to concern for discrimination*

Nearly a quarter (22%) of Native Americans say they have avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern they would be discriminated against because they are Native.

Additionally, 15% say they have avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for themselves or someone in their family out of concern that they would be discriminated against or treated poorly because they are Native.

*Nearly one in five Native Americans have considered moving because of discrimination*

Overall, 18% of Native Americans say they have considered moving or relocating to another area because they experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where they were living. Native Americans living in predominantly Native areas (33%) are three times more likely to say this than their peers who do not live in mostly Native areas (11%) (Table 1).

*21% of Native Americans avoid normal tasks such as using a car or seeking medical care to avoid possibly interacting with police or government authority figures*

People were also asked, “Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?” Overall, 21% of Native Americans say they have avoided these normal day-to-day tasks to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures.

*Nearly half of Native Americans have avoided going to a doctor due to concern for the cost*

In a separate question not related to explicit discrimination, nearly half (45%) of Native Americans say they have avoided seeking medical care out of concern for the cost.

## II. Perceptions of Local Community

People were asked to evaluate aspects of life where they live, including how often discrimination happens to other Native Americans there, local employment and educational opportunities, and how their neighborhood compares to other places to live.

As with personal experiences of discrimination, Native Americans residing in predominantly Native areas report different perceptions than those living in non-majority Native areas. Additionally, Native men are more likely than Native women to say that various aspects of the communities in which they live are worse than other places to live.

### **Differences by Neighborhood Composition**

Consistent with personal experiences of discrimination, Table 2 shows that Native Americans living in predominantly Native areas are more likely to perceive discrimination against other indigenous people in their areas, compared to Native Americans who live in non-majority Native areas.

Nearly half (47%) of Native Americans living in predominantly Native areas say other Native Americans often experience discrimination when interacting with the police, compared to 19% of those living in non-majority Native areas. More than a third (37%) say that other Native Americans often experience discrimination in equal pay and promotion, compared to 15% of Native Americans living in non-majority Native areas (Table 2).

Additionally, nearly two-thirds (65%) of Native Americans living in majority Native areas agree that Native people are paid less than white people for equal work, compared to 33% of those in non-majority Native areas who share this belief (Table 2).

Native Americans living in majority Native areas are nearly twice as likely (48%) as those living in non-majority Native areas (25%) to say that their local police are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Native person (Table 2).

Finally, Native Americans living in majority Native areas are more than twice as likely as those living in non-majority Native areas to rate the availability of local employment opportunities (63% vs. 33%) as worse than in other places to live. Those living in majority Native areas are much more likely (41%) than those in non-majority Native areas (17%) to say the availability of local parks, green spaces, and recreational areas is worse than in other places to live (Table 2).

**Table 2:**  
**Percent of Native Americans Who Report Various Perceptions of Their Local Community,**  
**Among Those Who Live in Majority vs. Non-Majority Native Areas**

<u><b>Perceptions of Local Community</b></u>	<u><b>Native Americans living in...</b></u>	
	<b>Majority Native areas (31% of Natives)</b>	<b>Non-Majority Native areas (68% of Natives)</b>
<b>Perceptions of Local Discrimination</b>		
<i>Percent of Natives who say they believe, where they live, other Natives are “often” discriminated against because they are Native when...</i>		
...Interacting with police	47	19
...Being paid equally or considered for promotions	37	15
<b>Perceptions of Local Opportunity</b>		
<i>Percent of Natives who agree that...</i>		
...Native people where they live are paid less than white people for equal work, just because they are Native	65	33
<b>Perceptions of Local Police &amp; Government</b>		
<i>Percent of Natives who say...</i>		
...Their local police are <u>more likely</u> to use unnecessary force on a Native person than on a white person in the same situation	48	25
<b>Perceptions &amp; Evaluations of Community Environment</b>		
<i>Percent of Natives who say, where they live, the...</i>		
...Availability of <u>local employment opportunities</u> is worse than in other places to live	63	33
...Availability of <u>parks, green spaces, and recreational areas</u> is worse than in other places to live	41	17
<i>Percent of Natives who say they...</i>		
...Live in a predominantly middle income area	25	44

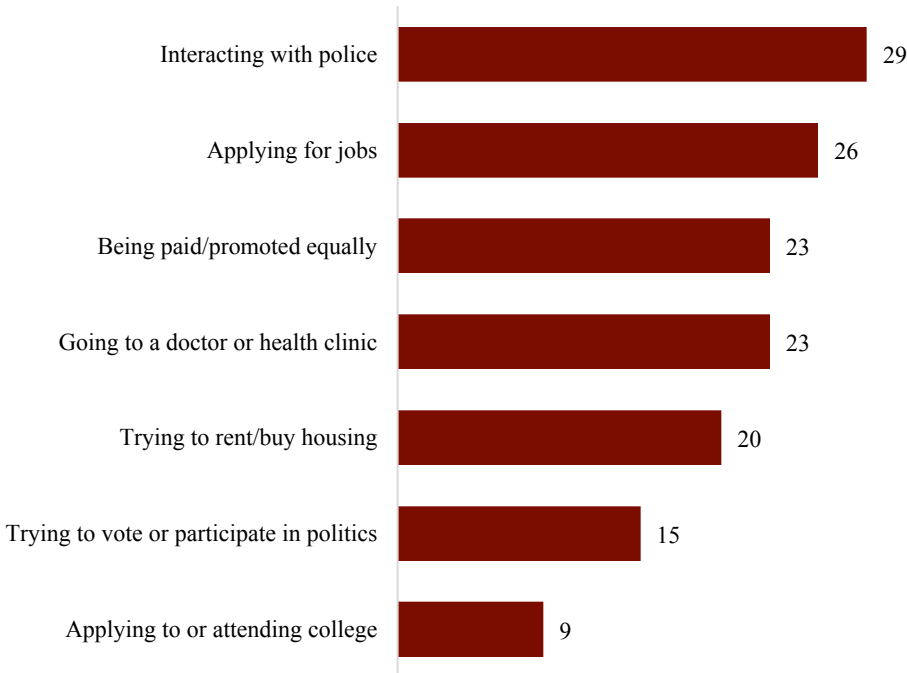
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q14, Q16, Q68, Q80, Q85g/i, Q86. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

## Perceptions of Local Discrimination

In addition to their personal experiences of discrimination, people were also asked about discrimination that occurs where they live, across a variety of situations.<sup>8</sup> People were asked how often, if ever, they believe such discrimination occurs to other Native Americans, using a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, or often.

As Figure 5 shows, roughly a quarter of Native Americans say that where they live, other Native Americans “often” experience discrimination specifically because they are indigenous when interacting with the police (29%), when applying for jobs (26%), when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions (23%), and when going to a doctor or health clinic (23%).

Figure 5:  
Percent of Native Americans Saying Where They Live, Other Natives Are  
"Often" Discriminated Against In Each Situation Because They Are Native



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q12, Q14, Q16, Q18, Q20, Q22, Q24. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Additionally, one in five Native Americans say that other Native Americans often experience discrimination when trying to rent or buy housing (20%). Fifteen percent or fewer say other indigenous people are often discrimination against when trying to vote or participate in politics (15%) or when applying to or while attending college (9%) (Figure 5).

<sup>8</sup> These were the same situations discussed in personal experiences of discrimination: applying to jobs; being paid equally or considered for promotions; interacting with police; trying to vote or participate in politics; going to a doctor or health clinic; applying to college or while at college; trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house.



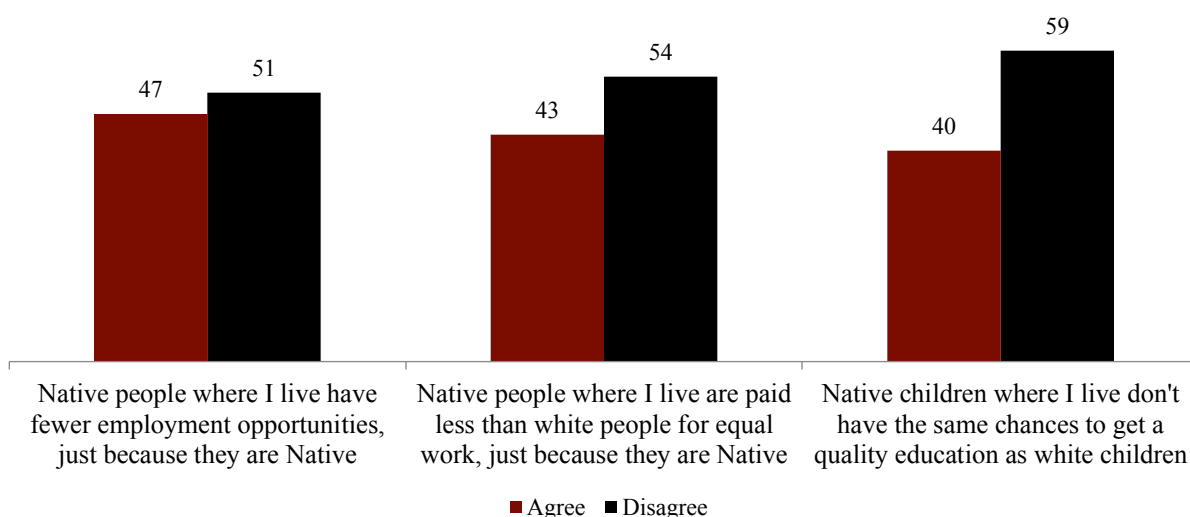
As noted in Table 2, Native Americans living in majority Native areas are more than twice as likely to say other Natives are often discriminated against when interacting with police and when being paid equally or considered for promotions.

### Perceptions of Local Opportunity

People were asked to agree or disagree with statements about local employment and educational opportunities, as well as whether they were encouraged while growing up to apply for college.

As Figure 6 shows, a majority of Native Americans generally believe that Native people where they live have comparable employment and educational opportunities, relative to white people. A minority of Native Americans say that Native people have fewer employment opportunities (47%), are paid less for equal work (43%), and that Native children do not have the same chances to get a quality education as do white children (40%).

Figure 6:  
Native Americans' Perceptions of Unequal Employment,  
Pay, & Educational Opportunities in Their Neighborhood



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q65, Q68, Q72. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Demographically, nearly two-thirds (65%) of Native Americans living in majority Native areas agree that Native people are paid less than white people for equal work, compared to 33% of those in non-majority Native areas who share this belief (Table 2). Additionally, Native women are nearly twice as likely (57%) as Native men (29%) to agree that Native people are paid less than white people for equal work (not shown).

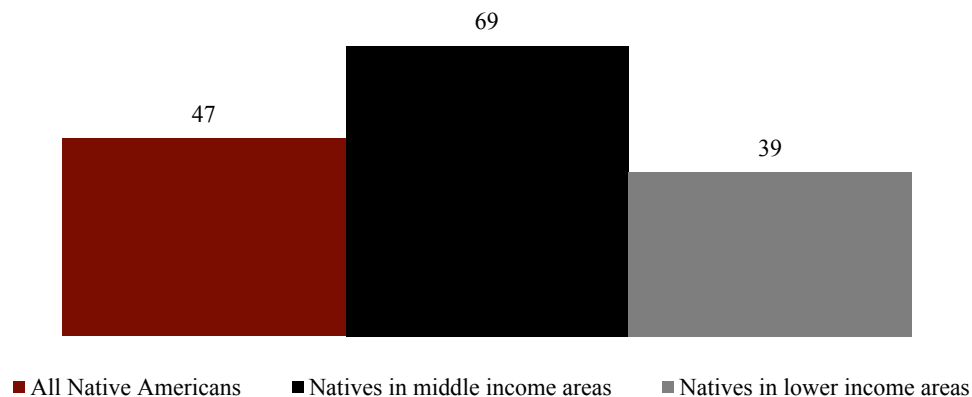
*For almost half of Native Americans,  
applying to college was never discussed while growing up*

In a separate question related to educational opportunity, Native Americans were asked if, while growing up, they were encouraged to apply for college, discouraged from applying, or whether this was never discussed.

Overall, 49% of Native Americans say that applying to college was never discussed while growing up. Another 47% of all Native Americans say they were encouraged to apply to college, while 3% say they were discouraged from applying.

Figure 7 shows that Native Americans living in self-described middle income areas are nearly twice as likely (69%) as those living in lower income areas (39%) to say they were encouraged to apply for college while growing up.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 7:  
Percent of Native Americans, By Perceived Neighborhood Income Level,  
Saying They Were Encouraged to Apply for College While Growing Up



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q76. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

However, Native Americans living in predominantly lower income areas are most likely to say that applying for college was simply never discussed (57%), rather than that they were actively discouraged from applying (3%) (not shown).

<sup>9</sup> Neighborhood income level is self-reported, based on this question: “If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don’t have enough information about to say?” Overall, 7% of Native Americans say they live in an upper income area, 38% say they live in a middle income area, 31% say lower income area, and 24% report that they do not have enough information to say.

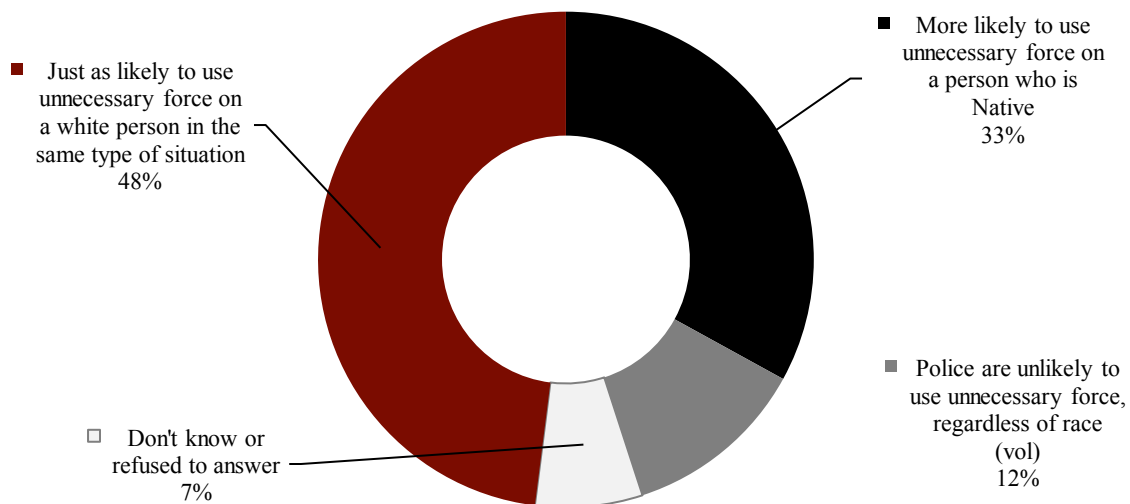
## Perceptions of Local Police & Government

People were also asked about their experiences and perceptions of police and public safety in their own neighborhoods. To emphasize their own experiences, rather than national events, respondents were first told: “Now I’d like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.”

*One third of Native Americans believe their local police are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Native person than on a white person in the same situation*

Overall, as Figure 8 shows, 33% of Native people believe that, where they live, police officers are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Native person than on a white person in the same type of situation. Nearly half (48%) believe their local police are just as likely to use force on a white person in the same type of situation.

Figure 8:  
Native Americans' Beliefs on Likelihood of Police Officers To Use  
Unnecessary Force Against Native and White People in Same Situation



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q86. Question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Native Americans living in majority Native areas are nearly twice as likely (48%) as those living in non-majority Native areas (25%) to say that their local police are more likely to use unnecessary force on a Native person (Table 2).

When asked about the racial or ethnic background of the police in their neighborhood, 60% of Native Americans say the police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in their area, while 30% say the police are mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in their area. Nine percent did not know, or declined to offer an answer.

*Majority of Native Americans believe local or tribal government represents their views well; and believe that they can affect what local or tribal government does*

Native Americans who live on tribal lands, such as reservations, pueblos, or Alaska Native villages, were asked “How well do you feel that your local tribal government represents the views of people like you?” Overall, 71% say their local tribal government represents these views somewhat or very well, while 27% say not too well or not well at all. Additionally, when asked, “How much can people like you affect what your local tribal government does,” 75% of Native Americans on tribal lands say some or a great deal.

For Native Americans who do not live on tribal lands, they were asked these same questions regarding their “local government,” rather than their “local tribal government.” Among those not living on tribal lands, 57% say their local government represents these views somewhat or very well. Forty percent (40%) say not too well or not well at all. When Native Americans not on tribal lands were asked, “How much can people like you affect what your local government does,” 57% say some or a great deal.

### **Perceptions & Evaluations of Community Environment**

People were asked to describe and evaluate aspects of the area where they live, including its racial composition and the general economic and health status of the neighborhood.

Native Americans were asked two separate questions about the area where they live. First, they were asked, “Do you live on tribal lands such as a reservation, pueblo, or Alaska Native village?” Overall, 23% of Native Americans said they live on tribal lands. Second, they were asked “People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly black or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly Native American, or not?” Overall, 31% of Native Americans say they live in an area or neighborhood that is predominantly Native.<sup>10</sup>

When describing the general health and well-being of the place they live, 42% say their neighborhood is in excellent or good health, 24% say fair or poor health, and 33% say they do not have enough information to say.

When describing the general economic status of their area, 7% of Native Americans say they live in a mostly upper income area, while 38% say they live in a mostly middle income area. Another 31% say they live in a mostly lower income area, and 24% report that they do not have enough information to say.

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<sup>10</sup> Overall, 82% of Native Americans who live on tribal lands describe their neighborhood or area as majority Native, while 17% of those who live on tribal lands nonetheless describe their area as non-majority Native.

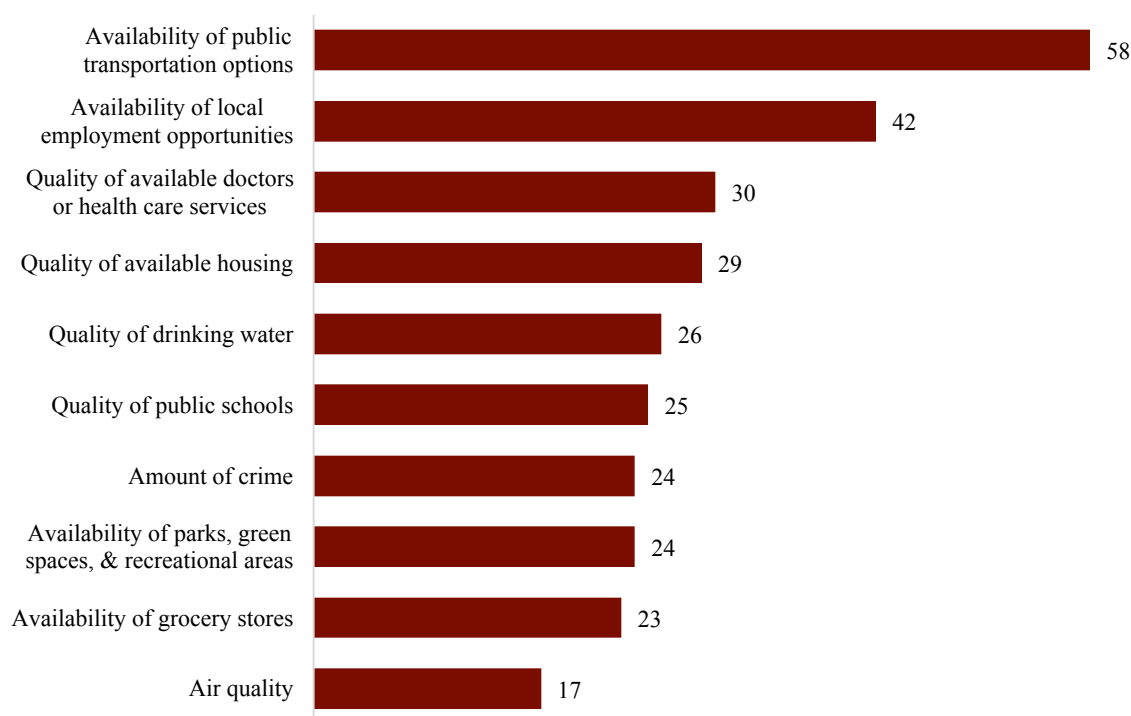
*Native people most frequently rate the availability of public transportation, employment opportunities, and quality of available doctors as worse in their area than in other places to live*

Native Americans were asked to describe and evaluate environmental aspects of the area in which they live. Specifically, they were asked to consider ten elements that affect quality of life, and to compare these elements to other places to live: “Compared to other places to live, do you think the (element) where you live is better, worse, or about the same as other places to live?”

These elements include: availability of grocery stores; air quality; quality of drinking water; quality of available housing; quality of available doctors or health care services; quality of public schools; availability of local employment opportunities; amount of crime; availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas; and, availability of public transportation options.

In most cases, either the majority or plurality of people say that these aspects of their neighborhood are about the same as other places to live. However, as Figure 9 shows, the three aspects of community environment that Native people most frequently rated as “worse” in their area than in other places to live are: availability of public transportation options (58%), availability of local employment opportunities (42%), and the quality of available doctors or health care services (30%).

Figure 9:  
Percent of Native Americans Saying Each Element of Their  
Community Environment Is **Worse** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

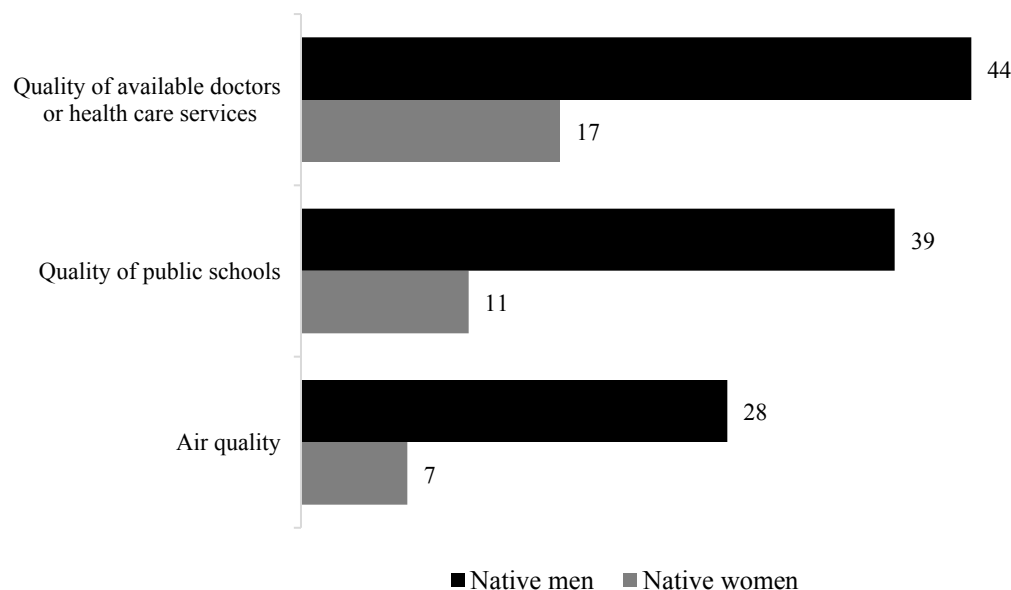
Just under three in ten (29%) Native Americans say the quality of available housing where they live is worse than other places. About one in four Native Americans say the following are worse where they live, compared to other places: the quality of drinking water (26%), the quality of public schools (25%), the amount of crime (24%) and the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas (24%) (Figure 9).

Finally, about one in six (17%) Native Americans rank the air quality where they live as worse than in other places to live (Figure 9).

*Native men at least twice as likely to negatively rank elements of their neighborhoods*

Native men hold significantly different – and more negative – beliefs about some elements of their neighborhoods, compared to Native women. Figure 10 shows that Native men are, on average, more than twice as likely as Native women to believe their neighborhood has worse air quality, public schools and available doctors or health care services than other places to live.

Figure 10:  
Percent of Native Americans, By Gender, Saying Each Element of Their  
Community Environment Is **Worse** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85b/e/f. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

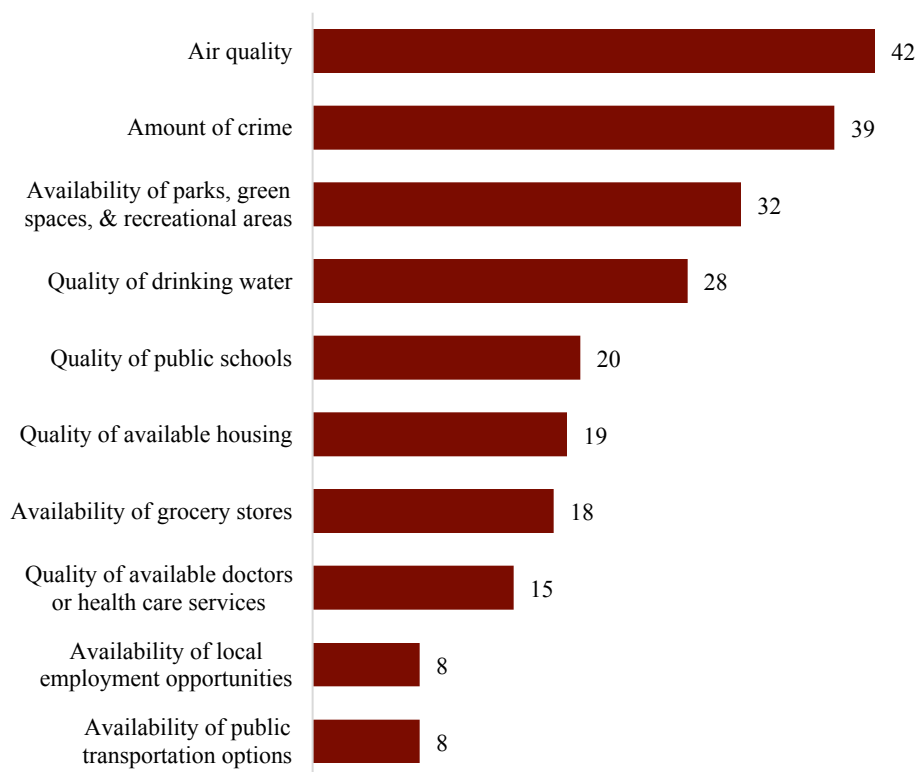
Additionally, Native Americans living in majority Native areas are nearly twice as likely (63%) as those in non-majority Native areas (33%) to rate local employment opportunities as worse in their neighborhood than in other places to live (Table 2).

*Native Americans most frequently rate air quality, crime, and availability of parks, as better in their neighborhoods than in other places to live*

Figure 11 shows the elements of their neighborhoods that Native Americans rate as “better” than in other places to live.

The three elements that Native Americans most frequently say are better in their neighborhoods than in other places to live are the air quality (42%), the amount of crime (39%), and the availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas (32%) (Figure 11).

Figure 11:  
Percent of Native Americans Saying Each Element of Their  
Community Environment Is **Better** Than In Other Places to Live



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q85a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j. Each question asked of half-sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

Fewer than one in ten Native Americans rank their local employment opportunities (8%) and the availability of public transportation options (8%) in their neighborhood as better than in other places to live (Figure 11).

### III. National Beliefs & Political Contact

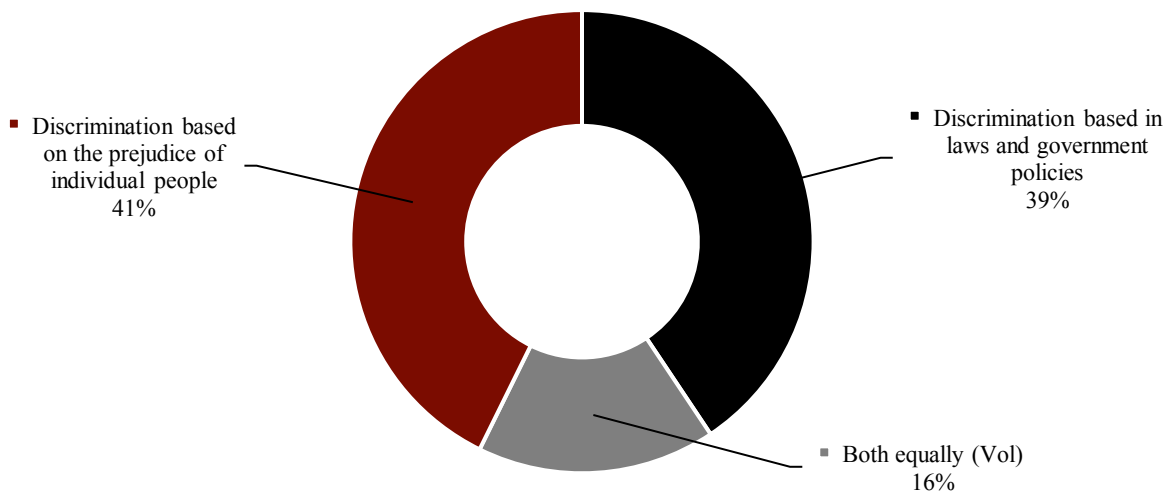
Overall, 75% of Native Americans believe that there is discrimination against Native people in America today. Native women are more likely (82%) than Native men (67%) to believe there is discrimination against Native Americans in the U.S. today. Native Americans who report being currently enrolled in a tribe are also more likely (82%) to believe discrimination exists today, compared to those who report not currently being enrolled in a tribe (68%).<sup>11</sup>

#### Institutional vs. Individual Discrimination

Those who believe discrimination exists today were also asked: “When it comes to discrimination against Native Americans in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem? Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies, or discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people?”

Native Americans are roughly evenly split: 41% say discrimination based on an individuals’ prejudice is a bigger problem, while 39% say it is discrimination based in laws and government policies. Another 16% say that both forms of discrimination are equally a problem (Figure 12).

Figure 12:  
Native Americans' Perceptions of Which is the Larger Problem:  
Discrimination Based on Individuals' Prejudice, or  
Discrimination Based in Laws and Government Policies



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans, January 26 – April 9, 2017. Q2. Question asked of those who believe there is discrimination among total sample. Total N=342 Native American U.S. adults.

<sup>11</sup> Tribal enrollment is assessed in a separate demographic question: “Are you currently enrolled as a member with a Native American tribe?” Tribal enrollment is independent of whether an individual lives on tribal lands. Roughly half (49%) of the Native American sample reports being currently enrolled with a Native American tribe.



## Political Contact

Overall, 55% of Native Americans say that in the past year, they have been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization or ballot issue encouraging them to vote or support their cause during an election. Being personally contacted in this way may lead to increased likelihood of voting or other forms of civic or political participation, particularly among racial and ethnic minority communities.<sup>12</sup>

With regard to party affiliation, 30% of Native Americans describe themselves as Democrat, while 30% identify as Independent, 23% as Republican, and 11% as other.

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<sup>12</sup> See, for example, Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa R. Michelson's *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (2012, Yale University Press), and Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber's *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout* (2008, Brookings Institution Press).

## Conclusion

Native Americans report significant experiences and perceptions of discrimination in their own lives. Roughly one-third of Native Americans report being personally discriminated against because they are Native when interacting with police (29%), when applying to jobs (31%), and when being paid equally or considered for promotions (33%). Additionally, roughly a third of Native Americans say they or a family member have been unfairly treated by the courts (32%) or unfairly stopped or treated by the police (32%) because they are Native.

Native Americans also report extensive individual discrimination: 39% say they have personally experienced insensitive or offensive comments about their race or ethnicity, and 35% say they have been racially slurred. More than a third say they or a family member have experienced violence (38%) or threats or harassment (34%) because they are indigenous.

With respect to their neighborhoods, Native Americans most frequently rate the availability of public transportation and local employment opportunities as worse in their area than in other places to live. However, roughly four in ten Native Americans rate the air quality and amount of crime as better. Additionally, a majority of Native people – especially those living on tribal lands - believe they can influence their local or tribal government, and that it represents the views of people like them.

In the context of beliefs about the national environment, 75% of Native Americans believe that discrimination against Native Americans exists in the U.S. today. Among them, roughly equal proportions say that discrimination based on the prejudice of individual people (41%), compared to discrimination based in laws and government policies (39%), is the bigger problem. Another 16% say both are equally problematic.

Demographically, Native Americans who live in majority Native areas have significantly different experiences and perceptions of discrimination than those who live in non-majority Native areas. Those in majority Native areas are more likely to report: being personally discriminated against in the workplace and when trying to vote or participate in politics; that they have been unfairly treated by the police and the courts; that they have avoided calling the police, even when in need, out of concern that they would be discriminated against; and that they have considered moving due to experiences of discrimination where they were living. They are also more likely to believe other Native people in their area are often discriminated against when interacting with police and when being paid equally, and to negatively evaluate their local employment opportunities.

Native women are more likely to believe that anti-Native discrimination exists today, and to say that other Native Americans in their area are paid less than white people for equal work. Native men are more likely to negatively evaluate some elements of their neighborhood.

Overall, the findings illustrate Native Americans' significant experiences and perceptions of discrimination across a wide range of areas of life in America today.

## Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and National Public Radio. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health:** Robert J. Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; Logan S. Casey, Research Associate in Public Opinion; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Justin M. Sayde, Administrative and Research Manager; Caitlin L. McMurtry, Research Fellow; Angela Jackie Kaslow, Research Fellow; and Tiffany Chan, Research Fellow.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research and Evaluation; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; and Dwayne Proctor, Director, Achieving Health Equity Portfolio.

**NPR:** Anne Gudenkauf, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Keith Woods, Vice President, Diversity in News and Operations; Sara Goo, Acting Managing Editor, Digital News; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Luis Clemens, Supervising Editor, National Desk; Alison Macadam, Senior Editorial Specialist; Alison Kodjak, Correspondent, Science Desk; and Rae Ellen Bichell, Reporter, Science Desk.

Interviews were conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills (PA) via telephone (including both landline and cell phone) using random-digit dialing, January 26 – April 9, 2017, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans;<sup>13</sup> men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This report presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based telephone (cell and landline) sample of **342 Native Americans**. Respondents were asked what race or races they consider themselves to be, one category being “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AI/AN). Separately, respondents were asked if they were of Hispanic or Latino background. If they identified only as “AI/AN,” they were included in the Native American sample. If they identified as more than one race, or said they were both AI/AN and Hispanic or Latino, they were asked with which they more identified. If they said they identified more with AI/AN, they were included in the Native American sample.

The margin of error for total Native American respondents is  $\pm 8.0$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, education, and Census region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

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<sup>13</sup> African American, Asian American, and white American respondents who also identified as Hispanic or Latino were included only in the Latino sample.

### Methodology (continued)

Group	Number of Interviews (unweighted n)	Weighted %
Total Native Americans	342	100
Half-sample		
A	175	--
B	167	--
Gender		
Men	183	50
Women	153	49
Age		
18-29	44	23
30-49	95	33
50-64	111	28
65+	91	16
Education		
High school grad or less	152	60
Some college	96	24
College grad or more	90	15
Household income		
<\$25,000 per year	126	39
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	92	29
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	36	9
\$75,000 or more	63	16
Region		
Northeast	18	6
Midwest	84	16
South	108	35
West	117	39
Metro status		
Urban	37	13
Suburban	108	38
Rural	178	45
Reservation		
Yes	109	23
No	232	76
Tribal enrollment		
Yes	210	49
No	130	51
Live in predominantly Native American area		
Yes	123	31
No	212	68
Income of area where you live		
Upper	20	7
Middle	128	38
Lower	113	31

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**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION**  
**HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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## **Discrimination in America: Experiences and Views of Native Americans**

The results presented here are from a survey conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, via telephone (landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted using random-digit dialing, **January 26 – April 9, 2017**, among a nationally representative probability-based sample of 3,453 adults age 18 or older. The survey included nationally representative samples of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans, as well as white Americans; men and women, and LGBTQ adults.

This document presents the results specifically for a nationally representative probability-based sample of **342 Native Americans**. The margin of error for total Native American respondents is  $\pm 8.0$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Respondents were asked what race or races they consider themselves to be, one category being “American Indian or Alaska Native” (AI/AN). Separately, respondents were asked if they were of Hispanic or Latino background. If they identified only as “AI/AN,” they were included in the Native American sample. If they identified as more than one race, or said they were both AI/AN and Hispanic or Latino, they were asked with which they more identified. If they said they identified more with AI/AN, they were included in the Native American sample.

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**Responses shown in the tables that follow are percentages.**

## I. Introduction

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 175)

S5. Have you ever applied for a job?

	Native Americans
Yes, has applied for a job	95
No, has not applied for a job	5
DK/Ref	*

(Asked of half-sample A; n= 175)

S6. Have you ever been employed for pay?

	Native Americans
Yes, has been employed for pay	96
No, has not been employed for pay	3
DK/Ref	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 167)

S7. Have you ever applied for college or attended college for any amount of time?

	Native Americans
Yes, has applied for or attended college	53
No, has not applied for or attended college	47
DK/Ref	-

(Asked of half-sample B; n= 167)

S8. Have you ever tried to rent a room or apartment or to apply for a mortgage or buy a home?

	Native Americans
Yes, has tried	57
No, has not tried	43
DK/Ref	-

## II. Discrimination

Q1. Generally speaking, do you believe there is or is not discrimination against Native American people in America today?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	75
No	22
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of Native Americans who believe discrimination against Native Americans in America today; n= 268)**

Q2. When it comes to discrimination against Native American people in America today, which do you think is the bigger problem?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Discrimination that is based in laws and government policies	39
Discrimination that is based on the prejudice of individual people	41
Both equally (vol)	16
DK/Ref	4

Now we'd like to ask you some questions more specifically about what goes on in the general area where you live, as well as your personal experiences. When we say "the area where you live," we just mean the general neighborhood, town, or part of town where you live.

D8a. Do you live on tribal lands such as a reservation, pueblo, or Alaska Native village?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	23
No	76
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of Native Americans who live on tribal lands; n= 109)**

Q10a. How well do you feel that your local tribal government represents the views of people like you?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Very well	40
Somewhat well	30
Not too well	10
Not well at all	17
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of Native Americans who do not live on tribal lands; n= 232)**

Q10b. How well do you feel that your local government represents the views of people like you?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Very well	18
Somewhat well	40
Not too well	15
Not well at all	25
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of Native Americans who live on tribal lands; n= 109)**

Q11a. How much can people like you affect what your local tribal government does? Would you say...?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
A great deal	27
Some	48
Only a little	18
Not at all	5
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of Native Americans who do not live on tribal lands; n= 232)**

Q11b. How much can people like you affect what your local government does? Would you say...?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
A great deal	24
Some	33
Only a little	27
Not at all	16
DK/Ref	*



Now I have some questions about issues that may be facing people where you live. For each of the following, please tell me how frequently you think this happens to people where you live, using the scale OFTEN, SOMETIMES, RARELY, or NEVER. Then I'll ask if you've ever **personally** experienced this, not just where you currently live.

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q12. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying for jobs**?

	Native Americans
Often	26
Sometimes	32
Rarely	23
Never	16
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of Native Americans in half-sample A who have ever applied for a job; n=162)**

Q13. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when applying for jobs**?

	Native Americans
Yes	31
No	69
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q14. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions**?

	Native Americans
Often	23
Sometimes	32
Rarely	21
Never	21
DK/Ref	3

**(Asked of Native Americans in half-sample A who have ever been employed; n=167)**

Q15. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when it comes to being paid equally or considered for promotions**?

	Native Americans
Yes	33
No	65
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q16. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when interacting with police?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Often	29
Sometimes	26
Rarely	10
Never	33
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q17. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when interacting with police?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	29
No	67
Have never interacted with the police (vol)	3
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q18. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Often	15
Sometimes	21
Rarely	22
Never	37
DK/Ref	5

**(Asked of half-sample; n=175)**

Q19. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when trying to vote or participate in politics?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	10
No	81
Have never tried to vote or participate in politics (vol)	9
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q20. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Often	23
Sometimes	22
Rarely	22
Never	31
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q21. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when going to a doctor or health clinic?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	23
No	75
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q22. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when applying to college or while at college?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Often	9
Sometimes	24
Rarely	28
Never	37
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of Native Americans in half-sample B who have ever applied to or attended college; n=102)**

Q23. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when applying to college or while at college?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	13
No	86
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q24. How often, if ever, do you believe Native American people where you live experience discrimination **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Often	20
Sometimes	20
Rarely	32
Never	27
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of Native Americans in half-sample B who have ever tried to rent or buy a place to live; n=114)**

Q25. What about you? Do you believe you have ever personally experienced discrimination because you are Native American **when trying to rent a room or apartment or buy a house?**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	17
No	82
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q61. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern for the cost?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	45
No	54
DK/Ref	1

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q62a. Have you ever avoided going to a doctor or seeking health care for you or others in your family out of concern that you would be discriminated against or treated poorly because you or they are Native American?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	15
No	85
DK/Ref	-

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q63. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

- a. Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	50
No, has not happened	50
DK/Ref	-

- b. Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	65
No, has not happened	35
DK/Ref	*

- c. People acted as if they were afraid of you

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes, has happened	38
No, has not happened	61
DK/Ref	1

Q63a. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64a. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63a/Q64a Combo Table**

**Based on total half-sample B; n=167**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Someone has referred to you or a group you belong to using a slur or other negative word (total)	50
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	35
Gender	10
Sexual orientation	3
Gender identity	1
Religion/Religious views (vol)	*
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	*
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	1
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	1
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	2
Handicap/disability (vol)	-
Personality (vol)	1
Social Reasons (vol)	1
Some other reason	5
DK/Ref	1
No, has not happened	50
DK/Ref	-

Q63b. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

Someone made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64b. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63b/Q64b Combo Table**  
Based on total half-sample B; n=167

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Someone has made negative assumptions or insensitive or offensive comments about you (total)	65
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	39
Gender	15
Sexual orientation	2
Gender identity	*
Religion/Religious views (vol)	-
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	1
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	2
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	4
Envy/Jealousy (vol)	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	*
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	2
Social reasons (vol)	*
Some other reason	10
DK/Ref	*
No, has not happened	35
DK/Ref	*



Q63c. In your day-to-day life, have any of the following things ever happened to you, or not?

People acted as if they were afraid of you

**If Yes, ask:**

Q64c. Do you believe this happened to you because of your race or ethnicity, your gender, or was it for some other reason?

**Q63c/Q64c Combo Table**  
**Based on total half-sample B; n=167**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
People have acted as if they were afraid to you (total)	38
...and you believe it happened to you because...	
Race or ethnicity	10
Gender	8
Sexual orientation	-
Gender identity	*
Religion/Religious views (vol)	-
My appearance (weight, height, the way I dressed, hair, etc) (vol)	9
Political reasons/Political affiliation (vol)	-
Mean/angry/rude/being a bully (vol)	1
Envy/Jealousy	-
Work position/authoritative position/other work reasons (vol)	1
Handicap/disability (vol)	1
Personality (vol)	*
Social reasons (vol)	-
Some other reason	5
DK/Ref	7
No, has not happened	61
DK/Ref	1

### III. Employment & Education

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace. For each of the following statements about employment opportunities and the workplace, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q65. Native American people where I live have fewer employment opportunities just because they are Native American. Do you...?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Strongly agree	22
Somewhat agree	25
Somewhat disagree	18
Strongly disagree	33
DK/Ref	2

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q68. Native American people where I live are paid less than white people for equal work, because they are Native American. Do you...?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Strongly agree	20
Somewhat agree	23
Somewhat disagree	18
Strongly disagree	36
DK/Ref	3

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about education and schooling. For each of the following statements about education and schooling, please tell me if you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, OR STRONGLY DISAGREE:

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q72. Because of the way the schools operate where I live, Native American children here don't have the same chances to get a quality education as **white children**. Do you...?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Strongly agree	14
Somewhat agree	26
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	42
DK/Ref	1

Now I have a different type of question, but still about education.

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q76. When you were growing up, were you encouraged to apply to college, discouraged from applying for college, or was this never discussed?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Encouraged to apply to college	47
Discouraged from applying for college	3
Never discussed	49
DK/Ref	1

#### IV. Community Environment

Q78. People often describe some neighborhoods or areas as predominantly one group or another, such as a predominantly black or white neighborhood. Would you say that the area where you live is predominantly Native American, or not?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Predominantly Native American	31
Not predominantly Native American	68
DK/Ref	1

Q80. If you were describing the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly upper income, mostly middle income, or mostly lower income, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Upper income	7
Middle income	38
Lower income	31
Don't have enough information	24

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q81. If you were describing the health and well-being of the place where you live, would you say that it is mostly excellent health, good health, only fair health, or poor health, or is this something you don't have enough information about to say?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Excellent health	6
Good health	36
Only fair health	11
Poor health	13
Don't have enough information	34

Q82. Have you or a family member who is also Native American been told or felt as though you wouldn't be welcome in a neighborhood, building, or housing development you were interested in because you are Native American?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	23
No	77
DK/Ref	*

Q84. Have you ever thought about moving or relocating to another area because you experienced discrimination or unequal treatment where you were living?

**If Yes, ask:**

Have you thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved or have you actually moved or relocated because of discrimination?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
No, I've never thought about it	82
<b>Yes, have thought about moving because of discrimination where I live (NET)</b>	<b>18</b>
I've thought about moving because of discrimination, but haven't actually moved	13
I've actually moved/relocated because of discrimination	5
DK/Ref	*

**(Asked of half-sample B; n=167)**

Q85. Compared to other places to live, do you think the (INSERT ITEM) where you live is BETTER, WORSE, or ABOUT THE SAME as other places to live?

- a. Availability of grocery stores

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	18
Worse	23
About the same	58
DK/Ref	1

- b. Air quality

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	42
Worse	17
About the same	41
DK/Ref	*

- c. Quality of drinking water

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	28
Worse	26
About the same	44
DK/Ref	2

- d. Quality of available housing

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	19
Worse	29
About the same	50
DK/Ref	2

- e. Quality of available doctors or health care services

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	15
Worse	30
About the same	55
DK/Ref	*

f. Quality of public schools

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	20
Worse	25
About the same	53
DK/Ref	2

g. Availability of local employment opportunities

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	8
Worse	42
About the same	48
DK/Ref	2

h. Amount of crime

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	39
Worse	24
About the same	35
DK/Ref	2

i. Availability of parks, green spaces, and recreational areas

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	32
Worse	24
About the same	41
DK/Ref	3

j. Availability of public transportation options

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Better	8
Worse	58
About the same	32
DK/Ref	2

## V. Public Safety

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about public safety. Some of these questions will ask about the police in the area where you live. Many news events over the past few years have highlighted some of the tensions between police and the communities they work in. We want you to think about the place where you live and your own personal experience, rather than events nationwide.

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q86. Do you believe that police officers where you live are more likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is Native American, or are they just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person given the same type of situation?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
More likely to use unnecessary force on a person who is Native American	33
Just as likely to use unnecessary force on a white person	48
More likely to use unnecessary force against a white person (vol)	-
Police are unlikely to use unnecessary force, regardless of race (vol)	12
DK/Ref	7

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q88. Have you ever avoided calling the police or other authority figures, even when in need, out of concern that you or others in your family would be discriminated against because you or they are Native American?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	22
No	78
DK/Ref	*



**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q89. Have you ever avoided doing things that you might normally do, such as using a car or public transportation, seeking medical care, or participating in political or social events, because you wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures?

**If Yes, ask:**

Q90. How often would you say you avoided doing things you might normally do, to avoid the police or government authority figures?

**Q89/Q90 Combo Table**

**Based on total half-sample A; n=175**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Have ever avoided doing things they might normally do because they wanted to avoid possibly interacting with the police or government authority figures	21
Frequently	3
Sometimes	8
Not often	10
No, have not	79
DK/Ref	*

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions about things that may have ever happened to you. Some of these may be difficult to think or talk about, but please do your best. Your honest answers can really help.

**(Asked of half-sample A; n=175)**

Q91. Do you believe that you or someone in your family has (INSERT ITEM) because you or they are Native American?

**Q91 Summary Table: % saying "Yes"**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Experienced sexual harassment	23
Been threatened or non-sexually harassed	34
Been unfairly stopped or treated by the police	32
Been unfairly treated by the courts	32
Experienced violence	38

**(Asked of half-sample; n=175)**

Q95. Do you believe that the police force in your area reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area, or are the police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Police force reflects the racial or ethnic background of the people living in your area	60
Police mostly of a different racial or ethnic background than the people living in your area	30
DK/Ref	10

Q96. In the past year, have you been personally contacted by representatives of a political party, candidate, community organization, or ballot issue encouraging you to vote or support their cause during an election? For example, someone knocking on your door or calling you on the phone?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	55
No	45
DK/Ref	*

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
<b>Registered to vote</b>	<b>78</b>
Registered at current address	70
Registered somewhere else	8
Not registered to vote	22
DK/Ref	*

Q97. Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered to vote somewhere else, or are you not registered to vote?

**If registered to vote, ask:**

Q98. Did you vote in the 2016 presidential election when Hillary Clinton ran against Donald Trump, did something prevent you from voting, or did you choose not to vote?

**Q97/Q98 Combo Table**  
**Based on total respondents**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Registered to vote	78
Yes, voted	62
No, did not vote	16
Not registered to vote	22
DK/Ref	*

## VI. Health Demographics

Q99. In general, how would you describe your own physical health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	Native Americans
Excellent	15
Very good	21
Good	30
Fair	18
Poor	16
DK/Ref	-

Q100. In general, how would you describe your own mental health – excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	Native Americans
Excellent	37
Very good	21
Good	26
Fair	12
Poor	4
DK/Ref	-

Q101. Does any disability keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	Native Americans
Yes	41
No	59
DK/Ref	*

Q102. Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told you that you have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or haven't they?

	Native Americans
Yes	50
No	50
DK/Ref	-

Q103. Do you receive regular care from the Veterans Administration?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	6
No	94
DK/Ref	-

Q104. Do you receive regular care from the Indian Health Service or tribal or urban Indian clinics?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	34
No	66
DK/Ref	*

Q105. Do you have a regular doctor or health care professional that provides most of your health care when you are sick or have a health concern, or do you not?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	76
No	23
DK/Ref	1

Q106. Where do you usually go when you are sick or when you need advice about your health? Is it a hospital emergency room, a clinic at a hospital, a neighborhood clinic or health center, a private doctor's office, or do you have no usual place of care?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Hospital emergency room	11
Clinic at a hospital	16
Neighborhood clinic or health center	25
Private doctor's office	33
No usual place of care	11
Urgent Care (vol)	-
Veterans Administration/Military care (vol)	1
Other	2
DK/Ref	*

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	83
No	17
DK/Ref	-

Q107. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

**If covered by health insurance, ask:**

Q108. Which of the following is your **main** source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, a plan through your parents, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

**Q107/Q108 Combo Table**  
**Based on total respondents**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes, covered by health insurance	83
Plan through your employer	27
Plan through your spouse's employer	4
Plan you purchased yourself either through an insurance company or state or federal marketplace	7
Medicare	21
Medicaid	14
Plan through your parents	5
Veterans administrative/Military (vol)	1
Somewhere else	3
DK/Ref	1
No, not covered by health insurance	17
DK/Ref	-

## VII. Demographics

### Self-Reported Gender Table

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Male	50
Female	50

### Age Table

	<b>Native Americans</b>
18 to 29	23
30 to 49	33
50 to 64	28
65 or older	16
Refused	*

D3. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
<b>High school or less (NET)</b>	<b>60</b>
Less than high school (grades 1-11, grade 12, but no diploma)	17
High school graduate or equivalent (e.g. GED)	44
Some college but no degree (incl. 2 year occupational or vocational programs)	24
<b>College or post graduate (NET)</b>	<b>15</b>
College graduate (e.g. BA, AB, BS)	10
Postgraduate (e.g. MA, MS,, Med, MSW, MBA, MD, DDs, PhD, JD, LLB, DVM)	4
DK/Ref	1

D4. Are you currently employed full-time, part-time, or not currently employed?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Employed full-time	40
Employed part-time	12
Not currently employed	48
DK/Ref	-

D10. Are you currently enrolled as a member with a Native American tribe?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Yes	49
No	51
DK/Ref	*

D11. Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed or have you never been married?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Married	33
Living with a partner	9
Divorced	16
Separated	6
Widowed	9
Never been married	26
Refused	1

#### **LGBTQ Identity Table**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Straight and cisgender	92
LGBTQ	6
Refused	2



**D12/D12a/D12b Income Summary Table**

	<b>Native Americans</b>
<\$25,000 per year	39
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	29
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	9
\$75,000 or more	16
Unspecified under \$100,000	5
Don't know	1
Refused	1

D15. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

	<b>Native Americans</b>
Republican	23
Democrat	30
Independent	30
Other	11
DK/Ref	6