

THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT



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THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT:

A 50-STATE SURVEY

REPORT #112: ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS: ELECTION AND PERSONAL SAFETY ISSUES

USA, November 2024

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THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT

Report of November 30, 2024, v.1

The Civic Health and Institutions Project
and
The COVID States Project

A joint initiative of:

Northeastern University,
Harvard University,
Rutgers University,
University of Rochester

This report is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

This research was partly supported by a grant from the *Knight Foundation*.

We also received generous support from the *Russell Sage Foundation*.

The project was also supported by the *Peter G. Peterson Foundation*.

Data collection was supported in part by *Amazon*.

Our work was made possible through the continued financial and logistic support provided by *Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and University of Rochester*.



Northeastern University
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The Civic Health and Institutions Project

and

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Note on methods:

Between August 30, 2024 and October 24, 2024, we collected a total of 30,767 responses from individuals aged 18 and older across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia over three separate surveys. The first survey was fielded from August 30, 2024 to October 8, 2024 with 23,911 respondents, the second from September 24, 2024 to October 8, 2024 with 3,007 respondents, and the third from October 4, 2024 to October 24, 2024 with 3,849 respondents. The surveys were conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample. Extensive data quality checks were employed. Some questions were asked over multiple surveys, while others were only asked in one survey. Please see Appendix A for additional methods and weighting details and specific sample sizes.

More information on methodology is available at www.chip50.org/survey-methodology.

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Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI): Election and Personal Safety Issues

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In the presidential election, AAPI respondents across the country and across Southern states preferred Vice President Kamala Harris over former president Donald Trump, more so than the general population did: 48% of AAPI respondents in the South preferred Harris, compared to 35% from that region more generally, while 50% of AAPI respondents nationally chose Harris, versus 31% for Trump. Nationally, the general population was roughly split, with 40% for Harris and 38% for Trump.
- AAPI respondents in the South were roughly split over whether Trump handled the job well when he was last president, with 40% saying they approved to some degree, compared to 43% saying they disapproved.
- However, AAPI respondents nationally disapproved of Trump's handling of the job by a greater degree (48% strongly disapprove or disapprove, compared to 34% strongly approve/approve.) In this survey, the general population was also split, with 42% saying they strongly approved or approved of Trump's performance, versus 41% disapproving.
- Asked to rate parties and candidates by degree of favorability, AAPI respondents nationally were more favorable to Democrats (61 points average on a 1-100 scale) than Republicans (52 points.) Southern AAPI respondents rated Donald Trump (60 points) higher than Joe Biden (54 points), but lower than Kamala Harris (65 points.)

- Compared to the general population, slightly fewer AAPI respondents in the South and nationally reported feeling “very safe” in their home. Among the general population, 55% said they felt very safe in their home, versus 49% among Southern AAPI respondents and 48% among AAPI persons nationally.
- 48% of AAPI respondents in the South and 51% of AAPI respondents nationally said that the way U.S. politicians talk about China may contribute to stereotypes either a lot or a fair amount. 40% of the general population also believed this to be the case.

Introduction

The Asian American and Pacific Islander population may play a key role in helping to decide the outcome of the 2024 presidential election in a number of swing states. The election is also historic for the AAPI community, as Vice President Kamala Harris is the first major party nominee of AAPI descent. With an estimated population of at least 20 million persons, the AAPI community is diverse and spans a [large number of countries](#) of descent/origin.

This survey explores the AAPI community's views both with regard to the 2024 election season and more broadly relating to general impressions of personal and community security. As more U.S. politicians voice criticism of China, in particular, the potential for a backlash among AAPI persons may increase, and this survey seeks to quantify the feelings and perceptions of AAPI people, as well as those of the general population.

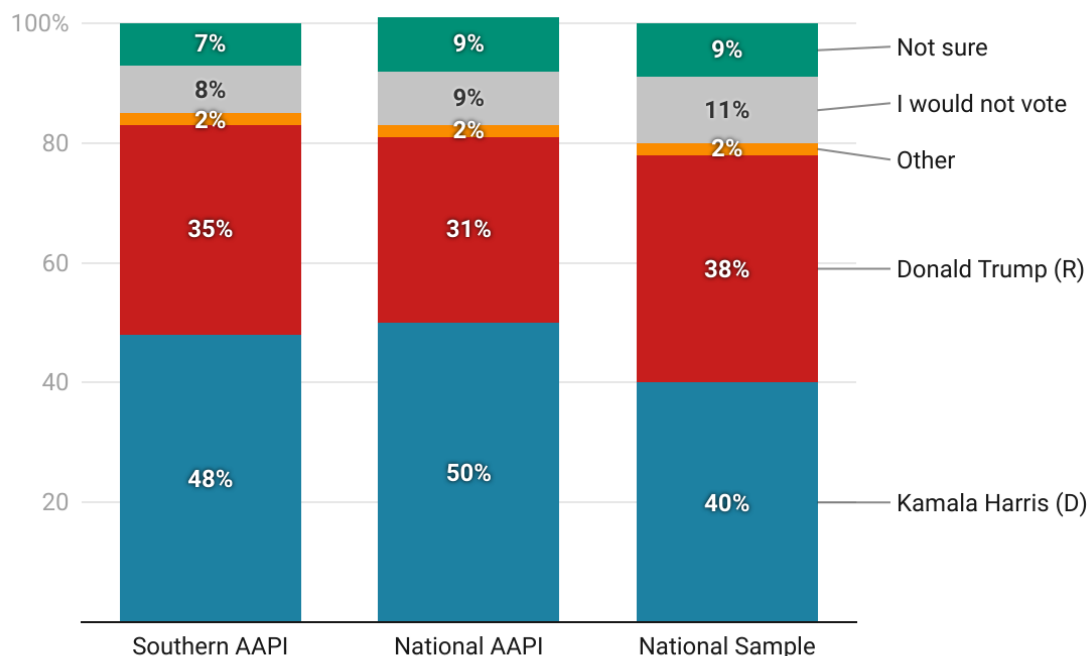
To better understand possible regional differences and dynamics in the United States, this survey focuses on a sample of AAPI persons who live among the states of the American South (899 respondents), as well as a national AAPI sample (2,999 respondents). We provide a general population sample of Americans of all backgrounds (30,767 respondents) as a point of comparison.

Below are highlights from the survey; full data tables are included in the Appendix.

Preference for Harris over Trump

In the presidential election, AAPI respondents across the country and across Southern states preferred Vice President Kamala Harris over former president Donald Trump, more so than the general population did, the latter of whom were nearly evenly split in the survey (40% Harris vs. 38% Trump). 48% of AAPI respondents in the South preferred Harris, compared to 35% from that region who preferred Trump. 50% of AAPI respondents nationally chose Harris, versus 31% for Trump.

If the 2024 U.S. presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 814), National AAPI Sample (N = 2999), National Sample (N = 30767), 8/30/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

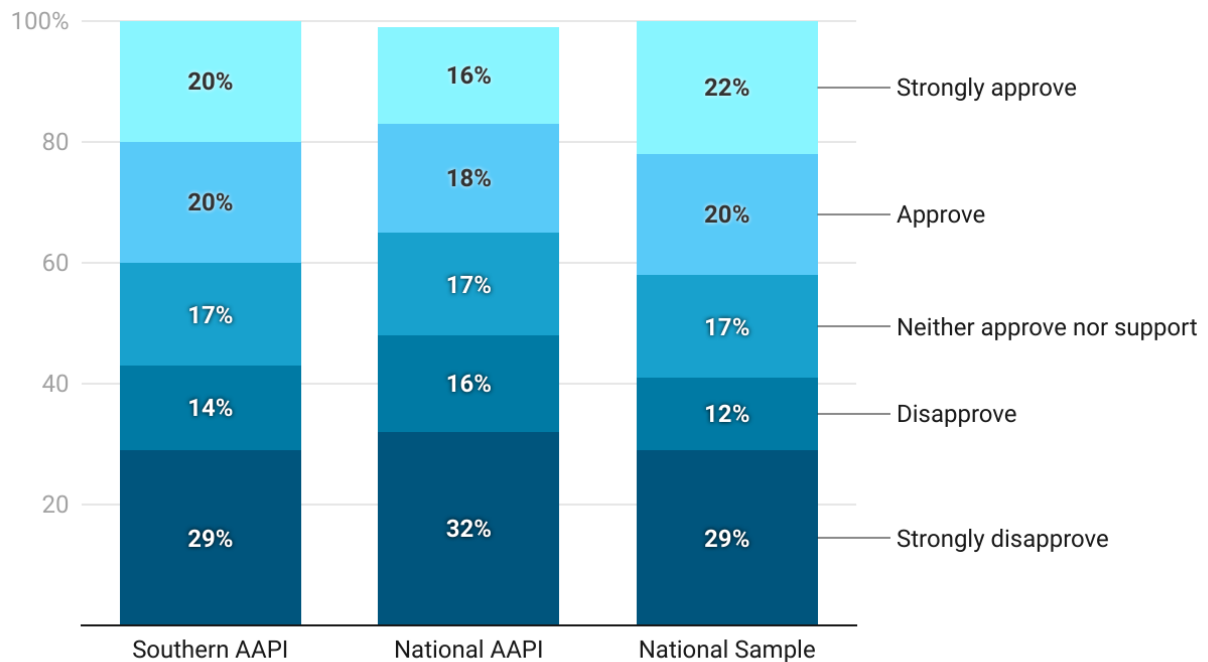
Figure 1.

Split Verdict on Past Trump Presidency

AAPI respondents in the South were roughly split over whether Trump handled the job well when he was president (2017-2021), with 40% saying they approved to some degree, compared to 43% saying they disapproved. However, AAPI respondents

nationally disapproved of Trump’s handling of the job by a greater degree (48% strongly disapprove or disapprove, compared to 34% strongly approve/approve.) In this survey, the general population was also split, with 42% saying they strongly approved or approved of Trump’s performance, versus 41% disapproving.

Did you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump handled his job as president?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 814), National AAPI Sample (N = 2999), National Sample (N = 30767), 8/30/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 2.

AAPI Sentiments on Politics and Race

Survey respondents were asked to rate various political and racial groups by degree of favorability, on a scale of 1 to 100. Nationally, AAPI respondents were more favorable to Democrats (61 points average) than Republicans (52 average.) Southern AAPI respondents rated Donald Trump (60 average) higher than Joe Biden (54), but lower than Kamala Harris (65 average.) On racial categories, AAPI respondents both in the South and nationally expressed preferences that were substantially comparable to the general population.

How would you rate each of the following groups on the feeling thermometer?

Mean for each rating on a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 = "Unfavorable, cold" and 100 = "Favorable, warm"

■ Southern AAPI
 ■ National AAPI
 ■ National Sample

Republicans



Democrats



Donald Trump



Joe Biden



Kamala Harris



Asian people



Black people



Hispanic people



White people



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 325), National AAPI Sample (N = 1378), National Sample (N = 23911), 8/30/2024 - 10/8/2024

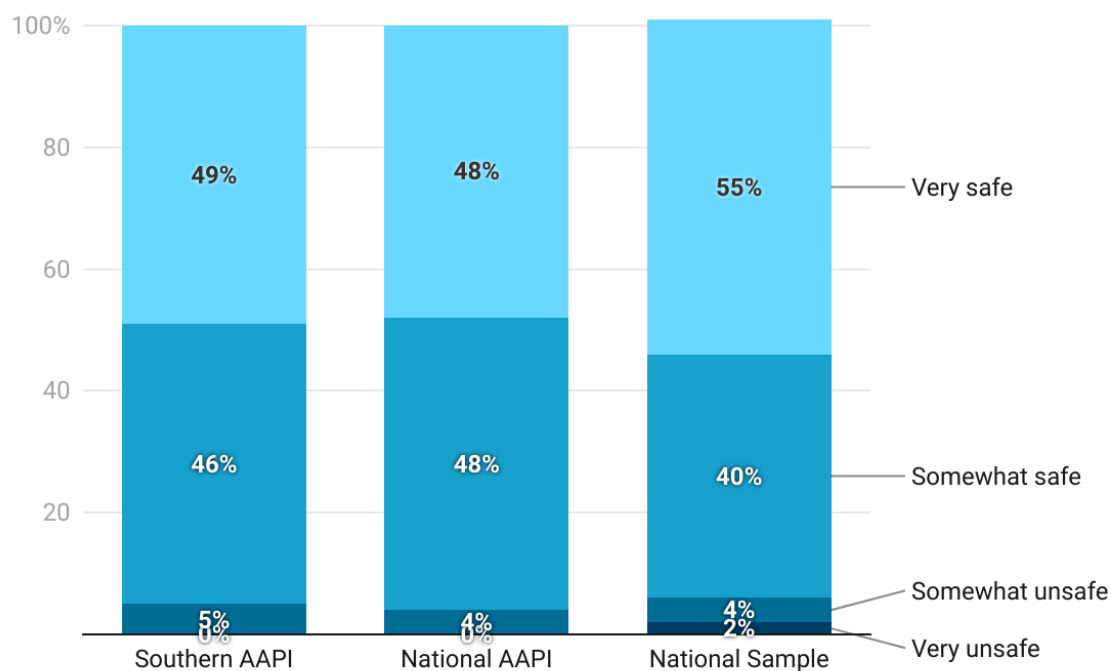
Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 3.

Sense of Safety in the Home

Compared to the general population, slightly fewer AAPI respondents in the South and nationally reported feeling “very safe” in their home. Among the general population, 55% said they felt very safe in their home, versus 49% among Southern AAPI respondents and 48% among AAPI persons nationally. Overall, however, the total number of persons saying they felt very safe or somewhat safe was nearly the same across AAPI and general population respondents.

How safe do you generally feel in your home?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), National Sample (N = 3849), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

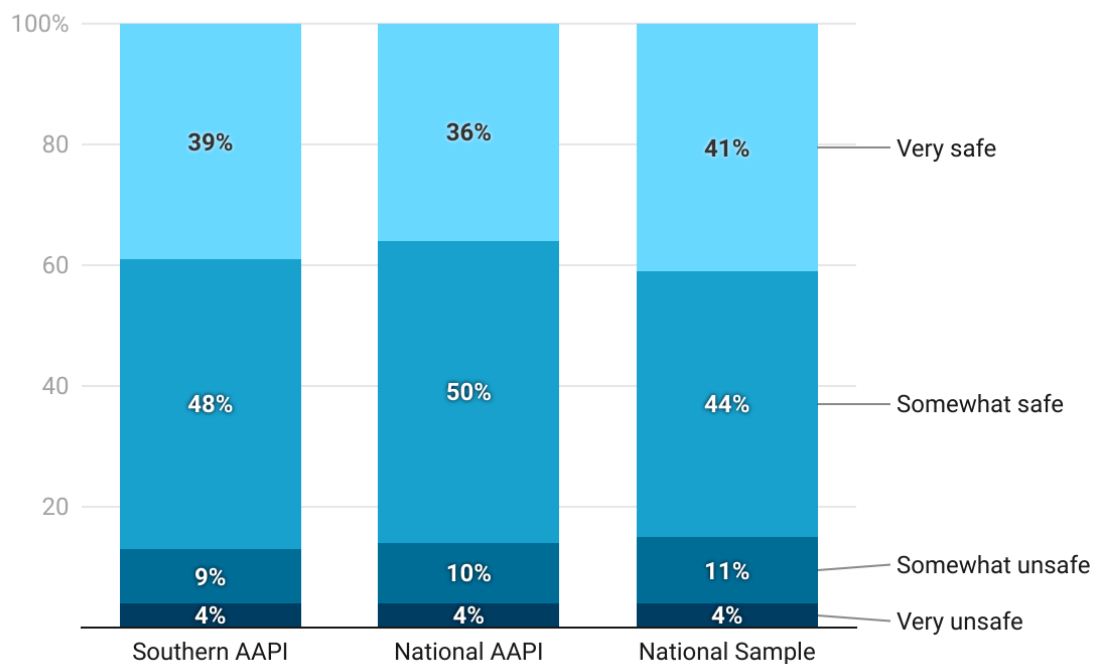
Figure 4.

Neighborhood Safety Levels

We also asked respondents about how safe they felt in their neighborhood. As with safety in the home, the total number of respondents reporting very safe or somewhat safe was not significantly different among Southern AAPI, national AAPI, and general

population respondents. However, there were small differences in terms of intensity of feeling, as 41% of the general population said they felt very safe, compared to 36% among AAPI nationally.

How safe do you generally feel in your neighborhood?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), National Sample (N = 3849), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

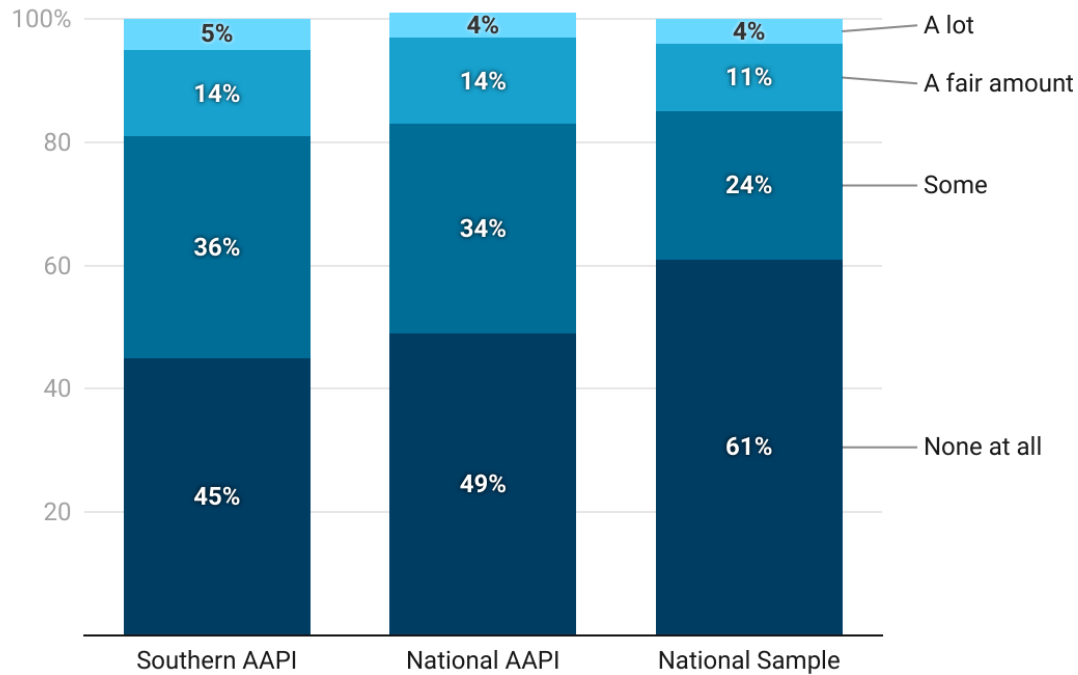
Figure 5.

Awareness of Atlanta Spa Shooting Story

The [killing of 8 Asian American persons](#) in Atlanta at a spa facility in 2021 prompted widespread fears of more such hate crimes among the AAPI community. Survey respondents were asked how much information they had heard about these killings, to assess the ongoing resonance of the story.

Three years after the murders, 55% of AAPI persons in the South reported having seen at least some information, compared to 39% among respondents in the general population.

How much information have you seen about the 2021 Atlanta Spa Shooting?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), National Sample (N = 3849), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

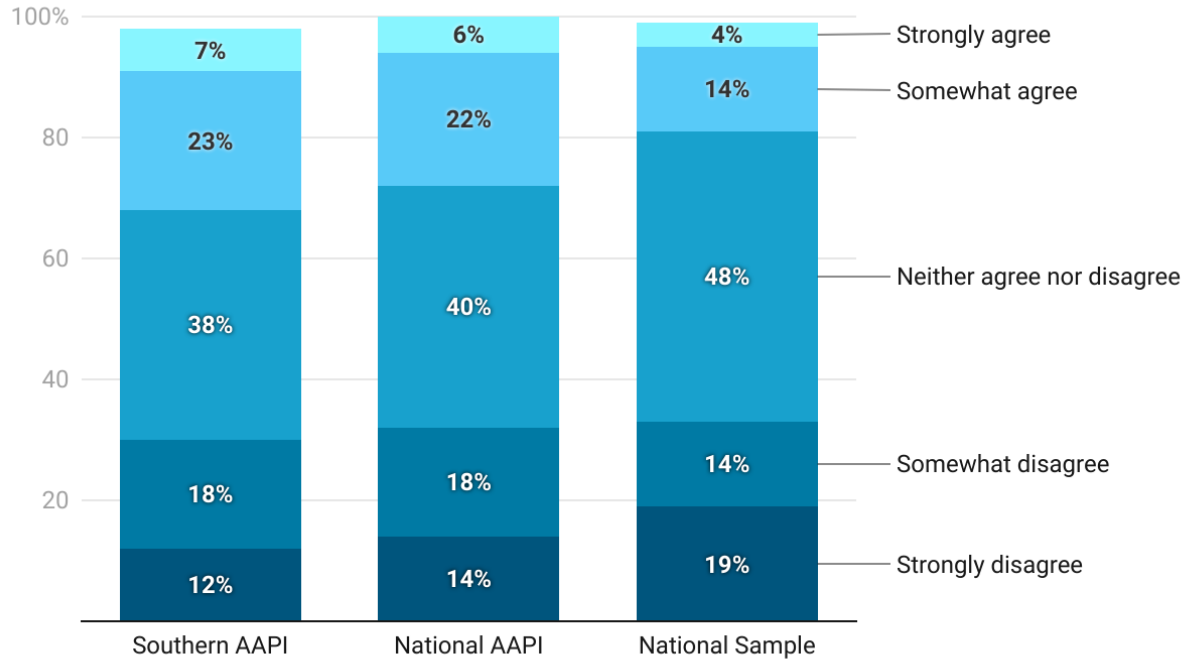
Figure 6.

Perceived Safety of Asian Americans

Asked about whether persons of Asian background are less safe than other residents in their community, 18% of the general population strongly or somewhat agreed, while 30% of Southern AAPI and 28% of national AAPI respondents strongly or somewhat agreed.

On this question, there was a fair amount of uncertainty across all groups, as 48% of the general population indicated “neither agree nor disagree,” compared to 38% among Southern AAPI and 40% among national AAPI respondents.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: People of Asian background are less safe than other residents of my community.



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), National Sample (N = 3849), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

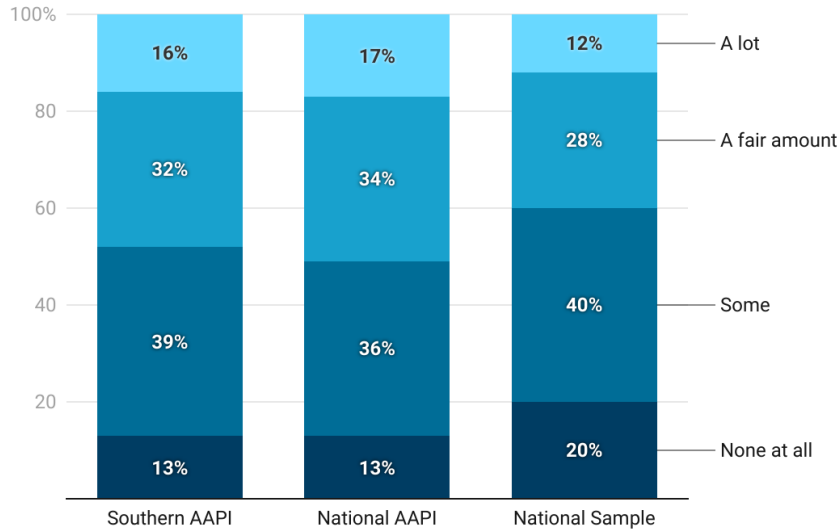
Figure 7.

Political Talk about China and Asian Stereotypes

The critical way that American politicians sometimes talk about China may affect perceptions of Asian Americans more generally, given deeply embedded stereotypes and ignorance of national and ethnic differences.

The survey explored these dynamics, and 48% of AAPI respondents in the South and 51% of AAPI respondents nationally said that such talk by politicians may contribute to stereotypes a lot or a fair amount. This compares with 40% among the general population.

How much do you think the way politicians' talk about China contributes to stereotypes of Asian Americans?



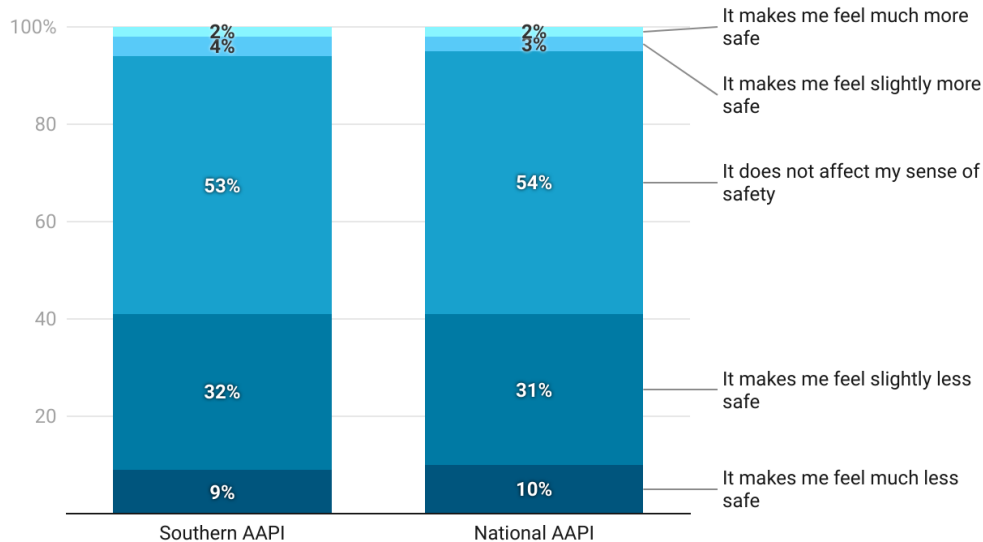
Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), National Sample (N = 3849), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 8.

Personal Safety and China Criticism

When politicians criticize China, does that affect how safe you feel?



Southern AAPI Sample (N = 448), National AAPI Sample (N = 1458), 10/4/2024 - 10/24/2024

Source: The Civic Health and Institutions Project (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and the University of Rochester) • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 9.

When politicians criticize China, 41% of AAPI respondents in the South and AAPI respondents nationally said it made them feel less safe, while 53% of Southern AAPI and 54% of national AAPI respondents said it did not affect their sense of safety.

Conclusion

In the presidential election, AAPI respondents across the country and across Southern states preferred Vice President Kamala Harris over former president Donald Trump, while AAPI respondents in the South were roughly split over whether Trump handled the job well when he was last president, with 40% saying they approved to some degree, compared to 43% saying they disapproved. Asked to rate parties and candidates by degree of favorability, AAPI respondents nationally were more favorable to Democrats than Republicans.

The survey also asked about safety concerns: Compared to the general population, slightly fewer AAPI respondents in the South and nationally reported feeling “very safe” in their home. Further, 48% of AAPI respondents in the South and 51% of AAPI respondents nationally said that the way U.S. politicians talk about China may contribute to stereotypes either a lot or a fair amount, while 40% of the general population also believed this to be the case.

Appendix A: Detailed Methods

Between August 30, 2024 and October 24, 2024, we collected a total of 30,767 responses from individuals aged 18 and older across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia over three separate surveys. The first survey was fielded from August 30, 2024 to October 8, 2024 with 23,911 respondents, the second from September 24, 2024 to October 8, 2024 with 3,007 respondents, and the third from October 4, 2024 to October 24, 2024 with 3,849 respondents. The surveys were conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample. Extensive data quality checks were employed. Some questions were asked over multiple surveys, while others were only asked in one survey.

The comparison groups are the Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population in the Southern United States (people living in AL, AK, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, or WV), the national AAPI population, and a U.S. nation sample of respondents above the age of 18. The Southern AAPI sample is weighted on age, education, and gender to reflect the demographics of the Asian population in the Southern United States.

The national AAPI population is weighted on age, education, and gender to reflect the demographics of the national Asian population. The national sample is weighted on gender, race, age, education, urbanicity, and 2020 vote to reflect the U.S. national population. Note that while the AAPI comparison groups include Pacific Islanders, samples are weighted to reflect the age, education, and gender proportions of the Asian population. This is due to data availability and the small percentage of Pacific Islanders that comprise the AAPI samples. Non-responses were excluded from the calculation of reported percentages. More information on the methodology is available at www.chip50.org/survey-methodology.

Note: Calculations of counts, percentages, means and standard deviations are weighted for all samples. Any slight discrepancies between the true sample size and weighted sample sizes among the weighted national sample are due to the weighting procedure. Non-responses are not included, so the total number of responses may be below the actual reported sample sizes in each survey.

Appendix B: Data Tables

Questions asked across all surveys

(Southern AAPI sample = 814, National AAPI = 2,999, Nation Sample = 30,767)

Table 1: If the 2024 U.S. presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Kamala Harris (D)	387	47.6%	1491	49.7%	12419	40.4%
Donald Trump (R)	285	35%	940	31.4%	11611	37.8%
Other	17	2.1%	50	1.7%	580	1.9%
I would not vote	67	8.3%	256	8.5%	3469	11.3%
Not sure	57	7%	260	8.7%	2639	8.6%
Total	813	100%	2998	100%	30719	100%

Table 2: Did you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump handled his job as president?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Strongly disapprove	233	28.7%	955	32%	8950	29.2%
Disapprove	112	13.8%	469	15.7%	3618	11.8%
Neither approve nor support	139	17.1%	522	17.5%	5136	16.8%
Approve	166	20.4%	547	18.3%	6085	19.8%
Strongly approve	163	20%	492	16.5%	6874	22.4%
Total	813	100%	2985	100%	30663	100%

Table 3: Do you approve or disapprove of Kamala Harris as a candidate for president?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Strongly disapprove	212	26.2%	659	22%	8924	29.1%
Disapprove	84	10.4%	294	9.8%	3053	10%
Neither approve nor support	145	17.9%	603	20.1%	5853	19.1%
Approve	181	22.4%	698	23.3%	5185	16.9%
Strongly approve	188	23.2%	738	24.7%	7624	24.9%
Total	812	100%	2992	100%	30640	100%

Question only asked in August 30, 2024 to October 8, 2024 survey

(Southern AAPI sample = 325, National AAPI = 1,378, Nation Sample = 23,911)

Table 4: How would you rate each of the following groups on the feeling thermometer?
(Rated on a Scale of 0 to 100 with 0 = "Unfavorable, cold" and 100 = "Favorable, warm")

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Republicans	57.4	31.0	52.1	29.8	55.4	30.4
Democrats	59.8	30.0	61.5	28.9	57.0	30.6
Donald Trump	63.5	32.9	57.8	33.7	62.2	33.4
Joe Biden	53.7	31.8	55.9	30.4	52.4	32.2
Kamala Harris	65.0	31.7	67.0	29.9	62.4	33.3
Asian people	80.4	21.0	78.1	21.5	72.7	24.1
Black people	72.9	24.7	70.1	24.2	74.4	24.1
Hispanic people	73.4	23.6	70.5	23.8	73.9	24.1
White people	70.6	23.8	68.7	23.6	75.4	22.9
Jews	70.6	24.7	68.2	24.4	71.1	25.1
Muslims	65.8	28.1	63.5	26.7	64.4	27.7

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Republicans	57.4	31.0	52.1	29.8	55.4	30.4
Democrats	59.8	30.0	61.5	28.9	57.0	30.6
Donald Trump	63.5	32.9	57.8	33.7	62.2	33.4
Joe Biden	53.7	31.8	55.9	30.4	52.4	32.2
Kamala Harris	65.0	31.7	67.0	29.9	62.4	33.3
Asian people	80.4	21.0	78.1	21.5	72.7	24.1
Black people	72.9	24.7	70.1	24.2	74.4	24.1
Hispanic people	73.4	23.6	70.5	23.8	73.9	24.1
Immigrants	65.5	27.7	64.5	26.4	62.4	28.3
People from Haiti	64.0	28.6	61.2	27.1	62.7	28.3
Scientists	73.3	24.0	73.5	22.9	71.6	24.5

Questions only asked in October 4, 2024 to October 24, 2024 survey

(Southern AAPI sample = 448, National AAPI = 1,458, Nation Sample = 3,849)

Table 5: How safe do you generally feel in your home?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Very unsafe	2	0.4%	7	0.5%	61	1.6%
Somewhat unsafe	20	4.6%	55	3.8%	147	3.8%
Somewhat safe	206	46.1%	699	48%	1534	39.9%
Very safe	219	48.9%	696	47.7%	2099	54.6%
Total	447	100%	1457	100%	3841	100%

Table 6: How safe do you generally feel in your neighborhood?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Very unsafe	17	3.8%	53	3.7%	168	4.4%
Somewhat unsafe	39	8.6%	153	10.5%	432	11.2%
Somewhat safe	217	48.4%	724	49.7%	1674	43.5%
Very safe	176	39.2%	528	36.2%	1573	40.9%
Total	448	100%	1457	100%	3848	100%

Table 7: How much information have you seen about the 2021 Atlanta Spa Shooting?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
None at all	201	44.8%	708	48.6%	2350	61.1%
Some	162	36.3%	489	33.6%	920	23.9%
A fair amount	63	14%	207	14.2%	432	11.2%
A lot	22	4.9%	53	3.6%	145	3.8%
Total	448	100%	1458	100%	3847	100%

Table 8: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: People of Asian background are less safe than other residents of my community.

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Strongly disagree	55	12.3%	197	13.5%	736	19.1%
Somewhat disagree	83	18.5%	270	18.5%	545	14.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	172	38.4%	579	39.8%	1858	48.3%
Somewhat agree	105	23.5%	327	22.5%	532	13.8%
Strongly agree	33	7.3%	83	5.7%	174	4.5%
Total	448	100%	1456	100%	3844	100%

Table 9: How much do you think the way politicians talk about China contributes to stereotypes of Asian Americans?

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
None at all	58	12.9%	194	13.3%	767	20%
Some	174	38.9%	522	35.8%	1538	40%
A fair amount	143	31.8%	493	33.8%	1094	28.5%
A lot	73	16.4%	249	17.1%	442	11.5%
Total	448	100%	1458	100%	3840	100%

Table 10: When politicians criticize China, does that affect how safe you feel? (Asian respondents only)

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
It makes me feel much less safe	34	9.3%	122	9.7%
It makes me feel slightly less safe	119	32.2%	390	31.2%
It does not affect my sense of safety	194	52.6%	672	53.7%
It makes me feel slightly more safe	14	3.7%	41	3.3%
It makes me feel much more safe	8	2.1%	26	2.1%
Total	369	100%	1251	100%

Table 11: When politicians criticize China, how much does that endanger Asian-Americans?

	National Sample	
	Count	Percent
None at all	728	21%
Some	1362	39.3%
A fair amount	976	28.2%
A lot	397	11.5%
Total	3463	100%

Table 12: Should any of the following subjects be part of the primary/secondary school curriculum? (Please select all that apply)

	Southern AAPI		National AAPI		National Sample	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
African American Studies	45	10.1%	157	10.8%	2257	58.6%
Asian American Studies	62	13.8%	220	15.1%	2077	54%
Latino Studies	41	9.3%	141	9.7%	2070	53.8%
Gender Studies	41	9.1%	131	9%	1595	41.4%