

# STAATUS Index Report 2022

LAAUNCH | TATF





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# Abstract

The STAATUS (Social Tracking of Asian Americans in the U.S.) Index is a comprehensive, annual assessment of attitudes and stereotypes of Asian Americans by a representative sample of adults from across the country. The overall purpose of the study is to help improve understanding, belonging and acceptance of Asian Americans in our country.

This is the second consecutive year of the STAATUS Index; the inaugural study in 2021 was one of the first national analyses of American attitudes towards Asian Americans in 20 years.

Given the urgency to understand the root causes of prejudice and racism against Asian Americans, the survey addresses long-standing stereotypes (e.g., the “model minority” and “perpetual foreigner”) as well as current perceptions that lead to scapegoating and violence against the Asian American community.

This is especially relevant during times of crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The three main goals of the study are to:

- Increase public awareness about Asian American stereotypes and perceptions
- Provide data that government and community leaders can use to advocate for Asian American equity and inclusion
- Inform the development of impactful policies and programs that can improve the status of Asian Americans in the U.S.

The survey was conducted in partnership with our esteemed Academic Advisory Committee:

- Professor Paul Watanabe, University of Massachusetts/Boston, Chair
- Professor Russell Jeung, San Francisco State University

- Professor Erika Lee, University of Minnesota
- Professor Jennifer Lee, Columbia University
- Professor Pei-Te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Professor Mike Hoa Nguyen, University of Denver
- Professor Karthick Ramakrishnan, University of California, Riverside
- Professor Karen Umemoto, University of California, Los Angeles

We are delighted to collaborate also with leading AAPI research and data organizations, AAPI Data and StopAAPIHate.

# Executive Summary

Asian Americans face a somber reality in 2022: Despite a new administration, a relative decline in the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, and an improved economy, attacks against the Asian American community continue to increase at alarming rates.

No longer can we blame the current wave of anti-Asian American hate and violence on a single politician or on a pandemic.

The root causes are deeper, systemic and tied to the xenophobia, fear, and “othering”<sup>1</sup> of Asian Americans, manifested in harmful stereotypes and misperceptions, that have persisted in our society since Asians first arrived in the U.S.

This year’s expanded STAATUS Index builds on the work of the ground-breaking 2021 study to better understand these stereotypes and misperceptions

with a representative sample of Americans across racial groups, demographics, and geographies. The data from 5,113 respondents provide multiple important issues and opportunities:

- The U.S. is in the midst of a racial crisis, and there is broad agreement that people of color are much more discriminated against and much less advantaged than White Americans.
- Like Black and Latino Americans, Asian Americans face high levels of discrimination, yet many Americans are unaware of the spike in anti-Asian American racism and hate over the past year.
- Asian Americans are least likely among all racial groups to feel we belong and are accepted in the U.S., even if born in the U.S.

- On one hand, Americans see the contributions of Asian Americans to the U.S. and view Asian Americans in stereotypical “model minority” terms as nice, smart, hard-working, and successful in business<sup>2</sup>.
- On the other, an increasing percentage of Americans in 2022 question the loyalty of Asian Americans and blame Asian Americans for the COVID-19 epidemic, fueling the “perpetual foreigner” stereotype.



In addition to providing an annual diagnosis of the status of Asian Americans in U.S. society, the Index also provides potential solutions to address the stereotypes and misperceptions that contribute to racism and violence against Asian Americans:

- **Education** is the most recommended solution overall to combat anti-Asian racism. We need to support organizations preserving, commemorating, and teaching the long and diverse histories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders alongside the histories of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and other peoples of color and as part of the history of systemic racism in the United States; invest in teacher training and resources related to Asian American and Pacific Islander history both inside and outside of the classroom.
- **Resources, support, and protection** are needed for victims of anti-Asian racism and the Asian American community more broadly.

- **Narrative change** in news media, social media, and entertainment is also necessary to foster belonging and acceptance for Asian Americans; this will provide more accurate and multi-dimensional stories about Asian Americans to overcome ignorance related to the “model minority” and “perpetual foreigner” stereotypes.
- Further **data and research** about Asian American stereotypes and misperceptions is critical as well to provide a deeper understanding of sentiment in the U.S. towards Asian Americans and track our progress in these areas.

At LAAUNCH and TAAF, we are committed to working with our partners, academic leaders, community-based organizations, and multiracial allies in these areas to improve the status of Asian Americans and to promote prosperity and belonging for all Americans.





# Key Findings

## Race Relations

- The majority of Americans recognize that Asian Americans, Black Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans are being discriminated against and that White Americans are most advantaged by far.
- Nearly one-third of Americans overall are unaware that attacks against Asian Americans are increasing.

## Belonging and Acceptance

- Across all racial groups, Asian Americans are among the least likely to feel that they completely belong and are accepted in the U.S.; this is especially true for younger Asian Americans and Asian American women.
- Asian Americans born in the U.S. are less likely to feel they belong and are accepted than those born in a foreign country.

- Black, Latino, and Asian Americans see Asian Americans as people of color, whereas White Americans see Asian Americans as more similar to themselves. Asian Americans overwhelmingly see themselves as people of color.

## Perceptions and Stereotypes

- The majority of Americans still see Asian Americans in “model minority” terms – as smart, nice, and hard-working – and believe (incorrectly) that Asian Americans are well represented in leadership positions in corporate America.
- Over 70% of Americans believe Asian Americans have benefited the U.S., especially in the areas of positive economic impact, academic excellence, and medical advancements.

- Compared to 2021, Americans in 2022 are more likely to question the loyalty of Asian Americans and blame Asian Americans for COVID-19.

## Visibility and Awareness

- Most Americans cannot name a prominent Asian American when asked, and top names cited again are martial artist actors from decades ago.
- Americans still primarily see Asian American actors in stereotypical and negative roles in TV and movies.



## Recommendations

- Over 70% of Americans believe that anti-Asian American racism should be addressed.
- Education is the preferred solution overall to fight anti-Asian racism, especially as a large percentage of Americans cannot cite a significant Asian American historical event or policy.
- Asian Americans also seek stronger laws and greater protection for their community.
- Over 70% of Americans across all racial groups express interest in seeing more Asian American actors in TV and movies.





# Introduction

The STAATUS Index is based on multiple frameworks from social psychology, including the Stereotype Content Model developed by Professor Susan Fiske<sup>3</sup> in 2002 to analyze how dominant groups use two primary dimensions – competency and sociability – to assess the relative threat of “other” groups. In multiple studies, Asian Americans, Jews, and female professionals are found to be clustered into an outgroup that is generally respected but disliked. These groups are stereotyped as high in competence, resulting in respect, but viewed as having low sociability, resulting in dislike. This combination of perceptions engenders a mix of admiration, resentment, and envy.

Stereotyping of Asian Americans has been tracked for decades, and a review of these studies illustrates that the dominant group often characterizes Asian Americans along the

dimensions of competency and sociability. In a landmark study by Professors Katz and Braly<sup>4</sup> that launched stereotype research in 1933, Japanese people were seen as intelligent, industrious, progressive, and shrewd (competent), but shy and quiet (unsociable). Similarly, Chinese people were seen as sly (implying competence), but conservative, tradition-loving, superstitious, and loyal to family (implying a lack of mainstream sociability). A replication of this study in 2001 confirmed these stereotypes: both Chinese and Japanese people were seen as especially intelligent, industrious, and scientifically-minded (highly competent), but also loyal to family and reserved (not sociable with dominant group).

History has shown repeatedly that “envious stereotyping” during times of crisis can lead to scapegoating, violence, and even genocide. Tragic

examples include the persecution and eventual mass murder of the Armenians during the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the Jews before and during World War II, and the Tutsis during the Rwandan Civil War from 1990–1994. Professor Peter Glick, who specializes in bias, stereotypes, and discrimination research said in 2002, “when a history of envious prejudice collides with a precipitous decline in a society’s life conditions, successful minorities are at grave risk.”<sup>5</sup> His prediction speaks directly to the racism and violence Asian Americans are facing today during the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing geopolitical and economic competition between the U.S. and China.

While stereotyping can lead to extreme outcomes such as violence, this harmful behavior also has serious mental health implications, specifically on Asian Americans’ sense of belonging. In a 1992



study, Professor Hagerty et al.<sup>6</sup> posited that a sense of belonging is a vital mental health concept that has two defining attributes: “(a) valued involvement or the experience of feeling valued, needed, or accepted; and (b) fit, the perception that the individual’s characteristics articulate with the system or environment.”

Belonging, as articulated by John A Powell of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at UC Berkeley, is the opposite of “othering,” when societies undergoing major change experience anxiety and exclude specific groups viewed as potential threats to the “favored” group.<sup>7</sup> Politicians and other leaders promote Asian American stereotypes and misperceptions to achieve their own agendas. Quantifying and addressing this “culture of fear” are major outcomes of the STAATUS Index.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2017/nov/08/us-vs-them-the-sinister-techniques-of-othering-and-how-to-avoid-them>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/25/999874296/6-charts-that-dismantle-the-trope-of-asian-americans-as-a-model-minority>

<sup>3</sup> Lin MH, Kwan VS, Cheung A, Fiske ST. Stereotype content model explains prejudice for an envied outgroup: Scale of anti-Asian American Stereotypes. Pers Soc Psychol Bull. 2005 Jan;31(1):34-47. doi: 10.1177/0146167204271320. PMID: 15574660.

<sup>4</sup> Katz, D., & Braly, K. (1933). Racial stereotypes of one hundred college students. The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, 28(3), 280-290. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0074049>

<sup>5</sup> Glick, Peter. (2002). Sacrificial Lambs Dressed in Wolves’ Clothing: Envious Prejudice, Ideology, and the Scapegoating of Jews. Understanding Genocide: The Social Psychology of the Holocaust. 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195133622.003.0006.

<sup>6</sup> HAGERTY, BONNIE M. K.; PATUSKY, KATHLEEN Developing a Measure Of Sense of Belonging, Nursing Research: January 1995 - Volume 44 - Issue 1 - p 9-13

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2017/nov/08/us-vs-them-the-sinister-techniques-of-othering-and-how-to-avoid-them>





# Methodology

The results in this report are based on a national survey of 5,113 U.S. residents, age 18 and over, including 2,840 Whites or Caucasians, 888 Blacks or African Americans, 1,023 Latinos or Hispanic Americans, and 1,074 Asians or Asian Americans. The survey was conducted online in English between February 10 to February 28, 2022 by Savanta Research.

Results are valid within +/-1.4% at the 95% confidence level. This margin of error increases with subgroup analyses.

The sample was weighted using population parameters (race, age, gender, education, and region) from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey for adults 18 years of age or older. This weighting reflects the national population.

Given the unique identities and perceptions of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) population, the focus of the STAATUS Index is on the Asian American population. Further research is needed to analyze the perceptions and attitudes towards the NHPI community.



# Results and Analysis

We structure our analysis into five sections covering distinct themes.

In **Race Relations**, we provide an update on Americans' perceptions of racial issues in the U.S. with a focus on anti-Asian American discrimination and racism.

In **Belonging and Acceptance**, we delve into the question of whether Asian Americans and other racial groups of color feel like they belong and are accepted in the U.S.

In **Perceptions and Stereotypes**, we analyze long-standing stereotypes of the Asian American community, both positive and negative, and compare data from the 2021 and 2022 STAATUS Index surveys to document changes in American attitudes towards Asian Americans.

In **Visibility and Awareness**, we study how Asian Americans are seen and recognized in the U.S. public consciousness and in TV and movies.

Finally, in **Recommendations**, we suggest guidelines and actions based on the findings of the STAATUS Index for community leaders and policymakers to combat anti-Asian American discrimination and racism.





SECTION ONE

# Race Relations in America





Getting worse **50%**

% of Americans who think the relationships are...

Staying the same **26%**

Improving **20%**

Not Sure **4%**

## Race relations in America are getting worse

The majority of Americans believe race relations in the U.S. have declined in the last five years. By contrast, only 20% of Americans believe race relations have improved.



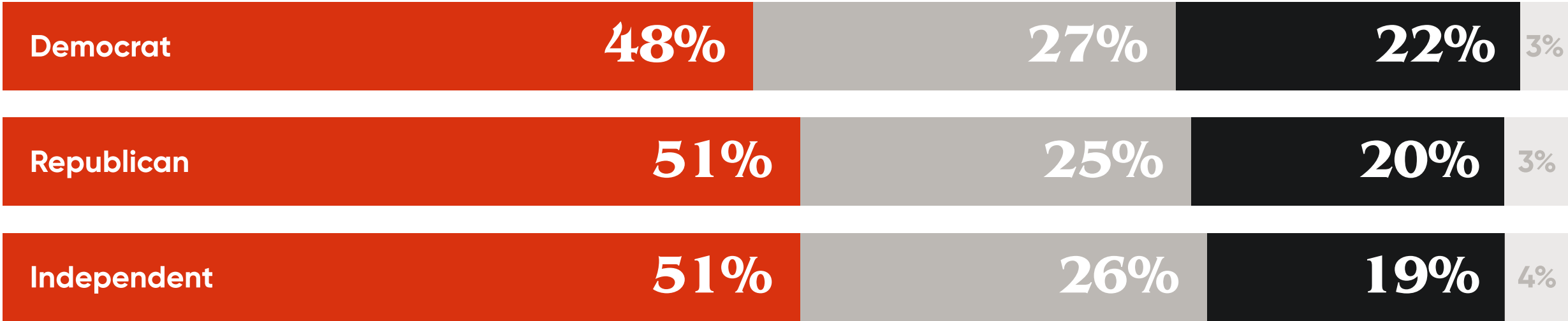
The pessimism concerning race relations is shared by respondents across the political spectrum; about half of all Democrats, Republicans, and Independents believe race relations have gotten worse.

We also see broad consensus on the crisis of America’s race relations across race and gender.

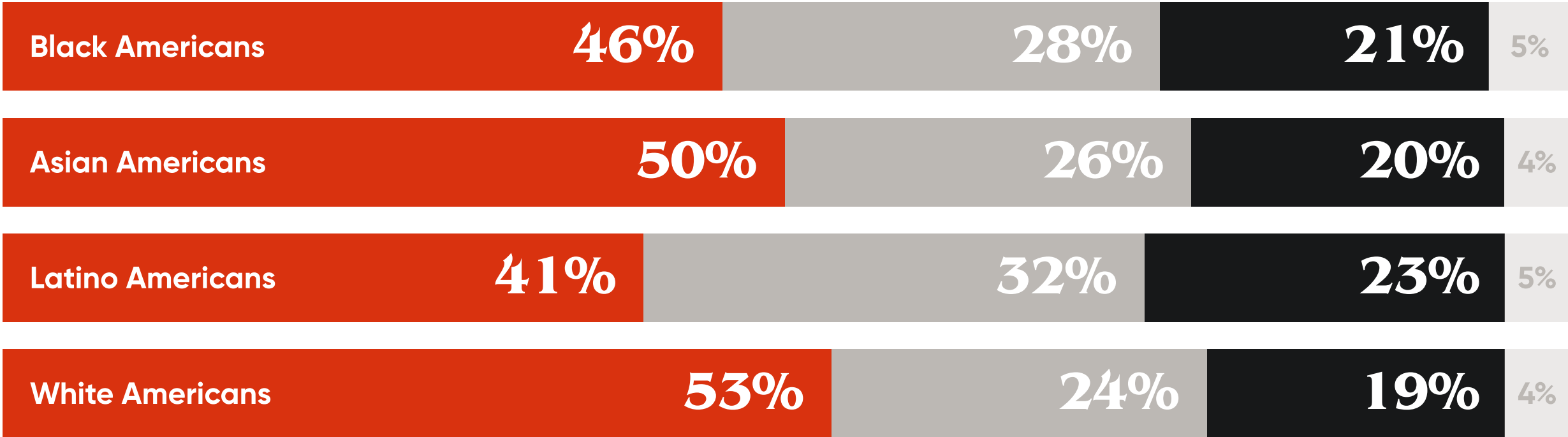
In the last 5 years, do you think the relationships between and among racial groups in the U.S. are...

Getting Worse   Staying the Same   Improving   Not Sure/Don't Know

By Political Affiliation



By Race



By Gender



\*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



## The majority of Americans recognize that Asian Americans are being discriminated against

When asked how different racial groups are being treated, 56% of respondents say Asian Americans are being discriminated against, while only 6% say Asian Americans are more advantaged compared to other groups.



# 56%

of Americans say Asian Americans  
are being discriminated against

# 6%

say Asian Americans  
are more advantaged

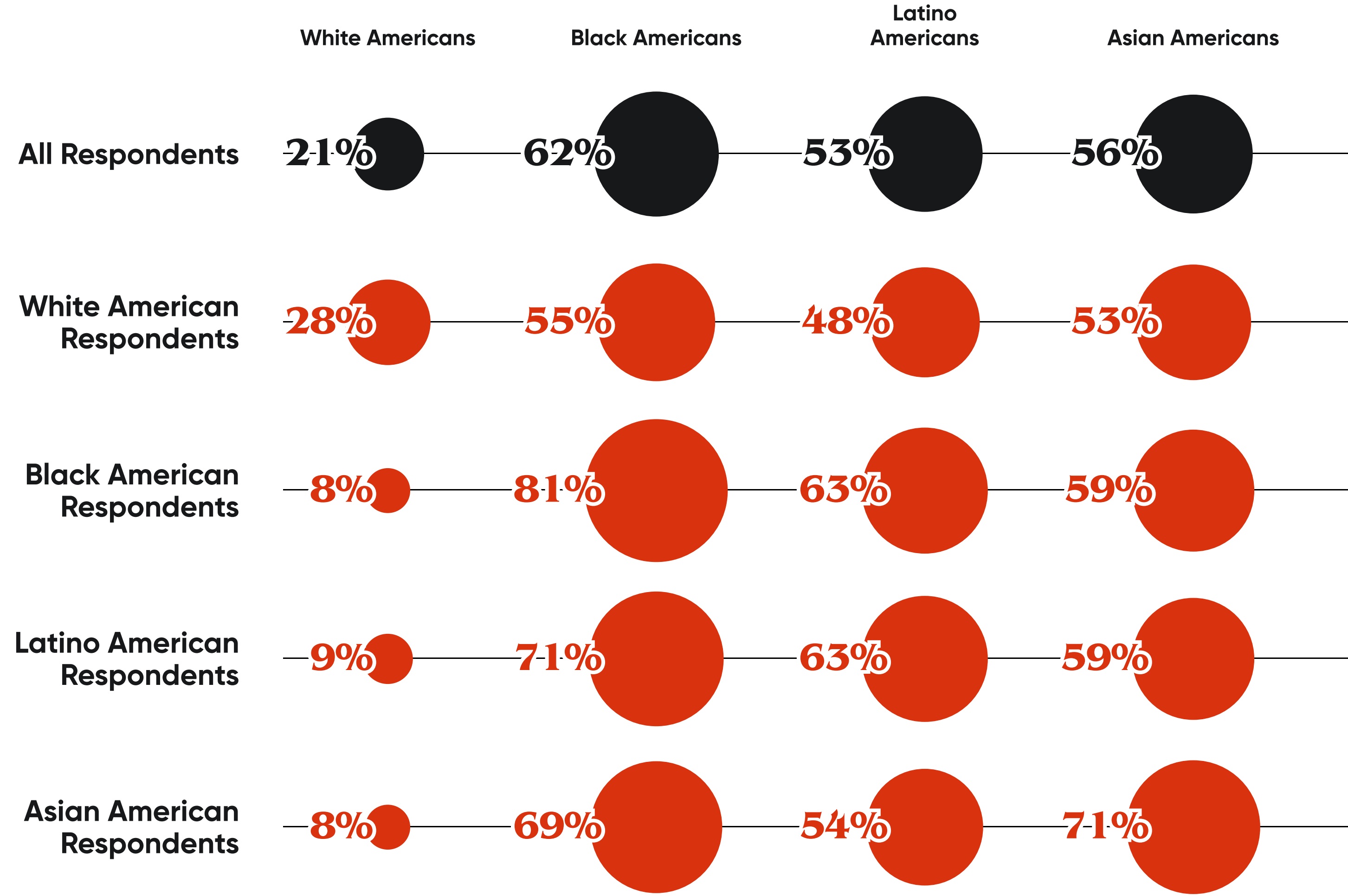


The majority of Americans also believe Black and Latino Americans are discriminated against.

White Americans, by contrast, are seen as least discriminated against in American society by a wide margin.



% of Americans who say the following groups are discriminated against in the U.S.

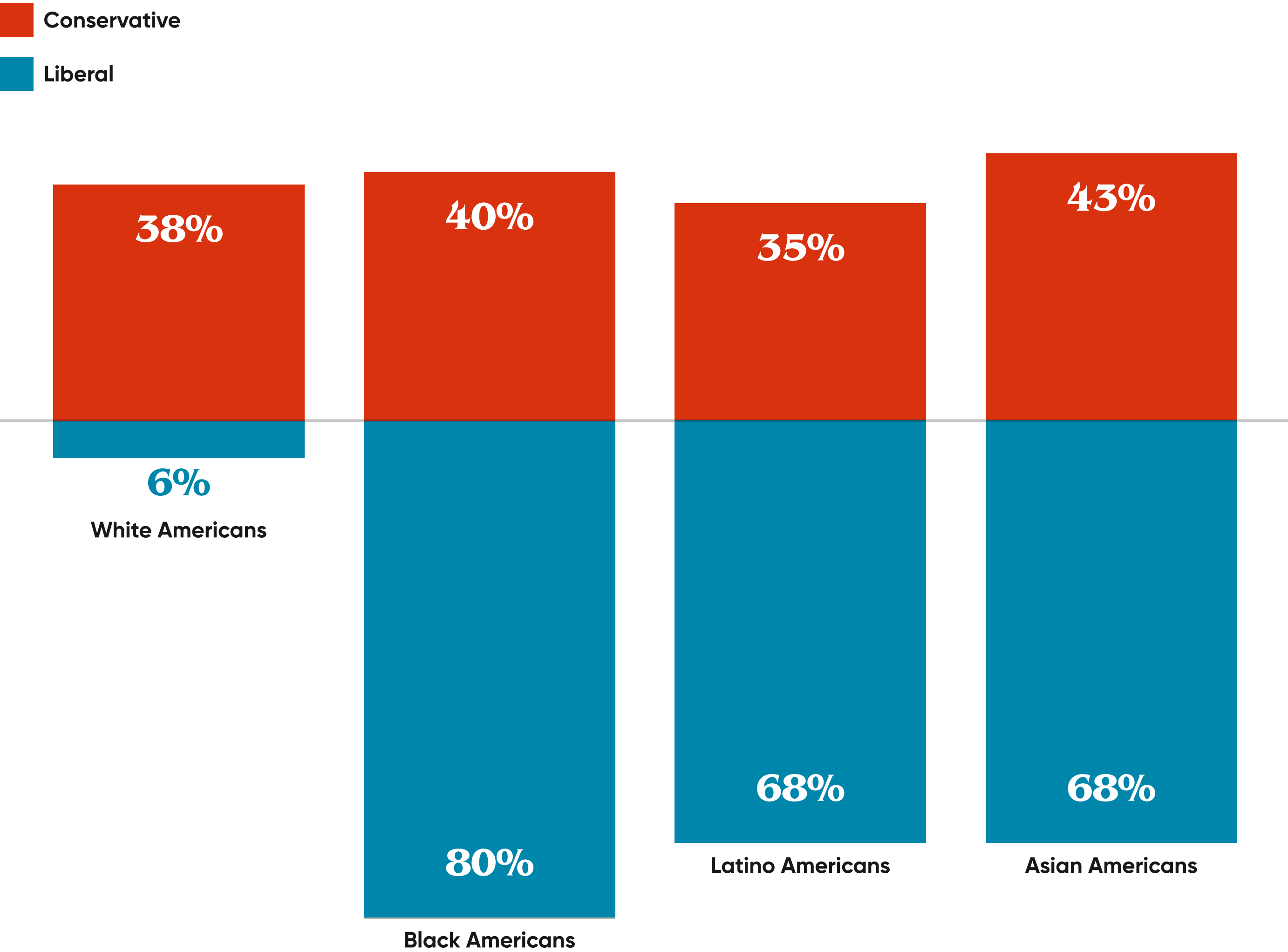




**Liberals are more likely to see people of color as being discriminated against, and are more likely to say that White Americans have an advantage**

Across other demographic characteristics such as race, gender, and income, we see widespread agreement that Asian Americans are facing strong discrimination.

% of Americans who say the following racial groups in the U.S. are discriminated against by political leaning





# Nearly one-third of Americans are unaware that attacks against Asian Americans are increasing

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, [reports](#) that anti-Asian hate crimes increased 339% in 2021 compared to 2020. AAPI Data [reports](#) that one in six Asian American adults experienced a hate crime or hate incident in 2021, up from one in eight in 2020. StopAAPIHate [reports](#) that assaults increased from 10.8% of the total hate incidents reported to their platform in 2020 to 16.6% in 2021.

Yet despite these statistics, over 30% of Americans are unaware of the increased attacks on Asian Americans or believe they have actually decreased.

29%  
Extremely Increased

38%  
Somewhat Increased

26%  
Stayed the Same

5%  
Somewhat Decreased

2%  
Extremely Decreased

In the past 12 months, assaults, hate crimes or any other form of racism against Asian Americans have...



# Education and political leaning affect awareness of attacks against Asian Americans

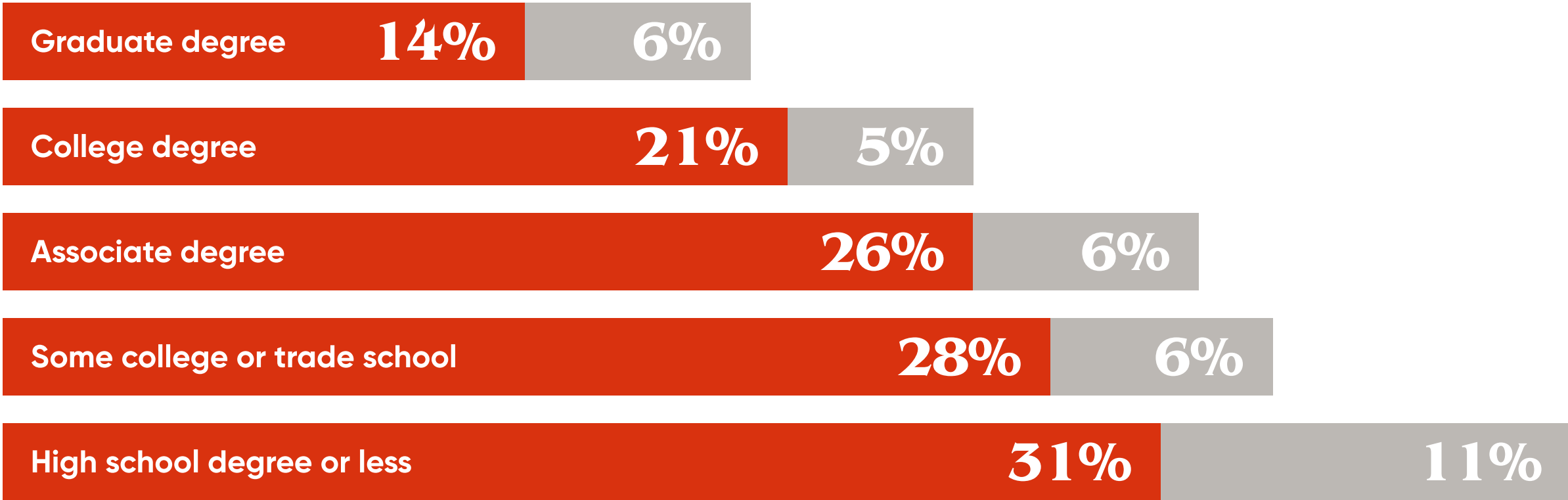
Americans who are more politically conservative and those with less education are more likely to say that attacks against Asian Americans have stayed the same or decreased.

The lack of awareness about anti-Asian American hate attacks points to an opportunity and need for the news media to better report and inform the public about these acts of violence and hate incidents.

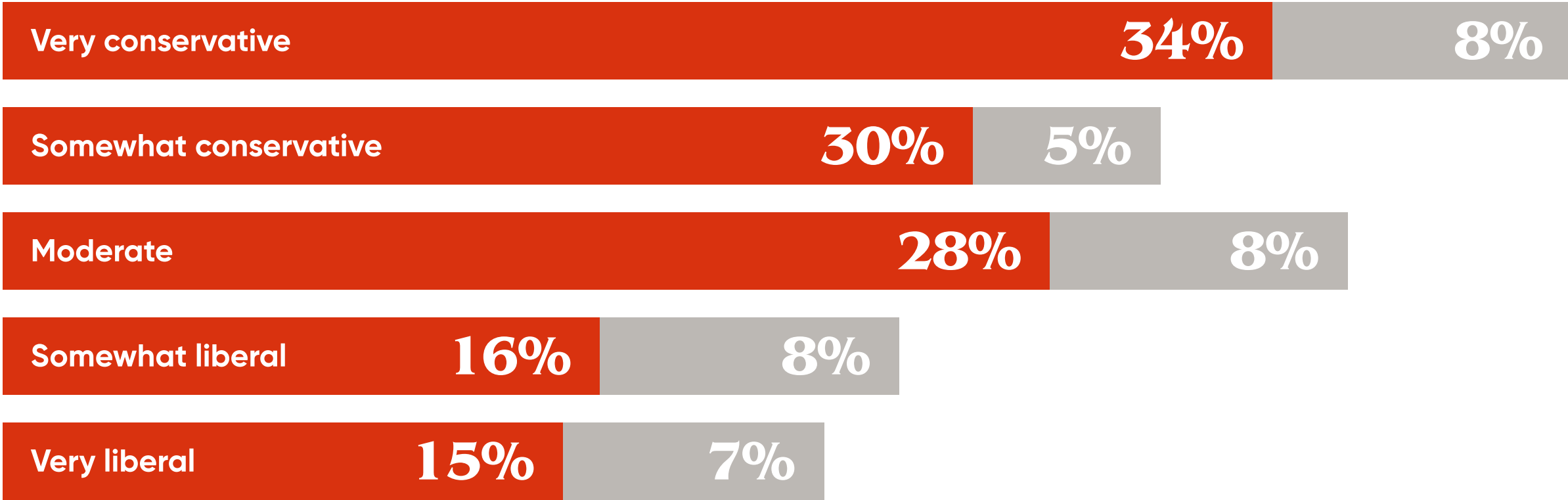
## % of Americans who say assaults, hate crimes, or any other form of racism against Asian Americans have stayed the same or decreased

Decreased Stayed the Same

### By Education Level



### By Political Leaning





# Belonging and Acceptance





A photograph of a Black man and a woman of Asian descent embracing warmly. The man is on the left, looking down at the woman on the right. They are both smiling. The woman has long dark hair and is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people at what appears to be a community gathering or festival.

Asian Americans are among the  
least likely racial groups in the U.S.  
to feel that they completely belong

29%

of Asian Americans and 33% of Black Americans  
completely agree that they feel like they belong  
and are accepted in the U.S.

Compared to 42%  
of Latino Americans  
and 61% of White  
Americans

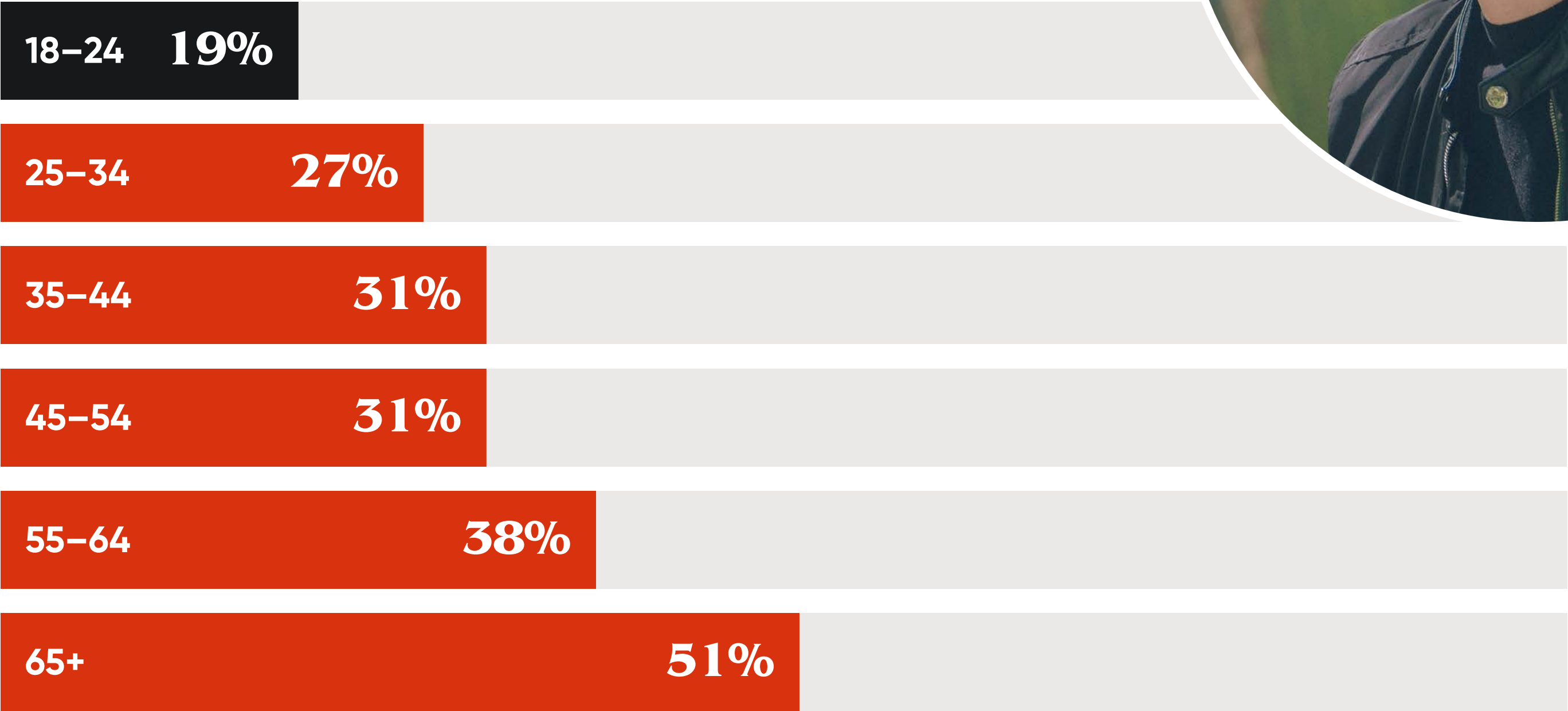


# Younger Asian Americans and Asian American women are less likely to feel that they belong and are accepted in U.S. society

Only 19% of Asian Americans between the ages of 18–24, our youngest survey group, compared to 51% of those over 65 years of age, completely agree that they feel they belong and are accepted. A lower percentage of Asian American women (27%) than men (33%) feel that they fully belong in this country.

## % of Asian Americans who completely agree that they feel they belong and are accepted

By Age



By Gender





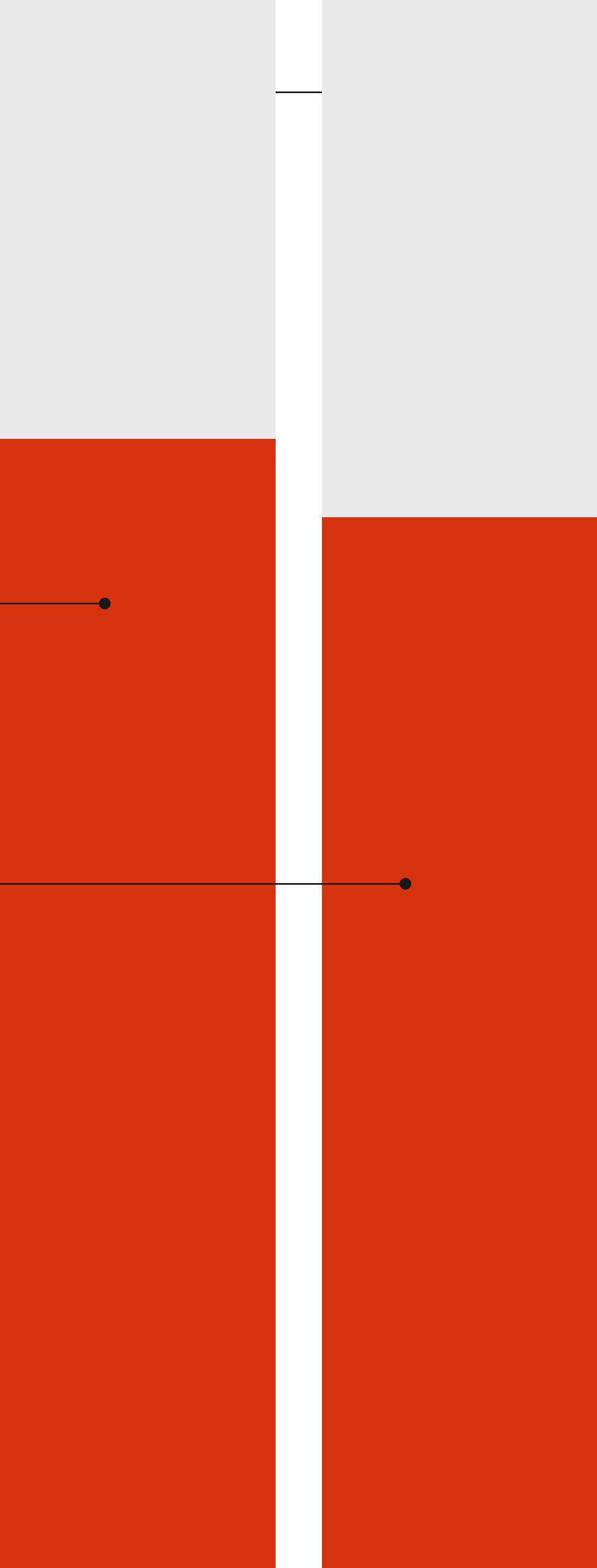
Asian Americans born in the U.S. are less likely to feel that they belong and are accepted in America than Asian Americans born overseas

72% of Asian Americans born overseas feel that they belong and are accepted in the U.S., compared to 67% of Asian Americans born in the U.S.

% of Asian Americans who completely agree/somewhat agree that they belong and are accepted in the U.S.

72%  
Asian Americans born overseas

67%  
Asian Americans born in the U.S.

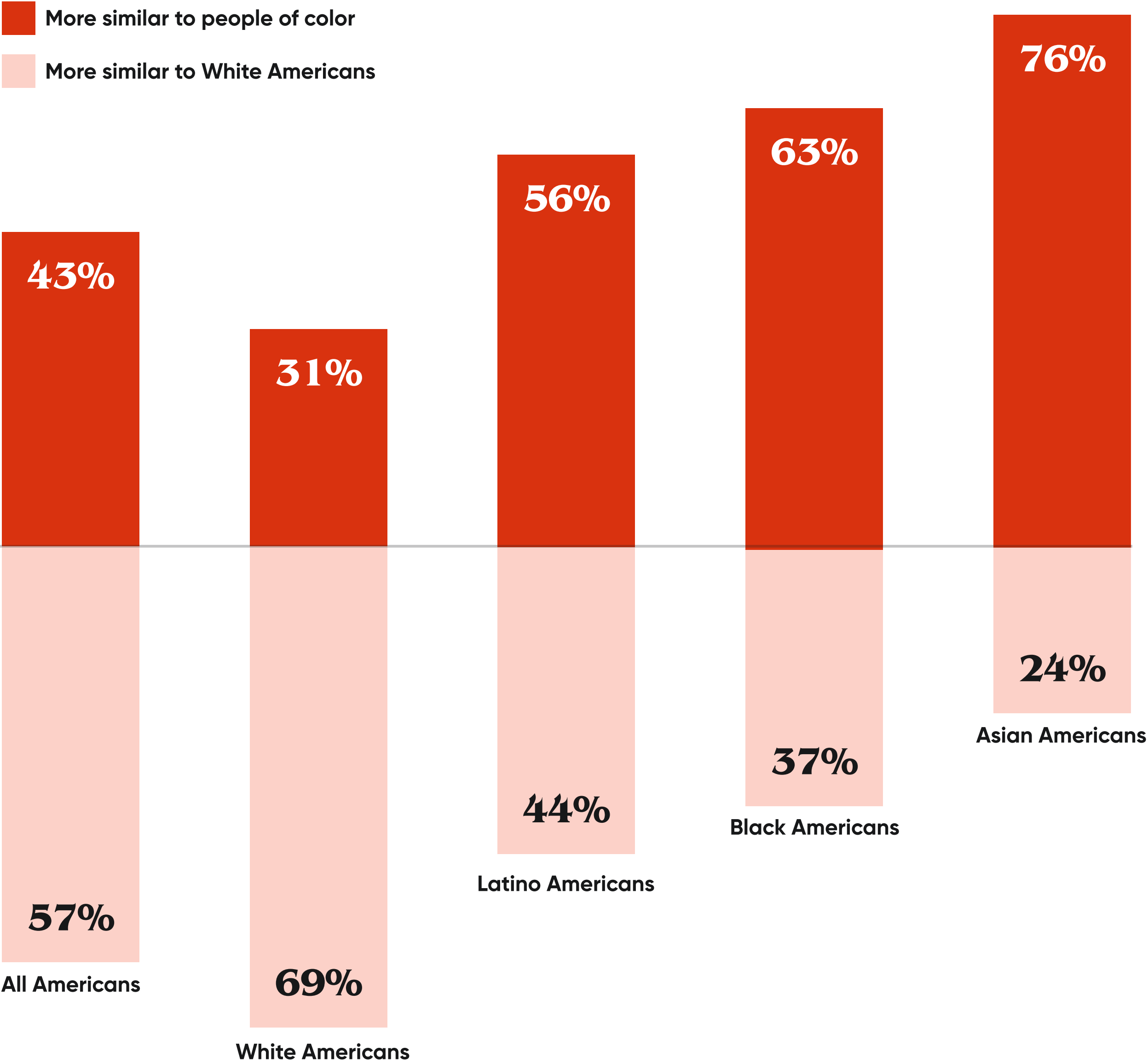




Black, Latino, and Asian Americans see Asian Americans as people of color, whereas White Americans see Asian Americans as more similar to themselves

By more than a 3:1 ratio, Asian Americans overwhelmingly see themselves as people of color.

% of Americans who say the status of Asian Americans in the U.S. is more similar to people of color or to White Americans



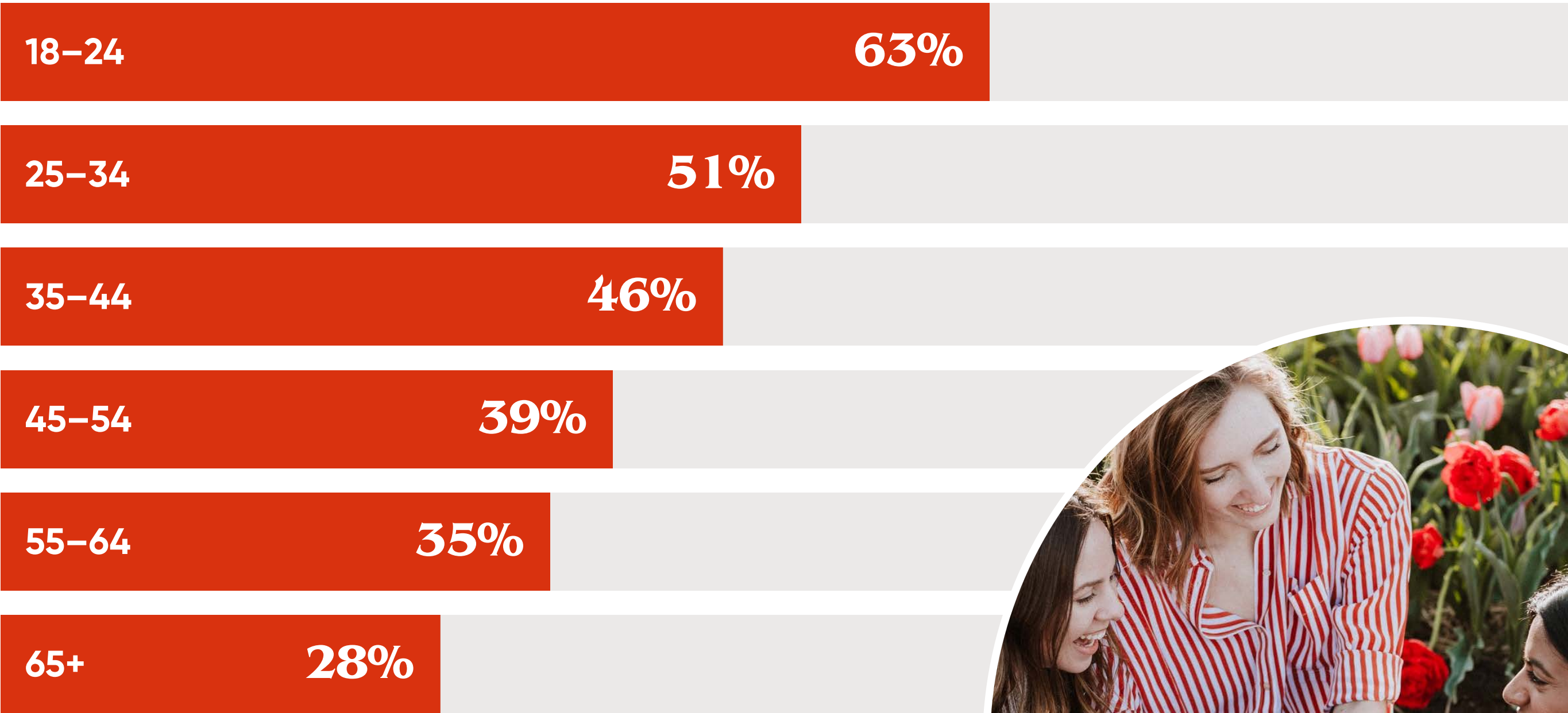


# Younger Americans see Asian Americans very differently from older Americans

Older respondents see Asian Americans as more similar to White Americans, while younger respondents see Asian Americans as more similar to people of color.

## % of Americans who say the status of Asian Americans in the U.S. is more similar to people of color, by age group

By Age





# Perceptions and Stereotypes



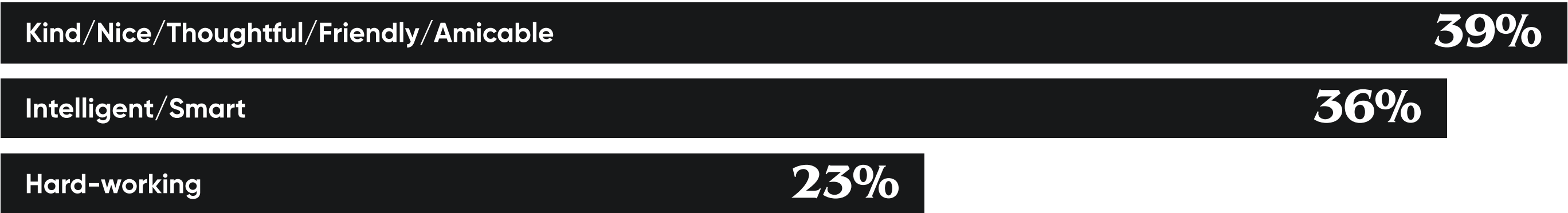


Respondents still see Asian Americans in “model minority” terms – as smart, nice, and hard-working

When asked what adjectives, or words, respondents would use to describe Asian Americans, the most common answers are “Intelligent/Smart,” “Kind/Nice/Thoughtful/Friendly/Amicable,” and “Hard-working.” These responses are consistent with the top answers from the 2021 survey, and continue to reflect damaging stereotypes from the “model minority” myth, which has harmed Asian Americans for decades.

What adjectives, or words, would you use to describe people in the U.S. who are ...?

Asian Americans



White Americans



Black Americans



Latino Americans





# A majority of Americans believe Asian Americans are well represented in companies and large corporations

According to [research from Ascend](#), however, Asian Americans are the most likely to be hired as professionals but are the least likely among all racial groups to become executives.

How well represented do you think Asian Americans are in senior (high-level) positions in the U.S. within companies and larger corporations?

**50%**  
of Americans said somewhat or extremely well represented

**6%**  
of executive, senior officer, and manager roles are actually filled by Asian Americans

Perception

Reality

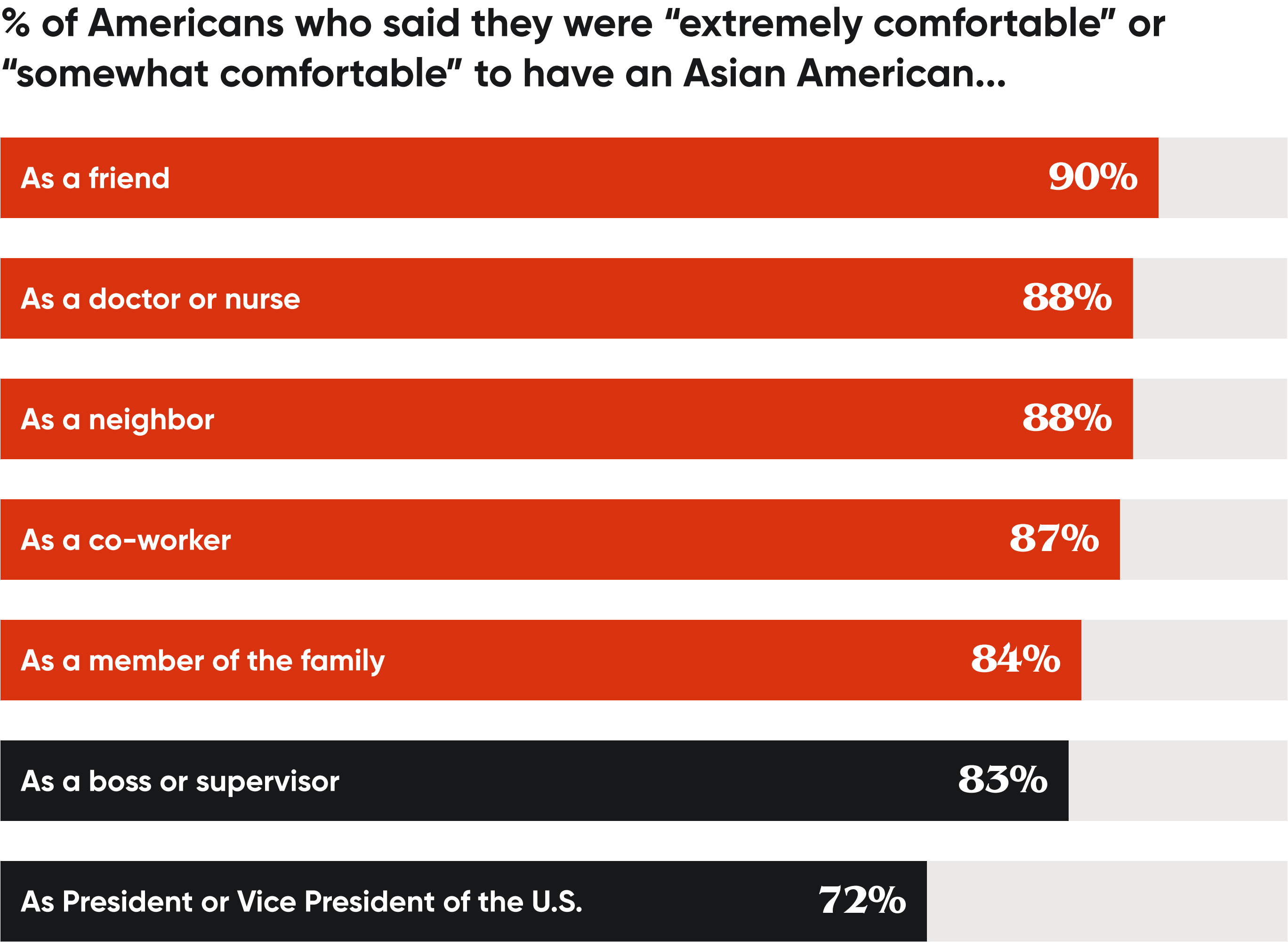


\*Andy Kiersz, "Asian Americans Still Aren't Reaching the C-Suite - and It All Comes down to Promotions. These 4 Charts Put the Problem in Perspective.," [Business Insider](#) (Business Insider, May 26, 2021).



# Americans are least comfortable with Asian Americans in leadership positions

Respondents expressed less comfort with Asian Americans as a “boss or supervisor” or “as President or Vice President of the United States.”





**Over 70% of Americans believe Asian Americans have benefited the U.S., especially in the areas of positive economic impact, academic excellence, and medical advancements**

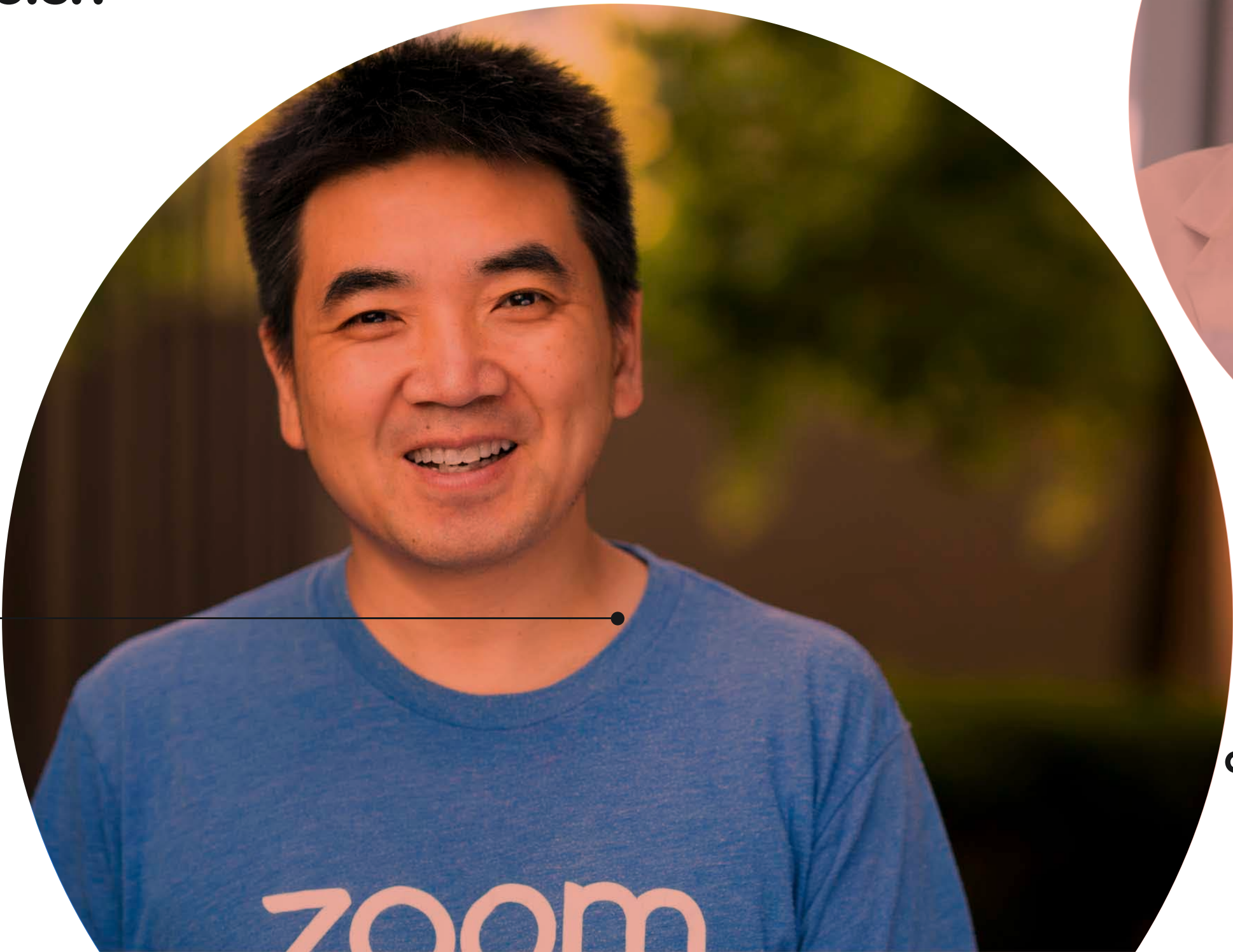
Other top answers include hard work/work ethic, technology, and culture/food.

**21%**  
academic  
excellence

In what ways have Asian Americans strongly benefited the U.S.?

**28%**  
positive economic  
impact

**13%**  
medical  
advancements



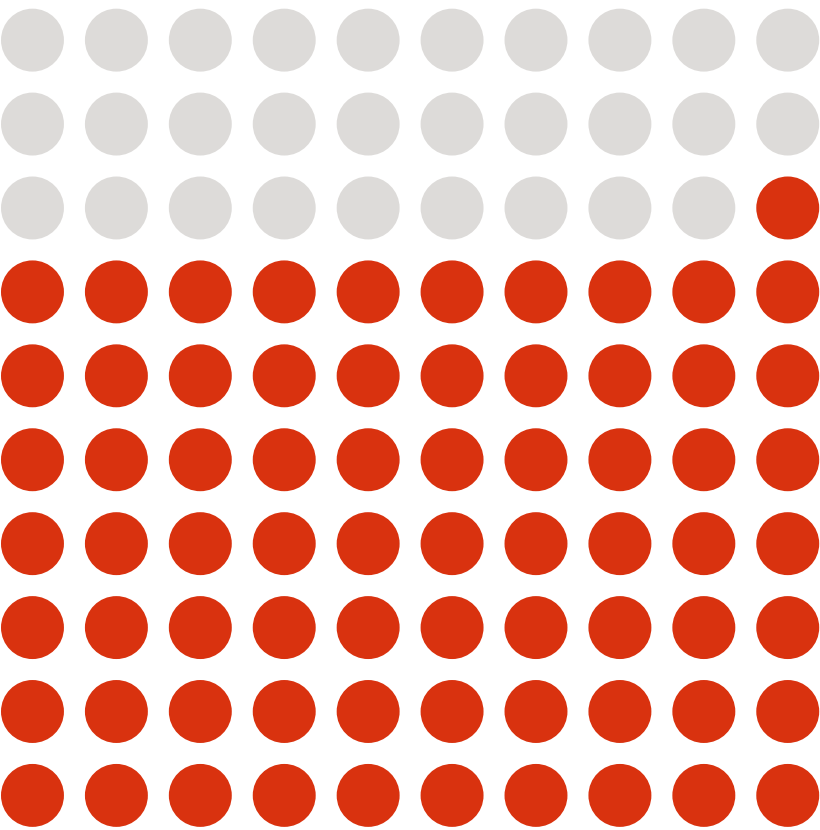


# These contributions are recognized across the political spectrum

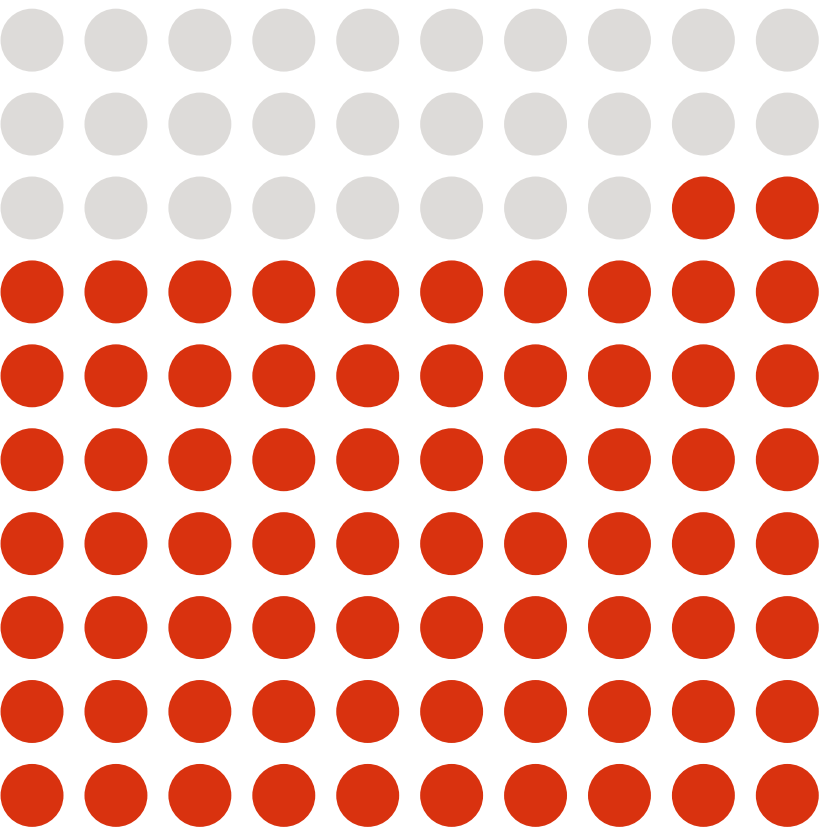
71% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 75% of Republicans believe Asian Americans have benefited the U.S.

% of Americans who said Asian Americans have "strongly benefited" or "benefited" the U.S.

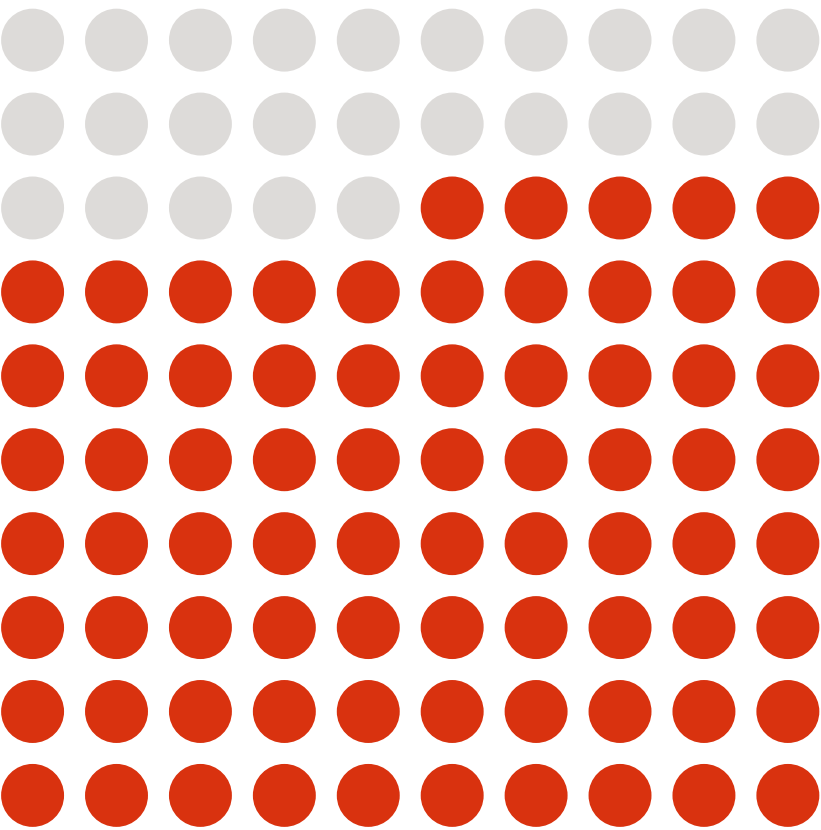
71%  
of Democrats



72%  
of Independents



75%  
of Republicans

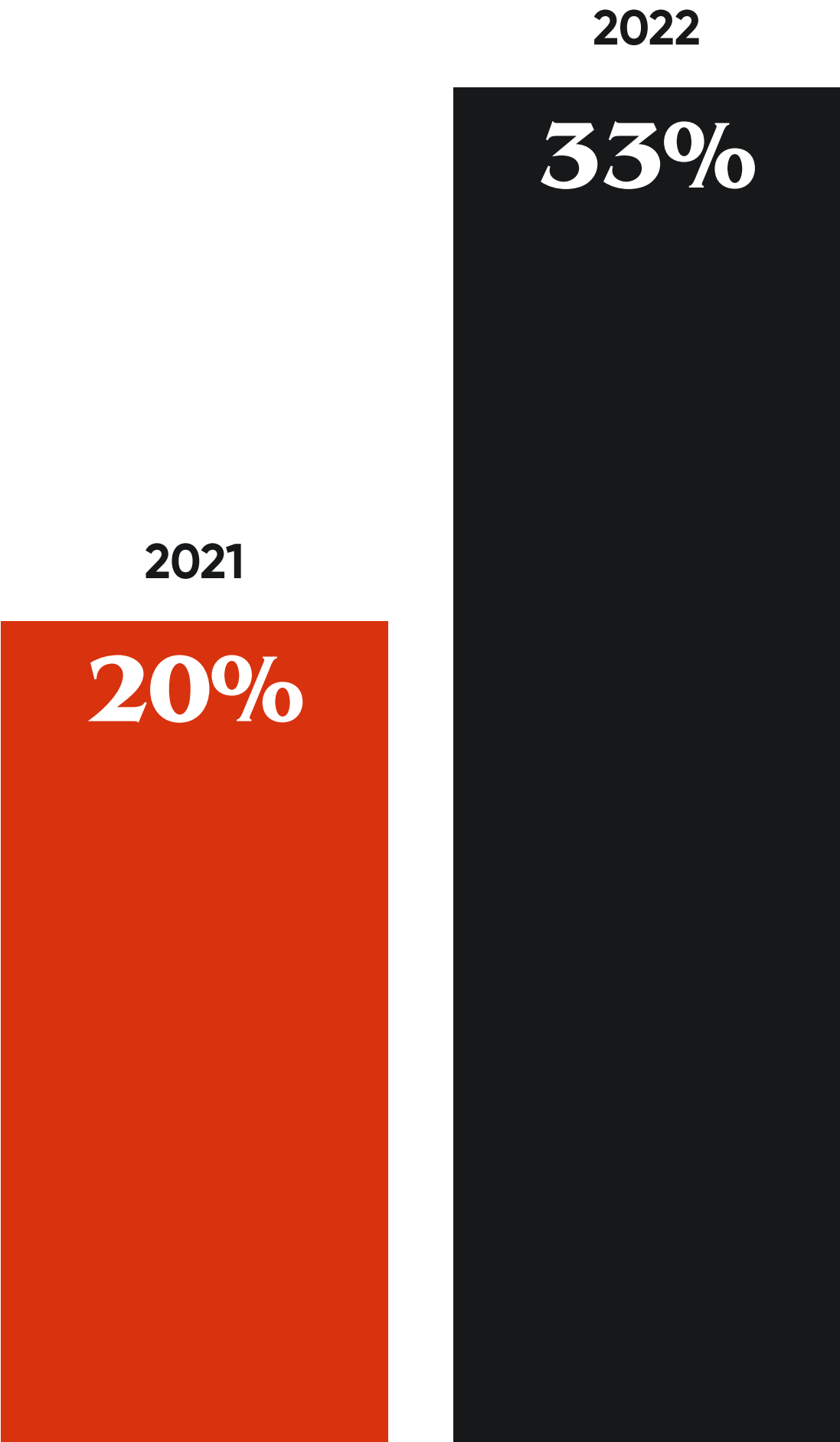




Compared to 2021,  
Americans in 2022 are  
more likely to question  
the loyalty of Asian  
Americans

Alarminglly, those who believe that Asian Americans are more loyal to their country of origin increased from 20% to 33% over the past year.

% of Americans who agreed  
that Asian Americans are more  
loyal to their country of origin  
than to the United States





Compared to 2021,  
Americans in 2022 are  
more likely to say that  
Asian Americans are at  
least partly responsible  
for COVID-19

More Americans in 2022 say anti-Chinese names  
for COVID-19, such as “Wuhan virus,” are  
appropriate.

% of Americans who agreed  
that Asian Americans are at  
least partly responsible for  
COVID-19



2021

11%

2022

21%



# Visibility and Awareness





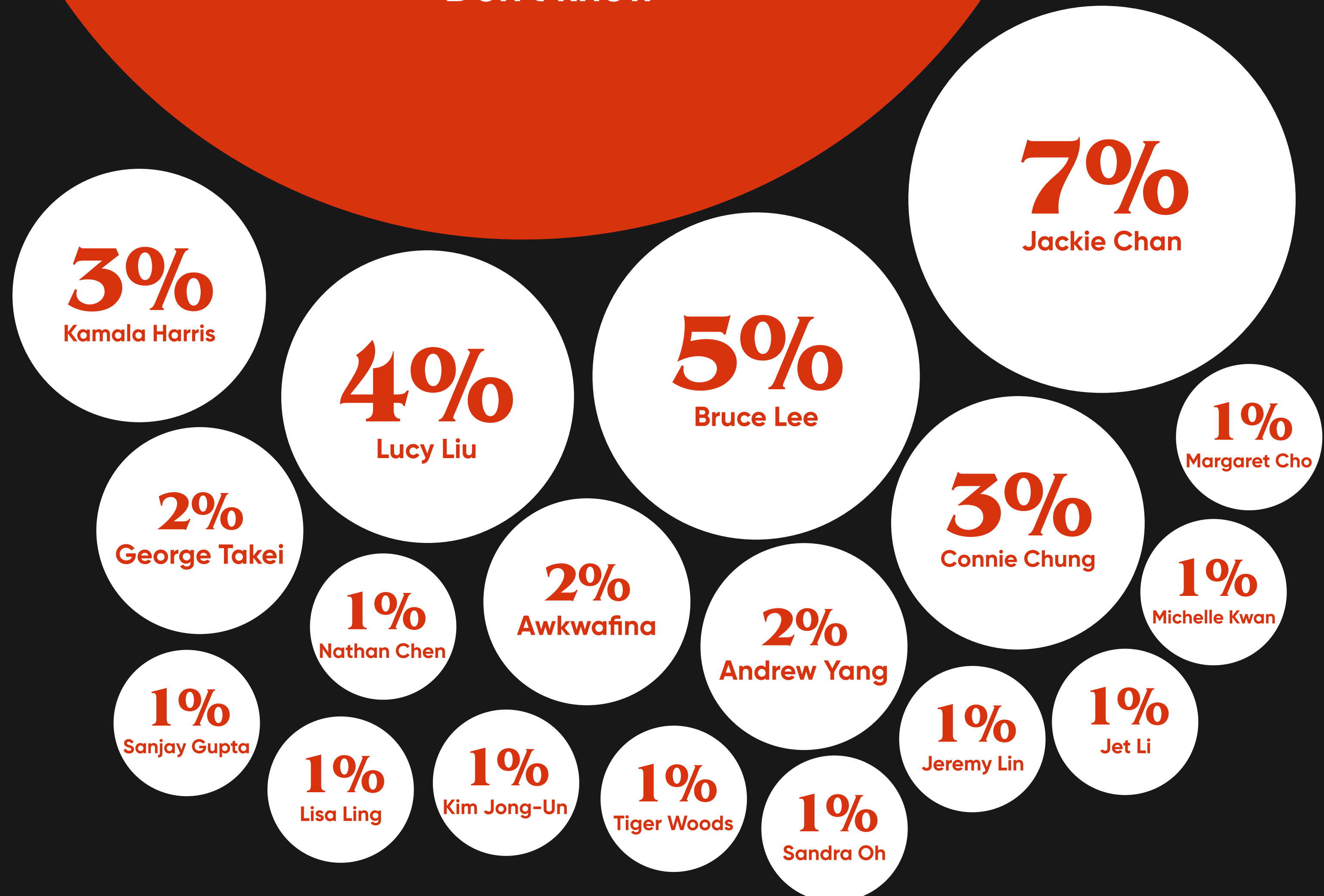
**11%**  
All other

## Most Americans cannot name a prominent Asian American when asked

In 2022, 58% of respondents are unable to name a prominent Asian American, highlighting once again the invisibility of Asian Americans in the eyes of most Americans.

Among Asian Americans named by respondents, the top three are the same as last year – Jackie Chan (who is not American), Bruce Lee, and Lucy Liu. The most common non-actors cited are Kamala Harris and Connie Chung. Based on his fame from his recent Olympic gold medal, Nathan Chen is also mentioned.

**58%**  
Don't know





Americans still primarily see Asian American women portrayed in stereotypical and negative roles in TV and movies

Asian American women are most often seen in a variety of stereotypical or less desirable roles, such as Geisha/Sex Worker/Prostitute, Kung Fu/Martial Artist and Janitor/Maid/Cleaner.

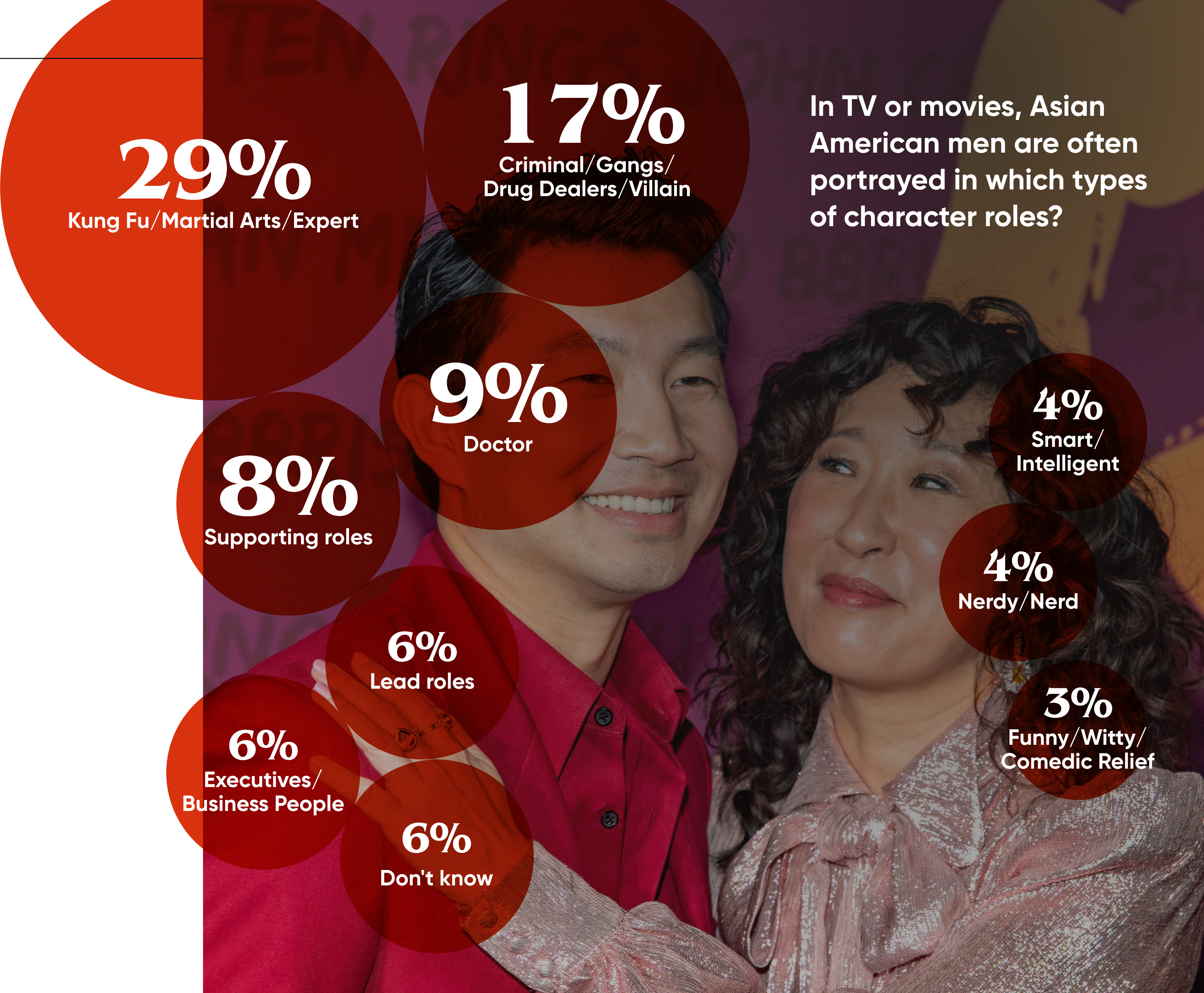


In TV or movies, Asian American women are often portrayed in which types of character roles?



Similarly, Americans primarily see Asian American men in stereotypical and negative roles in TV and movies

Common answers included Kung Fu/Martial Artist and Criminal/Gangster.

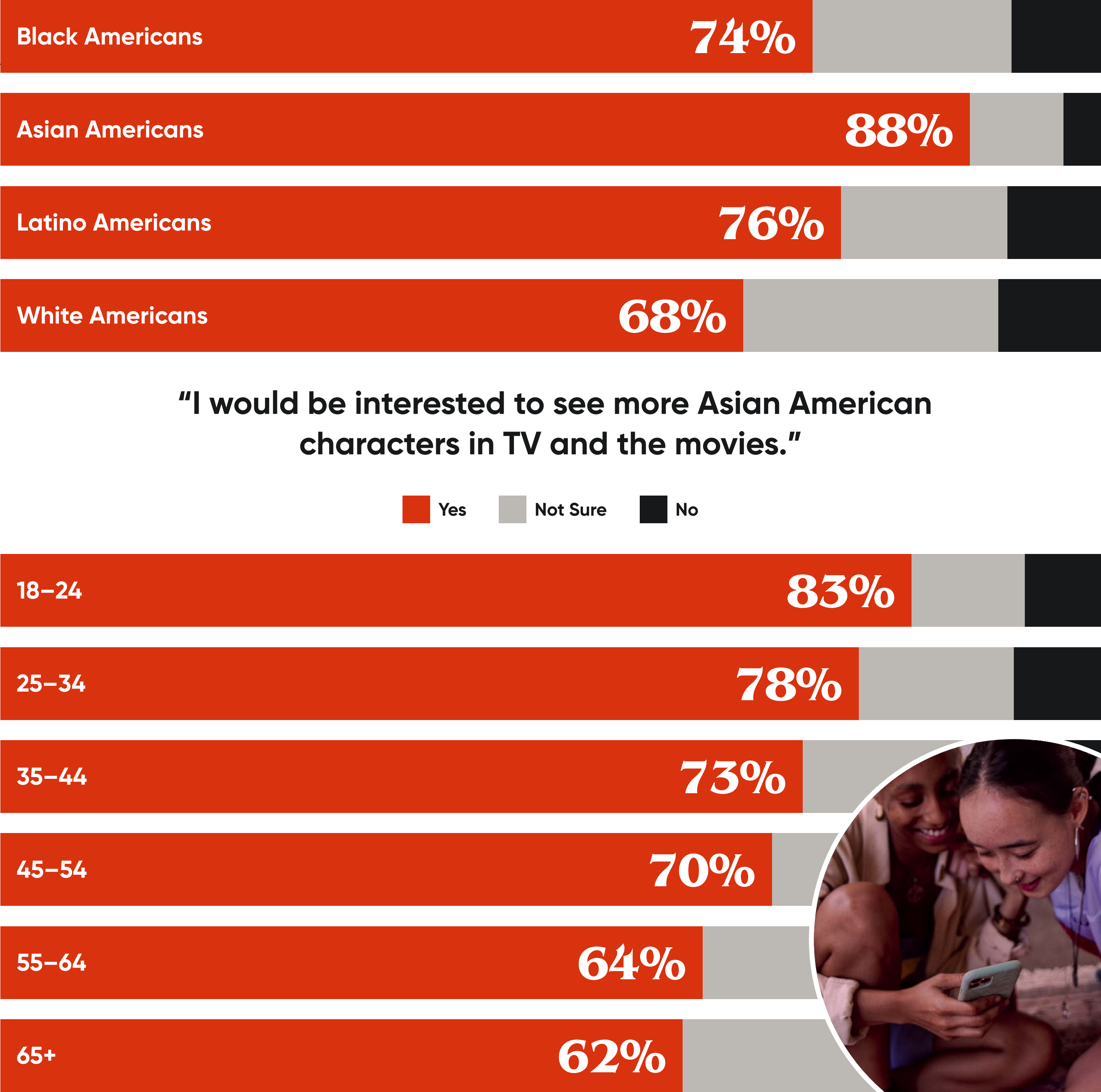


In TV or movies, Asian American men are often portrayed in which types of character roles?



# The vast majority of Americans across all racial groups express interest to see more Asian American actors

On a positive note, 71% of Americans said they would like to see more Asian Americans in TV and movies, with younger and very liberal respondents the most keen. Perhaps the popularity of TV shows and movies such as Squid Game, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, and Quantico has increased the interests of the general public for more Asian American content.





# The leading sources of information about Asian Americans for most Americans are News, Social Media, and TV/Music/Movies



Where do you get most of your perceptions or knowledge about Asian Americans?

| Asian Americans        | Black Americans        | Latino Americans       | White Americans        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Family               | 1 News                 | 1 Social Media         | 1 News                 |
| 2 Social Media         | 2 TV, Music, or Movies | 2 News                 | 2 TV, Music, or Movies |
| 3 Friends              | 3 Social Media         | 3 TV, Music, or Movies | 3 Social Media         |
| 4 News                 | 4 Friends              | 4 Friends              | 4 Friends              |
| 5 TV, Music, or Movies | 5 School               | 5 School               | 5 Family               |
| 6 Colleagues           | 6 Family               | 6 Family               | 6 Colleagues           |



# Recommendations



Do you think that anti-Asian American racism is a problem that should be addressed by Americans?

**72% of Americans believe racism against Asian Americans should be addressed**

The vast majority of Americans across race, age, and gender believe anti-Asian American racism is a problem that should be addressed.

**72%**

Yes

**15%**

No

**14%**

Not Sure



Americans who are more liberal and live in areas with a higher concentration of Asian Americans are more likely to believe anti-Asian American racism is a problem that should be addressed.

% of Americans who think that anti-Asian American racism is a problem that should be addressed by Americans

Metro areas where Asians account for more than 10% of the population



Metro areas where Asians account for 5–10% of the population



Metro areas where Asians account for 3–5% of the population



Metro areas where Asians account for less than 3% of the population



82%  
of Liberals

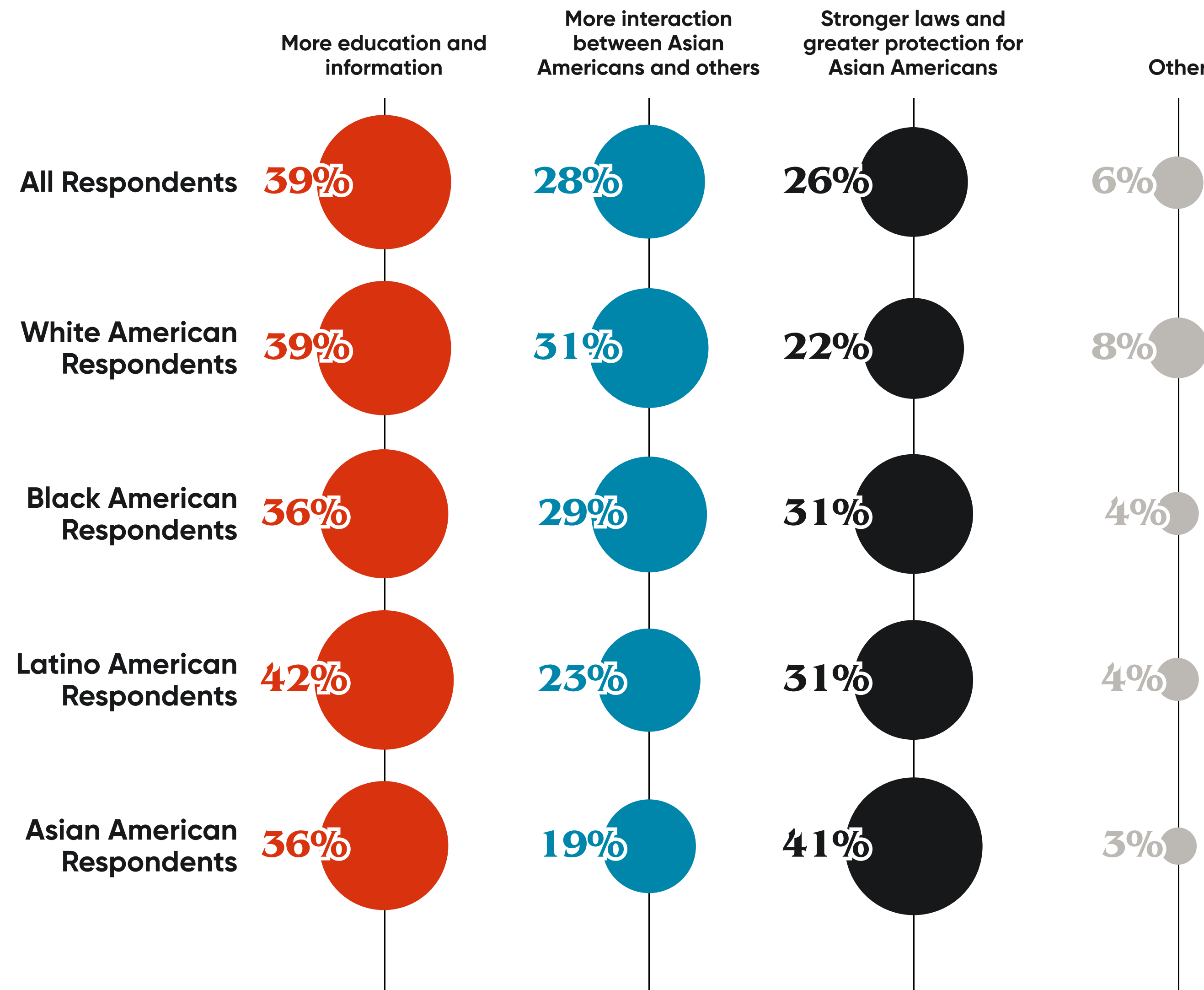
63%  
of Conservatives



Education is the preferred solution to fight anti-Asian American racism

While we see support for “more interaction between Asian Americans and others in the U.S.” and “stronger laws and greater protection for Asian Americans,” the most popular response across all racial groups is “more education and information about Asian American history and experiences.” Asian Americans seek both education and stronger laws/greater protection to address the hate and racism facing our community.

If you could only focus on one item to address the problem of anti-Asian American racism, which would you select?

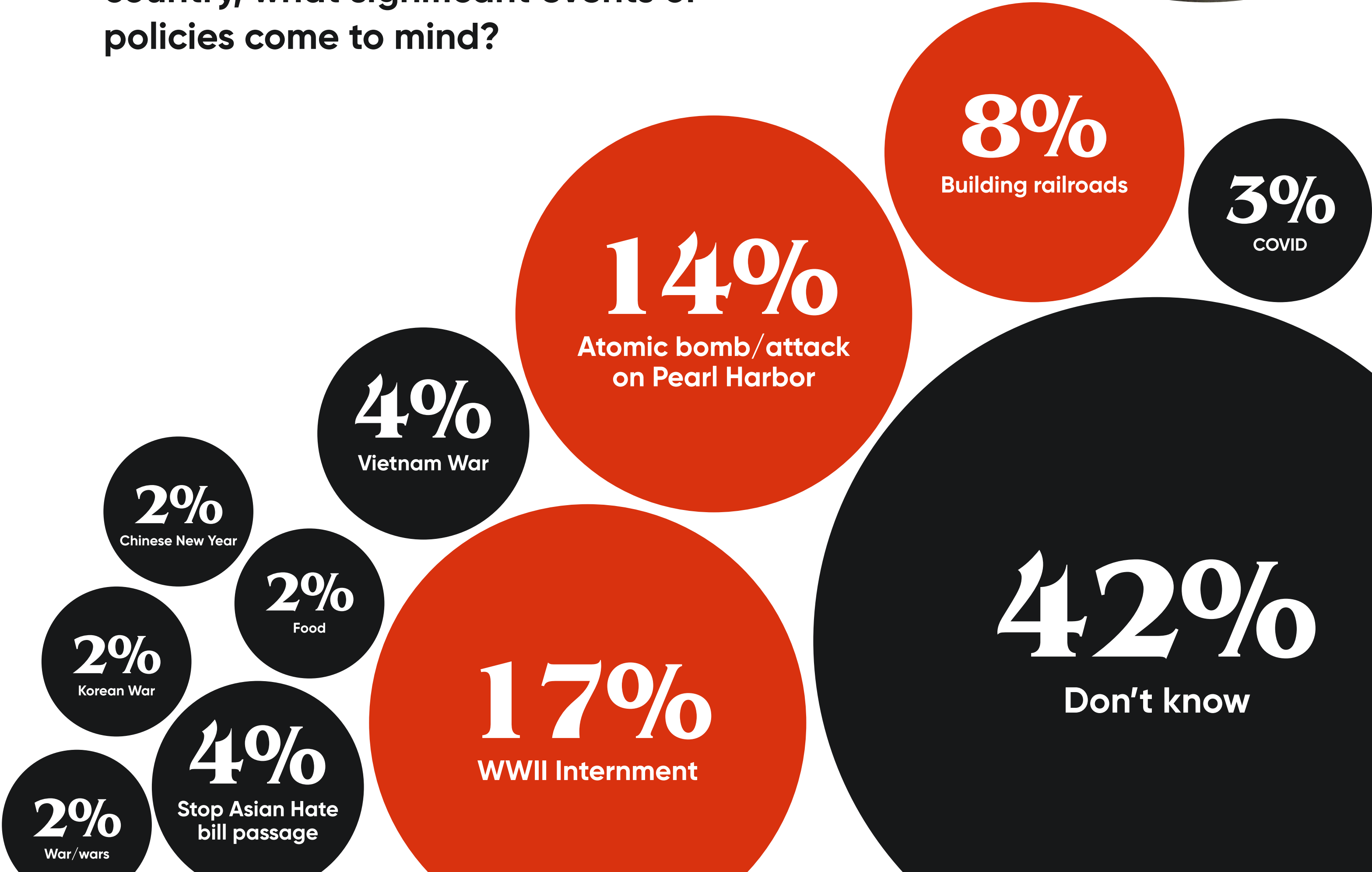






When you think about the history and experience of Asian Americans in this country, what significant events or policies come to mind?

A large percentage of Americans lack knowledge about the history and experience of Asian Americans, especially after World War II

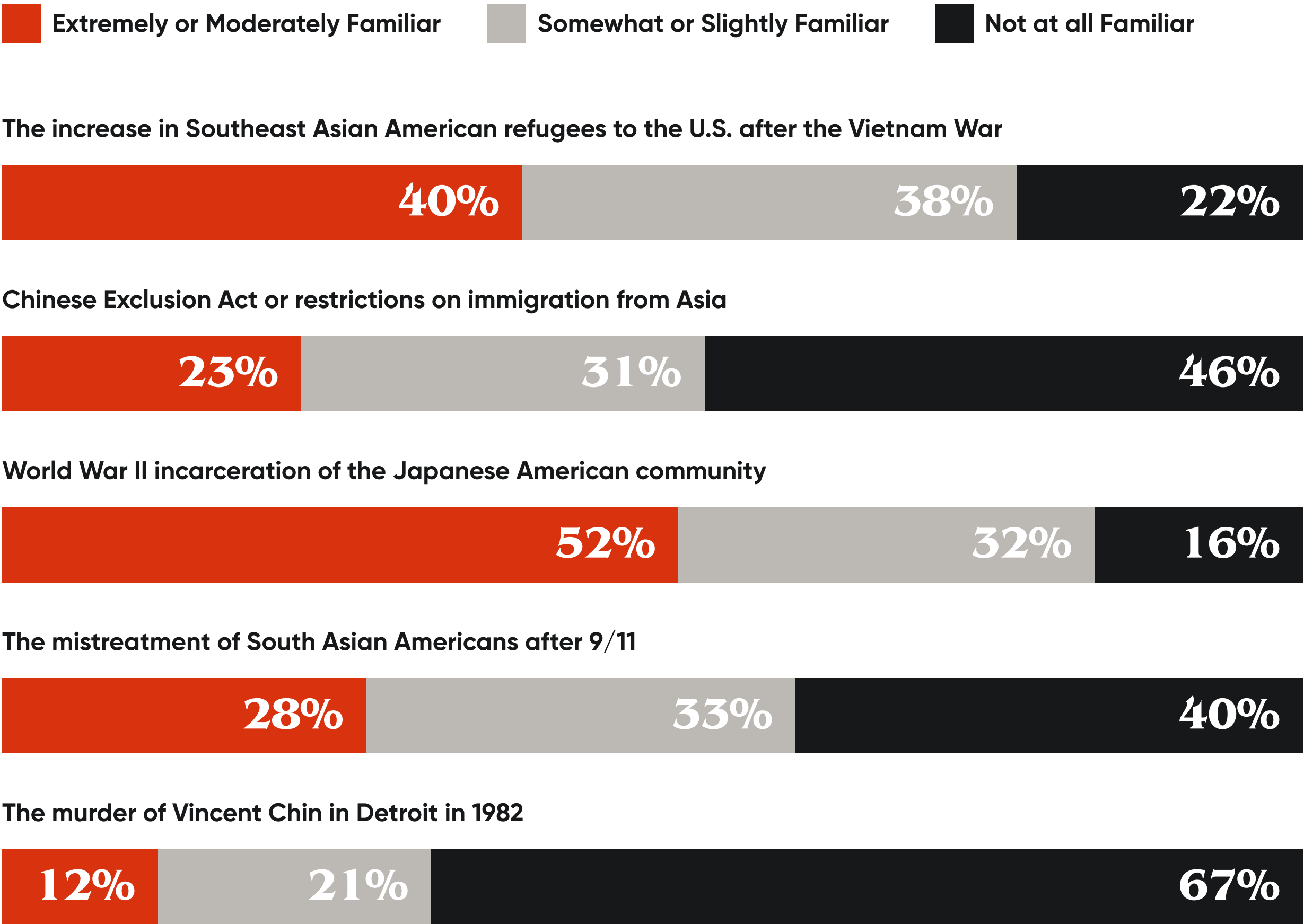




Even when prompted with specific events, many Americans are not very familiar with the history and experience of Asian Americans

There is a vast lack of knowledge of such significant events in Asian American history as the Chinese Exclusion Act or other restrictions on Asian American immigration since 1882, the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982, and the mistreatment of South Asian Americans after 9/11 in 2001.

% of Americans who said they are familiar with the following historical Asian American events





As shown by the data in the STAATUS Index, there is a critical need to address the lack of:

- Knowledge and understanding about Asian Americans
- Safety and protection for the Asian American community
- Belonging and acceptance for Asian Americans and other communities of color

As a priority, we must preserve, commemorate, and teach our diverse histories, narratives, and experiences, including and especially the historical and ongoing impact of systemic racism on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the histories of cross-racial solidarity. This teaching and learning must take place at all levels of education and amongst the broader American public.

Secondly, we must provide resources to victims of anti-Asian racism and explore ways to mobilize support and protection for Asian Americans who remain vulnerable to anti-Asian racism.

To create greater belonging and acceptance for Asian Americans and other communities of color, we need to support the production of creative media (movies, television, music, and other forms of storytelling) that feature Asian American actors and performers in the full expression of our humanity to counter stereotypical portrayals of Asian Americans that have negatively affected our community for generations.

Finally, we need to work together across the racial divides with other concerned organizations to find common solutions to the declining state of race relations and the growing inequality, racial animus, and discrimination that affect us all.





# Conclusion

For the past two years, Asian Americans have lived in a period of mourning, anger, fear, and exhaustion from the devastation of COVID-19 and the surge in anti-Asian violence, bigotry, and hate crimes. At a time when attacks against our community have increased, we have seen a corresponding rise in anti-Asian American sentiment among non-Asian Americans, particularly those who are less educated and more marginalized.

Compared to last year's STAATUS Index, non-Asian Americans are more likely to say that Asian Americans are at least partly responsible for COVID-19. They are also more likely to agree that referring to the coronavirus as the "Wuhan virus" or "Chinese virus" is appropriate – disregarding the World Health Organization's advice of not attaching locations or ethnicity to disease in order to avoid stigmatization.

In the 2021 survey, respondents pointed to Trump and COVID-19 as the main reasons for anti-Asian American sentiment, but this year's findings remind us again of the underlying racist and xenophobic tropes associated with Asians as "perpetual foreigners" that have led to the systematic racism, discrimination, violence, and exclusion against our community for generations.

Compared to last year, a greater percentage of Americans cannot name a single prominent Asian American: 58% cannot come up with a single name, and 42% cannot identify a single policy or experience about Asian Americans. This invisibility points to the moral urgency to educate the broader American public about the diverse histories, experiences, and attitudes of Asian Americans. In doing so, we aim to disrupt the narrow, pernicious stereotype of the "model

minority" that has harmed not only our community but also other communities of color.

In its second year, the STAATUS Index provides a clear path forward. The majority of Americans believe that addressing anti-Asian racism is a problem that should be addressed, and have pointed to education as the most recommended solution. Teaching about Asian Americans' experiences in our curricula – alongside those of African Americans, Native Americans, and Latino Americans – will help educate Americans about the fraught history of Asian America. And seeing our narratives represented alongside those of other Americans will also enhance Asian Americans' sense of belonging.

That younger and U.S.-born Asian Americans are less likely to feel like they belong in the U.S. reflects



the invisibility of Asian Americans in our high school and university curricula, as well as in movies, in media, and in leadership. How many years will it take before Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee are no longer cited as the most prominent Asian Americans in our survey? What will it take for Asian American women to be cast in more diverse roles in TV and movies? And when will Americans realize that Asian Americans are severely underrepresented on corporate boards and university leadership?

Despite these challenges, the prognosis for the future of the Asian American community is positive. Providing richer, more authentic content to a receptive American audience will help to change stereotypes and attitudes. Working with Asian American youth, who feel a strong sense of Asian American identity, to build greater pride and

belonging will lay the foundation for the next generation of leaders who will shape both perceptions and policy.

We look forward to a better future for Asian Americans, and to tracking our progress with the STAATUS Index in the years to come.



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