



CABQ Equity and Inclusion Survey of African American Community

Conducted by Scott Carreathers, African American Community and Business Liaison

January 2021

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Introduction

In January 2021, the City of Albuquerque conducted an opinion survey of African American community members. The survey sought to identify priorities from the community and how to better engage with different segments of the community. This survey collected demographic information from African American community members and will be used to assess how different segments of the community view engagement with their City government. The data collected from the survey has been compiled into this report from the Office of Equity and Inclusion to illustrate the needs identified and how engagement with the City of Albuquerque can be improved.

Methodology

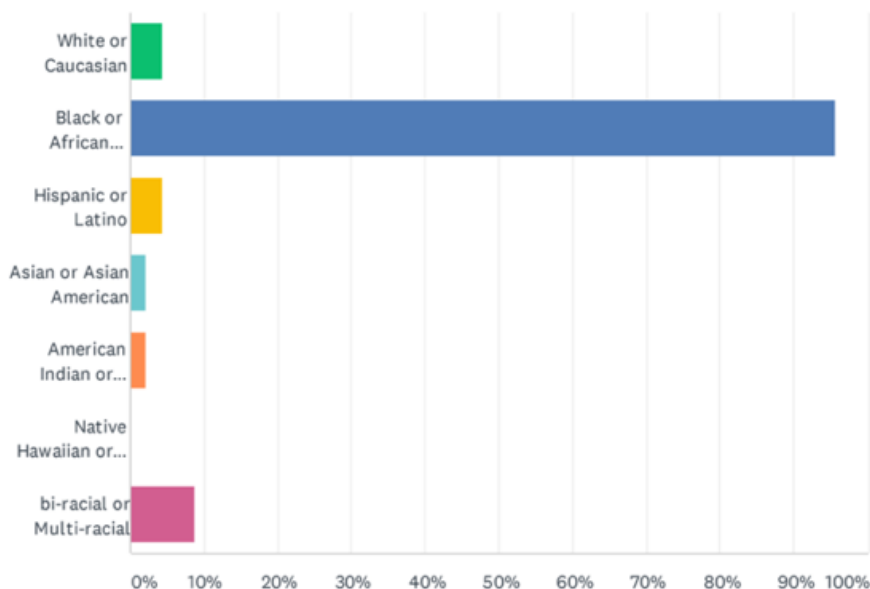
This survey was available for the Black community from December 17th, 2020 until January 10th, 2021. During that time, the City of Albuquerque's Office of African American Affairs disseminated the survey through established community networks utilizing the Survey Monkey platform. While this survey was not a scientific study and was not a statistically significant representation of the Black community, it still provided many insights into the community's perception of city government.

Who Responded

Of the forty-seven (47) respondents, ninety-five (95%) percent identified as Black/African American. Eight (8%) percent of respondents identified as being bi-racial or multiracial. There was an equal share of respondents for both White/Caucasian and Hispanic/Latino at four point three five (4.35%) percent. There was also an equal share of the composition among Asian/Asian Americans and American Indian respondents at two point one seven (2.17%) percent. No respondents self-identified as native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Q22 What race/ethnicity do you select on the Census?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 1



There was an equal amount of respondents who identified as male and female both being 48. One responder identified as being non-binary.

Over sixty (60%) percent of respondents were over the age of forty five (45) . Those who were between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) constituted 4.35% of respondents and those between the ages of 25 and 34 constituted 15.22% of respondents. Those aged 35 to 44 represented 13.04% of the respondents.

The educational attainment of the respondents tended to lean toward the majority having achieved over a high school diploma and the largest share of respondents having earned a master’s degree (34.78%). Those who have earned a bachelor’s degree comprised 23.91% of respondents and those who hold a doctorate degree represented 8.70% of the total respondent pool. The city average for those holding at least a high school diploma is 89.7% and those holding at least a bachelor’s degree is 34.7% (U.S. Census Bureau). No one who responded to the survey indicated that they have less than a high school diploma and those who stated they had a high school diploma or GED accounted for 10.87% of respondents.

The reported household income for respondents tended to be above \$50,000 which is above the average income per individual of \$30,403. Those who earn above \$50,000 represented 68.18% of survey respondents. Although much of the respondents indicated high earnings, it is important to note that Blacks/African Americans who live below the federal poverty threshold is 24% (U.S. Census Bureau), National Community Survey, 2017).

Issue Areas

When asked to rate a list of issue topics, access to food and basic necessities was the highest scored item. The second highest ranked item was COVID-19, and the third was the overall development of your community.

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| | 1-EXTREMELY HIGH REGARD | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7-EXTREMELY LOW REGARD | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------------------|-------|
| Crime | 30.43% 14 | 10.87% 5 | 17.39% 8 | 10.87% 5 | 8.70% 4 | 8.70% 4 | 13.04% 6 | 46 |
| Development of your community | 51.06% 24 | 14.89% 7 | 10.64% 5 | 8.51% 4 | 2.13% 1 | 8.51% 4 | 4.26% 2 | 47 |
| Housing | 44.44% 20 | 22.22% 10 | 8.89% 4 | 4.44% 2 | 2.22% 1 | 8.89% 4 | 8.89% 4 | 45 |
| Employment | 43.48% 20 | 8.70% 4 | 10.87% 5 | 13.04% 6 | 8.70% 4 | 4.35% 2 | 10.87% 5 | 46 |
| Healthcare | 47.83% 22 | 15.22% 7 | 6.52% 3 | 10.87% 5 | 6.52% 3 | 4.35% 2 | 8.70% 4 | 46 |
| Access to food and basic necessities | 54.55% 24 | 13.64% 6 | 13.64% 6 | 6.82% 3 | 2.27% 1 | 4.55% 2 | 4.55% 2 | 44 |
| Transportation | 34.09% 15 | 13.64% 6 | 18.18% 8 | 15.91% 7 | 6.82% 3 | 4.55% 2 | 6.82% 3 | 44 |
| COVID-19 | 51.11% 23 | 22.22% 10 | 8.89% 4 | 8.89% 4 | 6.67% 3 | 0.00% 0 | 2.22% 1 | 45 |

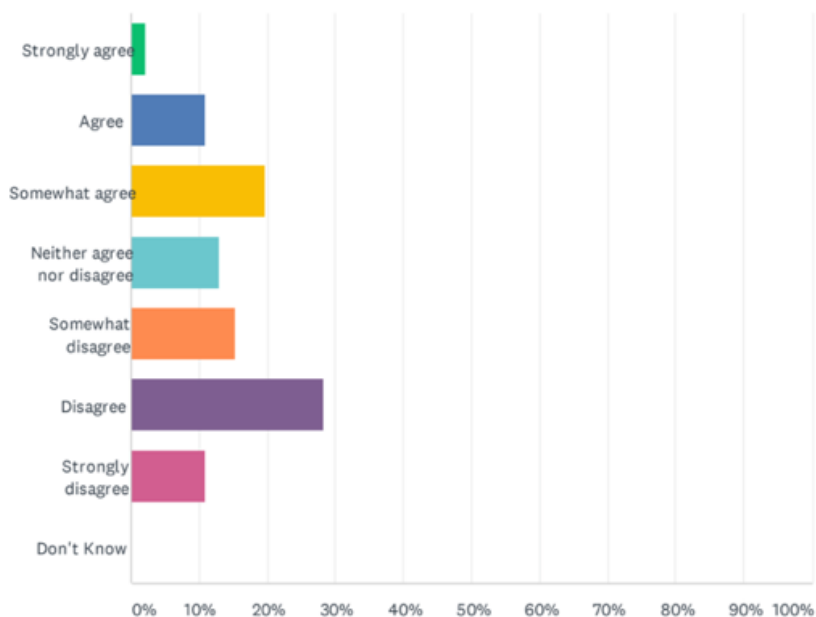
Economic Outlook

When asked if someone in the household has lost a job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost one third of the respondents indicated yes, whereas 70.21% said that no one in their household experienced job loss. Similarly, 91.49% of respondents said that the main primary caregiver of their household did not see their business close due the pandemic. Although a majority of the respondents contributed to work throughout the pandemic, 36.17% said that they continued to work outside of their house. Consequent to working from home, 34.04% of respondents said they have experienced an increase in internet/cell phone bills. When asked about the awareness of free city-provided Wi-Fi, 55.32% of respondents said they were not informed or aware of the availability of such a service.

Almost a third of respondents said that they did not receive their federal stimulus check. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many have been required to explore alternative options for income. Those who reported having to take a pay day loan, re-financed, or borrowed money during the pandemic was 29.79%.

Civic Engagement

When asked about the level of agreeability as to whether respondents felt that the City of Albuquerque understood the basic concepts related to racial equity, the majority of respondents indicated that they “disagree” with this statement. Out of the eight response options offered, close to 30% of respondents “disagree”, compared to only 10% who “agree”.



Of those who responded, the vast majority agree that they have experienced some sort of structural, institutional, and/or interpersonal racism at a rate of 91.49%. Only a small percentage of respondents stated that they “neither agree or disagree” or “disagree. The respondents indicate that they are “very Comfortable” talking about racial biases with city officials. Almost three-quarters of the respondents said that they are speaking with City officials on this matter. However, most of the respondents also say that city officials “act like they listen” to the concerns of African Americans living in Albuquerque.

An overwhelming number of respondents indicated that they are concerned that they or a loved one will experience excessive police force at some point during their lifetime. Of these respondents, a majority reported a perception that the Albuquerque Police Department is not doing enough train officers in the field regarding cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and implicit bias.

Almost three-quarters of the respondents said that the City of Albuquerque should hire more African Americans in upper management level positions and 17.02%. Similarly, 33.3% of respondents indicated that they did not know enough to respond whether City boards and Commissions have had more representation of African Americans. It is important to note that the 40% of respondents stated that the city needs to reach out to the African American community more and appoint more African Americans to boards and commissions. Respondents also stated that representation of Black youth on city boards and commissions should be increased.

A quarter of respondents obtain their news about city information via television stations (25.58%). Approximately 23% of respondents obtain their news about city information via the city website (23.26%). It is important to note that almost 10% of respondents stated that they do not receive any information through the outlets listed in the survey.

Conclusion

There are several issues that come through more clearly than others following a review of the survey results received. The overwhelming number of respondents present with higher levels of education than we know as representative of Albuquerque's African American population in particular. This can be seen as a revealing indicator on its own if you consider the degrees to which specific subsets of the populations surveyed stand out. On the positive side, individuals with higher levels of education seemingly responded with similar opinions about structural racism, poor representation of African Americans in upper levels of government and overwhelming concerns about excessive force by police.

Clearly these issues raise serious concerns that are shared across all subsets of the population surveyed and will require significant effort to effect change.

It is also shown that most people surveyed do not believe that City officials genuinely listen to people like those speaking in this survey. This suggests a trust issue that reaches beyond the more obvious issues with the police.

Specific to the police in Albuquerque, most respondents also believe that more training around equity and racial sensitivity is needed. This response did not indicate however whether the respondents believed that more training would mitigate problems perceived or real.

There is a clear and irrefutable lack of trust by the African American respondents for both the City of Albuquerque officials and the Albuquerque Police Department. The lack of African American representation in government and even in the police department at leadership levels feeds mistrust and a disconnect between community and government. There is also an opportunity to improve relationships and trust if community members felt as if they were actually listened to which can only be proven by positive actions based on community input.

Sources:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/albuquerquecitynewmexico>

<https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/new-mexico-2018-report/>