

Across Our Communities:

Arab American Perspectives and Priorities

May 2025



Arab American Service Day 2023 in Dearborn, MI, organized by NNAAC. Photo courtesy of ACCESS.

A JOINT REPORT BY:



NNAAC
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR
ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



**CENTER FOR
ARAB NARRATIVES**
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INTRODUCTION

The National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), The Center for Arab Narratives (CAN), and Arab Americans for Progress (AAP) collaborated on a sociological survey designed to document the most pressing issues of concern to diverse Arab American communities.

This survey was administered to Arab Americans through community-based organizations within the NNAAC coalition between July and October of 2024. This was a unique and volatile time for Arab Americans nationwide. During this time, Arab Americans were experiencing two intersecting issues that likely affected the way respondents felt about domestic policies, international relations and more general matters of U.S. electoral politics. Just a year before the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election, the U.S. pledged “ironclad” support for Israel’s destruction of Gaza, as well as the systematic killing and starving of Palestinians. The destruction of Gaza had a massive impact on U.S. electoral politics in a presidential election year. The brutal campaign reignited Arab Americans’ anger with the ongoing occupation of Palestine, which weighed heavily on their hearts and minds up to and through the election. At the same time, both major American political parties nominated candidates who strongly supported the actions that killed and starved Palestinians.

This dynamic alienated many Arab Americans from broader electoral machinations and would have certainly been on the minds of the people who completed this survey. During the presidential primaries, many Arab Americans refused to support any candidate that did not explicitly call for a ceasefire or an end to the brutal

occupation of Palestine. A national movement to vote “uncommitted” in the primaries was launched by a group of Michigan-based Arab Americans. Heading into the summer of 2024, national media painted the Arab American vote as a crucial aspect of the path to victory for both Democratic and Republican candidates.

These events may further explain the dissatisfaction, mistrust, and overall disapproval, particularly with respect to Gaza, observed in many respondents.



Arab American Advocacy Days 2024, in Washington, D.C. *Photo Courtesy of ACCESS.*

Figure 1 represents the overall levels of satisfaction respondents reported in each of the eight issues we surveyed. It demonstrates that respondents’ dissatisfaction with the government’s handling of **International Relations** stands head-and-

shoulders above that of other issues. However, it also demonstrates that dissatisfaction was broadly felt. In fact, the government handled none of the issues we surveyed in a way that satisfied at least half of our respondent population. Our results show that most Arab Americans report being deeply dissatisfied with the government’s handling of the issues about which they care about most. Our respondents reported being most dissatisfied, by a wide margin, with the government’s handling of **International Relations**. This finding is most probably associated with the support of the Biden administration’s U.S. Departments of State and Defense

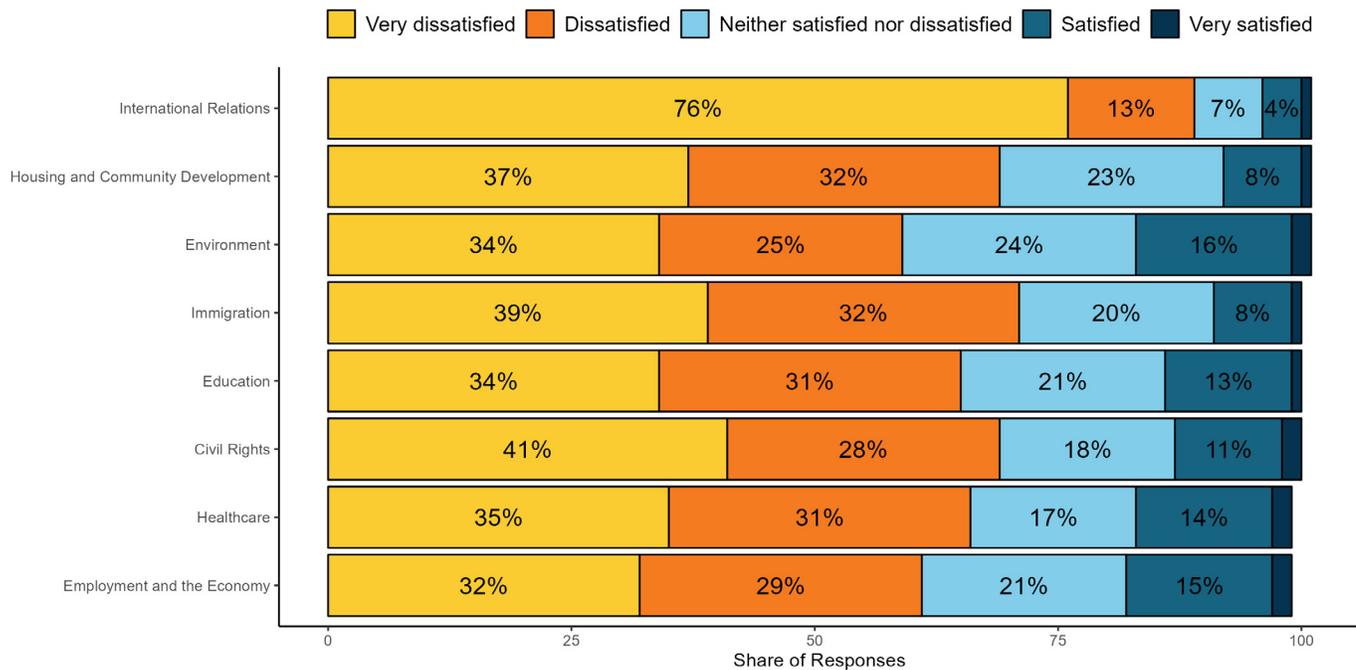
with the support of the Biden administration’s U.S. Departments of State and Defense for Israel’s destruction of the Palestinians in Gaza. Related policies may explain the 41 percent of respondents who reported being “Very dissatisfied” with the government’s handling of **Civil Rights**. While the U.S. Departments of State and Defense began their material support of Israel’s brutal campaign in Gaza, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice enabled college campuses’ suppression of protected speech in support of the Palestinians’ right to self-determination.

Respondents were not cold-called, nor was random sampling utilized. Rather, community-based organizations in the NNAAC coalition distributed the survey to members

of their service population or broader community support network in the course of either providing services or conducting civic engagement events. The survey captured our communities’ level of satisfaction with, and interest in, key issues, including healthcare, education, international relations, civil rights, employment and the economy, immigration, housing and community development, and the environment. Our survey then requested responses to a set of questions designed to capture respondents’ interest levels in area-specific issues (e.g. healthcare quality and affordability, educational opportunity, environmental justice).

The remainder of this report summarizes and analyzes the key findings and takeaways from the survey.

Figure 1. Respondents Most Dissatisfied with International Relations, Satisfied with None
How satisfied are you with what the government has done on the following issues?



Demographic Breakdown

We worked with the 36 membership organizations across 13 states within the NNAAC coalition to administer the survey. In total, we received 553 completed surveys from respondents residing in 38 states and from various backgrounds including Egyptian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Jordanian, Yemeni, Palestinian, and Moroccan.

Representative data on Arab Americans is particularly difficult to analyze, given the exclusion of Arab Americans from the federal standards for data on race and ethnicity. Therefore, most Arab American data analysis is contextualized according to recent data from the American Community Survey (ACS), which disaggregates data on Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) populations from that of the white population, as well as the *Portrait of Arab America*, recently published by CAN. The respondents to this survey do not represent the demographic makeup of the broader Arab American population. Please see **Appendix A** for a full breakdown of select demographic variables captured in the survey.

Our data is unique for the breadth of Arab Americans surveyed, including often hard-to-reach populations like service recipients. This was made possible by distributing the survey with national partners serving diverse subgroups of Arab American communities. In administering the survey, NNAAC members solicited responses from their service population at the point-of-service and community support network, whether at a tabling location or by sending them a digital link to fill out the survey. These different approaches to collecting data may have pulled disparate groups into the sample population. NNAAC members' service populations are predominantly comprised of individuals who require additional support to address their own

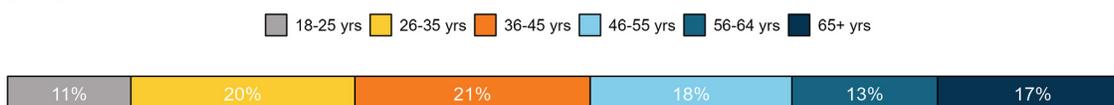
needs or improve their quality of life. Therefore, respondents whose information was collected at the point-of-service may tend to have a lower annual household income, be Foreign-born, have attained fewer education credentials, or be older. On the other hand, the community support networks of NNAAC members are predominantly comprised of volunteers, activists, philanthropists, and donors, among others whose socioeconomic status may afford them enough time to spare roughly 30 minutes completing a survey. As a result, the respondents whose information was collected from the community support network may tend to have a higher annual household income, have attained more education credentials, or be younger.

Our survey sampled a significantly greater share of women (62 percent) than is represented in the broader Arab American population (47 percent), according to the *CAN Portrait*. **Figure 10 in Appendix A** shows the gender breakdown of our sample population. Likewise, the age distribution of our respondent population differed from that of the overall Arab American population for whom, according to the *CAN Portrait*, the average age is 34 years old. On the other hand, the average age of respondents in our sample was much older, at 46. **Figure 2** demonstrates that the greatest share of our sample population (21 percent) was comprised by respondents aged 36 to 45, followed by respondents aged 26 to 35 (20 percent).

Our sample population included a disproportionate share of respondents who had attained a college degree or higher (76 percent) compared to the overall Arab American population (48 percent). **Figure 8 in Appendix A** demonstrates the share of our sample population represented by respondents at different educational attainment levels. While a greater share of the Arab American population have a college degree or

Figure 2. Three-Fifths of Respondents are Between 26 and 55 years old

What is your age?



higher compared to the white population (33 percent), there are more Arab Americans with less than a high school degree (12 percent) than the white population (10 percent). On the other hand, roughly 9 percent of our sample population had attained less than a high school degree, compared to the 12 percent of the overall Arab American population which reported having attained less than a high school degree.

Perhaps surprisingly, the age and educational attainment breakdowns were not influenced by the disproportionate share of women in the sample population. In fact, the share of respondents in each of the different age and educational attainment levels remained roughly the same whether the data was observed in aggregate or after disaggregating to compare men and women.

Our sample population included a disproportionate share of US-born respondents (61 percent) compared to the overall Arab American population (45 percent). **Figure 9 in Appendix A** demonstrates the share of our sample population represented by respondents either born in or out of the U.S. The *CAN Portrait* also demonstrates that Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian communities are more likely than other groups to have been born in the US. This may help explain the disproportionate share of US-born respondents in our sample, given the significant share of our respondent population that reside in Dearborn, Detroit, and Chicago, where Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians live in dense concentrations.

Our sample population represents a more affluent fraction of the overall Arab American population than the one portrayed in the *CAN Portrait*. According to the *CAN Portrait*, about 30 percent of the Arab Americans live at 125 percent or below the poverty line, compared to about 17 percent of the white population. According to **Figure 11 in Appendix A**, which breaks down the annual household incomes of our respondent population, 30 percent of our respondent population makes between \$100,000 and \$250,000. 12 percent of our respondents elected not to report a household income, whereas 23 percent reported a household



The annual domestic violence & cancer awareness fundraiser in Chicago, organized by Arab American Family Services.

Photo Courtesy of Arab American Family Services.

income less than \$50,000 (6 percent of whom reported a household income of less than \$25,000). Individuals who reported a household income between \$50,000 and \$99,999 comprised the largest share of our respondent population (20 percent), whereas individuals who reported a household income of \$500,000 or more comprised the smallest share (4 percent). The *CAN Portrait* also does well to demonstrate the extent to which Arab Americans enjoy a disparate experience when their socioeconomic status is compared to the white population. For instance, about 56 percent of the Arab American population owns their home compared to 73 percent of the white population. Additionally, about 43 percent of the Arab American population rent their home compared to about 25 percent of the white population. These numbers paint a picture of systemic barriers to housing access for Arab American communities. Homeownership is important, particularly for disadvantaged minority groups, because it can help build wealth, create stability, and reduce economic inequalities.

Another important aspect of our sample population concerns the party affiliation of respondents. **Figure 7 in Appendix A** shows the Party Breakdown of our respondent population. The majority of our respondents were either Democrats or Independent, with some Republican voices represented. Notably, 11 percent of the sample population responded to the question on party affiliation by marking the “Other”

response option. The Party Breakdown of our sample population differs from that of the total Arab American population in its dearth of Arab American Republicans. Since 2000, a growing share of Arab Americans have identified with the Democratic Party, due in large part to the perceived association between the Republican Party and the wars that destabilized parts of the MENA region during the George W. Bush administration. Still, support for Democrats among Arab Americans has hemorrhaged over the past decade, as these wars revealed themselves to be bipartisan affairs. The most dramatic example of this distinction-without-a-difference came in 2023, when the Democratic Party pledged “ironclad” support through the Biden administration for the destruction of Gaza -- a “special military operation” which some researchers have claimed killed as many as 64,260 people in its first 9 months. While no study has been conducted to examine partisanship among Arab Americans in the post-2024 context, it is likely to be more diffuse now than in recent years.

Key Themes

Respondents were asked to report the level of satisfaction they felt with the government’s handling of

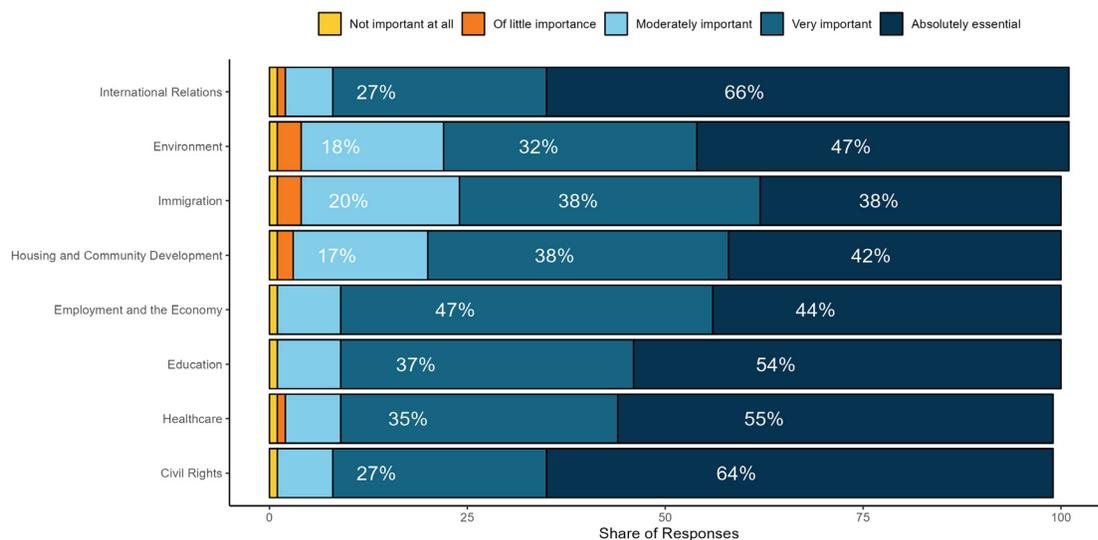
select issues and the level of importance they ascribed to those issues. Respondents were then asked to report the level of importance they ascribe to more specific issues within each broader policy area. For instance, in the section on Healthcare issues respondents were asked to report the level of importance they ascribed to the *Quality and Affordability of Healthcare, Mental Health, Reproductive Care, Reproductive Rights, and Substance Use Disorders*. In all, we asked respondents to report how important to them 5 sub-issues were within each of the 8 broader issue areas.

Figure 3 demonstrates the level of importance respondents ascribed to the eight issues we surveyed.

Our results being as the largest share of our respondents reported International Relations being as the issue most important to them, with 66 percent reporting it as “Absolutely essential” and 27 percent reporting it as “Very important.” The next most important issue to respondents was Civil Rights, with 64 percent reporting it as being “Absolutely essential.” Please see **Appendix B and Appendix C** for a breakdown of how respondents reported importance for all issues and of the ten most important sub-issues to respondents, respectively.¹

Figure 3. International Relations and Civil Rights are Most Important Issues

How important is addressing the following issues to you?



¹Importance level was assessed with respect to the sub-issues that received the greatest share of either “Absolutely essential” or “Very important” votes.

Healthcare: Respondents Find it Most Important to Address Access to Affordable and Effective Healthcare Services

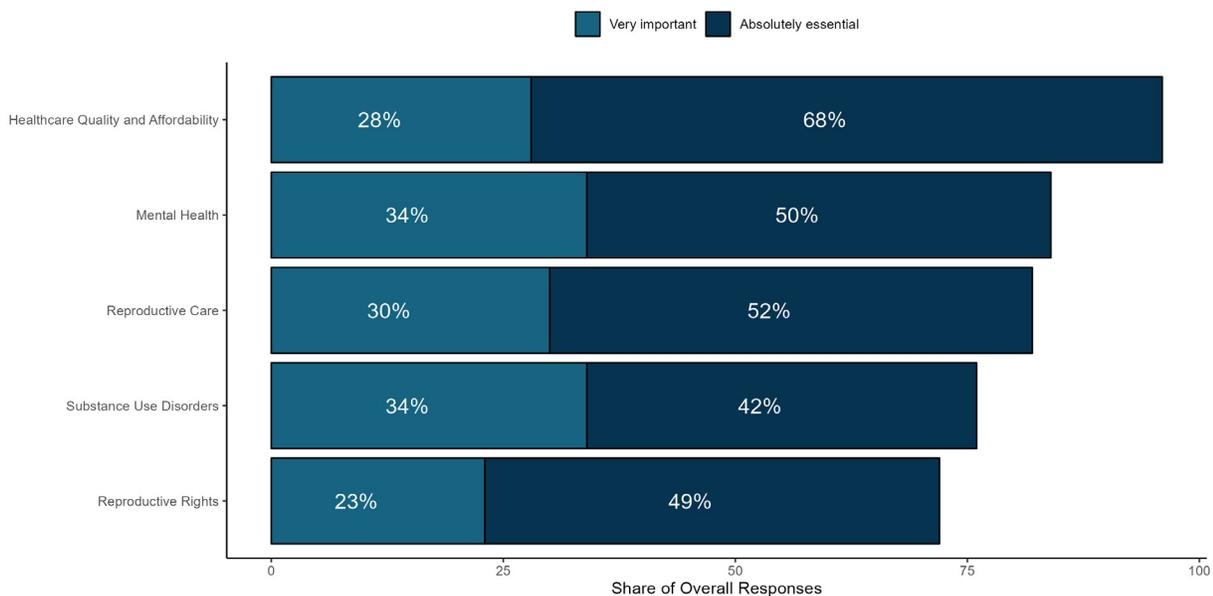
By a wide margin, the most important healthcare issue to respondents was *Quality and Affordability* of healthcare. In fact, all our respondents reported *Healthcare Quality and Affordability* as being either “Absolutely essential,” “Very important,” or “Moderately important” to them. This finding holds across age, gender, and household income groupings, which indicates that our sample population broadly shares a concern with their ability to utilize affordable health insurance coverage and access more targeted and effective healthcare service programs. Figure 4 represents the share of respondents who reported each Healthcare issue as being either “Very important” or “Absolutely essential.”

Surprisingly, given the taboo and stigma historically associated with the topic in the Arab American community², *Mental Health* was the next-most important healthcare issue to respondents. This may suggest that the topic is of increased significance and is becoming a more acceptable matter of concern across Arab American

communities. Notably, the COVID pandemic marked a turning point in the Arab American communities’ consideration and acceptance of *Mental Health*, given its acute impact on large segments of the broader population at that time.

Our results also reported the largest share of “Not important at all” or “Of little importance” votes (10 percent) for the healthcare issue of *Reproductive Rights*, which differed from *Reproductive Care* in that the former referred to abortion access specifically, whereas the latter referred to more general matters concerning maternal health care. Those who appreciate the fraction of Arab Americans with more socially conservative viewpoints may be surprised at the finding that 72 percent of Arab Americans find abortion to be either “Absolutely essential” or “Very important.”³ However, this finding is on par with the findings from similar surveys of the broader population.

Figure 4. Importance of Healthcare Issues
Percent of Respondents for whom Addressing the Issue is ‘Absolutely essential’ or ‘Very important’



² Al-Krenawi, A., & Graham, J. R. (2016). Help-seeking: Traditional and modern ways of knowing, and insights for mental health practice. In M. M. Amer & G. H. Awad (Eds.), *Handbook of Arab American psychology* (pp. 263–274). Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

³ <https://iwpr.org/three-in-four-adults-73-consider-reproductive-rights-a-crucial-policy-area-for-their-families-according-to-new-institute-for-womens-policy-research-poll-on-reproductive-health-and-rights/>

Education: Attaining a Bachelor’s Degree at a Reasonable Cost is at least “Very Important” to Nearly All Respondents

The most important education issues to respondents were *Quality K-12 Education*, followed by *College Affordability*, and *Early Childhood Education*. These issues were rated either “Absolutely essential” or “Very important” by 93 percent, 92 percent, and 85 percent of the sample population, respectively.

These findings demonstrate that our sample population is primarily concerned with the ability of the American education system to prepare its students to attain a bachelor’s degree at a reasonable cost. Education issues received significantly smaller shares of “Absolutely essential” or “Very important” votes if they were either complementary to that end, such as *After-School Programs for K-12 students* (57 percent), or of tertiary relevance, such as whether there is *Sex/Gender Inclusion in Schools* (57 percent). The relatively low importance ascribed to after-school programs may be a product of the families that need such programs (e.g. lower income families who don’t speak English at home) not being proportionately represented in our sample. Instead, a disproportionate share of our sample population was comprised of affluent, US-born individuals.

Of all the issues surveyed, 26 percent of respondents called *Sex/Gender Inclusion in Schools* either “Not important at all,” or “Of little importance” which was 15 percent greater than the next-least important issue. Please see **Figure 22 in Appendix E** for a comparison of responses to the five least important issues surveyed.

Employment and the Economy: Bread-and-Butter Issues (Cost of Living, Job Security, and Labor Rights) are at least “Very Important” to Nearly all Respondents

Under this section, the two issues that garnered the largest shares of “Absolutely essential” and “Very important” votes among respondents were *Cost of Living* (92 percent) and *Job Security and Labor Rights* (89 percent), which suggests that our respondents are most concerned with bread-and-butter issues – i.e., the basic means of subsistence. The two next-most important issues, *Success of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Arab American Small Business Owners* (78 percent) and *Professional Development and Job Training Access* (76 percent), concern means by which individuals and their families can upskill or otherwise improve their relative socioeconomic position.

To respondents, the least important issue of employment and the economy was *Gender-Based Employment Disparities*, which, though it garnered “Absolutely essential” and “Very important” votes from 76 percent of respondents, was called “Of little importance” and “Not important at all” more than any other issue in this section.



Mural in the Little Arabia District of Anaheim, CA, to be officially recognized as “Little Arabia” in 2024. Photo courtesy of Arab American Civic Council.

Housing and Community Development: Nearly All Respondents Consider Housing Affordability and Infrastructure to be at least “Moderately Important”

Under this section, the issue that commanded the greatest share of “Absolutely essential” votes was *Affordable Housing* (53 percent), which all respondents described, along with *Infrastructure* (49 percent), as either “Absolutely essential,” “Very important,” or “Moderately important.” *Public Transportation* also received a large share of “Absolutely essential” (49 percent) votes. The issue of housing and community development that received the lowest share of such votes was *Affordable Cars and Insurance*.

The results suggest that our respondents are most concerned with matters relating to cost of living -- in this case housing -- as well as the quality and utility of roads and bridges. However, at least 90 percent of respondents

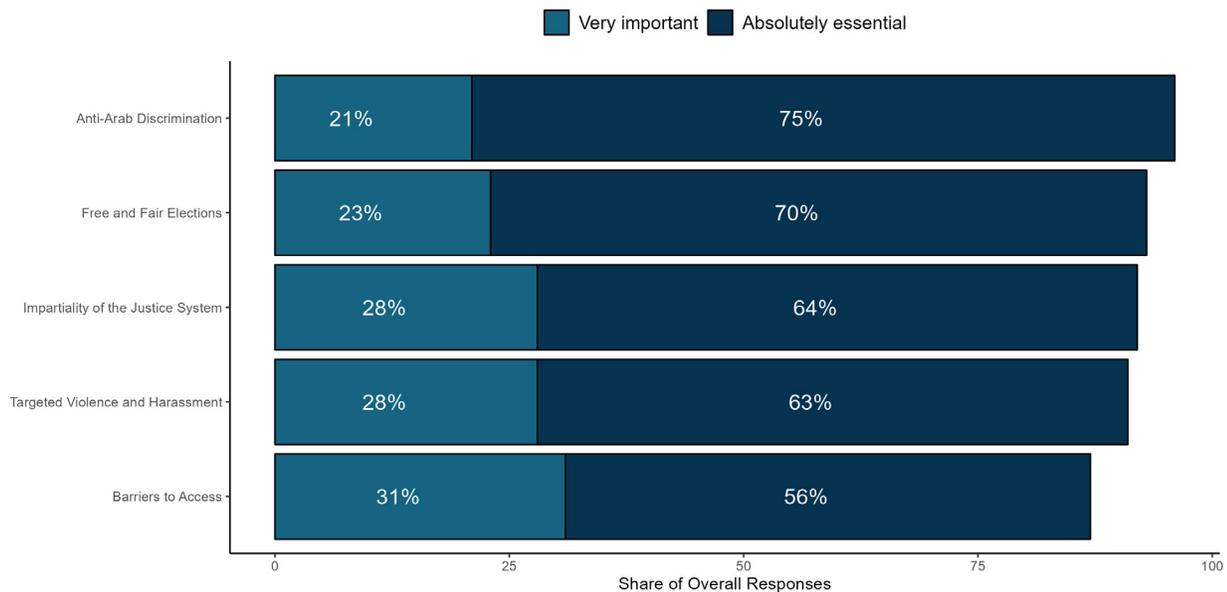
reported all housing and community development issues, including Community-driven Development Projects, as being at least “Moderately important,” suggesting that there was broad interest in all issues relating to **Housing and Community Development**.

Civil Rights: All Respondents Consider Addressing Anti-Arab Discrimination to be at least Moderately Important

69 percent of our respondents reported being either “Very dissatisfied” or “Dissatisfied” with how the government has handled **Civil Rights**, while 91 percent of our respondents reported the issue as being either “Very important” or “Absolutely essential” to them. Among the various **Civil Rights** issues, only *Anti-Arab Discrimination* was regarded by all of our respondents as being either “Absolutely essential,” “Very important,” or “Moderately important.”

Figure 5. Importance of Civil Rights Issues

Percent of Respondents for whom Addressing the Issue is 'Absolutely essential' or 'Very important'





Arab American Service Day 2023 in Dearborn, MI, organized by NNAAC.
Photo Courtesy of ACCESS

Given the salience of **International Relations** issues at the time the survey was administered, it made sense to filter them out from the top 10 list created in **Appendix C** to get a sense of what other sub-issues were most important to respondents. **Figure 22 in Appendix E** demonstrates that all five **Civil Rights** issues make the top 10 once **International Relations** issues are filtered out.

Altogether, these results indicate that Arab Americans are dissatisfied with enforcement of their civil rights protections and seek a remedy to anti-Arab racism and discrimination. The relative importance of **Civil Rights** may be explained by the endurance and success of Arab American civil rights organizations, whose work has instilled in our communities a sense that these issues are of the utmost importance.

Immigration: Humane Treatment of Migrants, both and within our Borders, is at Least “Moderately Important” to Nearly all Respondents

60 percent of all respondents ranked *Humane Treatment of Migrants at the Border* as “Absolutely essential,” the highest figure in the **Immigration** section, followed by *Citizenship-Based Discrimination* (54 percent) and *A Pathway to Citizenship for Immigrants* (50 percent). Only 42 percent of respondents rated *A Pathway to Citizenship for Immigrants* as “Absolutely essential,” the

lowest such share in the section, perhaps reflecting the disproportionately large share of our respondents who were born in the US, and thus not impacted by that particular issue. The results indicated broad interest across a range of other immigration issues, including *The Migrant Application Backlog* and *Assimilation and Integration for Immigrants*.

On January 27, 2025, NNAAC and CAN published a report entitled “**The Muslim Ban, MENA Migration, and the Shattered Dream of America,**” which analyzed data from the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS) on refugee admissions and lawful permanent resident (LPR) obtainments. Our report demonstrated how the Muslim Ban and COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacted the growth trajectory of the nationwide Arab American and broader MENA population.

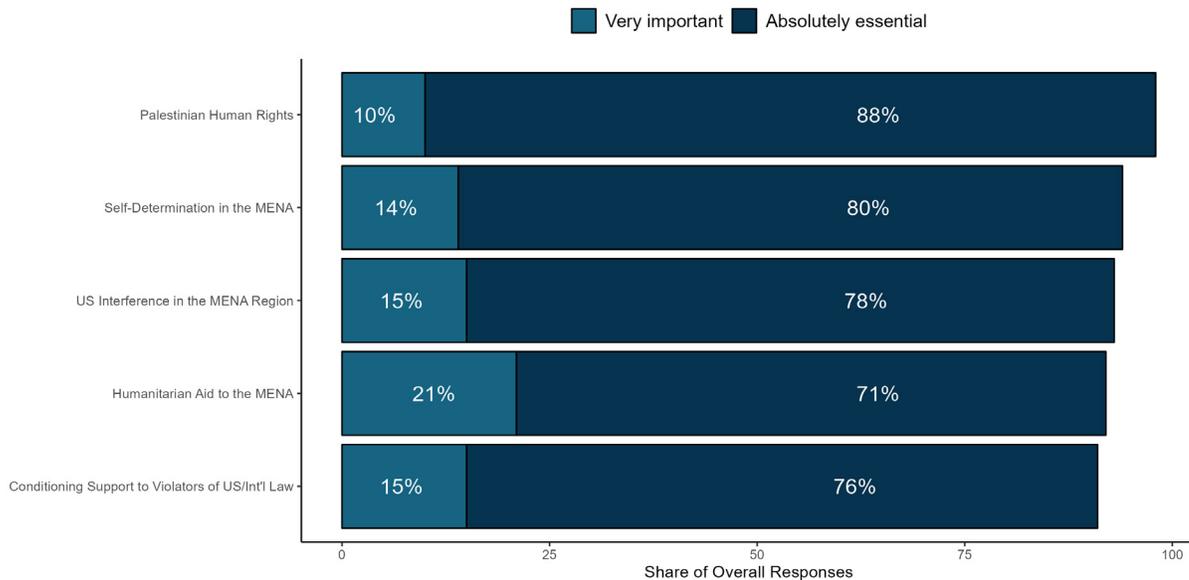
International Relations: Palestinian Human Rights is “Absolutely Essential” to Nearly 90 percent of Respondents

While Arab Americans are not monolithic in their concerns, **International Relations** stood out among all issue areas surveyed as that in which Arab Americans registered the most consistent dissatisfaction. At the time the survey was administered, Arab Americans were most dissatisfied over the United States’ support for Israel’s military operations in Gaza. Unsurprisingly, our respondents reported the issue of International Relations being most important to them. **Figure 20 in Appendix C** demonstrates that all five **International Relations** issues were included among the ten most important issues to respondents.

The most important **International Relations** issues to Arab Americans were those of Palestinian human rights and the self-determination of people in the MENA region. These results suggest an interest in foreign policy reform that prioritizes upholding international humanitarian law as it concerns Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. The importance to Arab Americans of MENA self-determination suggests an interest in the U.S. significantly reducing the extent to which they influence the political affairs of MENA countries, whether through hard or soft power diplomacy.

Figure 6. Importance of International Relations Issues

Percent of Respondents for whom Addressing the Issue is 'Absolutely essential' or 'Very important'



Above all else, these findings reflect the deeply personal nature of **International Relations** for Arab Americans. Many Arab Americans trace their ancestral origins to countries in which the U.S. is involved either directly or by proxy (e.g. Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen). Many Arab Americans are either immigrants or only one or two generations removed from a migrant. Death and destruction in these countries is not simply a matter of concern to Arab Americans writ large, but one concerning the friends and family of specific Arab Americans. Moreover, whether one's own friends or family were impacted, the wanton violence perpetrated against Arab Americans serves as a stark reminder that, to many U.S. policymakers, Arab lives may just not matter as much as others. These sentiments were undoubtedly a factor in the relative importance respondents ascribed to **International Relations**.

Environment: Vulnerability to Adverse Weather Events Heads an Issue-List of Moderate Importance

Nearly all Environment issues received a similar share of "Absolutely essential" and "Very important" votes

(between 75 and 78 percent) except for one: *Climate Migration*, which only received such votes from 67 percent of respondents. This finding may indicate the relative newness of the term into the popular political lexicon, particularly in relation to more established environmental issues such as those of *Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Clean Energy Transportation*.

The environmental issue that garnered from respondents the most "Absolutely essential" votes was that of *Vulnerability to Adverse Weather Events*, which may reflect the significant number of Dearborn, MI-based individuals in the sample population. Dearborn, due to its regional and topographic features, is particularly susceptible to flooding. As a result, Dearborn residents have long advocated for targeted investments which can make existing infrastructure more resilient in the face of adverse weather events. This may help to explain the earlier finding in the **Housing and Community Development** section of *Infrastructure* as one of the more important issues to respondents.

Conclusion

The results of the survey reflect the diversity and sophistication of both thought and priority among Arab Americans. It also suggests that across a range of issue areas, Arab Americans are most concerned with matters pertaining to the material subsistence and physical security of themselves and their families, both at home and abroad. Importantly, given our unrepresentative sample size, these findings should not be taken as representative of the broader Arab American community, but as a partial snapshot of the NNAAC member service population and community support network during an increasingly dark and difficult time for Arab Americans more broadly.

These findings also reflect a consensus among the Arab American population that the United States

government has not made sufficient progress across a range of policy areas. Given the results of the 2024 general election, which saw the ouster of the incumbent party from control of both the administration and the Senate, that sentiment places Arab Americans in a similar boat with many underrepresented and underserved communities.

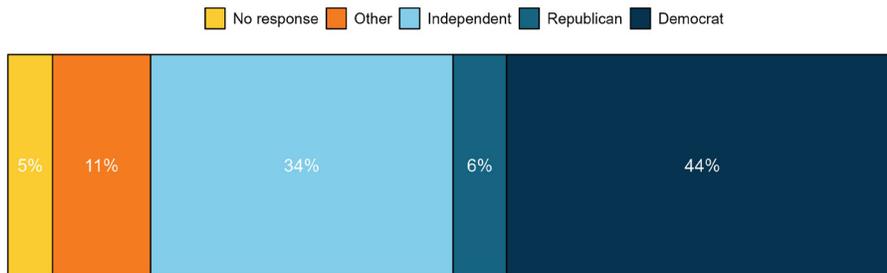
Still, Arab Americans are a dynamic and diverse community for whom concerns, and satisfaction levels are subject to change. As such, these findings will be updated through more regular surveying of our community, using this and other survey instruments. In the interim, the findings of this report will be used to inform policymakers, advocates, and researchers of the issues that impact and resonate with the service populations and community support networks of community-based organizations in the NNAAC coalition.

APPENDIX A. DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENT POPULATION PARTY AFFILIATION

Party Affiliation

Figure 7. One-third of Respondents are Politically 'Independent'

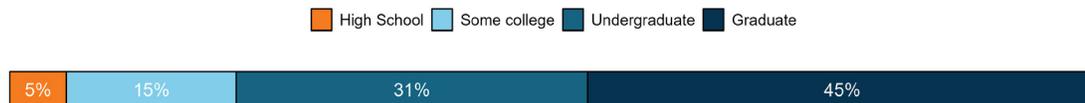
With what political party do you most closely affiliate?



Educational Attainment

Figure 8. Over 75 percent of Respondents Attained at least an Undergraduate Degree

What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed?



Native vs. Foreign-Born

Figure 9. 61 percent of Respondents are US-born

Where were you born?



Gender

Figure 10. 62 percent of Respondents Are 'Women'

What do you think of yourself as?



Household Income

Figure 11. Respondents Nearly Split Between Those Who Make Below \$100,000 and Those Above

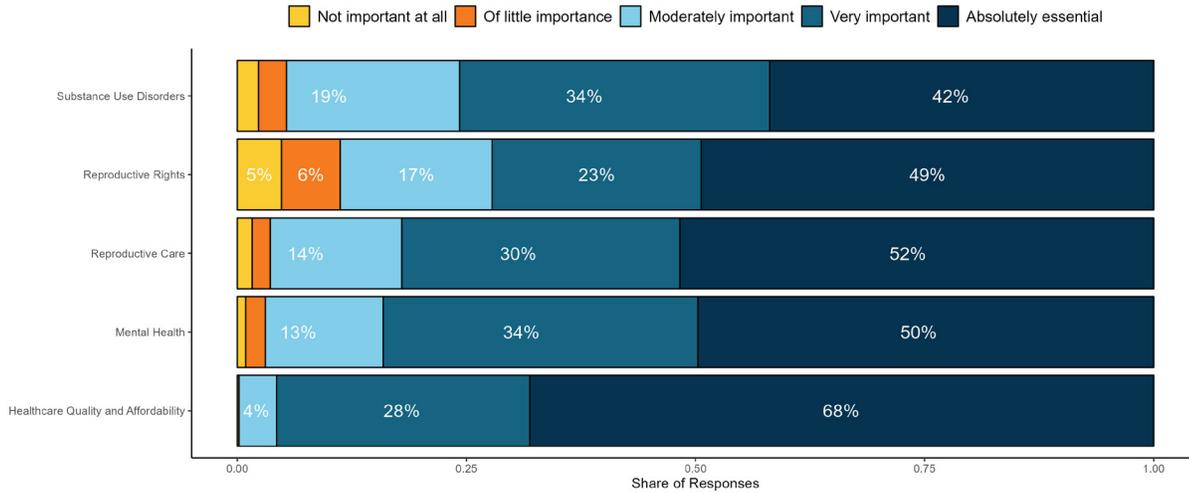
What is your annual household income?



APPENDIX B. BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES BY ISSUE AREAS

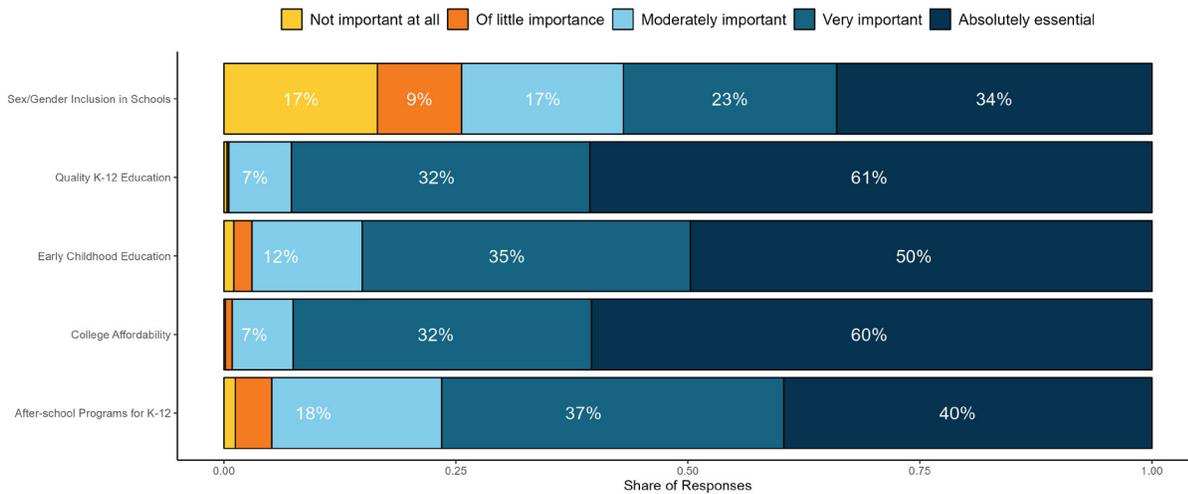
Healthcare

Figure 12. Healthcare Quality and Affordability at least Moderately Important to All Respondents
How important is addressing the following 'Healthcare' issues to you?



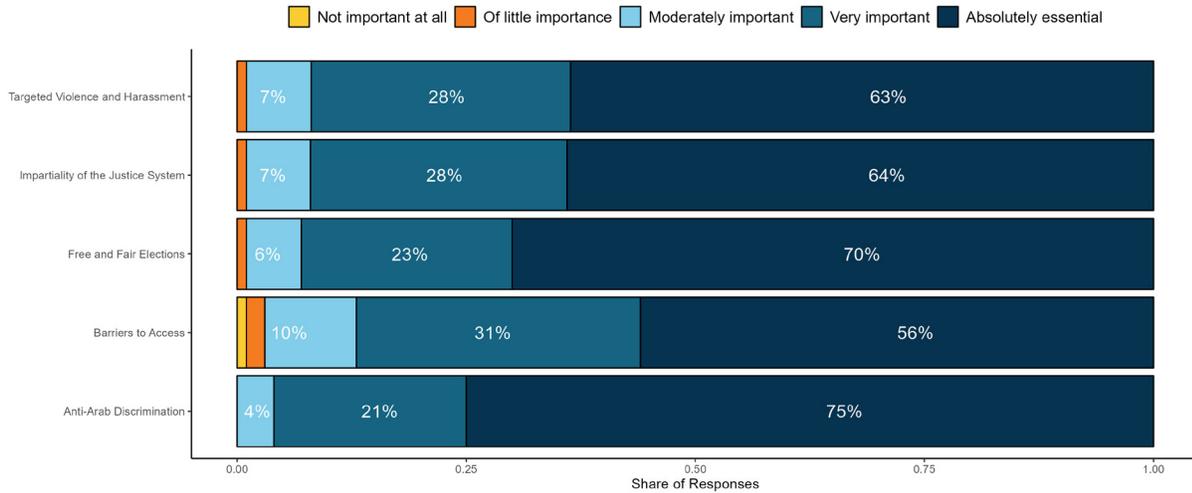
Education

Figure 13. Quality K-12 Ed and College Affordability Most Important Issues to Address
How important is addressing the following 'Education' issues to you?



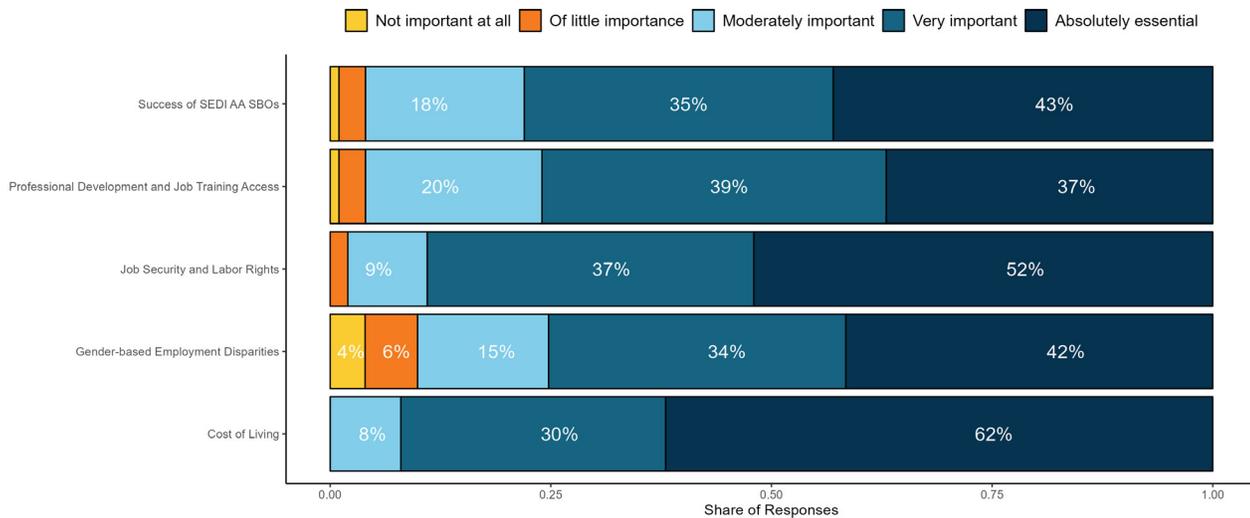
Civil Rights

Figure 14. Addressing Anti-Arab Discrimination at least Moderately Important to All Respondents
How important is addressing the following 'Civil Rights' issues to you?



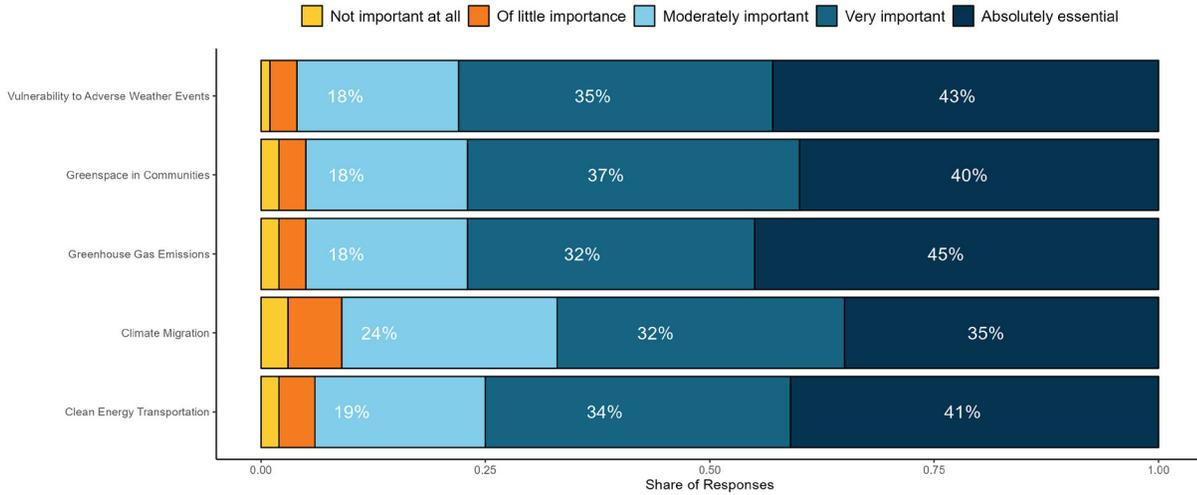
Employment and the Economy

Figure 15. Cost of Living, Job Security and Labor Rights of Greatest Importance
How important is addressing the following 'Employment and the Economy' issues to you?



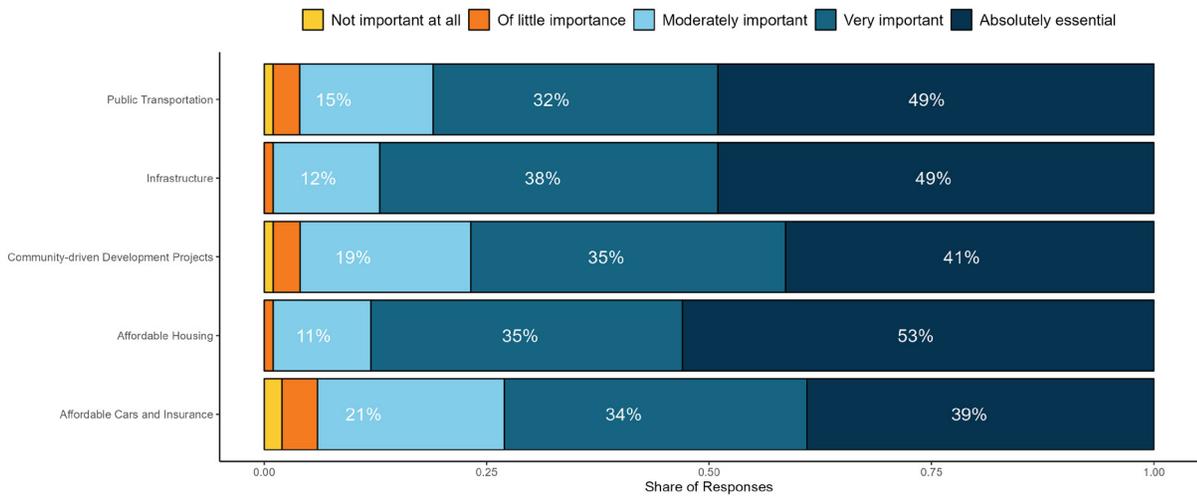
Environment

Figure 16. Importance of Climate Migration Lags Behind Other, More Commonly Known Issues
How important is addressing the following 'Environment' issues to you?



Housing and Community Development

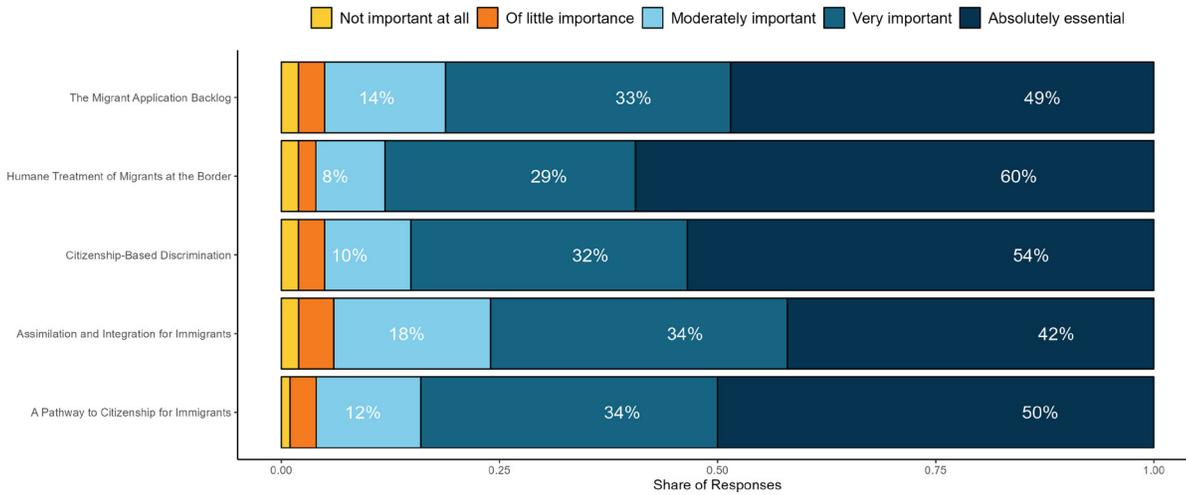
Figure 17. Cost of Living and Infrastructure at least Moderately Important to All Respondents
How important is addressing the following 'Housing and Community Development' issues to you?



Immigration

Figure 18. Humane Treatment of Migrants at the Border Most Important to Respondents

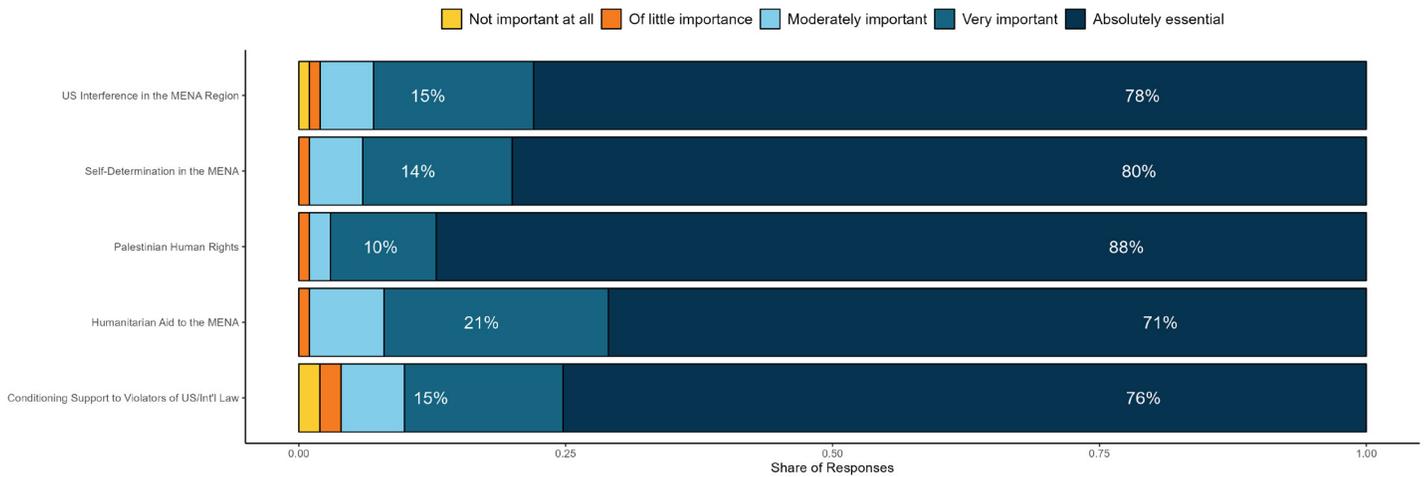
How important is addressing the following 'Immigration' issues to you?



International Relations

Figure 19. Palestinian Human Rights and Self-Determination of MENA Countries Important to All Respondents

How important is addressing the following 'International Relations' issues to you?



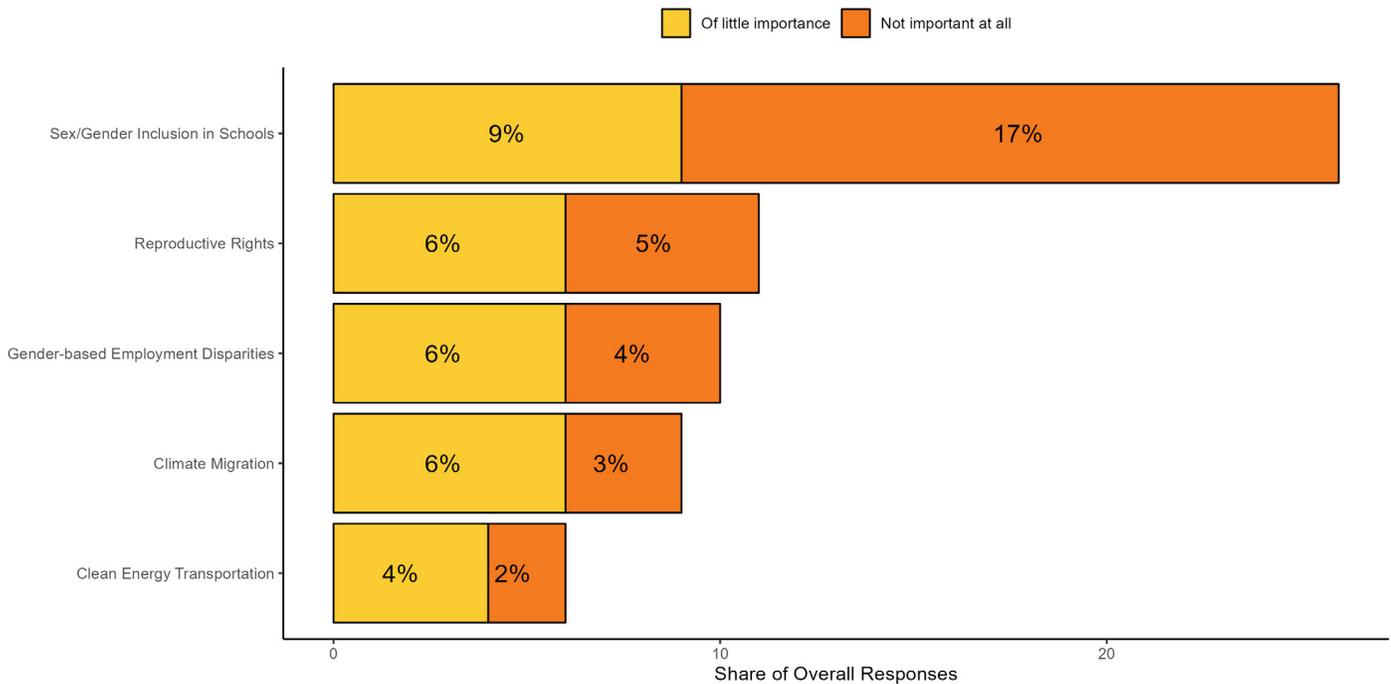
APPENDIX C. TEN MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Figure 20. The 10 Most Important Issues to Arab Americans
Percent of Respondents for whom Addressing the Issue is 'Absolutely Essential' or 'Very Important'



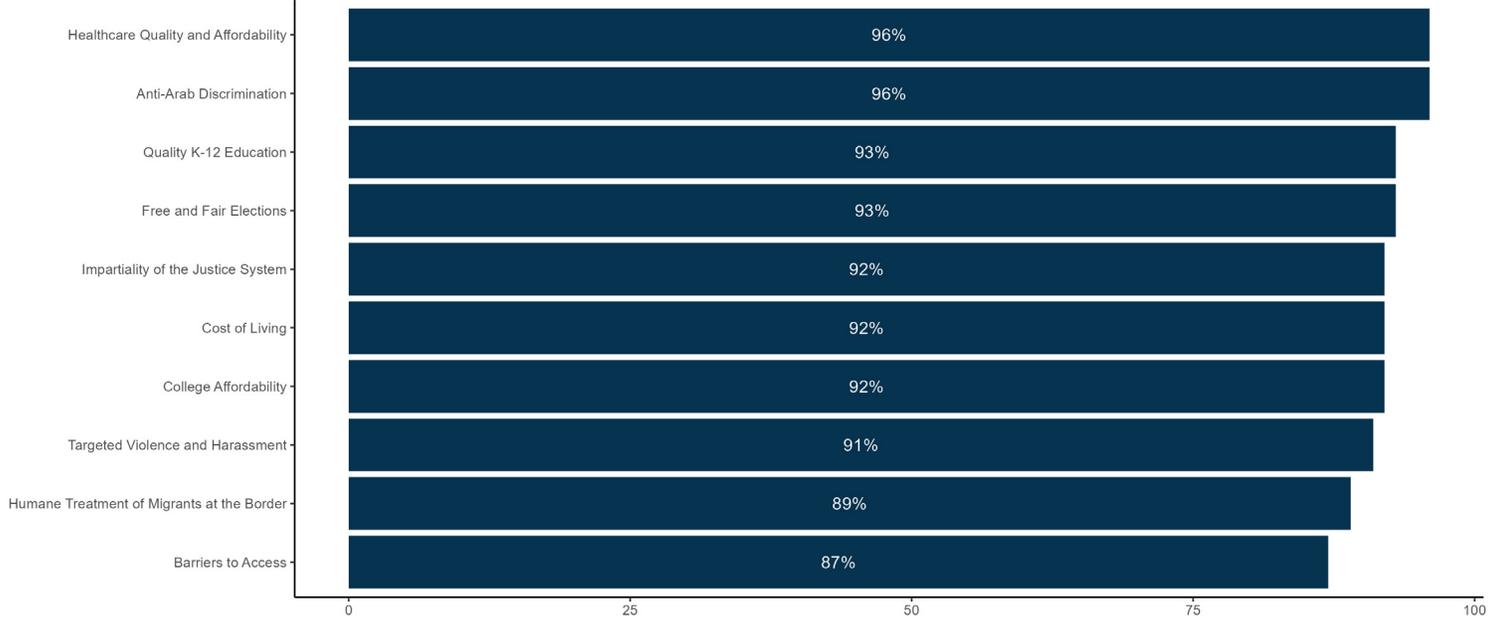
APPENDIX D. FIVE LEAST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO RESPONDENTS

Figure 21. The 5 Least Important Issues to Respondents
Percent of Respondents for whom Addressing the Issue is 'Not Important at all' or 'Of Little Importance'



APPENDIX E. TEN MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (EXCLUDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Figure 22. The 10 Most Important Issues to Arab Americans, Excluding IR
Percent of Respondents for Whom Addressing the Issue is 'Absolutely Essential' or 'Very Important'



Background on Contributors

NNAAC is a coalition of Arab American community-based service organizations. NNAAC was founded in 2004 as a national institution of ACCESS, the nation's largest Arab American community-based nonprofit service organization. The establishment of NNAAC was a direct response to the post-9/11 social climate of hate and discrimination that affected Arab Americans across the United States. In this context, ACCESS collaborated with other Arab American community-based organizations to develop a mechanism to build collective capacity and coordinate community service work. In the two decades since its establishment, NNAAC has grown to include 36 independent Arab American community-based organizations in 13 different states.

CAN, an institution of ACCESS, works to improve the wellbeing of the Arab American and MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) communities by facilitating and sharing community-empowered research.

AAP is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization building power through grassroots leadership development, the creation and implementation of an Arab American policy agenda, and civic engagement that is deeply rooted in community organizing.

About the Authors

ADAM BEDDAWI

Adam Beddawi is the Policy and Research Manager for the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), a coalition of Arab American community-based service organizations and a national institution of ACCESS, the largest Arab American community-

based service organization in the country. Adam is a dedicated analyst and community advocate working to bridge gaps between government and underserved populations. From the NNAAC Office of Policy in Washington, D.C., Adam works closely with the Center for Arab Narratives (CAN), Adam works with a diverse array of stakeholders to improve the health and socioeconomic status of Arab Americans and other underserved populations by producing and analyzing public-facing research, data and policy products. His most notable accomplishments include successfully advocating for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to revise Statistical Policy Directive Number 15 to include a Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) reporting category, working with Congress to introduce legislation aimed at improving the quality of care for Arab Americans and enhancing scientific understanding of their unique health needs, organizing with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a virtual roundtable on Arab American and MENA health, and securing the recognition of MENA populations as a minority health disparity population under the Biden administration, and ensuring through the federal appropriations process that MENA community needs are proactively included in the design and implementation of targeted research and programs.

HANEEN ELDIRI

Haneen Eldiri is the National Organizer for the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC). Based in Dearborn, Michigan, she supports the amplification of state and federal policy campaigns by collaborating with NNAAC's network of 36 independent Arab American organizations across the country. In her role, Haneen advocates for the inclusion of grassroots voices in policy work, ensuring that community perspectives are central to advocacy efforts.

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

2651 Saulino Ct.
Dearborn, MI 48120

700 Pennsylvania Ave. SE
Suite 2062
Washington, DC 20003

<https://nnaacommunities.org>

Center for Arab Narratives (CAN)

13624 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, MI 48126
<https://www.arabnarratives.org/>

Arab Americans For Progress

<https://www.aaforprogress.org/>