

COVID-19 and visible minority groups' perceptions of safety



According to the 2016 Census, approximately **1 in 5 (22%)** Canadians were designated as belonging to a visible minority group.

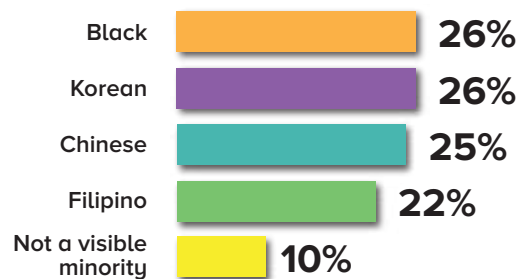
Visible minority groups generally report feeling less safe than the rest of the population. Feeling unsafe can negatively impact physical and mental health, general well-being, and social cohesion.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

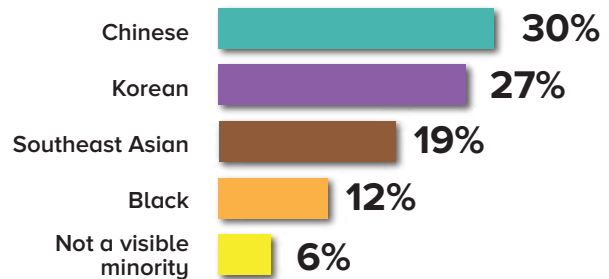
1 in 5 (21%)

visible minority crowdsourcing participants **perceived that harassment** or attacks based on race, ethnicity or skin colour **occurred sometimes or often** in their neighbourhood, double the proportion among the rest of the population (10%).

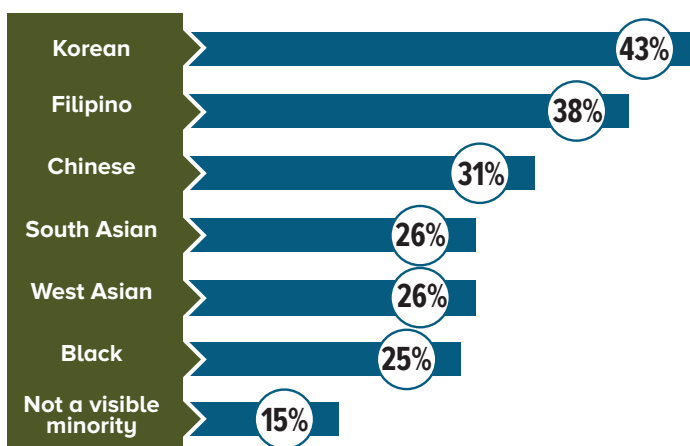
Visible minority participants were three times more likely (18%) than the rest of the population (6%) to **perceive increases in the frequency of harassment** or attacks based on race, ethnicity or skin colour.



% perceiving harassment sometimes or often



% perceiving an increase in harassment since COVID-19 began



% who feel unsafe

27% of visible minority participants reported feeling **very or somewhat unsafe** when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, compared with **15%** of participants who are not designated as visible minorities.

Among visible minority participants, more than **1 in 3 women** felt unsafe when walking alone after dark, compared with **1 in 5 men**.