



STOP AAPI HATE NATIONAL REPORT

3/19/20 – 6/30/21

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This national report covers the 9,081 incident reports to Stop AAPI Hate from March 19, 2020 to June 30, 2021.¹ The number of hate incidents reported to our center increased from 6,603 to 9,081 during April–June 2021. Of all incident reports, 4,548 hate incidents occurred in 2020 and 4,533 of hate incidents occurred in 2021.

Types of Discrimination

- Verbal harassment (63.7%) and shunning (16.5%) – the deliberate avoidance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders – continue to make up the two largest proportions of the total incidents reported. A majority of incidents are traumatic and harmful, but not hate crimes.
- Physical assault (13.7%) comprises the third largest category of total reported incidents, followed by being coughed at or spat on (8.5%).
- Civil rights violations – e.g., workplace discrimination, refusal of service and being barred from transportation – account for 11.0% of the total incidents.
- Online harassment makes up 8.3% of total incidents.

National Trends

- A majority of incidents reported take place outside of the home and in spaces often open to the public. Public streets (31.6% of incidents) and businesses (30.1% of incidents) remain as the top sites where anti-AAPI hate occurs.
- Hate incidents reported by women make up 63.3% of all reports.
- Youth (0 to 17 years old) report 9.9% of incidents and seniors (60 years old and older) report 6.9% of the total incidents.
- Chinese have reported more hate incidents (43.5%) than all ethnic groups, followed by Koreans (16.8%), Filipinx (9.1%), Japanese (8.6%) and Vietnamese (8.2%).
- Of all hate incidents, 48.1% included at least one hateful statement regarding anti-China and/or anti-immigrant rhetoric.

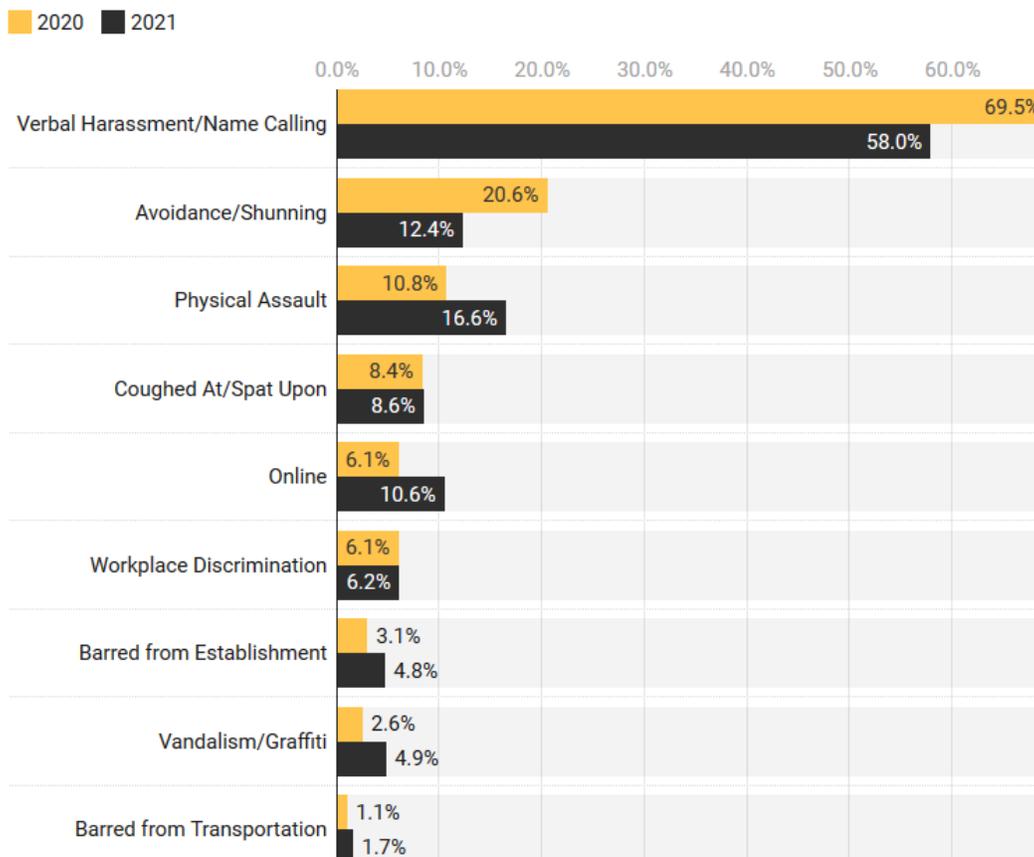
¹ The report excludes the incident reports that were international cases (n=91), as well as all invalid incident reports (e.g., spam reports).



Comparison of 2020 and 2021

- Verbal harassment and shunning decreased from 69.5% and 20.6% in 2020 to 58.0% and 12.4% in 2021, respectively.
- Physical assaults increased from 10.8% of the total hate incidents in 2020 to 16.6% in 2021. Vandalism increased from 2.6% in 2020 to 4.9% in 2021.
- Online hate incidents increased from 6.1% in 2020 to 10.6% in 2021.
- More incidents occurred in public streets (36.6% in 2021 vs. 26.7% in 2020), public transit (8.8% in 2021 vs. 8.2% in 2020), and private residences (10.0% in 2021 vs. 8.9% in 2020).
- More seniors (60 years old and older) reported hate incidents in 2021, increasing from 6.5% in 2020 to 7.2% in 2021.

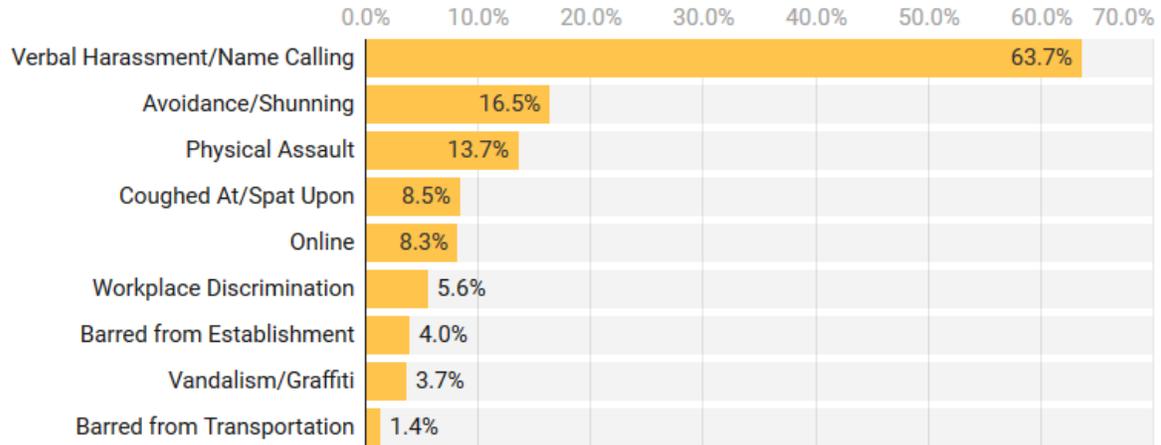
Types of Discrimination in 2020 vs. 2021





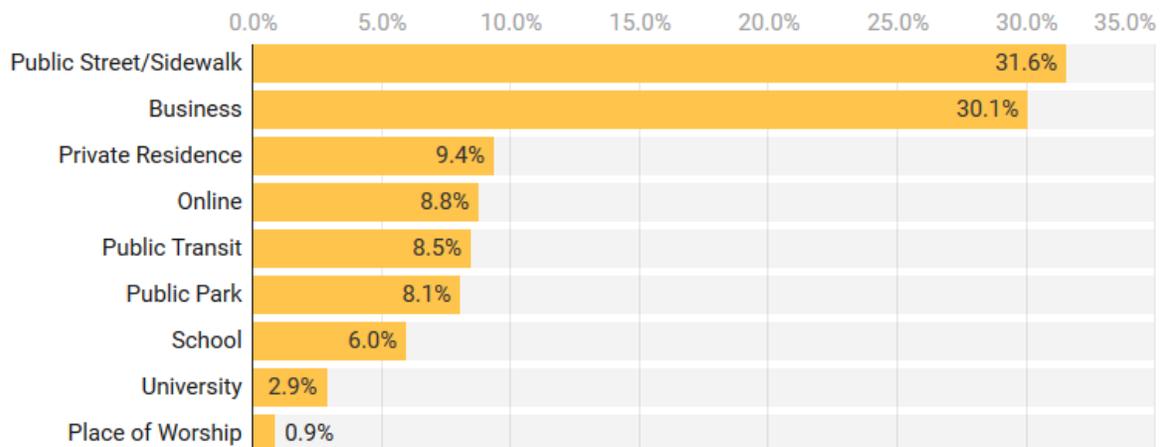
Types of Discrimination

N = 9,081



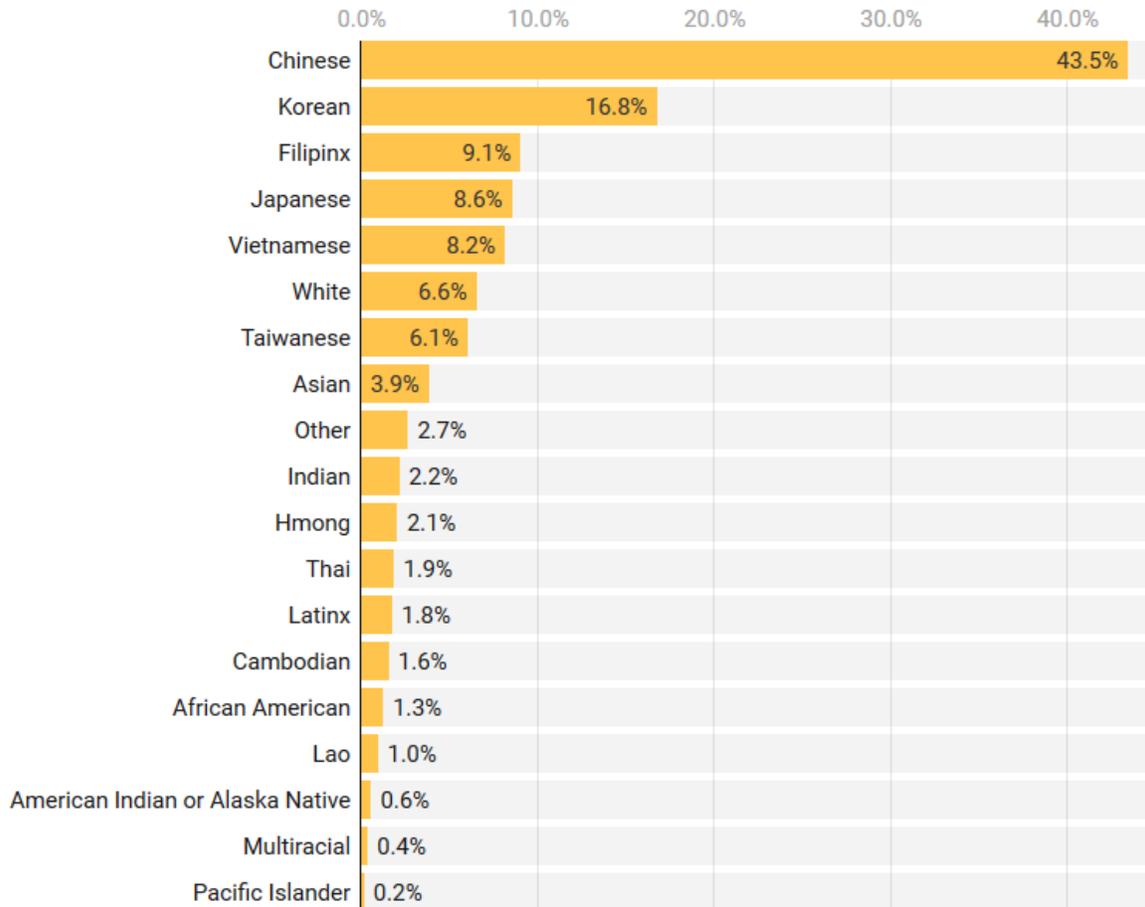
Sites of Discrimination

N = 9,081





Ethnicity of Respondents

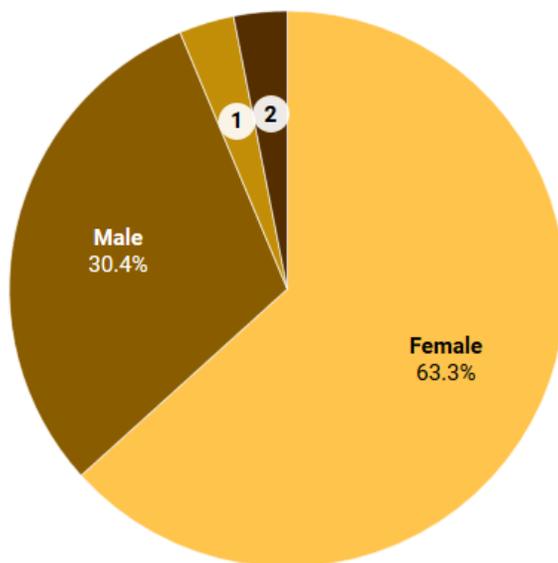


Note: Individuals who reported to Stop AAPI Hate could select multiple racial and ethnic categories. The numbers above indicate the exact categories individuals used to self-identify. Some respondents selected the category “Asian” instead of selecting a specific Asian ethnicity. Some people chose the “Multiracial” category, while others selected two or more categories to convey their multiracial heritage (e.g., “Chinese” and “White.”) The presence of non-AAPI race/ethnicity is due to reports from multiracial AAPI persons as well as non-AAPI persons reporting on behalf of others or after witnessing an incident.

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Gender of Respondents

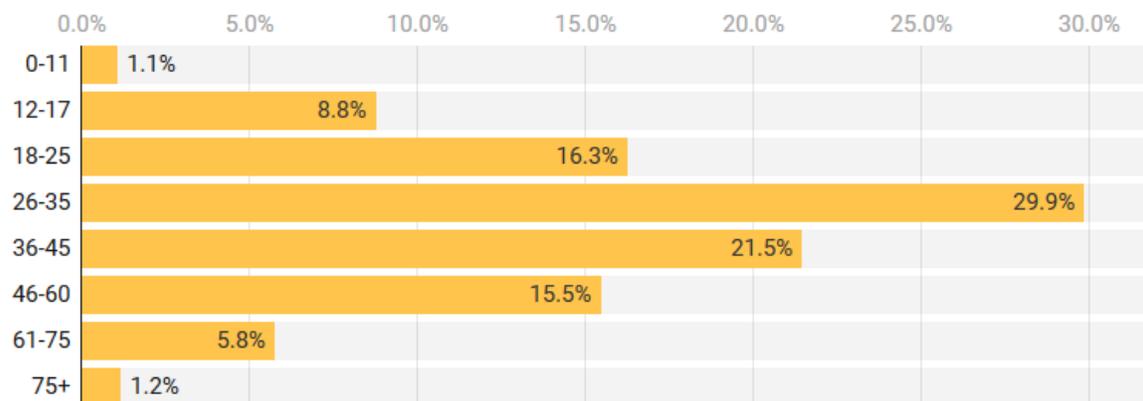
N = 8,691



1 Gender Nonbinary 2 Prefer Not To Specify

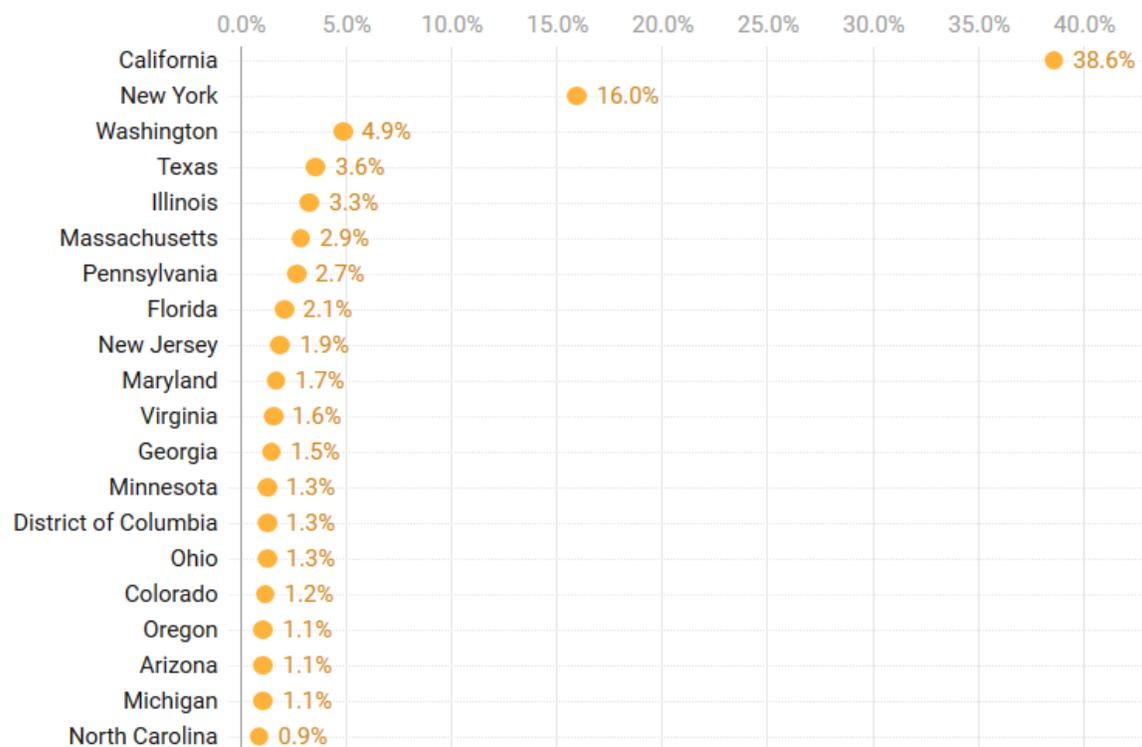
Age of Respondents

N = 7,986



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20 States with Largest Number of Hate Incident Reports



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Hateful Languages Were Included in Nearly Half of All Incident Reports

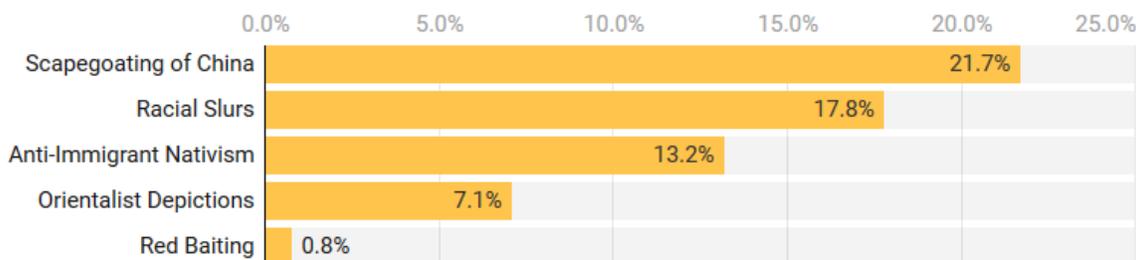
Of 9,081 hate incident reports included in this report, 48.1% included at least one hateful statement regarding anti-China and/or anti-immigrant rhetoric. The U.S.–China relations can have implications for the treatment of Asians in the United States as reflected by the use of anti-China statements. Please see the APPENDIX for more information on *the Racial Impacts of the U.S.–China Relations on Asian Americans*.

Content analysis of hateful languages from the reports revealed five different themes. These themes are not mutually exclusive (one report can include more than one type of statements):

- **Scapegoating of China:** Scapegoating involves blaming Chinese people/China for the coronavirus, deaths, etc.
- **Racial Slurs:** Racial slurs reference derogatory Asian labels, such as “chink” or “gook.”
- **Anti-Immigrant Nativism:** Anti-immigrant nativist comments express that Asians are perpetual foreigners who do not belong here and can include claims in which the victim is told to “go home” or “go back to China.”
- **Orientalist Depictions:** Orientalist depictions include statements about Asians’ perceived cultural exoticism, such as their dietary habits (e.g. dog or bat eating) or comments about dirtiness, etc.
- **Red-Baiting:** Red-baiting comments associate the victim with communism or socialism.

Types of Hateful Language

N = 9,081



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A Summary of Hateful Languages

Theme	Definition	Count	% of Reports	Example
Scapegoating of China	Blames China or Chinese people as source of for the coronavirus	1,967	21.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Get away from me! You have COVID!” • “Kung Flu”
Racial Slurs	Derogatory Asian labels	1,618	17.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Chink” • “Gook”
Anti-Immigrant Nativism	Xenophobic commentary	1,200	13.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Go back to China!” • “Go back to where you came from!”
Orientalist Depictions	Comments that exoticize Asian culture	643	7.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietary habits (ie dog or bat eating) • Saying that Chinese people are dirty
Red-baiting	Associate victim with communism	70	0.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associating victim with communism or member of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party)



Verbal Harassment

- A White male passed by and said "F**king ch***s!" When we stopped and asked him what he just said, he then yelled out very loudly to us using phrases such as "F**king ch***s!"; "Where are you from?" "You are not from here!" "Go back to your country!" (Jersey City, NJ)
- My mom went to a grocery store in Villa Park, California for the first time in a while. While shopping, she passed by a white older couple, a man and a woman. As she passed them, the husband exclaimed, "disgusting Japanese sh*t." My mom was shaking and on the verge of tears. (Villa Park, CA)
- I was taking a walk with my friend around Oak Mesa. An old man yelled at us, saying we should all stay home. I did not know why, so I asked him if I was talking too loud. He then said, "everyone in your country is spreading the virus, killing millions of people," and "You should stay home too." He even insulted us with F words. *[Reported in Chinese]* (La Verne, CA)

Shunning / Avoidance

- While shopping with my younger sisters, a White person turned the corner and deliberately swerved to avoid us. He looked terrified to have almost accidentally been near us. Later at the cash register, he was very comfortably standing near and talking with other people. (Maplewood, MN)
- I went to the store with a mask, the staff kept ignoring me and went to serve others that were behind me in the waiting line. I politely asked to order but he called me "A**hole"! There also was a lady in the store who pointed at me and said, "Covid is all because of you!" (Bloomington, IL)

Physical Assault

- Man yelled, "B****, f*** you. Go back to China," and kept following us. Eventually, he punched me in the back of the head before running off. (Boston, MA)
- The victim was an elderly Asian grandmother using a shopping cart as a walker. A man knocked her over and then kicked her shopping cart. (New York, NY)

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- A male with dark brown short curly hair physically assaulted a Vietnamese male unprovoked, pulled his hair, punched him repeatedly in the face, body, and sat on him and beat him with closed fists. Bystanders were like sheep, and this made me furious. I was so mad that ALL the other bystanders were cowards and didn't step in to help. Once outside, I ran in to separate the two men and pulled out pepper spray to keep the [assailant] away. The [assailant] threatened the Vietnamese man saying, "You're f*****g dead. I'm going to kill you." (Newport Coast, CA)

Online

- I'm an eighth-grade student. In an online group chat with five other students, I was harassed for being Chinese. I was repeatedly told to "f*** off the planet with my viruses" and that I equaled the virus. (Chesterfield, MO)
- In an online gaming space, a random user started spewing hate speech toward Chinese people. He said, "China needs to pay for spreading THEIR virus" and that the "whole world" must be mad at China right now. He encouraged anti-Chinese hate in "retaliation" to what we've supposedly done. (Rowland Heights, CA)
- I was in the middle of a Zoom presentation at the [online event] when a number of people hacked into the Zoom room and started disrupting my presentation with barely intelligible remarks. They were kicked out but not before entering into the Zoom Chat: "CHING CHONG. ASIANS DESERVES TO BE KILLED." (Culver City, CA)

Coughed / Spat On

- I asked the gentleman to put his mask over his nose at my workplace. He then came over, pulled his mask completely off, coughed on me, and said, "Asian motherf*****r, probably brought this thing here in the first place." (New Braunfels, TX)
- My parents [an older Asian couple] were walking through a suburban neighborhood. A [young driver] from a nearby gated community pulled up to my parents, coughed at them, then yelled "coronavirus" and "China virus" at them. (Thousand Oaks, CA)
- I was walking with a friend visiting from England and we were both speaking in Korean. A clean-cut young man who looked like an office worker was coming towards us and when he was near us, he hacked up his spit and spat towards us. [Reported in Korean] (Seattle, WA)



Barred from Establishment / Refusal of Service

- A store associate at the local [store] refused us check-out service after we had waited in line for a very long time. Her store manager defended her. The [store associate] made the comment that “don’t think I’m treating you this way because of what you people are.” (San Diego, CA)
- Went to the register for service. Employee was upset about having me as a customer. Was told “go back to China,” and “get out and don’t come back.” (Old Tappan, NJ)
- The manager of a shop told me to “get out of the store.” She said she decided what maximum capacity was before yelling “the sign is written in English.” (Washington, DC)

Workplace Discrimination

- A colleague hit my face with her cellphone after seeing that I was wearing a face mask. She said “all Chinese are sick.” I was in shock and left with a bleeding lip. (Chicago, IL)
- I was out on a COVID leave and the day before my return, I was notified that I was not allowed to go on work property or contact any employees and they put me on administrative leave for no reason. They ended up transferring me 1 1/2 hours away without hiring another nurse to take my position, and left my site without a licensed nurse. When I arrived at my new site, I was taken to a room and given no work duties. There was a noose-like rope hanging next to my chair. (Fallbrook, CA)

Vandalism / Graffiti

- My car was vandalized. The words “Korean and ch*** s*ut, go back home” were graffitied on my car. (Denver, CO)
- Local Asian restaurant vandalized with graffiti reading “Kung flu, commie, I hope you die.” (San Antonio, TX)
- They graffiti the back of my fence with those hateful words including “f***ing Asians”. (Fremont, CA)



[APPENDIX]

The Racial Impact of U.S.–China Relations on Asian Americans

The U.S./Asian international relations clearly connect to the treatment of Asians in the United States. The incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the Islamophobia faced by South Asians after 9/11 are historic examples of how other Americans – due to their racism and xenophobia – scapegoat and discriminate against Asian Americans.

Similarly, U.S.–China relations have shaped the racial experiences of Chinese Americans. By invoking the Yellow Peril stereotype, that Chinese are outside threats to the U.S. and perpetual foreigners, policy-makers have both exacerbated antagonisms between the two nations and inflamed anti-Chinese hate. The following timeline of U.S.–China relations illustrates this complex relationship.

1950s: Korean War and the Red Scare in Chinatowns

China's fall to Communism and its involvement in the Korean War heightened political emotions around the 1950s Red Scare of communism infiltration. Senator Joe McCarthy and other politicians exploited this fear as the House Un-American Activities Committee and the FBI investigated suspects. The government also targeted and surveilled the Chinese American community, especially through the "Chinese Confession Program."

This program encouraged Chinese who came as unauthorized "paper sons" to confess in return for possible citizenship, but also at the risk of implicating other family members. While many did gain citizenship, others were deported or lost citizenship papers. The Red Scare had a chilling effect in Chinatowns – families couldn't send remittances to China, families became divided over politics, and community members could not speak out about China. [1-2]

1960s: Vietnam War, Gookism, and Sexism

The U.S. and China were again on opposing sides in the Vietnam War, with China supporting North Vietnam. The racial slur "gook," initially used against Filipino "natives" during the Philippine-American War before reappearing as a general anti-Asian epithet during the Korean War, re-emerged as a derogatory term for the Vietnamese.

However, Asian Americans recognized that "gookism" made no distinction between Asians in Vietnam and those in America, as the face of America's enemy was Asian. Asian American veterans especially felt "this military culture of fear and hatred firsthand."

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At the same time, this military culture dehumanized Vietnamese women not only as gooks but as sexual objects as well. The stereotype of China dolls and bar prostitutes became a popular representation of Asian women, especially in Hollywood, leading to their hypersexualization and fetishization. [3]

1990s: Military Tensions, the DNC Scandal, and the Arrest of Wen Ho Lee

In the early 1990s, China tested miniature nuclear weapons, concerning American intelligence about their sudden technological advances. In 1996, the People's Liberation Army conducted military exercises in the Taiwan Strait to intimidate Taiwan, and the U.S. dispatched two aircraft carrier battle groups in response. Later, in 1999, the U.S. mistakenly bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, which led to massive anti-U.S. demonstrations in China.

In this geopolitical context, the People's Republic of China was accused of influencing the Democratic National Party with improper campaign donations. The Justice Department and Congress held investigations and the DNC conducted its own audit, investigating any Asian surname on their donor rolls. This racial profiling of Asian Americans re-established the perpetual foreigner stereotype of them employing illegal, political interference.

Three years later in 1999, the U.S. government discovered that nuclear secrets were stolen from Los Alamos National Laboratory. The classified Cox Report, leaked by the NY Times, identified Chinese spies within the labs as the thieves. The FBI arrested Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwanese American, on 59 counts of espionage and put him in solitary confinement for nine months. He, too, was unfairly racial profiled and later was released with an apology from President Clinton. [4-5]

2021: The China/Chinese Threat: Unfair Trade, Scientific Espionage, and National Security

"The discourses of Chinese unfair trade competition, scientific espionage, and technological surveillance frame the reception of the pandemic. One may argue that President Trump's insistence on blaming China for the spread of the deadly virus is yet another tactic in his administration's sustained attempt to quell China's economic power at the same time that it provides a foil to distract from – and a scapegoat to blame for – the economic and public health crisis in which we find ourselves" (p. 424) [5].

Such political rhetoric re-invoke the Yellow Peril, which today "represents heightened Western anxieties around China's combined forces of population size, global economic growth, and rapid technological-scientific innovation" (p. 425) [5].



Consequently, this “techno and fiscal Orientalism” – anxieties about Asian’s technical and economic domination – have led to trade sanctions against China, removal of Chinese scientists from universities, and the proposed banning of WeChat, a Chinese social media company. Expressed also in President Trump’s insistence on the term, “Chinese virus,” such rhetoric racializes the disease as Chinese. [6-8]

References

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[Stop AAPI Hate](#) is a national coalition addressing anti-Asian racism across the U.S. The coalition was founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department. Between March 19, 2020 and June 30, 2021, Stop AAPI Hate received 9,081 reported incidents of racism and discrimination targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the U.S. Visit stopaapihate.org.



The [Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#) (A3PCON) is a coalition of more than forty community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable populations.



[Chinese for Affirmative Action](#) (CAA) was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and to advance multiracial democracy in the United States. Today, CAA is a progressive voice in and on behalf of the broader Asian American and Pacific Islander community. We advocate for systemic change that protects immigrant rights, promotes language diversity, and remedies racial and social injustice.



[SF State Asian American Studies](#) (AAS) is the oldest and largest such academic program in the nation. Founded after the 1968-69 Black Student Union and Third World Liberation Front student strike, it maintains the strike's values of student activism, social justice, and community self-determination.