STOP AAPI HATE NATIONAL REPORT

3/19/20 − 9/30/21

Aggie J. Yellow Horse, Ph.D., Russell Jeung Ph.D., Ronae Matriano

From March 19, 2020 to September 30, 2021, a total of 10,370 hate incidents against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons were reported to Stop AAPI Hate (SAH). Of the hate incidents reflected in this report, 4,599 occurred in 2020 (44.4%) and 5,771 occurred in 2021 (55.7%). This national report features: (1) descriptions of 10,370 hate incidents from Stop AAPI Hate data; (2) key findings from a nationally-representative survey conducted from September 21, 2021 to October 8, 2021; and (3) three emerging focus areas reflecting our commitment to AAPI communities. The report also includes new details reflecting the data standards established in *Documenting Anti-AAPI Codebook,* which was produced by SAH in collaboration with The Asian American Foundation, and provides a list of terms relevant to anti-AAPI hate [1].

Executive Summary
- A nationally-representative survey conducted by SAH and the Edelman Data & Intelligence Team estimates that nearly one in five Asian Americans (21.2%) and Pacific Islanders (20.0%) have experienced a hate incident the past year.
- According to SAH data, verbal harassment (62.9%) and shunning (16.3%) — the deliberate avoidance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders — continue to make up the biggest share of total incidents reported.
- Physical assault (16.1%) comprises the third largest category of total reported incidents followed by online harassment (8.6%).
- Civil rights violations — e.g., workplace discrimination, refusal of service, being barred from transportation, and housing-related discrimination — account for 11.3% of total incidents.

National Trends
- A majority of incidents take place in spaces open to the public. Public streets (31.2% of incidents) and businesses (26.8% of incidents) remain the top sites of anti-AAPI hate.
- Hate incidents reported by women make up 62.0% of all reports.
- Youth (0 to 17 years old) report 9.9% of incidents and seniors (61 years old and older) report 7.1% of the total incidents.
- Chinese report the most hate incidents (42.7%) of all ethnic groups, followed by Korean (16.1%), P/Filipinx (9.0%), Japanese (8.2%), and Vietnamese (7.8%).

National Survey Reveals 1 in 5 Experienced a Hate Incident the Past Year

While these first-hand reports from Stop AAPI Hate identify trends facing AAPI communities; they only reflect a small number of the hate incidents occurring nationwide [2]. To complement our community-based data about anti-AAPI hate, we collaborated with the Edelman Data & Intelligence Team to conduct a nationally-representative survey with more than 1,000 AAPI respondents. The survey was administered online from September 21, 2021 to October 8, 2021. For more information about the survey, please refer to the *Technical Appendix*.

Overall Key Findings

National Trends
- One in five Asian Americans (AAs; 21.2%) and Pacific Islanders (PIs; 20.0%) have experienced a hate incident the past year. Nationally, this translates to an estimated 4.8 million Asian Americans and 320,000 Pacific Islanders.
- Since 2020, 8.3% of AA and 9.4% of PI respondents indicated that they have experienced multiple hate incidents while 12.8% of AA and 10.6% of PI respondents indicated that they have experienced a hate incident. In addition to those who experienced direct racism, 13.6% of AA and 15.6% of PI respondents indicated that someone they were close to experienced racism.
- AA respondents with high school education reported experiencing twice the rate of hate incidents (41.2%) compared to those with at least some college education (19.8%) and those with a BA or higher degree (13.8%).
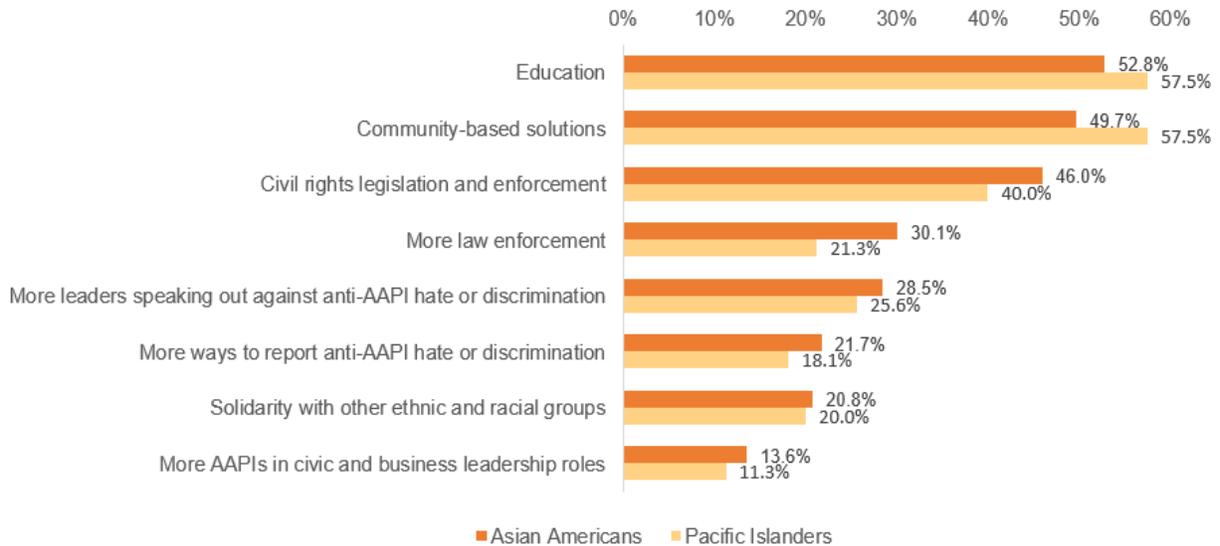
Concerns about School and Work
- One in three AA parents (30.6%) and PI parents (31.4%) stated that their child experienced a hate incident at school in the past year.
- 31.5% of AA and 26.4% of PI respondents reported that they experienced a hate incident at work in the past year.
- More than one out of five AA respondents (23.5%) and PI respondents (21.7%) stated that they are reluctant to go back to in-person work because of potential anti-AAPI hate or discrimination.
- AA respondents with high school education (65.2%) reported experiencing a hate incident at work in the past year, as compared to those with at least some college education (31.4%) and those with a BA or higher degree (21.4%).

Solutions for Addressing Anti-AAPI Hate

- AAPI respondents believe the top solutions to addressing anti-AAPI hate are: (1) more education and public awareness (52.8% for AAs and 57.5% for PIs); (2) community-based solutions (49.7% for AAs and 57.5% for PIs); and (3) civil rights legislation and enforcement (46.0% for AAs and 40.0% for PIs).
- AA respondents identified federal (44.6%), state (44.0%), and local (48.0%) government and agencies as the key institutions for addressing anti-AAPI hate and discrimination. Similarly, 40.2% of respondents identified civil and community groups as the key institutions.

Most Effective Solutions in Addressing Anti-AAPI Hate

	Asian Americans	Pacific Islanders
Education	52.8%	57.5%
Community-based solutions	49.7%	57.5%
Civil rights legislation and enforcement	46.0%	40.0%
More law enforcement	30.1%	21.3%
More leaders speaking out against anti-AAPI hate or discrimination	28.5%	25.6%
More ways to report anti-AAPI hate or discrimination	21.7%	18.1%
Solidarity with other ethnic and racial groups	20.8%	20.0%
More AAPIs in civic and business leadership roles	13.6%	11.3%

Listening to Our Communities: Three Focus Areas

Stop AAPI Hate's overarching objective is to address anti-AAPI discrimination and violence with community-centered, comprehensive and long-term strategies. These align with what AAPI communities believe are the most effective solutions to racism: (1) ethnic studies for educational equity, (2) community-based safety solutions, and (3) civil rights legislation and enforcement. They address both institutional and interpersonal forms of racism, and prioritize racial solidarity and non-carceral approaches to justice.

Ethnic Studies for Educational Equity

Ethnic Studies is the interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity that centers on the histories, voices, and issues of communities of color. It introduces the histories and contributions of minoritized communities and improves their academic agency, especially among students at risk [3]. Ethnic Studies further compares and contrasts the racial experiences of groups, providing models to establish institutions that are more equitable and just [4]. Finally, it promotes racial empathy and solidarity through structured dialogues to resolve racial conflicts [5, 6].

Community-Based Safety Solutions

The majority of hate incidents are not hate crimes, yet a sense of safety has important health implications [7]. Rather than more policing or mass criminalization that disproportionately affect communities of color [8], community-based safety solutions that center "practices and ethics for reducing, and responding to harm" [9] can simultaneously increase a sense of safety as well as build solidarity with other communities to address common concerns. Community-based safety solutions can also accompany educational campaigns for public awareness and knowledge about its importance.

Civil Rights Legislation and Enforcement

Ensuring and advocating for the civil rights of AAPI communities will entail a multi-pronged approach. Building upon the strengths of the Stop AAPI Hate data, building a reliable and accurate data infrastructure to systemically document both interpersonal and systemic forms of discrimination against AAPI communities *over time* is critical — coupled with efforts to increase culturally- and linguistically- education about civil rights and resources; and timely services. This expansion of civil rights also involves creating and deepening the collaborative relationships with other communities [10].

More Information from the Stop AAPI Hate Data

As mentioned earlier, the Stop AAPI Hate data report includes additional details reflecting the suggestions from the *Documenting Anti-AAPI Codebook,* which provides a list of terms relevant to anti-AAPI hate [1]. Information about our standard data cleaning procedures can be found in the *Technical Appendix* at the end of this report. More information about the qualitative data cleaning process can be found in the *Stop AAPI Hate Data Codebook*.

Types of Discrimination
N=10,370
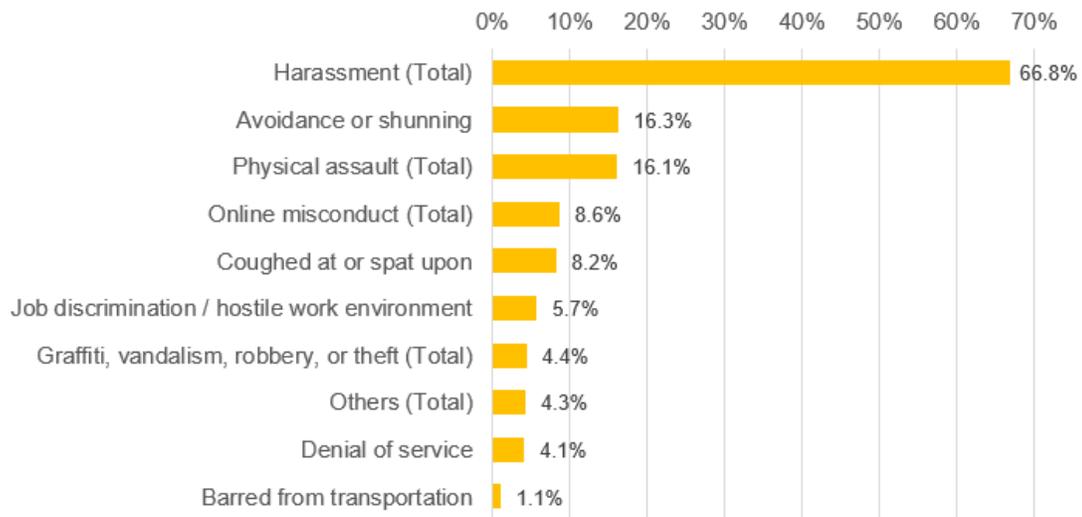
Note: Individuals who reported to Stop AAPI Hate could select more than one type of discrimination; thus the percentages do not add up to 100%.
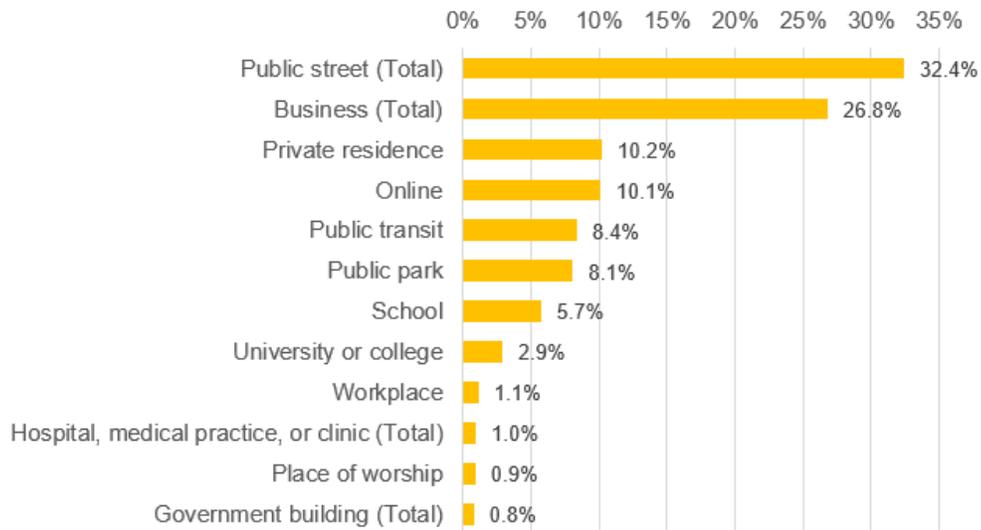
Types of Discrimination
N=10,370

Types of Discrimination	%
Harassment (Total)	**66.8%**
Verbal hate speech and/or harassment	62.9%
Behavioral (e.g., following/stalking, bullying)	1.4%
Gesture (e.g., middle finger, "slanted eye gesture")	1.1%
Written (e.g., printed materials such as hate letters, propaganda, or signage)	1.0%
Sexual harassment	0.5%
Avoidance or shunning	**16.3%**
Physical assault (Total)	**16.1%**
Physical assault (without more information)	1.3%
Physical attack	9.0%
Being sprayed or things thrown at	1.8%
Threat or intimidation (verbal)	1.9%
Threat or intimidation (physical; with objects)	2.1%
Online misconduct (Total)	**8.6%**
Online (without more information)	1.1%
Direct (directed at the person)	3.2%
Indirect (observing racism/watching media & posts)	4.2%
Coughed at or spat upon	**8.2%**
Job discrimination / hostile work environment	**5.7%**
Graffiti, vandalism, robbery, or theft (Total)	**4.4%**
Graffiti or vandalism	3.7%
Robbery or theft	0.7%
Others (Total)	**4.3%**
Microaggression, differential treatment	3.0%
Threatening to and/or negative interactions with law enforcement	0.9%
Housing-related discrimination	0.4%
Denial of service	**4.1%**
Barred from transportation	**1.1%**

Note: We only chose to qualitatively re-code three categories to further disaggregate the categories: (1) physical assault, (2) online misconduct, and (3) other. Additional categories are created from both the text information individuals have provided for "Other, please specify" as well as reading the full hate incident description. Some of the additional categories have been re-organized under "Harassment". We did not make the value judgement about what constitute "sexual harassment" or "microaggregation." They are coded as such only if individuals used those exact wordings to describe the type of discrimination they experienced.

Sites of Discrimination
N=10,370

| | 0% | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% |

Public street (Total) — 32.4%
Business (Total) — 26.8%
Private residence — 10.2%
Online — 10.1%
Public transit — 8.4%
Public park — 8.1%
School — 5.7%
University or college — 2.9%
Workplace — 1.1%
Hospital, medical practice, or clinic (Total) — 1.0%
Place of worship — 0.9%
Government building (Total) — 0.8%

<u>Note</u>: The "School" category is assumed to refer to K-12 reflecting the age categories of the individuals who reported. Those who checked the "University" category did not also check the "School" category.

### Sites of Discrimination
N=10,370

Sites of Discrimination	%
Public street (Total)	**32.4%**
Public street or sidewalk	31.2%
Public space and on the road	0.6%
Parking lot	0.4%
Outside (e.g., hiking trail, beach)	0.2%
Business (Total)	**26.8%**
Business: Grocery Store	10.2%
Business: Non-Grocery Store (Total)	16.6%
Private residence	**10.2%**
Online	**10.1%**
Public transit	**8.4%**
Public park	**8.1%**
School	**5.7%**
University or college	**2.9%**
Workplace	**1.1%**
Hospital, medical practice, or clinic (Total)	**1.0%**
Place of worship	**0.9%**
Government building (Total)	**0.8%**

Note: Additional categories are created from both the text information individuals have provided for "Other, please specify" as well as reading the full hate incident description.

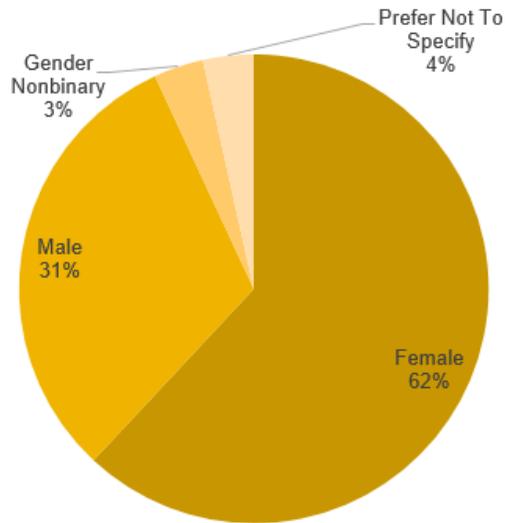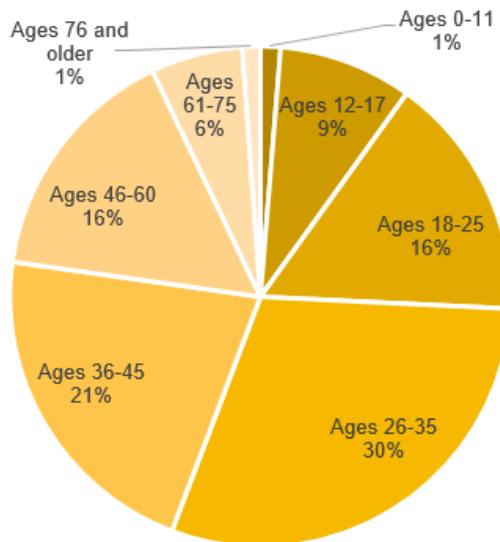### Ethnicity of Individuals Who Reported Hate Incidents
N=10,370
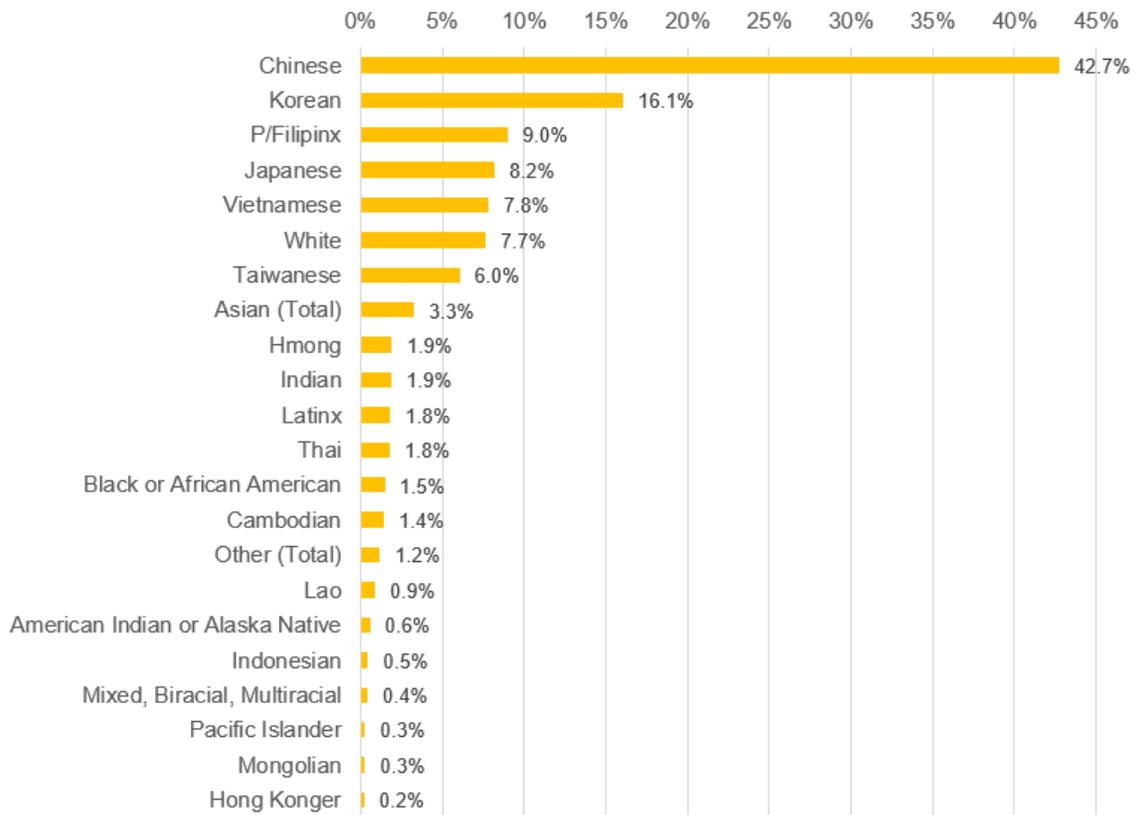
Note: Individuals who reported to Stop AAPI Hate could select multiple racial and ethnic categories. The numbers above indicate the exact categories individuals used to self-identify. Some respondents selected the category "Asian" instead of selecting a specific Asian ethnicity. Some people chose the "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. We changed the "Filipinx" category (wording used in the reporting form) to "P/Filipinx" to reflect our collaborating community organizations' preference for "Pilipinx." However, given different preferences [3], we chose to use the "P/Filipinx" term instead.

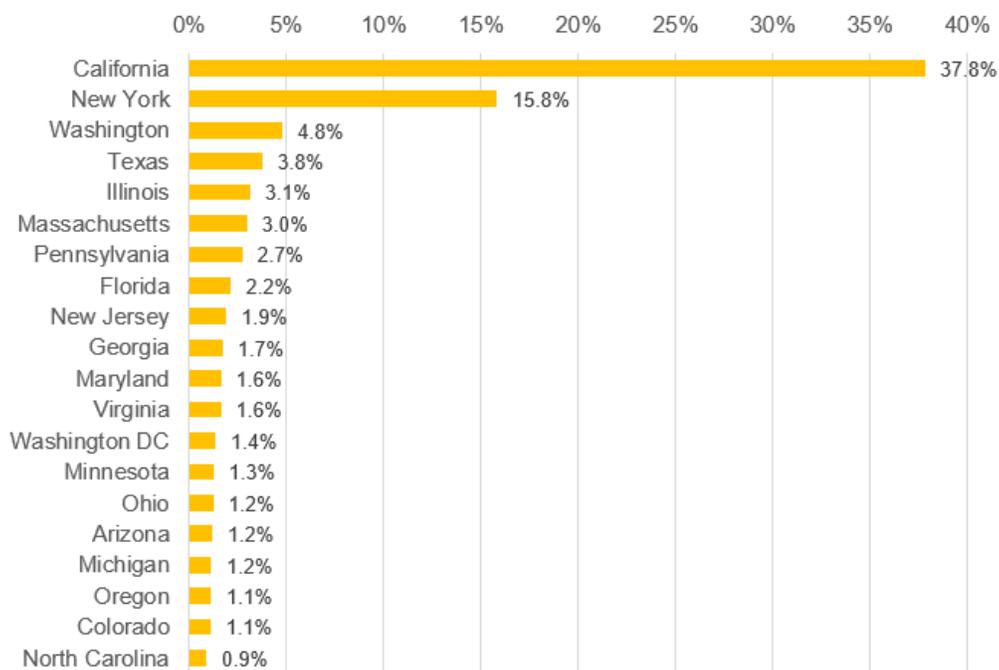### *Gender of Individuals Who Reported Hate Incidents*
N=9,219

Age Groups of Individuals Who Reported Hate Incidents
N=9,990

20 States with Largest Number of Hate Incident Reports
N=10,370

State	Percentage
California	37.8%
New York	15.8%
Washington	4.8%
Texas	3.8%
Illinois	3.1%
Massachusetts	3.0%
Pennsylvania	2.7%
Florida	2.2%
New Jersey	1.9%
Georgia	1.7%
Maryland	1.6%
Virginia	1.6%
Washington DC	1.4%
Minnesota	1.3%
Ohio	1.2%
Arizona	1.2%
Michigan	1.2%
Oregon	1.1%
Colorado	1.1%
North Carolina	0.9%

Narratives from Stop AAPI Hate Data[1]

Verbal Harassment

- I was accosted at the grocery store. A middle-aged man began yelling and blaming me for the "Chinese Flu" and he told me to, "Go home! Go back where you came from!" I reported it to the cashiers who are also AAPI. Together, we reported our experiences to the store manager. (Juneau, AK) *

- My family and I went to sit near open seats on the subway, and a man sitting there started yelling, "Coronavirus" at us and screaming at us to get away from him. When I stepped away, but didn't walk to the other side of the train, he got up to come toward me and kept yelling at me, calling me a b-----h, and yelling that we didn't understand English. Eventually, when we moved to the other side of the train, he left us alone. (New York City, NY)

- A group of middle-school-aged boys biked by my 10-year-old sister, who is adopted from China, while she was with her friend and verbally assaulted her. They shouted slurs and derogatory language at her such as, "dumb Asian," and continued to verbally assault and taunt her as she cried and called home for help. (Longmeadow, MA)

Shunning / Avoidance

- After being seated next to a family at an outdoor eating establishment, a woman stated that she, "...didn't want to eat next to people like them [my P/Filipino family]," and that she had lost her appetite. Then she requested that the waiter box her family's food and dramatically stormed out of the restaurant. (Columbia, SC)

- I went out on a morning walk with my friend who is also Chinese. We were speaking in Chinese to each other and stopped on the sidewalk, which is part of public property, but in front of some residential homes. A man walked out of his home and yelled, "Get off my property and go back to China!" He grabbed a broomstick and waved it in the air, threatening to physically harm us. (Rockville, MD) *

---

[1] Narratives are only included if individuals who reported to Stop AAPI Hate indicated the permission to share at the time of reporting. Some may be edited for minor spelling and grammatical errors for readability. If the narrative has been edited, it is marked with "*" for transparency. We censor swear words and racial slurs, and remove all identifiable names and places. Any edits to the narratives are carefully reviewed by at least three persons.

- I asked a large group of unmasked women and children (4-5 people) to wait for the next elevator ride. I explained that I was trying to social distance. My two toddlers and I were in the small elevator with a double stroller, and the elevator only spanned one floor. As the elevator door closed, I heard them say, loudly, "She's Chinese and she's asking for social distancing? Did you hear that?!" (Pittsburgh, PA)

Physical Assault

- Three teenagers followed me inside of the store and one of them slammed a 5 gallon bucket onto my head. It was painful and I sustained injuries to my shoulders. They called me a "c---k." (Cottage Grove, MN) *

- I was on my university campus and leaving one of my classes, which was held in a large auditorium-style room. I waited for most of the crowd to leave first. When I was in the doorway, a guy came up from behind, shoulder-checked me into the wall, and called me a "Chinese b---h" over his shoulder. (Knoxville, TN)

- I was walking down a busy street in broad daylight on a phone call, when out of nowhere a man comes up behind me, punches me on the side of my face, and sends me flying onto the pavement. As he walks away, I can hear him mutter, "fucking c---k". (New York, NY)

Online

- I had never experienced this type of racism towards me. A bunch of girls from my school messaged me saying, "Go back to China. Your eyes are weird and ugly. You don't belong here, c---k." (Stillwater, MN)

- A person on Tik Tok said he wants to "Kill all Asians." (Frederick, MD)

- I saw a player using "china_virus" as a nickname to play an online game. I reported this to the game master and requested they ban the player using "china_virus" as their nickname. The game master refused and said that "china_virus" was a generic phrase. I told them that it is used to hurt Asian people. (Las Vegas, NV) *

Coughed At / Spat On

- I was with my two girl friends, getting into a car with them in Seattle's Chinatown. A man walked out of his way into the road to spit in my face, then ran down the street. (Seattle, WA)

- A man standing on the sidewalk waited for me to pass in front of him. Then he spat a copious amount of saliva on the side of my head. He got on his bike and rode across the street. I walked after him, made eye contact, and asked why he did that. He yelled back at me, "F--k you! F--k you! Get out of my country." (Brooklyn, NY)

- I was on the subway when an unmasked person approached me and spat on me twice. When I confronted him about it, he called me a c---k and put his two fingers next to his eyelids and did the squinting gesture to mock my small eyes. There were other people on the train, all of them masked, but I was the only Asian person there and the only one to be spat on and verbally insulted. (Los Angeles, CA)

Barred from Establishment / Refusal of Service

- An employee at a restaurant told me their dining room was closed even though there were multiple people eating inside, yet they still refused me service. They let a White family come in and order food inside after I was spoken to. (Placentia, CA)

- A manager at the store said, "I don't discriminate against you because you're Republican, I discriminate against you because you're North Korean." (Doral, FL)

- I was the first one in line to pick up my order. The first thing the cashier said to me was, "I don't speak Chinese," and then they ignored me and served the next customer. After serving all the customers in line, they again said, "I don't speak Chinese." They walked away and waited for another person to serve me. (Boston, MA) *

Workplace Discrimination

- I am a Chinese woman. One senior co-worker repeatedly calls me "Chinese dragon" when he insults me. He also uses the same phrase on the other Chinese female co-worker in our group. (No City Information, Ohio)

- I was sitting at my desk doing my work. My coworkers and the VP of my department have walked by my desk on multiple occasions and would say, "Corona," or "Coronavirus." My non-Asian boss sits next to me and can hear it, yet didn't tell them to stop. He knew I was really upset about it. (Bronx, NY) *

- On a group work call, a colleague cracked a "joke" and said, "You know how THOSE people in Southeast Asia are," after speaking to a "difficult" work colleague. (Las Vegas, NV)

Vandalism / Graffiti

- "C---k" was carved into the top of my brother's car. My brother and my parents found it as my brother was leaving yesterday night. (Exeter, CA)

- On my commute, I noticed graffiti on the wall above a set of stairs that said, "F--k China." (Clifton, NY)

Technical Appendix

Information about the Edelman Survey

Stop AAPI Hate collaborated with Edelman Data & Intelligence Team to collect a nationally-representative survey of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The survey was administered online from September 21, 2021 to October 8, 2021 using the survey panel sampling pool from Dynata; and was offered in Chinese (both traditional and simplified), Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, and English. The survey included n=928 Asian Americans and n=160 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders.

The final analytic sample included: 32.3% of the survey respondents self-identified as East Asian, 31.6% as Southeast Asian, 20.7% as South Asian, and 15.4% as Pacific Islander (calculated based on respondents' reported ethnicity classified by the U.S. Census categorization: e.g., Chinese as East Asian). 55.6% of the survey respondents were female; and 44.9% of the respondents were born in the United States. Survey weights are created to adjust data to be nationally representative of ethnicity, age, education, gender, geography (state), and political party based on the 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year population estimate.

Acknowledgment
We would like to acknowledge the collaboration and support from the Edelman Data & Intelligence Team — with special thanks to Jed Lam, Joshua Wu, Amy Gill, Mandy Chen, Allison Leung, and Alex Yoshida.

Information about Stop AAPI Hate Data

The SAH coalition is committed to continuous efforts for quality and transparency with the community-driven data collected *with* and *for* the AAPI communities documenting anti-AAPI hate experiences. For transparency and accountability related to our data, we have a living codebook which systematically documents all our data practices which can be found here.

Data Collection
The responses are downloaded from Google Forms in spreadsheet form. Hate incident reports in each language option are stored in their own spreadsheets. For combined analyses, first, we translate the in-language hate incident reports into English. We merge the translated reports with the hate reports already in English, and then we create anonymized data for collective data cleaning. Once the complete uncleaned data is created by merging multiple spreadsheets, the personally identifying information (i.e., first name, last name, and email) is removed from the data and each hate incident report receives a unique identifying number.

Quality Assessment
We carefully review data and remove true duplicate, trolls, and invalid cases. True duplicate cases are defined as submissions where there are multiple records of identical reports (i.e., two or more cases include the same answers for all questions and identical descriptions of the hate incident). Troll cases are submissions attacking the SAH coalition and/or report racist and xenophobic "fake accounts" of hate incidents. If the hate incident report is submitted by persons who do not self-identify as AAPI, but reported their own experiences of racism and discrimination, we recode them as "invalid." For the national report, we excluded true duplicate, troll, and invalid cases. We also excluded hate incidents that occurred outside of the United States. We included hate incidents from Guam and Puerto Rico.

Qualitative Data Cleaning
Building from the *Documenting Anti-AAPI Codebook*, we qualitatively re-code selected categories. More information about this process and other data practices can be found in the *Stop AAPI Data Codebook*.

Data Protection and Management with Care
We approach our data as the documentation of AAPI experiences *with* communities rather than *on* communities. As the SAH data is community driven — collected by, with, and for AAPI communities — we highly value the inputs and suggestions for our data practices. To contribute to the data practices or leave comments, please contact us at: community@stopaapihate.org.

References

[1] Yellow Horse, A.J., & Andryc, M. (2021). *Documenting Anti-AAPI Codebook*. Stop AAPI Hate x The Asian American Foundation. San Francisco, CA.

[2] Wong, J. (2021). Beyond the Headlines: Review of National Anti-Asian Hate Incident Reporting/Data Collection Published over 2019-2021. The Movement Hub. Available: https://movementhub.org/resource/review-of-national-anti-asian-hate-incident-reporting-data-collection/.

[3] Dee, T.S., & Penner, E.K. (2017). The Causal Effects of Cultural Relevance: Evidence From an Ethnic Studies Curriculum. *American Educational Research Journal*, 54(1), 127–166.

[4] Hurtado, S., Engberg, M.E., Ponjuan, L., & Landreman, L. (2002). Students' Pre-college Preparation for Participation in a Diverse Democracy. *Research in Higher Education*, 43(2), 163–186.

[5] Gurin, P., & Nagda, B.A. (2006). Getting to the What, How, and Why of Diversity on Campus. *Educational Researcher*, 35(1), 20–24.

[6] Naegele, Z. (2018). Student and Teacher Perceptions of the Impact Ethnic Studies Course. University of Portland Pilot Scholars Graduate Theses and Dissertations (pp. 1–182).

[7] De Jesus, M., Puleo, E., Shelton, R. C., & Emmons, K. M. (2010). Associations Between Perceived Social Environment and Neighborhood Safety: Health Implications. *Health & Place*, *16*(5), 1007-1013.

[8] Kuo, R., & Bui, M. (2021). Against carceral data collection in response to anti-Asian violences. *Big Data & Society*, *8*(1), 20539517211028252.

[9] McDowell, M. G. (2019). Insurgent Safety: Theorizing Alternatives to State Protection. *Theoretical Criminology*, *23*(1), 43-59.

[10] Goode, J. (2005). Dousing the Fire or Fanning the Flames: The Role of Human Relations Practitioners in Intergroup Conflicts. *Transforming Anthropology*, *13*(1), 15–33.

[11] Nadal, K. L. (2004). Pilipino American Identity Development Model. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, 32(1), 45-62.