



# COMMUNITY REPORTS TO STOP AAPI HATE

| 2020–2022 Key Findings

NOVEMBER 2023



STOP  
AAPI  
HATE

“I think about [the experience] every night and can’t sleep. When I close my eyes, it feels like I have gone back to that place.”

- AJI, INTERVIEW WITH STOP AAPI HATE<sup>1</sup>

“I reported to Stop AAPI Hate because I want my story to be part of a larger narrative to address structural racism.”

- SUJIN, INTERVIEW WITH STOP AAPI HATE

This brief highlights key findings from analyzing community reports of hate acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders submitted to Stop AAPI Hate’s reporting center that occurred from January 1, 2020<sup>2</sup> to December 31, 2022 in the United States. Stop AAPI Hate defines a hate act as any event motivated by bias or prejudice, whether explicit or implicit, against a person or group’s actual or perceived identity(ies) that inflicts individual or community harm. Hate acts include both potential hate crimes (criminal bias-motivated offenses) and hate incidents (non-criminal bias motivated events).<sup>3</sup> It is important to understand the overall scope and breadth of hate acts that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experience, not just explicit hate crimes. This allows us to truly grasp the impact these acts of racism have on AA & PI<sup>4</sup> individuals and communities and to identify solutions to support them.

**TO FURTHER EXPLORE OUR DATA AND FINDINGS,  
USE OUR NEW [DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL](#).**

These findings reflect revised parameters and new categories for defining hate acts.<sup>5</sup> They reveal the widespread, painful, real-life experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. The quotes above are taken from follow-up interviews with community members who experienced hate acts,<sup>6</sup> and they reveal the often life-altering nature of these encounters. Other interviewees mentioned that experiences with hate have affected their routines like where they shop, their feelings of safety, their work environment and decisions, and their physical health. At the same time, they shared how these experiences helped them empathize with others impacted by hate, inspired them to become more involved in their communities, and catalyzed engagement in efforts to prevent and address racism.

Of the 11,409 unique hate acts reported to us that occurred from 2020 to 2022, 4,409 (38.6%) occurred in 2020, 5,679 (49.8%) occurred in 2021, and 1,321 (11.6%) occurred in 2022.<sup>7</sup> There are many possible factors that contribute to the volume of reports Stop AAPI Hate receives. For example, we received the most reports in 2020 and 2021, years when Stop AAPI Hate was featured frequently in media coverage during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to events such as the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings. Our data only includes acts of hate that are directly reported to Stop AAPI Hate by individuals, and it does not capture the full extent of hate acts against our communities.<sup>8</sup>

## CONTENT WARNING

**This report includes stories of racism, violence, and harm and can be disturbing.  
We encourage you to prepare yourself emotionally.**

## WHAT HAPPENED?

- Types of incidents fell into four broad categories: 1) harassment, or unwarranted speech or behavior that causes distress, 2) physical harm or contact, or acts that contain a physical component, 3) institutional discrimination, or unfair treatment by a representative of an institution, and 4) property harm, or harm directed at someone's property. These categories are not mutually-exclusive (e.g., an encounter could involve both harassment and physical harm or contact).
- 88% of the reported hate acts involved some form of harassment, while 23% involved physical harm or contact, 13% involved institutional discrimination, and 6% involved property harm.
- Across these four broad categories, we do not see many differences by gender or reporting language (English or an Asian or Pacific Islander language).
- When we zoom into more finely-grained sub-types of hate acts, we see some differences by age. Those under 18 reported a higher percentage of acts involving written, visual, or auditory harassment than other age groups, perhaps due to their higher online activity. Those 60 and older reported a higher percentage of hate acts involving physical injury, possibly indicating they are more vulnerable to being targeted for more severe physical attacks or more likely to report these types of hate acts.

<b>HARASSMENT (VERBAL)</b>	<b>PHYSICAL HARM OR CONTACT (PHYSICAL INJURY)</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION (BUSINESS)</b>
<p>"I was walking up the stairs to [a] restaurant ... in the ... suburbs and this individual said, 'Hey Osama Bin Laden.' I asked him, 'What did you say?' and he said, 'F-k you.'" <i>(Thomas, Man, Georgia)</i><sup>9</sup></p>	<p>"[A] male came up to 78-year-old grandmother, who was jogging, unprovoked, <b>struck her in the face, knocking her down</b>, and running away. <b>Causing nose bleed, cut lip, bruised thigh and hip, sore shoulder, and bloody elbow.</b>" <i>(Jean, Woman, New York)</i></p>	<p>"My Vietnamese wife and I (Filipino) were <b>refused a table at [a restaurant on the East Coast]</b>. We confronted the manager and he told us that we cannot sit in the front of the restaurant and <b>took us to the back of the restaurant</b> (which was empty) and hid us from the rest of the patrons. There were several other tables available in the restaurant, yet <b>because of our Asian background we could not sit with the other patrons</b> (who, by the way, were all white)." <i>(Jonathan, Man, Northeast)</i></p>



## WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?

- The most commonly reported settings for hate acts were places open to the public where people interact with strangers, like public spaces (e.g., public streets, public transit, parks) and businesses (e.g., retail stores, restaurants). Over half of reported hate acts occurred in public spaces and more than 1 in 4 occurred in businesses. To explore how hate and harassment in these settings can be prevented and addressed, learn more about Stop AAPI Hate’s [No Place for Hate campaign](#) in California.
- Locations did not vary much by gender, but they did vary by age. Those under 18 reported more hate acts that happened online (20%) or in school (30%) and fewer that happened in businesses or public spaces, compared to other age groups. As respondents increased in age, they were more likely to report hate in a private residence.

PUBLIC SPACE (PUBLIC TRANSIT)	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<p>“A man <b>on the subway</b> started screaming at me out of nowhere, telling me I should die and that he would kill me. Screamed racial slurs (Chinese b-tch, Asian sl-t, wh-re) and death threats at me for 10 minutes, while no one on the subway ... did or said anything. Just looked at their phones.” <i>(Minji, Woman, Washington D.C.)</i></p>	<p>“At 10:30pm, my dad heard a loud noise. He thought it was something falling in the kitchen. The next day, he noticed a <b>hole in the window of the front doors of our house</b>. For the past year, my parents have been called names and racial slurs <b>from people in the neighborhood</b> when they take walks or work on the yard.” <i>(Elizabeth, Woman, South)</i></p>

## HOW WAS HATE EXPERIENCED?

- While the majority of hate acts reported to Stop AAPI Hate were directed at individuals (interpersonal) (94%), people also shared hate acts directed at AA & PI communities more generally (societal) (6%). Societal hate acts, which include political rhetoric like “kung flu” or framing our community members as terrorists or spies, are hazardous to Asian American and Pacific Islander lives as they contribute to interpersonal hate acts and institutional racism. They also produce trauma for those exposed to them.<sup>10</sup>
- Hate acts involved varied experiences with racial bias. 51% contained explicit anti-AA or anti-PI bias, a direct reference to race, ethnicity, or nationality or use of a well-known racial slur or action (e.g., “go back to India,” “ch-nk,” slanted-eye gesture). 20% contained coded anti-AA or anti-PI bias, a reference with anti-AA or anti-PI connotations (e.g., “dog eater,” “you don’t belong here”). 29% were based on people’s perceptions of bias. We track hate acts beyond those explicit enough to be legally proven as hate crimes to capture the broader impact of racism.

INTERPERSONAL HATE ACT, EXPLICIT ANTI-AA BIAS	SOCIAL HATE ACT, CODED ANTI-AA BIAS
<p>“<b>Me and my friends</b> who are all of Indian descent were sitting [at a park] in California and got abused. There was <b>a man crossing us who kept saying ‘I f–king hate Asian people,’ ‘f–k Asians.’</b> He would cross, look at our reaction, cross again and abuse along the way. One time he showed us his middle finger and that’s when we decided to leave because he started coming real close and it was threatening.” <i>(Maryam, Woman, California)</i></p>	<p>“I work in healthcare and was required to take an online COVID-19 training. ... <b>In pictures and in animation, Asians were depicted as being positive for COVID.</b>” <i>(Arlene, Woman, Illinois)</i></p>



## WHO WAS INVOLVED?

- Most people reported hate acts for themselves, while about 1 in 5 reported on behalf of others, signaling the importance of social support for AA & PI communities.<sup>11</sup>
- Most offenders were individuals acting on their own behalf, while 15% worked for or represented an institution, such as a teacher in school, a supervisor at work, or an owner or employee of a business. Identifying how racism manifests within institutions reveals opportunities for improvement in institutional policies and practices and possibilities for civil rights solutions.<sup>12</sup>
- Women and girls reported more hate acts to Stop AAPI Hate than men and boys (62% vs. 29%).<sup>13</sup> Women and girls also reported more experiences with intersectional and coded bias than men and boys (13% vs. 6% and 23% vs. 19% respectively).
- 18-45 year olds reported more hate acts to Stop AAPI Hate (64%) than those 17 and under (7%) and those 46 and older (20%), both in terms of quantity and in proportion to their percentage of the U.S. AA & PI population.
- East Asians reported more hate acts to Stop AAPI Hate than Southeast Asians, South Asians, and Pacific Islanders both in terms of quantity and in proportion to their percentage of the U.S. AA & PI population. However, Southeast Asians, South Asians, and Pacific Islanders are likely underreporting to Stop AAPI Hate.<sup>14</sup>

REPORTING FOR SELF, INDIVIDUAL OFFENDER	REPORTING FOR RELATIVE, INSTITUTIONAL OFFENDER
<p>“I was sharing [on social media] about my home, Guam, and how we are a U.S. Territory. A ... woman stated [in a comment] that my culture is insignificant, that I’m a foreigner and an ingrate. She continued to respond multiple times to say that my home should be nuked by North Korea and that race should not exist.” <i>(Tanya, Woman, Online)</i></p>	<p>“I called the social security office ... for my dad who does not speak any English, nor does he have any knowledge of Medicare insurance. The lady ... forced my dad to speak for himself even though my dad repeatedly requested for me to speak for him. When my dad couldn’t answer the questions she asked, she hung up on us. It’s scary to realize that racism is in the larger government system.” <i>(William, Man, California)</i></p>



# Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> We only share stories and quotes in which we have been given consent to share anonymously. We use pseudonyms when sharing these to protect the identities of those who report to us. Quotes have been lightly edited for clarity.
- <sup>2</sup> Our data now includes reports for hate acts dating back to January 1, 2020 since we received reports related to the COVID-19-pandemic-era surge in hate acts against AAs & PIs that happened prior to the establishment of our reporting center on March 19, 2020. This will also allow us to report out data on a calendar year basis.
- <sup>3</sup> This represents a departure from our past use of the term “hate incident” to mean any hate-related event, including both criminal and non-criminal events. We now use the term “hate incident” in a more narrow sense to refer to non-criminal bias-motivated events in order to align with conventions used by most community organizations, scholars, and government entities working in the realm of hate. When referring to hate crimes and hate incidents together, we will now use the terms “acts of hate” and “hate acts.” We say “potential” hate crimes because in order for something to be formally classified as a hate crime it must be reported, investigated, and prosecuted as such.
- <sup>4</sup> For brevity, we will be referring to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as “AAs” and “PIs.” We prefer the abbreviation “AA & PI” rather than “AAPI” to heighten the visibility of Pacific Islander communities since they are often invisibilized when lumped together with Asian Americans.
- <sup>5</sup> To learn more about our new categories for documenting and analyzing anti-Asian American and anti-Pacific Islander Hate, see Stop AAPI Hate, “Shades of Hate: A Deeper Understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander Experiences,” November 2023, <https://stopaapihate.org/shades-of-hate>. For more information about our methodology, see “[Stop AAPI Hate Data and Methods](#)” (2023).
- <sup>6</sup> In December 2022, we began doing follow up calls with people who submitted reports to Stop AAPI Hate and gave consent to be contacted. These follow up calls allow us to learn more information on the reported hate acts and to check in with those harmed.
- <sup>7</sup> Stop AAPI Hate is committed to continually improving our data and research practices. As is common practice in research, we have implemented methodological changes to improve the quality of our data. These numbers are different from those in previous reports due to ongoing efforts to improve how we count and categorize hate acts.
- <sup>8</sup> We recommend consulting nationally-representative studies to further understand the magnitude of hate acts and the groups affected by anti-Asian American and anti-Pacific Islander hate. Stop AAPI Hate, “Righting Wrongs: How Civil Rights Can Protect Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Against Racism,” May 2023, <https://stopaapihate.org/civil-rights-report/>; Stop AAPI Hate, “National Report (through September 2021),” November 2021, <https://stopaapihate.org/2021/11/18/national-report-through-september-2021/>; AAPI Data/Momentive, “2023 Diversity in American Life,” March 2023, <https://www.momentive.ai/en/blog/aapi-data-2023/>; AAPI Data/Momentive, “American Experiences with Discrimination 2022,” March 2022, <https://www.momentive.ai/en/blog/aapi-data-2022/>.
- <sup>9</sup> To preserve anonymity, we only identify geographies where 100 or more reports have been submitted. If we have received fewer than 100 reports from a state, we report the U.S. region. Accounts of hate acts have been lightly edited for clarity.
- <sup>10</sup> Stop AAPI Hate, “The Blame Game: How Political Rhetoric Inflames Anti-Asian Scapegoating,” May 2022, <https://stopaapihate.org/anti-asian-scapegoating/>; Abdelrahman ElTohamy et al., “Effect of Vicarious Discrimination on Race-Based Stress Symptoms Among Asian American Young Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy* (2023), <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2023-75113-001>.
- <sup>11</sup> Demographic analyses (gender, age, ethnicity) reflect self-reported hate acts only and do not include hate acts that were reported for others.
- <sup>12</sup> See Stop AAPI Hate, “Righting Wrongs: How Civil Rights Can Protect Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Against Racism,” May 2023, <https://stopaapihate.org/civil-rights-report/>.
- <sup>13</sup> National surveys show that women and men reported experiencing hate acts at similar rates in 2020-2022. AAPI Data/Momentive, “American Experiences with Discrimination 2022,” March 2022, <https://www.momentive.ai/en/blog/aapi-data-2022/>. Stop AAPI Hate collaborated with Edelman Data & Intelligence to conduct a nationally-representative survey with more than 1,000 AA & PI respondents, administered online from September 21, 2021 to October 8, 2021. We found that 20% of women and 22% of men reported experiencing a hate act in 2020 or 2021.
- <sup>14</sup> Stop AAPI Hate collaborated with Edelman Data & Intelligence to conduct a nationally-representative survey with more than 1,000 AA & PI respondents, administered online from September 21, 2021 to October 8, 2021. We found that 16% of East Asians, 22% of Southeast Asians, 26% of South Asians, and 20% of Pacific Islanders reported experiencing a hate act in 2020 or 2021. Therefore, we are likely seeing an underreporting of hate acts to Stop AAPI Hate from these groups.

# ABOUT *STOP AAPI HATE*

Stop AAPI Hate is a coalition co-founded by AAPI Equity Alliance, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and the San Francisco State University Asian American Studies Department. Created amid the rise of COVID-19-related anti-Asian racism, our coalition has since joined a nationwide movement for a safer, more equitable future for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other communities grappling with systemic racism, injustice, and harm.

Grounded in tackling the root causes of racism, our work includes research and data analysis, policy development and advocacy, narrative change, and community capacity building. We focus on issues including education equity and advancing ethnic studies, building community safety and resilience, and enhancing civil rights protections and racial justice.

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We are grateful to the thousands of individuals who have shared reports of hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on behalf of themselves or others, especially the individuals who gave us their consent to share their stories. Without you, this work would not be possible. If you or someone you know experiences anti-AA or anti-PI hate, please report to [stopaapihate.org](https://stopaapihate.org).

