

CLOSING DOORS, WIDENING HARM

Persistent Hate Against Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in an Anti-Immigrant Climate

Five years after the surge in anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic, hate against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA/PI) communities remains entrenched across the United States. In 2025, about half of AA/PI adults experienced race-based hate acts, a trend that has persisted for three consecutive years. This sustained level of harm must be understood within the context of an onslaught of anti-immigrant political rhetoric and policies with Trump's return to office. As many AA/PI people are immigrants or part of immigrant families, these policies and sentiments uniquely heighten their vulnerability. Hate acts, political rhetoric, and exclusionary policies form an interconnected system of harm disproportionately impacting AA/PI communities.

This year, Stop AAPI Hate conducted its third annual nationally representative survey to understand the scale of anti-Asian American and anti-Pacific Islander (anti-AA/PI) hate acts across the nation. This report on the state of anti-AA/PI hate, "Closing Doors, Widening Harm: Persistent Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in an Anti-Immigrant Climate," summarizes key survey findings and shares accounts of hate acts reported to Stop AAPI Hate's reporting center that occurred in 2025. Together, these sources provide a comprehensive and sobering picture of hate and its impacts on AA/PI communities.

The survey of 1,378 AA/PI adults was conducted in January 2026 with NORC at the University of Chicago, a nonpartisan research organization. It utilized the Amplify AAPI® Panel, the largest and most representative public opinion panel of AA/PI communities, and included diverse representation across ethnic groups, income levels, nativity, and citizenship status.

Key Findings

About half (49%) of AA/PI adults experienced a hate act in 2025 due to their race, ethnicity, or nationality – statistically similar to 53% in 2024 and 49% in 2023.

- Harassment and institutional discrimination continued to be the most common forms of hate. In 2025, 44% experienced harassment, 23% experienced institutional discrimination, 13% experienced physical harm or contact, and 10% experienced property harm.
- Rates of experiencing hate were similarly high across age, gender, income, language, and regional ethnic group.
- The prevalence of hate targeting Pacific Islander adults rose from 47% in 2024 to 57% in 2025, a statistically significant increase.
- The top three locations of hate continued to be online (43%), public spaces (40%), and businesses (36%).
- 52% of AA/PI adults said other aspects of their identity were targeted in addition to their race, ethnicity, or nationality. Age (27%), gender (25%), and class (23%) were the top three intersectional identities targeted.

53% of AA/PI adults said they or an AA/PI person they know personally were impacted by changes in immigration policies or anti-immigrant sentiment.

- The top impacts on AA/PI communities had to do with their fundamental place and future in the U.S: 36% of respondents said either they, or another AA/PI individual they know (e.g., friend, family member), had their immigration or citizenship status questioned or revoked – or feared it might be. 30% experienced or feared detention or deportation, and 28% considered leaving the U.S. or prepared to do so.
- Both U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens, as well as both those born in the U.S. and those born outside of the U.S., expressed similar levels of feeling the impacts of anti-immigrant policies and sentiment.

Hate continued to impact AA/PI adults' mental health, with those who experienced hate in 2025 reporting worse mental health than those who did not experience hate.

- 73% of AA/PI adults who experienced hate reported feeling stressed versus 54% of those who did not experience hate.
- 49% of AA/PI adults who experienced hate reported feeling isolated or alone versus the 26% of those who did not.
- 25% of AA/PI adults who experienced hate exhibited moderate or severe symptoms of anxiety or depression versus 10% of those who did not.

Reporting hate — especially to formal entities—and receiving sufficient support after hate remained low.

- After experiencing a hate act, only around half (54%) of AA/PI adults shared their experience with someone.
- Among those who experienced hate, just 22% reported to a formal authority or agency (e.g., a human resources department, school staff, the police, or a civil rights agency).
- Only one-third (33%) of those who experienced hate received any form of support.
- Around half (48%) of AA/PI adults who experienced hate reported insufficient support in at least one area of need.

Though AA/PI adults' participation in activities to reduce or resist racial discrimination dropped, their motivation to advance justice and equity for their communities remains high.

- 56% of AA/PI adults participated in activities to reduce or resist racial discrimination — a significant decrease from 2023 (74%) and 2024 (66%).
- 67% of AA/PI adults are motivated to advance justice and equity for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Recommendations

POLICYMAKERS

Protect immigrant communities through oversight, appropriations, and local and state laws.

Invest in civil society because community-based organizations are best positioned to serve AA/PI communities in the short and long term.

Advance AA & PI studies and enforce civil rights protections in schools.

Safeguard democracy to mobilize AA/PI civic power.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & LEADERS

Build coordinated community response and healing systems.

Advance institutional accountability and civil rights enforcement.

Protect immigrant communities and civic participation.

Create pathways for AA/PI collective power.

ABOUT
STOP
AAPI
HATE

Stop AAPI Hate is a U.S.-based coalition dedicated to ending racism and discrimination against AA/PI people. We strive to advance the multiracial movement for equity and justice by building power for our communities, working in solidarity with other communities of color, and advocating for comprehensive solutions that tackle the root causes of race-based hate. Our work includes four strategy areas: data & research, policy & advocacy, strategic communications, and community care. For more information, visit stopaapihate.org.

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