

Forum: Understanding the Rising Anti-Asian Violence

Increasing Awareness and Promoting Solidarity

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Anti-Asian attacks on the rise: Did it all come from a vacuum?

There is a long history anti-Asian discrimination, History is often neglected/forgotten.

Racism is opportunistic: It comes in many forms; Behind it, there is always ignorance, prejudice and fear.



The First Major Wave

- The Gold Rush (1848-1852)
- The transcontinental railroad:
 - 90% of the workers are Chinese
 - Up to 20,000 in total
 - 30%-50% lower pay
 - Their contributions largely ignored
 - Up to 1,200 deaths



Railroad officials and employees celebrate the completion of the first railroad transcontinental link in Prementory, Utah, on May 10, 1869. (Andrew Russell/Union Pacific/AP Photo)

- But: Where are the Chinese?
 - Were hired Chinese laborers allowed to immigrate?

Resource: [The Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project](#) © Stanford University

First Federal Immigration law: The Chinese Exclusion Act

- Kamala Harris questioning supreme court nominee Kavanaugh in 2018:
 - [“Should the 1889 ruling be overturned?”](#):

Chae Chan Ping v. United States, 130 U.S. 581 (1889), better known as the *Chinese Exclusion Case*

- Why are the Chinese excluded? (1882-1943)
 - Dirty/Unsanitary/Stealing jobs



Constitutional Amendment 14: Birthright Citizenship

- What about the Chinese born in U.S.A?
- **United States v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898)**
 - Born in San Francisco, United States.
 - Denied entry upon visiting China (1895)
 - He sued and won.



Wong Kim Ark

The Massacres and Lynching of Chinese

- Lynching was a violent tool against the “others”
 - Blacks, Native Americans, Chinese, Italians
- One of the largest lynchings in history:
 - 18 Chinese murdered mostly by lynching in 1871 (Los Angeles)
 - Resource: <https://youtu.be/A7NEXPI-UrE>
 - Other massacres, e.g., 34 miners killed in Deep Creek, Oregon



Yellow Peril and the Asian Bogeyman

Geopolitics/Ignorance/Fear

- The Yellow Peril goes back to the Mongolian empire invading Europe and opium wars
- Japanese internment in World War II: [nearly 120,000](#), most of them citizens
- Germans (and a small numbers of Italians) also interned, but most were foreign nationals
- The “wars” with Asian countries didn’t help
 - World War II/Korean War/Vietnam war
 - The “ take-over by Japan” during the 1980s
 - China: The new technology competitor and strategic adversary
- Cold War 2.0 with China:
 - [“Bipartisan political rhetoric about Asia leads to anti-Asian violence here”](#)
 - --- Washington Post Op-ed by Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen

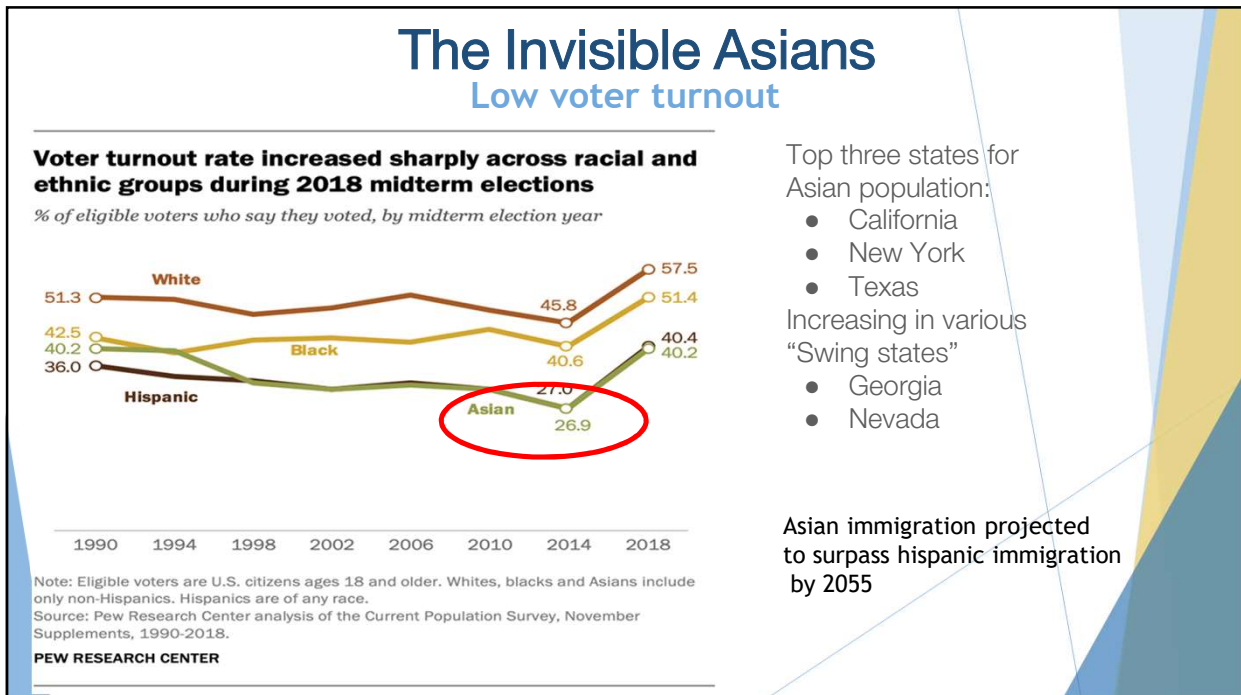
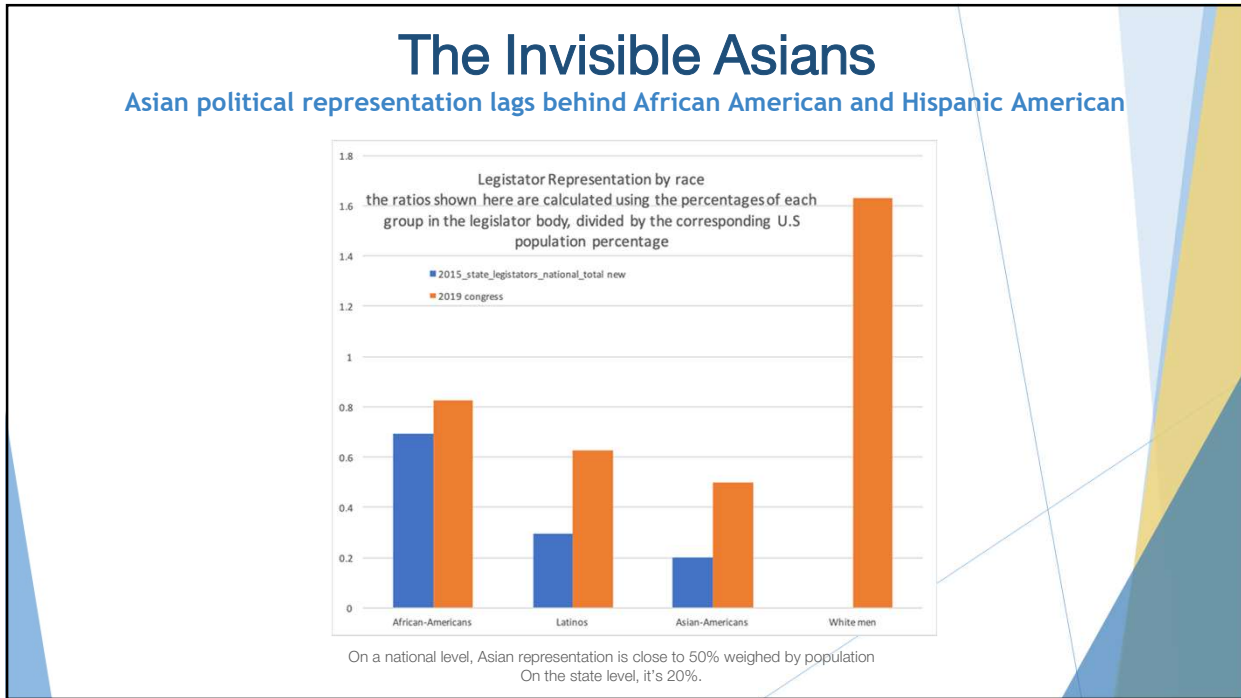


[The killing of Vincent Chin in Detroit, 1982: Mistaken as a Japanese](#)

Why don't we hear these stories more often?

The Invisible Asians

- Asians are surprisingly underrepresented in many fields
 - Try a fun experiment at a bar: Who do you know is a famous Asian American? (Count how many times you get “Jackie Chan”)
 - The underrepresentation is particularly prominent in leadership roles:
 - Political
 - Media/Entertainment
 - Corporate: “The Bamboo Ceiling”
 - Coined by Jane Hyun (2005) in *Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians.*
 - In academia - Underrepresentation of Asian leadership in national organizations, including STEM



The Invisible Asians

Mixed Asian American's identities are often neglected.

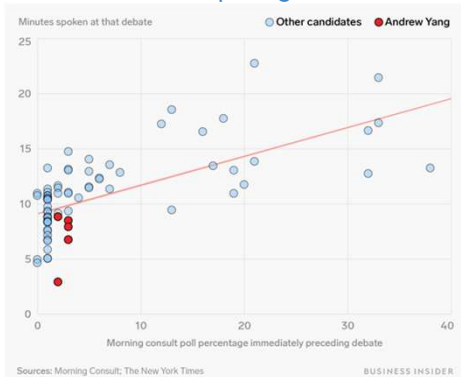
- Kamala Harris
 - 2019 Coverage mostly concentrated on Kamala Harris being the first Black female candidate (it is getting better though):
 - Google "Kamala Harris first Black": About 84,000,000 results
 - Google "Kamala Harris first Asian": About 55,800,000 results
- Tiger Woods
 - The first African American golf superstar
 - In the media, his Asian heritage is often treated as a trivia and afterthought.
 - Why does it matter?
 - "Fresh Off the Boat" episode illustrates lack of representation
 - young Asian American boy yearning for a role model is disappointed



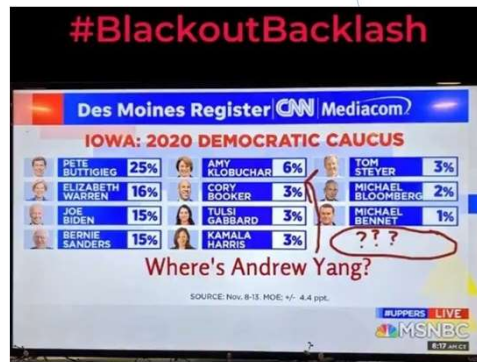
The Invisible Asians

Andrew Yang's media treatment

Yang debate time disproportionate to polling



MSNBC ignoring candidate Andrew Yang



- Andrew Yang's debate time consistently lower than his polling
- Less time than multiple candidates polling lower

More on media treatment of Andrew Yang

1

- ▶ NPR on why Andrew Yang is not invited more (in August 2019):
 - ▶ “We just invited him in May ... How dare you question my editorial judgement”
- ▶ Now Yang is only Asian political “talking head” on CNN
- ▶ Running for NYC mayor



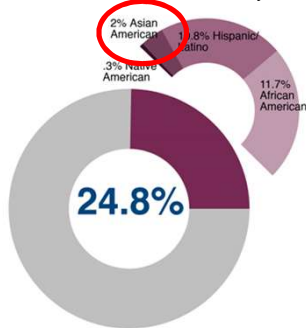
The Invisible Asians

Asians are barely visible on both the big and small screen

Asians are 6% of US population

SMALL SCREEN
BIG SCREEN

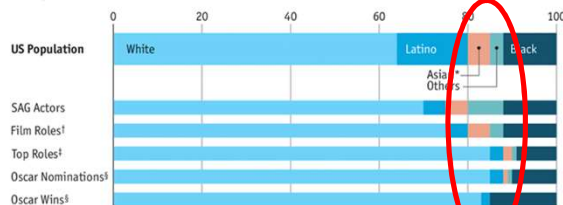
TV Newsroom Representation by Race



RTDNA/Hofstra University, Survey 2018

Proportional under-representation

Demographic breakdown, %

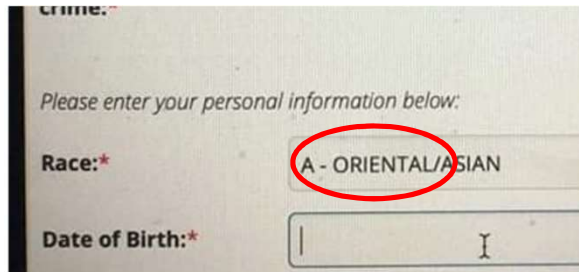


* Ethnicities from East and South Asia
[†] Sample taken from speaking characters in the annual 100 top-grossing films from 2007-13
[‡] IMDb, top three roles in English-language live-action films rated 7.5 or above with US box-office takings of at least \$10m
[§] Acting

Economist.com

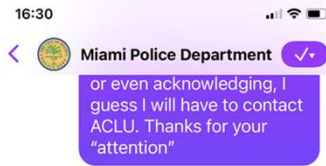
- ▶ 2021: Steven Yeun became the first Asian American nominated for Oscar (in any acting category)

Anti-Asian racism: not just physical attacks

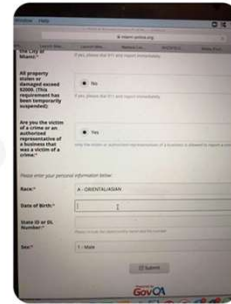


On Miami Police Department: "Oriental" is still a race;
 Contact by phone/Facebook of no use
 Contacting the Daniella Levine Cava's campaign
 unanswered

The usage was eliminated from federal laws in 2016:



AUG 19, 2020, 10:07 PM



Hey, thanks for your message. We're out of the office and this platform is not monitored 24/7. If this is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

Anti-Asian racism - not just physical attacks

The "Eat a Chinese and save a dog" T-shirt episode
 In 2017, many websites started selling these shirts;
 One company responded to my complaint:



Subject: Racism t shirt

Message: Please remove the "save a dog eat a Chinese" t shirt as it is racially offensive and is the definition of racial stereotyping! For a reputable company like zazzle it is disappointing to see this kind of shirt on sale. Can u even contemplate selling something like this about the Jews, about the Germans, about the African Americans, muslims, LGBT groups? This is shameful and embarrassing.

Case #: CAS-2746176-M4R4F5

We've currently in the process of removing the item in question. Thank you for raising the issue. Zazzle is a marketplace so we rely on our community to maintain an open dialogue with us - thank you again for alerting us to this offensive item.

Thanks for being a part of the Zazzle community.

Racist humor about Asians

Though progress has been made, Asians continue to be easy target for racial jokes with minimum push back.

- [Chris Rock: at the 2016 Oscars](#) - where diversity was major issue
- Rock's response to criticism: "If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone that was also made by these kids."
- [Steve Harvey's joke pitching a book for White/Black women dating Asian men](#) (mocking idea that anyone could be attracted to Asian men)
 - For White women: "One page: Excuse me. NO"
 - For Black women: "Same thing: I don't even like Chinese food"



Why don't Asians complain more?

- The "guilt": Asian Americans didn't suffer as much as African Americans/Native Americans, etc.
 - It's not a victim Olympics!
- The "fear": Taking away the spotlight from the real suffering
- The "whataboutism": What about Asians being racist!
- Asian Americans have benefited from the civil rights movement; further progress means we must be a true part of the overall movement for justice and equity!
 - Racism affects everyone!

Asian Americans and the Civil Rights Movement

Asian American civil rights movement of the 1960s and '70s; activists fought for:

- the development of ethnic studies programs in universities,
- an end to the Vietnam War,
- reparations for Japanese Americans forced into internment camps during World War II.

In the 60s, younger generation of Asian American began to see themselves as more American than their parents

- Began to establish a pan-Asian group identity,
- Reaching out to other minority ethnic groups in solidarity.



Civil Rights Movement impact on Asians

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, also known as Hart-Celler Act

- Abolished the national origins quota system that was biased for Northwest Europeans and directly excluded immigration of Eastern and Southern Asians to America.
- In 1965, the Asian American population in the United States was one million. Now it is 23 million.

Voting Rights: Chinese Americans were made voting citizens in 1943, Asian Indians in 1946, other Asian Americans in 1952.

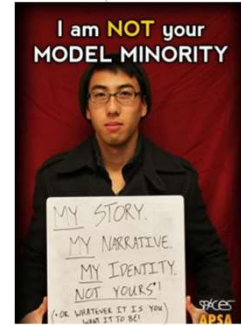
- Largely as a result of international pressure on the U.S. from foreign allies during WWII.
- 1965 Voting Rights Act Section 2 prohibits discrimination against people belonging to language minority groups.

Loving v. Virginia, a case brought in 1967 by a white man and a black woman, ended the ban on all interracial marriages in the U.S.

- The Lovings were supported in their case by many civil rights groups, including the [NAACP](#) and the [Japanese American Citizens League](#).

The Myth of the “Model Minority”

- Unfounded but popular lie that claims Asians in America were able to rise to success without the help of government programs and political reforms.
- Perpetuates the myth of Asian Americans as perpetual foreigners.
- Incites divisions between minorities.



Conflicting or complementing myths?

Portrayals of Asian Americans as either disease carriers on the one hand, or a "model minority" on the other, constitute racist stereotypes that work hand-in-hand.

"They are stereotypes of Asian Americans as either subhuman or superhuman, but never quite human, and certainly not American."

-- Catherine Choy, Professor of Ethnic Studies
Department, UC Berkeley



China: at the center of threat of violence against Asians

Principal Nation State Threat Actors

- Russia
- China
- Iran
- DPRK

Source: National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

“China” in the 2018 *China Initiative*

The China Initiative is led by the Justice Department’s National Security Division (NSD), which is responsible for countering nation-state threats to the United States.

- Focuses on intellectual and technological property theft
- [79 cases examples](#)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Former University of Florida Researcher Indicted for Scheme to Defraud National Institutes of Health and University of Florida

A former University of Florida (UF) professor, researcher and resident of China has been indicted for fraudulently obtaining \$1.75 million in federal grant money from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The former UF professor is accused of concealing support he received from the Chinese government and a company that he founded in China to profit from that research.

China-ness as evidence of criminality

Although [explicitly prohibited](#), prosecutors' statements often include anti-Asian or anti-Chinese discourse.

E.g. "This person is from Mainland China" "The person speaks Chinese", etc.

9-27.260 - INITIATING AND DECLINING CHARGES—IMPERMISSIBLE CONSIDERATIONS

In determining whether to commence or recommend prosecution or take other action against a person, the attorney for the government should not be influenced by:

1. The person's race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or political association, activities, or beliefs;
2. The attorney's own personal feelings concerning the person, the person's associates, or the victim; or
3. The possible effect of the decision on the attorney's own professional or personal circumstances.

Critique Broader "China-ness"



Using "China" as the glue connecting cases prosecuted under the Initiative's umbrella creates an overinclusive conception of the threat and attaches a criminal taint to entities that possess "China-ness," based on PRC nationality, PRC national origin, Chinese ethnicity, or other expressions of connections with "China."

Lewis, M. K. (2020). Criminalizing China. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 111(1).

Critique such Exclusion and Call for Inclusion



While there may be legitimate concerns related to China, the virus, trade, and human rights, this is no excuse to engage in broad racial tropes. Attacking a country and its leadership should not be conflated with attacking the people of that country, or Asians, more generally... But the bottom line is that we have to reject the hate crimes and attacks on Asian Americans. Not because there is complete agreement on all issues, but because we must keep each other safe and hold on to our shared humanity.

-- john a. powell, Director, Othering & Belonging Institute, UC Berkeley

Foreign influence laws

Disproportionate burden and threat on Chinese researchers?



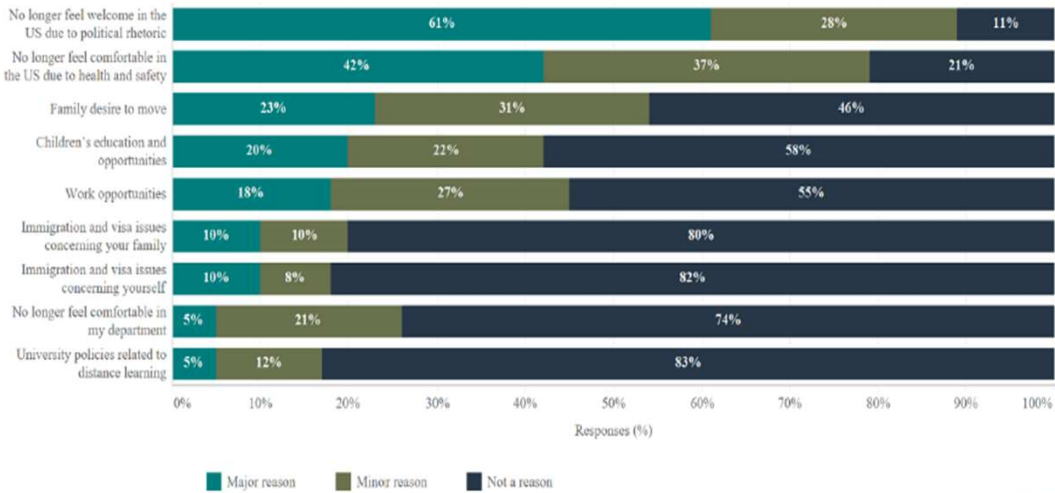
The screenshot shows a news article from 10 Tampa Bay. The navigation bar includes 'News', 'Weather', 'Sports', 'Connect', and 'Watch'. Below the navigation bar, there are links for '10INVESTIGATES', 'TURN TO 10', 'VERIFY', 'BEYOND THE HEADLINE', and 'DEREK CHAUVIN TRIA'. The article is categorized under 'FLORIDA' and has the headline: 'Gov. DeSantis highlights proposed legislation aimed at combatting foreign influence in the state'. The sub-headline reads: 'The proposed legislation has a focus on Florida's education system and government entities.'

Undue Foreign Influence:
Risks and Mitigations



Below the tip of the iceberg: fear and worries

Were any of the following reasons for considering moving to another country? (N=135)



ASU-- Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Studies, 2020.

It's not just Chinese being attacked

Everyone who looks Asian could be a target

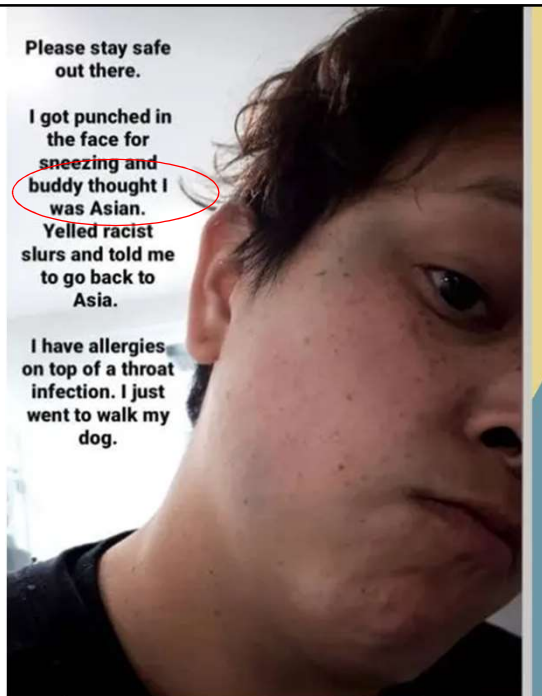


A surge in ~~brutal attacks~~ against Asian-Americans, including a recent attack on a 91-year-old Thai man in San Francisco, has many calling for drastic change. So where do we go from ~~here~~?

Please stay safe out there.

I got punched in the face for sneezing and buddy thought I was Asian. Yelled racist slurs and told me to go back to Asia.

I have allergies on top of a throat infection. I just went to walk my dog.



Anti-Asian Attack on the Rise All Over the Country



Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Increased 2019-2020
Last updated: March 1

City	Number of Incidents		% change	City Population And % of population that is Asian American or Pacific Islander
	2019	2020		
New York NY	3	28	833%	8,336,817 +14.5%
Los Angeles CA	7	15	114%	3,979,537 +11.6%
Boston MA	6	14	133%	494,295 +9.7%
Seattle WA	9	12	33%	753,655 +16.9%
San Jose CA	4	10	150%	1,021,786 +3.8%
San Francisco CA	6	9	50%	881,549 +3.5%
Philadelphia PA	2	6	200%	1,584,064 +7.5%
Cleveland OH	2	6	200%	380,989 +2.4%
Dallas TX	0	6	—	1,343,565 +3.4%
Washington DC	6	3	-50%	705,749 +4.4%
Phoenix AZ	2	3	50%	1,680,988 +4.2%



STOP AAPI HATE NATIONAL REPORT

3/19/20 – 2/28/21

Top States	#	%
CA	1,691	44.56
NY	517	13.62
WA	158	4.16
TX	103	2.71
PA	97	2.56
MA	96	2.53
IL	92	2.42
FL	59	1.55
NJ	59	1.55
MD	51	1.34

Increase in Violent Incidents

STATISTICS

- 40% of U.S. adults believe "it has become more common for people to express racist views toward Asians since the pandemic began" (Source: Pew Research)
- More than 1,800 racist incidents against Asian Americans were reported between March and May of 2020, according to a United Nations Report (Source: CBS News)
- Stop AAPI Hate National Report (March 19, 2020 - February 28, 2021) has received a staggering 3,795 reports of anti-Asian hate incidents. (Source: Stop AAPI Hate)

Source: [Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)

Hate crimes against Asian Americans: What the numbers show, and don't

- Hate crimes against Asian Americans are "massively underreported"
 - Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism and professor of criminal justice California State University
- Asian Americans may be reluctant to contact law enforcement for a variety of reasons that can include language or cultural barriers, distrust of police, or fear of repercussions for their immigration status if they aren't citizens.
 - Amy Sherman, staff writer with PolitiFact based in South Florida. She previously worked as a staff writer for the *Miami Herald* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.
- It can also be difficult to prove an attacker's racial bias.
 - Russell Jeung, a leader of Stop AAPI Hate and professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University



Resources From: [Anti-Asian Violence Resources \(anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co\)](https://anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co)

RESOURCES TO EDUCATE

CNN: ATTACKS ON ELDERLY AAPI IN BAY AREA	NBC NEWS: ATTACKS AGAINST OLDER AAPI
FORTUNE: HATE CRIMES AGAINST AAPI NOT NEW	NAT GEO: US'S HISTORY OF SCAPEGOATING AAPIS
WASH POST: ANTI-ASIAN RACISM	THE CUT: U.S. SPIKE IN ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES
THE NEW YORK TIMES: AAPI FEAR	HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: COVID AAPI RACISM
PBS: ANTI-APA HISTORY	CA LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: RACISM
GUIDE TO BYSTANDER INTERVENTION	CBS NEWS: CURRENT WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE

[ABC: STAND UP WITH AAPI COMMUNITIES](#)

Anti-Asian Violence Resources x +
anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co

REPORT AN INCIDENT

REPORT AN INCIDENT: STAND AGAINST HATRED	REPORT AN INCIDENT: STOP AAPI HATE
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MENTAL HEALTH

SAMHSA: NATIONAL HELPLINE	CRISIS TEXT LINE: DEALING WITH COVID
CALHOPE: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT HOTLINE	APISAA THERAPIST DIRECTORY

MORE ACTION

VOLUNTEER: ESCORT ELDERLY IN OAKLAND, CA	OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD
BLACK LIVES MATTER	BLACK + AAPI HISTORY AND RESOURCES

CORPORATE STATEMENTS

AIRBNB STATEMENT AND ALLYSHIP RESOURCES	TWITTER: #STANDFORASIANS
FROM A FACEBOOK LEADER	PAYPAL CEO'S STATEMENT
GOLDMAN SACH'S CEO STATEMENT	APPLE CEO'S STATEMENT
MCKINSEY & CO POST	GOLDEN STATE WARRIOR'S THREAD

(Made with Carrd)

What we can do: The four E's

- Education
Informing ourselves and whoever willing to listen
- Engagement
Increase political participation and demand our voice be heard
- Extending a helping hand and receiving one: Ally building
- Embrace all movement for justice
Advocate to change the language and rhetoric in certain policies, executive orders, and regulations.
Encourage universities to give more supportive context to their Asian faculty, postdoc and students.



Food for thought? Next step(s)?

- Asian women's past, present and future in the U.S.?
- [Intersectionality of race, gender, religion, and profession after the Atlanta tragedy of 3/16/2021?](#)
- Experience of Asian faculty and students at FIU?

FIU
Advance Women,
Equity & Diversity