# Asian Hate ~ Epidemic of Hate ~

By: Rita & Anna

People of Asian descent have been living in the United States for more than 160 years, and have long been the target of bigotry and hate



We now bring it into light because we no longer are afraid of being silenced

## **Very Brief History of Asian Hate in America**

- Anti-Asian racism has existed from the time the first wave of Chinese immigrants came
  to the US in the 19th Century in search of gold and when they were recruited to build the
  Transcontinental Railroad
- Asians were vilified and demonized in the US, accused of eating vermin and engaging in pagan religious practices. Generally they were associated with filth and disease, often because they were forced to live in areas where disease ran rampant and proper hygiene was unobtainable.
- White workers saw Chinese workers a threat to their livelihood
- An Anti-Chinese sentiment grew in the US in the 19th Century with accusations that Chinese laborers were stealing jobs from white working men. This Anti-Chinese sentiment became part of the Yellow Peril language.

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- Yellow Peril first referred to a general fear, mistrust, and hatred of, first; Chinese in the US, but these negative sentiments soon transferred to other Asian-ethnic immigrant groups
- The Yellow Peril sentiment reduces Asians to always being foreign, never considered American, and it represents the peoples of Asia as an existential danger to the Western world (America)
- At the same time that this was appearing, the Asian American Movement was also appearing
- The Asian American Movement (AAM) is a social movement for racial justice, most active during the late 1960s through the mid-1970s, which brought together people of various Asian ancestries in America who protested against racism and US neo-imperialism, demanded changes in institutions such as colleges and universities, organized workers, and sought to provide social services such as housing, food, and healthcare to poor people.

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- Asians in the US eventually became Asian Americans officially once racist restrictions against immigration and naturalization were lifted, but also culturally and socially as the US nation became more accepting of non-European people being considered American
- However, a sizable number of people in the US still regard Asian Americans as foreign rather than as US citizens – which contributes to anti-Asian racism
- In the wake of 9/11, there was still on-going harassment and demonization of South Asian Americans, Muslim Americans, and Arab Americans. Many of the people in the aforementioned groups have described harassment and racism that have led to fear, stigmatization, and murder.

# Why is it a Big Deal Now?

- When COVID-19 first hit the United States, reports came out that Covid-19 had been transmitted from a bat to a person when the person ate a soup made with an infected bat.
- COVID-19 was quickly being referred to as the Chinese Flu and the Kung Flu
- The spread and use of this story and these terms, even by political officials created a sense of fear and anger towards Asian Americans.
- Anger that was always there about Asians was fueled by all of this and was a perfect excuse to hate on us Asians
- People started to think that they could harm us and hurt us because it was "our fault" that all this was happening
- Asian hate crimes have been increasing at a rate that is too disgusting to even think about

Many people around the our country have been protesting to end Asian hate



### **Hate Crimes**

According to Dr. Russell Jeung, a founding member of Stop AAPI Hate, hundreds of hate incidents were being reported daily. Here are a few examples:

- Last June, a woman and her baby had a glass bottle hurled at them with the words "Go home, chink."
- The Atlanta massacre
- Mothers being beaten up on their way going to protests in front of their daughters
- A 28 year old Cambodian-Black woman shot to death in California
- A 54 year old woman bashed and gashed by a metal pipe in the face with the words "I came here to f\*ck up Asians"
- An elderly Sri Lankan man on the subway beaten beyond recognition, beaten into critical condition
- Many people have been beaten up or worse while just going through their everyday actions

- A Thai woman was brutally beaten and robbed of her phone while commuting on a train in San Francisco
- A stranger on the New York subway slashed a 61-year-old Filipino American passenger's face with a box cutter
- An Asian American woman in New York City was struck in the head with a hammer by an unidentified assailant who demanded that she remove her mask
- An 89-year-old Chinese woman was slapped and set on fire by two people in Brooklyn, New York
- Two Asian American women were stabbed at a San Francisco bus stop; eyewitness reports say the assailant "casually walked away in broad daylight"
- An Asian man walking with his 1-year-old child in a stroller in San Francisco was punched in the head and back multiple times

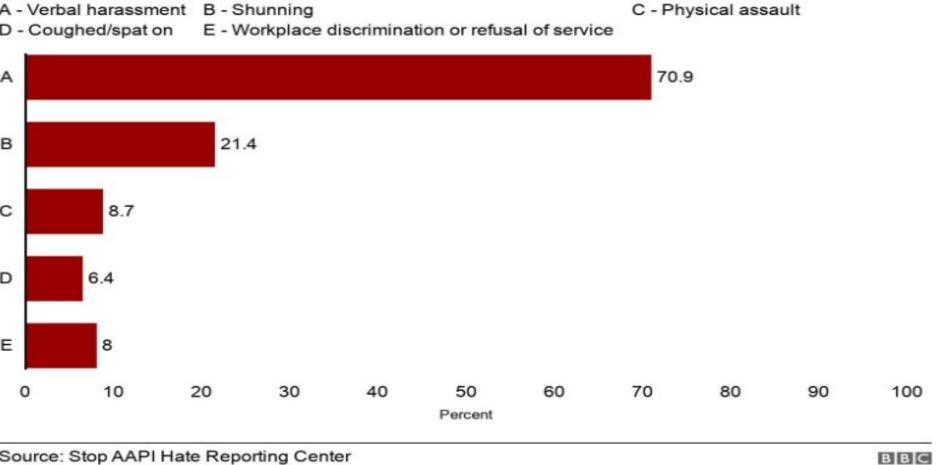
# There are so many more incidents that go unheard of and are not spoken about

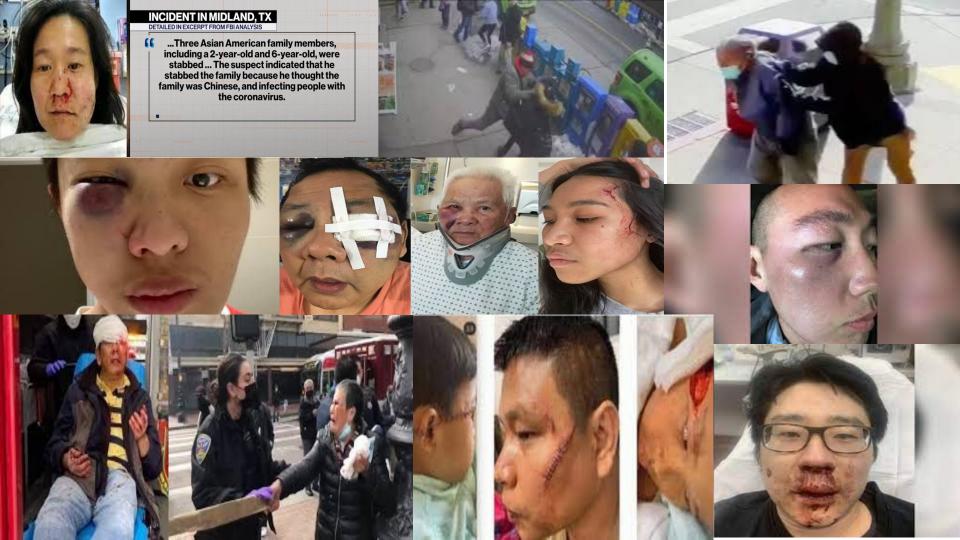


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## What kinds of discrimination have been reported?

Percentage of 2,808 reported incidents from March-December 2020





## What Could you do to Help

- Educate yourself about it
- Give your support to groups who are speaking up about Asain Hate
- Do not be a bystander and speak out about it
- Promote and work towards stopping Asian Hate

Here are a few groups and an amazing article you can check out about Asian Hate:

- https://www.instagram.com/aapiyouthrising/
- https://www.instagram.com/aayouthcouncil/
- https://www.instagram.com/youthsolidarityproject/
- https://www.instagram.com/bayareastudentactivists/
- https://www.instagram.com/apexforyouthambassadors/
- https://www.instagram.com/dearasianyouth/
- https://www.instagram.com/DearAsianGirl/
- https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/its-just-stopping-asian-hate-youre-part-problem-too-steffi-lau

## **Our Goals/Timeline/Desires**

At first, we were going to do our project around the Juvenile Detention Center but then we changed it to Asian Hate and the stories of people from the Asian Pacific Islander community. After a few obstacles we then decided to make our project about informing people not only about Asian Hate but the history of it too. Because our project was switched up a few times, we didn't have a clear timeline for it.

### What we Learned & Conclusions

Being able to do this project and research, it helped open our eyes to see so many things that we haven't heard or read before. We learned about the history and beginning of Asian Hate in America. We learned about many of the hate crimes that are happening that are almost never shown on the news or mainstream media. We learned how and what we could do to help against Asain Hate. We are very grateful that we got an opportunity to do a project like this where we are able to do something that we are passionate about and to be able to share it with other people.

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