DATA & METHODS

We approach our dataset as information collected in partnership *with* communities, rather than *on* communities. We are committed to quality and transparency in our data collection, analysis, and reporting.

About Our Data

Stop AAPI Hate reports on **hate acts**—events motivated by bias or prejudice, whether explicit or implicit, against a person or group's actual or perceived identity(ies) that inflict individual or community harm. Hate acts include both potential hate crimes (criminal bias-motivated offenses) and hate incidents (non-criminal bias motivated events).[1] We say "potential" hate crimes because in order for something to be formally designated as a hate crime it must be reported, investigated, and prosecuted as such. By including hate acts that may or may not be potential hate crimes, Stop AAPI Hate is able to shed light on the non-criminal hate acts that comprise the majority of hate that Asian American and Pacific Islander communities face on a daily basis.

Our dataset captures what community members experience in their own words. These stories provide a deeper sense of what racism looks like and feels like. They go beyond published government sources, data points from surveys, and stories that make the headlines. They serve as a community archive of contemporary experiences with anti-Asian American and anti-Pacific Islander racism.

Our reporting form is brief, allows anonymity, and is accessible to limited English proficient community members or those who have concerns reporting to law enforcement agencies. In addition to English, our reporting form is available in 17 Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

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[1] This represents a departure from our past use of the term "hate incident" to mean any bias-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."

Methodology

Data and research published by Stop AAPI Hate after October 1, 2023 reflects the updated methodology described in this document. It has been retroactively applied to data collected since March 19, 2020 when Stop AAPI Hate launched the national reporting center.

Data Collection

Individuals report a hate act on the [Stop AAPI Hate website](#) through a Typeform interface. They may choose to report in English or one of 17 Asian and Pacific Islander languages. We then download this data for translating, cleaning, coding, and analysis.

Data Cleaning

Our dataset reflects <u>unique</u> hate acts directed at Asian American or Pacific Islander individuals, groups, or communities.

We carefully review data and exclude reports that do not meet the following criteria from our core dataset:
- **Scope:** A hate act directed at Asian American or Pacific Islander person(s); person(s) perceived to be Asian American or Pacific Islander; or person(s) targeted for supporting or associating with Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders
- **Timeframe:** Occurred on or after January 1, 2020
- **Location:** Occurred in the United States, a U.S. territory, or in an online space accessible in the U.S.

We also exclude exact duplicates, troll reports, spam, reports with delusional content, incomplete reports, and reports on hate acts that have already been submitted to us.

Data Coding

In research, data coding is the process of tagging information for the purpose of analysis. Based on information submitted through the reporting form, we code for:
1. **Scope of the hate act**: the breadth of the hate act (i.e., interpersonal or societal)
2. **Experience of bias** (e.g., explicit anti-AA/PI, intersectional)
3. **Whom the person is reporting for (**e.g., self, friend/relative)
4. **Position of the offender** (i.e., individual or institutional representative)
5. **Type of hate act** (e.g., verbal harassment, physical injury)
6. **Site of hate act** (e.g., public street, retail or grocery store)

To learn more about the classification system we use to code the data, see ["Shades of Hate: A Deeper Understanding of Asian American & Pacific Islander Experiences" (2023)](#).

Reporters also submit geographic and demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity, and LGBTQ+ status). To ensure accuracy and consistency in the coding, coders undergo training and follow procedures and definitions from a coding manual. At least two coders review every report, and the coding process involves multiple phases to establish agreement among coders.

Understanding the Numbers

Our numbers reflect unique hate acts.

If the same hate act is reported by multiple individuals, we only include the hate act once in our dataset. For example, we received 36 reports of a racist sign placed on a specific storefront. We only counted this once, as a single hate act.

Each event can involve multiple types of actions, e.g. verbal harassment and physical injury.

In our dataset, these are not considered separate hate acts but part of a single event.

Our numbers only reflect hate acts directly reported to Stop AAPI Hate.

As we know from national survey data, they are a vast undercount of the number of hate acts directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. and only represent the "tip of the iceberg."[2]

The volume of reported hate acts is subject to numerous factors.

These factors include, but are not limited to, awareness of the reporting center, access to the reporting center, current events that spur reporting, and reporting fatigue.

We caution against making claims about hate crimes based on our data.

For something to constitute a hate crime, it must be investigated. Therefore, while a portion of the hate acts reported to us may constitute potential hate crimes, **it would be inaccurate to describe our data as hate crime data** since these cases may or may not have been reported to law enforcement and investigated.

Some numbers may differ among reports.

This is due to methodological changes in how we distinguish hate acts, additional cleaning, and ongoing advances in our methods for categorizing and collecting data.

We highly value feedback and suggestions for our data practices. These can be submitted to community@stopaapihate.org.

[2] 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/.