



## INCIDENTS OF CORONAVIRUS-RELATED DISCRIMINATION

A Report for A3PCON and CAA Russell Jeung, PhD and Kai Nham<sup>1</sup> San Francisco State University Asian American Studies April 23, 2020

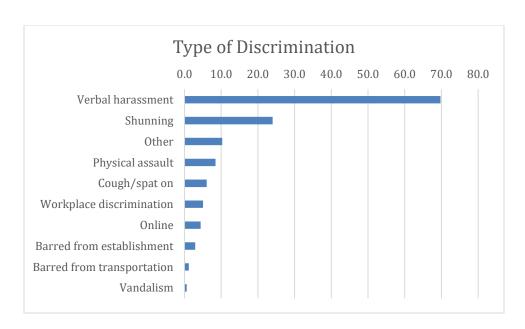
This report reviews 1,497 reports<sup>2</sup> of coronavirus discrimination submitted on the CAA/A3PCON STOP AAPI HATE website from March 19 - April 15, 2020.

The following patterns emerged over the course of one month:

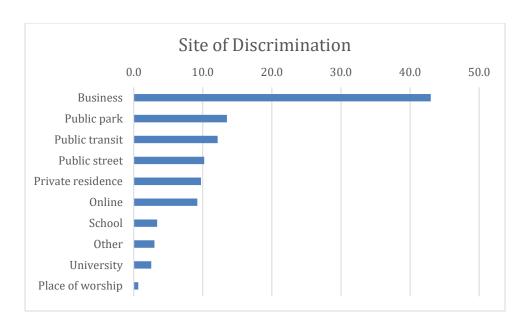
- STOP AAPI HATE received 1,497 reports in its first four weeks.
- Incidents from California and New York constituted over 58% of all reports.
- Civil rights violations involving workplace discrimination and being barred from businesses and transportation or refused service made up almost ten percent of all incident reports.
- Forty-four percent of incidents took place at private businesses.
- AAPI women were harassed 2.3 times more than AAPI men.
- Nine percent of respondents were AAPI seniors (over the age of 60).
- Reports came from 45 states across the nation and Washington DC.
- Even as shelter-in-place policies were implemented across much of the country and AAPIs interacted less with others, the rate of acts of racism remains alarming.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Research assistance provided by Sarah Gowing, Kara Takasaki, Kourtney Nham, Mai Xiong, Bianca Louie, Amelia Navins, and Keri Eason.

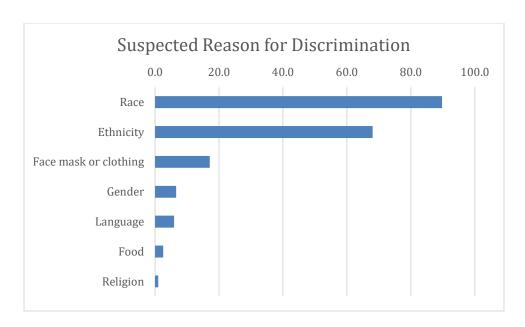
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It was determined from our monthly tabulation of incident reports that a small number were reported to the site more than once. All duplicates were then removed.



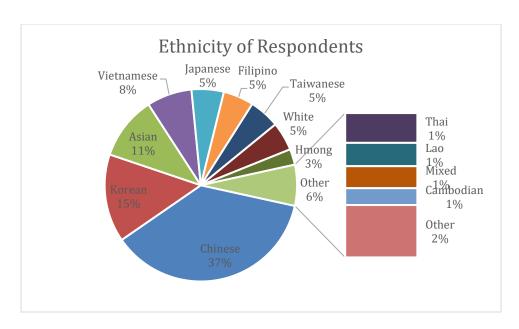
Type of Discrimination	Percent
Verbal harassment	69.8
Shunning	24.0
Other	10.3
Physical assault	8.5
Cough/spat on	6.1
Workplace	5.1
discrimination	
Online	4.4
Barred from	2.9
establishment	
Barred from	1.2
transportation	
Vandalism	0.6



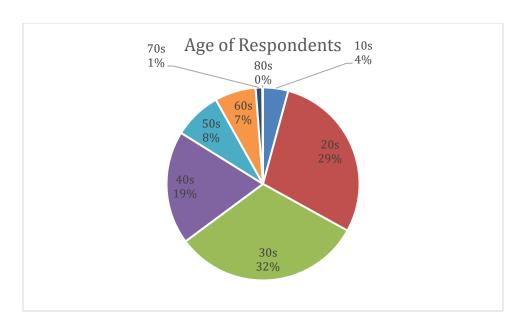
Site of	Percent
Discrimination	
Business	43.0
Public park	13.5
Public transit	12.1
Public street	10.2
Private	9.7
residence	
Online	9.2
School	3.4
Other	3.0
University	2.5
Place of	0.7
worship	



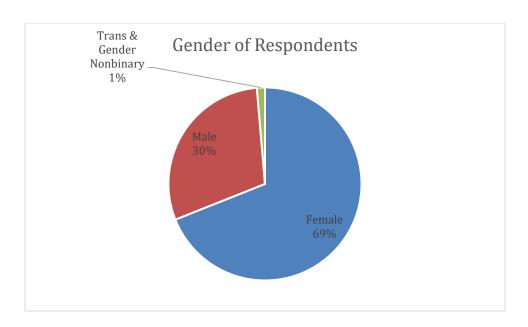
Reason for	Percent
Discrimination	
Race	89.8
Ethnicity	68.0
Face mask or	17.1
clothing	
Gender	6.6
Language	5.9
Food	2.5
Religion	1.0



Ethnicity	Percent
Chinese	40.0
Korean	16.0
Asian	11.5
Vietnamese	8.2
Japanese	5.9
Filipino	5.5
Taiwanese	5.5
White	5.2
Hmong	2.9
Thai	1.5
Lao	1.2
Mixed	1.1
Cambodian	0.9
Other	2.7



Age     Percent       10s     4.2       20s     28.8       30s     31.8       40s     19.0       50s     8.0       60s     6.9       70s     1.1       80s     0.1		
20s       28.8         30s       31.8         40s       19.0         50s       8.0         60s       6.9         70s       1.1	Age	Percent
30s 31.8 40s 19.0 50s 8.0 60s 6.9 70s 1.1	10s	4.2
40s       19.0         50s       8.0         60s       6.9         70s       1.1	<b>20</b> s	28.8
50s         8.0           60s         6.9           70s         1.1	<b>30</b> s	31.8
60s         6.9           70s         1.1	40s	19.0
<b>70</b> s 1.1	50s	8.0
	60s	6.9
<b>80</b> s 0.1	70s	1.1
	80s	0.1



Gender	Percent
Female	69.0
Male	29.7
Trans & Gender	1.3
Nonbinary	

State	Percent
CA	41.8
NY	16.7
IL	4.1
WA	3.6
TX	3.0
MA	2.3
PA	2.3
NJ	2.0
FL	1.6
VA	1.6
ОН	1.6
MD	1.5
MN	1.4
GA	1.2
СО	1.2
OR	1.1
DC	1.0
WI	0.9
AZ	0.9
NC	0.9
IA	0.8
СТ	0.8
NV	0.8
MI	0.6
IN	0.5
МО	0.4
ОК	0.4
LA	0.3
ID	0.2
НІ	0.2
КҮ	0.2
TN	0.2
NE	0.2
AR	0.2
UT	0.2
WY	0.1
SD	0.1
NM	0.1
MS	0.1
RI	0.1
SC	0.1
DE	0.1
VT	0.1
NH	0.1
AK	0.1
International	2.3

### **Barred from Establishment / Refused Service**

- I had only been in [the convenient store] for less than 5 minutes and was told I needed to get out because I was there for over 30 minutes. The checker demanded me to get out and go home "Chinese puto" (bad word in Spanish).
- A cashier told me her lane was closed but then continued to ring up non-Asian customers afterwards. Spoke to a manager and he shared that his workers have been discriminating against Asians deliverers since the COVID incident.
- My Korean boyfriend was at a store when he passed by an employee who stated "f--king Chinese people spreading the virus and wearing a mask." My boyfriend confronts the employee and asks her to repeat what she just said and she repeats it. The manager steps in and my boyfriend tells manager what had happened. My boyfriend is angry, but not aggressive; manager asks him to leave or they'll call the cops.

### **Barred from Transportation / Transport**

Requested [a ride-hailing service] from OAK after coming back from AZ. Driver pulled up
to pick us up. Before we even opened the door, driver screamed at us demanding where
we were coming from and if we were coming from China.

#### **Seniors**

- My elderly parents were walking with my two-year-old and some 20-30-year-olds drove by and screamed "F--k China!!" at the stop light. They felt very unsafe, especially with a child.
- This is a report for my elderly parents. They were shunned for wearing masks by an elderly Caucasian man. They were told, "Go back to China" after telling him that they told him that wearing masks was encouraged by the government.

## Coughed/Spat Upon

- A group of 4-5 teens repeatedly shouted "coronavirus" and coughed at my partner (29M) and me from across the parking lot while we loaded our groceries.
- I was walking in the airport terminal when a family of three white adults were walking the
  other direction towards us. The two males of the group coughed loudly to get our
  attention and once they did, they kept unbroken eye contact with me and continued to
  cough out loud in my direction until I passed.

### **Verbal Harassment**

- When I sat down next to him on the parking lot shuttle, an older white male loudly shouted to all other passengers, "Look, the mask people are sitting next to me. I guess I have to sit next to them." Then, he turned to ask why I was wearing a mask.
- The incident occurred mid-March 2020 during jury selection. The elderly Caucasian judge called the next prospective juror, an older Taiwanese man, to sit in the jury box (where I was already seated). The judge asked the man what his son did. The man replied in "broken" English that his son had recently returned from teaching English in China. The judge joked, "Well, I hope he didn't bring anything back." The room chuckled and I chuckled half-heartedly, even though I didn't think it was funny.
- I was on the phone with my mom speaking in Mandarin when a woman walked by and yelled "get this corona virus chink away from me" directed at me.

#### Online

- [Our student organization] was holding board elections over a Zoom video conference with over 40 members who identified as either Filipino, Chinese, or Vietnamese. The call was then interrupted by several anonymous hackers who flooded the call with hateful speech including racial slurs and broken English meant to mock Asian accents. One hacker even said "All y'all have coronavirus, every single one of you."
- Social media post said: "China gave US. Poisoned Dog Food. Toxic Candy &
  Toothpaste. Radioactive Drywall. Counterfeit Electronic Components. Fentanyl.
  Carcinogenic Fish. Corona. And we still do business w/ them and buy their CRAP why?"
- A current graduate student in the Department of Environmental Studies posted "There is
  a special place in hell reserved for the f--king Chinese and their archaic culture . . .
  [Trump's] description of COVID-19 as the Chinese virus is the most accurate thing he
  has ever said--I wish it had wiped the whole country off the planet." She further wrote,
  "China will learn nothing and will continue to consume wildlife into extinction. What a
  horrible, backwards culture and way of thinking."

## **Physical Assault**

- I was getting in my car after shopping wearing a mask and gloves. A truck drove by and threw a [fast food franchise] drink on my back and yelled "hey chink, you're f--king nasty."
- Middle aged Caucasian woman walking around inside post office mumbling "f--king Chinese" around my wife (Chinese) and threw a bag at her. Also walked up to window to give all Asian employees the middle finger. My wife was distraught and left.

• Upon my arrival at the bus stop, a Hispanic male driver parked at [fast food franchise] and immediately began berating me. I ignored him with the exception of giving a cursory glance (being careful not to provoke him) though it only enraged him. The bus arrived shortly and when I proceeded toward the rear entrance, an object of substantial weight was thrown at me with high velocity -- missing me but impacting the side of the bus with a sickening "thwack." Instantly, I sobered to an awareness in the amount of trauma the object would have caused if it had struck my head.

## Shunning

- Group of people talking saw me (I was wearing a mask), one told everybody to "shut up, there's one." They all looked at me and moved away. Made sure I didn't follow them.
   Kids stared, I smiled and waved...they moved closer to their parents.
- Waited in line at [store] to check out my items. Was wearing a face mask, gloves, and sunglasses. Was the only Asian person/non-white person in the store. When it was my turn, the clerk asked me to step back 3 feet. She did not ask any of the customers in line (who were white and not wearing face masks) before me to step back 3 ft.

# **Workplace Discrimination**

- In a workplace team meeting, I found myself a target of snarky remarks about being linked to the source and the spread of the coronavirus. I'm not Chinese and I haven't traveled internationally in years.
- Colleague of 4 years, who is the office bully yells at me, "Hey, it's YOUR fault, it's YOUR people that brought this over here," followed by demeaning laughter.

# Vandalism

- A Laotian Buddhist temple in Fort Smith, Arkansas was desecrated this past weekend.
   The religious statues were beheaded. It's believed that this is a racially motivated hate crime.
- I've lived in the neighborhood over a decade and never seen any graffiti targeted Asians. I shopped at this drug store since the opening of the location, but in my recent trip last week, I found the offensive graffiti, 'NO ASIAN PARKING' in the parking garage.