

# San Gabriel Valley Stop Hate Community Survey





LA vs Hate is a community-centered program designed to support all residents of Los Angeles County. Led by the Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate partners with community partners from all five County districts, representing a diverse coalition of voices committed to ending hate.

The goals of the campaign are as follows:

- Address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it
- Build understanding about what constitutes a hate act and how to report it
- Support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate

By tracking and reporting hate we can ensure that resources are allocated appropriately, that those targeted by hate receive the support they need, that offenders are held accountable, and that together, we can build respectful and resilient communities.



Founded in 1983 as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Advancing Justice – LA) is the nation’s largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans as well as Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). Through direct services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building, Advancing Justice – LA focuses on the most vulnerable members of Asian American and NHPI communities while also building a strong voice for civil rights and social justice. Visit [advancingjustice-la.org](http://advancingjustice-la.org).

Our affiliates include Advancing Justice – AAJC (Washington, DC), Advancing Justice – Atlanta, Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), and Advancing Justice – Chicago.



The Asian Youth Center (AYC) is a non-profit organization based in San Gabriel that provides services all throughout LA County. Our mission is to empower low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth and families, of all communities, to overcome barriers to success through culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services.

We were founded in 1989 by the late May L. To and current Congresswoman Judy Chu (27th District), to address unmet social service and health needs of immigrant youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. Today, AYC serves everyone, regardless of their background or ethnicity. We strive to help youth succeed in school, at work, and in life!

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stop Hate Community Survey of Asian and Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley, home to one of the largest Asian communities in the country, asked respondents about experiences of anti-Asian hate and discrimination, perceptions of safety and support, and community needs.

Key findings:

- Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents said they or their family experienced a hate incident based on their race or ethnicity since the COVID-19 outbreak. Most of these experiences involved verbal abuse or insults, while many involved prejudicial treatment.
- More than one-third (37%) of respondents said they noticed an increase in racial discrimination or harassment in their community since the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Nearly half (45%) of respondents feel less safe in their community compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak, and the majority (59%) of respondents said they have changed the way they feel and behave when they leave home.
- Most (55%) of respondents do not feel there is support in their community for victims of racial discrimination or harassment.
- About half (49%) of parent respondents indicated they have concerns about their children returning to school regarding bullying/anti-Asian hate, while 73% indicated having other concerns about returning to school (including concerns about COVID-19).
- When asked to select up to three resources (from a list of six choices) that would be most effective in preventing discrimination, the most respondents selected 1) *Patrolling/neighborhood watch* (54%), 2) *A stronger relationship between the police and community* (52%), and 3) *Cross-cultural events* (43%).
- When asked to select up to three general resources (from a list of seven choices) that are most needed in their community overall (rather than specifically for addressing discrimination), the most respondents selected 1) *mental health/substance abuse services* (45%), 2) *childcare, youth activities* (45%), and 3) *senior services/centers* (44%).
- Parents were also asked to select from a list of six other resources or types of support that would help them or their children feel safe to return to school. A large majority (74%) of parents selected (1) *Training for teachers/staff* and (2) *Clearer protocols on how to address violence/bullying*.

Based on these findings, we recommend increasing outreach of existing programs for victims of hate, expanding community-based solutions to address discrimination, facilitating more dialogue between law enforcement and the community, providing more training and clarifying anti-bullying protocol in schools, and funding expansions in mental health and services for youth and seniors.

# INTRODUCTION

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, hate against the Asian community has been on the rise. At the national level, Stop AAPI Hate has received over 9,000 reports of hate incidents from March 2020 to June 2021, including over 5,700 cases of verbal harassment and over 1,200 cases of physical assault.<sup>1</sup> In Los Angeles County, 44 anti-Asian hate crimes were reported in 2020, representing the largest number of anti-Asian hate crimes reported since 2001 and a 76% rise compared to 2019.<sup>2</sup> Over half of the cases were aggravated or simple assault. A national survey from 2021 found that one-third of Asian Americans feared that someone might threaten or physically attack them since the coronavirus outbreak because of their race and ethnicity.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, 8 in 10 respondents felt that violence against Asian Americans in the US is increasing.

Amid community concerns about rising anti-Asian hate, Asian Youth Center (AYC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA) have partnered on a Stop Hate Community Survey of Asian and Asian Americans (ages 18 and over) living in the San Gabriel Valley. San Gabriel Valley is home to over half a million Asian Americans. It has among the highest concentrations of Asian Americans in the country, more than those in 42 states and the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago.<sup>4</sup> Mirroring national and county-wide trends, 219 anti-Asian hate incidents have been reported by San Gabriel Valley residents to Stop AAPI Hate since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 21% reported by youth under 18.<sup>5</sup>

Because hate crimes and hate incidents may be underreported due to lack of awareness or language or cultural barriers, our Stop Hate Community Survey reached out to community members by phone and through an online survey to ask about experiences of anti-Asian hate and discrimination, as well as access to resources and community needs. There were additional questions for parents of children in K-12 schools asking about concerns related to their children returning to school. Over 300 respondents completed the survey, of which 284 met our eligibility criteria. 61 respondents completed the subsection of questions for parents.

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<sup>1</sup> Stop AAPI Hate. “National Report (through June 2021).” Available at: <https://stopaapihate.org/stop-aapi-hate-national-report-2>

<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. “2020 Anti-Asian Hate Crime Report.” Available at: [Anti-Asian Hate Crime Report 2020 \(lacounty.gov\)](https://lacounty.gov/anti-asian-hate-crime-report-2020)

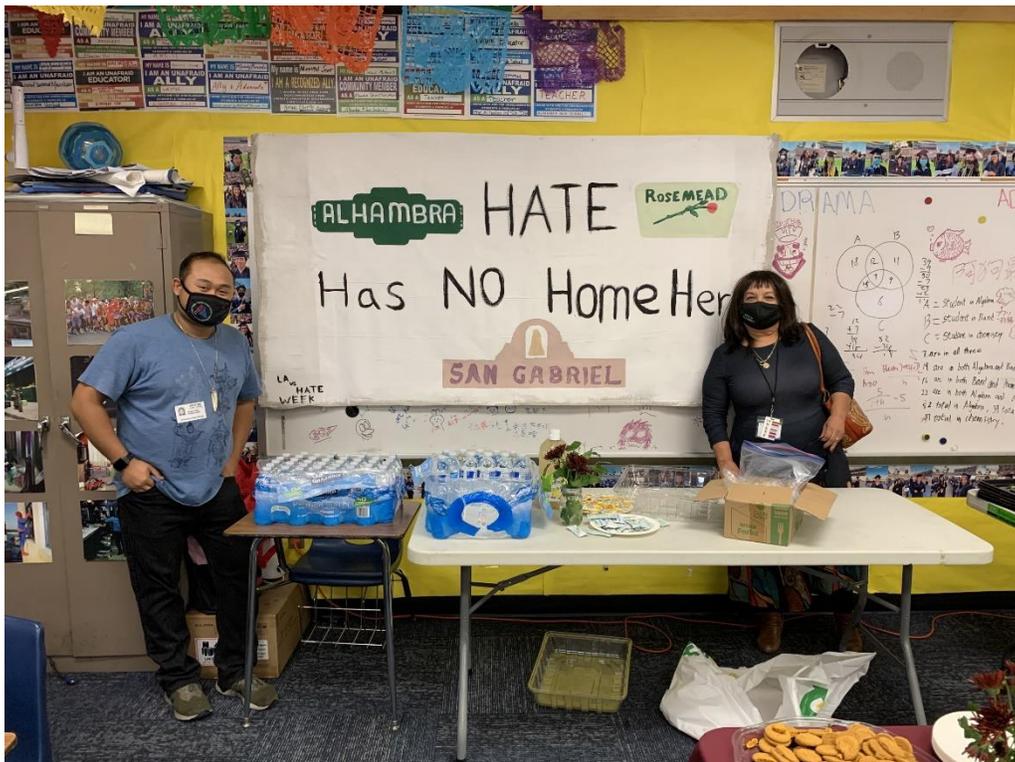
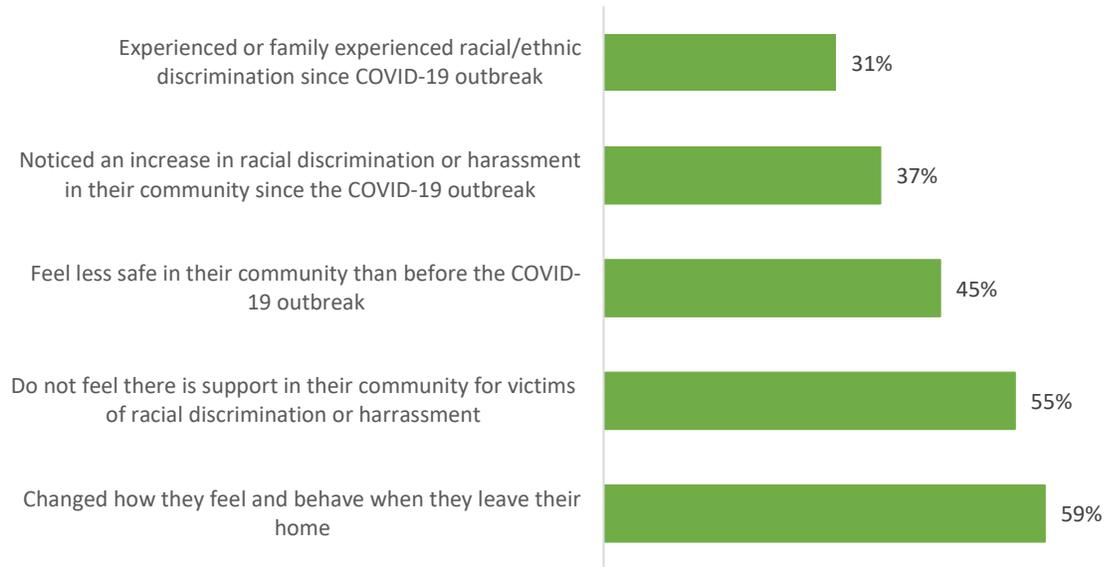
<sup>3</sup> Pew Research Center. “One-third of Asian Americans fear threats, physical attacks and most say violence against them is rising.” Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/21/one-third-of-asian-americans-fear-threats-physical-attacks-and-most-say-violence-against-them-is-rising/>

<sup>4</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles. 2018. “A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the San Gabriel Valley.” Available at: [https://advancingjustice-la.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A\\_Community\\_of\\_Contrasts\\_SGV\\_2018.pdf](https://advancingjustice-la.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A_Community_of_Contrasts_SGV_2018.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Data courtesy of Stop AAPI Hate of reported incidents in San Gabriel Valley zip codes from March 2020 to July 2021.

# FINDINGS

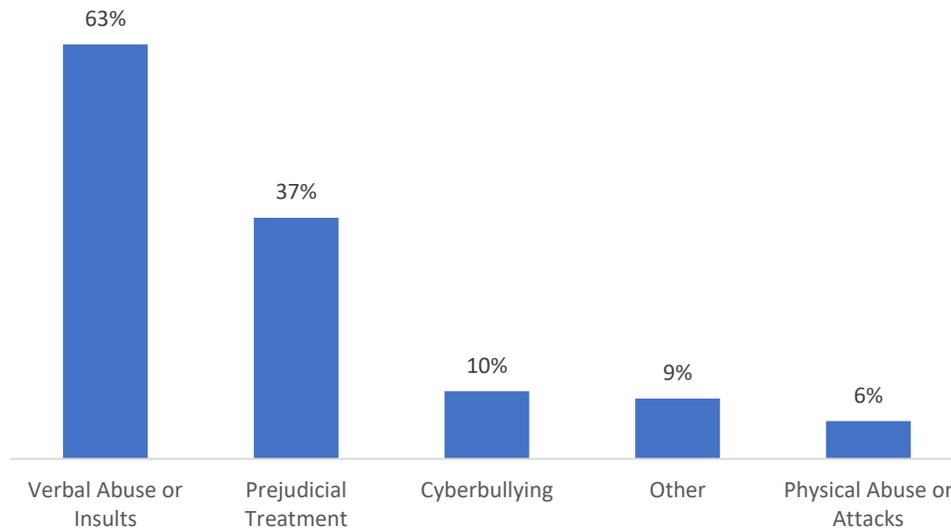
## *Experiences of discrimination and perceptions of safety and support*



## Experiences of Discrimination

Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents said they or their family experienced a hate incident based on their race or ethnicity since the COVID-19 outbreak. The majority (63%) of these experiences involved verbal abuse or insults, while over one-third (37%) involved prejudicial treatment. About half (47%) of these incidents occurred in public spaces, while 22% occurred in stores or restaurants.

*Types of discrimination experienced (by the 31% of respondents who reported discrimination)*



More than one-third (37%) of respondents said they noticed an increase in racial discrimination or harassment in their community since the COVID-19 outbreak.

When asked to describe what they observed, it was most common for respondents to mention hearing about occurrences of hate or discrimination against Asian-Americans from the news, social media, or in general. However, some respondents did mention personal observation of racial discrimination or harassment against themselves or friends, family, and neighbors.

### In their own words: observations of racial discrimination or harassment

- *"Postings on Next Door in my community."*
- *"Hate speech and graffiti on Asian owned businesses."*
- *"Racial slur yelled against a friend in our neighborhood"*
- *"Lots of news stories showing attacks against Asian people in San Gabriel and San Gabriel Valley, especially elders."*
- *"I notice I hear more racist comments and name-calling in public, directed towards Asian Americans and particularly towards Chinese Americans."*

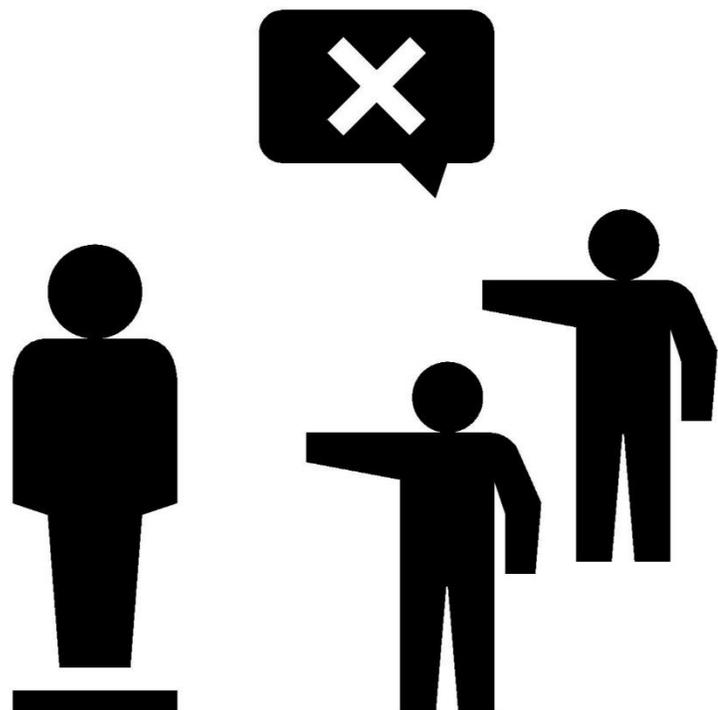
## Perceptions of safety

Nearly half (45%) of respondents said they feel less safe in their community compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak (compared to 51% who feel about the same level of safety and 4% who feel safer than before). Respondents who feel less safe most commonly mentioned the hate incidents, crimes, and attacks on Asians, while some referenced an increase in other types of crimes (robberies and break-ins), and a few mentioned an increase in homelessness.

The majority (59%) of respondents said they have changed the way they feel and behave when they leave home. Most respondents are more vigilant and defensive when they leave home, and many said they feel fear, nervousness, or anxiety.

### In their own words: changes in feeling or behavior when leaving home

- *"I try not to go out at night or walk around the neighborhood."*
- *"I am definitely more cautious and aware of my surroundings and find myself getting anxious."*
- *"I've thought about how I would respond if I were to be attacked."*
- *"There is definitely some added load."*
- *"I pay attention to people around me and what they are saying and how their nonverbal communication. It is extremely stressful."*



## Support and Resources

Less than half (45%) of respondents felt there is support in their community for victims of racial discrimination or harassment.

When asked which resources have been currently helpful, responses include:

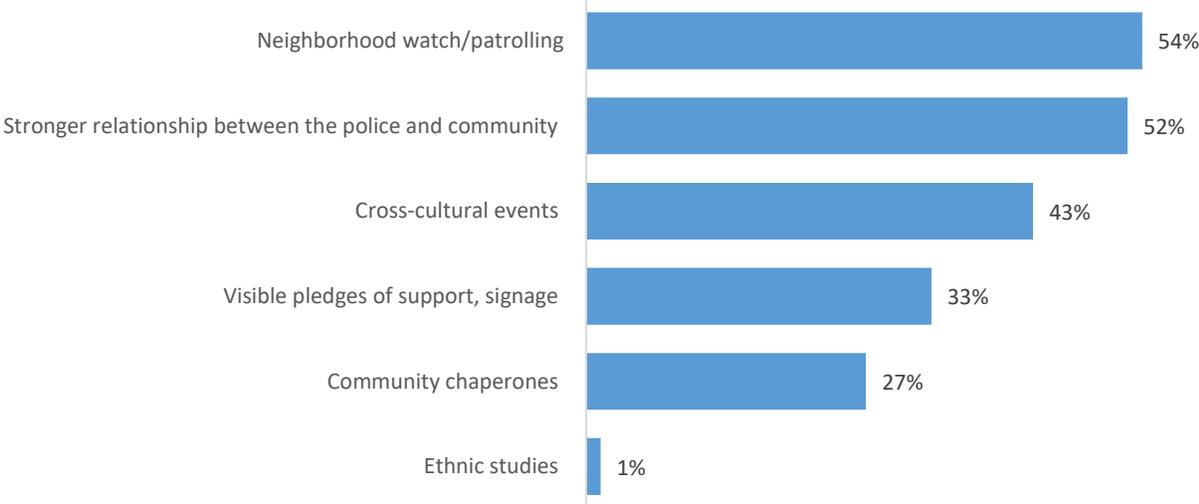
- Verbal support/support on social media
- Seeing signs and commercials against Asian hate
- Advocacy from community organizations, churches, and other groups
- Having support from friends, families, and personal networks
- Marches, rallies, and other events
- Support from lawmakers and public officials

Respondents were asked to select up to three resources (from a list of six choices) that they thought would be most effective in preventing discrimination. The most respondents (54%) selected *Patrolling/neighborhood watch (community members monitoring public areas)*, while over half (52%) selected *A stronger relationship between the police and community (increased communication and collaboration)*. 43% selected *Cross-cultural events (community gatherings, holiday celebrations, etc.)*.

### In their own words: why respondents feel less safe than before

- *"Since my verbal assault at a market, there's no security and to date there's still no security. I use a cane and feel that I'm an easy target."*
- *"Some serious hate crimes happened near the city I live which never happened in the past."*
- *"There has been a noticeable shift in how people perceive API's, and to experience racism in an area that's predominantly API shows that we're not really safe anywhere, even at home."*
- *"I've definitely experience racism growing up Asian American, but not to the point where I'm concerned about physical attacks. Previously it was more about discrimination in daily life / interactions, but not physical attacks."*

*Of the following resources, which three do you think would be most effective in preventing discrimination?  
(Please choose up to three)*

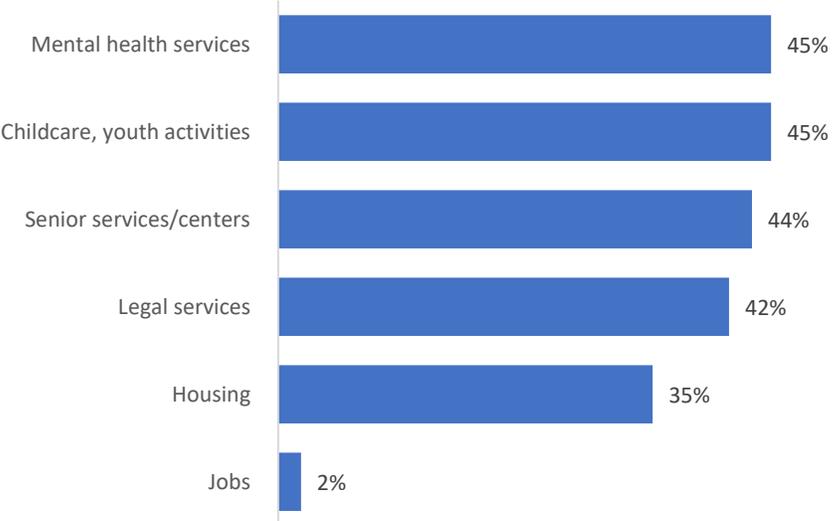


Respondents were also asked open-endedly which resources would be helpful. Their responses include:

- Advocacy training and training for community members
- Self-defense classes
- Direct hotlines/helplines to call other than 911
- Improvements in police presence (including faster response time and a more sympathetic force)
- Services, resources, and financial assistance for victims
- Ethnic studies for youth
- Dedicated organizations to provide resources and better promotion of resources
- Additional support from public officials (including public statements acknowledging anti-Asian hate and communicating a plan to address it).

Respondents were asked to select up to three general resources (from a list of seven choices) which they felt would be most needed in their community overall (rather than specifically for the issue of discrimination). The top three resources selected were: mental health/substance abuse services (45%), childcare, youth activities (45%), and senior services/centers (44%).

*Of the following resources, which three do you think are most needed in your community? (Please choose up to three)*



**Group comparisons**

We conducted within sample analyses to see if responses differed by age, immigrant generation, gender, and income. Although there were not many group differences, two were notable:

- 18-24 year olds and 55-64 year olds were more likely to feel there is support in their community for victims of racial discrimination compared to all other age groups.
- Respondents who were 1<sup>st</sup> generation immigrants were less likely to report a change in how they feel or behave when leaving home, compared to respondents from other generations. Half of 1<sup>st</sup> generation respondents reported changes, compared to the more than two-thirds of 1.5 generation (those born outside of the U.S. but immigrated as a child), 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation respondents who reported changes.

These results may indicate a need for more tailored efforts to support the different groups within the Asian American community.

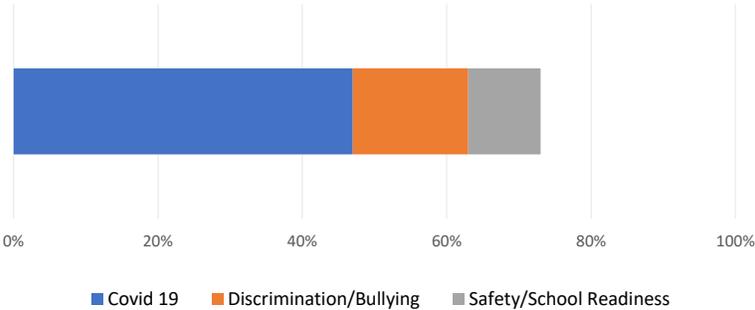
# PARENT SUBSECTION

## Concerns about returning to school

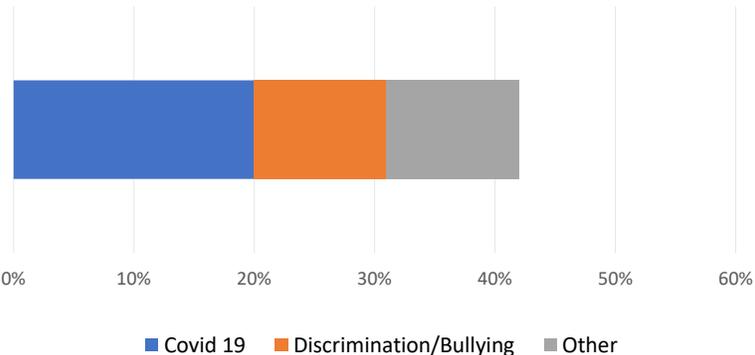
- About half (49%) of parent respondents indicated they have concerns about their children returning to school regarding bullying/anti-Asian hate. For example, a respondent was concerned that their child's school did not provide adequate support to address racial bullying. Another respondent was concerned that students who were separated from friends during the pandemic would blame it on their child or other Asian American students.
- A large majority (73%) of parents indicated having other concerns about returning to school aside from bullying/anti-Asian discrimination. These included concerns about COVID-19 (39%), general discrimination/bullying (13%), and general safety/school readiness (8%).
- 42% of parents indicated their children had concerns about returning to school. Children's concerns included COVID-19 (42%) and discrimination/bullying (11%).

NEARLY **HALF** OF PARENTS SURVEYED REPORTED CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL DUE TO ANTI-ASIAN HATE OR BULLYING

Parental Concerns about Children Returning to School



Children's Concerns about Returning to School

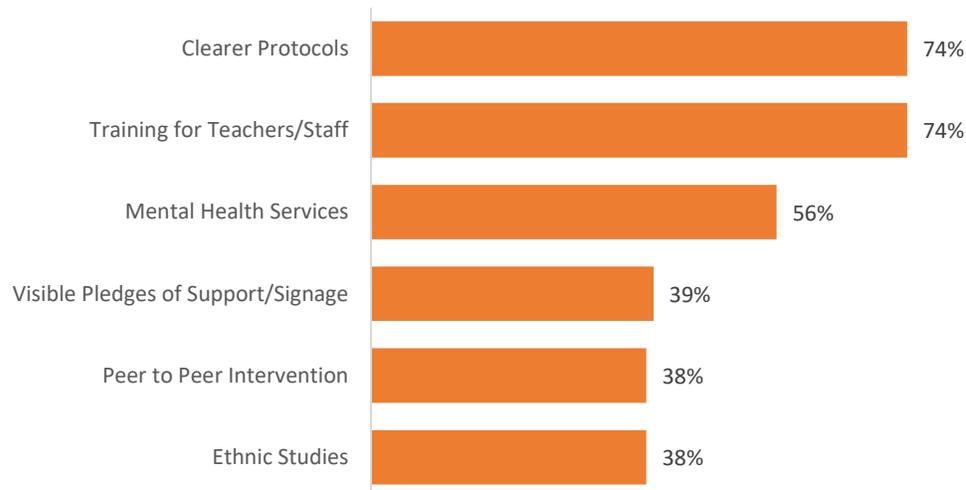


## Resources

Parents were also asked to select the types of support or resources that would help them and their children feel safe to return to school. The following options were offered (parents could select multiple options): 1) visible pledges of support/signage, 2) ethnic studies, 3) peer-to-peer intervention, 4) training for teachers/staff, 5) clearer protocols on how to address violence/bullying, 6) mental health services, and 7) other (fill in the blank).

- A large majority (74%) of parents selected (1) Training for teachers/staff and (2) Clearer protocols on how to address violence/bullying.
- Over half (56%) of parents also selected mental health services as a type of resource that would help their children feel safe to return to school.
- Nearly 40% of parents also indicated that visible pledges of support/signage (39%), ethnic studies in school (38%), and peer-to-peer intervention (38%) would be helpful.

### Resources to Help Parents and Children Feel Safe at School



## Group comparisons

We conducted within sample analyses to see if there were differences on perceptions of school safety and resources based on whether:

- Parents had children in elementary school compared to middle school / high school
- Parents indicated they had concerns about anti-Asian discrimination / bullying or not.
- Parents had children who attended schools in a majority Asian/Asian American school district or not.

Although there were not many differences in responses between these groups, several were notable:

- Parents with elementary school children expressed more concerns about COVID-19, whereas the parents of older students indicated concerns about general discrimination and bullying.
- Parents who expressed concerns about anti-Asian discrimination/bullying indicated their children also had concerns about anti-Asian discrimination.
- The only difference found when comparing parents of children who do and do not attend schools in majority Asian/Asian American school districts, was that the latter reported that ethnic studies type of resources would be helpful to them and their children to feel safe to return to school.



## DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These findings about experiences of discrimination and perceptions of safety among San Gabriel Valley Asian Americans are concerning. Even in a region with a large Asian American community, significant percentages of survey respondents reported feeling less safe, changes in feeling or behavior when leaving home, or having personal or family experience with hate since the pandemic. As one respondent put it: “You never know when it would be your turn. Places where I've felt safe before like San Gabriel and Arcadia also had Asians who were attacked.”

These results are not necessarily unexpected since over one-quarter of the anti-Asian hate crimes reported in LA County in 2020 occurred in the San Gabriel Valley.<sup>6</sup> It was more surprising, however, that the majority of respondents did not feel that there is support in their community for victims of discrimination and harassment. Additionally, respondents requested several resources, such as helplines, which already exist.

### Recommendations

- **Increase promotion and outreach of existing programs and resources for victims of hate.**

Services such as 211 LA, Advancing Justice – LA’s Legal and Victim Help, and the national Stop AAPI Hate initiative are currently available to help victims of racial discrimination or harassment report incidents and receive support and resources online or over the phone in multiple Asian languages. Our survey results indicate that more work needs to be done to raise awareness of these services within the San Gabriel Valley Asian American community. Outreach and promotion should be done in a variety of formats and mediums, given the diversity of age groups who felt that there was no support for victims.

- **Expand or provide community-based solutions to address discrimination and harassment.**

Our results showed the most support among respondents for neighborhood watch or patrols, in which community members monitor public areas. Community members conducting regular patrols can increase the sense of safety in a neighborhood and deter crime and harassment. They are trusted, know their neighborhoods, speak the language, and can provide other types of aid and support. Studies have shown that neighborhood watch programs are associated with lower levels of crime.<sup>7</sup>

Since the rise of anti-Asian hate incidents, community patrols have been formed in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, and Los Angeles, including parts of the San Gabriel Valley. We recommend working with existing groups like Compassion in SGV and other community stakeholders to expand these programs throughout the San Gabriel Valley area.

We also recommend organizing more cross-cultural events like community gatherings and holiday celebrations, which many respondents felt would be effective in preventing discrimination. These programs can create a greater sense of inclusion and solidarity, while countering biases and negative perceptions that can lead to hate.

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<sup>6</sup> 2020 Anti-Asian Hate Crime Report

<sup>7</sup> Holloway, Katy, Trevor Bennett, and David P. Farrington. 2013. *Does Neighborhood Watch Reduce Crime?* No. 3 of Crime Prevention Research Review. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

- **Facilitate more dialogue between law enforcement and the Asian American community**

Most respondents also felt that a stronger relationship between the police and the community would be effective in preventing discrimination. While we strongly caution against an over-reliance on police to solve this complex problem, we encourage dialogue between local law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders to discuss how to improve community-police relations and increase communication and trust. This includes ensuring police are properly trained on how to connect victims to appropriate support resources, such as victims assistance and benefits and culturally specific mental health services.

- **Provide training and clearer anti-bullying protocol in schools.**

Roughly three-quarters of parent respondents felt that training for teachers and school staff and/or clearer protocols on how schools address violence and bullying would help them and their children feel safer when returning to school. Allyship trainings for teachers and the school community can prevent hate incidents and bullying, while Bystander Intervention Training can be a simple and effective curriculum for addressing hate incidents in school when they occur.

State law already requires school districts to have anti-bullying policies and procedures in place. We recommend school districts to communicate these policies to parents and explain how they will be applied to address anti-Asian hate in school.

- **Fund expansions in mental health, childcare/youth activities, and senior services**

Nearly half of all survey respondents felt that mental health/substance abuse services were needed in their community, and over half of parent respondents selected mental health service as a helpful resource for improving safety in school. While national studies have found significant mental health impacts among Asian Americans who have experienced racism and hate,<sup>8</sup> Asians in general are the least likely to receive counseling or therapy services.<sup>9</sup> In addition to expanding capacity of mental health services, we recommend improving mental health outreach in the Asian community to overcome barriers such as language and stigma.

We also recommend more investment and support for childcare or youth activities and senior services in the San Gabriel Valley, which many survey respondents felt were needed in their communities. Children, youth, and seniors have been severely impacted by the pandemic in many ways, but programs serving them continue to face staffing and revenue challenges. Support for these programs and services will be important to help the community recover after COVID-19.

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<sup>8</sup> Stop AAPI Hate. "Stop AAPI Hate Mental Health Report." Available at: <https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Stop-AAPI-Hate-Mental-Health-Report-210527.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Mental Health Treatment Among Adults: United States, 2020." Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db419.htm>

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Age	%
18-24	6.4
25-34	15.4
35-44	24.1
45-54	10.9
55-64	18.4
65+	16.2
Refused	8.7

Gender	%
Woman	63.7
Man	34.7
Non-binary*	1.5

Income	%
<\$50,000	30.8
\$50-100,000	17.2
over \$100,000	26.4
refused	25.6

Generation	%
1st	52.3
1.5	14.2
2nd	26.2
3rd or later	7.3

Language*	%
Chinese	41.9
English	56.7
Vietnamese	1.4

\*Language survey was administered/taken

Ethnicity	%
Chinese	66.5
Taiwanese	11.4
Other Asian	8.0
Japanese	5.3
Vietnamese	5.3
Korean	3.4

City	%
San Gabriel	15.1
Alhambra	14.8
Pasadena	9.5
Monterey Park	9.2
Arcadia	7.8
Other SGV Cities	7.1
El Monte	6.3
Rosemead	5.6
West Covina	3.5
Diamond Bar	3.2
South Pasadena	3.2
Temple City	3.2
San Marino	2.8
Walnut	2.5
Monrovia	2.1
Montebello	2.1
Pomona	2.1

## METHODOLOGY

Responses were collected from July to September 2021 through online and phone surveys offered in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. The phone survey was conducted using a purchased phone list of Asian Americans in San Gabriel Valley cities, a phone list of Asian Youth Center clients, and San Gabriel Valley residents who attended a community event. The online survey was distributed among Asian Youth Center community contacts and contact lists from partner organizations.



This work was made possible with funding from

