

DOCUMENTING ANTI-AAPI HATE

CODEBOOK



Photo Credit: Cindy Trinh; IG Handle: @activistnyc;
Location: Asian American Federation Rally in Foley Square (NYC) on February 27, 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“ We must have the courage to walk the talk, but we must also engage in the continuing dialogues that enable us to break free of old categories and create the new ideas that are necessary to address our realities, because revolutions are made not to prove the correctness of ideas but to begin anew. ”

- Grace Lee Boggs



Photo Credit: Jason Leung.
Unsplash.

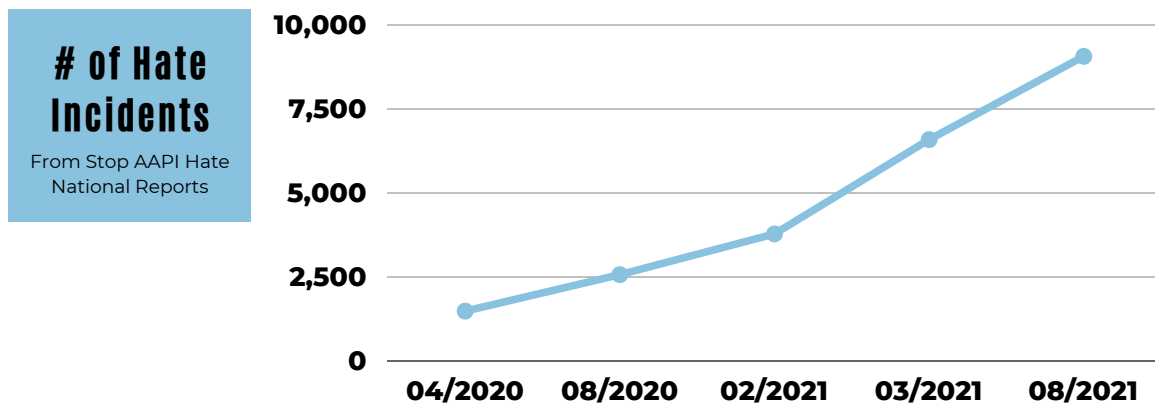
Since March 2020, the Stop AAPI Hate (SAH) coalition has received over 9,000 reports of hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). These firsthand reports offer a glimpse of the realities facing AAPI persons and communities, particularly during the pandemic. The Stop AAPI Hate data offer insights into the large-scale patterns of AAPI encounters with discrimination today, but they are only one piece of the puzzle in achieving a comprehensive understanding of the rich and diverse multitude of AAPI experiences.

The Asian American Foundation (TAAF) and the SAH coalition are collaborating to facilitate the documentation of AAPI experiences through multiple sources of data and methodologies. To that end, TAAF and the SAH coalition formed a working group to draft standards and practices for community-based data collection. The overarching goal was collaboration built on trust, transparency, and accountability for improving anti-AAPI hate data quality.

Standardization is essential for establishing shared definitions and facilitating communication. This working draft provides the definitions for key terms related to documenting anti-AAPI hate and the language used on the SAH coalition's reporting site.

COMMUNITY-BASED DATA ON ANTI-AAPI HATE

In response to the rise in hate rhetoric [1] and hate incidents against AAPI persons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SAH coalition launched a reporting site where individuals who have experienced anti-AAPI hate incidents can report their experiences. Within the first year (from March 2020 to March 2021), the center received over 9,081 reports of hate incidents [2].



Such community-based data offer critical insights into the experiences of AAPI persons and communities who are often rendered invisible in national policy discussions due to the lack of just and accurate representation in data [3]. The absence of representative data that disaggregate beyond a general “Asian” category makes understanding anti-AAPI hate, specific forms of such hate, and structural racism against AAPI persons and communities extremely difficult [4]. It has substantive and significant consequences for AAPI communities, be it diminishing political representation by elected officials and public funding for essential services [5]. Community-based data collection provides the opportunity to center and amplify AAPI experiences and voices.

Community-based data collection is also a powerful way to combat the false “no data, no problem” narrative (p.632) [6]. It can provide complementary and crucial information alongside other important sources, including federal data (e.g., U.S. Census) and AAPI-centered nationally representative data (e.g., AAPI Data) [7].

THE NEED TO STANDARDIZE

This working draft provides the definitions for key terms related to documenting anti-AAPI hate and the language used on the SAH coalition's reporting site. Standardization is essential for the establishment of shared definitions and for facilitating communication. While several academic studies documenting the impacts of anti-AAPI hate have adopted terms from the SAH reporting site, we recognize the need to define them systematically [8]. How individuals report their experiences and derive meaning is influenced by multiple factors, such as English language proficiency and language preference [9]. Thus, standardization is particularly important for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, which are characterized by a vast diversity of languages, cultures, religions, and more [10].

The definitions included in this working draft are in no way comprehensive. They can differ within specific contexts (e.g., legal definitions) and over time. Building on the important work of systematically documenting hate [11] and hate groups in American communities [12], this document provides more information about the current use of definitions related to anti-AAPI hate, particularly in the context of the pandemic.

The current draft provides working definitions as of August 2021. The working group surveyed 14 hate incident reporting forms in the preparation of this draft. To contribute to the standards or leave comments about the definitions proposed here, please contact us at: community@stopaapihate.org or data@taaf.org.

HOW TO USE

THIS DOCUMENT

We envision this draft as having four primary access points.

01. Defining "Anti-AAPI Hate"

Section 1 is relevant to readers interested in learning more about definitions pertaining to the broader topic of anti-AAPI hate.

02. Defining Race & Racism

Section 2 provides definitions related to race and racism in understanding anti-AAPI hate.

03. Definitions related to Incident Reporting

Section 3 would be of interest to those seeking specific definitions related to documenting hate incidents.

04. Recommendations

Section 4 provides the group's additional recommendations for documenting anti-AAPI hate for those interested in collecting data.

SECTION 1

DEFINING "ANTI-AAPI HATE"



Photo Credit: Sundona Kittikhoun; IG Handle @ShotBySundona;
Location: Hing Hay Park, Seattle Chinatown on April 4, 2021

ANTI-AAPI HATE

Although “hate” is commonly understood as an “intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury”, “hate” in the context of hate incidents or hate crimes has a different meaning. In the context of “anti-AAPI hate,” we define hate as explicit negative bias in racial beliefs about people or groups based on protected, immutable characteristics – such as race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability; but not necessarily as defined by the law.

Hate is directed at individuals based on perception of membership in AAPI groups often drawing from observed “racial” phenotype [13]. For example, within the context of 9-11 and Islamophobia, hate has been directed at persons perceived to be Muslim and/or Arabic –making South Asians, notably Sikhs– vulnerable despite of not belonging to those groups [14]. Similarly in the context of anti-AAPI hate, non-AAPI persons who were assumed to belong AAPI have been targeted [15]. While hate is often considered at individual or interpersonal levels, it is important to note its long-standing and systemic root cause [16].

Term	Definition
Anti-AAPI Hate	Anti-AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Hate; Explicit negative racial bias in beliefs and/or prejudice about Asian Americans and/or Pacific Islanders [17].

NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER EXPERIENCES

“ If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time.
But if you have come because our liberation is bound up with mine,
then let us work together.
- Lila Watson ”

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have distinctive histories and relations with the United States and have different community voices and needs. They are often inappropriately aggregated under the term “Asian and Pacific Islanders” in data despite the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revising the race categories to create the separate Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander category since 1997. Under the aggregated category imposed by the OMB, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have organized within and across the communities [18, 19]; and the use of “AAPI” sometimes reflect the close relations of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in various local contexts. However, the use of the aggregated category can mask important differences for and within the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, and further contribute to invisibility of NHPI Peoples and communities in data [20, 21].

While NHPI persons also reported experiencing hate crimes and hate incidents during the pandemic [22, 23], whether and how their experiences are qualitatively distinct must be carefully considered in ways that center and are led by NHPI persons and communities.

CRIME VS. INCIDENT

The terms “hate crime” and “hate incident” (or “bias incident”) are often used interchangeably, but the distinction between these two concepts is important. Hate crimes are generally defined as criminal acts in which the perpetrator intentionally targets the person(s) or property because of the protected, immutable characteristics (e.g. race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability) of the victim or other person(s). Importantly, every state's hate crime statute is different and some are more inclusive than others. As a result, what may constitute a hate crime in one jurisdiction may not meet the legal definition of a hate crime in another jurisdiction.

Some hate incidents may or may not meet the standard to be classified as a “hate crime” established by the law enforcement; and “hate crime” and “hate incident” are not mutually exclusive.

Hate or bias incidents, on the other hand, do not involve an underlying crime. Typically, hate incidents involve non-criminal conduct motivated in whole or in part by hatred, prejudice or bigotry directed towards a person or group based on protected, immutable characteristics. Under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, speech – including offensive, bias, or hate-fueled speech – is protected, and individuals cannot be prosecuted for expressing such beliefs alone [24].

Term	Definition
Hate Crime	An criminal offense — such as murder, assault, arson, or vandalism (or threat to commit such acts) in which people or property are intentionally selected because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability [24].
Hate Incident (or Bias Incident)	An expression of bias or an act motivated by bias or prejudice on protected immutable and other characteristics that does not involve an underlying crime (violence, threats, or property damage) [24].

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Language used to discuss the pandemic and AAPI persons and communities matters [25]. For example, a post-9/11 speech by President George W. Bush condemning anti-Muslim violence was shown to cause a sharp drop in hate crimes against Muslim Americans [26]. Similarly, after President Donald J. Trump tweeted the phrase “Chinese Virus,” both anti-Asian rhetoric [1] and hate incidents [27] increased.

Language is also important for understanding bias motivations behind hate incidents. Pinpointing bias motivations (or intentions) of crimes and incidents can be challenging. One way of understanding motivation is through the documentation of language used before, during, or after an incident. For example, many incidents reported to SAH are characterized by the perpetrator’s use of racial slurs or other hateful language, including anti-China rhetoric [27]. Language can be transmitted orally (through speaking), by gestures, or in writing.

Term	Definition
Slur	An insulting, offensive or degrading (oral, gestured, or written) remark, often based on one’s protected identity such as race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender/gender identity, or sexual orientation [28].
Racial Slur	An insulting or disparaging (oral, gestured, or written) remark or innuendo based on actual or perceived race.

SECTION 2

DEFINING RACE & RACISM



Photo credit: Joseph Matthew Mendoza; IG Handle: @jomatt_m;
Location: Silver Spring, Maryland on March 27, 2021

WHAT'S RACE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

“Race” refers to socially constructed grouping based on perceived physical and behavioral differences, and does not refer to biological differences [29, 30]. The U.S. Census Bureau defines race as a person’s self-identification with one or more social groups [31]. “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” are two distinct racial categories defined by the U.S. Census following the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity [31].

We provide the definitions for frequently used terms relating to race and to how individuals understand, feel, and behave in response to perceived racial differences. We first begin with the definition of racism as the source of anti-AAPI hate that fosters the cultures of discrimination [16].

Term	Definition
Racism	A multiple-level system consisting of structures, practices, and norms that marginalize and/or oppress people of color based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges White people.

RACISM

is often misunderstood as it only occurs at individual or interpersonal levels, but racism as a system operates at multiple levels [32]:

Term	Definition
Structural Racism	<p>A system consisting of structures, practices, and norms that perpetuates the socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges White people. Structural racism occurs across society at large, and among institutions; and often used interchangeably with the term, Systemic Racism.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Immigration policies (e.g., Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882)</p>
Institutional Racism	<p>Discriminatory policies and practices within organizations and institutions that work better for White people than for people of color.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Hiring and promotion practices</p>
Interpersonal Racism	<p>Expression of racism shown between individuals through word and action.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Overt discrimination</p>
Internalized Racism	<p>Race-based beliefs and feelings individuals have.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Internalized belief in negative racial stereotypes</p>

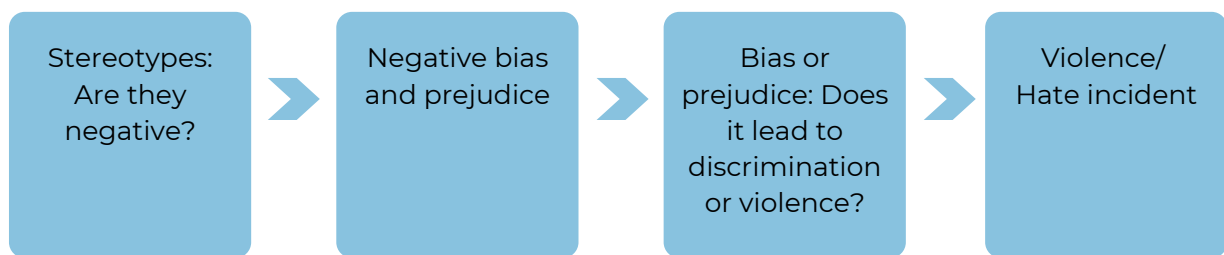
ELEMENTS OF RACISM

Anti-AAPI hate – an explicit negative racial bias in beliefs and/or prejudice about Asian Americans and/or Pacific Islanders [17] – is a product of racism and can contain one or more of the following elements.

Term	Definition
Stereotype	<p>A thought or association that an individual may or may not believe/endorse that certain attributes and characteristics are typical of members of a particular group. An oversimplified generalization about a person or group of people without regard for individual differences.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> An (inaccurate) belief that all Asian Americans are successful.</p>
Prejudice	<p>A premature and unjustified opinion, assumption, or feeling toward an individual based solely on the individual's social group membership before gaining sufficient knowledge or by selectively disregarding facts [33].</p> <p><i>Example:</i> "I hate Asians because of [racial stereotype]."</p>
Bias	<p>An inclination or preference either for or against an individual or group that interferes with impartial judgment and prevents objectivity.</p> <p><u>Implicit vs. Explicit Bias:</u> Implicit bias are <i>unconscious</i> prejudice, beliefs or attitudes towards an individual or group (not aware of one's bias); whereas explicit bias are prejudice, beliefs or attitudes towards an individual or group that one deliberately and consciously believes (aware of one's bias).</p>
Discrimination	<p>The denial of justice and resources; and unfair or unjust treatment of members of a particular group based on their membership in that group.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Unequal treatment in employment, education, housing etc.</p>

Stereotypes pertain to cognition (e.g., thoughts and association that an individual may or may not believe/endorse). That is, a person can have encoded in memory an association between socially constructed racial groups and a particular characteristic, regardless of whether they believe the association is true. Regardless of whether we believe an association between group membership and a characteristic is true, it can influence our feelings, thoughts, and behaviors. Prejudice can be both cognitive (belief) and affective (feeling); and discrimination is expressed through behavior (action). Stereotypes, prejudice and bias can lead to discrimination and violence (adopted from Figure 3 in [34]):

The Relations Between Stereotype, Anti-AAPI Hate and Hate Incidents



It is important to note that stereotypes may negatively affect individuals in the absence of actual discriminatory behavior [35].

TYPES OF DISCRIMINATION

Racial discrimination is the (often illegal) expression of racism. Discrimination can be subtle or obvious, and intentional or unintentional. Discrimination can also occur in multiple domains with varying levels of severity. Here, we define four types of discrimination based on different behaviors (actions). Certain types of discrimination, harassment, and abuse may violate an individual's civil rights and be unlawful [36]. It is important to note that these definitions are presented for readers interested in thinking about different types of discrimination, and individuals reporting their anti-AAPI hate experiences should not be asked to identify the type of discrimination.

Term	Definition
Direct Discrimination	An incident in which an individual or group has been treated unfairly or unjustly based on one or more protected immutable characteristics (which assumes their membership to one or more social groups).
Indirect Discrimination	Unfair or unjust treatment of an individual or group based on one or more protected immutable characteristics that was not intentionally directed but caused harm for an individual or group observing the incident, especially those who shares the targeted protected characteristics.
Harassment	In the criminal context, harassment generally involves a course of conduct that is intended to threaten, intimidate, or put another person in fear of their physical safety. In the civil context, harassment can mean an unwanted, unwelcomed, or uninvited behavior that an individual finds offensive or causes emotional harm in a verbal/written, physical, or visual form.
Victimization	"The act or process of singling someone out for cruel or unfair treatment, typically through physical or emotional abuse" [37].

SECTION 3

DEFINITIONS RELATED TO INCIDENT REPORTING

This section provides working definitions for key terms related to the reporting of anti-AAPI hate incidents. We include examples from reports received by SAH as well as from TAAF's Decoding Hate data visualization, which draws on hate incidents reported by news media starting from January 2020 to April 2021.



Photo credit: "San Francisco Faith Leaders" by TC Chang,
Location: San Francisco Civic Center, CA on February 14, 2021

INCIDENT TYPE

The incident type captures the characteristics of hate incidents that individuals or groups experienced. Respondents can select more than one type (i.e., following instructions to “check all that apply”).

Category	Definition
Verbal, written, or gestural hate speech and/or harassment	<p>Hateful words (spoken or written) or physical gestures</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A cooking class held online by an Asian American chef is disrupted by an unknown person who shouts anti-Asian and homophobic slurs. (Asheville, NC)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> While shopping at a local grocery, [I walked] past a gentleman who said, "Chinese Motherf**er." I continued shopping, then ran into him again in another aisle, when he said the same slur. I told him I am not from there and never been to China, and he said, "Doesn't matter — you are all the same and you are a virus." (Gilbert, AZ)</p>
Avoidance or shunning	<p>Selectively avoiding physical contact with, or exposure to, a person due to their actual or perceived race or ethnicity</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A grocery store customer singles out a Chinese American man and tells him to "stay away". (Albuquerque, NM)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I entered the public bathroom at [a] grocery store. A white man and his son were at the bathroom [and] when [the] white man saw me, he said “Sh*t, there is an Asian coming!” He called his son, and quickly escaped the bathroom. (West Lafayette, IN)</p>

INCIDENT TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Physical attack	<p>A physical act, based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity, resulting in harmful or offensive contact</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man asks an Asian man, "Are you Chinese?" and punches him in the face before he responds. (Portland, OR)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was blindsided sucker punched and had my jaw shattered in 3 places. The impact shattered my lower mandible on the right side. The sheer force fractured my jaw & uprooted my teeth on the left. Moments earlier, 3 men hurled anti-Asian, racist remarks my way and called me "Ch***" and "G**K". (Venice, CA)</p>
Coughed at or spat upon	<p>Coughing or spitting that targets the body, based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A car slows down and a passenger rolls down the window and deliberately spits on a Japanese American woman. (Los Angeles, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was eating and talking on the phone in Chinese when a man came up to me, called me a "Ch***" and spit on me. (Oklahoma City, OK)</p>

INCIDENT TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Job discrimination / hostile work environment	<p>Unfair treatment or retaliation at one's place of employment by employer or coworkers based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity [a]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> An unnamed individual tells former NFL offensive lineman and assistant coach Eugene Chung, who is Korean, that he is "not the right minority" while interviewing for an NFL coaching job this offseason.</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was discriminated against by my own bosses and coworkers, along with customers. I was being told to "go back to my country," or that I would "give them" COVID. I would even get death threats from customers, and they would tell me to kill myself and/or they would kill me. (Santa Maria, CA)</p>
Denial of service	<p>Offering different services, rights, or opportunities to similarly situated parties based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Two Hmong American men are denied service at a hotel and are told they should be quarantined for two weeks because they are "Chinese." (Plymouth, IN)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> The worker at the store called out Asian people and refused to ring them up. Any item I grabbed he said he was reserving for himself. He also called me "Yellow ch***." (Alhambra, CA)</p>

[a] Job discrimination is unfair treatment or retaliation at one's place of employment by an employer or coworkers based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity that can be linked to one's employment or evaluation. It is different from "discrimination at workplace" (i.e., discrimination that happens at a workplace). For example, individuals in the service industry may experience discrimination and harassment from customers.

INCIDENT TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Threat or intimidation	<p>Threat or attempt (no contact made) of physical assault or violence based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> An Asian American-owned store selling Japanese-made cookware receives a bomb threat reading, "Go back to Japan. We are going to bomb your store if you don't listen and we know where you live." (Torrance, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> Two white, middle-aged men, who have been my neighbors for over fifteen years, approached me threateningly on the street, pulled down the corners of their eyes and said, "Go back to Wuhan, b*tch and take the virus with you!" When I called them vile, they then called me a "Thai wh*re" and threatened to beat up my husband. (Vancouver, Canada)</p>
Graffiti or vandalism	<p>Damaging, disordering, or destroying physical property due to racial or ethnic bias</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Someone throws a rock through the window of a Chinese cultural center. (San Diego, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I've lived in the [neighborhood] over a decade and never seen any graffiti targeting Asians. I have shopped at this [drug store] since the opening of the location, but on my recent trip last week I found offensive graffiti, "NO ASIAN PARKING" in the parking garage. I notified the management too. (Seattle, WA)</p>

INCIDENT TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Robbery or theft	<p>Targeted robbery or theft of physical property based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A group of thieves targets the homes of Asian American families. (Montgomery County, MD)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> Harassed by a white guy at a park, started recording the encounter with my phone, called with racial slur and robbed my phone. (Los Angeles, CA)</p>
Visual media, propaganda, or signage	<p>Publicly visible media, propaganda (e.g., fliers or online media), or signage expressing a hateful message targeting AAPI persons or the AAPI community</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A restaurant displays a piñata in the shape of a coronavirus spike protein with a racist depiction of an Asian face on it. (Eureka, MO)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> A "COVID-19 - Made in China" sign was posted on the front door of a restaurant in downtown Catonsville. (Catonsville, MD)</p>
Other (open text field)	This field captures incidents that do not fall into the preceding classifications.

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE

The incident location type captures the characteristics of the location where individuals or groups experienced the hate incident. Locations can be both places and spaces: places are geographic ("physical") locations invested with social meanings and values, whereas spaces are merely abstract geometries without material form or cultural interpretation (e.g., an online space) [38]. Individuals can select more than one type (i.e., following instructions to "check all that apply").

Category	Definition
Business	<p>Grocery stores, shopping malls, hotels, or any space operated by a company or individual [b]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man racially harasses an Asian American man at a gas station, telling him "someone should shoot all you Asians, I will shoot you all." (Burlingame, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was shopping at [store] in Milpitas when an older man started making faces at me. I asked him what was wrong and he said, "What's wrong? You are out here shopping!" I was confused, and he followed up with, "We delisted your companies, shipped back your international students... When do you ship out? When do you ship out? We are going to take away your citizenship!" (Milpitas, CA)</p>
Public street or sidewalk	<p>Any street open for public travel that is under the jurisdiction of a public authority</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man harasses an Asian American police officer and calls the officer a racial slur multiple times. (New York, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> These white males were walking toward me, moved into the street when they saw me, yelled, "Hey ch*nk!" and then spit at me. (College Station, TX)</p>

[b] Depending on the overarching goal of the data collection, one may consider collecting the names of businesses for pattern or practice review.

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Online	<p>Social media networks, multiplayer games, messaging platforms, or email [c]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Uninvited attendees enter an online stretching class led by a Korean dance instructor. They harass her with racial slurs and accuse her of spreading the coronavirus. (Detroit, MI)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I received a random email message from someone I don't know telling me to go back to China, blaming me for Chinese politics, calling Chinese "heartless robots" and telling me America doesn't need me to be part of the workforce. (Boston, MA)</p>
Private residence	<p>Private home, townhouse, condominium, apartment, mobile home, or any other living space</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man racially harasses and assaults a 78-year-old Japanese American man inside an apartment. (Seattle, WA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> Neighbors and HOA board members called me "the gook from California" and have continued to make me not welcomed and unsafe at my current home. (Helena, MT)</p>

[c] Online hate incidents can be both direct (e.g., directly received a hateful message) and indirect (e.g., observing hateful messages posted on social media).

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Public transit	<p>Buses, ferries, subways, trains, or any transportation open for public travel, operated by a public authority</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man harasses and elbows a 42-year-old Asian man in the chest at a train station and makes racial comments. (New York, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> At noon on Sunday, while riding the train, I got punched in the face by an unmasked man. No one on the train intervened. (New York, NY)</p>
Public park	<p>An area of land for the enjoyment of the public that has facilities for rest and/or recreation and is maintained by a government authority</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man verbally harasses a Japanese American Olympic athlete while she is training at a park. (Orange, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was at the dog park and a group of college students were by a dog. They didn't have masks on and I had a mask on. I got excited because they had the same dog as me and I asked them how old their dog was and they said that I needed to leave and as I was walking away I heard "coronavirus". (San Diego, CA)</p>

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
School	<p>Any K-12 educational institution (where the majority of students are under the age of 18)</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A 16-year-old Asian American boy is hospitalized after being assaulted by classmates as a result of "racial backlash" in response to stereotypes about the coronavirus. (San Fernando Valley, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> My six year old had her classmate ask her if she liked China. My daughter said yes. The other kid told her that was bad because the coronavirus came from China. The other kid did not mean to be racist but obviously is learning from somewhere. Schools need to have diversity classes even at a young age. (Long Beach, CA)</p>
University or college	<p>Campus buildings, recreational facilities, or online spaces affiliated with colleges or universities</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A professor jokes "Let me get my mask on" after learning that one of his students is from Wuhan, China during an online lecture. (Columbia, MO)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> While walking down a street with two other Asian people (sister and visiting friend from another college) on campus, a car of white boys slowed down next to us and yelled "f*cking ch*nks" and used the slur in other ways before driving off quickly. (Columbus, OH)</p>

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Government building	<p>Airport, library, post office, DMV, or any space operated by a government authority</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A customer at the post office calls an Asian employee a racial slur. (Los Altos, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> At the post office, there was a man without a proper wear of mask who would not keep 6 feet distance so I pointed at the floor distance sticker as I kept trying to move away from him to keep distance. He then lost control with verbal slurs, yelling, "Go back to China, you f* b*." (San Francisco, CA)</p>
Hospital, medical practice, or clinic	<p>Dentist offices, specialist offices, or any space where medical services are delivered [d]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man walks up to an Asian psychiatrist and spits on her, telling her that she "brought the sickness." He then proceeds to call her a "Hindu" along with profanities. (Boston, MA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I am an Asian nurse in Connecticut, working in a hospital during the pandemic. One of my patients said to me "I don't want a foreigner taking care of me. You guys bring disease." (Meriden, CT)</p>

[d] The place or space where individuals experienced the hate incidents can also be their places of work, as illustrated in this example. A follow-up question asking whether the incident location was also the workplace (i.e., a place/space of employment) can be helpful.

INCIDENT LOCATION TYPE, CONT.

Category	Definition
Private transportation	<p>Airplanes, personal cars, rideshares, taxis, or any mode of transportation operated by a private company or individual</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A woman racially harasses an Asian American Uber driver, telling him to "go back to Asia." (Charlotte, NC)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I requested an [company name] ride. The driver took over 15 mins and went through all the bad traffic to get me, then canceled my ride as soon as he saw my face. Later I found out he canceled by lying to [company name] saying I didn't wear a mask. My screen name is French so he didn't know I'm Asian until he saw me in person. (Irvine, CA)</p>
Place of worship	<p>Churches, mosques, temples, graveyards, or other locations associated with religious practice</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Two women vandalize statues at a temple and spray paint the word "Jesus" on one of them. (Santa Ana, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> An act of hate and racism on our local church in Seattle. Someone left a message written in hay on the parking lot, which read offensive slurs "F*** China," "You will pay," and "Go Home." Our church congregation is predominantly Indonesian, though we are pretty diverse, and have members of different races and many ethnicities. This completely unprovoked attack was the fourth this year. (Seattle, WA)</p>
Other (open text field)	<p>This field captures incidents that do not fall into the preceding classifications.</p>

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION

The suspected bias motivation captures the perpetrator's stated or perceived motivation. As mentioned earlier, pinpointing the bias motivation (or intention) behind hate crimes and hate incidents can be challenging. However, the perceived motivations can be crucial for how AAPI persons understand, feel, and respond to their experiences. Individuals can select more than one type (i.e., following instructions to "check all that apply"). It is important to note that this hate incident reporting item is not to decipher the intent of the perpetrator, but to better understand AAPI persons' experiences.

Deciding whether and how to collect information on ethnicity can be challenging. Ethnicity is often simply thought of as the "ethnic origin" or "country of origin." However, the term encompasses multiple dimensions, including "shared culture, such as language, ancestry, practices, and beliefs" [39]. There are two important questions to consider. The first is whether the "ethnicity" option captures a bias or motivation that is distinct from that of the race category. For example, the SAH reporting site provides race and ethnicity as two distinctive categories, which can reveal nuances. Whether to distinguish race and ethnicity would depend on the anticipated goals of the data collection. If the particular focus is not on understanding the nuances, we recommend combining race and ethnicity into one category (e.g., race/ethnicity) given previous research suggesting that combining them can increase response rates and data accuracy [29].

The second question is how to operationalize ethnicity. One approach is to offer "ethnicity" as a category for measuring the suspected bias motivation; and/or can be measured using multiple, related categories (e.g., language, religion, food).

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION, CONT.

Category	Definition
Race/ethnicity	<p>Physical features that are assumed to show socially significant differences across racial or ethnic groups [e]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man asks an Asian American woman for a cigarette while she is walking home late at night; after she tells him she does not have one and walks away, the perpetrator yells a racial slur and hits her on the side of her head with an unknown object. (Culver City, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was peacefully walking my dog, when the dogs in the house of a lady across the street started barking. She started verbally harassing me and then proceeded to tell me to stop talking to her, when she was the one that started yelling hostilely at me in the first place. As I was walking away, she said next time, she will throw some rocks at me/it (referring to my dog). I believe my race was a huge triggering factor in the way she acted, as she lives near me and I've seen her treat those that do not look Asian much differently. (Rowland Heights, CA)</p>

[e] Approximately 9% of the hate incidents reported to SAH indicated "ethnicity" but not "race." It may be from the specific slur or language used (e.g., anti-China rhetoric) or from the persons' identities (e.g., stronger ethnic identity than racial identity).

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION, CONT.

Category	Definition
Immigration status/nationality	<p>(actual or perceived) immigration or foreign-born status (i.e., non-U.S. citizen status) [40]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A woman approaches an Asian beauty blogger and tells her "you're not from here. Go back to communist China b*tch." The Asian photographer who is with the Asian woman defends her. (New York, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was jeered at by strangers at the post office parking lot. They screamed at the top of their lungs "Go back to Japan!" and threw their heads back as they laughed. They did this repeatedly as I walked to my car and I heard them even as I pulled away. [...] I was born in California as were my parents. My grandparents immigrated to the US over 100 years ago along with many others from countries around the globe. (Conifer, CO)</p>
Language	<p>(actual or perceived) speaking another language or speaking English with foreign accent</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A woman assaults and threatens a Vietnamese woman with a knife at a nail salon store after hearing her speak Vietnamese. (Oklahoma City, OK)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was speaking Cantonese to my mother. This man who was with his wife and young daughter was walking by and was mimicking my language. It was disgusting, never have I felt such hatred and disgust being born an Asian American. (Flushing, NY)</p>

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION, CONT.

Category	Definition
Religion	<p>(actual or perceived) religious beliefs or affiliation</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Two women vandalize statues at a temple and spray paint the word "Jesus" on one of them. (Santa Ana, CA)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> The owner of the restaurant called my husband (Bangladeshi American) a Terrorist, and refused service to us [...] (Miami, FL)</p>
Food	<p>(actual or perceived) food the person was eating or purchasing [f]</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A fifth-grader tells a Chinese American classmate to "Go back to your country and tell your people to stop eating bats and rats." (Manhasset, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was working at my sushi stand, an old man walked up to the stand and described our products as "slant eye food". After he walked away, my coworker and I went up to the man and asked him what he said just to clarify we heard right. Then he once again states that he didn't want our sushi because it's slant eye food. (Knoxville, TN)</p>

[f] Some of these categories (e.g., food) are not protected immutable characteristics – meaning they do not capture ethnicity or race per se, but they might lead to be targeted for anti-AAPI hate. The SAH reporting site initially considered “mask” to be one of the suspected bias motivations [42].

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION, CONT.

Category	Definition
Gender/gender identity	<p>(actual or perceived) gender that a person identifies with</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man sexually harasses an Asian dancer while she is filming a video for her group's social media channel. (New York, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I received an insulting text message from my client with inappropriate gender and racial terms involved, ".....have a nice day b**** Asian wh***. That's the fucking way I feel about the Chinese." (Los Angeles, CA)</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>(actual or perceived) gender that a person's sexual attraction is directed toward</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A cooking class held online by an Asian American chef is disrupted by an unknown person who shouts anti-Asian and homophobic slurs. (Asheville, NC)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> I was shunned upon and called slurs due to being Asian, trans, and bisexual. (Shreveport, LA)</p>
Disability	<p>((actual or perceived) physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity [41])</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> Man said "F***** Filipino, ...F***** Chinese, Whatever, ...F***** wheelchair. We were a group of three, two adults and one Senior in a wheelchair. Man did not continue to harass afterwards. (Los Angeles, CA)</p>

SUSPECTED BIAS MOTIVATION, CONT.

Category	Definition
Age/life course	<p>(actual or perceived) life course stages (e.g., childhood, adolescence, old age)</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> Two 13-year-old boys attempt to set an 89-year-old Asian woman on fire. (New York, NY)</p> <p><u>Stop AAPI Hate Example:</u> Occurred at my place of employment. A man approached me while I was minding my own business, asked me "young lady, are you Chinese?" He proceeded to tell me "your kind are diseased." I told him shame on him. No one stepped in to help me. Now he started with the racial slurs. I took out my phone to try to record him and he got physically aggressive trying to grab at me. (Rochester, NY)</p>
None/unknown	<p>None/unknown</p> <p><u>TAAF's Decoding Hate Example:</u> A man kicks a 65-year-old Asian woman down the stairs at a train station. (New York, NY)</p>
Other (open text field)	This field captures incidents that do not fall into the preceding classifications.

SECTION 4

RECOMMENDATIONS



Photo Credit: Dane Nakama; IG Handle: @umeboi_;
Location: State Capitol in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 27, 2021
ft. Adam Kurtz (@adamjk) and Mitchell Kuga (@mitchellkuga)

RECOMMENDATION #1

Decide and design the data collection with the community.

Experiences of hate incidents are traumatic and reporting can be re-traumatizing; and data should not be collected for the sake of data. In deciding to collect and designing the data collection, the collaboration with communities as collaborators – not subjects– is critical. This process should include conversations about the values, objectives, and goals of the data collection; and they should guide what type of questions and definitions are used to collect information.

In addition to the hate incident reporting items discussed in Section 3, additional items can be considered to achieve the desired goals from the data collection including but not limited to: date and time of the incident, geographic location of the incident (e.g., zip code or cross streets), whether the person would be open to future contact etc.

We strongly caution on collecting information on person(s) causing harm, and must carefully consider the potential policy implications. While some information on person(s) causing harm can be useful (e.g., institutional actors), it must not cause harm for other communities of color [43].

RECOMMENDATION #2

Be mindful about who is reporting the hate incident.

The working definitions in the draft are designed around first-person reports of hate incidents, which assume that the reporter has specific knowledge about both the incident and the person targeted. Witnesses (i.e., those who were not targeted but were present at the scene) or acquaintances of the person targeted (i.e., family and friends) may also submit reports. For example, people report on behalf of their children or elderly parents.

We recommend that reporting systems account for different person(s) reporting the incident and develop the appropriate fields and categories. For example, for witnesses reporting an incident, provide a checkbox that allows them to indicate whether they know the person targeted.

Category	Definition
First person	Reporting an incident that the person (reporter) experienced personally.
Witness	Reporting an incident that the person witnessed but was not the target of; may or may not know the details about the person(s) targeted.
Friend or family	On behalf of someone else, reporting an incident that the person did not witness but about which the person knows the details and the persons targeted.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Carefully consider the reporting categories to avoid missing data.

Missing data (i.e., missing information on characteristics, such as age, gender, and ethnicity) can lead to inaccurate and inappropriate conclusions and inferences [44]. Thus, it is important to think beforehand about missing data. For example, consider the “age” variable. Many of those reporting incidents on the SAH reporting site were reluctant to answer the direct question, “How old are you? (in years).” As a result, the SAH decided to collect age information by presenting age categories (shown below) to reduce the missing information on this variable. It is important to note that it can be difficult to implement a new set of categories once data collection begins.

#	Category
1	0 to 11 years old
2	12 to 17 years old
3	18 to 25 years old
4	26 to 35 years old
5	36 to 49 years old
6	50 to 75 years old
7	76 years old and older

RECOMMENDATION #4

Prioritize the reporting experience first.

Think about the costs (e.g., respondent fatigue) and benefits (e.g., more information) when designing a report form. While more information can be helpful for the objectives of documenting anti-AAPI hate, the reporting form must be easy to use and minimize fatigue. If the reporter gets tired of the questions, they may abandon the report before submitting it.

Some information may be derived from the respondent's answers after the report form is submitted (e.g., identifying the county information based on the ZIP code). For example, a question on race and ethnicity can be used later to generate information about multiracial (e.g., Asian and White) and multiethnic (e.g., Chinese and Korean) categories.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Firsthand reports of anti-AAPI hate incidents document the realities facing AAPI persons and communities, particularly during the pandemic. Such community-based data provide a critical tool for documenting the experiences of AAPI persons and communities that are often rendered invisible in national policy discussions because of a lack of just and accurate representation in data. In addition, the participation and information from the community-based data collection themselves can be an important way of coping and healing [8, 45]; and help community advocates, policy makers and researchers to better work in serving the communities. Currently, organizations cannot make apples-to-apples comparisons or produce aggregate statistics across their data sets because of a lack of standardization in this domain. Thus, this working draft aims to provide the definitions for key terms related to documenting anti-AAPI hate and the language used on the SAH reporting site.

These definitions and categories can be used in systematically documenting and annotating hate incidents. This working document is a first draft to begin the conversation and collaboration, not a final recommendation. We welcome feedback and questions. TAAF and the SAH coalition are committed to continuing the conversation about how we can document anti-AAPI hate and standardize related terms and data through cross-organization collaboration. We will also expand our conversation to develop some shared ideas and suggestions about how communities can implement their own community-based data collection efforts. The current documentation of anti-AAPI hate overwhelmingly focuses on interpersonal racism and are time-bound in the contexts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward, these definitions can also help facilitating conversations on how to document structural racism over time.

In concluding, we call for communication and collaboration to continue work that centers and amplifies AAPI experiences and voices. We also cautions the interpretation of data, and advocate for transparent communication in the strengths and limitations of different data sources collecting information to document anti-AAPI hate [46-47].

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Where do you go from here? This working document is a continuous work in progress. Here are a few ways you can help our effort.

01

Tell us what we can do better.

Community-based data collection is grounded in trust, solidarity, and self-determination. It is important that we listen to different voices and concerns to make documenting anti-AAPI hate a powerful data source for our communities and by our communities. If you have any questions or comments about how we can improve our data collection, standardization, data analyses, and data storytelling, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at: community@stopaapihate.org or data@taaf.org.

02

Share your experiences if and when you feel comfortable.

We encourage those who experience or witness acts of hate toward Asian American and Pacific Islander persons and communities to report at the Stop AAPI Hate reporting site (<https://stopaapihate.org>) or other reporting sites of choice. Incident reporting helps us understand what is happening and guides our policy advocacy initiatives. Reporting and sharing stories can also help with coping and healing after experiencing anti-AAPI hate.

03

Be a part of the conversation.

TAAF is committed to bringing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders together for continuing conversations about important issues within and across our communities. Consider joining one of the TAAF's events (<https://www.taaf.org/events>) to learn and engage in conversations.

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The authors are responsible for the accuracy of the statements in this working document.

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The Asian American Foundation (TAAF) is a convener, incubator, and funder committed to accelerating opportunity and prosperity for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. We strive to be a catalyzing force for belonging for the 23 million AAPIs across the United States.



Stop AAPI Hate is a national coalition addressing anti-Asian racism across the United States. The coalition was founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department. Between March 19, 2020, and June 30, 2021, Stop AAPI Hate has received 9,081 reported incidents of racism and discrimination targeting Asian Americans across the United States. Visit stopaapihate.org.