



# NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC CENTER ON AGING

## **Written Statement for the Hearing Entitled, “Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans” on March 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM**

### **Testimony from the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)**

Dear Chairman Cohen, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties of the House Committee on the Judiciary,

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) is pleased to submit this written statement to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary for the March 18, 2021 hearing titled “Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans.”

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) has for more than 40 years served the nation by preserving and promoting the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and other diverse communities as they age. Founded in 1979, NAPCA is the only national AAPI-serving nonprofit organization focused on the needs of adults aged 55 or older, particularly with cultural, linguistic, and economic barriers. Our services span across all 50 states with mature workforce training programs, multilingual Helpline, and culturally competent resources through our designation by the Administration on Community Living as a Technical Assistance Resource Center for aging networks and service providers.

Distinguished members of the committee, we call on your leadership and influence today to stand with fellow Americans of Asian descent throughout our country by actively and publicly condemning the murders, acts of aggression, violence, harassment, and harm being committed against our older adults and members of our Asian American communities. In addition, we ask for:

- Opportunities for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and our older adults to be heard by sharing our stories with Congress;
- Federal agency enforcement of anti-discrimination policies; and
- Tangible actions from federal agencies and members of Congress, following the [Presidential Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism Xenophobia and Intolerance against AAPIs](#).

### **COVID-19 Effects on the Mental and Physical Health of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Survey Study (COMPASS) (brief report attached)**

With support from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health and in partnership with 13 community-based organizations, 9 co-investigators and research analysts, and participation from 5,242 Asian American Pacific Islanders, our national survey provides staggering COVID-19 related discrimination findings impacting our communities. In the past 6 months alone, 3 in 5 Asian American and Pacific Islanders have experienced discrimination based on their race and ethnicity. The following are key findings from our study:

- When asked how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their life, 41% said they have experienced some (mild/moderate/severe) changes in their experience with racial discrimination
- % who strongly or somewhat agree with beliefs concerning how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting AAPIs:
  - 59% believe that the country has become more dangerous for their ethnic group
  - 40.6% believe that most social/mass media reports about COVID-19 create bias against their race/ethnicity



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- 39% have seen an increase in cyberbullying directed towards people of their race/ethnicity since the pandemic
- 34.1% worry about people thinking they have COVID-19 because of their race/ethnicity
- 31.5% believe that people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to lose their job
- 15.3% believe that people of their race/ethnicity will not receive the same quality of COVID-19 healthcare as others

## **COVID-19 Motivated Anti-Asian Hate**

Attacks against Asian Americans have been with us since the start of our immigration story and have only increased since the pandemic began. In March 2020, an Asian American family with two children was stabbed in Texas. In July 2020 an 89-year-old Asian American woman in Brooklyn, New York was attacked on the street, leaving her with burns.

In January 2021, Vicha Ratanapakdee, an 84-year-old Thai American, died after being shoved to the ground while walking in San Francisco. Later in February, Noel Quintana, a 61-year-old Filipino American man, was slashed in the face during his morning commute on the New York City subway.

Just this week, 6 Asian women working in Atlanta, Georgia were targeted at their place of work and murdered. It is painfully clear that the most vulnerable members of our Asian American communities – elders, women, immigrants, and families are at the most risk for experiencing racially motivated violence.

Over 3,800 hate crimes and hate incidents against Asian Americans were reported to Asian Americans Advancing Justice, OCA - Asian Pacific Advocates, and Stop AAPI Hate from March 2020 to February 2021. Of these almost 4,000 reported incidents, nearly 70% of victims were women. In the past year, offenses legally classified as hate crimes against Asian Americans increased by 150% in major cities like Los Angeles and New York City. These are hate crimes and this abhorrent pattern of violence must end.

## **Conclusion**

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) thanks the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties for bringing attention to harm that Asian American communities are experiencing, which has increased during this pandemic, and for holding this hearing. We count on you to act and work with us to fight the racism and misogyny that is corroding the integrity of our society and violently harming our Asian American community.

Sincerely,

Joon Bang  
President & CEO  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

**COVID-19 and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities: Brief Report from the COMPASS Survey**

**Name of study:** COVID-19 Effects on the Mental and Physical Health of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Survey Study (COMPASS), <https://compass.ucsf.edu/>

**Purpose:** COMPASS is a nationwide survey about the COVID-19 mental and physical health effects on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI). COMPASS findings may help to inform future policies, programs and additional research that can alleviate the adverse effects of COVID-19 for AAPI.

**Participants:** 5,242 AAPI adults completed the COMPASS survey online, by phone, or in-person.

**Survey Period:** October 24, 2020 - January 26, 2021 for the publicly available survey via COMPASS website (*COMPASS is still conducting targeted recruitment with underrepresented AAPI via community partners*)

**Funded by:** Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R24AG063718. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

**UCSF IRB Protocol #: 20-31925**

**Team**

- **Principal Investigator:** Van Ta Park, PhD, MPH, University California San Francisco (UCSF), [van.park@ucsf.edu](mailto:van.park@ucsf.edu), (415) 514-3318
- Joon Bang, CEO, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, Co-Investigator
- Marcelle Dougan, ScD, MPH, MEng, San Jose State University, Biostatistical/Epidemiology Consultant
- Oanh Meyer, PhD, MAS, University California, Davis Health, Co-Investigator
- Bora Nam, PhD, MSN, UCSF, Research Analyst
- Linda Park, PhD, MS, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAHA, UCSF, Co-Investigator
- Janice Tsoh, PhD, UCSF, Co-Investigator
- Marian Tzuang, PhD, MSW, UCSF, Research Analyst
- Quyen Vuong, MSW, MBA, Executive Director, International Children Assistance Network, Co-Investigator

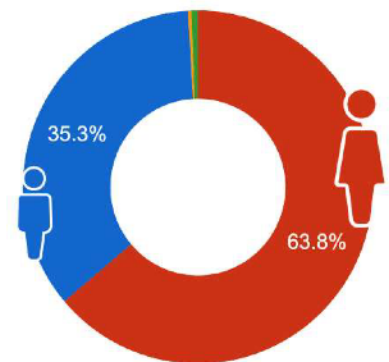
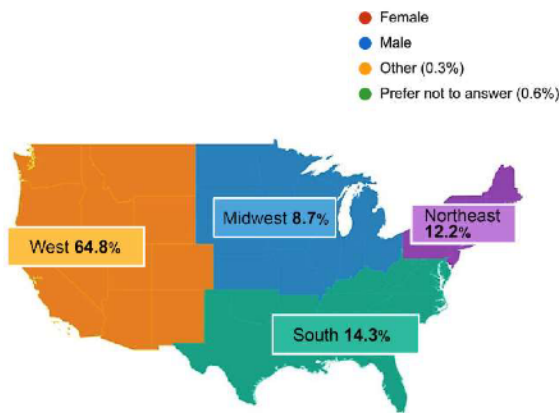
**Community Partners**

- American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition, American Samoa
- Asian Resources, Inc., Sacramento, California
- Collaborative Approach for Research & Education (CARE) Community Advisory Board, <https://careregistry.ucsf.edu/>, California
- Chinese Community Center, Texas
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Massachusetts
- Hmong Community Center of Minnesota, Minnesota
- India Community Center, California
- International Children Assistance Network, California
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, US
- Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation, Pennsylvania
- Philippine Nurses Association of America
- Pistos Korean Presbyterian Church, California
- United SIKHS, New York
- Yu-Ai Kai, California

**COMPASS Participants**



- Range: 19 - 98 years
- 42.5% were 50 years and older
- 15.3% were 65 years and older



- Cultural groups: 31.8% Chinese, 22.3% Korean, 20.6% Vietnamese, 6.3% Asian Indian, 5.4% Taiwanese, 5.3% Japanese, 4.6% Filipino, 3.9% Other, 2.1% Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders (NHPI), 1.3% More than one cultural group
- 65.7% born outside the U.S.
- Survey was completed in English (71.0%), Korean (11.9%), Vietnamese (9.4%), & Chinese (7.6%)
- 22.3% have limited English proficiency
- 15.0% are caregivers (13.3% are caregivers of older adults & 1.7% are caregivers of persons with special needs)
- US Regions - 64.8% West; 14.3% South; 12.2% Northeast; 8.7% Midwest

Note: Total of 5,242 participants who completed COMPASS survey between October 24, 2020 and March 6, 2021.

### Key COVID-19 Discrimination Findings



3 in 5 experienced discrimination in the past 6 months

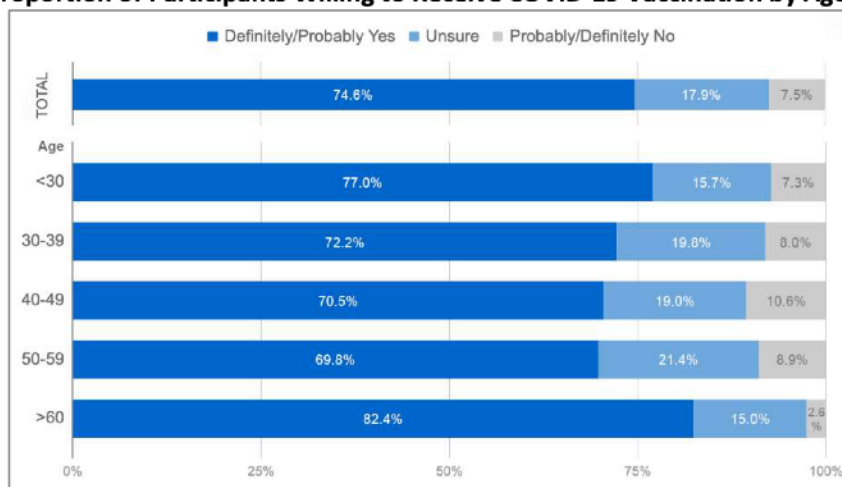
- When asked how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their life, 41% said they have experienced some (mild/moderate/severe) changes in their experience with racial discrimination
- % who *strongly/somewhat agree* with beliefs concerning how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting AAPI
  - 59.0% believe that the country has become more dangerous for their ethnic group
  - 40.6% believe that most social/mass media reports about COVID-19 create bias against their race/ethnicity
  - 39.0% have seen a lot more cyberbullying of people of their race/ethnicity since the pandemic
  - 34.1% worry about people thinking they have COVID-19 because of their race/ethnicity
  - 31.5% believe that people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to lose their job
  - 15.3% believe that people of their race/ethnicity will not receive as good COVID-19 healthcare as others
  - 10.6% believe people of their race/ethnicity are more likely to get COVID-19
  - 10.4% reported being cyberbullied because of their race/ethnicity

Note: Based on data from 4,971 COMPASS participants who completed the survey between October 24, 2020 and February 13, 2021 and answered all the discrimination questions.

### Key Vaccine Willingness & Concerns Findings

- 25.4% said they were “unsure” or “probably/definitely no” to getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - 24.8% for Asian Americans; 48.4% for NHPI
- 76% reported having ≥1 concerns about the vaccine. The most common concern was side effects (65%).

Proportion of Participants Willing to Receive COVID-19 Vaccination by Age Group



Note: Based on data from 1,646 COMPASS participants who completed the survey between October 24, 2020 and December 11, 2020, which was selected as the cutoff date for this analysis since it was the first day that the FDA authorized a COVID-19 vaccine. A potential follow-up survey with these participants will be conducted pending review of our application for funding for COMPASS II.