

2022 ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Based on the collection and analysis of hate crimes reported in Los Angeles County from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, more than 40 city police departments, dozens of police agencies at schools, colleges and universities and trained community-based organizations, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations found that reported anti-Asian hate crimes decreased 25% in 2022 from 81 to 61. But despite the decline, the 61 anti-Asian crimes reported in 2022 remains the second largest number ever reported.

Asian Americans constitute 15.6% of Los Angeles County residents and were targeted in 11% of racial hate crimes in 2022. However, we believe that under-reporting of hate crimes is a serious problem in the Asian community because of linguistic and cultural barriers, immigration status, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and fear that reporting hate crimes could bring retaliation or unwanted publicity. In one study, the FBI estimated that fewer than half of victims reported hate crimes to law enforcement.

2022 saw other significant changes in anti-Asian crimes. The previous year, in 23% of these crimes (18) the suspects blamed the victims for COVID-19 but in 2022 this fell to 1. Anti-immigrant slurs were used in 25% of these cases, compared to 29% the previous year. Other suspects may have possessed anti-immigrant sentiments but made no explicit mention during the commission of the crime.

Anti-Chinese slurs were used in 26% of all anti-Asian crimes reported in 2022. They were followed by crimes targeting Filipinos, Japanese, and Koreans (5%), Asian Indians (3%), and there was single crime targeting a Vietnamese victim. In the remainder, there were no slurs directed at specific ethnic groups.

Information about the actual ethnicities of the victims was available in 38 anti-Asian crimes. The largest group of victims were Chinese (34%), followed by Filipino (24%), Korean (21%), Vietnamese (11%), and Asian Indian and Japanese (5%).

Fifty-four percent of the victims were male and 46% were female. The previous year 48% of victims were female. The ages of the victims were identified in all of the cases. Fifty percent of the victims were 40 years or older (including 7 who were more than 60 years old). Forty-two percent of victims were 26-40 and 5% were 18-25. Only 3% were juveniles.

The most frequent criminal offense was simple assault (51%), followed by intimidation (18%), vandalism (15%), and aggravated assault (10%). In addition, there were 3 cases of violation of a restraining order, and a single case of robbery. The rate of violence was 80%, the same percentage as the previous year.

Similar to the previous year, anti-Asian crimes occurred most frequently in public places (38%), followed by businesses (33%), and residences (20%). Five crimes took place at schools, and a lone crime occurred at a government/public building. The biggest change was that hate crimes at schools grew from 1% to 8%. It should be remembered that in 2021, schools were closed for part of the academic year, due to the pandemic.

There was also a shift in the race/ethnicity of suspects. In 2022, in cases in which suspects were identified, 37% were African American, followed by Latino/as and Whites (31% each). The previous two years, during the height of the pandemic, Whites made up the largest group of suspects.

Sixty-seven percent of the anti-Asian crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. No other city or unincorporated area of the county had more than two crimes. This includes cities that have majority-Asian populations (such as Arcadia) and municipalities with very small Asian communities (like Manhattan Beach).

Actual 2022 Anti-Asian Hate Crimes in L.A. County

May 7, Malibu

A White male suspect and a Japanese male victim made eye contact, which enraged suspect. The suspect called victim, "slant eyes," "Jap," and told him, "Go back to where you came from." The suspect then threw a cup of coffee at victim, which hit his head and the camera in his hand.

June 29, Koreatown

A Latino male ran into a Korean male's car whose door was open. The suspect began yelling anti-Korean/immigrant statements, raised his skateboard above his head and shattered the victim's windshield.

July 29, West Hollywood

At a day spa, the Asian female victim entered a private room to provide waxing services to the Black female suspect. The suspect called the victim a "Chinese bitch," and punched the victim's shoulder twice with a closed fist. The suspect then spat twice directly in the victim's face. The victim had not spoken to the suspect, let alone done anything to provoke the attack. Employees escorted suspect out of the location.