



## 2023 ANTI-ASIAN\* HATE CRIMES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Reported anti-Asian hate crimes increased 31% in 2023 from 61 to 80. The 80 Asian victims are the second highest number ever reported, just one less than the highest count of 81 victims reported in 2021.

Asian Americans constitute 16% of Los Angeles County residents and were targeted in 12% of racial hate crimes in 2023. However, under-reporting of hate crimes in Asian communities may be substantial due to linguistic and cultural barriers, immigration status, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and fear that reporting hate crimes could bring retaliation or unwanted publicity.

2023 saw a continued decline in COVID-19 related hate crimes targeting members of Asian communities. In 2021, in 23% of these crimes (18) the suspects blamed the victims for COVID-19. But in 2022 and again in 2023 this fell to 1 each year. Anti-immigrant slurs were used in 28% of these cases in 2023, compared to 25% the previous year. Other suspects may have held anti-immigrant sentiments but made no explicit mention during the commission of the crime.

Anti-Chinese slurs were used in 29% of all anti-Asian crimes reported in 2023, followed by crimes targeting Asian Indians (9%), Koreans (8%), and Japanese (5%). There were single crimes targeting Cambodian, Filipino, Pakistani, South Asian and Vietnamese victims. In the remainder of racially based hate crimes, there were no slurs directed at specific ethnic groups.

Information about the actual ethnicities of the victims was available in 51 anti-Asian crimes. The largest group of victims were Chinese (37%), followed by Korean (24%), Asian Indians (12%), and Japanese (8%).

Fifty-eight percent of the victims were male and 42% were female. The previous year 46% of victims were female. The ages of the victims were identified in all the cases. Thirty-six percent of the victims were 40 years or older. Twenty-eight percent of victims were 26-40 and 27% were 18-25. Nine percent were under eighteen years of age. This represented an 800% increase in the age range 18-25, from 2 crimes to 18.

The most frequent criminal offense was simple assault (44%), followed by vandalism (19%), intimidation (18%), and aggravated assault (13%). In addition, there were 5 disorderly conduct cases. The rate of violence was 75%.

Similar to the previous year, anti-Asian crimes occurred most frequently in public places (44%), followed by businesses (25%), and residences (16%). Five crimes took place at schools and via electronic communication, and a lone crime occurred at a government/public building. The largest change was that hate crimes at public places increased 52%.

In 2023, in cases in which suspects were identified, 38% were White, followed by Blacks (34%) and Latino/as (26%).

Sixty-eight percent of the anti-Asian crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. Torrance had 4 reported anti-Asian hate crimes. 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 2023 ANTI-ASIAN\* HATE CRIMES IN L.A. COUNTY

### January 9, Koreatown

A Korean male victim was sitting in the McDonald's dining area, eating his meal. A White male suspect was sitting a few tables away, talking to himself loudly enough for the victim to hear him repeatedly stating phrases such as, "Fuck America", "Fuck Koreans", and "Fuck Korea." The suspect began to make a scene by throwing things around, so the victim looked up to see what was going on. The suspect then threw his drink at the victim, striking them in the neck. The suspect approached the victim and stated, "Fuck you, fucking Korean."

### February 3, Azusa

An Asian male victim was waiting at the train station. Unprovoked, a Black male suspect approached him and began yelling. Despite the victim's efforts to defuse the situation, the suspect became increasingly agitated and eventually spat towards the victim, which struck him on the leg. The suspect continued to yell, "chink," "go back to China," "all Chinese are shit," and "the US should go to war with China." The suspect then said, "I will kill you," and "I'm gonna shoot you; I have a gun."

\*For purposes of hate documentation, we use "Asian" for quick reference to persons identified with origins from Far East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Hawai'i, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

