

Oregon Values and Beliefs Center Race-Based Harassment/Hate Crimes Research Summary Report

Introduction

This Oregon Values and Beliefs Center project about race-based harassment/hate crimes began with a statewide sample representative of Oregon's general population ages 18+. To increase the sample size of Asian Oregonians OVBC partnered with community organizations to complete additional research. Collected over the months of October 2021 to January 2022, the final sample consists of 548 Asian Oregonians, including 258 interviews conducted by the Asian Health and Service Center, administered in the respondents' first language.

In March of 2022, OVBC revisited five questions relating to personal experiences of race-based harassment and hate crimes. These include questions 2a, 2b, 5b, 5c, and 5d below, and were re-asked of 386 BIPOC Oregonians. Although the March sample is not Asian-only, the BIPOC results for these five questions have been added below as a way to estimate change over time.

We at OVBC would like to thank the Asian Health and Service Center, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, and Kaiser Permanente Northwest for assisting research design and data collection.

The [Oregon Values and Beliefs Center](http://www.oregonvbc.org) is a nonprofit charitable organization providing independent and nonpartisan opinion research--both quantitative and qualitative-- to organizations across Oregon working to build stronger communities.

Section 1: Community Assessment

“I think there needs to be more awareness and support about race-based bias and hate crimes, especially helping alleviate the strain it has on our community and locally owned businesses that have suffered horribly from the pandemic and associated xenophobia.”

~

“Very rarely is race-based bias or hate crimes focused on Asian community even brought up. I'd like to have more advocacy to raise awareness that hate crimes and race bias is very present for Asian communities too.”

1a. In your community, how big of an issue is race-based harassment and violence?

Response Category	All Asian n = 290	
Very serious	28%	61%
Somewhat serious	33%	
Not too serious	29%	39%
Not an issue	10%	

1b. In your community, how big of an issue is race-based harassment and violence against people of Asian descent?

Response Category	All Asian n = 290	
Very serious	24%	54%
Somewhat serious	30%	
Not too serious	32%	46%
Not an issue	14%	

Section 2: Experiences of Race-based Bias Incidents or Hate Crimes

“It’s maddening that the perpetrators often experience no consequences for their harassment. After someone harassed me and my entire family while we were out shopping (racial epithets, threw an apple at us, etc.), I only felt empowered after buying pepper spray. Even if you walk away from a situation physically unharmed, the fear and ANGER that you experience afterwards often goes unresolved and just festers. Honestly, I feel emotionally elevated just writing about the situation.”

~

“I’ve noticed even friends with seemingly good intentions or trying to be funny, make jokes about my daughter for her “slant eyes” and it’s those micro aggressions that sometimes bother me the most.”

~

“Fear, microaggressions at workspace by white colleagues, constantly threatened indirectly or looked down upon in workplace.”

Please indicate whether you or your family members have experienced any of these race-based bias incidents or hate crimes:

2a. Heard someone use a racial slur, epithet, or degrading language against you/them.

Response Category	All Asians N = 548*	AHSC Asians N = 258	March BIPOC n = 386
Yes, this happened to me	25%	17%	31%
Yes, this happened to a family member	8%	5%	15%
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	15%	10%	13%
No	49%	67%	31%
Not sure	2%	2%	9%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 74,400 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

2b. Saw someone use a racial slur, epithet, or degrading language against you/them on social media

Response Category	All Asians N = 548	AHSC Asians N = 258	March BIPOC n = 386
Yes, this happened to me	17%	16%	26%
Yes, this happened to a family member	7%	4%	15%
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	12%	10%	10%
No	56%	67%	35%
Not sure	7%	3%	13%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 54,700 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

2c. You/their property was marked by racist graffiti.

Response Category	All Asian N = 547		AHSC Asian N = 257	
Yes, this happened to me	3%	8%*	2%	3%
Yes, this happened to a family member	3%		<1%	
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	2%		1%	
No	88%		97%	
Not sure	4%		<1%	

*Extrapolates to an estimated 12,200 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

2d. You/they were refused service because of race.

Response Category	All Asian N = 548		AHSC Asian N = 258	
Yes, this happened to me	8%	15%*	6%	8%
Yes, this happened to a family member	4%		2%	
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	3%		0%	
No	77%		89%	
Not sure	8%		3%	

*Extrapolates to an estimated 22,800 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

2e. You/they faced a threat of physical harm to their person or property because of race.

Response Category	All Asian N = 548		AHSC Asian N = 258	
Yes, this happened to me	8%	19%*	5%	11%
Yes, this happened to a family member	6%		2%	
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	5%		4%	
No	78%		89%	
Not sure	3%		<1%	

*Extrapolates to an estimated 28,900 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

2f. You/they were touched in an offensive manner because of race.

Response Category	All Asian N = 548		AHSC Asian N = 258	
Yes, this happened to me	9%	17%*	5%	8%
Yes, this happened to a family member	4%		1%	
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	3%		2%	
No	80%		92%	
Not sure	3%		1%	

*Extrapolates to an estimated 25,900 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

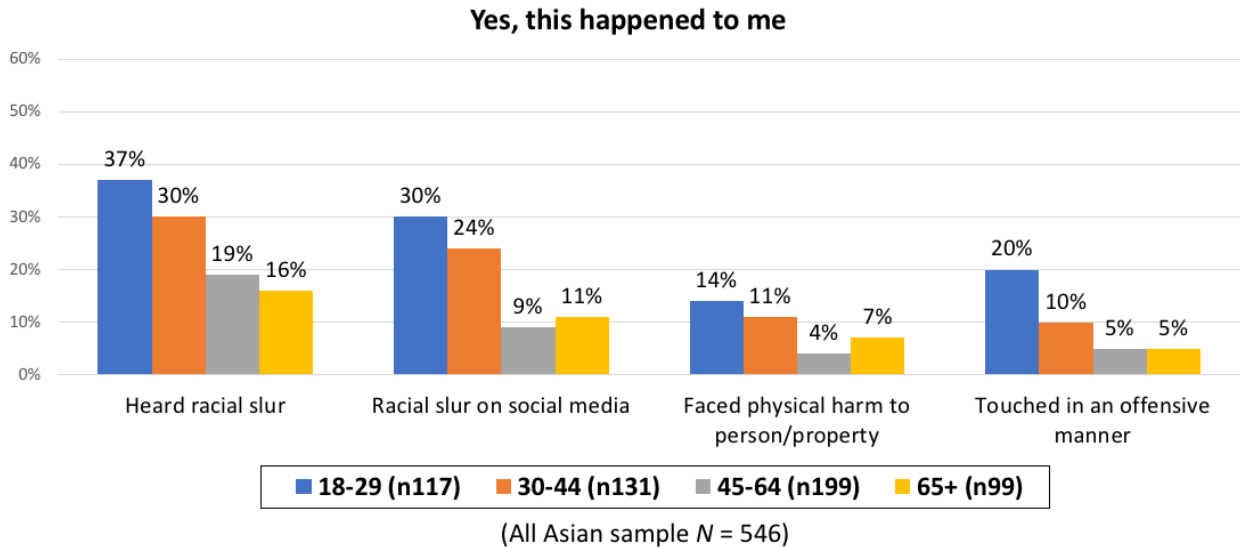
2g. You/they were assaulted or injured because of race.

Response Category	All Asian N = 547		AHSC Asian N = 257	
Yes, this happened to me	4%	8%*	3%	4%
Yes, this happened to a family member	3%		0%	
Yes, to BOTH me and family member	1%		1%	
No	90%		96%	
Not sure	2%		1%	

*Extrapolates to an estimated 12,200 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting “yes”

TAKE-AWAY FOR AGE: The younger half of the community reported more incidents of race-based incidents or hate crimes than the older half of the community.

Please indicate whether you or your family members have experienced any of these race-based bias incidents or hate crimes:



TAKE-AWAY FOR GENDER: There were no significant difference between females and males as to whether they themselves or their families have experienced race-based bias incidents or hate crimes.

Section 3: Reporting Race-based Harassment and hate crimes

“Specifically Asian-based bias and hate crimes do not seem to be very transparent and talked about within the community. Because of that, not a lot of actions are taken to tackle racial issues. This has definitely influenced my willingness to submit a report personally. It seems to be more trouble and unproductive for what it is worth.”

~

“More culturally-based education is needed when it comes to these crimes and how to report it.”

~

“Being able to identify measures/steps to take in face of incident/crime is crucial.”

~

“The distinction between race-based bias and hate crimes is subtle. I know I need more training on that.”

~

“I know there must be a place to report these crimes, but I don't know what is done about it that would make an impact.”

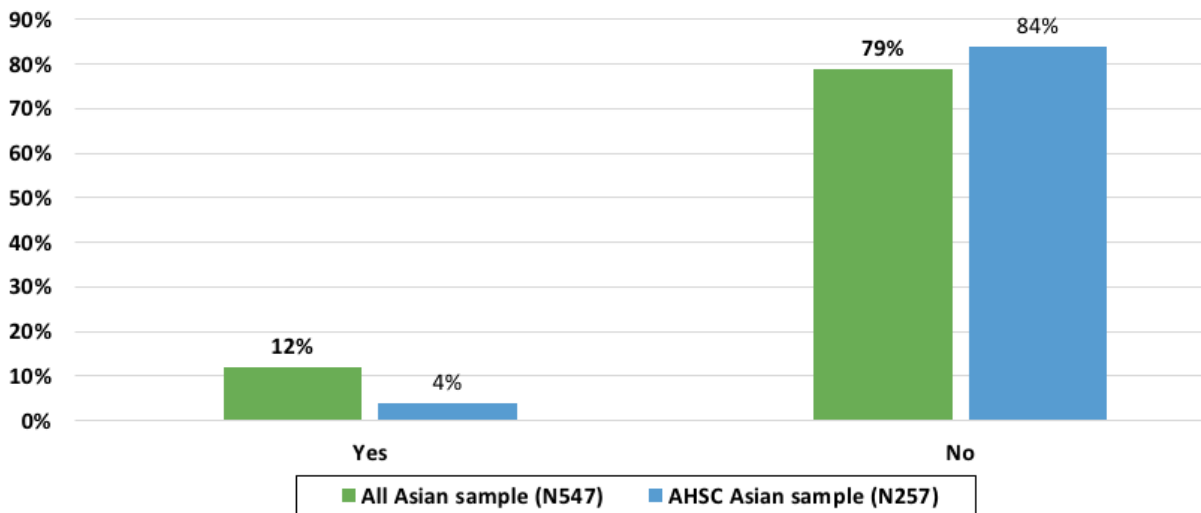
3a. (If **yes to incident/crime**) Did you or the family member report the experienced race-based bias incident or hate crime?

Response Category	All Asian <i>n</i> = 303	AHSC Asian <i>n</i> = 102
Yes	16%	18%
No	84%	82%

3d. Before today, were you aware that Oregon has a victim-centered response hotline for reporting race-based bias incidents and hate crimes?

Response Category	All Asian N = 547	AHSC Asian N = 257
Yes	12%	4%
No	79%	84%
Not sure	9%	13%

Before today, were you aware that Oregon has a victim-centered response hotline for reporting race-based bias incidents and hate crimes?



TAKE-AWAY: Very few Asian Oregonians know there is a victim-centered response hotline for reporting race-based bias incidents and hate crimes.

Section 4: Comfort in the Community

“Not feeling safe for my family and community when we go outside and it should not be like that, as we are equal to others.”

~

“Unfortunately, I do not feel safe when going out into the community these days. The safety of all our citizens needs attention!”

~

“I’m concerned and take extra precautions when I’m out and about. I’m more alert to my surroundings and keep a distance from people, and limit going out after dark.”

Has a race-based bias incident or hate crime affected your behavior or comfort level in the community in any of the following ways?

4a. I am afraid to leave my house.

Response Category	All Asian N = 514	AHSC Asian n = 224
Yes	16%*	20%
No	77%	73%
Not sure	7%	7%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 24,300 Asian Oregonians ($\pm 4.18\%$) reporting “yes”

4b. I have reduced the amount of time I spend in the community to engage with friends, engage in physical activity, and/or go shopping.

Response Category	All Asian N = 514	AHSC Asian n = 224
Yes	33%*	28%
No	63%	71%
Not sure	3%	1%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 50,100 Asian Oregonians ($\pm 4.18\%$) reporting “yes”

4c. I worry that my children will become victims of a hate crime or harassment.

Response Category	All Asian N = 514	AHSC Asian n = 224
Yes	39%*	31%
No	50%	57%
Not sure	11%	12%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 59,000 Asian Oregonians ($\pm 4.18\%$) reporting “yes”

4d. I avoid certain local businesses because they have been targeted for hate crimes or harassment.

Response Category	All Asian N = 514	AHSC Asian n = 224
Yes	30%*	30%
No	63%	65%
Not sure	7%	5%

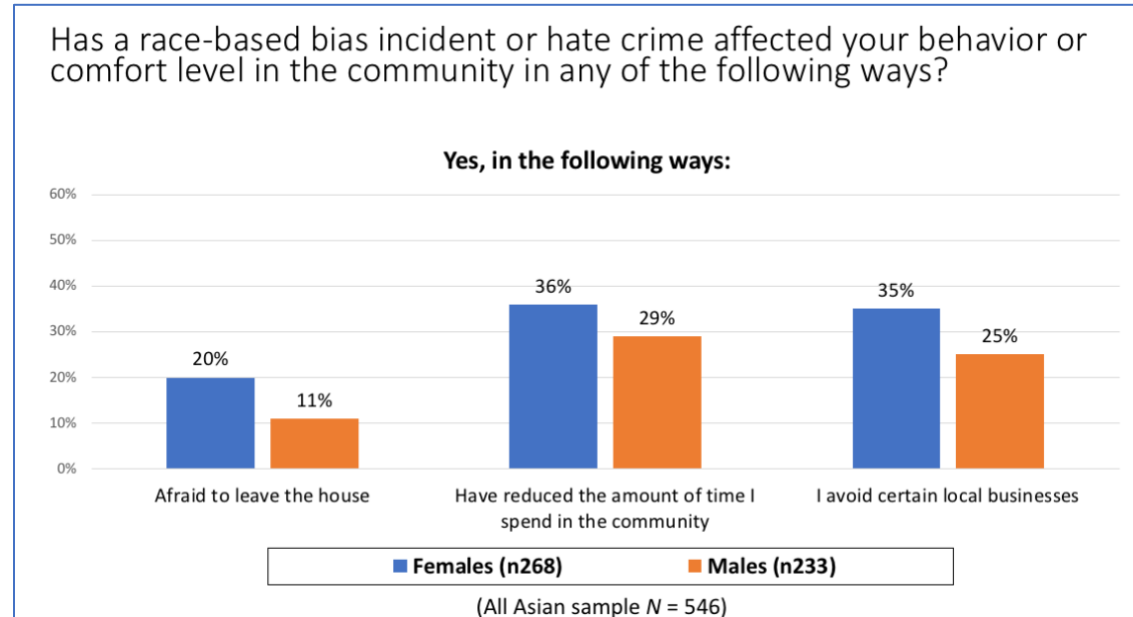
*Extrapolates to an estimated 45,600 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting "yes"

4e. I have sought out mental health support following a direct or indirect experience with a hate crime or harassment.

Response Category	All Asian N = 512	AHSC Asian n = 221
Yes	10%*	6%
No	87%	92%
Not sure	4%	2%

*Extrapolates to an estimated 15,200 Asian Oregonians (±4.18%) reporting "yes"

TAKE-AWAY FOR GENDER: (1) Although there were no significant differences between females and males as to whether they themselves or their families have experienced race-based bias incidents or hate crimes, females were more likely to report race-based bias incident or hate crime affected their behavior or comfort level in the community.



Section 5: Our Children

“I’m most concerned about this type of violence due to gun carrying members of the community, and random shooters, typically profiled by mental illness/behavior issues in privileged white males - (school, mosque, Tri met, etc.). This is my main concern in raising a child of south Asian descent and having family in Portland.”

~

“We honestly do not go out or leave our house often and keep our kids within arm’s length at all times because we are terrified of being targeted or assaulted.”

5a. Do you have school-age children in your household?

Response Category	All Asian N = 547	AHSC Asian N = 257
Yes	28%	17%
No	72%	83%

[If Yes to 5a] Has awareness or experience with race-based bias and/or a hate crime affected your children in any of the following ways?

5b. Afraid to leave my house.

Response Category	All Asians n = 153	AHSC Asians n = 44	March BIPOC n = 132
Yes	12%	15%	19%
No	79%	75%	72%
Not sure	9%	10%	9%

5c. Negatively affected school performance.

Response Category	All Asians n = 153	AHSC Asians n = 44	March BIPOC n = 132
Yes	18%	15%	29%
No	74%	75%	60%
Not sure	9%	9%	11%

5d. Afraid to go out in the community to stores, restaurants, parks, etc.

Response Category	All Asians n = 153	AHSC Asians n = 44	March BIPOC n = 132
Yes	15%	22%	25%
No	76%	73%	69%
Not sure	10%	5%	6%

Section 6: Demographics

D1. What is your age?

Response Category	All Asian N = 546	AHSC Asian N = 255	March BIPOC n = 386
18–29	21%	19%	35%
30–44	24%	13%	26%
45–54	19%	15%	11%
55–64	18%	22%	15%
65+	18%	32%	13%

D2. I describe my gender as (choose all that apply):

Response Category	AHSC Asian N = 257	March BIPOC n = 386
Male	44%	43%
Female	54%	53%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%	6%
Trans	0	1%
Other	<1%	1%

D3. Area

Response Category	All Asian N = 290	AHSC Asian N = 256	March BIPOC n = 386
Tri-county	82%	99%	46%
Willamette Valley	11%	<1%	26%
Rest of state	8%	1%	28%

D4. Area

Response Category	All Asian N = 290	AHSC Asian N = 256	March BIPOC n = 386
Central Oregon	n = 1	0	5%
Eastern Oregon	2%	0	4%
Metro Portland	83%	99%	46%
North Coast	2%	1%	4%
Northern Willamette Valley	4%	0	12%
South Coast	1%	0	2%
Southern Oregon	1%	0	11%
Southern Willamette Valley	7%	0	15%

D5. What is your race or ethnicity? (Choose all that apply.)

Response Category	All Asian N = 290*	AHSC Asian N = 256	March BIPOC n = 386
Asian or Pacific Islander	100%	100%	25%
Chinese	30%	42%	-
Korean	8%	26%	-
Filipinx	10%	0	-
Japanese	16%	2%	-
Vietnamese	14%	24%	-
Thai	0	2%	-
Other Asian -- Specify:	21%**	4%***	-
Black or African American	4%	-	12%
Hispanic, Latino, a/x	6%	-	36%
Middle Eastern or North African	2%	-	2%
Native American or American Indian	4%	-	32%
Slavic	1%	-	3%
White or Caucasian	19%	-	48%
African	2%	-	3%
Other	4%	-	4%

*Respondents were asked to choose all that apply, therefore column total > 100%

**Other included Pakistani (n=1), Cambodian (n=3), Hmong (n=1), "South Asian" with no specification (n=2), Indian (n=8), Zomi (n=1), Tibetan (n=1), Mien (n=3), Laotian (n=1), Napali (n=3), Pacific Islander (n=10),

***Other included Laotian (n=1), Hong Konger (n=1), Mien (n=2)