

# Violence *and* Discrimination Against Asian Californians

FINDINGS FROM THE CALIFORNIA VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES (CaIVEX) SURVEY 2023



Nearly  
**1 in 5**

**Asian Californians** (18%)—more than **1 million people** in the state—have experienced **physical, sexual, or intimate partner violence** in the past year.

*In 2023:*

**7%** of Asian Californians experienced **physical violence**—including physical abuse or weapon-related violence.

**11%** of Asian Californians experienced **sexual violence**—including five forms of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

**8%** of Asian Californians experienced **intimate partner violence**—including emotional, threatening, controlling, physical, or sexual violence from a romantic or sexual partner.



More than  
**1 in 4**

**Asian Californians** (28%) report regularly experiencing **everyday forms of discrimination** (e.g., “microaggressions”)

**Violence and discrimination often co-occur.**

Asian Californians who report discriminatory microaggressions are:

**11x** more likely to report **physical violence** in the past year

**4x** more likely to report **sexual violence** in the past year

**8x** more likely to report **intimate partner violence** in the past year

**About the survey** Data presented here come from the CaIVEX 2023 survey, conducted online by NORC at the University of Chicago from March to May 2023 on behalf of the University of California San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health. The 2023 survey was offered in English and Spanish only. These findings include 711 Asian CaIVEX respondents.



**Asian Californians** include a wide range of communities who **have unique experiences with violence**. We see **variations in prevalence** of violence by specific Asian heritage\*

**For example**, past year **intimate partner violence** ranged from **5%** among **Chinese Californians** to **15%** among **Indian Californians**

*\*Asian Heritage subgroup categorizations included: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Indian, other East Asian, Southeast Asian, multiple Asian heritages, and other.*

## THE MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE *and* DISCRIMINATION ARE DIRE

Asian Californians who experience physical, sexual, or intimate partner **violence** are:

**3-5x** more likely to report serious **consideration of suicide**

**2-3x** more likely to report recent **substance misuse**

**2-3x** more likely to report moderate to severe **depression and/or anxiety** symptoms

Asian Californians who experience **discrimination** are:

**11x** more likely to report serious **consideration of suicide**

**2x** more likely to report recent **substance misuse**

**2x** more likely to report moderate to severe **depression and/or anxiety** symptoms

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS IN CALIFORNIA?

**Funding for violence prevention should be earmarked for Asian American community organizations** to effectively reach diverse and specific Asian communities in California, particularly in urban and suburban areas with larger representation of Asian communities. Financial safety net programs, such as guaranteed housing and food security, can help support violence prevention and consequent mental health concerns.

**Intimate partner violence prevention and intervention efforts tailored for Asian Indian and immigrant Asian communities** must be prioritized, and these efforts will require approaches that do not require engagement in criminal justice systems, as these approaches can be a deterrent in reporting for immigrants. Funding for Asian community-based research and programs for IPV prevention must be prioritized as part of these efforts.

**Continuation of funding of programs to stop discrimination and hate crimes against Asians** California is needed. In 2021, the State of California invested \$110 million in its “Stop the Hate” funding program, which funds direct services for survivors of hate, as well as hate prevention and intervention services. However, this budget will end in 2024 and the California legislative budget needs to include sustained annual funding for discrimination and violence prevention to organizations reaching Asian American communities, especially Asians with limited English proficiency.

**State policies can address harassment and discrimination in public spaces.** California has passed policies to collect data from riders about harassment on public transit (SB 1161) and requires publishing of these data outcomes for the ten largest transit agencies in the state (SB 434). The state also passed policy requiring the California Civil Rights Department to pilot a program that trains and certifies businesses to create environments free of discrimination and harassment (AB 2448). These policies could be expanded to support a broader array of environments to be free of harassment and discrimination.

**Health equity policies should include outreach to Asian communities,** particularly for mental health services, and trauma informed mental health services must include consideration of traumas due to racial/ethnic discrimination and hate crimes. These services would benefit from connection to diverse Asian communities to improve access and reduce stigma related to receipt of services.

**For the full Policy Brief on this project, please see:**  
<https://gehweb.ucsd.edu/cal-vex/>

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## Advisory and Partner Organizations

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