

THE STATE OF HATE IN LOS ANGELES

2023









PREPARED BY





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AAPI Equity Alliance is the Los Angeles County regional lead for the State of California's **Stop the Hate** grant. Amid the first implementation period of the Stop the Hate initiative, it became evident that building a collective understanding of hate in the region is essential to building and realizing a collective vision of a safe and inclusive Los Angeles County. AAPI Equity Alliance commissioned Everyday Impact Consulting to conduct a landscape analysis on the state of hate in Los Angeles County. The landscape analysis includes a foundational literature review to analyze opportunities, challenges, and impediments in mitigating the negative impacts of hate in Los Angeles County.

Key Findings

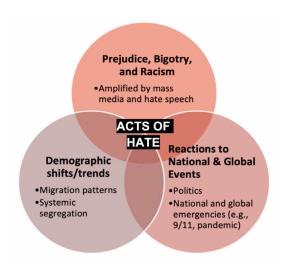
 Acts of hate have deep historical and institutional roots in Los Angeles County and have seen a substantial uptick in recent years.

Since the 19th century, hate in Los Angeles has manifested itself in various forms of discrimination and violence, including but not limited to, discriminatory laws and policies (e.g., redlining), physical violence (e.g., assaults and shootings), vandalism, threats, and incitement of fear. Hate is directed towards individuals who are, or are perceived to be, part of minoritized and/or historically marginalized groups, including BIPOC communities, immigrants, gender and sexual minorities, religious groups, and persons with disabilities.

- In 2021, Los Angeles County saw a 23% increase in hate crimes from 2020, reaching an all-time high since 2002.
- 2. Acts of hate are rooted in prejudice, bigotry, and racism and are further influenced by neighborhood characteristics and shifts as well as public reactions to major events.

While individual biases are the key driving force in hate-motivated violence and discrimination, they are amplified by mass media and the rise of social media.

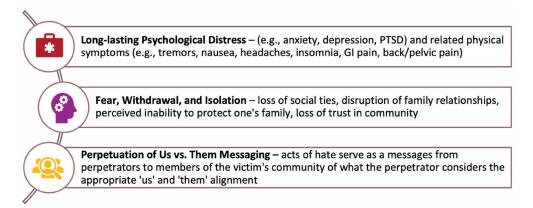
In addition, demographic shifts (e.g., in- and outmigration or lack thereof) within and between neighborhoods as well as reactions to major events (e.g., politics, public health emergencies, global emergencies) play a critical role in inciting hateful responses and reactions.





3. Acts of hate often cause immense individual and community trauma and exacerbate existing social disparities.

Victims and witnesses of hate acts often bear long-lasting effects beyond the immediate physical and mental distress, including but not limited to:



4. Effective and emerging strategies to mitigate adverse outcomes from hate, and to prevent future acts of hate, largely center on promoting healing and empowerment, building collective resilience, facilitating mindset and culture shifts, and institutionalizing access to services and legal action.

All identified strategies must take a culturally responsive approach and invest in meeting community members where they are, emphasizing increased access to services and resources. The identified strategies below are organized by levels of reach; however, several overlap into multiple levels.

	Strategies by Level				
	Individual	Interpersonal	Organizations	Community	Systems & Policy
Mitigate Adverse Outcomes	 Traumainformed therapeutic intervention Self-defense, safety, empowerment, and self- efficacy 	Enhance group identity/ resilience	 Within organizations (e.g., work, school) reduce confusion about reporting/ investigation processes 	Combat hate normalization and destigmatize victimization to increase reporting and service utilization	 Mobilization, advocacy, and civic engagement that uplifts and empowers the affected community
Prevent Hate	Challenge one's own biases/ prejudices and embrace empathy and inclusion	Intervention, conflict resolution, and mediation efforts and programs	 Organization and public education on rights related to discrimination/ harassment Promote inclusive organization culture Integrate crosscultural histories and celebration of diversity in education 	Public awareness campaigns on incidence of hate, the impact of hate, and narrative around hate Improve intraracial, crossracial, and multiracial relations and solidarity	 Improve data collection on hate incidents and crimes Increase investments in CBOs that serve vulnerable populations Increase targeted multi-year investments in communities most adversely impacted by inequities and hate incidents Address law enforcement culture and practices



- 5. Community organizations and collaboratives engaged in this work identified the following key challenges to actualizing these strategies:
 - 1. Barriers to **changing "the status quo"** in systems, policy, and culture;
 - The need for increased resources—capacity and funding—for community organizations to sustain, scale, and tailor direct services; and
 - **3. Barriers to access** at large (e.g., language; service navigation; stigma; lack of government response, including law enforcement; and lack of data equity and transparency).

Conclusion

Stemming hate in Los Angeles County—especially the systemic-level issues that help maintain the status quo—requires a long-term commitment to and investment in solidarity and multisector collaboration. The California Stop the Hate program signals the beginning of a new investment in Los Angeles County and across the state continuing collective efforts to heal and realize a community-defined vision of safety, belonging, and inclusivity.



OVERVIEW

AAPI Equity Alliance



AAPI Equity Alliance (formerly the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council or A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Los Angeles County and beyond.

Stop The Hate Grant





AAPI Equity Alliance is the Los Angeles County regional lead for the State of California's Stop the Hate grant. Administered through the California Department of Social Services, this grant funded 80 organizations in 2022-2023 throughout California to provide direct services for victims of hate and their families, and prevention and intervention services to communities

vulnerable to hate. In 2022, 24 organizations in Los Angeles County were awarded a total of \$4 million to develop and provide services and programs to combat hate. Although many of these organizations were founded to serve AAPI communities, their focus also extends to other ethnic and racial groups in their local service areas.

As part of the Los Angeles Stop the Hate assessment and to inform future grantee strategies and activities, AAPI Equity Alliance commissioned Everyday Impact Consulting (EIC) to conduct a landscape analysis on the state of hate in Los Angeles County. The landscape analysis included a foundational literature review of emerging evidence-based strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of hate and prevent future acts of hate. The analysis also surfaced continuing challenges and impediments in mitigating the negative impacts of hate in Los Angeles County

Everyday Impact Consulting



EIC was established in 2012 with the following mission: "Create lasting impact for our clients through reimagining systems and developing innovative strategies by collectively realizing a future of social justice and liberation for all." EIC's expertise focuses on

developing innovative strategies that resonate with the most vulnerable communities to create systemic change, foster meaningful partnerships for our clients, and build capacity in our communities.



PURPOSE AND AIMS

As the regional lead for Los Angeles County Stop the Hate grantees, AAPI Equity Alliance is committed to deepening understanding of the state of hate in Los Angeles County, along with effectively communicating the experiences and lessons learned from the Stop the Hate initiative. Amid the first implementation period of the Stop the Hate initiative, it became evident that building a strong foundation for understanding hate in the region is essential for strategically and effectively directing programs and services, and for assessing long-term impacts of grantee programs.

In our analysis, we seek to provide a baseline understanding of the state of hate in Los Angeles County, California by examining the following:

- The historical and social contexts of hate in Los Angeles County.
- 2. Causes and contributors to hate and its spread.
- Evidence-based and emerging strategies and interventions for mitigating adverse outcomes of hate incidents.
 - What strategies/interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in promoting positive coping mechanisms for survivors of hate incidents and the surrounding communities?
 - Examples of the identified strategies being implemented in Los Angeles County.
- 4. Evidence-based and emerging strategies and interventions to prevent hate incidents.
 - What strategies/interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in building resilience among communities affected by hate?
 - Examples of the identified strategies being implemented in Los Angeles County.
- 5. Remaining **barriers and challenges to implementing** the aforementioned strategies and interventions in Los Angeles County.



DEFINING "HATE"

There are varying definitions of *hate*, and even the interpretations of those definitions have evolved over time^{1,2}; however, as greater attention has been paid to increasing reporting, and preventing *hate incidents* and *hate crimes*, more consistent definitions have emerged. Consistent among the varying definitions of *hate* and related incidents or crime is the idea that these actions are "motivated by bias and prejudice against that individual's perceived group membership"³. In addition, survivors of hate incidents, crime, and violence may have been targeted due to their perceived membership in a racial/ethnic group, their immigration status, or their sexual, gender, or religious identity, etc.

Table 1 presents definitions of "hate incident" and "hate crime" from federal and state jurisdictions. For this report, we focus on stemming the spread of *hate* in Los Angeles by forming a deeper understanding of hate and strategies to mitigate and prevent its harmful impacts. By broadening the definition of *hate* to include both hate incidents *and* hate crimes, we can best capture the range of discrimination, harassment, and negative incidents motivated by hate, bigotry, and prejudice that impact Los Angeles communities. Doing so facilitates a greater understanding of the causes and contributing factors of the hate we ultimately seek to end.

TABLE 1. DEFINITIONS OF "HATE INCIDENT" AND "HATE CRIME"

TERM	SOURCE	DEFINITION
HATE INCIDENT (2023)	The U.S. Department of Justice	"Acts of prejudice that are not crimes and do not involve violence, threats, or property damage."
	The California Department of Justice	"A hate incident is an action or behavior motivated by hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime. Examples of hate incidents include: Name-calling Insults Displaying hate material on your own property. Posting hate material that does not result in property damage. Distribution of materials with hate messages in public spaces."
	The California Civil Rights Department	"A hate incident is a hostile expression or action that may be motivated by bias against another person's actual or perceived identity(ies). Perpetrators may be motivated by different discriminatory biases, including, but not limited to, bias on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender, including gender identity. There are two main kinds of hate incidents – (1) acts of hate that are not crimes but violate civil rights laws, and (2) acts of hate that may not violate the law but still cause significant harm in a community."



TABLE I. DEFINITIONS OF "HATE INCIDENT" AND "HATE CRIME"

HATE CRIME (2023)	The U.S. Department of Justice	"At the federal level, a crime motivated by bias against race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability." See Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, 18 U.S.C. § 249* for more information.
	The California Department of Justice	"A hate crime is a crime against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group. You may be the victim of a hate crime if you have been targeted because of your actual or perceived: (1) disability, (2) gender, (3) nationality, (4) race or ethnicity, (5) religion, (6) sexual orientation, and (7) association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Hate crimes are serious crimes that may result in imprisonment or jail time." See California Rules of Court Rule 4.427. Hate Crimes** for more information.
	The California Civil Rights Department	"Under California law, a hate crime is a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation; or because of the person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics."

An additional and related framing of hate is the public health community's assertion of violence⁴ and, more recently, racism⁵ as public health issues. Public health organizations, leaders, and researchers have argued that violence and racism can spread and severely impact the health and well-being of individuals and communities.^{6,7} Furthermore, community- and population- level interventions are integral to stemming the spread of violence and racism. In later sections, we adapt the socialecological framework for health interventions to frame identified strategies or interventions to mitigate adverse outcomes from hate incidents and to prevent hate incidents.

How Is Hate Expressed or Experienced?

Upon a review of news and literature related to "hate," the following key expressions of hate were identified, along with examples from recent years in Los Angeles County, California.8,9,10,11,12 Table 2 shows domains of hate expression and recent Los Angeles County examples.

TABLE 2. TYPES OF HATE EXPRESSION

EXPRESSION	SUBTYPES	LOS ANGELES COUNTY EXAMPLE
DISCRIMINATION AND NONVERBAL ¹⁵	 Difference of opportunity Degradation Public humiliation Avoidance and nonverbal harassment Barring from business 	"The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed Monday that it is investigating as a hate crime an incident in which security guards were seen forcibly removing a group of transgender women and gay men from a Los Angeles bar" (2019).
VANDALISM	 Words, symbols, images intended to vilify, bully, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group¹⁵ Damage or destruction of property Graffiti or defacement of property 	"A white mask was spray-painted over Mulan's mouth, as well as the words "Toxic, Made in Wuhan." in Pasadena, CA ¹⁶ (2020).

^{*} https://www.justice.gov/crt/matthew-shepard-and-james-byrd-jr-hate-crimes-prevention-act-2009-0 ** https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=four&linkid=rule4_427



TABLE 2. TYPES OF HATE EXPRESSION

ONLINE/ CYBER HARASSMENT	 Memes, emojis, and videos intended to vilify, bully, humiliate, or incite hatred against a group¹⁷ 	"After reading racist online remarks that were written by fellow students in a private group chat, [Granada Hills Charter School students] refused to stay silent The profane comments, repeated use of the n-word and racial slurs were captured on screen grabs and reposted by others on social media as an example of intolerable hate speech" (2020).
HATE SPEECH AND VERBAL HARASSMENT	 Political figures/candidates using stigmatizing rhetoric¹9 Spoken harassment	"A disturbing video out of Long Beach shows a man directing a racist tirade towards the workers at a taco stand'Let's get La Migra here!' the man shouted at the workers 'Let's get ICE here'"22 (2022).
PHYSICAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT	 Physical Harassment Spitting, coughing, sneezing Physical Assault Sexual assault Murder Genocide 	"A man in Santa Monica was charged with hate crimes after allegedly beating and shouting racial slurs at Black victims" (2023).

Although these forms of hate have apparent negative and adverse effects (e.g., trauma) on the *individual* victim, key distinguishing characteristics of hate incidents versus non-hate motivated incidents are:

- the effects of having one's identity attacked; and
- the effects of such incidents on bystanders and community members of the targeted group who learn of the hate incident later²⁴.

Historical Context of Hate in Los Angeles County, California

Another key distinguishing characteristic of *hate incidents* is the historical context in which the community is situated, particularly as it relates to discriminatory local, state, and federal laws and policies, and intergroup conflict. As such, in the following sections, we provide examples of hate incidents in the Los Angeles region. It is important to note that these examples are not an exhaustive list of every Los Angeles hate incident; instead, we used these examples to illustrate the historical context in which the Stop the Hate Los Angeles initiative provides services.

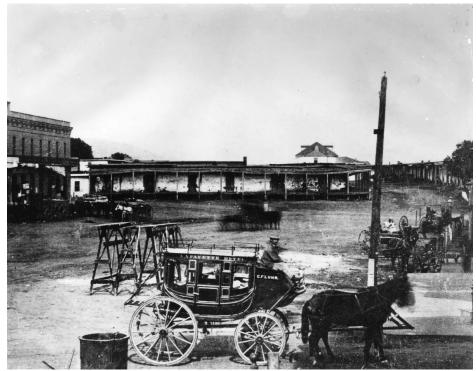
The 19th Century

Prior to California's founding, the Gabrielino-Tongva peoples were the indigenous caretakers of the Los Angeles basin. Laying the foundation for hate and othering in Los Angeles, most of the Tongva people were forcibly relocated to Spanish missions by 1840, including the San Gabriel and San Fernando missions. Forced relocation and subsequent sex trafficking of young Tongva women established and solidified racial hierarchies defined and maintained by White Americans. By the early 1870s, an estimated 80% of the Californian indigenous peoples had perished due to violent and extreme conditions. Furthermore, the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe was not officially recognized by the State of California until 1994.



Additionally, since the 1840s, anti-Latine prejudice has led to illegal deportations, school segregation, and even lynching.²⁶ Anti-Latine prejudice, violence, and deportation worsened after the Mexican-American war in 1848. Illegal deportations continued through the 1930s until nearly 2 million Mexican Americans had been deported, including one third of the Los Angeles Mexican population.

Also occurring in the 19th century, **The Chinese Massacre of 1871** resulted in the deaths of 18 Chinese men in Los Angeles and is known as the largest mass lynching in U.S. history.²⁷ This massacre was soon followed by the **Page Act of 1875**, the first federal legislation prohibiting immigration of a group of people based on national origin. The Page Act effectively banned Chinese women from immigrating to the United States.²⁸ This was expanded upon by the **Chinese Exclusion (1882)**, federal legislation which suspended immigration to the United States of all members of one specific nationality or ethnicity.^{29, 30}



Description: The site of the 1871 Los Angeles Chinese massacre, what is today Alameda Street near Union Station.

Credit: Photo from Los Angeles Public Library retrieved from the Los Angeles Times³¹

1900s-1940s

Moving into the 20th century, California enacted the **1931 California Alien Land Law**, effectively barring Asian immigrants from owning land and later even constraining the right to own or lease land for U.S. children of Asian immigrants; at least fifteen other states followed California's lead, enacting discriminatory laws restricting Asians' right to own land.³² Additionally, millions of dollars of private property was stolen from Asian and Mexican immigrants as a result of the implementation of these laws.³³



The **Immigration Act of 1917**, also known as the Asiatic Barred Zone Act, prohibited immigration from a wide swath of the Asian continent.³⁴ The *Ozawa and Thind* Supreme Court rulings, along with the 1924 **Immigration Act**, deemed people of Japanese and Indian descent ineligible for U.S. citizenship.³⁵ This legislation set the stage for continued conflict over citizenship issues and immigration between various immigrant groups and their descendants on the one hand, and various levels of government and native born residents on the other hand.

Though these issues were of national importance, Los Angeles saw significant waves of in-migration in the same period, particularly among Black Americans and Mexican Americans. Along with the subsequent **segregation and housing discrimination efforts** (e.g., redlining³⁶), this shift continued to solidify a foundation for systemic discrimination and persistent economic disparities.³⁷ For example, in 1924, **Manhattan Beach residents and the local government voted to condemn and destroy Bruce's Beach**—a successful "resort that other Black families could visit without facing racist harassment"^{38, 39} owned and built by Charles and Willa Bruce. It was not until 2021—after strong grassroots advocacy efforts—that California Governor, Gavin Newsom, signed SB 796 into law, thereby returning the land to the Bruce family and its descendants.⁴⁰



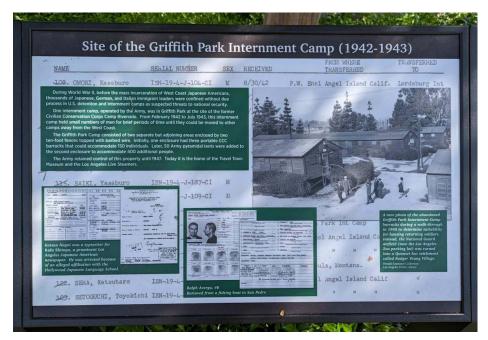
Description: Couples on a walkway at the Bruce's Beach resort in Manhattan Beach, circa 1920.
Credit: Photo from Miriam Matthews Photograph Collections, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA. Retrieved from NPR⁴¹



Description: Chief Duane "Yellow Feather, an extended member of the Bruce family and currently acts as a representative for their interests. Credit: Photo from Bethany Mollenkof for NPR

Griffith Park is now known as a popular recreational and tourist spot in Los Angeles; however, during World War II, the **Griffith Park Internment Camp** was used to incarcerate Japanese Americans as part of the execution of Executive Order 9066 before they were relocated to other incarceration facilities.⁴²





Credit: Photo from educational marker at the Travel Town museum in Griffith Park retrieved from The Eastsider⁴⁵

In early June 1943, a fight between U.S. White sailors/soldiers and Mexican American youth escalated into the weeklong **Zoot Suit riots**, where U.S. service members and local law enforcement attacked and arrested Latines and other racial and ethnic minorities:

About 50 sailors from the local U.S. Naval Reserve Armory marched through downtown Los Angeles carrying clubs and other crude weapons, attacking anyone seen wearing a zoot suit or other racially identified clothing. [...] Mobs of U.S. servicemen took to the streets and began attacking Latin[e]s and stripping them of their suits, leaving them bloodied and half-naked on the sidewalk. Local police officers often watched from the sidelines, then arrested the victims of the beatings. [...] Blacks and Filipinos—even those not clad in zoot suits—were also attacked and bloodied.⁴⁴

1950s-1990s

Ignited by the traffic stop of the Frye brothers, which escalated to the police yelling racial slurs and inflicting police brutality, **The Watts Rebellion** (or Watts Riots) broke out in Watts, Los Angeles, on August 11, 1965. The violence lasted almost an entire week and resulted in 34 deaths, 1,032 injuries, 4,000 arrests, and the destruction of 1,000 buildings.⁴⁵ Of the 34 deaths, most were Black Americans and 23 were killed by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) or the National Guard.⁴⁶



In 1989, the Dole family of Samoan descent hosted a bridal shower in Cerritos, when 100 deputies responded to a call accusing the "party-goers" of fighting in the streets with knives.⁴⁷ The deputies subsequently brutalized attendees with batons and riot gear. The deputies also alleged that the Dole family hurled rocks and bottles at them, despite video evidence indicating otherwise. It was not until 1998 that the court upheld the charges against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for use of excessive force. The jury awarded the Dole family \$15.9 million in damages, the largest police brutality judgment in U.S. history at the time.⁴⁸

In March 1991, teenager Latasha Harlins was fatally shot by a store clerk, Soon Ja Du (whose family also owned the store), further increasing tensions between the Black and Korean communities in Los Angeles.⁴⁹ Du was sentenced to five years' probation, drawing criticism and protest from community leaders and supporters of the Harlins family.⁵⁰ In the same month, **Rodney King was brutally beaten by LAPD.** One year later, a jury ruled the officers involved in King's beating not guilty, ultimately fueling **the 1992 Los Angeles uprising.** The violence lasted five days and resulted in 50 deaths. LAPD or the National Guard killed ten people. In addition, there were 6,000 arrests, and 2,000 Korean-run businesses were damaged or destroyed.

In 1994, California voters overwhelmingly approved **Proposition 187**, thereby denying "education, health care, and other social services to suspected undocumented immigrants, requiring...services to verify the immigration status of all recipients, and report them to state and federal authorities" (Cervantes et al., 1995).⁵¹ An analysis of hate reports to the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) found this law led to an increase in discrimination, an increase in police abuse, and an increase in tensions and conflicts between Latines and non-Latines. As such, **CHIRLA** called for increased visibility of Latines and Asians in Los Angeles race relation conversations.

On August 10, 1999, a neo-Nazi and white supremacist attacked the **North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills**, firing 70 shots from a submachine gun.⁵² Directly after, the perpetrator killed a Filipino American postal worker, **Joseph Santos Ileto**. The perpetrator was later arrested and asserted that his actions were meant to inspire antisemitic violence.

By the end of the 20th century, hate crime rates in Los Angeles were double that of the nation as a whole.⁵³

The Current Status of Hate in Los Angeles, California

2000-2009

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Los Angeles—along with the rest of the United States—saw significant spikes in hate crimes against Muslim, Middle Eastern, Sikh and South Asian communities, including but not limited to the murder of **Adel Kara**, an Egyptian grocery store owner in San Gabriel on September 15, 2001⁵⁴; the September 17, 2001 **arson that critically damaged Restaurant Golestan**, an Afghan restaurant in Encino⁵⁵; and various instances of **racially charged threats**, **graffiti**, **and violence**. ^{56, 57, 58}



2010-2019

The year 2011 marked the end of a several-year investigation that resulted in several **Varrio Azusa 13** gang members being indicted for their "campaign of hate against African Americans" (Ng, 2011)⁵⁹ that spanned through the 1990s.

In 2012, **19-year-old Kendrec McDade** was fatally shot by police in Pasadena, California. ⁶⁰ Key details regarding the events that led to McDade's wrongful death were intentionally and systematically redacted from official city reports. ⁶¹ McDade's death was one of many that helped ignite local **and national outcries against police violence on Black Americans and the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement. ⁶² The** *Los Angeles Times* **has collected the names and stories of individuals—a majority of whom are Black and Brown Americans—killed by police since 2000. ⁶³**

In 2014, two Los Angeles transgender women of color, **Aniya Parker and Deshawnda Sanchez**, were shot and killed in separate fatal hate crimes.^{64, 65}

The Los Angeles Times reported an increase in hate crime rates throughout the region in 2014, which particularly impacted Black Americans, sexual and gender minorities, Jewish individuals, and Latines. These groups represented 86% of hate crimes at the time. 66 In addition, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations found that hate crimes targeting Asian Americans tripled between 2014 and 2015 and hate crimes targeting Muslim Americans increased by 67%. 67

In 2016, the **election of President Donald Trump** led to a significant increase in the incidence of hate speech and hate incidents in Los Angeles and across the nation. One example reported by the *Los Angeles Times* (2016):

"Your day of reckoning has arrived," the letter read, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Greater Los Angeles chapter. "There's a new sheriff in town President Donald Trump. He's going to cleanse America and make it shine again. And he's going to start with you Muslims."

2020-Present

The **onset of the COVID-19 pandemic** in late 2019 ignited a surge of anti-Asian hate in the United States, starting in 2020, further prompted and encouraged by the nation's political leadership. The *Los Angeles Times* (2020) reported that:

Authorities have been flooded with hundreds of calls about the harassment in June, along with another in which a racist letter posted on the front door of a cookware shop warned the owner: "Go back to Japan.... We are going to bomb your store if you don't listen and we know where you live."



In January 2020, a Los Angeles man was charged with committing a series of hate crime assaults across the Los Angeles area, targeting members he perceived to be associated with the LGBTQ community.⁷⁰

On February 4, 2020—during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic—a middle schooler in the Los Angeles Unified School District was bullied by a classmate. He was told to "go back to China," was punched 20 times in the head. This hate incident and assault motivated three Asian American activists—Cynthia Choi, Russell Jeung, and Manjusha Kulkarni—to co-found **Stop AAPI Hate.**⁷¹

According to the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations' 2021 Hate Crime Report, "reported hate crimes in 2021 rose 23%" compared to 2020, the largest increase since 2002. Of the 786 hate crimes in 2021, 74% were violent, the highest proportion in at least 20 years. In addition, although Black Americans made up less than 10% of Los Angeles County, they comprised almost half (46%) of racial hate crime victims during this time frame.⁷²

In June 2022, **the Roque family**, of Filipino descent, was verbally and physically assaulted in North Hollywood. The family held a subsequent rally to mobilize support and increase the visibility of the incident and others like it.⁷³

In late 2022, following a series of antisemitic tweets by a famous musician/rapper, a group of demonstrators took to the 405 Freeway, raising their arms in what appeared to be a Nazi salute and flashing signs with antisemitic rhetoric.⁷⁴ Around the same time, another incident occurred at Granada Hills Charter High School, where "a female student with special needs was brutally beaten during class by another student, a male senior."⁷⁵ Though both a teacher and the student's aide were present during the incident, neither intervened.

In May 2023, during the week before the beginning of 2023 LGBTQ Pride Month⁷⁶ and before Saticoy Elementary School's Pride Day celebration, someone broke into the North Hollywood elementary school and burned the LGBTQ flag, prompting great concern and fear among teachers, parents, and students.⁷⁷

The aforementioned hate incidents are examples to provide context to the larger effort to end hate in Los Angeles, California. Many of these hate incidents were followed by collective community caretaking, grassroots organizing, and advocacy to motivate social and systemic change—examples of which are described in later sections.



CAUSES OF AND CONTRIBUTORS TO HATE INCIDENTS

Major Events

Research on hate incidents has consistently found that hate crimes increase after major community-level and nationwide events. These events include the political climate (e.g., elections) and national or global emergencies (e.g., terrorist attacks, pandemics).

Political Climate

In earlier sections, we provided several examples of national political events and rhetoric corresponding with incresases of hate incidents inflicted upon racial/ethnic minority groups. Historical and contemporary national U.S. political leaders have demonstrated their ability to influence the frequency and ability of individuals to impose hate upon targeted groups. Examples include treatment of South Asians in the early 1900s ignited by labor tensions (i.e., the 1907 Bellingham riots)⁷⁸, toward Chinese Americans during McCarthyism;⁷⁹ treatments toward Muslims/Arabs after 9/11; and heightened racism toward Latines and the relegitimization of White nationalism during the Trump presidency.⁸⁰ In their 2022 report, "The Blame Game: How Political Rhetoric Inflames Anti-Asian Scapegoating," Stop AAPI Hate conducted a deep dive into how political rhetoric on public health, national security, and economic competition influences hate incidents against Asians and Asian Americans. Notably, the report illustrated how the language used by politicians is mirrored in subsequent hate crimes and hate incidents.⁸¹

Further exploration into the effect of local politics may be warranted; for example, in 2022, a recording of the Los Angeles City Council president, Nury Martinez, exposed her hateful speech toward Black and Oaxacan Los Angelenos. Our search did not identify any reports of increased hate incidents or speech after this incident, perhaps indicating that it was not explored or perhaps that relative to national politics, local politics do not inspire or incite hateful actions to the same extent. Despite the lack of identified hate incidents in this instance, it is clear that anti-Black and anti-Indigenous speech from local leaders, such as the remarks by former councilmember Martinez, not only "others" Black and Indigenous communities, but also contributes to growing distrust in local leaders by historically marginalized communities and strains relationships between different groups throughout the Los Angeles region.

Reactions to National and Global Events

Public health emergencies often lead to discriminatory language and practices toward racial/ethnic minority groups and immigrants. This is evidenced by several examples, including but not limited to increases in discrimination towards Black and African Americans during the 2014 Ebola outbreak⁸² and the rise of anti-Asian hate during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.⁸³ However, such discrimination may or may not always be categorized as *hate incidents* or *hate crimes* in official tabulations. However, these practices may have direct adverse effects on the health and well-being of members of that group.^{84, 85}

Other national and global emergencies have led to similar discriminatory responses toward underrepresented groups; for example, after the September 11th attacks, between 2000 and 2001, Muslim Americans in the United States faced over a fourfold increase in anti-Muslim assaults, from twelve to 93 respectively. 86 In addition, the Sikh Coalition documented over 300 cases of anti-Sikh violence and discrimination across the United States within the first month after the 9/11 attacks. 87 In contrast, the rest of the United States overall saw an 18% decrease in hate crime incidents. 88



Demographic Trends

In addition to major events, our review of major literature on hate incidents identified growing populations, increasing diversity, and consequent demographic shifts and trends as major contributors to increased hate incidents, especially in major cities such as Los Angeles.

Sociological and political science researchers have examined the demographic makeup (e.g., racial/ethnic distribution) of neighborhoods and the related prevalence of hate incidents and discrimination. Despite contradicting findings, many have been broadly consistent in establishing that in neighborhoods with lower percentages of racial/ethnic minority residents (most often Black communities among majority White communities), underrepresented groups experience higher levels of perceived discrimination.^{89,90} Still, much of this research focused on relations between only Black and Non-Hispanic White Americans, not capturing the diversity that would be most applicable to the Los Angeles region (i.e., Asian and Hispanic/Latine populations). As such, there is an opportunity for further research assessing experiences of discrimination among a wider range of historically disadvantaged populations and their respective neighborhoods.

Oliver and Wong (2003) highlighted this gap in the existing literature by assessing neighborhood/community characteristics and racial attitudes in a few U.S. cities, including Los Angeles County.⁹¹ Their findings were more nuanced and pointed toward a contradicting trend: individuals who lived among people of their race/ethnicity tended to have more negative attitudes about minority out-groups.

In Los Angeles specifically, Oliver and Wong (2003) found that primarily White neighborhoods had higher rates of negative stereotypes toward minority out-groups (i.e., Asians, Blacks, and Hispanics/Latines). Similarly, predominantly Black neighborhoods had higher rates of negative stereotypes toward minority out-groups (i.e., Whites, Asians, and Hispanics/Latines). Predominantly Latine neighborhoods had higher rates of negative stereotypes toward minority out-groups (i.e., Whites, Blacks, and Asians). In their research, Oliver and Wong assessed *racial attitudes*, as opposed to perceived discrimination or hate incidents.

Other recent news and literature have placed greater attention on demographic *changes* or trends (as opposed to looking at demographic make-up as static) and how these changes may influence incidences of hate. For example, research in Iowa and Georgia showed neighborhoods with the most significant growth in Black populations had the greatest increase in police discrimination. The California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board (RIPA) found similar trends in California; in 2021, Black individuals experienced police stops and action 144.2 percent more frequently than expected, when compared to the proportion of Black residents in the neighborhood population. At the national level, political scientist Pape (2021) analyzed the backgrounds of the individuals involved in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Pape found the individuals involved were more likely to be from areas (in this case, counties) where non-White populations were growing the fastest relative to the rest of the nation. According to Pape (2021), "the people alleged by authorities to have taken the law into their hands on Jan. 6 typically hail from places where non-White populations are growing fastest."



Although there is a large body of work—some of which we discussed previously describing residential and demographic patterns as a significant contributing factor to the incidence of hate, Sinnar (2022) argued this work may have provided insights into the social phenomena of hate, but "rarely offer[ed] prescriptions for policymakers seeking to influence those phenomena."⁹⁶

The Role of Economics

An egregious example of *hate*-related economic or labor competition was the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit, Michigan. Witnesses attested the two White men who attacked Chin were angry over their perceived loss of U.S. jobs due to Japanese workers.⁹⁷ Although several individual examples exist akin to the case of Vincent Chin, literature on hate has been less clear on the relationship between economic competition (perceived or not) and the incidence of hate.

Green et al. (1998) hypothesized that in addition to an influence from an influx of minority in-migration, economic competition and scarcity mentality have contributed to fear and subsequent hate crimes toward racial/ethnic minority communities by White communities. Green et al. posited that due to a lack of sufficient financial resources, a perception of increased competition drove increased rates of hate crimes; however, when testing this hypothesis in New York City, they only found evidence for hate crime association with demographic changes (not neighborhood economic conditions) associated with hate crimes. As such, Green et al. came to a similar conclusion and posited the role of economics in influencing hate incidents "may hinge, then, on the ways in which political leaders and organizations frame and mobilize such grievances." Sinnar (2022) expanded on this point and placed responsibility on individuals in power by asserting these findings suggest "economic difficulties do not necessarily lead to greater hate crimes but can do so when elites exploit such difficulties for their own agendas."

In Los Angeles, Oliver and Wong (2003) found varying relationships between the economic makeup of neighborhoods and racial attitudes.¹⁰¹ For example, in Los Angeles, Whites in mostly White neighborhoods were more likely to have negative beliefs/stereotypes toward minority out-groups. Notably, however, when separating neighborhoods based on "status" (measured by percentage with high school degree), Whites' attitudes toward Asians in Los Angeles were more favorable among residents from higher status neighborhoods. Still, Oliver and Wong (2003) stated the "impact of neighborhood economic status seems highly dependent on its racial composition and particular group dynamics," suggesting a more complex relationship may vary by neighborhood, and perhaps, as Sinnar (2022) asserted, is dependent on power dynamics and elite individuals.¹⁰² Oliver and Wong also noted they could not assess economics at the individual income/wealth level due to high numbers of missing data for this survey measure.

A Note on Data

It is important to note that although there is some emerging literature that accounts for relatively smaller racial/ethnic subgroups (e.g., Asian and Hispanic/Latine) in their assessment of the relationship between demographics and hate incidence, much of the data is still limited in capturing more granular populations with essential distinctions in their socioeconomic conditions (e.g., Pacific Islander, non-English speaking). Though there is undoubtedly a need and opportunity for future research to be inclusive of these groups, providing an accurate description of their experiences in future research requires accurate and disaggregated data for racial/ethnic subgroups, immigration experiences, and language access to assess both experiences of hate and demographic trends.



Rooted in Prejudice, Bigotry, and Racism

Although there are social and contextual factors—including major event and demographics—that exacerbate the potential for hate incidents to occur at greater rates, researchers in the field of hate generally acknowledge that hate incidents in the United States "[are] rooted in the persistence and pervasiveness of racism and bigotry". 103 Steinberg et al. (2003) classified perpetrators of hate incidents and their motives—all of which are rooted in prejudice—into three categories: (a) "thrill-seekers" are more likely to be youth or young adults who commit acts out of boredom, for fun, and/or to feel strong; (b) "reactionists" seek to "protect" their resources from others; and (c) "mission offenders" believe their actions are appealing to a higher authority by degrading another group.

Regardless of the type of perpetrator and their intentions, *hate-motivated incidents*, by definition, not only direct intentional harm to the individual(s) targeted, but also induce "threatening implications for *all* members of that group...remind[ing] them that they 'could be next,'" (Craig-Henderson & Waldo, 1996)¹⁰⁴ demonstrating hate incidents are *rooted* in prejudice, bigotry, and racism.

It is important to note that social psychology, developmental research, and other fields have bodies of work dedicated to understanding the causes, contributing factors, and processes related to *prejudice*. Though beyond the scope of this review, these processes are complex, nuanced, and related to psychological processes, social behavior and learning, and inter- and intra- group relations. Several researchers have focused on interventions and methods targeting children and youth to stem the early phase development of prejudice (e.g., multicultural curricula, cooperative learning, empathy, and roleplaying).¹⁰⁵

A Note on Intersectionality

"Intersectionality" is defined as "the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups." Hate incidents are rooted in prejudice, bigotry, and racism, thereby posing significant implications for individuals and communities who identify with and/or present as multiple groups that may be targeted. For example, a 2015 report on LGBTQ and HIV-affected hate violence in New York found that within this population, a majority of the reported homicides affected people of color (62%) and a majority identified as transgender or gender nonconforming (67%). These trends suggest transgender and gender nonconforming individuals are disproportionately at risk of being targets of hate.

Intersectionality is particularly important when assessing the state of hate in Los Angeles, due to the relative diversity of the state, county, and region. In relation to Los Angeles, amid increasing crime rates against unhoused individuals, intersectionality between being unhoused and of another underserved group is worth investigating. However, unhoused individuals are not a legally protected group regarding hate crime; as of 2023, no data have been collected on this group.¹⁰⁸



The Role of the Public Square

Between news reports and the rise of social media, there has been greater attention placed on (a) hate speech, particularly from high-profile individuals or groups; (b) the way in which various news outlets report on hate incidents and contribute to the persistence and/or rise of hate incidents; and (c) cyberbullying and online hate and harassment.

Hate Speech in the Public Square. One of the most recent examples of high-profile individuals encouraging or enabling hate incidents in communities is the rhetoric of former president Donald Trump. President Trump's rhetoric facilitated a spike in anti-Asian (particularly anti-Chinese) hate incidents in Los Angeles;¹⁰⁹ a national spike (23% increase) in hate crimes against Muslims and Arabs after Trump's campaign to prevent Muslims from entering the United States;¹¹⁰ and a national spike (21% increase) in anti-Latine/Hispanic hate crimes after Trump's references to "Latin[e]s in the most hateful and bigoted ways".¹¹¹ Another example that we previously mentioned was the antisemitic demonstration in Los Angeles explicitly prompted by musician/rapper, Kanye (Ye) West in 2022, along with his antisemitic rhetoric on social media; the demonstrators held signs that stated, "Kanye is right about the Jews" (Hamasaki, 2022).¹¹²

Although some hate speech is legally protected under the First Amendment, public figures have the power to prevent or mitigate its harmful effects, including in contributing to hate crimes, by proactively taking a stand against hate. For example, according to Pew Research Center, data showed that President Bush's statement after 9/11—which emphasized not placing blame on Muslim Americans—caused a shift in certain groups' attitudes toward Muslim Americans from negative to more favorable.¹¹³

Hate Incident News Reporting. Wong and Liu (2022) examined how anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents were reported in the news. Those researchers found that news reports of anti-Asian hate crimes furthered negative stereotypes about Black communities thereby perpetuating fragile relations between Asian and Black communities in the United States. Although news reports disproportionately call attention to Black perpetrators and Asian victims, the hate crime data show that "Black offenders make up a minority of offenders" (Wong & Liu, 2022). Furthermore, Black Americans continue to be among the most victimized groups.^{114, 115}

Wong and Liu (2022) emphasized that their intent was *not* to minimize the reality or impact of anti-Asian hate incidents; rather, they strove to combat the narrative of "Black-on-Asian crime"—a narrative that is not supported by data and perpetuates anti-Blackness among the Asian community. Such unproductive narratives perpetuate intergroup conflict and continue to foster environments where hate incidents and hate crime thrive. A particularly egregious example of this kind of hate incident reporting came from Michelle Malkin in 2021, a Filipino American political commentator who noted:

The recent crime wave against Asians in America's big cities is not the fault of Donald Trump, MAGA activists, conservative talk radio, or White people. It's the fault of the perpetrators and the perpetrators alone—most of whom happen to be thugs "of color." 116



The aforementioned rhetoric, Wong and Liu (2022) argued, reflects the intentional weaponization of conflicts to "redirect scrutiny to interracial tensions among Black and Asian communities."¹¹⁷ Not only does this type of reporting redirect attention to interracial tensions, but it ultimately seeks to *maintain* and *exacerbate* tensions, working against efforts to bridge interracial relations and promote healing.

Though researchers have agreed that incidents of hate are rooted mainly in *prejudice*, *bigotry*, and *racism* and further exacerbated by the *media* and seemingly "anonymized" *social media* echo chambers, sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, economists, and others have also identified major community-wide events and demographic trends as major social drivers.

Los Angeles: Root Causes of and Contributors to Hate

Unfortunately, Los Angeles is far from immune to hate incidents. On the contrary, in 2021, Los Angeles County saw a 23% increase in hate crimes from 2020, reaching an all-time high since 2002. Furthermore, due to various factors—particularly the intensifying political climate and increased attention to brazen comments on social media by high-profile figures—some leaders in the effort against hate in Los Angeles do not expect the numbers to decrease any time soon.¹¹⁸

When reviewing key drivers of hate identified through the literature review—(a) major events, including political climates and natural/manmade disasters; (b) demographic trends (as well as potential exacerbation by economic inequities); and (c) prejudice, bigotry, and racism (and its amplifications via various media platforms)—it became clear that Los Angeles may be particularly vulnerable to high rates of hate.

Regarding (a) major events and (c) prejudice, bigotry, and racism, these issues manifest across the nation and impact regions differently based on the region's histories and contexts—which, in turn, relates to (b) demographic and economic inequities and segregation. Los Angeles hosts one of the most diverse populations in California, ranking 13th out of 58 counties in terms of racial diversity.¹¹⁹ In addition, California hosts the largest number of LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, with Los Angeles being among the top two metropolitan areas with the highest rates of LGBTQ+ residents. 120, 121 As illustrated in existing literature, it is not necessarily the increase in diversity that contributes to hate incidents; instead, the trends in which groups of people are distributed are the most pressing factor (i.e., segregated versus integrated) in a community. With its legacy of redlining and racial covenants, in addition to concurrent and subsequent migration patterns, Los Angeles remains largely racially/ ethnically segregated in residential neighborhoods. 122 Additionally, although Los Angeles has become more diverse, Angelenos do not necessarily live in more diverse communities; among more than 220 U.S. metropolitan areas, Los Angeles ranks sixth most segregated.¹²³ Such a lack of integration may contribute to the continued in- and out-group mentality perpetuating hate incidents. Further exacerbating the issue, Los Angeles ranks seventh in income inequality out of the 150 largest U.S. metropolitan regions.124

Despite increased in- and out-group mentalities and persistent socioeconomic inequities contributing to social tensions, john a. powell asserted and advocated that with intentional grassroots cross-community connections and bridge building, "we can heal a world of breaking ... [and] construct a larger more inclusive "we" where no group dominates or is left out."¹²⁵

^{***} john a. powell is the director of the Othering and Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley.



MITIGATING ADVERSE OUTCOMES OF HATE AND PREVENTING HATE INCIDENTS

Although the goal is to decrease and ultimately eradicate hate in the Los Angeles region, the adverse outcomes of these incidents must be sufficiently addressed and mitigated. In doing so, we must also contribute to efforts to prevent future cycles of hate.

Adverse Outcomes of Hate: Individual and Community Trauma

Survivor Trauma

Adverse Physical and Mental Health Outcomes. Survivors of hate incidents that involved physical harm (e.g., physical harassment and assault) not only bear the effects of the direct physical harm, but also short- and long-term mental health outcomes and indirect physical harms as a result of fear and victimization. Ph

A qualitative assessment of hate incidents and hate crimes found victims consistently point to the psychological and mental health impacts of the incident being more profound and long-lasting when compared to the direct physical harm of the event.¹³¹ This increase in psychological distress, in turn, often leads to additional physical symptoms, including but not limited to tremors, nausea, headaches, insomnia, gastrointestinal pain, and back and pelvic pain. For example, in their longitudinal National Anti-Asian American Racism Survey, Liu et al, found that among individuals who reported experiencing discrimination, there was a 155% increase in depression, over 90% increase in anxiety and stress, and 78% increase in physical symptoms, compared to those who did not report experiencing discrimination.¹³² These symptoms may have severe implications for long-term physical and mental health and the individual's quality of life. In addition, for children and adolescents consistently exposed to community violence, including hate, there is evidence of increased risk of poor academic achievement, behavioral issues, and even the perpetuation of violence later in life.¹³³



Risk for Increased Fear, Withdrawal, and Isolation. Survivors of hate incidents and hate-motivated violence are not only at risk for adverse outcomes but are also vulnerable to the added effects of fear of future incidents and attacks on one's identity or community. As such, other observed adverse outcomes include social isolation and withdrawal (e.g., staying home when one would rather go out; relocating one's residence altogether and losing their previous social ties); avoidance behaviors (e.g., avoiding the area or similar area where they were victimized); and disruption of family relationships (e.g., reduced family cohesion; heightened family conflict; constant worry about family members' safety; perceived inability to protect one's family and related feelings of shame). 134, 135, 136, 137, 138 These behaviors have severe implications for feeding into cycles of isolation and adverse mental health outcomes, stifling one's ability to contribute meaningfully to their social communities.

Community Trauma

Adverse Mental Health Outcomes. Studies have found that witnessing traumatic events online, particularly those depicting violence toward one's own racial/ethnic group, leads to increased depressive symptoms and PTSD symptoms.¹³⁹ Furthermore, trauma from the hate incident affects not only the individual survivor and those close to them, but also members of the group who may have been bystanders or witnessed the event later online.^{140, 141}

Disengaged Community. As mentioned previously, victimization and fear of future victimization often leads to increased isolation and withdrawal for the targeted individual; however, researchers have found more profound consequences at the community level. For instance, community members who witness or hear of a hate incident often lose trust in their governing bodies and even trust in one another. One consequence for an individual who wants to avoid victimization is leaving the community where the victimization occurs.¹⁴² Community engagement and healing interventions are critical to mitigating acute and long-term community fragmentation due to hate incidents.

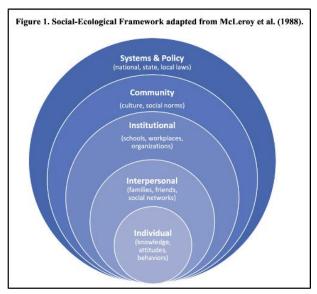
Perpetuation of Us Versus Them Messaging and Fear. Perry and Alvi (2012) described how hate incidents also serve as messages to an entire community. The perpetrator communicates to members of the survivor's community that "they too are vulnerable to the same fate; that they 'don't belong' or aren't to be tolerated."¹⁴³ In addition, the perpetrator sends a message to the broader community "remind[ing] of the appropriate alignment of 'us' and 'them."



Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

In our review of recent literature, we collated specific strategies and interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness in promoting positive coping mechanisms and building resilience for survivors of hate incidents and the communities affected (see Tables 3–6). In addition, we searched for examples of the strategies and interventions being implemented in Los Angeles.

The following sections draw from the McLeroy et al. (1988) social-ecological framework for community health intervention processes and levels (see Figure 1).¹⁴⁴ The framework identifies five levels for addressing health and social issues, which we have modified to address hate incidents and crimes:



- Individual-level includes individual characteristics, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs related to hate incidents and crimes.
- 2 Interpersonal-level includes an individual's closest relationships (e.g., family, friends) who influence the individual's behavior and contributes to their experiences related to hate incidents and crimes.
- **3.** Organization (Institutional) -level includes organization (e.g., schools, workplace, institutions) and their rules, regulations, policies, and structures (formal or informal) related to hate incidents and crimes.
- **4.** Community-level includes the social norms and cultural-factors between individuals, groups, and organizations related to hate incidents and crimes.
- **5.** Systems and policy-level includes local, state, and national laws and policies that regulate and enforce services and action related to hate incidents and crimes.

We draw on the social-ecological framework to organize the strategies into categories based on the strategy target; however, it is important to note that some strategies influence outcomes within other target areas and/or could be categorized as multiple target areas depending on the implementation.



1. Individual-Level Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

1A. Alleviate adverse symptoms from trauma of the hate incident via trauma-focused therapeutic interventions. 145

For therapeutic interventions, it is widely accepted that the role of the clinician/healer/counselor's race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, etc. is magnified when hate incidents or crime are the center of the treatment/care.^{149, 150}

Examples include:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- •Narrative exposure therapy¹⁵¹
- Integrating family into processing and therapeutic approaches^{152, 153}

"Search to Involve Pilipino
Americans (SIPA) recently
added "Stop the Hate" short-term
counseling services for those who
have experienced an incident of
anti-Asian violence. SIPA also
hosts monthly Mag-Usap Mondays
sessions and gives presentations
on depression, anxiety, trauma,
systematic oppression and cultural
values" (2022). 146

St. John's Well Child and Family Center 147 hosted transgender peer support sessions, specifically utilizing Seeking Safety 148 therapy, an evidence-based treatment practice to help with experiences of trauma and PTSD.

1B. Improve self-defense and safety techniques with a focus on empowerment and self-efficacy.

Most of the literature on the relationship between self-defense training and empowerment focused on non-minority women. Limited research shows similar patterns of increasing empowerment and self-efficacy among racial/ethnic minority groups and women. Most of the literature on bystander training, while shown to be effective, focuses on preventing sexual assault (and in fewer cases, bullying). Research also shows self-defense training to improve psychological symptoms (e.g., improved mood and improved control). 158, 159

Examples include:

- •Self-defense training or workshops tailored for specific subgroups. For example:
 - •Women^{160, 161, 162, 163, 164}
 - •Youth165
 - People with disabilities¹⁶⁶
- Bystander training¹⁶⁷
- Education around what a "hate incident" is or may look like

"Two nonprofit organizations have teamed up to organize a series of workshops in Long Beach that will teach Cambodian elders skills they can use if they're targeted in a hate crime ... The workshop will start with Pacific Asian Counseling Services teaching participants how to report a hate crime or a hate incident ... For the second half of the workshop, Cambodia Town Inc. will bring in [a martial arts instructor] to teach seniors over the age of 55 basic self-defense techniques to use in case they're physically attacked" (2022).¹⁵⁴

Little Tokyo Service Center hosted a self-defense workshop¹⁵⁵ aimed to empower AAPI elders and the AAPI community. The collaboration with Seniors Fight Back and the Asian Mental Health Project also provided an opportunity to participate in family community wellness activities.



2. Interpersonal-Level Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

Draw on and enhance group identity and resilience. 168

Critical to this strategy is that the survivor establishes personal connections and develops a meaningful network where there is a common experience of resilience. They may draw upon lessons and themes learned from others related to adversity, coping, and resilience. These themes may be articulated via folk stories, art, literature, music, or other cultural traditions.¹⁶⁹

Examples include:

- •Self-help or peer groups that highlight themes of resilience of one's group
- •Connecting to places of belonging (e.g., churches, multicultural organizations)^{170, 171}



Credit: India Post Newspaper

Families in Good Health (FiGH) is a multilingual, multicultural health and social education program for the Southeast Asian, Latino and other communities in Long Beach. FiGH held several intergenerational discussions with Cambodian youth and elders to better bridge one another's understandings of past traumas as well as shared challenges living in a community impacted by increasing rates of hate crimes.¹⁷²

"Pilipino Workers Center launched [their] "Stop AAPI Hate" campaign and hosted a private in-person concert for Filipino human trafficking survivors, victims of hate and racism, and community social justice advocates" (2022).¹⁷³

"Saahas has been actively working to increase knowledge about the South Asian community for harmony in the society. One step in that direction was their public yoga event ... Yoga, an ancient practice that was born in India, in South Asia, is now a universal language. Yoga is known to be an excellent tool for mind, body and spiritual wellness. It also sends the message of peace and harmony. The yoga event aimed to provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to experience the South Asian culture and to work on their mind and body" (2022).174



3. Organization-Level Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

Within workplaces, schools, and other institutions, reduce confusion and additional stressors/trauma from reporting/investigating the hate incident.

For individuals who seek to go through legal processes involving investigations and/or court hearings, it is critical to provide survivors the space and time to process via trauma-informed care and, when possible, engage the survivor's social supports to alleviate the possibility for additional stress/trauma during these processes. Ensuring this space and time can be achieved by alleviating access barriers to reporting hate acts, including but not limited to knowledge and language barriers.

Examples include:

- Outreach and education for community members on how to report hate acts
- •Increased access to resources needed to report a hate act (e.g., interpretation services)
- Streamlining reporting and legal processes to reduce any stress/trauma for the survivor

At the 2022 Thai Samakkee Los Angeles Summit, Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers invited Neighborhood Legal Services Los Angeles to present on an Anti-Asian Hate panel conference. They collaboratively highlighted Stop the Hate efforts with Thai American leaders, youth, business owners, and attorneys, emphasizing ways to help connect Thai hate crime victims to services with language support (2022).¹⁷⁵

In December 2022 and in collaboration with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, The Korean American Coalition Los Angeles (KACLA) released an educational video that empowers the AAPI community to report hate crimes and incidents. The video discussed the importance of reporting and resources offered to victims. In addition, the video was posted with Korean subtitles to increase access for the Korean speaking community.¹⁷⁶



4. Community-Level Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

Combat hate normalization and destigmatize victimization to increase reporting and service utilization.^{177, 178}

It is important to note that lack of reporting is not only driven by stigma or normalization of hate incidents. Studies have shown that several communities (e.g., immigrants, LGBTQ, Asians) are reluctant to report due to fear of law enforcement and/or due to lack of confidence that justice will be served.^{181, 182, 183}

Examples include:

- School-based programs with pathways to resources
- •Educational campaigns that invoke solidarity and share information about incidence and impact of hate
- •Integrate trauma-informed services into community settings (e.g., schools, community centers, clinics)

"A core component of the LA vs Hate program is using art to strengthen solidarity and healing in the face of discrimination. These three murals by local artist MariNaomi have been installed in the San Gabriel Valley as part of an effort to elevate awareness about the Asian American experience in Los Angeles ... 'Our hope is that this amazing art project creates more dialogue about allyship, solidarity, and healing within the San Gabriel Valley,' said Michelle Freridge, executive director of the Asian Youth Center" (2021).¹⁷⁹

The Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment utilized their social media platforms to spread the word about hate-incident reporting. They shared information about the reporting process and services in several languages across multiple social media platforms, striving to increase awareness and normalization of hate incident reporting.¹⁸⁰



Credit: Art by MariNaomi on the Asian Youth Center building / Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz / Pasadena Star-News



5. Systems-Level Strategies to Reduce Adverse Outcomes of Hate Incidents

Community mobilization, advocacy, and civic engagement to inform system-level changes while simultaneously uplifting and empowering the affected community.^{184, 185}

Individuals and organizations—for example, Stop AAPI Hate—may mobilize to advocate for system-level changes related to hate incidents and hate crime. In this mobilization, affected community members and victims may feel empowered and connected with others, helping to reduce adverse outcomes of hate incidents.

It is important to note that victims, bystanders, and witnesses of hate incidents may not have the bandwidth to engage in advocacy and civic engagement efforts; this also may depend on the amount of time passed since the incident.

Studies of social media activism as a coping mechanism for hate incidents are limited. Existing literature has found a nuanced relationship between social media activism and health outcomes; they found a potential "optimal" amount of time spent on social media activism activities that is beneficial to the individual (i.e., too little does not contribute to improved outcomes and excess is associated with adverse outcomes). 186, 187

Examples include:

- •Rallies against perpetrators of hate incidents
- Joining advocacy organizations
- •Social media activism¹⁸⁸

"Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) youth leaders publicly shared stories linking the personal and political, explaining how structural violence manifests in mind, body, and soul, from grappling with heart disease and diabetes, to cycles of heartbreak and displacement. These analyses of anti-Asian violence expand mainstream discourses of anti-Asian hate focused on specific incidents usually targeting East Asians. KGA released a statement expressing outrage and grief after the 2021 murders of Asian women in Atlanta. They connected gendered and racialized anti-Asian violence to Biden's deportation of thirty-three Vietnamese community memberseven as Biden condemned anti-Asian hate. KGA pointed out that these events are part of 'a pattern of white supremacy to uphold dehumanizing systems of oppression" (2022).189



Strategies to Prevent Hate

Although directing efforts to mitigate adverse outcomes of hate incidents is crucial, another collective goal of this initiative is to reduce rates of hate incidents, and ultimately, to prevent hate incidents before they occur. In our review of recent literature, we reviewed specific strategies and interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing hate incidents (see Tables 7–11). Certain strategies mentioned in the previous section (e.g., community mobilization) may reduce adverse outcomes from hate incidents and prevent future hate incidents from occurring.

1. Individual-Level Strategies to Reduce/Prevent Hate Incidents

Practice and encourage others to challenge one's own bias/prejudice and embrace empathy and inclusion.¹⁹⁰

Greater attention has been brought to client-centered professions (e.g., healthcare providers¹⁹², educators¹⁹³) identifying and addressing their own implicit biases. However, these techniques may be used among any individual who is interested in and committed to better understanding their own implicit biases and addressing them

With regard to group workshops related to addressing implicit biases, research highlights the importance of appropriate and sufficient training for session leaders/facilitators. Exposure to multicultural themes and biases in didactic forms (e.g., workshops and classes); led to a decrease in *explicit* bias.¹⁹⁴

Examples include:

- •Individual introspection, reflection, and mindfulness¹⁹⁵
- •Group workshops on bias and related skills building196

"The LA For All Healing Circles are open dialogues to build a better Los Angeles held virtually or inperson to foster stronger community bonds, support community based organizations, and provide safe spaces for Angelenos to discuss the impacts of racial trauma, identity, systemic racism, and the COVID-19 pandemic. These dialogues invite the public to share their thoughts for improving our city and find shared experiences. They come after a year of painful and triggering events in Los Angeles, including the leaked audio recordings of city and labor leaders engaging in a racist, hurtful conversation ... The LA For All Healing Circles come as a precursor to the LA Civil Rights Peace & Healing Centers launching in January 2023. The city-funded Peace & Healing Center program will include 9 centers, in partnership with local communitybased organizations, focused on social, economic and environmental healina."191



2. Interpersonal-Level Strategies to Reduce/Prevent Hate Incidents

Research shows that meaningful connections with "out- group" members are essential to decreasing implicit biases. This can be achieved through careful and intentional intervention, conflict resolution, and mediation.²⁰¹

Though not intended to diminish the importance of developing conflict resolution skills for youth, it is important to bring attention to the literature on potential counterproductive effects of mediation techniques when there persists an unequal power between the individuals involved (i.e., in the case of youth bullying).¹⁹⁸ In these cases, it is important for educators and school practices/policies to establish firm expectations and limits for aggressive and intolerant behavior/actions.

Examples include:

- Educator led conflict mediation in schools
- Peer-to-peer mediation

"Norwalk High School (NHS) held a special celebration on February 3 as its new LA vs. Hate Dream Resource Center officially opened on campus. [...] A joint venture between NHS, LA vs. Hate, 211LA, and Helpline Youth Counseling, the Dream Resource Center provides a safe, welcoming space for high-need students. [...] LA vs Hate partners will also be able to bring additional resources such as peer to peer counseling, peer mediation, restorative practices, activism, access to computers and printers, and after-school access to WiFi for lowincome households" (2023).197



Credit: Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District



3. Organization-Level Strategies to Reduce/Prevent Hate Incidents

3A. Organization/public education on rights related to discrimination/ harassment and how to promote inclusive organizational culture.

In assessing factors that contribute to the effectiveness of training, research points to genuine training goals and thoughtful intentionality in developing training content.²⁰¹

In regard to workplace specific harassment, the limited available research shows varying effectiveness of implicit bias/harassment trainings (from negative effect, no effect, and limited positive effects). ²⁰² Other research has found that the more important driver of reduced harassment was organizational culture related to harassment, particularly the implementations of policies, practices, and procedures. ^{203, 204, 205}

Genwa's workforce is a mix of migrant and domestic workers, including native Spanish, English and Korean speakers – but language wasn't a barrier when Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA) began to organize workers. [A worker] who started serving at Genwa in 2018, remembers KIWA's meetings were often hosted in different languages, with translation services provided through an earpiece to bridge communication gaps. With the help of KIWA, workers filed claims for sexual harassment, wage theft and lack of meal and rest breaks" (2022),200

Examples include:

- Workplace inclusion trainings
- •Sharing best practices related to organizational culture and commitment to inclusion 206
- 3B. Integrate cross-cultural histories and celebration of diversity in K-12 school environment and culture; ensure that diversity and inclusion are reflected in school policies and practices as well.

Ethnic studies in K-12 and college courses offer youth and young adults the opportunity to think critically about our nation's history; learn one's own history and contributions to our nation; as well as build solidarity in the common experience of mistreatment and subsequent resilience. It provides them a framework through which students may be able to understand—and productively react to—discriminatory practices they face in their day-to-day lives.²⁰⁷

Examples include:

- Integrating ethnic studies curriculum
- •Addressing microaggressions and encourage culturally responsive pedagogy²¹⁰
- •Ensure that school disciplinary practices are uniform across student populations (i.e., so that students of color are not more severely impacted than White students)²¹¹
 - •Affirmative practices and organizations (e.g., student support groups; policies that protect student minority identities)²¹²

The California Conference for Equality and Justice Conscious Classrooms is "an in-school program for middle or high school youth focused on building the awareness, knowledge, and skills students need to promote respect, advocate for social justice, and strengthen the learning environment in classrooms and schools ... Conscious Classrooms provides students with opportunities to learn healthy forms of communication, build community among themselves, and alter school culture in a positive way." 208

National Asian American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA) invited Los Angeles County youth and young adults to participate in their ongoing project, Stories of Solidarity: A Stop the Hate Community Art Project. Participants engaged in in weekly discussions and created art pieces to be featured at the AAPI Solidarity Conference: A Youth Empowerment Event.²⁰⁹



4. Community-Level Strategies to Reduce/Prevent Hate Incidents

4A. Public awareness campaigns on the incidence of hate, the impact of hate, and positive/negative narratives around hate incidents.²¹³

While the studies of the effectiveness of public campaigns related to hate crimes is limited²¹⁵, a large UK pilot anti-hate program found that one of the largest barriers to reporting hate crime was a lack of awareness of hate crime as a concept and what constitutes a hate crime, pointing to a large gap that could be filled by public awareness and education campaigns.²¹⁶

Examples include:

- •Campaign activities to spread messages on empathy, unity, inclusivity, and denouncing hate crimes ^{217, 218}
- •Educate professionals that report on hate incidents/crimes on strategies and best practices for reporting in a way that does not perpetuate stereotypes ^{219, 220}

"Together with Amazon Studios and the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA), Korean Youth and Community Center (KYCC) is launching a billboard campaign to raise awareness about #StopAsianHate.

With the current unprecedented rise in anti-Asian hate incidents happening in Los Angeles and across the country, the three organizations have joined together to help advance the issue of #StopAsianHate. Through billboard artwork designed by Asian American graphic artist Soyoung Heo, the collaborative seeks to convey a message of peace and solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community about the need to put a stop to these acts of anti-Asian hate and violence" (2021).214



Credit: Art by Soyoung Heo / Koreatown Youth and Community Center



4B. Improve intra-racial, cross-racial, and multiracial relations and solidarity.

Healing practices from previous hate incidents may serve as a strategy to prevent future ones. Interventions may be designed from restorative justice practices and tailored based on relevant community and/or traditional practices. ²²³ As these practices often include forms of mediation, again, facilitators must be highly experienced, trained, and attuned to the community needs.

Creating collective art pieces has been shown to foster feelings of solidarity and unity. The process also facilitates opportunities for positive interactions and bridge building. In addition, it can provide a space for positive intergenerational and family interaction.²²⁴

Examples include:

- •Healing events/practices²²⁵
- •Coalition/network building across multiple sectors with the goal to reduce discrimination and violence²²⁶
- •Community art (e.g., depictions of solidarity/empowerment²²⁷; resisting hate²²⁸)
- Communications campaign that elevates messages of solidarity and inclusion²²⁹

South Asian Network (SAN)²²¹ collaborated with Artistas de Color Unidos to host an arts-based healing workshop. The workshop provided a space for participants to discuss and learn about the impact of trauma and violence in relation to their identities.

"Leaders in the Black and Korean American communities joined Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Rep. Karen Bass, along with family members of Rodney King and Latasha Harlins, Friday to urge unity among all Angelenos as the city recognizes the 30-year anniversary of the 1992 L.A. uprising ... Along with Garcetti and Bass, the event included King's daughter, Lora; family members of Harlins, a teen who was fatally shot in 1991 by a Korean-born shopkeeper who owned a South Los Angeles liquor store; LAPD South Bureau Deputy Chief Gerald Woodyard: activist and CEO of Faith and Community Empowerment (FACE) Hyepin Im; activist and director of Project Islamic Hope Najee Ali; and Operation HOPE Founder and CEO John Hope Bryant" (2022).²²²



Credit: Photo by Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times



5. Systems-Level Strategies to Reduce/Prevent Hate Incidents

5A. Improve data collection on hate incidents and crimes to understand where to direct efforts and resources.²³⁰

In efforts to disaggregate data and improve data transparency, efforts should be made to ensure the protection and needs of those with precarious legal identity status.²³²

Examples include:

 Data disaggregation and data transparency Gaps remain in disaggregation of hate crime data. In 2021, more than 20 CBOs, including Center for Asian Americans United for Self- Empowerment (CAUSE) and Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA), rallied at the front steps of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to call for greater efforts to address anti-Asian sentiment and hate. As part of their calls to action, "Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) and Arab, Middle East, Muslim and South Asian (AMEMSA) community leaders call[ed] on LAUSD to reaffirm its 2019 commitment to disaggregate student ethnic data to better support the unique social and emotional needs of students ... and [understand] who students are, how they are performing, and how the school district's resources can be more equitably distributed" (2021).²³¹

5B. Increase investments in community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve vulnerable populations and are often first-responders to hate incidents. ^{233, 234}

CBOs are also often being called upon to provide culturally-responsive, culturallycompetent, and language-accessible "Amid a rise in racist attacks across the country targeting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, the Newsom Administration – in partnership with the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs and the California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus – announced the distribution of \$14 million in grant funds to qualified organizations to provide direct services and support to victims of hate incidents and to facilitate hate incident prevention measures" (2022).²³⁵

services to victims and survivors.^{236, 237, 238} CBOs need to be adequately resourced to both provide the services needed by community members and for their staff to thrive as well.

Examples include:

•Funding to support and increase CBOs' capacity to act as trusted messengers and liaisons between community members (i.e., survivors) and service providers/government programs



5C. Increase targeted multi-year investments in communities most adversely impacted by inequities and hate incidents.^{239, 240}

Hate incidents are often inflicted upon communities that are already facing social and economic inequities, having serious implications for the community's collective capacity to respond.²⁴²

Examples include:

 Investments in infrastructure, health care, basic needs, etc. for historically underserved communities. Services, programs, and resources should be client-centered and culturally responsive. "The Cambodia Town Thrives collective unveiled its draft vision plan for the future of Cambodia Town on Thursday, July 29 to a group of community members at Compound in District 4.

'Our mission is to elevate and uplift community voices to help define and lead what it means to have equitable development in Cambodia Town [...] without displacement,' said Susana Sngiem, executive director of the United Cambodian Community.

The draft vision plan outlines a number of potential projects to help uplift Cambodia Town. Marked by priority, the list includes affordable housing developments, a youth center, street trees and vertical gardens, walking and jogging loops, and an improved MacArthur Park vision plan, among others" (2021).²⁴¹



Credit: Photo from City Fabrick



5D. Shift law enforcement practices, policies, and culture to reflect a community centered vision of safety, including addressing community concerns regarding ineffective response to hate crimes, fears of immigration enforcement by local police when reporting crimes, and fears of police violence.²⁴³

Essential to achieving this strategy is improving governmental and systems-level responses to reported hate incidents. As previously mentioned, vulnerable communities exhibit hesitance/ reluctance to report hate incidents to police due to a lack of confidence in the system and/ or a fear of retaliation from police themselves.

"The Consulate General of Los Angeles, together with the Korean American Law Enforcement Agency (KALEO, Chairman Ben Park) and the LAPD, as well as major Korean-American organizations, held the Safer Community Seminar ... The Consulate General in Los Angeles said, 'The seminar will comprehensively cover topics such as raising awareness of Asian hate crimes among Korean residents, promoting close cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the Korean community, and finding ways to strengthen the Korean community's ability to respond to various crimes'" (2022).²⁴⁴

Furthermore, in addressing law enforcement culture, policies, and practices, law enforcement must be receptive and accountable to upholding the community's definition and vision of "safety".

Examples include:

- Improve law enforcement response to hate incidents
- Increase cultural responsiveness within law enforcement
- •Improve law enforcement understanding and response to online hate speech²⁴⁵



CONTINUED CHALLENGES TO REDUCING ADVERSE OUTCOMES OF AND PREVENTING HATE INCIDENTS IN LOS ANGELES

Access

Additional challenges to reducing adverse outcomes of hate and preventing hate are related to persistent barriers to accessing services, including but not limited to the following: language access, stigma, fear of or lack of confidence in government agencies and law enforcement, and lack of service navigation.

Fear of and Lack of Confidence in Law Enforcement. As mentioned throughout this report, a considerable barrier to victims and survivors reporting hate incidents and accessing care is the fear of law enforcement, especially among historically vulnerable populations, and the lack of confidence that justice will be served.^{246, 247, 248} Stop AAPI Hate's Right Wrongs 2023 Report found that only one in five AAPIs who experienced discrimination took steps to report it. The most common reason for not reporting was "lack [of] trust in institutional response."²⁴⁹

Language Access. According to the 2014–2018 American Community Survey²⁵⁰, a majority (56%) of Angelenos speak a language other than English at home (a much greater percentage than the state [44%] and the nation [22%]). Furthermore, almost a quarter (23%) of those in Los Angeles speak English "less than very well." Although most non-English speakers in Los Angeles primarily speak Spanish, the county's racial/ethnic diversity is reflected in the immense diversity of languages and dialects spoken throughout the county. Of note, Asian Americans in the United States reportedly have the "highest level of language assistance needs" with 74% speaking a language other than English, compared to 71% of Latines and 41% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Furthermore, AAPIs speak over 100 different languages.²⁵¹ As such, services for victims and survivors of hate incidents must reflect that of the community. Furthermore, under federal and state law, government agencies are required to provide public services in language to facilitate access for limited English speakers.²⁵² Despite these regulations, there continue to be language barriers to reporting hate incidents and crimes and obtaining necessary services for the victim. In 2021, to address language gaps, a local community member created "How to report a hate crime," mini booklets translated into Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Thai, Albanian, Arabic, Khmer, Portuguese, and Spanish. 253, 254

Stigma and Cultural Responsiveness. In addition to language barriers, there is also a need to combat the stigma related to reporting hate incidents (as well as accessing related services like mental health care). When survivors access resources, they must be met with culturally responsive and appropriate care. An example of this growing need is seen in the response to the rise of anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes directed toward older Asian Americans. There is established literature on the increased stigma and potential shame that Asian Americans may experience when accessing services related to mental health. ²⁵⁵Recommendations from Los Angeles-based Asian American providers have included (a) identifying providers who identify as Asian or (b) understanding the cultural barriers and reframing conversations about mental health around achieving "balance" and "healing" after an adverse incident. ²⁵⁶



Service Navigation. Victims and survivors of hate incidents are often burdened with the difficult task of navigating various local, state, and federal systems and services to report hate incidents. Though service navigation is difficult as it is for those who speak the language in which the services are provided, language barriers and lack of culturally competent services create additional barriers.^{257, 258}

Health Insurance. Health insurance is another significant barrier to accessing services, mainly related to hate incidents. More racial/ethnic minority individuals lack health insurance coverage compared to White individuals.²⁵⁹ In addition, individuals lacking English proficiency are more likely to be uninsured, further exacerbating a lack of access to care.²⁶⁰ Furthermore, even among those insured and with resources available to overcome language barriers, their health insurance may not cover culturally responsive and competent services and/or providers for victims of hate.

Data Equity and Transparency. Despite some progress in data disaggregation policy, particularly in the State of California (e.g., AB 1726), there remain large gaps in obtaining the most accurate data, particularly for groups facing some of the largest disparities in health, education, and other sectors. For example, in 2022, the state shared that it currently "does not have an accurate tally of the total population of various Asian and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroups." This lack of data is highly problematic, as accurate data is often required to identify disparities, potential solutions, and areas to invest time and resources. Related to hate incidents and hate crimes specifically, there continue to be gaps in data disaggregation and data transparency, particularly as it relates to sharing hate incident data with the public in a timely manner. Failure to disaggregate data appropriately and accurately (e.g., for the AAPI population) renders "smaller" populations and their needs invisible, further exacerbating existing disparities.

Investing in Community Infrastructure Resources

Two key strategies were identified in our review related to investments in communities for mitigating adverse impacts from and preventing hate incidents.

- Increase investments in community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve vulnerable populations and are often first responders to hate incidents; and
- Increase targeted investments in communities most adversely impacted by inequities and hate incidents.

Concerning these two strategies, it is important to note the need for improving data collection and fostering a culture of learning via data collection among community members and stakeholders impacted by hate. In addition, investments in community infrastructure must bolster trauma-informed and culturally responsive resources that address the root causes of hate.



Government and philanthropic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in hate have demonstrated relatively large and quick investments in CBOs to support responses to the community's urgent needs. Although these efforts have initiated steps toward increasing funding for CBOs, they have not necessarily addressed the need for *sustained* (i.e., multiyear resources) funding in communities to build lasting infrastructure. Sustained community infrastructure that facilitates increased community connectedness and wellness would address some of the root causes and/or exacerbating factors of conflict and hate incidents.

Hate incidents victimize the target individual and the communities involved (both neighborhood and group affiliations). Often, hate incidents target historically vulnerable groups with less capacity and resources to respond. As illustrated in our examples throughout this analysis, communities have demonstrated immense resilience and innovation in responding to hate; however, genuine investment in communities is essential to shifting power dynamics and thereby *preventing* hate incidents that are exacerbated by social and economic inequities.

In 2022, California enacted the API Equity Budget, which allocated an unprecedented \$165.5 million over three years to fund services and programs dedicated to combating bias-motivated incidents. ²⁶² This resource allocation, led by the efforts of the California AAPI Legislative Caucus, is an example of a funding mechanism through which community-based service providers receive meaningful funding to better serve historically marginalized communities that are highly vulnerable to hate. Looking to the future, all levels of government (i.e., federal, state, local) should invest in community-based services and infrastructure for the communities most impacted by hate.

Going Against the Status Quo

In addition to investment in communities, several of the strategies identified require large systems-level change—both in policies and culture:

- Increase public awareness of the incidence of hate, the impact of hate, and positive/negative
 narratives around hate incidents; this includes holding major influencers (e.g., president, political
 stakeholders, media outlets) accountable for their language, rhetoric, and messaging, as they impact
 the instigation and perpetuation of hate against U.S. residents;
- Encourage reporting of hate incidents, data disaggregation of hate incident/crime reports, and public access to information on hate incidents/crimes and data in real-time:
- Encourage civil enforcement of violations of civil rights laws, particularly discrimination and bias in employment, housing, and public accommodations;
- Shift law enforcement practices, policies, and culture to reflect a community-centered vision of safety, including addressing community concerns regarding ineffective responses to hate crimes enforcement, fears of immigration enforcement by local police when reporting crimes, and a fear of police violence;
- Integrate cross-cultural histories and celebration of diversity in K-12 school environment and culture;
 ensure that diversity and inclusion are reflected in school policies and practices as well; and
- Improve intra-racial, cross-racial, and multiracial relations and solidarity.



Shift Public Understanding of Hate Incidents

As discussed in earlier sections, how hate crimes and hate incidents are reported in the news and given public attention affects how individuals and communities feel motivated to report a hate incident. As the news media increasingly sensationalizes egregious hate crimes (typically centering the experiences of White America and othering minorities), day-to-day, less physically violent (though not necessarily any less impactful) hate incidents become normalized and accepted as part of everyday life. ^{263, 264} In addition, as political leaders and stakeholders are not held accountable for hateful rhetoric that instigates harm against U.S. residents, hate incidents may increase. Perhaps starting with how hate crimes/incidents are reported, there needs to be a cultural shift in how communities view "hate" and "discrimination;" rather than internalizing such experiences, victims need to feel empowered to report and obtain sufficient resources and recourse. In turn, communities need to have confidence in government systems meant to provide said recourse (e.g., civil and criminal law enforcement).

Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws

In addition to de-normalizing hate incidents at large, there is a specific need for greater reporting and enforcement of civil rights laws to protect community members against illegal discrimination. Stop AAPI Hate's May 2023 report, "Righting Wrongs: How Civil Rights Can Protect Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Against Racism," identified several large gaps in enforcing civil rights law for AAPI individuals facing discrimination. Only one fifth of respondents who experienced discrimination reported it; a majority who experienced discrimination and reported it shared the reporting process was difficult; and half of those who experienced discrimination and did not report it thought that reporting would not make a difference. ²⁶⁵ Of note, in California, a small proportion—15%—of those who experienced discrimination reported it. ²⁶⁶

Law Enforcement

In the case of hate crimes, efforts are needed in several areas, including but not limited to changing law enforcement policies, practices, and responses related to hate incidents and crimes, and increasing data accuracy and transparency around hate incidents and hate crime.

Shifting law enforcement policies, practices, and response to hate incidents and crimes—particularly around excess force, racial profiling, and targeting of underrepresented groups—is a large undertaking that requires a demonstration of accountability among police officers and leadership. The 2023 RIPA Report found that Black and Hispanic/Latine Californians made up 15% and 42% of California's law enforcement stops in 2021 respectively. For Black Californians, this is more than double the proportion of the California residential population (6%). Similarly, Hispanic/Latine Californians only comprise 36% of the state's residential population. Policy and culture shifts within law enforcement are necessary to combat public distrust and fear of law enforcement, especially among communities most impacted by hate.



Relatedly, a major issue that has contributed to a lack of trust and confidence in law enforcement is the thought that a responding police officer will not consider an event as "hate-motivated," thereby potentially delaying or preventing the survivor from accessing necessary resources and services. Beyond *reporting* hate crimes and incidents, the *prosecutions* of hate crimes are "often hampered either by a lack of suspects or by the high standard of proof required."²⁶⁸ In California, between 2007-2016, over one-fourth (3,000 of 10,400) of the hate crimes reported lacked suspects to prosecute. In a state auditor's 2017 hate crimes report, a large majority of rejected hate crime cases were rejected by prosecutors due to lack of sufficient evidence. As such, community members and advocates have brought attention to the need for more local law enforcement training and education on hate incidents and crimes, including hate act definitions as well as collecting and relaying integral evidence. Resources can be made accessible for local law enforcement; however, there is no national standardized police training on this topic.²⁶⁹

Regarding data accuracy and transparency, in 2018, the California State Auditor reported that "law enforcement agencies' inadequate policies and the [California Department of Justice]'s lack of oversight [resulted] in the underreporting of hate crimes."²⁷⁰ At the federal level, there has been significant criticism toward the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and its data collection practices; for instance, the FBI does not require any law enforcement agencies to submit data, yet they produce reports with incomplete and inaccurate data.^{271, 272} Further contributing to the issue is the process through which hate crimes and incidents are identified (i.e., the victim identifies the incident as hatemotivated; the police officer *agrees* and reports the incident as such; the law enforcement department sends data to the FBI). Nolan and Akiyama (1999)²⁷³ analyzed gaps that led to underreporting and identified contributing factors at both the agency- and individual- levels of law enforcement (e.g., agency-wide beliefs about hate crimes; resource allocation; organizational policies and practices that support or hinder hate crime reporting; individual attitudes about hate crime reporting; and the organization's commitment to hate crime reporting).

Education Systems

Similar to law enforcement, schools and the education system are other entities with significant influence on the prevalence of hate in our communities. In the case of integrating ethnic studies, California has made significant gains with ethnic studies requirements at California state universities and more recently for all California public high school students.^{274, 275} There continues to be debate around ethnic studies at other levels of education.²⁷⁶

Other issues related to Los Angeles public education include but are not limited to a persistent lack of equitable access to education (e.g., the closing of three majority-Latine elementary schools in Pasadena Unified School District in 2019);²⁷⁷ discriminatory disciplinary practices disproportionately impacted students of color (e.g., Antelope Valley Union High School District's disproportionately high rates of suspension, expulsion, and transfers of Black students);²⁷⁸ and hate incidents among student peers and teachers (e.g., Valencia High School settlement in 2008 after racist slurs and vandalism were ignored by school officials).²⁷⁹



Intra- and Multi- Racial Relations and Solidarity

National and global activists, politicians, and researchers alike have called for collective action against the "status quo." Writer and anti-racist activist, Ibram X Kendi, describes the status quo as "racism [...] inequality [... and ...] believing in some sort of racial hierarchy."280 The 2021 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, stated that systemic racism-the status quo-is "untenable" and "needs a systemic response [and] a transformative approach." 281 The spread of hate relies on maintaining the status quo of biases, racism, sexism, xenophobia, and discrimination. In order to reverse the status quo and stem the spread of hate, greater intra-racial, cross-racial, and multi-racial understanding and solidarity is essential. In 2019, French et al. introduced an emerging strategy and opportunity to address this need: "radical healing for People of Color and Indigenous individuals."282 The framework was primarily motivated by the current racial reckoning in the United States that was catalyzed by the murder of George Floyd in 2020. The radical healing framework emphasizes radical hope and collectivism among people and communities "experiencing extreme forms of racial injustices."283 It builds on theories from liberation psychology, Black psychology, ethnopolitical psychology, and intersectionality-many of which explicitly work with communities to "recognize systemic racial oppression and colonization, thereby embracing resistance over maintaining the status quo."284

Other Considerations

Online Hate and Cyberbullying

A significant challenge to preventing the spread of hate is the easy access, perceived anonymity, and pervasiveness of online hate and cyberbullying. Though the internet certainly did not create hate speech, it provides a platform for great amplification; furthermore, a lack of clear internet policies and safeguards has contributed to a lack of accountability for perpetrators.²⁸⁸ Literature has pointed to similar organizational- and community-level strategies to combat online hate and cyberbullying (e.g., spreading positive messaging, community education, organizational policies, online community building to promote solidarity).^{286, 287}

Often, challenges arise when youth and adolescents are the victims and the perpetrators of hate speech or cyberbullying online. Some solutions for these challenges have related to school-based practices and policies on hate speech, online harassment, and cyberbullying (e.g., accountability and consequences for bullying, including cyberbullying; training for teachers and parents). Similar practices or policies may be put in place in workplaces and other organizational settings. Many of the strategies mentioned to prevent hate incidents (e.g., addressing school climate) are also used to reduce youth online hate speech and cyberbullying.²⁸⁸

Still, more challenges to combating online hate include improving and standardizing local law enforcement response to online hate, establishing corporate responsibility, facilitating international cooperation related to hate, and ensuring organizational policies align with relevant state and federal laws regarding speech (i.e., systems-level strategies). Addressing these challenges requires grassroots power building among communities to hold institutions accountable for protecting and promoting community safety.



SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

Ultimately, our *community* is the propelling force pushing and pulling us forward in the effort to stem the rise of hate in Los Angeles County. CBOs and informal support networks are **the first responders to our rapidly changing** social contexts, including in digital and online spaces. They provide **culturally and linguistically accessible** services and resources for victims and survivors of hate and community wellbeing. As a County, we must advocate for **increased and sustained investment in community infrastructure**, such as CBOs, and collectively **push systems beyond the status quo** towards a community-defined and collaborative network of safety and support. Over the last year, 24 organizations led a collective effort to stem the spread of hate across Los Angeles County and they will continue the work going forward.

Los Angeles County 2022-2023 Stop The Hate Grantees



211 LA links people to community services, so that people in LA can survive, thrive,

and be empowered, no matter their situation or background.



Cambodia Town, Inc. promotes Khmer culture, customs, and traditions to advance the social and economic well-being of low- and moderate-income communities.



Asian Youth Center (AYC)'s mission is to empower low-income, immigrant, and atrisk youth, of all communities, to overcome barriers to

success through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services.



Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE) has a mission

to advance the political and civic empowerment of the Asian Pacific American community through nonpartisan voter outreach, training, and education as well as leadership development.



California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ)'s mission is to educate and empower youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in

our communities.



Dignity Health - St. Mary Medical Center's Families in Good Health is a multilingual, multicultural health and social education program for the

Southeast Asian, Latino and other communities in Long Beach. Its mission is to help the community make informed choices and gain access needed health and social resources.





Faith and Community
Empowerment (FACE)'s mission
is to empower faith community
leaders to better serve underserved
communities. FACE trains faith

leaders, educates underserved communities, and provides advocacy so that the voiceless may have a voice.



Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) has a mission to serve the evolving needs of the Korean American population in the greater Los Angeles area as well as

the multiethnic Koreatown community.



Khmer Girls in Action's mission is to build a progressive and sustainable Long Beach community that works for racial, gender, and

economic justice led by Southeast Asian women and youth.



Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC)'s mission is to provide a comprehensive array of social welfare and community

development services to assist low income individuals and other persons in need, contribute to community revitalization and cultural preservation in Little Tokyo and among the broader Japanese community in the Southland.



Korean American Coalition – Los Angeles promotes

the civic and civil rights interests of the Korean American community. KAC endeavors to achieve these goals through education, community organizing, leadership development, and coalition-building with diverse communities.



National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA) is committed to social justice and health equity through working to reduce

substance use disorder, promoting harm reduction, and partnering with our communities to achieve mental wellness.



Korean American Federation of Los Angeles has a mission to represent and empower the Korean American community of Los Angeles County.

Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County uses a combination of individual representation, high impact litigation and public policy advocacy, to combat the immediate and long-lasting effects of poverty and expands access to health, opportunity, and justice

in Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods.





Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA) of

Southern California builds power with immigrant

workers and renters to bring about a more just and inclusive Los Angeles. KIWA organizes primarily Korean and Latino workers, with a focus on the restaurant and retail industries, in Koreatown and beyond.



Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)

assists Asian American Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities with the skills and financial tools to create a better future for their families and communities.



Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS) enriches the lives of children and families through counseling

and ramilies through counseling and caring. They provide culturally sensitive and language specific services with expertise in the

immigrant Asian Pacific Islander populations.



South Asian Network

(SAN) is a community based organization

advancing the health, emotional & mental wellbeing, and civil rights of South Asians in Southern California.



Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (PWC)

aims to secure the dignity and safety of the Pilipinx community in Southern California and build

labor leaders in the domestic worker industry.



Special Service for Groups,

Inc. (SSG) is a non-profit health and human service organization dedicated to building and

sustaining community-based programs that address the needs of vulnerable communities



Saahas For Cause

aspires to be the support system for South Asian immigrant community through their journey in

each phase of their life. May they be Youth, young adults, or older adults.



United Cambodian Community

(UCC) has a mission to elevate the Cambodian community through local engagement and leadership that embodies Cambodian cultural values.



Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) produces

Americans (SIPA) produces programs for youth and families including case management and counseling, after school programs, senior programs, small business development, cultural enrichment,

and affordable housing.



St. John's Well Child and Family Center's mission is to improve community health and reduce

health disparities by delivering high quality, comprehensive services and impacting health and social policy.



CONCLUSION

To assess the current state of hate in Los Angeles County, we reviewed prominent academic literature and more recent research on hate, hate incidents, and hate crimes. We further assessed research on hate in Los Angeles County and news reports—both local and national—of hate incidents in the region.

We first anchored our review in The California Civil Rights Department's (2023) definition of *hate incident*: "a hostile expression or action that may be motivated by bias against another person's actual or perceived identity(ies)." We then contextualize the current state of hate with the region's vast history of hate, discrimination, and violence as much of this history has continued to feed into the region's social dynamics and subsequent incidents of hate.

Next, we reviewed the leading causes and contributors to hate incidents and crimes, including prejudice, bigotry, and racism; hateful rhetoric by prominent personalities and politicians, as amplified in the media; demographic trends (particularly persistent segregation); economics (though less examined as a contributing factor in the literature); and major community-wide events. In addition to reviewing causes and contributing factors to hate, we examined common and emerging strategies used to mitigate adverse outcomes from hate (e.g., adverse health outcomes, social isolation, community distrust) and strategies to prevent hate.

We also grouped identified strategies to mitigate and prevent hate using the social-ecological framework of individual, interpersonal, institutional, community, and systems/policy-level interventions to mitigate and to prevent hate incidents McLeroy et al. (1988).²⁹⁰ It is important to note that several strategies reflected effectiveness in mitigation and prevention. Common themes across the strategies included:

- individual and community empowerment;
- access to resources (both those directly related to supporting survivors and their basic daily needs);
- awareness and education around hate (i.e., what constitutes a hate incident/crime, combatting normalization of hate, and destigmatizing victimization);
- inter-group healing, bridging, and solidarity;
- community mobilization to inform systemic change (e.g., data collection and transparency, law enforcement policies/practices, education systems); and
- long-term, significant investments in communities most adversely affected by hate.

Lastly, we provided examples of grassroots Los Angeles organizations and community members initiating efforts to heal and mobilize the affected communities. Stemming hate in Los Angeles County—especially the systemic-level issues that help maintain the status quo—requires solidarity and multisector collaboration. The Stop the Hate coalition in Los Angeles County and others across the state have signaled the beginning of a new investment in continuing collective efforts to "heal a world of breaking ... [and] construct a larger more inclusive "we" where no group dominates or is left out."²⁹¹



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