



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact

**John Robbins** 281-965-6390  
**Jun Gai** 281-498-4310

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, September 04 2022

## U.S. job growth solid in August; labor market pressure starting to ease

WASHINGTON, Sept 2 (Reuters) - U.S. employers hired more workers than expected in August, but moderate wage growth and a rise in the unemployment rate to 3.7% suggested the labor market was starting to loosen, raising cautious optimism that the Federal Reserve could slow the economy without triggering a recession.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday, which also showed 107,000 fewer jobs created in June and July than initially estimated, did not decisively settle the debate on whether the U.S. central bank would deliver a third 75 basis point or half-a-percentage point rate hike at its policy meeting this month. The increase in the unemployment rate to a six-month high came as nearly 800,000 people entered the labor market, driving the size of the labor force to a record high. The labor market remains strong, underscoring the economy's resilience despite gross domestic product contracting in the first half of 2022.

"The increase in employment offers yet another rebuttal to the idea that the economy is already in recession," said Michael Feroli, chief U.S. economist at JPMorgan in New York. "The report keeps alive the hope that a soft landing is still a possibility."

The survey of establishments showed nonfarm payrolls increased by 315,000 jobs last month, after surging 526,000 in July. August marked the 20th straight month of job growth. Employment is now 240,000 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls increasing 300,000, with estimates ranging from as low as 75,000 to as high as 450,000.

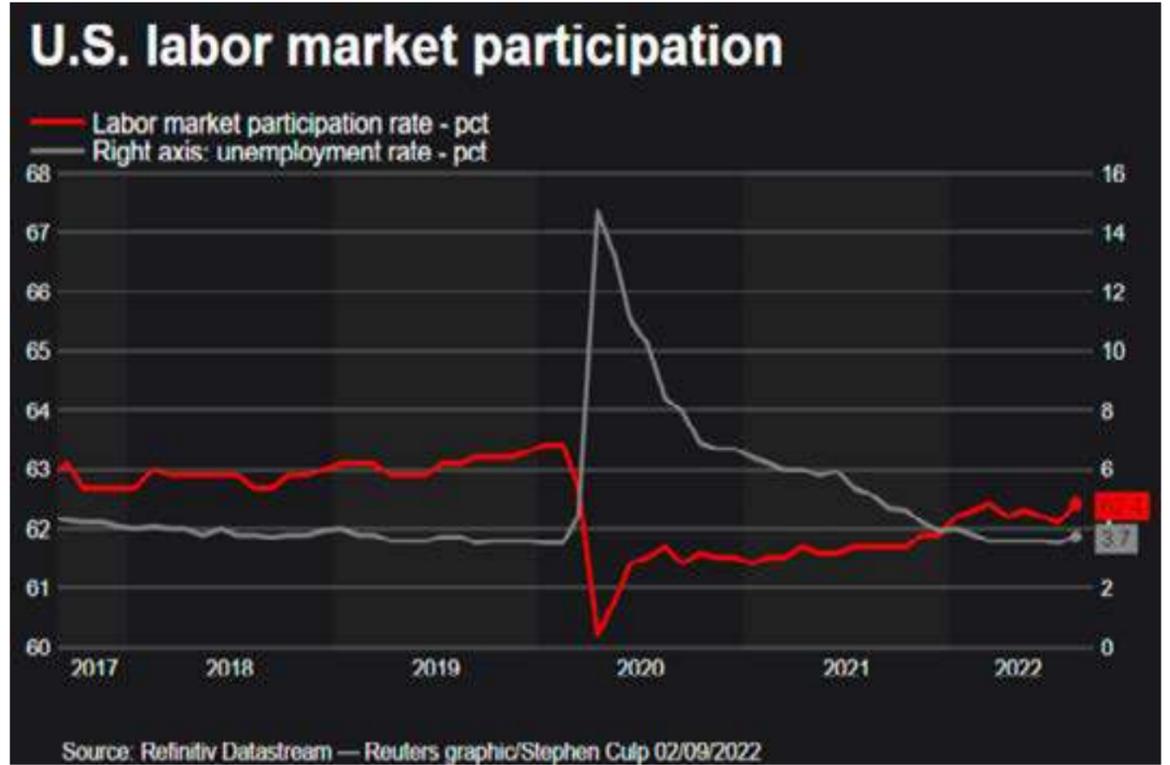
Some economists cautioned against reading too much into August's slowdown in payrolls growth noting that the response rate to the establishment survey last month was the lowest since 2006. Response rates have been historically lower in August because that is when most Americans take their summer break.

There has been a tendency for the initial August payrolls counts to be revised significantly higher.

"Over the past five years the average upward revision between the first and third estimates is nearly 120,000," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "Therefore, job growth in August could be stronger than it first appears."

The broad increase in hiring last month was led by the professional and business services industry, which added 68,000 jobs. Healthcare payrolls increased by 48,000 jobs.

Employment in the retail trade sector rose by 44,000



jobs, while manufacturing added 22,000 positions. Construction employment rose by 16,000 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality payrolls increased by 31,000, a step down from an average of 90,000 per month in the first seven months of the year. Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry remains 1.2 million jobs below its pre-pandemic level.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell last week warned Americans of a painful period of slow economic growth and possibly rising unemployment as the central bank aggressively tightens monetary policy to quell inflation.

The Fed has twice raised its policy rate by three-quarters of a percentage point, in June and July. Since March, it has lifted that rate from near zero to its current range of 2.25% to 2.50%. Financial markets are pricing a roughly 58.0% probability of a 75 basis points increase at the Fed's Sept. 20-21 policy meeting, according to CME's FedWatch Tool. That is down from 70% before the release of the employment report.

A "now hiring" sign is displayed in Somerville "Now hiring" sign displayed at a fast food restaurant in California

A person shops in a supermarket as inflation affected consumer prices in Manhattan, New York City

Stocks on Wall Street were trading higher. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices rose.

### LABOR FORCE RISES

While the unemployment rate increased to 3.7% from a

pre-pandemic low of 3.5% in July, that was because 786,000 people entered the labor force. The biggest increase since January pushed to workforce size to an all-time high, topping the previous record in December 2019.

As a result, the labor force participation rate, or the proportion of working-age Americans who have a job or are looking for one increased to 62.4% from 62.1% in July. It remains one percentage point below its pre-pandemic level.

The rising labor pool, if sustained, would help to narrow the gap between supply and demand for workers. There were 11.2 million job openings on the last day of July, with two job openings for every unemployed person.

"This is a pressure release valve that could help the Fed accomplish its task of bringing down inflation and achieving a soft landing," said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment strategist at BMO Wealth Management in Dallas.

But some economists are skeptical that the labor pool will continue expanding, noting that August's surge was driven by seasonal factors as well as rising participation by prime-age workers.

The participation rate for this cohort is now higher than the average rate for 2019.

"We would expect the downward trend in the unemployment rate to resume in September," said Conrad DeQuadros, senior economic advisor at Brean Capital in New York.

## 休士頓黃頁

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS



美南報業電視傳媒集團  
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

走進歷史 · 策劃將來



休斯頓最具影響力的中文黃頁

T 281-498-4310  
F 281-498-2728

11122 Bellaire Blvd Houston, TX 77072

ad@scdaily.com  
www.scdaily.com

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

09/02/2022

## CDC Signed Off On Update Versions Of Booster Shot



The CDC signed off on Thursday on updated versions of Pfizer and Moderna's Covid-19 boosters allowing vaccinations to begin.

The CDC said in a statement, "This recommendation followed a comprehensive scientific evaluation and robust scientific discussion. If you are eligible, there is no bad time to get your Covid-19 booster, and we strongly encourage you to receive it."

Pfizer's booster was authorized for people 12 and older, while Moderna's booster is for people 18 and up.

The federal government is working to distribute the new shot to states in the next couple of days.

Many doctors anticipate there will be a tough winter season ahead both with the flu and with Covid-19. The Biden administration is urging all eligible people in the U.S. to get the new boosters as part of its fall booster campaign.



**Wea H. Lee**  
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas  
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas

## Student Scores Fell Sharply During The Pandemic

According to a new federal survey, math and reading scores for America's 9-year-olds fell dramatically during the first two years of the pandemic.

Reading scores saw their largest decrease in 30 years, while math scores also decreased.

These declines were seen all over the nation and affected mostly whites, but students of color saw some of the steepest decreases.

According to the acting associate commissioner of NCEES, Daniel McGrath, "These are some of the largest declines we have observed in a single assessment cycle in 50 years of the NAEP program."



We felt the same way when the pandemic hit our community. A lot of poor families just didn't have time to take care of their kids. Many of them are wasting their time with online learning.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A car lies overturned among debris in the Arabi neighborhood after a large tornado struck New Orleans, Louisiana. REUTERS/Kathleen Flynn



A reveler plays in tomato pulp during the annual "La Tomatina" food fight festival in Bunol, Spain, August 31. REUTERS/Juan Medina



A couple watches the sunset at the top of the 'Porte d'Aval', a famous arch of the Etretat's cliffs in western France. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol



The Supertech Twin Towers collapse following a controlled demolition after the Supreme Court found them in violation of building norms, in Noida, India, August 28. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis



A classmate of Palestinian student Lian Al Shaer, 10, who was killed in recent Israel-Gaza fighting, reacts to Al Shaer's picture as a new school year begins, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, August 29. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa



A woman selling eggs walks past a man preparing his boat, in Luanda, Angola, August 25. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

In Celebration Of Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American Business Leaders Launch Effort to Fight Anti-Asian Discrimination

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The initiative plans to support research to correct discriminatory practices against Asian Americans

ulation among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, according to the Pew Research Center. The community is projected to grow even more rapidly in the coming years.

But Asian people living in the US have experienced a sharp rise in hate crimes amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has fueled racism and xenophobia.

The group Stop AAPI Hate, which tracks anti-Asian violence and harassment, received 3,795 reports of incidents between the period of March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021, and noted that this number represents only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur against members of the AAPI community.

"We created TAAF to stand up for the 23 million Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders living in this country and help bring us all together in the fight for our own prosperity," said Sonal Shah, president of TAAF. "TAAF wants to strengthen and build power for AAPIs, particularly as we face an exponential increase in hate and violence."

Asian Hate Cannot be Tolerated!

The total \$250 million pledge is the largest philanthropic effort to support the AAPI community, according to the New York Times. So far, TAAF has distributed several grants, including \$1 million to support the efforts of Stop AAPI Hate.

"AAPI communities need systemic change to ensure we are better supported, represented, and celebrated across all aspects of American life," Shah said. "TAAF plans to spark that systemic change and help fundamentally transform AAPI empowerment and support well into the future."

Related: Groups Fighting for Asian Americans That You Can Support Right Now

Related: Groups Fighting for Asian Americans That You Can Support Right Now



Hundreds March In Los Angeles To Protest Asian Hate And Violence Against Asians.

Overview Anti-Asian discrimination, fueled by xenophobia and racist beliefs about the coronavirus, have plagued the AAPI community this past year. In order to promote equity and justice for all, citizens must fight racism and support people of Asian descent.

Violence and discrimination against Asian Americans has surged over the past year. The United Nations calls on all countries to promote equity, tolerance, and inclusion — without doing so, we'll never end extreme poverty.

A global rise in hate crimes against people of Asian descent over the past year, many individuals have decided to take a stand. From raising money to ensure Asian people feel safe to organizations fighting racism and discrimination, people around the world are attempting to end the bigotry and ignorance that leads to hate.

Now, a group of Asian American business leaders have launched a new initiative to help, pledging \$125 million over the next five years to The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), according to the New York Times.

TAAF will prioritize efforts in three areas — anti-hate, education, and data and research — to correct discriminatory practices that have plagued the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

Within these areas, TAAF seeks to build long-term solutions to defeat anti-Asian discrimination, invest in data-driven research to inform future policymaking, and create school curriculums that reflect the history of AAPI people in the US.



A woman holds a sign at a protest against anti-Asian discrimination. (Photo/Flicker/Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association)

The population of Asian Americans in the US grew 81% between 2000 and 2019, making it the fastest growing pop-



Messages are posted in a wall of solidarity by people participating at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021.

Over the past year, at least 3,800 hate incidents against Asian Americans have been reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which activists say were stoked by misinformation and rising anti-Asian rhetoric from political figures and media pundits.

The shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday that killed eight people, including six Asian women, took place amid this violence and further highlighted discussions about years-long harassment and discrimination against people of Asian descent in the US and around the world.

While officials are still investigating whether hate crime charges should be brought against the shooting suspect, according to AP, advocates say there can be no obscuring the bigger picture.

"That the Asian women murdered yesterday were working highly vulnerable and low-wage jobs during an ongoing pandemic speaks directly to the compounding impacts of misogyny, structural violence, and white supremacy," said Phi Nguyen, litigation director at Asian American Advancing Justice in Atlanta, in a statement.

Anti-Asian hatred in the US isn't happening in a vacuum, shaped only by COVID-19 misinformation. It's taking place against the backdrop of history.

The fight for racial justice requires that everyone learn this history and understand how it continues to shape reality today. It also requires everyone to show solidarity with Asian Americans and take concrete steps to stop hatred and violence, including learning how to engage in bystander intervention.

A demonstrator participates at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021.

Countless grassroots groups across the US are organizing in their communities and building intersectional alliances to achieve equity, inclusivity, and justice.

Here are nine nonprofits and mutual aid groups focusing on Asian American rights that Global Citizens can support.

These groups are organizing for equity and justice

1. Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Atlanta AAJJ is dedicated to protecting and advancing "the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) in Georgia and the Southeast."

2. Red Canary Song Red Canary Song focuses on decriminalizing sex work, uplifting migrant workers, and advancing labor rights.

3. Asian American Feminist Collective AAFIC is an "ever-evolving" organization that engages in community building, offers political education events in public spaces, and provides resources to communities.

4. Stop AAPI Hate The CPA primarily helps low-income Chinese migrants organize for better living conditions by, among other services, advocating for tenant's rights and providing material support to students.

5. Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) The CPA primarily helps low-income Chinese migrants organize for better living conditions by, among other services, advocating for tenant's rights and providing material support to students.

6. The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW) This group seeks to help Asian American women gain access to positions of power in both the private and public spheres.

7. The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) NAPAWF uses a "reproductive justice framework" to elevate and fight for issues affecting girls and women.

8. The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families This organization campaigns to improve the opportunities available to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) children by providing leadership development training and advocating for improved resource access.

9. Asian Mental Health Collective This group is working to break down stigmas around mental health within the AAPI community, while expanding access to mental health services.

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on racial equity, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Jan. 26, 2021, in Washington, DC. | President Joe Biden delivers remarks on racial equity, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Jan. 26, 2021, in Washington, DC. (Photo/Evan Vucci/AP)

President Joe Biden signed four executive orders on Wednesday that address racial inequalities and injustice. The first executive order strengthens anti-discrimination housing policies that were weakened by the Trump administration.

The second order forbids the federal government from signing new contracts with private companies to house federal prisoners. The third order aims to increase the power of tribal nations when engaging with federal agencies, and the final order formally condemns the rising racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden said that these executive orders, which join a growing list of racial justice actions by his administration, are meant to redress historical wrongs and level the playing field for all Americans.

"We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives," Biden said in a press briefing. "And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll all be better off for it."

Wednesday's executive orders were largely applauded by human rights, racial justice, and legal groups across the country.

The formal condemnation of racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander was heralded by the Asian American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (AALDEF) as a promising step toward a national reckoning with racism. The AALDEF noted that 2,800 hate crimes against Asian Americans were reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These incidents "followed the former president's repeated use of racist, inflammatory terms, such as 'China Virus' and 'Kung Flu,'" the AALDEF said in a statement.

The executive order on tribal rights was welcomed by the National Congress of American Indians. "The first steps President Biden has taken toward truth and reconciliation with Tribal Nations are so responsive to our needs and aligned with our values and principles. This order will, in effect, improve federal processes around policy implementation and budgeting for tribal lands, ensuring that tribal members and Indigenous communities have a say throughout these processes and that principles of transparency are upheld."

Biden also declared that the federal government will stop relying on private prisons, a first step toward removing the profit incentive from the criminal justice system. Reform advocates have long argued that the justice system criminalizes poverty through cash bail, civil forfeiture laws, and the over-policing of poor communities.

(Article Continues Below)



A demonstrator holds a sign that says "I AM NOT A VIRUS" at a rally.

6. The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW) This group seeks to help Asian American women gain access to positions of power in both the private and public spheres.

7. The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) NAPAWF uses a "reproductive justice framework" to elevate and fight for issues affecting girls and women.

8. The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families This organization campaigns to improve the opportunities available to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) children by providing leadership development training and advocating for improved resource access.

9. Asian Mental Health Collective This group is working to break down stigmas around mental health within the AAPI community, while expanding access to mental health services.

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Related: "It's Time To Act Now." President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

(Article Continues From Above)

Asian American Business Leaders Launch Effort to Fight Anti-Asian Discrimination

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



President Joe Biden signs COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into Law to Fight Anti-Asian Hate. The law responds to the surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans.



President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. | President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. Clockwise from left: Sen. Tammy Duckworth, R-Ill., Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Vice President Kamala Harris, Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., and Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii. (Photo/Evan Vucci/AP)

US President Joe Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act Thursday to address the nationwide surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans over the past year. The signing of the bipartisan legislation follows testimony from experts about the rise in violence and grassroots pressure to protect Asian American communities.

"All of this hate hides in plain sight," Biden said at the White House. "Too often it is met with silence — silence by the media, silence by our politics, and silence by our history."

The law seeks to break that silence by improving law enforcement capabilities for dealing with hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies will receive training to better identify hate crimes, while officials will also deploy public education campaigns and create hate crime hotlines.

Over the past year, more than 6,600 hate crimes have been reported against Asian-Americans, according to the advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate. Experts point to misinformation surrounding COVID-19 and rising anti-Asian rhetoric from political figures and media pundits as instigating factors of the violence.

The majority of crimes have taken place in parks, public streets, and businesses, and people report that verbal harassment, shunning, and physical attacks are the most common types of hate crime experienced. The public nature of these attacks has caused a feeling of dread to

pervade many Asian American communities. This dread reached a peak in March when a gunman murdered six women of Asian descent at their places of employment.



Many Asian-American advocacy groups hailed the passage of the law as a historic moment.

"The passage of this bill today begins a much-needed step forward in prioritizing language access and culturally competent outreach to our communities in reporting and addressing anti-Asian hate, while also giving the communities power to allocate resources for community solutions to hate and discrimination, including non-law enforcement support services for victims and communities," said John C. Yang, the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in a statement.

"This step forward also improves hate crimes reporting and data collection infrastructure to keep government agencies and law enforcement accountable to our communities' needs," he said.

Other groups, including Stop AAPI Hate, criticize how the law increases the power of law enforcement. "Because the Act centers criminal law enforcement agencies in its solutions, it will not address the overwhelming majority of incidents reported to our site which are not hate crimes, but serious hate incidents," the organization wrote in a press release.

Stop AAPI Hate calls on the federal government to pass "legislation that addresses the root causes of systemic racism and oppression" by investing in mental health and immigration services, funding community-based groups, elevating "voices and histories of all communities by expanding ethnic studies and education," and "strengthen[ing] federal civil rights laws that address discrimination in public accommodations."

"The fear is very real": how Asian Americans are fighting rising hate crime



Protesters during the Asian Justice Rally in San Francisco, on 30 January. (Photo/Michael Ho Wai Lee/Sopa Images/Rex/Shutterstock)

As the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the US, Asian Americans are finally in a position to do more than stock up on pepper spray and hope for the best.

A rise in Asian American gun ownership. Blocks-long lines for pepper spray in Manhattan Chinatown. Children kept home from school by fearful parents. Elderly people who have stopped leaving their homes. A warning to Filipinos in the US, issued by the Philippine embassy in DC.

Across the US, Asian American communities have been gripped by anger and despair as hate crimes against them have increased sharply — rising by 339% last year compared with 2020, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. As early as March 2020, the FBI issued a report predicting a "surge" in hate crimes against Asian Americans, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which happened to originate in an Asian country.

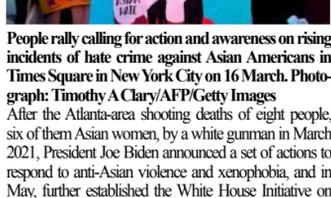
Adding fuel to the fire: incendiary and racist language — used by irresponsible politicians and repeated across social media — and geopolitical tensions with China.

"All of those are conditions that have led at other times to terrible anti-Asian violence," says author and activist Helen Zia.

But what's different this time, says Zia, is that more people recognize the problem. In the 1980s, Zia helped bring about the first federal civil rights case involving an Asian American: Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man who was beaten to death by two white auto-workers who took him for Japanese and blamed Japan for the car industry's struggles.

Today Asian Americans, the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the US, are finally in a position to do more than stock up on pepper spray and hope for the best. Meanwhile, academic research on implicit and unconscious bias, improvements in data collection, and social movements like Black Lives Matter have contributed to greater understanding about racism and bias, and the ways that can translate into hate speech and violence.

From the local through federal level, community advocates and other leaders have been organizing, debating, and building support, aimed at combating the ongoing epidemic of anti-Asian hate.



People rally calling for action and awareness on rising incidents of hate crime against Asian Americans in Times Square in New York City on 16 March. Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty Images

After the Atlanta-area shooting deaths of eight people, six of them Asian women, by a white gunman in March 2021, President Joe Biden announced a set of actions to respond to anti-Asian violence and xenophobia, and in May, further established the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

"to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPi communities." Among other actions, the initiative will improve data collection methods that have left Asian people underrepresented in government statistics, and by extension, the resulting programs and policies.

By invisible by our history books," said four NJ assembly sponsors of the bill in a joint statement. "This erasure ... not only prevents students from gaining a full understanding of our nation's history, but also opens the door for racial biases that can turn into violence and hatred."



People gather at the Solidarity Against AAPI Hate rally on the National Mall in Washington DC on 31 May 2021. Photograph: Bryan Dozier/Rex/Shutterstock

The new hate crimes act aims to fill some of those gaps by making it easier to report incidents and incentivizing local police forces to improve their data collection methods, for example through better training around how to identify hate crimes. (It also includes provisions named after Heather Heyer, the woman run over and killed by a neo-Nazi in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.)

"You're not going to find anti-Asian bias if you're not looking for it, so this bill does help train police to look for it better," said Mark.

However, critics say it does not address the root causes of hate, and fear the statistics will merely result in over-policing of Asian and other ethnic minority communities.

"The community is divided about the role of police," says Jo-Ann Yoo, executive director of the Asian American Federation, an umbrella organization for non-profits in NYC. In New York City, for example, people reluctant to interact with police can instead report incidents to the Commission on Human Rights, which collects data about (and sometimes acts on) bias, harassment and discrimination incidents in general — a wider array than hate crimes, which are narrowly defined.

"Dedicate resources to local communities," wrote Stop AAPI Hate in a response to the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act. Existing grassroots efforts that have sprung up during the pandemic offer a glimpse at what locals feel is needed: new community groups, focusing on everything from mutual aid, to activism, to organizing volunteers to patrol the streets, to striving pride in Asian American culture, have proliferated.



Members of the Thai-American community along with political leaders and members of law enforcement participate in a rally against Asian hate crimes in Thai Town in Los Angeles on 8 April 2021. (Photo/Genaro Molina/Los Angeles Times/REX/Shutterstock)

What makes hate crimes insidious for victims, she explains, is that, while a random mugging or attack can be deeply traumatizing, there remains "a sense of, 'I was in the wrong place at the wrong time'". With hate crimes, by contrast, there is no escaping the situation, "because it's escaping who we are. The psychological implications of that can be very profound."

Ida said that for those working in mental health, the Biden administration's proposed 2023 budget has been a source of hope. It allocates an unprecedented billions upon billions to expand access to mental health services — for example, \$1bn to double the number of school counselors and other school health professionals over the next 10 years. Ultimately, many agree that whatever the federal, policy and big-picture solutions, combating hate boils down to individuals taking action. "Legislation helps, but you can't legislate away hate. You have to deal with it on a local, day-to-day level," said Stanley Mark, the AALDEF lawyer. (Courtesy theguardian.com)

But the depth of the need is daunting. In New York, the most pressing issues Yoo has seen include food insecurity, financial struggle and lack of healthcare access among many Asian workers whose industries were disproportionately affected by the pandemic (eg nail salons, restaurants, and other service-based industries). Elderly people are afraid to leave their homes and isolated by language and technological barriers to accessing social service programs.

Domestic violence has increased. Yoo also says there is widespread fear and burnout among non-profit workers themselves, who have spent the past two-plus years on the frontlines: feeding people, organizing grief circles, going door-to-door setting up Zoom for elderly people, meeting with victims of violent attacks, and struggling "to figure out what we are going to do."

"This country is going through this major crisis on a global level, and it provides a breeding ground for racism, for hatred!" —Dr DJ Ida

Moreover, they, and many other Asian Americans, continue their work while feeling unsafe themselves. "I get a lot of emails saying, my boss is asking us to come back to work but I'm afraid to ride the subway," Yoo said. "I'm calling on corporations to come up with a plan to protect their staff, because the fear is very real."



Yoo sees an enormous need for mental health services — for victims of racially motivated violence, bystanders who witness such crimes, the communities traumatized by fear, and perpetrators themselves. "Many of the assaults were homeless with severe mental illness. Where's the help for them?" she says. (New York City's unhoused population is at its highest level since the Great Depression, and the city, under the new Eric Adams administration, has been forcibly removing unhoused people from the city's subways and tearing down homeless encampments.)

"This country is going through this major crisis on a global level, and it provides a breeding ground for racism, for hatred, and oppression of all sorts," says Dr DJ Ida, executive director of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association. "When people are stressed, the ugliness rears its head."

What makes hate crimes insidious for victims, she explains, is that, while a random mugging or attack can be deeply traumatizing, there remains "a sense of, 'I was in the wrong place at the wrong time'". With hate crimes, by contrast, there is no escaping the situation, "because it's escaping who we are. The psychological implications of that can be very profound."

Ida said that for those working in mental health, the Biden administration's proposed 2023 budget has been a source of hope. It allocates an unprecedented billions upon billions to expand access to mental health services — for example, \$1bn to double the number of school counselors and other school health professionals over the next 10 years. Ultimately, many agree that whatever the federal, policy and big-picture solutions, combating hate boils down to individuals taking action. "Legislation helps, but you can't legislate away hate. You have to deal with it on a local, day-to-day level," said Stanley Mark, the AALDEF lawyer. (Courtesy theguardian.com)

Ida said that for those working in mental health, the Biden administration's proposed 2023 budget has been a source of hope. It allocates an unprecedented billions upon billions to expand access to mental health services — for example, \$1bn to double the number of school counselors and other school health professionals over the next 10 years. Ultimately, many agree that whatever the federal, policy and big-picture solutions, combating hate boils down to individuals taking action. "Legislation helps, but you can't legislate away hate. You have to deal with it on a local, day-to-day level," said Stanley Mark, the AALDEF lawyer. (Courtesy theguardian.com)