

# A YEAR OF RACIST ATTACKS: ANTI-ASIAN RACISM ACROSS CANADA ONE YEAR INTO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Chinese Canadian National Council  
Toronto Chapter



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the survey respondents for sharing their experiences with us. Retelling our experiences of racism can be traumatizing but we hope that by bringing together our experiences we can raise our collective voices to speak up the growing issue of anti-Asian racism and its impact on our communities. Let us work together towards anti-Asian racism and all forms of hate and prejudice.

This project would not have been possible without the contributions of the Steering Committee organizations including: The Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNC Toronto), Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice, the Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, and the Civic Engagement Network Society Of Canada.

CCNC Toronto would like to recognize the important work of Ellen K., Doris C. and Project 1907 without which this project would have been impossible. Thank you to Dr. Lorne Foster who assisted in review the initial survey design.

We look to a resilient international network of anti-racist organizing, activism and solidarity in addressing the waves of anti-Asian racism, including groups in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. Thank you all who continue this collective fight before, during and after this pandemic. Specific thanks to STOP AAPI HATE whose early survey was an inspiration and informed the development of our platform and our survey.

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# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



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# TOWARDS RACIAL JUSTICE: A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

We recognize our work against racial violence takes place on stolen Indigenous land. It is our collective responsibility to pay respect and recognize that we are here because this land is occupied. Out of respect for the rights of Indigenous people, we recognize our colonial histories and present-day implications to honour, protect and sustain this land. We recognize these histories and commit to being active participants in supporting decolonization and further advancing the rights and sovereignty of the Indigenous peoples and their nations.

As racialized settlers, we write this report in what we come to call as the city of Toronto, in the Dish With One Spoon Territory. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishnaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

We recognize how anti-Black racism, Islamophobia and other forms of racism and discrimination require urgent attention and that we must all commit to eradicating these types of systemic injustice in order for all our communities to achieve social justice. We also recognize how Asian communities must strive to continue work in support of other racialized communities and their demands for racial and social justice and that we must commit to doing the work in our own communities to address and combat these types of discrimination and injustices.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- From March 10th, 2020 to February 28th, 2021 there were 1150 cases of racist attacks from across Canada reported on our web platforms with 835 cases reported on covidracism.ca and 315 cases reported to elimin8hate.org. Data analysis was conducted using data up to December 31st, 2020.
- 40% and 44% of all cases of racist attacks and incidents were reported from Ontario and British Columbia respectively.
- 11% of all reported attacks and incidents contained a violent physical assault and/or unwanted physical contact.
- 10% of all attacks and incidents included a form of assault through being coughed at and/or being spat on.
- Those who identify as women represent close to 60% of all reported cases, while those who identify as men are twice as likely to report a physical assault.
- While the majority of those impacted are East Asians (accounting for 84% of all reports), Southeast Asians also accounted for 6% of all reported incidents.
- In addition to public spaces, spaces in the food sector (grocery stores, restaurants etc.) were a prominent site of racist attacks accounting for almost 1/5th of all racist attacks/incidents.
- Children and adolescents/youth (under 18) and Older Adults/seniors (55+) were much more likely to report being physically assaulted (42% and 57% more likely respectively) and more likely to report being coughed at and spat on (233% and 250%, respectively) than those who are young adults (Ages 19-35).
- Individuals who reported an incident in Chinese were much more likely to report suffering from emotional distress (34% more likely) and experiencing physical assault (100% more likely) than those who reported an incident in English.
- Individuals who suffered racist attacks and incidents wanted more public education, collective action against racism, policy changes and more individual support.



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

*These recommendations are arrived at from the data collected from our platform and on-going work in supporting the community within the rising waves of anti-Asian racism.*

- A. The severity and pervasiveness of anti-Asian racism reported requires immediate attention from all levels of government. Federal, provincial and municipal governments and all political parties must recognize anti-Asian racism as a distinct area of discrimination that requires immediate action. In particular, the government must:
  - a. Recognize the importance of anti-racism education by committing financial and other resources to community-led organizations to carry out anti-racism education.
  - b. Provide comprehensive, community-based, culturally specific, collective and individual social supports that would be accessible for those from diverse backgrounds and of all language abilities to ensure that victims and survivors of racist attacks and anti-Asian racism can receive the support they need so that our communities can recover holistically.
  - c. Implement comprehensive policies to prevent the spread of misinformation in media and social media which incites negative public discourse and further provokes racism (for example, policies proposed by CCNC-SJ).
  - d. Fund more educational initiatives about the long history of Chinese Canadians and Asian Canadians in Canada, their historical experiences with racism and their contributions to Canada.
  
- B. Recognize that while anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism happens to anyone who is perceived to be from such a group, adopt a targeted approach based on intersectional equity, to ensure those who are most vulnerable are protected. Evidence from our data suggests specific attention needs to be paid to: seniors, those with limited English fluency, low income individuals, women, frontline workers, individuals without permanent immigration status, LGBTQ+ community members, those facing mental health issues and others.



- C. In light of the prevalence of racist attacks in restaurants, food and grocery establishments, accounting for almost 1/5th of all reported incidents, and the high numbers of Chinese and Asian Canadian essential workers in this sector, specific attention directed towards the protection of workers, operators and customers in these areas is critical.
- a. Recognize that workers and small businesses in the Chinese and Asian food sector have been impacted doubly: not only by the lockdown measures and economic damage resulting but also from racist attacks and racialized stigmatization of the sector. Provide support to these small businesses and workers in these sectors by ensuring there is robust support and a comprehensive recovery support strategy.
  - b. Equip community, labour and businesses groups from Asian communities with the resources to support local businesses, workers and consumers in responding to racist attacks in these workplaces.
- D. Chinese and Asian Canadians also face racism as workers. As frontline and essential workers during the pandemic, they are vulnerable to racist attacks and the same vulnerabilities that frontline and essential workers face. Fighting anti-Asian racism is also about recognizing how systemic inequity renders racialized communities more likely to be frontline and essential workers, and also ensuring that these workers have the protections they need:
- a. Ensure all workers have access to legislated paid sick days: seven permanent paid sick days in regular times and 14 paid sick days during health emergencies.
  - b. Ensure satisfactory income support during and after the pandemic for all.
  - c. Ensure status on arrival and implement a regularization program to grant permanent resident status to all migrants and people with precarious immigration status.





# INTRODUCTIONS

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*“An Asian-looking TTC driver is chatting with a woman who wears a scarf around her nose and mouth. The woman began to say that the driver was unprofessional and should not have a conversation. And she began to say that he did not look Canadian, and was angry that there were too many in Canada who did not look Canadian. The woman also said that the driver’s English was not good and told the driver to “go home and learn to speak English”*

*Incident report on [COVIDracism.ca](https://COVIDracism.ca)*

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In response to addressing the growing anti-Asian racism that has intensified amidst COVID-19, the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, Chinese Canadian National Council Social Justice, Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic, and Civic Engagement Network - Society of Canada have come together to create COVIDRacism.ca, a website platform dedicated to tracking self-reported and witness-reported incidents of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia in Canada. This project seeks to document and detail the spectrum of experiences felt across Asian Canadian communities.

This report discusses findings from the quantitative and qualitative data analysis gathered from the [COVIDRacism.ca](https://COVIDRacism.ca) website and our partner site [eliminatehate.org](https://eliminatehate.org). It will highlight key trends and observations from rising tides of anti-Asian and anti-Chinese racism. This report adds to the growing body of international research surrounding the uptick in anti-Asian racism accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic by focusing specifically on Canadian experiences.

While this report centers on the urgent need to address the realities of Chinese and Asian Canadians in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it also acknowledges that present day racism is situated in historical exclusions of Chinese and Asian Canadians in Canada. Constructions of East Asians as the “Yellow Peril” and as bodies that were to be excluded and perpetually diseased, were seen as early as the 1880’s through the head tax on Chinese immigrants from 1885 to 1923, the Chinese Exclusion Act (1923 to 1947) and prominently again during the Second World War with the internment of Japanese Canadians (Palmer, 1980; Wang, 2006). These exclusions speak to the perception of East Asians as “perpetual foreigners” in Canada, regardless of generational status.

Therefore, recommendations from this report aim to tackle the history and on-going legacies of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian sentiment in Canada that predate and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



An enduring theme of the racist attacks is that some, if not all, Chinese and Asian people are somehow responsible for the origin, let alone the pain and arrival of COVID-19 in Canada. In line with the pattern of racism during SARS also documented by our organization in 2003 (Leung, 2003), COVID-19 quickly became racialized as the “Chinese Virus”. The absurdity of such a notion is not borne out in facts. While some of the first cases were indeed travellers from Wuhan, it has become apparent that the spread, the overwhelming cases that became predominant in North America, actually originated from travellers from the U.S. and Europe, and not those flying from China (Rito et al., 2020; Tumilty, 2020). The search for the origin of the virus is on-going, but irregardless of where it originated, pandemics represent the growing challenges of human development and the natural world - not any particular race or ethnicity.

Nonetheless, the trope of Chinese and Asian communities being responsible for COVID-19 endures. This comes despite the fact that Chinese and Asian communities were some of the first to practice safety measures including self isolating after travel, providing care to community members returning from overseas, and sharing their knowledge and understanding of the virus with the broader public. Chinese and Asian Canadians, like many other racialized communities, are also disproportionately on the frontlines fighting against COVID-19, working essential jobs such as in the food and care sectors. Chinese Canadians have also been active in leading donation efforts of personal protective equipment (PPE) during the most dire periods.

Instead of being recognized as contributing significantly to the fight against COVID-19, Chinese and Asian communities in Canada have been met with racism, violence and attacks. Early adoption of mask wearing in Asian communities became and continues to be marks for exclusion and violence. While we cannot undo the past, we should certainly learn from the lessons they provide. This report and the racism that it documents is a testament of not only how anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism has long been present (even historically foundational) to Canadian society, but also how it simply takes one tragic pandemic to resurrect the everyday racism against Chinese and Asian communities and drive it into a full blown tidal wave of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian attacks across the nation. We must recognize both the extent and seriousness of these forms of racism and work towards eliminating systemic racism that exists in our societies, to move us towards a Canada and a world that is fair and just for all.

# METHODOLOGY

Data was collected through the self reporting of people who witnessed racist incidents or experienced racist incidents through the websites [COVIDRacism.ca](https://www.covidracism.ca) and [elimin8hate.org](https://www.elimin8hate.org). Data collection began in March 2020 and ended on December 31st 2020. At the end of the collection period, data from the two websites were sorted and analyzed. While questions in the two surveys were roughly similar, due to some variations in the survey, some data was not collapsible.

In addition to the overall responses to the survey, the reporting forms provided opportunities for reporters to include qualitative data about their experiences and what they would like to see change as a result. Relevant qualitative data has also been included throughout the report to provide an understanding of the experiences behind the quantitative data.

Due to the survey being carried out in multiple phases and in different languages (English, French, Chinese traditional, Chinese simplified), we consolidated the CCNCTO survey results from multiple phases and mapped all questions and answers to their English equivalents for analysis. To perform meta-analysis with Project 1907 data, we mapped questions and answers where appropriate. Note that not all fields between the two surveys allowed for a one-to-one mapping. In situations where the data was not collapsible, we relied on the data from [covidracism.ca](https://www.covidracism.ca) due to the higher number of cases reported.

Prior to analysis of the data, we cleaned the data collected by taking the following steps:

- De-duplicate submissions from the same IP and answers, which were submitted within one minute of each other.
- Remove false reports with racist comments in the description
- Fill in missing city or province information using geopandas for IP addresses

To explore relations between different variables in section C, we used Python pandas and plotly for data analysis and visualization respectively. The primary concern of our analysis was testing for potential relationships between answers for different question pairings.

It is worth noting there are, of course, limitations to this data. First, the data remains reliant on the self reporting of visitors to our websites. Secondly, there are many reasons why people may not be able to report or may face barriers in reporting, as such, their experiences would not find representation here. Overall, while there are many more limitations with this report, and while we recognize this is by no means an exhaustive overview of the topic, we hope it will serve as an important entry point, as a relatively large community collection of data, into how the rise of anti-Asian racism during COVID-19 has impacted our communities. We hope that more researchers and research funding will continue this important work by engaging in more in-depth and systematic analysis. With the community's interest at the fore, such research will help us understand how the rise of anti-Asian hate and racism has impacted our communities across Canada.



# RESEARCH FINDINGS

## A. PROFILES OF THOSE WHO REPORTED

### I. Total number of reported instances

From March 10th, 2020 to February 28th, 2021 there were 1150 cases of racist attacks from across Canada reported on our web platforms with 835 cases reported on [covidracism.ca](https://www.covidracism.ca) and 315 cases reported to [elimin8hate.org](https://www.elimin8hate.org). Data analysis was conducted using data up to December 31st, 2020.

The data in the remainder of the report only analyzes data received up to December 31st, 2020, which is 643 cases. The reason we were only able to assess the data up to this point is because our website is live and continues to receive submissions. However due to practical constraints, we are unable to continuously incorporate and introduce new data into our analysis. As such, unless otherwise noted, the data analysis that follows is based on the 643 reports that were received by December 31st, 2020.

Number of Incidents	
I witnessed this incident.	124
It happened to me.	348
Other	43
Uncategorized	128
Total	643

1.0 - Number of Incidents

Of the total cases, 67% were self reported incidents (whereby an individual who faces racism reports the incident), 24% were witness reports (whereby an individual witnesses an incident of racism happening to another and decides to make a report) and 9% were third party logs of incidents (these may include staff logging incidents witnessed on the news).

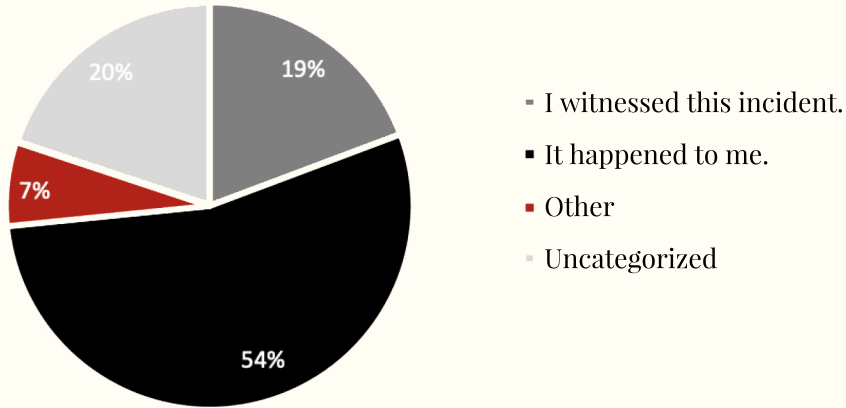
.....

*“A colleague, a nurse, asked me what I was eating for dinner. I replied I was eating chicken. The nurse asked if I was eating a bat. She turned to the rest of the staff who were witnessing this exchange [and said] that her son told her that: “the coronavirus started because they eat bats”.”*

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### SELF-REPORT VS. WITNESSED REPORT BREAKDOWN



1.1 - Reporting Rules

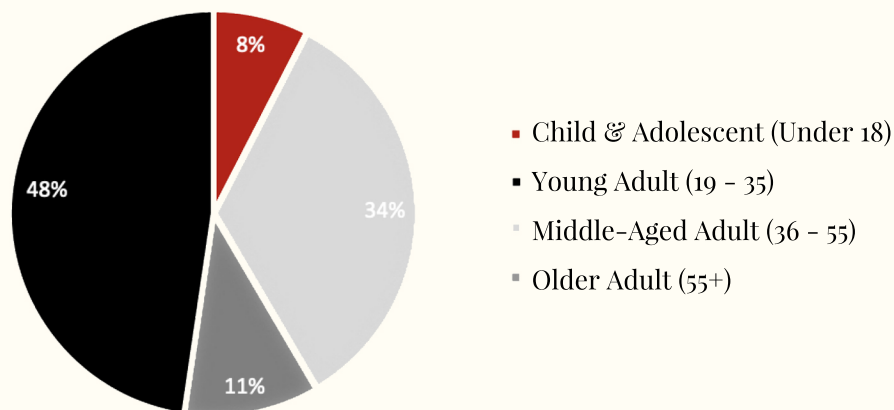
### II. The age profile of individuals who reported are as follows\*:

The breakdown of the age demographics is as follows:

7.6% of those who reported were in the Child & Adolescent (Under 18) category, 47.6% were Young Adults (19-35), 34% were Middle-Aged Adults (36 - 55) and 10.7% were Older Adults (55+).

Young adults were by far the largest group to report incidents. Throughout our analysis, we will continue to see that age remains an important factor.

### BREAKDOWN OF AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



1.2 - Age Demographics

### III. The gender profile of reporters is as follows

59% of those who reported self identified as female, 36% as male, 2% identified as other.

Gender Profile	Percentage (%) of Incidents
Female	59.22
Male	35.7
Other	2.13
Prefer not to say	0.78
Unable to tell	0.58
Transgender	0.39
Non-binary	0

### 1.3 - Gender Profile

In line with previous findings, those identifying as female/women greatly outpaced men and other genders in reporting racist incidents.

## IV. Provincial distribution of data

The majority of cases documented were from Ontario and British Columbia, respectively accounting for 40% and 44% of all reported instances. Together, they accounted for 84% of all reported incidents in Canada.

Quebec accounted for 6% of all reported incidents, Alberta accounted for 5%, Saskatchewan and Manitoba combined to account for 3% and the remainder of incidents were from the Atlantic provinces.

Province	Percentage of Incidents
British Columbia	44.44 %
Ontario	39.64 %
Quebec	6.46 %
Alberta	5.41 %
Saskatchewan	2.85 %
Manitoba	0.60 %
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.30 %
Nova Scotia	0.15 %
Prince Edward Island	0.15 %

### 1.4 - Regional Distributions

## V. Racial profile of those reporting

While East Asian populations accounted for the majority of those who reported instances of racism, accounting for 84% of all those who reported, it is clear that the racism incited during the past year also impacted other racialized communities.

Those who identified as Southeast Asian accounted for 6% of all total cases reported, while those who identified as Indigenous, South Asian, and biracial, each accounted for 2% of total cases.

Racial Group	Percentage of Incidents
East Asian	84.20 %
Southeast Asian	6.26 %
Biracial	2.04 %
South Asian (e.g Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani)	1.75 %
Indigenous	1.46 %
Prefer not to say	1.16 %
Other	1.16 %
Black	0.58 %
Central Asian (e.g. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan)	0.29 %
Unable to tell	0.29 %

1.5 - Racial/ethnic profile of respondents

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*"After coming up from this intersection where there was no traffic light, a sports car with sunroof open speed toward me who was about to cross the road. The white male driver had no sign of slowing down in his car speed. I stopped and when he passing me, he raised his hand through the sunroof and yelled at me to "go back to China". I am not Chinese but a mixed race Taiwanese."*

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## B. OVERVIEW OF INSTANCES OF RACISM AND RACIST ATTACKS

Amongst the reported instances of racism, the types of racist attacks were wide and varied, ranging from violent assaults to verbal harassment. In this section, we offer a cross section of the types of attacks that happened and share some findings on potential motives for both attacking and reporting.

### I. Where did instances of racism and racist attacks happen?

Of those reporting incidents, 49% of participants reported that the incident happened in a public space / park / street or sidewalk, 17% of incidents happened at a grocery store and food establishment, 10% happened on public transit and 8% happened at a public store. The remaining types of locations are listed in the chart below for reference.

It is important to clarify that though some areas appear to have fewer reports of racist attacks, we should not dismiss them for not being areas of serious concern. As we know, there are many reasons why individuals may not report; for instance, they may have concerns around retaliation, as well as fear of job loss, eviction and other repercussions.

Location of Incident	Percentage of Incidents
Public Space / Park / Street / Sidewalk	49.14%
Business Grocery or Food Store, Restaurant	17.11%
Public Transport	9.33 %
Business Other Stores or Offices	8.24%
Other	6.69%
Private Residence	6.22%
Online	4.35%
Parking Lot	3.11%
School / College / University / Educational Institute	2.95%
My Office	2.64%
Government Office	0.47%
Place of Worship	0.16%

2.1 Location of reported incidents



Overwhelmingly, the majority of attacks happened in public spaces. This is in line with both the realities of living under COVID-19 conditions and the extensive research that has demonstrated how racism is significantly about denying racialized communities equal and full access to public spaces.

The fact that the second highest percentage of incidents occurred in grocery stores, food stores, and restaurants indicates that essential workers and especially vulnerable essential workers such as those in the food services sectors (which tend to be more gendered, racialized, immigrant/migrant heavy etc.), may be particularly vulnerable to racist attacks, as they attend these locations daily for work.

Overall, the breadth of places where racist attacks occurred illustrate the growing climate of fear that Chinese and Asian Canadians continue to face. This renewed and heightened sense of fear reaches even into the private residences of people:

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*“Though it's unfortunate that there are a few individuals who feel it's necessary to blame this global pandemic on Asians (and in my case, a Canadian-born Asian who's never been to China), I am encouraged by the many who stood by me and promptly took a stand against racism.”*

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## **II. What type of racist incidents and racist attacks were they?**

The most common type of attack was verbal harassment, accounting for 73% of total reports. Accounts of verbal harassment demonstrate that it is perpetuated by people of different ages and occurs between strangers and acquaintances alike.

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*“My 15 year old daughter was walking our dog and a woman walking toward her on the sidewalk crossed to the other side of the street and shouted, “Sorry, but I’m allergic to Asians!””*

*“While my daughter was playing in the open green area in the complex property, a few girls approached her and said “Why are you Chinese people spreading the COVID-19 all over the world? It's so annoying and all of the things are your fault!!”*

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The next most common type of attack was physical assault/aggression or unwanted physical contact, accounting for 11% of reports.

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*“Asian man was going into the Quality Inn during a business trip. In the parking lot as he was going in, two men asked for money. He said he didn't have any, at which point they said "Why don't you give us some money for that shit [COVID-19] you brought over to Canada" and then lunged at him.”*

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This is followed by being coughed at and spat on, which accounted for roughly 10% of reports and being shunned or excluded, which also accounted for 10% of reports. Other types of attacks are reported in the chart below.

Type of Discrimination	Percentage of Incidents
Verbal harassment	73.41%
Physical force, Aggression or Unwanted physical contact	10.73%
Coughed at / Spat on	9.95%
Other	7.62%
Vandalism	3.89%
Denied service	1.24%
Workplace discrimination	1.09%
Cyber-racism	0.93%
Discriminatory literature	0.62%
Barred from establishment, or Asked to leave (e.g. Restaurants, Shops)	0.47%
Robbery / Theft	0.16%
Abuse of power by police or Police brutality	0.16%

## 2.2 Types of attack and/or discrimination

Although anger may be directed towards a certain group, attacks on allies also account for a percentage of physical assaults. Such behaviour dissuades and discourages allies from potentially coming to the aid of victims, further isolating and marginalizing Chinese and Asian Canadians when they are attacked. As one witness account graphically details,

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*“Two East Asian women wearing protective masks sat diagonally across from a white man. After seeing the two Asian women wearing masks, the man suddenly screamed at the two women: “Go back to your own country!” Although it is uncertain whether the two East Asian women wearing masks are Chinese, it can be seen from the man’s words that he discriminated against and targeted the Chinese community. Two Asian women who were inexplicably scolded by strangers were shocked and angry, but faced with such a crazy moron, they did not dare to resist. At this time, a kind woman who had witnessed everything on the bus stepped forward. She asked the white man not to attack the two Asian women. The brave woman was sitting next to two Asian women, directly opposite the white man. The white man was choked back and was very upset, so he quarreled with the woman. Then he rushed over and started kicking the woman frantically, then tore the woman from the seat, fell to the ground, punched her head continuously, and bowed left and right! The poor woman was violently beaten on the floor of the bus by a madman! This man was extremely vicious, not only slapped the woman’s head and face, but also smashed her hair! A whole piece of the woman’s scalp and a lot of hair were torn off! Finally, the man stopped his hand when the bus arrived at the station and ran off the bus.”*

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It is important to highlight the significance of being coughed at and spat on. Both of these acts are deeply disturbing and represent very direct violence against Chinese and Asian individuals. Not only is being coughed and spat at a form of attack and a form disrespect, but in the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also a direct attempt at subjecting and exposing Chinese and Asian Canadians to the biohazardous realities of COVID-19. It is to say, “you Chinese people and Asian are not only responsible, but I’m going to make sure you get this COVID-19”.

### III. What were the suspected reasons for attacks?

When asked why they thought they were targeted, unsurprisingly, race remained the predominant causal factor as understood by those who experienced racist attacks. However, wearing of face masks and gender also represented significant contributing factors.

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*“Two males in their late 20s/early 30s attacked me from behind during my morning walk. They kicked me repeatedly for a couple of minutes, while shouting at me to go back to China with the COVID-19 virus that I brought.”*

*“A white man yelled at me to take my mask off, that I looked ridiculous (for wearing it, I assume) and called me a Chinese bitch”*

.....

Suspected Reason for Attack	Percentage of Incidents
Race	72.15%
Face Mask or Clothing	10.53%
Gender	7.02%
Language	3.29%
Other	2.63%
Religion	1.97%
Food	1.54%
Sexual Orientation	0.88%

#### 2.3 Suspected reasons for attack

It is important to note that while race remains the primary suspected reason for attacks, one's race cannot always be determined without disclosure. Therefore, those who do not identify as Chinese Canadian or Asian Canadian have also faced the effects of anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism.



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*“There was one white man walking toward me in front of me at the [grocery store]. He stared at me and kept walking, when he was close enough to me, he said YOU DEATH GIVER! And some other dirty words, I didn't realize what was happening and just kept walking by... After a few seconds, I found he recognized me as a Chinese and blamed a random Asian (that he thought is Chinese) for the pandemic... I am very disappointed and sad, I am not a Chinese. Even if I am, what's wrong with being a Chinese?” (edited for spelling)*

*“A white woman in a cannabis store not realizing I'm Chinese, says to me, "I'm glad you're wearing a mask. We need to protect ourselves from these dirty Chinese.”*

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#### **IV. When did racist instances and attacks happen?**

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*“I was browsing in Shoppers Drug Mart when this caucasian lady came towards me and said to me "Shame on you" repeatedly. There were security guards and other workers who witnessed that but nobody said anything, which made me feel extremely unsafe.”*

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The majority of racist incidents and attacks occurred in the afternoon (12pm - 5pm) accounting for 57% of all attacks. Racist attacks in the morning (6am - 12pm) accounted for 19% of all instances, 20% occurred in the Evening (5pm - 9pm) and 4% occurred at night (9pm - 6am).

#### **V. What were the consequences of the racist attacks?**

Experiencing racist attacks can be a traumatic experience that may impact people in many different ways. Survey respondents were asked about the repercussions from the attacks and racism they experienced. The most common type of response was mental distress/emotional harm, which occurred in 73% of respondents.

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*“My partner and I crossed the street in front of a few white guys in a truck. There was no interaction until we passed them, no escalation. First, they loudly shouted something at us that I couldn't make out initially (wasn't sure they were talking to us). They then proceed to make mock gunfire sounds - "pow pow pow" - to intimidate us. They then told us "go back fucking Chinese". The incident, particularly the gunfire noises, shook us up.*

*“Will it get to the point that I will one day need to escape from my beloved Canada to save my life? Seeing how things are unfolding, I fear that it might eventually happen. This has led to immense anxiety, deep depression and sleeplessness. Very painful to feel hated by everyone in one's own home country.”*

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Meanwhile, 8% of respondents reported physical harm, and 3% noted financial loss as a result of the racist attack.

Consequences of Attack	Percentage of Incidents
Mental Distress / Emotional Harm	73.22%
Other	9.72%
Physical Harm	8.42%
Loss of services and/or Benefits to meet my needs	3.24%
Financial Loss	3.02%
Loss of Housing	1.30%
Loss of Job	1.08%

#### 2.4 Consequences of attacks on respondents

While the numbers around loss of jobs, financial loss, loss of housing and other categories are relatively low, a cautionary note is important. We know that the implications of mental distress and emotional harm caused by racism can lead to serious all around damages to racialized communities including declining sense of well being and belonging as well as fear of interacting with others and seeking necessary resources (Chen et al., 2020; McMurtry et al., 2019). Many respondents noted that their experience left them feeling unsafe and in some cases, resulted in their avoidance of the spaces where the attack occurred.

.....

*“My father was forced out of a Food Basic's grocery store by a white man. This white man walked up to him and berated him, shouting at him to "get the hell out" and that he didn't deserve to "take up space." My father was shocked and left the store. On his way out, a black employee spoke to him and encouraged my father to "take his time shopping instead," but my father did not feel very safe anymore in the store.”*

*“White man forbid me to get on the train, he told me to stand there and blocked my entrance to get on train. I walked around him and he called me "f\*cking b\*tch!" I was feeling afraid to take the train for a few days.”*

.....

## **VI. Why did people want to report the racist attack or incidents?**

Experiencing a racist incident may be traumatic for many. Many reported incidents on the website platforms to externalize their traumatic experience, to recognize that their experience is not an isolated experience, and with the hopes of collective change.

.....

*“Since the new crown epidemic, Asians have been increasingly threatened. Our demand for public education around anti-racism. Meanwhile, 26% of individuals hoped it would lead to more collective action, 19% percent saw it as an opportunity to move towards policy reform and 8% hoped sharing would provide individual support. Summary results are displayed in the table below.*

.....

Desired Results from Reporting	Percentage of Incidents
Public Education	38.49%
Collective Action	26.55%
Policy Reform	19.16%
Individual Support	8.40%
Other	6.22%
Nothing	1.18%

### **2.5 Why did respondents report?**

The importance of collective action can be seen through one respondent's reflection on having the support of his community during these unprecedented times:

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*“Though it's unfortunate that there are a few individuals who feel it's necessary to blame this global pandemic on Asians (and in my case, a Canadian-born Asian who's never been to China), I am encouraged by the many who stood by me and promptly took a stand against racism.”*

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## C. DEEPER ANALYSIS ON HOW RACIST ATTACKS HAPPEN

### I. How did different groups experience attacks differently?

In addition to examining the profiles of individuals impacted by racist attacks and what those racist attacks looked like, we also sought to look deeper into whether or not there were patterned behaviours in the racist attacks that have deeply impacted Chinese and Asian communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we tested a number of relations within the data to explore how different groups experience and respond to racism differently. In the following section, we offer an overview of some of the relevant relations we have found in the data.

### II. Older and younger groups were more likely to report being physically assaulted, and being coughed at and spat on.

There appears to be a pattern where racist attacks are targeted towards those who are seen as vulnerable, specifically, the young and the old. Respondents in those age groups experienced much higher rates of physical harm, with older adults, age 55 and above, accounting for 15% of all physical assaults reported, and those under the age of 18 accounting for 14% of all physical assaults reported.

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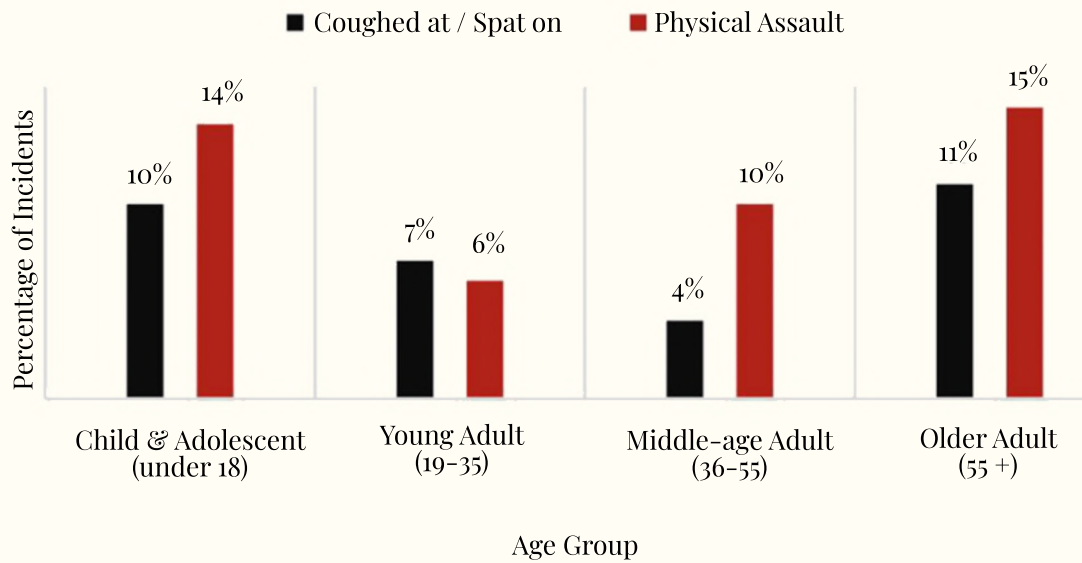
*“When the child was riding a bicycle, he chased and abused the child. The child was torn off the bicycle while preparing to record the video and [he] hit the child on the ground.”*

*“I just got news my mother was punched in the eye as she was getting off the bus during rush hour. She hasn't reported it and wants to forget about what happened. She said it was racially motivated and not sure if people saw it happen as it was quite busy. I am heart broken this happened to her.”*

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Similar trends were observed for those reporting being coughed at and spat on, with older adults, age 55 and above, comprising 11% of all reports, and individuals under the age of 18 comprising 10% of all reports.

### AGE GROUP & TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION



#### 3.2 Age and type of discrimination 1

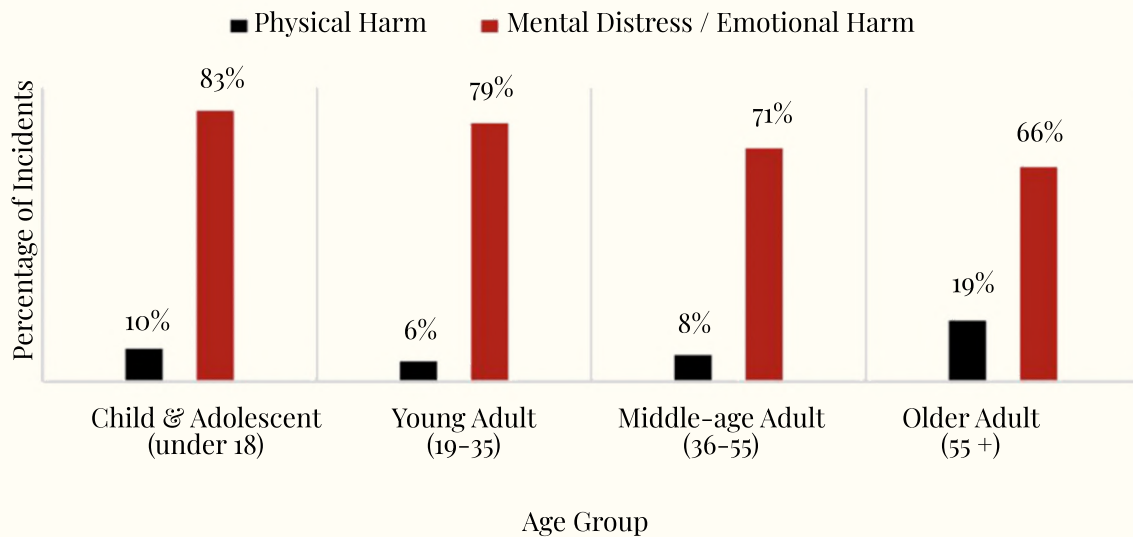
Type of Discrimination	Coughed at / Spat upon	Physical Assault
Child & Youth (Under 18)	10%	14%
Young Adult (19-35)	7%	6%
Middle-Aged Adult (36 - 55)	4%	10%
Older Adult (55+)	11%	15%

#### 3.3 Age and type of discrimination 2

### III. Older and younger groups were more likely to report physical harm, youngest most impacted emotionally and mental distress.

Amongst adolescents, the racist attacks have resulted in significant mental and emotional harm, outpacing that of all other age groups. This data suggests that young people are more deeply impacted by the racist attacks than those in the older cohorts.

**AGE GROUP & TYPE OF HARM**



3.4 Age and type of harm 1

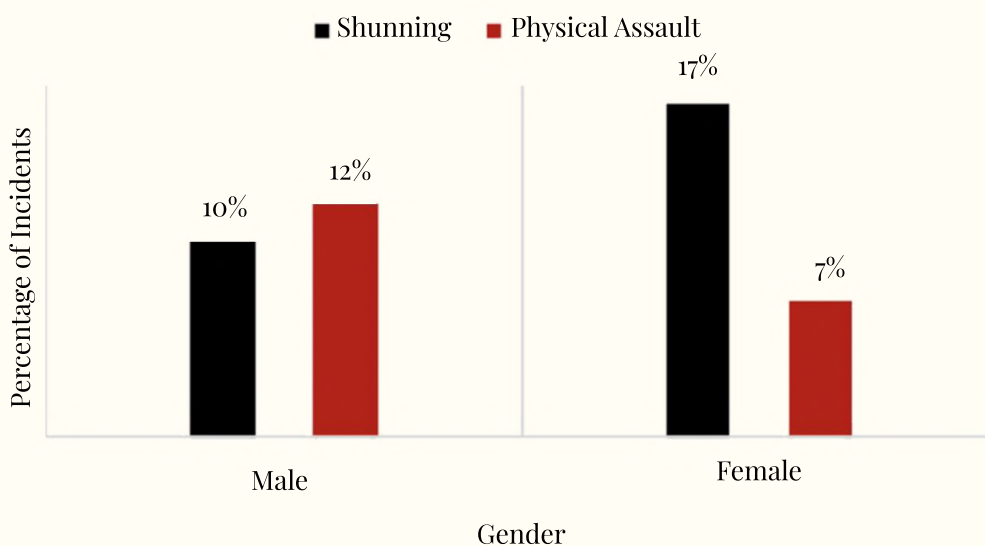
Type of Harm	Physical Harm	Mental Distress / Emotional Harm
Child & Adolescent (Under 18)	10%	83%
Young Adult (19-35)	6%	79%
Middle-Aged Adult (36 - 55)	8%	71%
Older Adult (55+)	19%	66%

3.5 Age and type of harm 2

**IV. Those identifying as men were more likely to report a physical assault, and those identifying as women reported higher rates of shunning.**

Those who identified as women were nearly twice as likely to report incidents of shunning than those who identified as men. Those who identified as men were nearly twice as likely to report being physically assaulted than those who identified as women.

**GENDER & TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION**



3.6 Gender and type of discrimination 1

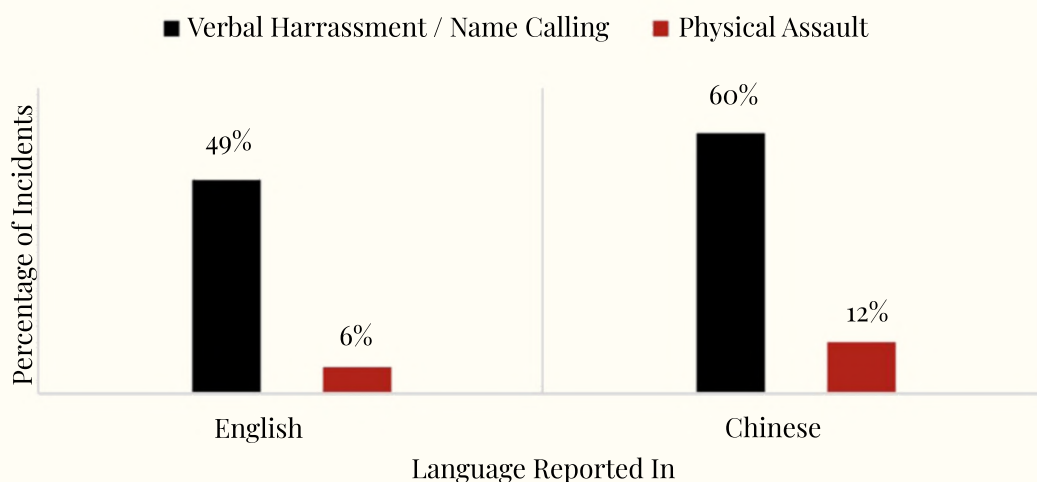
Type of Discrimination	Shunning	Physical Assault
Male	10%	12%
Female	17%	7%

3.7 Gender and type of discrimination 2

## V. Those who reported in Chinese were more likely to report physical assault and verbal harassment than those who reported in English.

Since our dataset contained different languages, we were able to compare the population of people that reported in Chinese and that of those who reported in English. In general, we found that those who reported in Chinese had nearly double the rate of physical assault than those that reported in English. They also had a higher rate of verbal harassment.

### LANGUAGE REPORTED IN & TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION



3.8 Language reported and type of discrimination 1

Type of Discrimination	Verbal Harassment & Name Calling	Physical Assault
English Survey Respondents	49%	6%
Chinese Survey Respondents	60%	12%

3.9 Language reported and type of discrimination 2



## **VI. Those reporting in Chinese reported a much higher degree of mental and emotional distress than those reporting in English.**

Language fluency also appeared to be a relevant consideration when looking at how racism was experienced. For instance, over 91% of those who reported in Chinese reported mental distress and emotional harm as a result of their experience of racism. This compares with a noticeably lower, 68% of those who reported in English.

<b>Type of Harm</b>	<b>Mental Distress/ Emotional Harm</b>
English Survey Respondents	68%
Chinese Survey Respondents	91%

3.10 Language reported and emotional harm

# CONCLUSION

As our report has aimed to illustrate, attacks against Asian communities have intensified in the past year. Asian Canadian communities not only face the challenges of COVID-19 (the social, economic and health implications of which has disproportionately impacted racialized communities) but also the added racism that sees our communities as somehow responsible for COVID-19 and its horrific damages.

What is needed from our policy makers is dedicated action towards addressing anti-Asian racism. As we outline in the policy recommendations earlier in this report, recognition that anti-Asian racism is an issue is an important step. Ensuring commitment and dedication across the different levels of government to fund and support anti-racism initiatives that would allow our communities to heal and recover from racism remains critical.

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