

## **1. Background**

Asian Americans have had a long-lasting presence and prevalence in America, and from 2000 to 2019, Asian Americans had the fastest growing population out of all the racial and ethnic groups in the United States.<sup>1</sup> However, despite this, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a disturbing number of anti-Asian hate crimes from what Cezina Choy describes as “racial, classed, gendered, and sexualized scapegoating”.<sup>2</sup> According to the the California Department of Justice, anti-Asian bias events increased 177.5% from 2020 to 2021 in CA.<sup>3</sup> While providing a picture of anti-Asian hate, it is likely that there are even more cases that went undocumented as well.

### Sources:

1&2: Choy, Ceniza. Asian American Histories of the United States. Boston: Beacon Press, 2022.

3: [2021 Hate Crimes in CA](#)

## **2. What the project hopes to achieve**

We hope to be able to map Asian American hate incidents in CA. There was a spike in 2020 during COVID, so perhaps we could analyze data before, during, and after the pandemic. If we identify which neighborhoods have the highest densities of hate crimes, we can help police officers schedule their shifts and deployment of officers to areas that need the most help.

## **3. Description on which communities will be empowered**

We aim to empower Asian dominant communities in CA and/or communities in CA where there is a high density of Asian American hate crimes. Our hope is that in bringing awareness to these issues, Asian Americans and other minorities can feel seen and heard. So often, Asian American and minority history is erased in favor of depicting America in a better light, such as with the idea of the “American Dream” and the ideal place for immigrants to have a better future. Through mapping, we can provide documentation and a visualization of the struggles of the Asian American community, specifically in California.

## **4. At least 2 user stories from the perspective of community members**

“As an elderly Asian person living in Chinatown, I am concerned about my safety when walking home, especially at night, or while carrying groceries when I can’t easily run away or fight off attackers. Also, the stories from attacks on Asians in New York City during the pandemic have made me scared about those incidents occurring in California cities at high frequencies as well.”

“It’s frustrating to be targeted when I have no connection with COVID. I’m a 5th generation Chinese American, and I haven’t even ever gone to China before. But I still have people shouting at me to ‘go back where I came from’, that I’m full of disease, or that I am to blame for all of the tragedy that occurred, harassing me for no reason when I’m just trying to go about my day normally.”

## **5. 2-3 sample questions to be included on the survey**

- What is your gender?
- What is your age?
- What is your ethnicity?
- Where was the incident?
- What time was the incident?
- What are your feelings about the incident?
- Describe the incident

## **6. Future plans on how the project could be used in the future to give ownership of the tool to the community**

Our project's maps can be integrated into a dashboard that is updated regularly. In the future, we envision the ability to monitor Asian American hate crimes in all major CA cities. We hope bigger picture trends and patterns can be identified from our project. Hopefully, Asian Americans can gain insight about which neighborhoods to live in, what times of day are unsafe to go out, what types of incidents to be vigilant about, taking self defense classes, etc. We hope that our project can also help police officers identify which communities are most vulnerable and what times of day or days of the week more officers should be deployed. From an even broader perspective, we hope that our project can help raise awareness and support for the cause to combat the root cause of this social issue.