BULLYING/HARASSMENT
ISSUES IN THE ASIAN
AMERICAN PACIFIC
ISLANDER COMMUNITY
Introductions

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  - Commissioner, President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
  - Co-Founder and Director of Programs, Sikh Coalition

- Amanda Dallo
  - Attorney, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
For more information, please see our website at: www.whitehouse.gov/aapi
Background on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs)
AAPI Demographics

- 18 million
- 30 countries
- 50 ethnicities
- >100 languages
- >2/3 foreign-born
The AAPI Community: Demographics

U.S. MINORITY POPULATION BY RACE

Legend
- Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino

The AAPI Community Grew By 42.97% Between 2000 and 2010

The AAPI Community Is Projected to Grow Another 134% to Over 35.6 Million Over the Next 40 Years

* Denotes projected estimates
## States with the Greatest Growth of Asian Americans (2000-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage of Asian alone population based on 2000 Census data</th>
<th>Percentage of Asian alone population based on 2010 Census data</th>
<th>Percentage growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>↑116.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>↑91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>↑91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>↑83.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>↑81.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>↑78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>↑78.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>↑75.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>↑73.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>↑73.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>↑71.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>↑71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>↑70.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1
States with the Greatest Growth of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (2000-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage Growth of NHPI population from 2000-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>↑251.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>↑123.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>↑117.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>↑100.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>↑98.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>↑97.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>↑87.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1
Visit the U.S. Census website:

- Asian Americans: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority_links/asian.html
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority_links/hawaiian.html
Inside the Classroom
- Over half of Asian American students who reported being bullied at school indicated that it occurred in the classroom.

Outside the Classroom
- Asian Americans reported being bullied outside on school grounds at a rate 20% higher than whites and 10% higher than the next closest racial group.

Cyber-Bullying
- Asian American students reported being cyber-bullied once or twice a month at a rate 40% higher than other racial groups.
1982 – Vincent Chin was attacked and killed in Detroit due to anti-Japanese sentiment

2004 – Students regularly threw food, cans, and combination locks at Asian-American students, while shouting ethnic slurs, at Brooklyn’s Lafayette High School

2009 – Approximately 30 Asian American students were attacked due to their race by fellow classmates at South Philadelphia High School, sending 13 students to the emergency room

2013 – Sikh student regularly called “Aladdin,” “terrorist,” and told to “go back to his country” by fellow students in DeKalb County, Georgia
AAPI Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- Nearly 1 in 6 AAPI students is LEP
- The AAPI community has the second highest percentage of ELL students among all racial groups
- Highest AAPI LEP populations:
  - Bhutanese (71%)
  - Burmese (63%)
  - Vietnamese (53%)
21% of NHPI students reported being in a physical fight on school property at least once during the previous 12 months, compared to 16% of African American students, 14% of Hispanic students, and 10% of white students.
Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, South Asian Americans, particularly Muslim and Sikh Americans, have been victims of increased numbers of bias-related assaults and threats.

Hate crimes against Muslim and Sikh Americans have increased 17-fold since 2001.
Many harassment and discrimination cases amongst AAPIs go largely unreported.

In FY2011, 447 race-based complaints were filed with OCR, and of those, only 16 were by the AAPI community.

How researchers ask a question also determines how students will respond.
Lack of Action

- Lack of school implementation of harassment prevention measures
- Lack of school investigation and follow-up after reported bias-based harassment
  - Of the students who reported harassment to their schools, only 34% said that their parents were notified by the school and only 15.8% said that school officials prepared a written report with investigation results
Consequences of Bullying

- Health and mental issues
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Decreased academic achievement
- School drop outs
Legal Responsibilities
Office for Civil Rights

- Federal laws enforced by OCR prohibit discrimination, including harassment, in education programs and activities based on:
  - Race, color, or national origin
  - Sex
  - Age
  - Disability
Examples of Prohibited Discrimination under Title VI

- Disciplining students differently on the basis of race, color or national origin
- Assigning a student to an educational program or class on the basis of the student’s race
- Providing inadequate educational resources to limited English proficient students
- Failing to appropriately respond to harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin
What is Harassment?

- Unwelcome conduct such as:
  - Verbal abuse, such as name-calling, epithets, slurs
  - Graphic or written statements
  - Threats
  - Physical assault
  - Other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating

- Based on a protected class (race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion)

- That creates a hostile environment
Hostile Environment

- Totality of the circumstances

- Harassment may create a “hostile environment” when the conduct is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.
A school is responsible for addressing harassment incidents about which it knows or reasonably should have known.

Inquiry must be prompt, thorough, and impartial.

- Interview targeted students, offending students, and witnesses, and maintain written documentation of investigation
- Communicate with targeted students regarding steps taken to end harassment
- Check in with targeted students to ensure that harassment has ceased
Schools’ Legal Obligations

- When an investigation reveals that harassment has occurred, a school should take steps reasonably calculated to:
  - end the harassment,
  - eliminate any hostile environment,
  - prevent harassment from recurring, and
  - prevent retaliation against the targeted student(s) or complainant(s).
Possible Responses

- Develop, revise, and publicize:
  - policy prohibiting harassment and discrimination
  - grievance procedures for students to file harassment complaints
  - contact information for Title IX/Section 504/Title VI coordinators

- Implement training for staff and administration on identifying and addressing harassment

- Provide monitors or additional adult supervision in areas where harassment occurs
Possible Responses

- Discipline harassers.
- Limit interaction between harassers and target.
- Provide counseling to harassed students or harassers.
- Provide harassed student an additional opportunity to obtain a benefit that was denied (e.g., retaking a test/class).
- Provide services to a student who was denied a benefit (e.g., academic support services).
Possible Responses

- Publicize statements that the school will not tolerate harassment and will respond to any student who reports such conduct.
- Incorporate harassment awareness and cultural tolerance training into curriculum and other education programs for staff, students, and parents.
- Conduct school climate surveys.
- Involve parents and community groups in preventing future harassment.
Federal laws enforced by the Civil Rights Division’s Educational Opportunities Section prohibit discrimination, including harassment, in education programs and activities based on:

- Race, color, or national origin
- Sex
- Religion
- Disability
Differences Between OCR and CRD

- Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
  - Complaint resolution
  - Compliance reviews
  - Policy guidance
  - Technical assistance
  - Interagency coordination

- Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (CRD)
  - Investigations
  - Out-of-court settlements
  - Litigation in federal courts
  - Collaboration with OCR and other agencies
Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

- U.S. Department of Education
  Office for Civil Rights
  Lyndon B. Johnson Department of Education Building
  400 Maryland Avenue, SW
  Washington, DC 20202-1100

- Telephone: (800) 421-3481
  Fax: (202) 453-6012

- Email: OCR@ed.gov

- Website: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

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