



## Association of American Cancer Institutes

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The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) condemns racism and discrimination. We firmly believe that these intertwined issues must be confronted with a sense of urgency — just as we address cancer, COVID-19, and other crises that impact public health.

AACI's Board of Directors, staff, and cancer center leaders are deeply saddened by continued violence against communities of color. We are angered by the recent mass shooting in Atlanta targeting Asian-American women and killing eight people.

Gun violence itself is a public health crisis, responsible for the deaths of more than 30,000 Americans each year. Further, public health advocates have noted that xenophobic language used to describe the coronavirus early in the pandemic has fueled an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans in the past year. In fact, data released recently by Stop AAPI Hate shows more than 500 incidents of violence, discrimination, and harassment against Asian Americans in the first two months of 2021 — and nearly 3,800 firsthand reports since March 2020.

As an association comprised of 102 academic and freestanding cancer centers across the United States and in Canada, AACI is dedicated to accelerating progress against cancer through research, treatment, and advocacy. In our role as advocates, it is our duty to seek ways to improve health outcomes for all people — not just as they relate to cancer, but in all facets of public health.

AACI is committed to promoting health equity, diversity, and inclusion within North America's leading cancer centers and in our communities. We stand in solidarity with others in the cancer community—as well as with citizens across the U.S. and throughout the world—who are working to confront systemic racial discrimination and all forms of injustice.