

Asian American and Pacific Islander Discrimination: A Physician Perspective

Elisa Choi, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Saturday May 22, 2021

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May is...

- Asian Pacific American Heritage month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month

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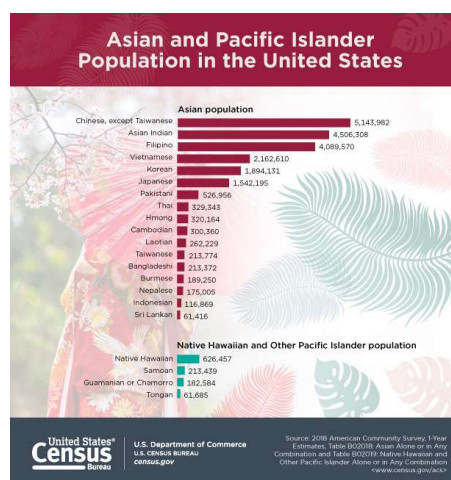
Pan Asian Community

- East Asia – China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia
- Southeast Asia - Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam
- South Asian - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka; Afghanistan and the Maldives
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna)

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US Census (2020)



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“Chinese Virus”, “China Virus”, “Kung Flu”

- "The United States will be powerfully supporting those industries, like Airlines and others, that are particularly affected by the ***Chinese Virus***. We will be stronger than ever before!" – 45th President of the United States of America, Twitter, March 16, 2020

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Atlanta - March 16, 2021

Soon Chung Park 박순정, age 74
 Hyun Jung Grant [김]현정, age 51
 Sun Cha Kim 김선자, age 69
 Yong Ae Yue 유영애, age 63
 Delaina Ashley Yaun, age 33
 Paul Andre Michels, age 54
 Xiaojie Tan 譚小洁, age 49
 Daoyou Feng 冯道友, age 44

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#RacismIsAVirus

#IAmNotAVirus



#MyEthnicityIsNotAVirus

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"Yellow Peril"



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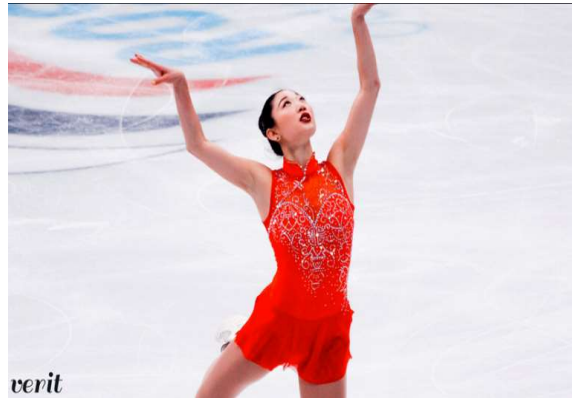
“Forever Foreigner”

“American Beats Out Kwan”



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"Immigrants: they get the job done,"



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“Model Minority” Myth



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“Invisibility” and Anti-Asian Racism & Discrimination

- LAAUNCH Survey 2021:
- More than 40% of respondents could not name a prominent Asian American
- Approximately 80% of Asian Americans say they are discriminated against in the US

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Anti-Asian Racism update

- Stop AAPI Hate:
- More than 6600 reports of anti-Asian racist incidents
- Approximately 2/3 of reports were from women respondents
- CA has most reported cases, followed by NY

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H.Res 908 - Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19.



April 9, 2020

The Honorable Grace Meng
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Meng:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for H. Res. 908, a resolution that condemns all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). We commend you for taking this essential step to support the health and safety of our nation during a national crisis and for proposing that Congress condemn all forms of expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance. We share your alarm about reported incidents of harassment and violence against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) community and have spoken out strongly against these terrible acts in recent weeks.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 159,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Internal medicine specialists treat many of the patients at greatest risk from COVID-19, including the elderly and patients with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

ACP strongly condemns any and all prejudice, harassment, violence, and discrimination based on an individual's race, ethnic origin, ancestry, primary language, cultural background or nationality. As our country and our health care system bear the overwhelming challenge of responding to the COVID-19 national emergency, this ethos is more important than ever. We are deeply concerned and disturbed about reports of harassment against individuals of Asian descent, including physicians and other clinicians. At this challenging time, our nation's focus should be on respecting the dignity of others. We cannot allow prejudice and discrimination to divide us.

Hate crimes directed against individuals based on individuals' race, ethnic origin, ancestry, primary language, cultural background or nationality are a true public health threat. We applaud that H. Res. 908 calls on Federal law enforcement officials, working with State and local officials, to collect data to document the rise of incidences of hate crimes due to COVID-19. ACP policy supports the collection and publication of statistics on hate crimes. We strongly believe that more research is needed about

the impact of hate crimes on public health, understanding and preventing hate crimes, and effective interventions that address the needs of hate crime survivors and their communities.

ACP has long fought against discrimination due to race, ethnic origin, nationality, cultural background and other personal characteristics. Our policies have called attention to the public health impact of hate crimes and discrimination, and to the harmful consequences of racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Therefore, it is imperative that physicians, and all people, speak out against hate and discrimination, especially during this national crisis caused by COVID-19.

We applaud your leadership for bringing forth H. Res. 908 and urge Congress to pass the resolution in order to bring the necessary awareness and focus to past and future acts of discrimination, harassment, and violence against members of the API community due to COVID-19. As physicians, we are uniquely situated to speak out against these hateful, discriminatory, and violent acts and inform the public about why these acts are wrong and misguided. We look forward to working with you to advance this resolution through Congress and stand ready to serve as a resource for you on any matters regarding the COVID-19 national health emergency.

Sincerely,

Robert M. McLean, MD, MACP
President

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Executive Order – January 26, 2021

“The Federal Government must recognize that it has played a role in furthering these xenophobic sentiments through the actions of political leaders, including references to the COVID-19 pandemic by the geographic location of its origin,” Biden said in the order. “Such statements have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and have contributed to increasing rates of bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against AAPI persons.”

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“Executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that official actions, documents, and statements, including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” the Biden order reads.

Standing Up With And For Each Other



Photo credit-
Westside Activists

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Going "Viral"



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Take back the narrative



Shreya P. Trivedi MD
@ShreyaTrivediMD

...

"I have tried to stop using the word
[#minority](#) because people who look
like us are actually the majority in
the world."

-- [@MAACPGovernor](#)

10:29 AM · 5/2/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

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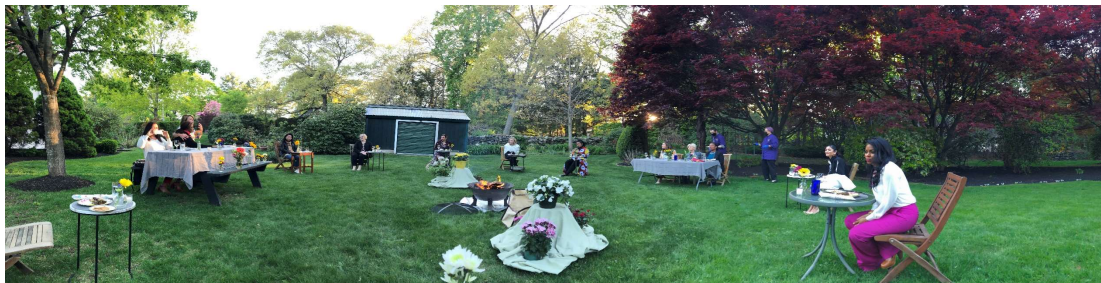
The Linda Lindas



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Unity & Solidarity



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In conclusion

- “We have to build things that we want to see accomplished, in life and in our country, based on our own personal experiences ... to make sure that others ... do not have to suffer the same discrimination.” – Patsy Takemoto Mink
- #RepresentASIAN
- #RacismIsAVirus
- #MyEthnicityIsNotAVirus
- #IAmNotAVirus
- #HateIsAVirus
- #IMProud (ACP)

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Thank you

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