

Hate Truly is the Virus: A Major Research Paper on Anti-Asian Hate Incidents During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Christina Doan¹

Abstract

This article focuses on past and current anti-Asian hate occurrences in North America. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a surge of cases; however, it has also brought forth a new and disturbing trend: racially motivated hate crimes against Asian-Americans and Canadians. Despite the virus affecting individuals of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities, the Asian community has become a target of blame and discrimination. This research examines anti-Asian events that took place prior to the pandemic, such as the Pacific Coast Race Riots of 1907 and documented instances of anti-Asian hate crimes, as well as the harmful perceptions of Asian individuals that persist in Western societies. Analyzing the reports from national-level grassroots organizations reveals a steady increase in anti-Asian hate crimes each year. This study also shows that Asian women in both the U.S. and Canada were disproportionately targeted. This research may be used to acknowledge the urgency of addressing and combating this issue in order to protect and support the safety and well-being of the Asian community.

¹ Class of 2023, Master of Arts Sociology Program, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Class of 2021, Honours Social Psychology Program, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada