

# The Societal Impacts of COVID-19 on Asian Americans: Mitigating Mental Health Disparities Stemming from Labels Like the “China Virus”

Elisabeth Dubois, Xiaojun (Jenny) Yuan  
College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity,  
University at Albany, State University of New York

# Problem

- Since the beginning of the outbreak, there has been a **150% surge in anti-Asian hate crimes** (Smolinski 2021).
- Crisis Text Line, a nonprofit group that provides free text message mental-health support, saw a **39% increase in texts from Asian Americans** in the first quarter of 2020(Person et al. 2004).

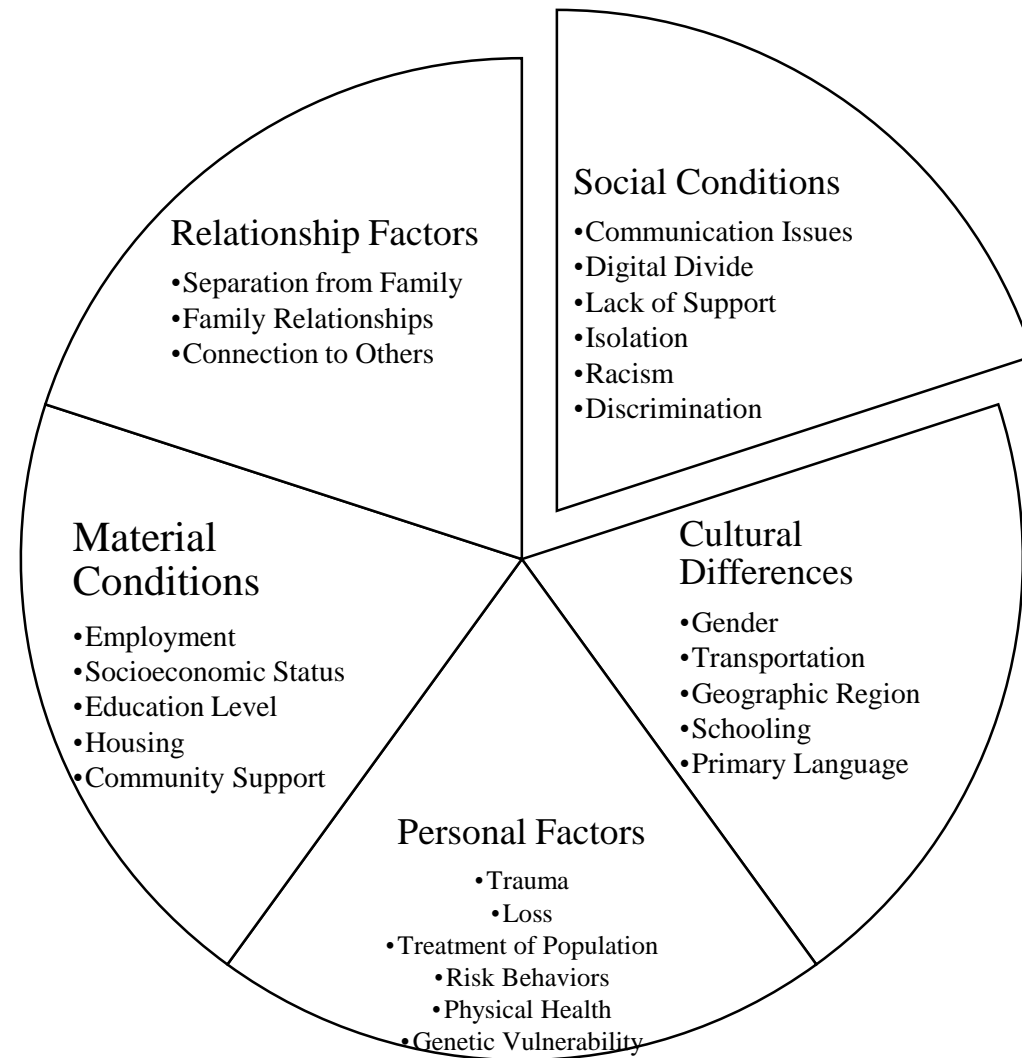


# Theory of Interactionism

- Herbert Blumer coined the theory of symbolic interactionism suggesting that race and ethnicity provide strong symbols as sources of identity (Blumer and Duster 1980).
- The COVID-19 pandemic has signified the othering of sub-sections of the population, where many saw “China virus” or “Wuhan flu” commonly used by politicians or popular media to discuss the pandemic.



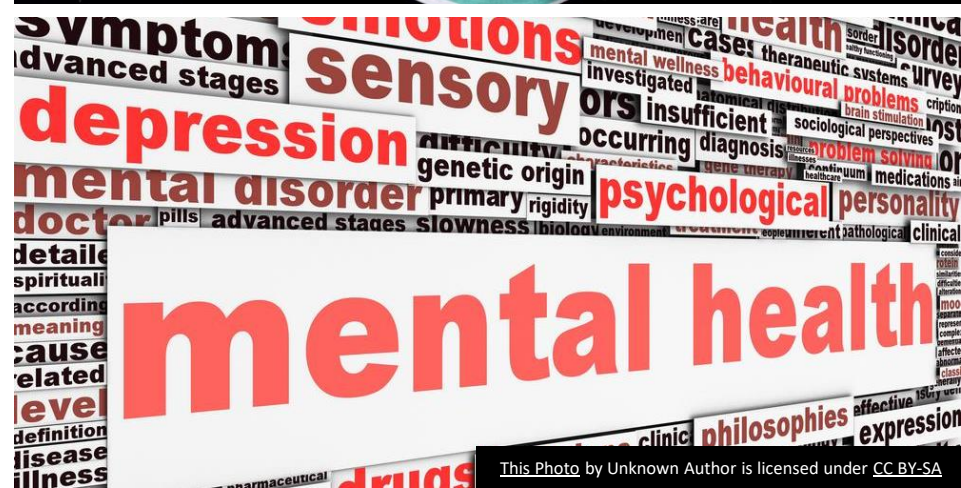
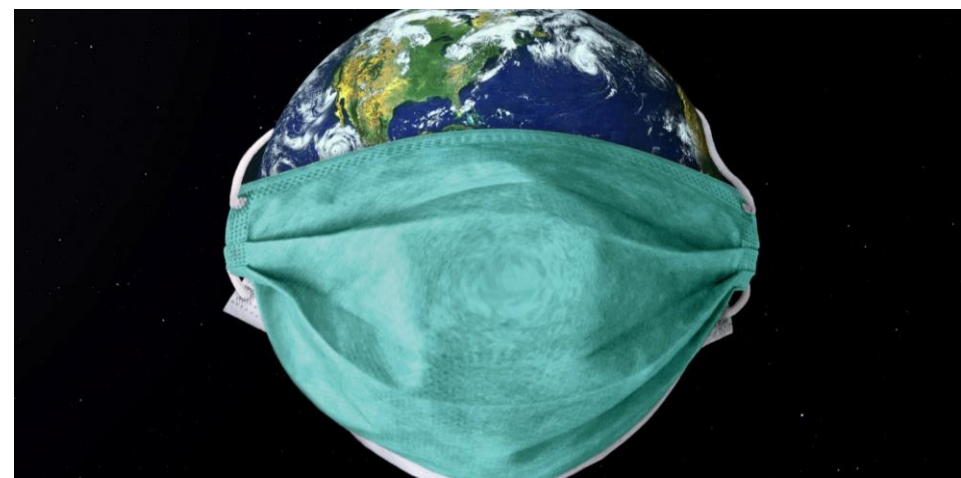
# Nature of Disparities



# Recommendations

Recommendation 1: *Implement Stigma Reduction Education and Training Programs*

Recommendation 2: *Use Research as a Foundation to Enact Policy and Governmental Changes to Address How Asian Stigmas Affect Mental Health*



# CONVERGE Working Group Projects

Bennett, D., Knight, T., Dubois, E., Khurana, P., Wild, D., Laforce, S., Yuan, X.-J. (2020). NSF CONVERGE Working Group, COVID-19 Global Research Registry for Public Health and Social Sciences Technological Innovations in Response to COVID-19. This COVID-19 Working Group effort was supported by the National Science Foundation-funded Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) Network and the CONVERGE facility at the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder (NSF Award #1841338).

<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups/issues-impacts-recovery/technological-innovations-in-response-to-covid-19>

## Select Projects:

### ***Accepted for Publication***

Dubois, E., Yuan, X.-J. (2021). The Societal Impacts of COVID-19 on Asian Americans: Mitigating Mental Health Disparities Stemming from Labels Like the “China Virus”. *Addressing Differential Impacts of COVID-19 in NYS: A Symposium and Edited Volume*.

Dubois, E., Yuan, X.-J., Bennett, D., Khurana, P., Laforce, S., Knight, T., Wild, D. (2021). Lifestyle Changes of Socially Vulnerable Populations during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the USA. *Data and Information Management*

Dubois, E., Yuan, X.-J., Bennett, D., Khurana, P., Knight, T. (2021). Older Adults Learning and Use of Technology for Decision-Making: A Systematic Literature Review. *Special Issue Aging and Technology Use in the Era of Digitization and Automation in Journal of Work, Aging, and Retirement*.

Dubois, E., Yuan, X.-J. (2021). The Mental State of Americans Amid the COVID-19 Crisis: How Socially Vulnerable Populations Face Greater Disparities During and After a Crisis. *Journal of Emergency Management*.

### ***Published***

Dubois, E., Bright, D., Laforce, S. (2021) Educating Minoritized Students in the United States During COVID-19: How Technology can be Both the Problem and the Solution. *IEEE IT Professional*. 23(2). (10.1109/MITP.2021.3062765).

Yuan, X.-J., Knight, T., Bennett, D., Khurana, P., Laforce, S., Dubois, E., Wild, D., (2020). ICT (Information Communication Technologies) and Emergency Management: Studies on Human Information Behavior During Pandemic. *ASIS&T SIGUSE Symposium- Grand Challenges in Information Behavior Research: Theory, Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T2020)*. Virtual Conference.

# Thank You!

## Questions?

Please reach out to [evdubois@albany.edu](mailto:evdubois@albany.edu) with further questions.

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