

Thesis

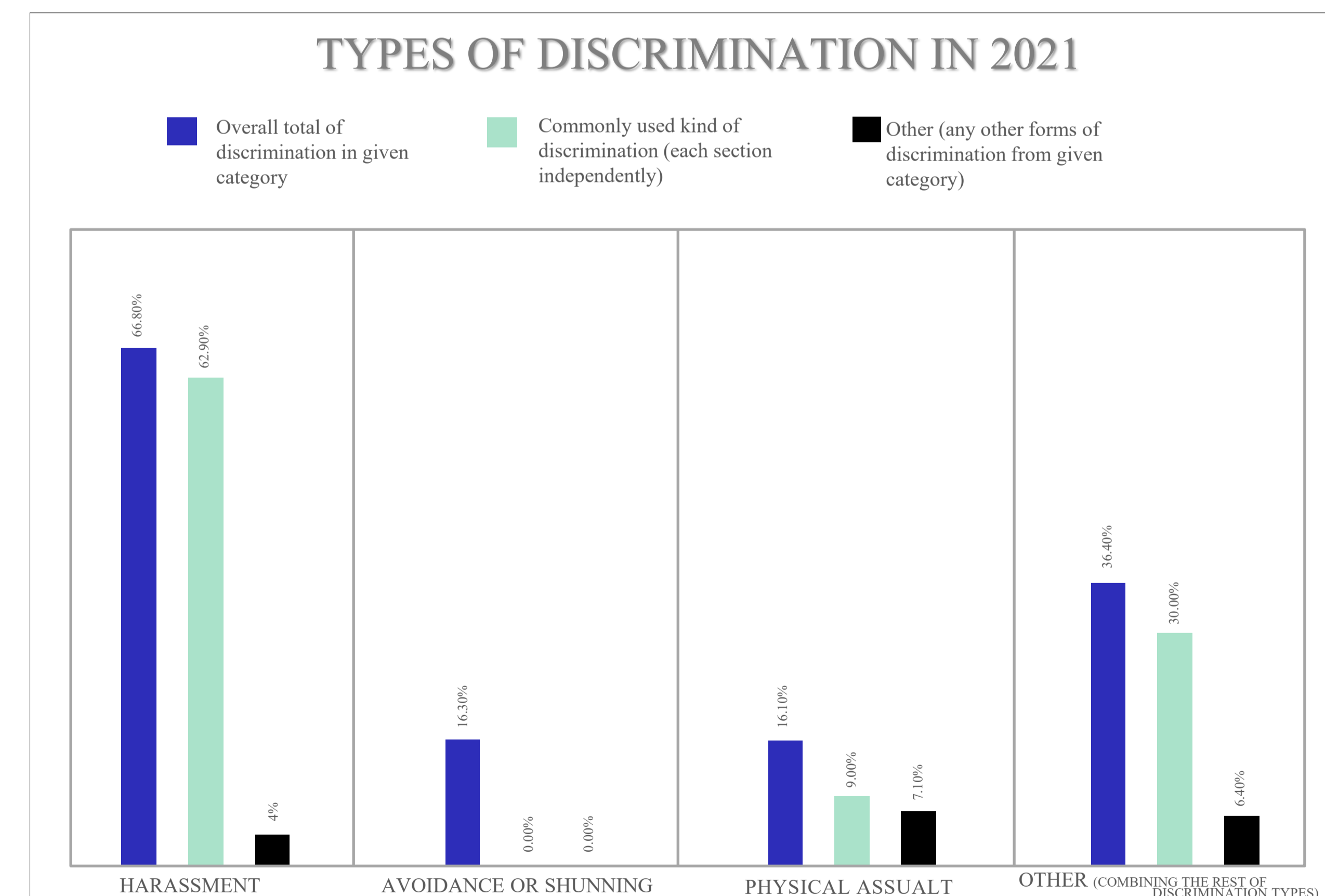
How did prejudice towards Asian American communities changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Overview

An overall synopsis of all the articles used for this research project shows that Asian Americans have gone through a lot of racist background due to the deep, hidden history behind Asian American hate and stereotypes. This made discrimination worse during COVID-19, and many Asians were experiencing negative treatment as they lived their day-to-day lives. There were about 11,000 attacks between March of 2020 and December of 2021. (Stop AAPI Hate, 2022). From this, many research projects were undertaken to see how life had an effect on Asian Americans after many incidents towards them.

Research

The three main types of discrimination that were found in 2021 were harassment, avoidance and/or shunning, and physical assault, according to Stop AAPI Hate (2022).



Research

The most common type of discrimination used was harassment, which was seen in about 66.8% of cases. This would have included verbal hate speech (most commonly used at 62.9%) and behavioral behaviors like following, stalking, and bullying, gestures such as the middle finger and slanted eye gestures; written materials, like letters, propaganda, or signage; and lastly, sexual harassment (Stop AAPI Hate, 2022).

Research Contin.

Avoidance and/or shunning came to 16.3%, and physical assault in total: 16.1%. The most used was physical attacks, at 9%. These would be assaults that consist of things being thrown or sprayed at, verbal threats or intimidation, verbal threats or intimidation physical encounters with objects, and lastly, physical attacks, but no other information is given (Stop AAPI Hate, 2022).

Other types of discrimination come in at 36.4%. This would have included online misconduct, coughing at or spat on, job discrimination or a hostile work environment, vandalism or graffiti, robbery or theft, denial of service, being barred from transportation, and others altogether. 30% of cases included specifically indirect observing racism and/or watching media and posts, from online misconduct; graffiti, or vandalism; and microaggression and differential treatment, from the other category, along with being coughed or spat on, denial of services, job discrimination, or a hostile work environment, and being barred from transportation (Stop AAPI Hate, 2022).

Analysis

An increase in discrimination is shown to be the cause of prejudice towards the Asian American community after the pandemic. The research also shows that political influences and past Asian history also play a role in the increase in discrimination acts. Asians have experienced a long history of racial conflicts. According to Kim & Shah (2020), in understanding the impact of the pandemic, it is crucial to consider history, power structures, and the desire to scapegoat others in times of fear and uncertainty.

From this, many Asian Americans found themselves also experiencing an increase in mental health issues, anxiety and depression being the top two. Long-term psychological effects are also shown to be more prevalent due to the impact of discrimination (Kaplan, 2023).

Concluding Thoughts

Since the impact of COVID-19, the Asian American communities have come together and have been each other's supporting system in sharing stories, experiences, and challenges. While the hardship of discrimination will never come to an official end, every small step to change the future is needed, and the more people learn and take the time to learn about others, the more a positive impact can be created.

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