

ASIAN AMERICANS AND CHINESE CANADIANS IN THE ERA OF COVID: ATTACHMENT, TRUST AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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The pandemic has resulted in multiple challenges with rising racism and prejudice directed at vulnerable minorities across North America. The evolving situation raises questions and concerns about identities, trust and intergroup relations. That which follows examines attachments to country and selected identity markers, perceived relations between selected groups and trust. The analysis will focus specifically on Asian Americans and Chinese Canadians. In that regard we'll consider certain hypothesis when it comes to the relationship between national and ethnic attachments on the one hand and trust on the other. Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

Canadians, Americans and Mexicans 18 years of age or older, were surveyed via web panel between March 8th and March 29th, 2021.

Country	Canada	United States	Mexico
Total sample	3068	3771	1503

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population (see methodology on last slide).

INTRODUCTION

Strength of national attachments somewhat higher in Mexico than in the USA and Canada; Ethnic and Religious attachments higher in the US and Mexico than in Canada; regional attachments higher in Canada than in the US

Very Attached%	United States	Canada	Mexico
My country	58.2	54.6 (EN 60.5% FR 38.3%)	60.3
My province/state	42.3	47.4	NA
My city or neighborhood	38.4	37.4	39.9
My Ethnic or Racial Group	40.8	30.7	40.7
Language group	47.1	38.9	53.7
My religious group	36.8	17.9	24.9

Non-immigrants exhibit somewhat higher attachments than immigrants across nearly all attachments across the US, Canada and Mexico but in all instances national attachments are strongest

	United States		Canada		Mexico	
	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant
Very Attached%						
My country	60.8%	42.9%	55.8%	50.3%	61.0%	45.1%
My province/state	43.7%	34.8%	49.0%	41.9%		
My city or neighborhood	38.9%	36.0%	36.3%	41.2%	40.1%	36.0%
My Ethnic or Racial Group	41.8%	36.1%	30.0%	32.9%	41.4%	25.5%
My homeland/former country of origin		33.1%		30.2%		34.0%
Language group	48.9%	37.5%	39.2%	37.9%	54.3%	41.2%
My religious group	38.6%	26.9%	16.4%	23.3%	38.6%	26.9%

Asian Americans and Chinese Canadians have higher attachments to country than ethnic group but lower overall attachment when contrasted with others

	United States				Canada			
Very Attached%	White	Black	Asian American/Chinese	Latin American	White	Black	Chinese	Latin American
My country	61.5%	48.4%	45.0%	56.6%	56.8%	53.1%	34.4%	61.4%
My Ethnic or Racial group	39.2%	53.2%	33.3%	44.1%	28.0%	56.6%	25.5%	43.3%
My homeland/former country of origin	33.4%	29.7%	31.2%	38.4%	26.8%	52.2%	15.2%	43.5%

Asian Americans with stronger ethnic attachments also have stronger attachments to their country

Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached to my country ?		My ethnic or racial group - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?			
		Very Attached	Somewhat attached	Not very attached	Not attached at all
Asian or Asian-American	Very Attached	68.9%	36.5%	24.2%	38.5%
	Somewhat Attached	24.3%	46.9%	39.4%	23.1%
Total-United States	Very Attached	79.7%	49.3%	36.5%	37.8%
	Somewhat Attached	14.9%	37.8%	34.2%	17.1%

Chinese Canadians with stronger ethnic attachments also have stronger attachments to Canada

My country - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?		My ethnic or racial group - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?		
		Very Attached	Somewhat attached	Not very attached
Chinese	Very Attached	67.5%	24.0%	25.0%
	Somewhat Attached	27.5%	70.7%	46.9%
Total-Canada	Very Attached	79.1%	50.6%	37.2%
	Somewhat Attached	17.1%	43.8%	43.4%

The most attached to country of origin amongst Asian Americans and Canadians are almost the most attached to the United States and Canada

My country - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?		My homeland/former country of origin - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?			
		Very Attached	Somewhat attached	Not very attached	Not attached at all
Asian or Asian-American	Very Attached	75.9%	20.6%	23.5%	16.7%
	Somewhat Attached	20.7%	73.5%	29.4%	33.3%
Chinese Canadians	Very Attached	71.4%	18.2%	16.7%	
	Somewhat Attached	21.4%	79.5%	44.4%	

THE STATE OF INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND TRUST

Worsened relations between....	Canada	United States
Asians and non-Asians	38.4%	35.7%
Immigrants and non-immigrants	34.3%	38.3%
Black and others	25.8%	33.8%
Indigenous Peoples and non-indigenous peoples	25.6%	22.7%
Muslims and non-Muslims	19.7%	24.6%
Jews and non-Jews	17.7%	20.0%
Hispanics and non-Hispanics	16.1%	26.4%



Relations between Asians and non-Asians in Canada perceived to be worse than other bilateral relations



In the US it is relations between immigrants and non-immigrants that appear to be worse than relations between Asians and non-Asians



In Mexico it is relations between immigrants and non-immigrants that are perceived to be worse than other bilateral relations

Asian Americans more likely white Americans to agree that relations are worse between Asians and non-Asians; in Canada the perceived gap in such relations is wider

Since COVID-19, how would you describe the current relationships? The relations between Asians and non-Asians

	United States		Canada	
	White	Asian-American	White	Chinese
Worsened	36.4%	42.6%	35.7%	55.4%
Stayed the same	34.9%	35.0%	35.5%	27.4%
Improved	7.4%	8.5%	2.9%	5.7%
I don't know	21.3%	13.9%	25.8%	11.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those Asian Americans that are least inclined to trust Americans are most likely to think relations between Asian and non-Asian have worsened

Asia American views on relations between Asians and non-Asians

	In regard to COVID-19/Coronavirus, to what extent do you trust Americans			
	A lot	Somewhat	Not a lot	Not at all
Worsened	23.8%	40.2%	48.5%	60.7%
Stayed the same	47.6%	39.1%	36.4%	21.4%
Improved	19.0%	7.6%	6.1%	10.7%
I don't know	9.5%	13.0%	9.1%	7.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Chinese Canadians trust of Canadians is a good deal higher than Asian Americans trust of Americans

Trust of Canadians/Americans

		A lot	Somewhat	Not a lot	Not at all	I prefer not to answer	Total
Canada	White	11.2%	57.8%	21.9%	5.9%	3.1%	100.0%
	Chinese	9.2%	59.9%	24.3%	2.6%	3.9%	100.0%
United States	White	15.5%	43.4%	26.3%	10.3%	4.4%	100.0%
	Asian or Asian-American	9.9%	41.3%	30.0%	12.6%	6.3%	100.0%

Relations between Asians and non-Asians are perceived to have suffered most by respondents in the western and northeastern part of the United States

Since COVID-19, how would you describe the current relationships? The relations between Asians and non-Asians

		Asian-American	White
Northeast	Worsened	44.1%	39.4%
	Stayed the same	32.4%	33.2%
	Improved	8.8%	6.9%
	I don't know	14.7%	20.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%
Midwest	Worsened	38.5%	33.2%
	Stayed the same	42.3%	32.1%
	Improved	7.7%	6.3%
	I don't know	11.5%	28.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%
South	Worsened	37.0%	34.4%
	Stayed the same	33.3%	37.5%
	Improved	14.8%	7.9%
	I don't know	14.8%	20.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%
West	Worsened	45.5%	40.0%
	Stayed the same	34.5%	35.4%
	Improved	5.5%	8.4%
	I don't know	14.5%	16.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Chinese Canadians in British Columbia are more likely than Ontarians to believe that relations between Asians and non-Asians have worsened

Since COVID-19, how would you describe the current relationships? The relations between Asians and non-Asians.

		White	Chinese
British Columbia	Worsened	51.3%	64.2%
	Stayed the same	29.4%	30.2%
	Improved	2.3%	3.8%
	I don't know	17.0%	1.9%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%
Ontario	Worsened	40.0%	50.0%
	Stayed the same	35.9%	31.2%
	Improved	2.8%	3.1%
	I don't know	21.3%	15.6%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%

Lower trust of Americans reduces attachment to country

My country - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?

		Americans - In regard to COVID-19/Coronavirus, to what extent do you trust each of the following?				Total
		A lot	Somewhat	Not a lot	Not at all	
Asian or Asian-American	Very attached	68.2%	50.5%	40.9%	28.6%	45.2%
	Somewhat attached	22.7%	39.6%	37.9%	28.6%	35.7%
White	Very attached	89.0%	69.2%	48.8%	34.1%	61.5%
	Somewhat attached	7.3%	24.8%	29.2%	26.2%	23.5%
Total	Very attached	84.1%	65.0%	47.2%	34.9%	58.2%
	Somewhat attached	11.3%	27.2%	31.0%	25.7%	25.5%



Lower trust of Canadians reduces attachment to country

My country - Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached, not very attached or not attached at all to the following?

		: In regard to COVID-19/Coronavirus, to what extent do you trust Canadians			
		A lot	Somewhat	Not a lot	Not at all
White	Very attached	45.2%	28.4%	19.2%	18.9%
	Somewhat attached	24.4%	38.9%	33.7%	27.3%
Chinese	Very attached	38.5%	25.6%	13.9%	60.0%
	Somewhat attached	38.5%	53.3%	55.6%	
Total	Very attached	47.5%	30.8%	23.0%	23.5%
	Somewhat attached	25.4%	39.6%	34.4%	26.2%



A strong sense of attachment to ethnic or racial group amongst Asian Americans enhances trust of other Americans

Do you feel very attached, somewhat attached to my ethnic or racial group

		Americans - In regard to COVID-19/Coronavirus, to what extent do you trust each of the following?			
		A lot	Somewhat	Not a lot	Not at all
Asian-American	Very attached	54.5%	40.9%	27.3%	14.3%
	Somewhat attached	27.3%	41.9%	48.5%	42.9%
White	Very attached	67.2%	43.5%	24.7%	27.5%
	Somewhat attached	20.9%	38.7%	35.4%	23.4%

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From March 8 to March 29, 2021

Canadians and Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,012 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.08\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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