
MARKING MARCH 21ST: CANADIANS VIEW ASIAN AND NON-ASIAN RELATIONS AS MOST IN DECLINE SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

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INTRODUCTION: RACE RELATIONS SINCE THE PANDEMIC

Today marks international day for the prevention of racial discrimination. It takes place as much of the planet is riveted on the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. Across much of our history times of crisis have seen blame assigned to certain groups and/or scapegoating. It has been important to remain especially vigilant in ensuring that relations between communities remain harmonious given the shared challenges we're currently facing. To mark International Day for the prevention of racial discrimination, the Association for Canadian Studies and the University of Manitoba commissioned Leger Marketing to ask Canadians how they feel about the state of relations in the country and which have been most affected across the period of the pandemic. The bilateral relations were chosen on the basis of those receiving the most media attention since the outbreak of the contagion. We looked at Asian/non-Asian, Immigrant/non-Immigrant, Black/non-Black and Indigenous/non-Indigenous. With few exceptions the survey reveals that it is relations between Asians and non-Asians that have suffered most over the course of the pandemic. The survey also provides some indexing by region to assess where it is felt that overall there has been a decline in race relations and in that regard it is Ontario and British Columbia that fare worst and Eastern Canada faring best.

- The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between March 1 and March 15th, 2022 with 2939 Canadians 18 years of age or older and another over the same period conducted with 3734 Americans. The Canadian survey has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 1.9\%$ and the American survey has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 1.9\%$ 19 times out of 20

CANADIANS FEEL THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ASIANS AND NON-ASIANS HAVE SUFFERED MOST SINCE THE PANDEMIC

Since the start of the pandemic do you think that relations between the following groups in Canada have gotten better, stayed the same, or worse...

	Asian and non-Asian	Immigrants and non-immigrants	Indigenous and non-Indigenous	Black and non-Black
Worse	25.4%	19.8%	14.7%	13.4%
Stayed the same	48.0%	55.0%	57.5%	59.4%
Better	3.5%	3.4%	6.3%	4.5%
I don't know	23.1%	21.8%	21.5%	22.7%

BRITISH COLUMBIANS ARE BY FAR MORE LIKELY THAN OTHER CANADIANS TO BELIEVE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ASIAN AND NON-ASIANS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE THAN OTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS

Since the start of the pandemic do you think that relations between the following groups in Canada have gotten worse...

	Total	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
Asian and non-Asian	25.4	34.4%	30.7%	22.0%	24.4%	22.8%	16.8%
Immigrants and non-immigrants	19.8	22.6%	24.3%	19.8%	19.4%	17.4%	17.4%
Indigenous and non-Indigenous	14.7%	19.1%	21.0%	14.7%	14.8%	10.7%	8.4%
Black and non-Black	13.4%	17.6%	17.0%	8.9%	13.6%	11.5%	8.9%

THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND NON-IMMIGRANTS IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY RESPECTIVELY FEEL THAT RELATIONS ACROSS COMMUNITIES HAVE WORSENE

	Since the start of the pandemic do you think that relations between the following groups in Canada have gotten worse...	
	Born in Canada	Born outside Canada
Asian and non-Asian	28.8	24.4
Immigrants and non-immigrants	19.3	21.6
Indigenous and non-Indigenous	14.2	16.4
Black and non-Black	12.9	15.3

AMERICANS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS TO THINK RACE RELATIONS WORSENEED SINCE COVID ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS BLACK AND NON-BLACK AND IMMIGRANT AND NON-IMMIGRANT

Since the start of the pandemic do you think that relations between the following groups in Canada/United States have gotten worse...

	Canada	United States
Asian and non-Asian	25.4	25.9
Immigrants and non-immigrants	19.8	27.9
Indigenous and non-Indigenous	14.7	13.2
Black and non-Black	13.4	20.8
Overall Average Worse	18.3	22