Spotlight on Asian New Yorkers: Experiences of Poverty, Disadvantage, and Discrimination

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Background - about Asian Americans

- Fastest growing racial and ethnic group in NYC and the U.S.
- Among the most understudied racial and ethnic groups
- Underrepresented in many data sources, including those that collect information on poverty and economic disadvantage
- "Model minority" myth
- Incredibly diverse

It's important to have accurate and timely data on poverty and disadvantage among Asian New Yorkers.
Poverty Tracker’s Oversample of Asian New Yorkers

- In 2020, PT began to survey in Mandarin and recruited an over-sample of Asian New Yorkers
- Increased the representativeness of Asian New Yorkers
- The only source of longitudinal information on poverty (SPM) and other forms of disadvantages among Asian New Yorkers
- Language limitation: Asian New Yorkers being interviewed in English, Mandarin, or Spanish

Poverty

- 1-in-4 lived in poverty
- 8% higher than city level
- Similar to Black and Latino New Yorkers
- Double % of white New Yorkers

Poverty rates among adult New Yorkers by race and ethnicity, 2020

Source: Annual Poverty Tracker survey data; second, third, and fourth cohorts. Results based on three-year average.
Material Hardship

- More than ¼ faced material hardship
- In-line with city level
- Double % of White New Yorkers
- Lower than what might be expected >> additional research is needed

Vulnerable Subgroups

- Aged 65 or older
- with a high school degree or less
- with limited English proficiency
Health & Well-being

- Less health problems
- Higher serious psychological distress
- Lowest life rating

Bias and hate incident, Discrimination, and racism-related vigilance of Chinese New Yorkers, 2020

- 1-in-3 encountered bias and hate incident
- Over half experienced discrimination
- Majority endured racism-related vigilance

Prevalence of health problems among Asian New Yorkers compared to citywide average, 2020

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All New Yorkers</th>
<th>Asian New Yorkers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Prevalence of serious psychological distress and average life rating overall and among Asian New Yorkers, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prevalence of Serious Psychological Distress</th>
<th>Average Life Satisfaction Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All New Yorkers</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian New Yorkers</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6.07</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discrimination

- Overall, experienced any bias and hate incident.
- Overall, experienced some form of discrimination.
- Overall, experienced racism-related vigilance.

Source: Poverty Tracker 2020 survey data. (N=423)
Implications

- Greater attention to the experiences of Asian New Yorkers facing economic disadvantage
- “Double pandemic” is likely to have serious negative impacts
- Policies and culturally/linguistically supportive programs serving these vulnerable populations are essential
- Asian Americans need to be sufficiently represented in all data sources used to make policy-related decisions

Thank you

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