



Exploring the Impact of Anti-Asian Hate on Penn Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Tiffany Tieu & Hope Cho, COL 2022

Dr. Melissa Hunt, Department of Psychology

The Millstein Family Undergraduate Research Grant & Turner-Schulman Undergraduate Fellowship



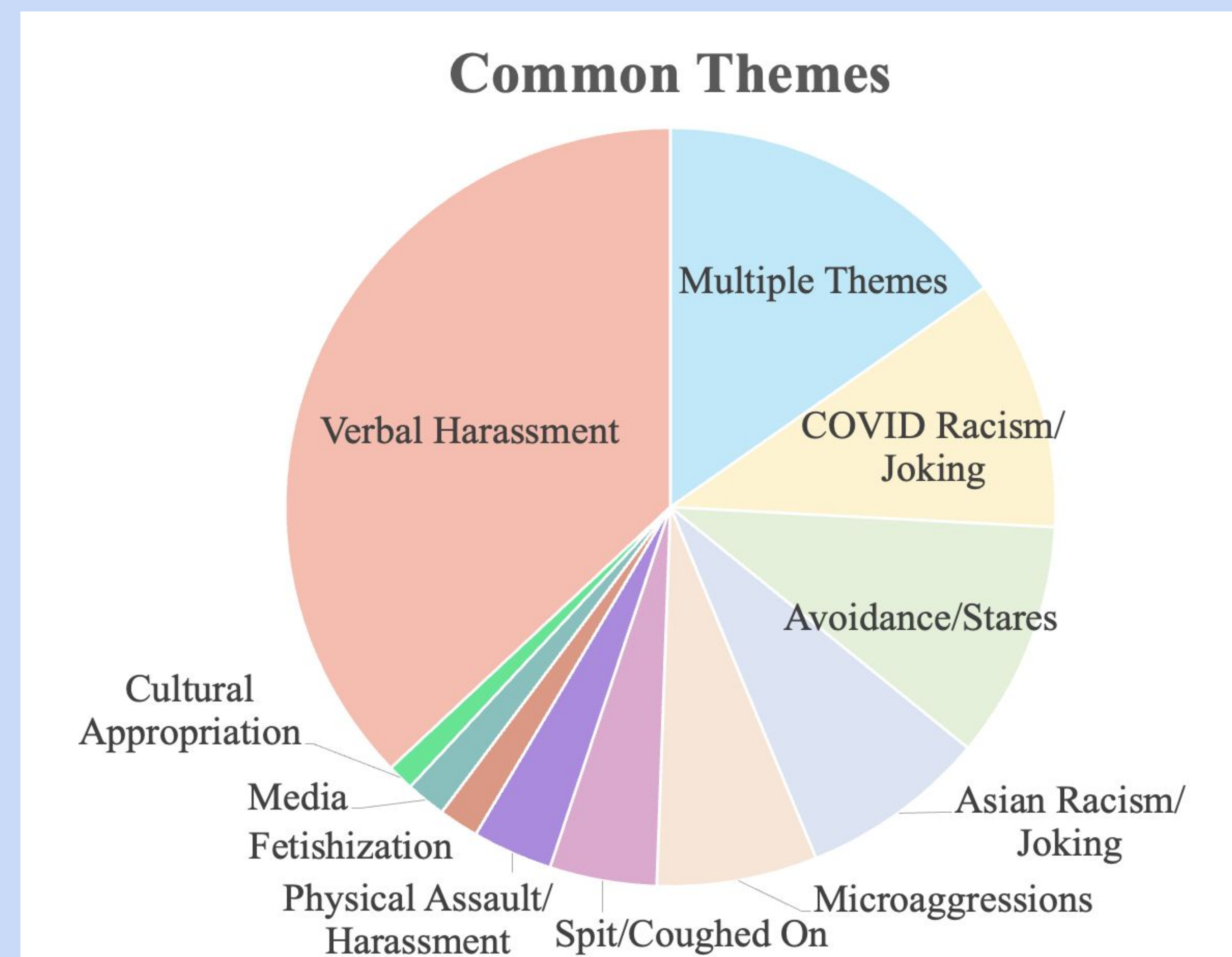
Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant uptick in anti-Asian hate and violence. We explored experiences of anti-Asian hate at Penn, along with associated protective and risk factors.

Study 1 examined experiences of anti-Asian hate and impact on well-being.

Study 2 had focus groups discuss strategies to combat and address anti-Asian hate scenarios.

77% of students were victims or witnesses of anti-Asian hate or discrimination.



Study 1 Findings

- A striking number of participants experienced anti-Asian hate or discrimination since spring 2020
- Strong ethnic identity was a risk factor when experiencing anti-Asian racism
- Acculturation to American norms was a protective factor and negatively correlated with depressive symptoms, fear of anti-Asian hate, and negative affect
- Victims felt less safe and more “othered” in West Philly
- Asian Americans were more aware of anti-Asian hate compared to international students

Methods

Study 1: Surveyed 224 East Asian and Southeast Asian students on:

- Anti-Asian hate experiences
- Ethnic identity
- Acculturation
- Depressive symptoms
- Positive and negative affect

Study 2: Facilitated 4 group discussions among 16 students on:

- Racial microaggressions & joking
- Physical & verbal harassment/assault
- Asian fetishization
- Training sessions
- Online vs. in person hate
- Support systems

Study 2 Findings

- Students find support in those they identify and empathize with
- Penn should invest in cultural resources and provide a safe space for solidarity
- Create accessible resources and contacts to report racist conduct
- Invest in third party facilitators to anonymously communicate student concerns to professors
- Trainings can be beneficial only if they acknowledge the reality of anti-Asian hate

