

The Historical & Political Context of AA & NHPI Health Inequities

December 7, 2021

Brittany N. Morey, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Department of Health, Society, & Behavior

Disclaimer

- The opinions, findings, and conclusions presented here are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent the views of the University of California or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Disclosures

- Dr. Morey's effort is supported in part by grants from the UCI Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, the Office of Minority Health, and the National Institutes of Health.

How did we get here?



CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Times

LOG IN



Share this:

BY JACKIE BOTTES, MAY 5, 2020
UPDATED ON JUNE 23, 2020

Little noticed, Filipino Americans are dying of COVID-19 at an alarming rate

AJPH RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Association of "#covid19" Versus "#chinesevirus" With Anti-Asian Sentiments on Twitter: March 9–23, 2020

Yulin Hsuen, ScD, MPH, Xiang Xu, MS, Anna Hing, MPH, Jared B. Hawkins, PhD, John S. Brownstein, PhD, and Gilbert C. Gee, PhD

See also Chou and Gaysynsky, p. 773.

Objectives. To examine the extent to which the phrases, "COVID-19" and "Chinese virus" were associated with anti-Asian sentiments.

Methods. Data were collected from Twitter's Application Programming Interface, which included the hashtags "#covid19" or "#chinesevirus." We analyzed tweets from March 9 to 23, 2020, corresponding to

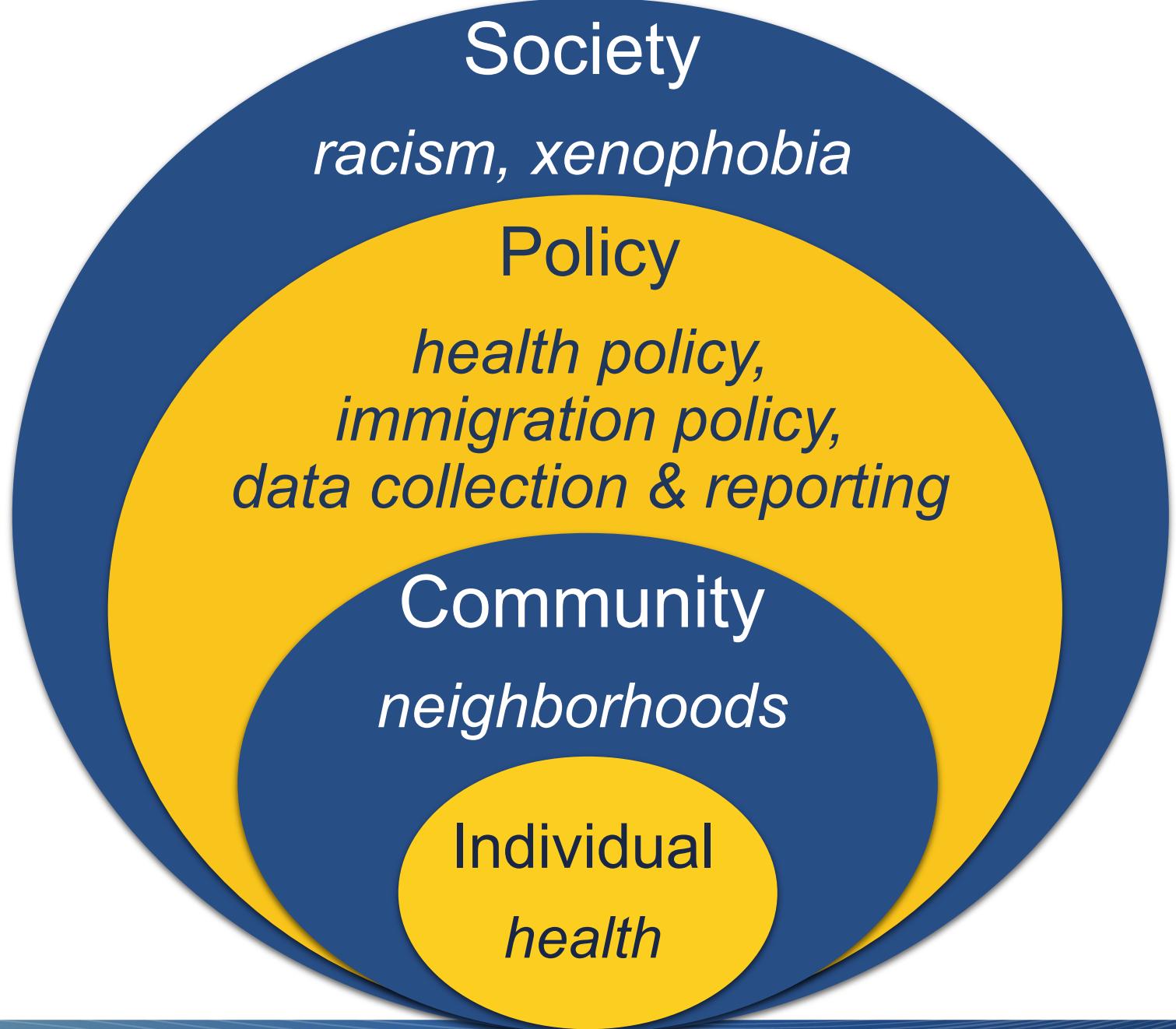


***“You can’t move
forward until
you look back.”***

—Dr. Cornel West



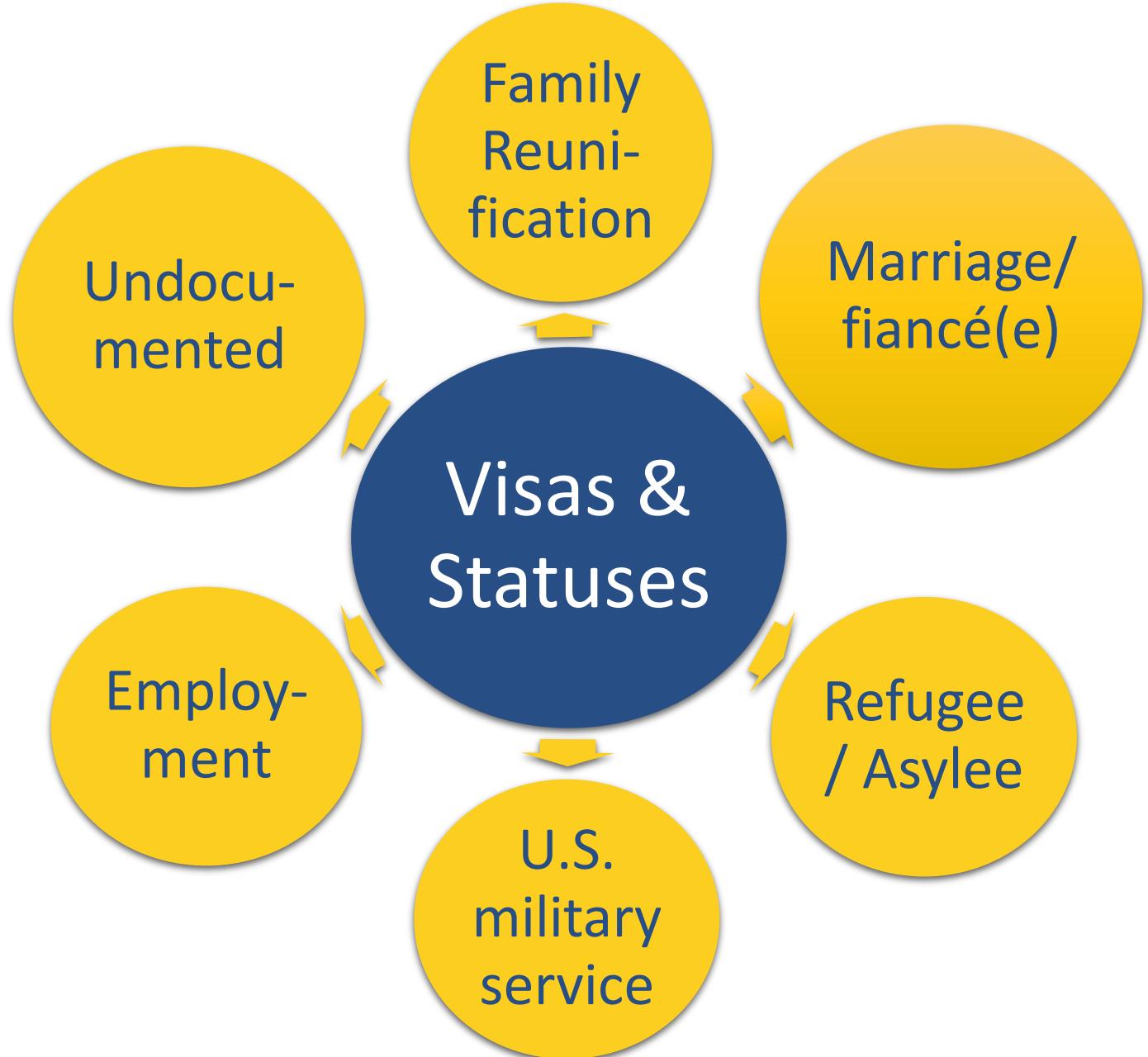
Social Ecological Model of AA & NHPI Health Inequities



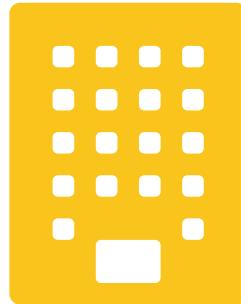
Brief Historical Snapshot for Asian Americans

- **Early 1800s** – immigration & labor
- **1875** – Page Act
- **1882** – Chinese Exclusion Act
- **1924** – Immigration Act
- **1934** – Tydings-McDuffie Act
- **1942-1945** – Executive Order 9066, Japanese Internment
- **1965** – Civil Rights, Immigration and Nationality Act, coining of “Asian American”
- **1980** – Refugee Act
- **1982** – killing of Vincent Chin
- **2017** – killing of Srinivas Kuchibhotla

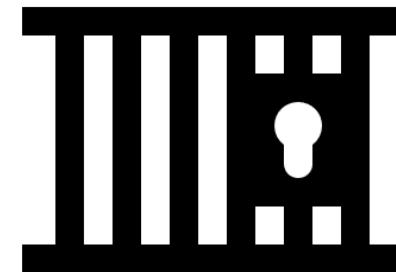
The role of immigration policies on status



How anti-immigrant stigma contributes to racial/ethnic health disparities



**Multilevel
Discrimination &
Stress**



**Deportation &
Detention**



**Policies that Limit
Health Resources**

How status affects health inequities

- Immigration status ↔ socioeconomic status
- 1.7 million undocumented Asians in the U.S.
- Legal immigration & federal 5-year waiting periods
- Public charge
- Assumed foreignness, anti-immigrant stigma

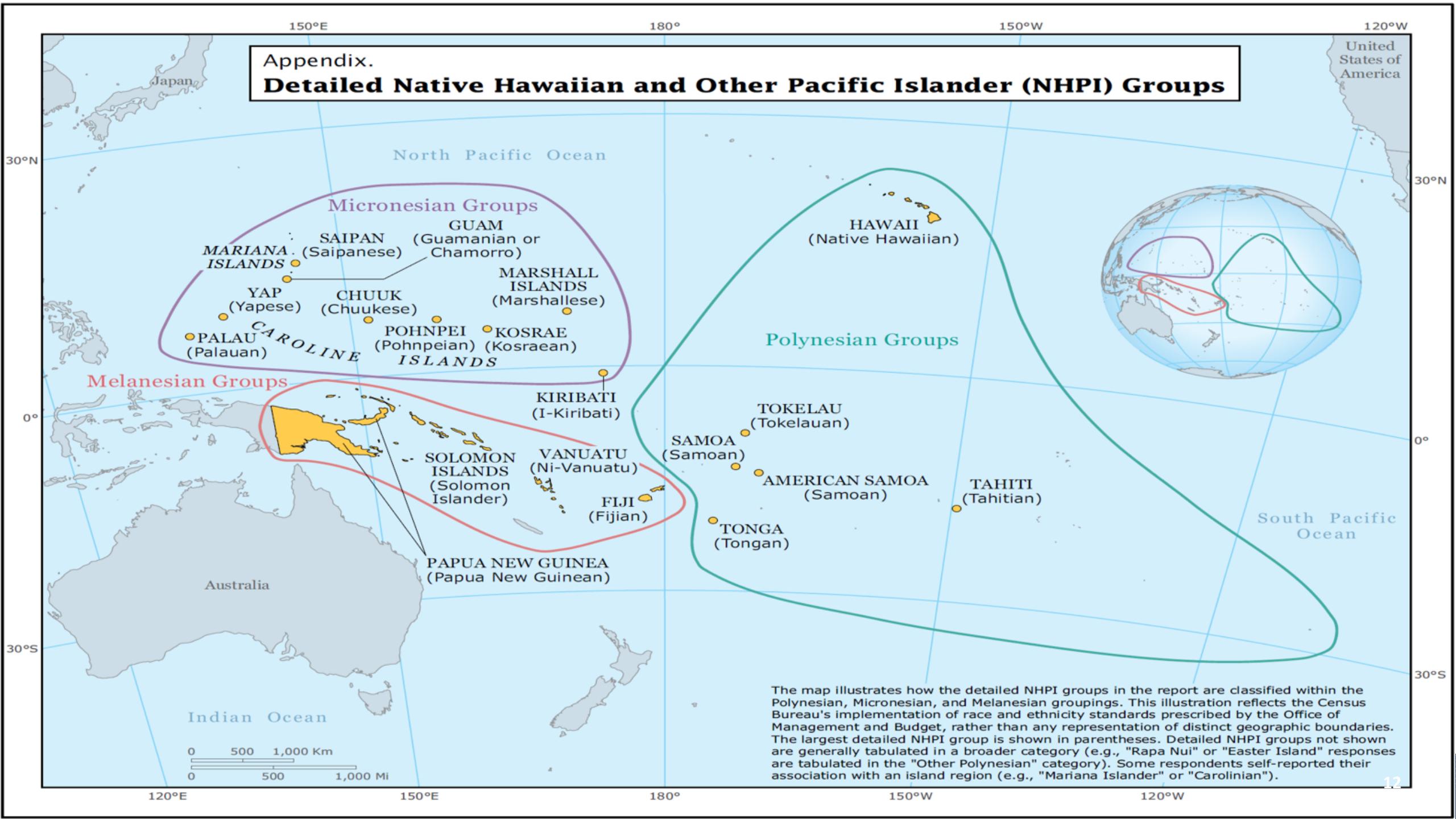
How status affects COVID-19 health inequities

- Likelihood of being “essential workers”
- Health care workers (e.g. Filipinx nurses)
- Small business owners (e.g. Chinatowns, Koreatowns, etc.)
- Fear of anti-Asian hate
- Little access to linguistically and culturally concordant health resources, especially among low-socioeconomic status Asian groups

How the Model Minority Myth has Affected Native Hawaiians & Pacific Islanders (NHPIs)

Appendix.

Detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) Groups



A brief history of NHPIs in the U.S.



Social determinants of NHPI health & COVID-19 risk

- Sāmoans (16%), Tongans (16%), and Guamanians/Chamorros (11%) have higher *poverty rates* compared to Whites (7%)
- More Tongans (26%), Marshallese (24%), Fijians (17%), Guamanians/Chamorros (16%), and Sāmoans (15%) are uninsured compared to Whites (11%)

Social determinants of NHPI health & COVID-19 risk

- Higher neighborhood poverty and neighborhood environmental pollution
- Highly communal
 - More likely to live in inter-generational homes
 - More likely to live in more crowded living conditions, especially in dense urban areas

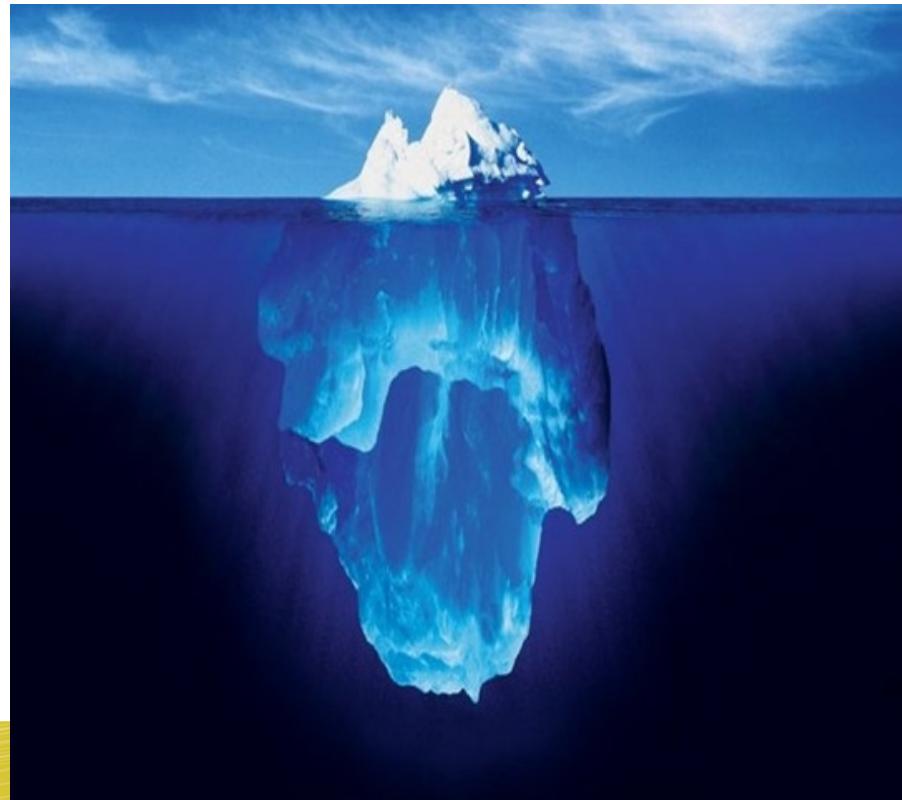
Social determinants of NHPI health & COVID-19 risk

- Overrepresented in essential workforce & at-risk jobs
 - Food preparation (meat packing)
 - Health care aides
 - Store clerks/cashiers
 - Military
 - Security officers
 - Transportation/delivery
 - Grounds maintenance
 - Hand laborers

Pre-existing chronic conditions

- Higher prevalence of
 - Cancer
 - Cardiovascular disease
 - Obesity
 - Diabetes
 - Asthma
 - Smoking/vaping

The context: *structural racism*



- The ways in which **societies** foster racial discrimination through **systems** (e.g. housing, education, wealth, health care, immigration policy, incarceration, etc.)...reflected in history, culture, and institutions.

—Bailey et al. 2017

Key Recommendations

1. Provide disaggregated health & demographic data for AA & NHPI subgroups.
2. Multilevel interventions to address issues at local, county, state, and national level.
3. Increase resources to AA & NHPI serving community-based organizations.

Key Recommendations

4. Bolster community capacity through investment in youth leadership development.
5. Strengthen/build transformational coalitions across racial/ethnic groups to address common issues affecting communities of color.

References

“Track us better: Overlooked Pacific Islanders hit hard by coronavirus.” By Jackie Botts. *Cal Matters*. May 5, 2020.

“Little noticed, Filipino Americans are dying of COVID-19 at an alarming rate.” By Tiffany Wong. *Los Angeles Times*. July 21, 2020

Hsuen Y, Xu X, Hing A, Hawkins JB, Brownstein JS, & Gee GC. (2021). Association of “#covid19” Versus “#chinesevirus” with Anti-Asian Sentiments on Twitter: March 9-23, 2020. *American Journal of Public Health*. 111, 956-964.

Gee GC, Sangalang C, Morey BN, Hing A. (2019). “The Global and Historical Nature of Racism and Health Among Asian Americans.” In CL Ford, DM Griffith, MA Bruce, K Gilbert (Eds.), *Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional*. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

Morey BN, Bacong AM, Hing A, de Castro AB, Gee GC. (2020). Heterogeneity in Migrant Health Selection: The Role of Immigrant Visas. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 61(3): 359-376.

Morey BN. (2018). Mechanisms by Which Anti-Immigrant Stigma Exacerbates Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities. *American Journal of Public Health*. 108(4): 460-463.

Morey BN, Tulua A, Tanjasiri SP, Subica AM, Kaholokula JK, Penaia C, Thomas K, Chang RC, Tran VD, Ponce N, Ong P, Ong E. (2020). Structural Racism and its Effects on Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders in the U.S.: Issues of Health Equity, Census Undercounting, and Voter Disenfranchisement. *AAPI Nexus: Policy, Practice and Community*. 17(1-2).

Gee G & Ford C. (2011). STRUCTURAL RACISM AND HEALTH INEQUITIES: Old Issues, New Directions. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 8(1), 115-132.

Thank you!

brittany.morey@uci.edu

Questions?