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## Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans Are on the Rise

### What it's about:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the U.S. has seen an increase in anti-Asian behavior in the form of unprovoked physical attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Many believe that this increase in violence is a direct result of inflammatory statements that have inappropriately associated AAPI communities with the spread of the COVID-19. The article speaks to this current rise in violence and addresses other harmful myths about the Asian-American experience. Additionally, readers are encouraged to consider the benefit that solidarity and restorative justice models could have on resolving cycles of violence in and amongst communities of color.

### Why it's important:

The experience of watching AAPI elders physically beaten is deeply troubling. **Our words hold meaning and consequences.** Not only is hateful, discriminatory, and xenophobic rhetoric highly offensive, it also has the potential to invoke violence. Although violence against Asian Americans is on the rise recently, there's a [long history of overlooked violent crimes against the AAPI community](#). This article suggests that it is time to examine and eliminate the roots of racism in America. Through our words and actions, we have the ability to foster more inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments for others.

### Reflect and discuss:

1. Using this case as an example, what combination of factors, conditions, or steps do you think it takes for rash words to lead to violence?
2. What actions, policies, and interventions could interrupt that cycle, or change those conditions, to ensure that this harmful escalation doesn't take place?
3. How does the myth of "Model Minority" impact the AAPI community?

### Want to learn more?

Read this article from Pew Research - "[Income Inequality in the U.S. Is Rising Most Rapidly Among Asians](#)"