

The Racial Variation in the Effects of Vicarious Exposure to Hate Crime on Mental Health

Michael M. Kang and Zichao Li

October 31, 2022

Introduction

- ▶ Surge in hate crime against Asians in the U.S. after COVID-19
- ▶ Strong association between hate crime experience (direct) and mental health
- ▶ Association between vicarious exposure to hate crime and mental health?
 - ▶ Claimed (e.g. NYT) but unsubstantiated
- ▶ Did Asians in the U.S. experience greater deterioration in mental health following the 2021 Atlanta Spa Shooting?

Methods: Data

- ▶ Data: Household Pulse Survey (HPS)
 - ▶ U.S. Census and CDC
 - ▶ Tracks effects of COVID-19
 - ▶ Nationally representative and repeated cross-sectional
 - ▶ Mental health (!)
 - ▶ PHQ-2 and GAD-2 (≥ 3 then major depressive/anxiety symptoms likely)

Methods: Econometrics

Difference-in-differences (DD)

- ▶ Atlanta Spa Shooting on March 16, 2021
- ▶ HPS collected from March 3-15, 2021, 2021 and March 17-29, 2021
 - ▶ Good pre- and post-exposure samples!
- ▶ $y_{it} = \delta ASIAN_{it} + \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \beta X_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$

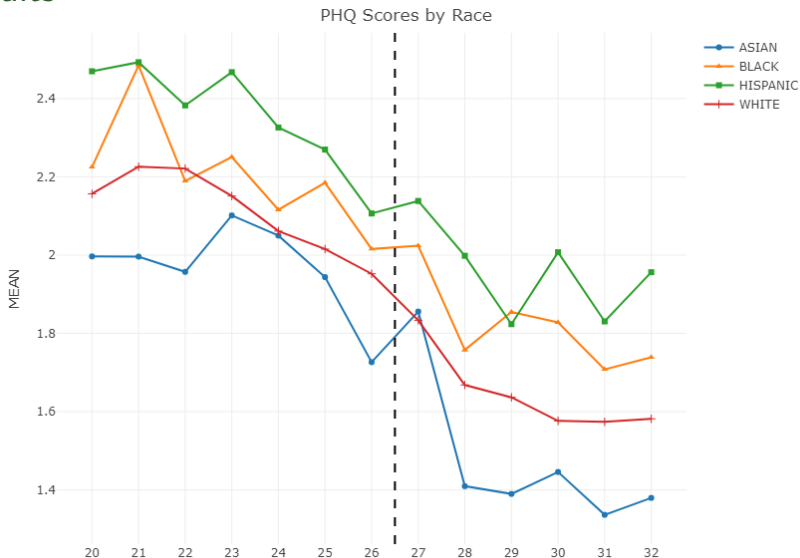
Methods: Robustness

- ▶ Event Study

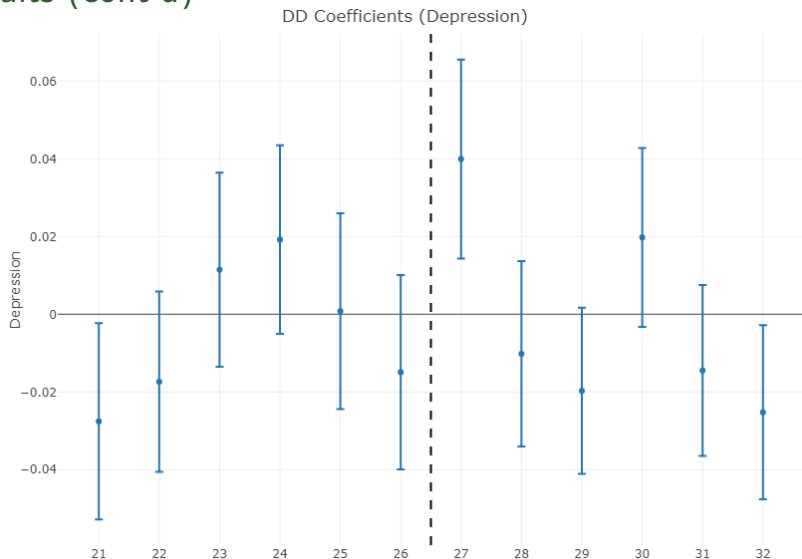
- ▶
$$y_{it} = \sum_i^T \delta + ASIAN_{it} + \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \beta X_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

- ▶ Falsification with placebo treatment groups (Black and Hispanic)
- ▶ Missingness

Results



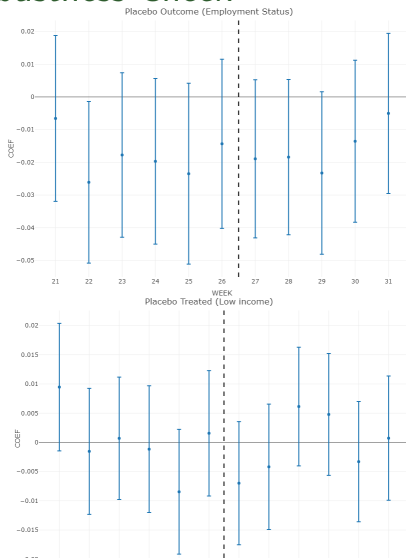
Results (cont'd)



Result (cont'd)

- ▶ DD estimator: Asians are 4% more likely to have depression immediately following 2021 Atl. Spa Shooting
- ▶ No long-term effects on mental health
- ▶ Noisy pre-treatment trends nevertheless insignificant coefficients (i.e. parallel trends satisfied)

Robustness Check



Robustness Check

- ▶ Exposure has no effects on placebo outcome (employment status)
- ▶ Exposure has no effects on placebo treatment group (low-income)