Opening Remarks

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Anti-Asian Racism

- Asian Americans are not immune to racism.
- **Old racist tropes** are being replayed. Historically, Asian immigrants were called a “yellow peril”: **unclean** and **unfit for citizenship in the US**.
- Trump’s rhetoric, calling COVID-19 “the Chinese virus” reinforces **xenophobia** against Asian people.
- Surge of global and national **anti-Asian racism during the pandemic**, including verbal, physical, and online attacks against Asian people or Asian-appearing people.
- **STOP APPI HATE** has received around 100 reports a day of verbal and physical racist attacks in the US since the end of March, which is likely much lower than the actual number.
- On March 14, three Asian American family members, including a 2-year-old and 6-year-old, were **stabbed in a grocery store** hate crime in Texas by a man who said they were spreading the coronavirus.
People of African Descent Most Likely to Die from COVID-19

- **Milwaukee County** - 81% of people who died were PAD even though PAD make up only 27% of the population.

- **Chicago** - PAD account for more than half of those who have tested positive and 72% of virus-related fatalities in Chicago, even though they make up a little less than a third of the population.

- **Louisiana** - 70% of the people who have died are PAD, though only a third of that state’s population is.

- **UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent Statement** -
  - “Thus far, no protection efforts have focused the public health response on the specific vulnerabilities of people of African descent,”
People of African Descent Most Likely to Die from COVID-19

- **Structural/systemic and socio-economic** factors play a part in the disproportionate deaths.
- Because of socio-economic factors, PAD are less likely to be able to work from home and are more likely to have service jobs requiring them to work during the pandemic.
- Ongoing **disparities in healthcare** contribute to pre-existing conditions.
- PAD are less likely to be insured
- Even when wearing a mask, PAD can be viewed with suspicion.
- **Doctors are less likely to test PAD** for COVID-19 even if they are displaying the same symptoms as their white counterparts. Disparity in testing can lead to considerably worse outcomes since the disease progresses very quickly.