

North American Attitudes toward Immigrants and Immigration in the Time of COVID-19: The Role of National Attachment and Threat

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In Canada, the term 'nationalism' doesn't seem to have a bad rap. Here's why

Canadians appear to have constructed their view of nationalism on the idea of feeling connected to our country and ensuring that others feel connected



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Herd immunity may take 4.6 years due to vaccine nationalism



Experts warn that vaccine nationalism could delay the achievement of global herd immunity. Photo editing by Stephen Kelly, Martin Barraud/Getty Images

- Vaccine access and vaccination rates are high in high-to-upper-income countries but remain low to nonexistent among lower-income and lower-resource countries.
- At current global vaccination rates, it will take 4.6 years to achieve worldwide herd immunity against COVID-19. This lengthy time gap will likely allow variants of the virus to develop and spread, potentially rendering current vaccines ineffective.
- Treating vaccines as public goods rather than market commodities is the way to improve vaccine equity. This may involve scaling up existing vaccination distribution programs, developing new ones, and temporarily waiving vaccine patent protections.

COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)

Global Cases

136,187,887

Cases by Country/Region/Sovereignty

- 31,202,818 US
- 13,527,717 India
- 13,482,023 Brazil
- 5,119,590 France
- 4,597,400 Russia
- 4,384,610 United Kingdom
- 3,849,011 Turkey
- 3,769,814 Italy
- 3,347,512 Spain
- 3,021,938 Germany

Global Deaths

2,938,829

562,096 deaths US

353,137 deaths Brazil

209,338 deaths Mexico

170,179 deaths India

127,331 deaths United Kingdom

114,054 deaths

Total Test Results in US

407,918,319

56,363,675 tests California US

47,470,275 tests New York US

22,037,982 tests Texas US

21,532,864 tests Florida US

21,172,007 tests Illinois US

10,233,921 tests

Daily Cases

192 countries

Lancet Inf Dis Article: [Here](#). Mobile Version: [Here](#). Data sources: [Full list](#). Downloadable database: [GitHub](#). Feature Layer. Lead by JHU CSSE. Technical Support: [Esri Living Atlas team](#) and [JHU APL](#). Financial Support: [NIH](#), [NIH-NCE](#), [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [Esri](#), [Rockwell Foundation](#). Design support: [Clark](#)

Covid-19 Recession: 10 Important Numbers That Sum Up America's Economic Crisis One Year Later



Sarah Hansen Forbes Staff Markets I cover breaking news.



Primary Objectives

- Predictors of (negative) attitudes toward immigrants and immigration in U.S. versus Canada during pandemic
- Forms of national attachment
 - Patriotism
 - Nationalism
 - COVID-related nationalism
- Threats
 - Economic
 - Health-related



Survey Conducted in Canada and the United States

- Representative survey on various aspects of attitudes and opinions about the pandemic
- Conducted in Canada (N = 2110) and the U.S. (N = 2124) in August 2020
- Probability sample of adult residents selected on the basis of age, gender, and region
- Provided in official languages



Predictions: Attitudes toward Immigrants and Immigration

- **Forms of national attachment**
 - **Patriotism:** e.g., “I am proud to be Canadian/American”
 - Mixed previous results; country-level differences in predicting attitudes?
 - **Nationalism:** e.g., “In view of Canadians’/Americans’ moral superiority, it is only right that we should have a big say in deciding United Nations policy”
 - Reliably predicts more negative attitudes



Predictions:

Attitudes toward Immigrants and Immigration

- **Forms of national attachment (cont.)**
 - **COVID-related Nationalism:** “The fight against COVID-19 in other countries is their problem, not ours”
 - Expected to predict more negative attitudes

Predictions: Attitudes toward Immigrants and Immigration

- **Threats:**

- **Economic:** Effect on the Canadian/American economy; Effect on your personal financial situation
 - Reliably predicts more negative attitudes at national level; results are more mixed at individual level
- **Health-related:** Threat to health of Canadian/American population as a whole; Risk to you or your family
 - Some evidence that threat of disease predicts more negative attitudes



Predicting Attitudes toward Immigration (higher number = more negative attitudes)

	Canada		United States	
	Level of immigration	Too much immigration	Level of immigration	Too much immigration
Patriotism	-0.02	-0.06**	0.07	0.18**
Nationalism	0.06	0.21**	0.09**	0.25**
COVID-related Nationalism	0.20**	0.37**	0.10**	0.34**
Personal economic threat	0.06	0.11**	0.06	0.02
National economic threat	0.08**	0.09**	-0.05	-0.05
Personal health threat	0.07	0.03	-0.05	0.04
National health threat	-0.10**	-0.07**	-0.11**	-0.11**
R^2	.08**	.28**	.10**	.41**

Level of immigration: too few, right number, too many; Too much immigration: strongly disagree – strongly agree

Predicting Attitudes toward Immigration from Different Regions of the World: Canada (higher number = let more in)

	USA	Europe	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East
Patriotism	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.08**
Nationalism	-0.09**	-0.10**	-0.17**	-0.17**	-0.14**	-0.17**
COVID-related Nationalism	-0.03	-0.07**	-0.23**	-0.21**	-0.19**	-0.27**
Personal economic threat	-0.10**	-0.11**	-0.01	-0.07**	-0.08**	-0.05
National economic threat	0.06	0.06	-0.05	-0.02	-0.03	-0.08**
Personal health threat	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06	-0.04	-0.06	-0.03
National health threat	-0.01	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.05
R^2	.04**	.06**	.14**	.13**	.11**	.19**

Should people from different regions of the world be allowed to come and live here: allow none, a few, some or many to come and live here

Predicting Attitudes toward Immigration from Different Regions of the World: USA (higher number = let more in)

	Canada	Europe	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Middle East
Patriotism	0.03	-0.02	-0.07	-0.05	-0.04	-0.09**
Nationalism	-0.14**	-0.16**	-0.16**	-0.19**	-0.17**	-0.16**
COVID-related Nationalism	-0.17**	-0.18**	-0.20**	-0.18**	-0.18**	-0.18**
Personal economic threat	0.00	0.01	0.02	-0.01	0.01	0.00
National economic threat	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.05	-0.01
Personal health threat	-0.01	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.05
National health threat	0.13**	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.09**
<i>R</i> ²	.11**	.13**	.16**	.15**	.14**	.17**

Should people from different regions of the world be allowed to come and live here: allow none, a few, some or many to come and live here

Predicting Attitudes toward Immigrants (higher number = more positive attitude)

	Canada		United States	
	Competence	Warmth	Competence	Warmth
Patriotism	-0.04	-0.07**	-0.14**	-0.11**
Nationalism	-0.11**	-0.03	-0.16**	-0.12**
COVID-related Nationalism	-0.23**	-0.23**	-0.13**	-0.15**
Personal economic threat	-0.04	-0.02	0.02	0.04
National economic threat	-0.06	-0.07**	0.03	0.03
Personal health threat	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.04
National health threat	0.11**	0.07**	0.16**	0.14**
R^2	.32**	.25**	.22**	.22**

Competence: competent, capable; Warmth: good-natured, warm

Predicting Attitudes toward Immigrants (higher number = more negative attitude)

	Canada			United States		
	Values	Disease	Zero-sum beliefs	Values	Disease	Zero-sum beliefs
Patriotism	-0.04	0.02	0.00	0.22**	0.08**	0.05
Nationalism	0.17**	0.26**	0.25**	0.24**	0.34**	0.31**
COVID-related Nationalism	0.35**	0.43**	0.46**	0.29**	0.43**	0.50**
Personal economic threat	0.05	0.10**	0.08**	0.03	0.04	0.04
National economic threat	0.15**	0.01	0.06	-0.02	-0.06**	-0.04
Personal health threat	-0.02	0.10**	0.04	0.01	0.07**	0.04
National health threat	-0.02	0.01	-0.03	-0.15**	0.02	-0.03
R^2	.26**	.35**	.37**	.42**	.49**	.53**

Values: Too many immigrants not adopting Canadian/American values; Immigrants bring in disease; Zero-sum thinking about treatment of immigrants in the context of COVID-19 wrt health care and employment

Some Noteworthy Findings

- Country level differences:
 - Patriotism
 - Economic threat
- Strength of prediction for COVID-related nationalism
- Somewhat surprising prediction for National health threat



Some Room for Optimism

Canada to contribute \$485M to help developing countries cope with COVID-19



Funding will support international efforts to aid vulnerable populations around the globe

CBC News · Posted: Dec 14, 2020 11:14 AM ET | Last Updated: December 14



International Development Minister Karina Gould announced today that Canada is contributing another \$485 million to help developing countries cope with COVID-19. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

[1806 comments](#)

Canada is providing \$485 million to help developing countries cope with COVID-19, including therapies to limit deaths and ease the burden on strained health-care systems.

International Development Minister Karina Gould and Public Services and Procurement Minister Anita Anand announced the funding during a news conference in Ottawa today.

World · Analysis

Au revoir 'America First': Biden team ditches Trump-style nationalism with foreign policy picks



President-elect's team shows move to international alliances, importance of climate



Alexander Panetta · CBC News · Posted: Nov 25, 2020 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: November 25



U.S. president-elect Joe Biden announces his foreign policy and national security nominees at his transition headquarters in Wilmington, Del., on Tuesday. He said his team 'reflects the fact that America is back' — a sharp departure from the approach taken by U.S. President Donald Trump. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)

[2093 comments](#)

Let's cast a gaze forward to the first few days of Joe Biden's presidency for a glimpse at how dramatic a departure we're about to witness from the "America First" era.

Some Room for Optimism

POLITICS | News

Program to give residency to 'guardian angel' asylum-seekers to open next week

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Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino holds a press conference in Ottawa on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick

OTTAWA — Some asylum-seekers who toiled on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis earlier this year will be able to apply for permanent residency in Canada beginning Dec. 14.

The federal government announced the program for the "guardian angels" working in health care back in August and has spent the last several months hammering out the details.

Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino unveiled more specifics Wednesday, saying there will be two streams — one for those who live in Quebec and one for those outside the province.

"Canadians are appreciative of asylum-seekers and the work they are doing during the pandemic," Mendicino said in a statement.

"Thanks to this special measure, we are recognizing their significant contribution by providing them with a more secure future in Canada."

For both programs, asylum-seekers who have been working in a specific list of health-care related professions and who had already claimed asylum before last March 13 will be able to apply for permanent residency.

But eligibility criteria for the program are also being expanded to include spouses or common-law partners of refugee claimants who died after contracting COVID-19.