

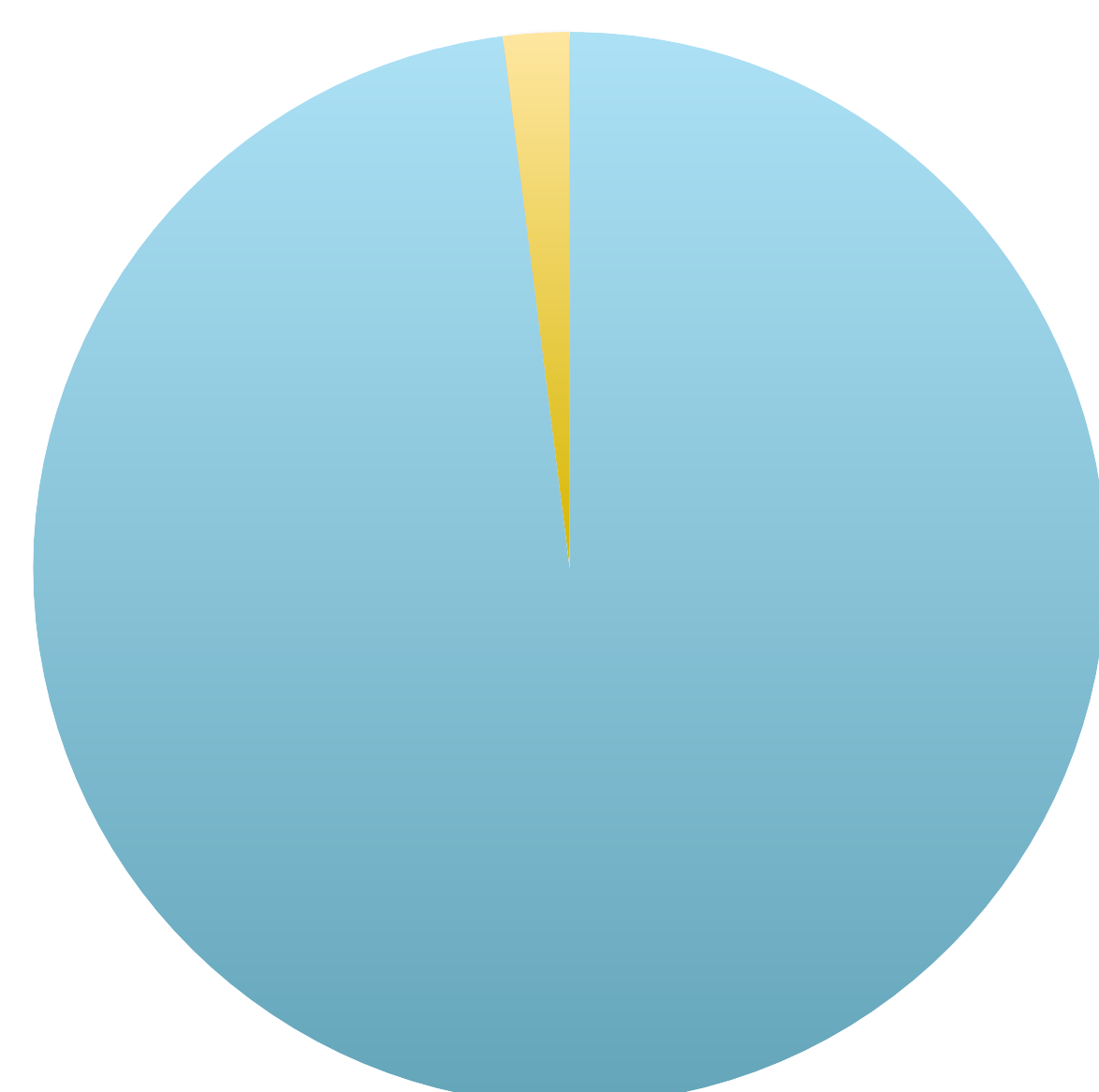
Purpose

The objective of this study is to ascertain the personal thoughts and increase dialogue regarding COVID-19 vaccinations among African American men and women ages 18 years and older who attend Fisk University or live in the Nashville, TN area.

Demographic

The research population for this project was African American males and females 18 years and older who attend Fisk University or live in the Nashville, TN area from any socioeconomic background.

Responses to if Participants Believe Wearing a Mask and Social Distancing has Been Effective in Slowing the Spread of COVID-19



● Yes (98%)
● Probably effective in some instances (2%)

Methods

The “listening sessions” were promoted via social media using the GroupMe platform and through email invitation to local graduate chapters of National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizations. The partnering NPHC organization was Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA).

Fisk University students were able to choose between two dates and times for sessions via Google Doc. Once participants were solidified, the “listening sessions” were conducted via Zoom. There were a total of 29 participants for the sessions.

Conversely, a Google Survey including the ten (10) survey questions was disseminated to the Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and there were eleven (11) responses.

To accurately document the Zoom “listening sessions”, they were recorded. However, prior to taping, participants were made aware of this information.

Community Partner Acknowledgements

- Fisk University
- TN-MMC HBCU Wellness Project
- Meharry Medical College
- Legislative Black Caucus for Tennessee
- Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Middle Tennessee State University SHAs

Outcomes

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) Thirty-three (33) females and seven (7) males shared their opinions regarding vaccines, COVID-19 state and local mandates, the utilization of masks as well as personal habits and behaviors.
- 2) All participants ranged between the ages of eighteen to fifty(18-50) and attend Fisk University, another HBCU, or reside in Nashville, TN.
- 3) Nearly ninety percent (90%) of partipcants reported that they utilize social media as their primary source of receiving news and information. Further, ten percent (10%) of participants relayed their central source of receiving news and information is the television/news and social media.
- 4) The majority of participants said they would like to know about the side effects before taking the vaccine.
- 5)Twenty percent (20%) of participants have reported they already received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Student Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) It is beneficial to offer an incentive in order to get individuals to take part in research.
- 2) It is difficult to obtain participants when the research listening sessions are conducted during the weekend.
- 3) Though participants signed up for the listening sessions, some individuals will still not follow through.