



Attitudes Toward COVID-19 Among African-American Males

Ariyah Robinson and Kiara Baker

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga — Chattanooga, Tennessee

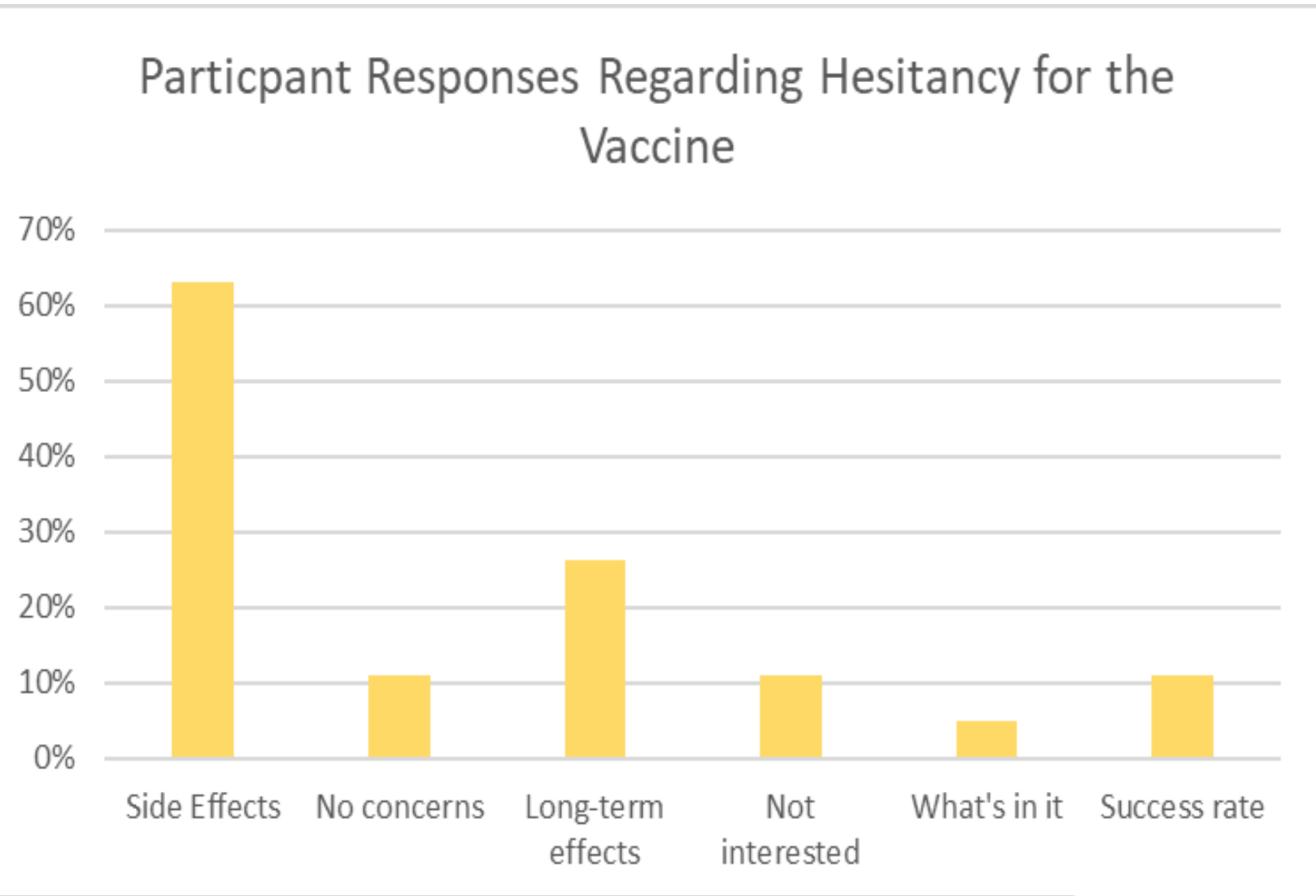


PURPOSE

The aim of this study was to ascertain the thoughts and personal habits/behaviors regarding COVID-19 of African American males from the ages of 18-25 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and in the Chattanooga, TN area. COVID-19, as with most health disparities has disproportionately affected African Americans. Understanding the thoughts of this population can help health care professionals better meet the needs of this group.

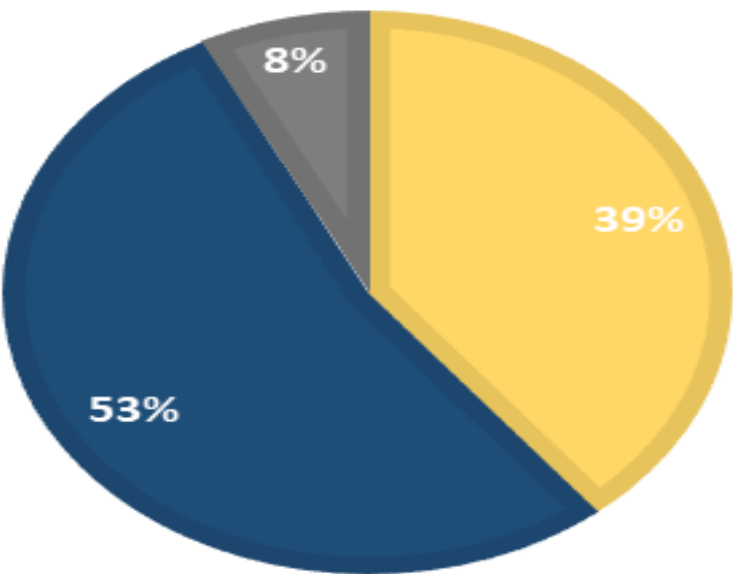
DEMOGRAPHIC

The target demographic for this project was African American men ages 18-25 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s campus and the Chattanooga community from different socioeconomic backgrounds.



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES REGARDING SOURCES OF NEWS

■ NATIONAL NEWS SOURCE ■ SOCIAL MEDIA ■ OTHER



METHODS

To solicit participants for the “Listening Sessions” virtual flyers were posted on the student ambassadors’ social media accounts. We also verbally solicited individuals whom we knew fit the demographic criteria. Once the participants agreed to the listening sessions, Signmeup.com was utilized to create appointment times to conduct the listening sessions.

Once participants were selected, sixteen “sessions” were conducted via Zoom. Sessions three and four had two participants while the remaining fourteen sessions had only one participant.

Questions included, “When was the last time you got a flu vaccine?” and, “What factors would you consider before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?”

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) Nineteen (19) young men shared their opinions and attitudes regarding COVID-19 local and national mandates, vaccines, and personal behaviors.
- 2) 58% of participants reported receiving the flu vaccine. Of that 58%, most stated they got the vaccine only because they were required to. Those who did not get the flu shot gave reasonings along the lines of distrust of the medical field (Tuskegee experiment was cited several times) or just general disinterest.
- 3) 26% of the participants were current UTC students.
- 4) 21% of participants were open to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

STUDENT LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) A large percentage (63%) of the participants are curious to know about short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine before getting it.
- 2) It is difficult to get people to take part in research without some type of incentive.
- 3) Those who do not regularly get the flu vaccine are more opposed to or skeptical of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 4) Majority of the participants get their news from social media which can have an influence on their attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccine.

COMMUNITY PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Hamilton County Health Department
- TN-MMC HBCU Wellness Project
- Dr. Linda Frost
- Hope For Inner City Chattanooga
- North River Bible Baptist Church
- The Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination