



Vaccine Viewpoints in African American College Students

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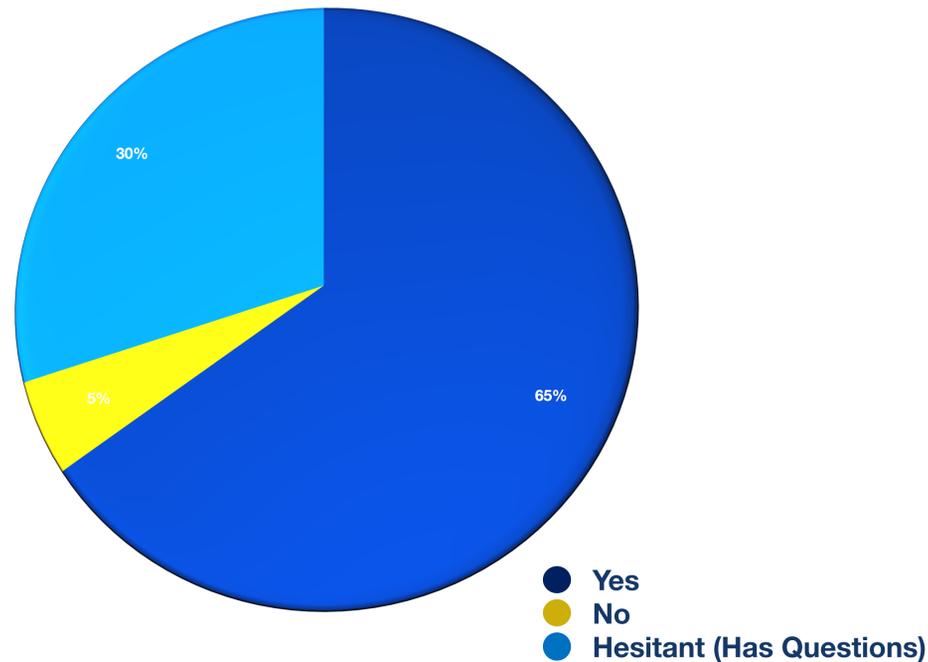


PURPOSE

This study was implemented to obtain a better understanding regarding vaccine standpoints held by both African American male and female college students, ages 18-23, in the Chattanooga area.

DEMOGRAPHIC

The target demographic for this project is both African American males and females ages 18-23 that are college students in the Chattanooga area and that come from any socioeconomic background.



METHODS

To accumulate college students for the Listening Sessions, there was a reach out to the Mayor’s Youth Council Alumni from 2019 that attend college in the areas surrounding Chattanooga. Along with this, Instagram was used to compile participants. The main mode of communication on Instagram was through direct messaging current students attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The last method in gathering students for the listening sessions was through an announcement after class which resulted in 5 participants.

Once participants were determined, the “sessions” were conducted via Zoom and following social distancing guidelines at the library. There were a total of twenty-eight participants. During these sessions, the following specific questions were asked:

- What concerns do you have concerning the current vaccine?
- If the vaccine was available for you to take, would you be willing?
- How are you taking precautions to protect your health during this pandemic?
- How has this pandemic affected you?
- How do you see the next five years playing out and what role does the vaccine play?

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) 65% of individuals reported yes to the option of taking the vaccine if available.
- 2) The top three biggest concerns regarding the vaccine were the rapid time frame of development, possible side effects, and accessibility to the vaccine.
- 3) Of the twenty-eight (28) college participants, there were fifteen (15) current UTC students.
- 4) 49% of individuals believe that the effects of this pandemic will not be over within the next five-year time span.

STUDENT LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) The vaccine has high levels of stigma surrounding it and there are many questions that individuals have regarding the time frame in which it has been developed.
- 2) The best way to collect students to participate for the listening sessions was through the usage of social media.

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