



The Impact of COVID-19 Among African American Communities in Murfreesboro, TN

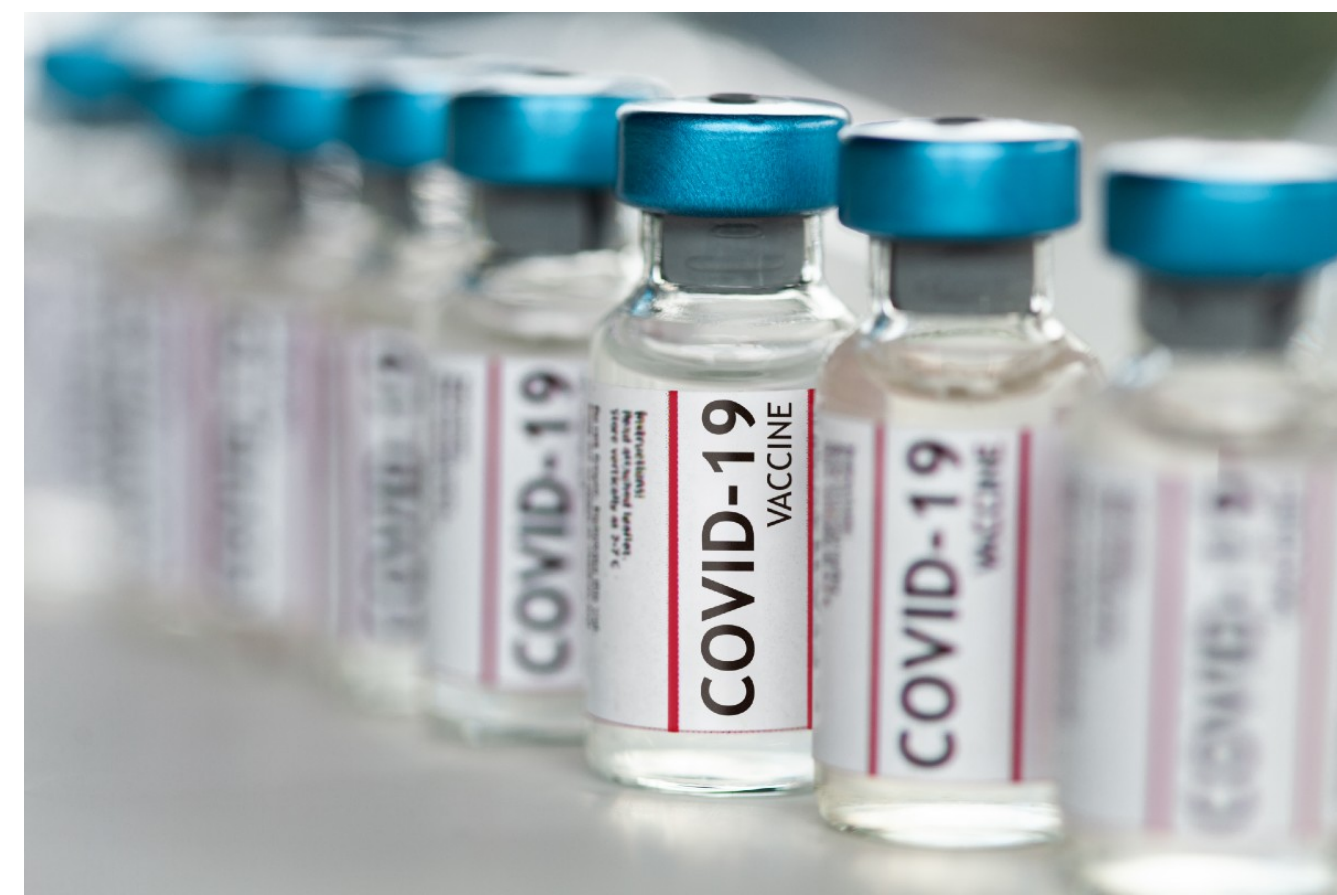
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Purpose

The objective of this study is to gain insight from African Americans eighteen (18) years and older who attend Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and reside in Murfreesboro TN on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. To better understand fears and mistrust in African American communities, the results will be used to help develop strategies to better educate community residents around medical, ethical, and legal issues for vaccine compliance.



Demographic

The Target Demographic for this study are African American men and women eighteen (18) years or older from all socioeconomic backgrounds who live in Murfreesboro, TN or attend Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). However, if participants do not meet these criteria, they will not be excluded if they would like to participate, but they will not be included in the final report. Consequently, anyone not eighteen (18) years or older will not be allowed to participate.



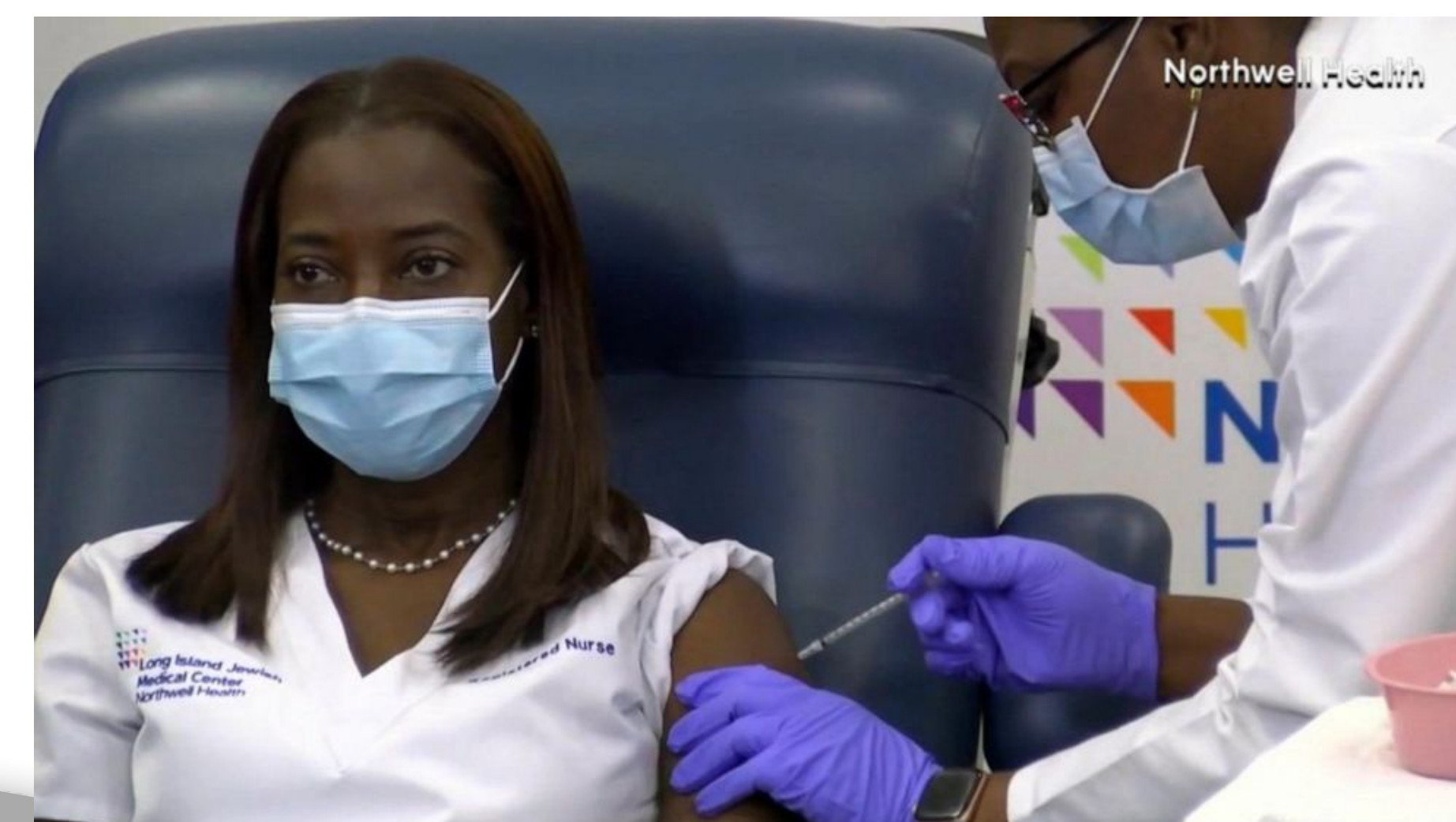
Methodology

- To obtain participants for the “listening sessions” flyers were placed around the MTSU campus. Also, the same recruitment information was posted to social media outlets (Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat).
- Local community partners requested to share the recruitment information regarding the “listening session” on their social media outlet.
- Once all participants were recruited, two “listening sessions” were conducted via zoom.
- Both “listening sessions” were recorded for accurate documentation whereas, results were transcribed manually but no identifying information was captured as individuals were asked to remove their screen name.

Outcomes

The following results were obtained:

1. A total of 30 participants shared their opinions regarding COVID-19 related topics as well as their daily routines during the epidemic.
2. Above 40% of participants reported they only received the Flu Vaccine when it is required from work or school.
3. Approximately 90% of participants reported they wear a mask anytime they are in public, on the contrary, 80% of the participants state they do not wear masks around their family members.
4. Over 75% of participants stated they know someone who has been infected they Covid-19. Nevertheless, more than 80% reported they will not receive the Covid-19 vaccine once it is released to the public.
5. Most participants are hesitant about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine due to a variety of concerns behind the development.
6. The majority of participants stated, “ The vaccine is being rushed ”.
7. Approximately 90% of participants reported they wear a mask anytime they are in public, on the contrary, 80% of participants state they do not wear a mask around family members.
8. Most participants reported they receive their COVID-19 related news on social media outlets such as Instagram, Twitter, and News outlets like CNN, Daily News, Fox News.



Queens ICU nurse, Sandra Lindsay, became the first person in the US to receive the COVID vaccine on Monday, December 14.

Student Lessons Learned

1. Misinformation found on social media outlets regarding COVID-19 is a crucial threat to public health.
2. Student organizations were the best way to gather an adequate amount of students to participate in this investigation.
3. Many black and brown people do not trust the COVID-19 vaccine.

Community Partner Acknowledgements

- Rutherford County Health Department
- MTSU African Student Association
- Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter, Omega Psi Phi
- TN-MMC HBCU Wellness Project

