

Abstract

Domestic violence (DV), also known as “domestic abuse” is the use of abusive behavior to assert dominance over an intimate partner or family member and typically occurs in a systematic pattern inside one’s home. DV impacts over 10 million Americans each year. Through this study, the goal was to provide participants with information so that they could have a greater knowledge of domestic abuse, warning signs, psychological effects, and local available resources for assistance. This year’s event was a collaboration with the Roberta Baines Wheeler Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Group and YWCA Nashville of Middle Tennessee.

Purpose and Background

The purpose of this intervention was to educate African American men and women 18 years and older who attend an Historically Black College/University on domestic violence. A supplementary focus was to shine light on the fact that as a result of domestic violence, some individuals develop health abnormalities, including mental illness as a result of stress. These illnesses include, but are not limited to, depression, anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In data collected by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 77.5% of African Americans have experienced physical abuse at some point in their lives, and over 50% faced psychological aggression. Unfortunately, many individuals are unaware of local assistance or are afraid to seek help due to fear of retaliation from their abuser.

Method(s) and Procedure(s)

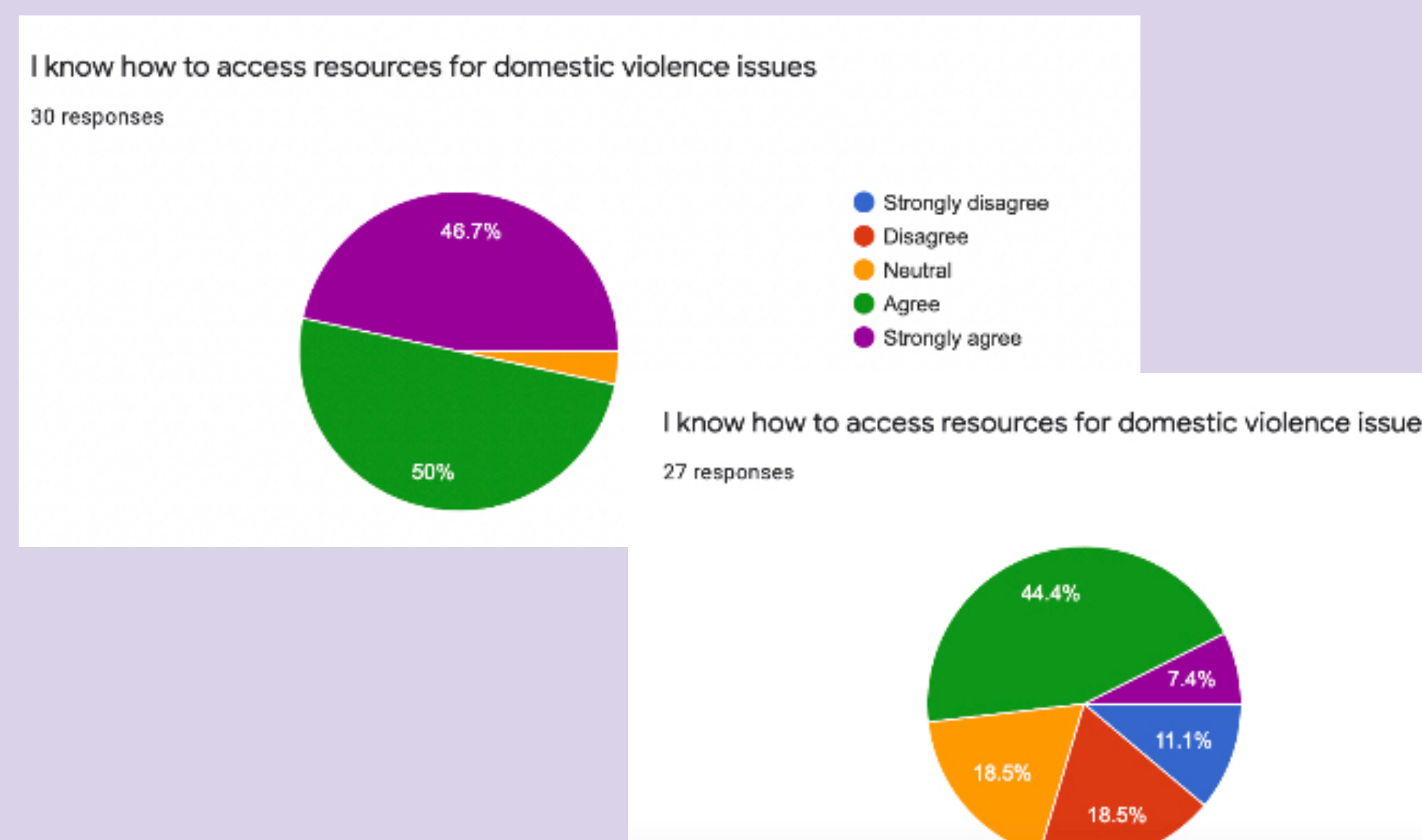
To recruit participants for this event, flyers were posted via GroupMe and Instagram. At the beginning of the event, a pre-survey link was administered via a QR code and participants were asked to take the survey. Next, Mr. Damien Talley, Vice President of Domestic Violence Services at the Nashville YWCA gave a presentation to the group and the Student Health Ambassador moderated the event. Following his presentation, a representative of the RBW Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Group spoke on the correlation between stress from abusive households and Pulmonary Hypertension Development. Throughout the session, a variety of domestic violence topics were brought to the forefront including a very prevalent, current issue: mentally and emotionally abusive relationships in college. Additionally, Mr. Talley shared several local resources with the group. Following the presentation and questions, participants were asked to complete a post-survey by the same method as the pre-survey. Those individuals who completed both pre and post-surveys were entered into a raffle for a monetary gift card; two cards were given away. Both surveys helped to measure whether participants gained relevant knowledge. To ensure integrity with both pre and post survey’s, the number of submitted responses were counted with corresponding Survey Identification Methods.

Outcome

The primary expected outcome of this study was for participants to have increased knowledge of domestic violence in addition to recognizing warning signs and being able to locate available resources. According to the pre and post-survey results after this event, there was a significant change in participants knowing how to locate local resources after the event. In comparison with my 2021 event on DV, there was a 50% increase in participants.

Data Collected with most evident change in response following intervention:

- *Pre-Survey: Variable distribution of responses on “Access to Resources for Domestic Violence Issues”*
- *Post-Survey: 50% of participants strongly agreed on knowing how to access resources for domestic violence issues*



Significance of Study

There is an evident relationship between domestic abuse and mental health. Following this study, participants had an increase in knowledge of domestic abuse, its potential psychological effects, and future prevention methods. Participants also received local resources to get help if needed.

References

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