



# Conversations about COVID-19

Jennifer Bazel

Knoxville College— Knoxville, Tennessee



## PURPOSE

The aim of this study is to ascertain the thoughts and personal habits/behaviors of African American individuals from the ages of 25-60 in the Knoxville, TN area at it relates to COVID-19, vaccinations, as well as other health disparities that have disproportionately affected African Americans.

## DEMOGRAPHIC

The target demographic for this project are African American men women in the Knoxville community from 25-60 years of age that come from any socioeconomic background.



## METHODS

Individuals were solicited to participate in the interviews via an open Zoom session.

Once the participants were selected, the interviews were scheduled and conducted via in-person and Zoom. The interviewer took handwritten notes to assist with the outcomes.

## OUTCOMES

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) Eight (8) men and women shared their opinions regarding COVID-19.
- 2) They shared their opinions concerning state and local mandates as well as personal habits and behaviors.
- 3) All (100) percent of participants self-reported they wear a mask anytime they are in public.
- 4) Fear of backlash to make safeguards mandatory. How would it affect their customer base.
- 5) The participants believe COVID-19 is here to stay.
- 6) Fifty-seven (57) percent felt stressed. For example, making the shift from working outside of the home to working from home and helping with online school for their children.
- 7) Eighty-seven (87) percent will not receive the vaccine.

## STUDENT LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) Everyone felt some level of fear during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) A lack of knowledge regarding what to do if they were to contract the virus, adjusting to the limited freedom of venturing outdoors, feeling confined at home, increased anxiety due to not being able to work, limited ability to take care of self or family, and coping with the loss of loved ones,
- 3) People are concerned if the vaccine is safe, how will the vaccine affect their health if they have pre-existing conditions.
- 4) Understanding the process of transmission, applying the simple steps to reduce the spread of the virus, and adjusting to the new “normal” society.

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