

## ABSTRACT

Breast cancer is a disease that is the second leading cause of death for women. Furthermore, breast cancer prognosis can typically vary by ethnicity. For African American women, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer. The goal was to recruit African American women 18 years and older to participate in an informational event to educate participants on ways to increase awareness and lower risk of breast cancer.

## PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this educational event was to raise awareness of this health disparity among African American women 18 years and older in the Nashville, TN community. Rates of breast cancer in the U.S. vary by race and ethnicity and among African American women it is the most common form of cancer (Susan G. Komen, 2020). In women under 45, breast cancer has shown to be more prevalent in black women than white women (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). African American women have a 31% breast cancer mortality rate which is highest of any U.S. racial or ethnic group.

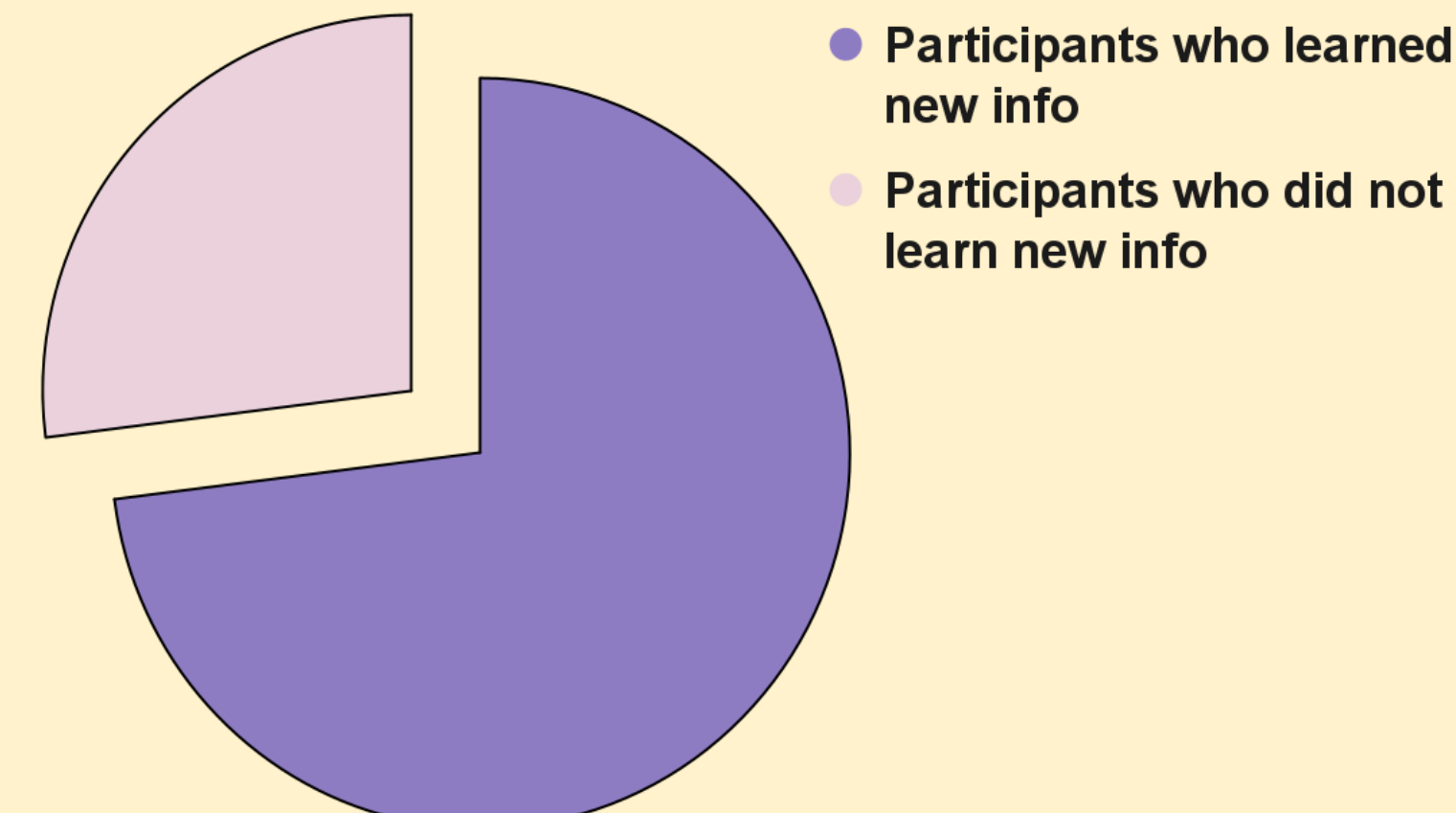
## METHODS AND PROCEDURE

This project was promoted via social media posts. Before the presentation, an Informed Consent Form was administered via Google Docs. Then, a pre-test on breast cancer knowledge was administered to all participants using the same electronic method. Next, a researcher in the Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, at Meharry Medical College gave a presentation of breast health information was shared. At the conclusion of the event, a post-test was given for participants to find if knowledge was gained from the event. In addition, all participants who completed the pre- and post-test were eligible to participate in a drawing for two \$25 gift cards.

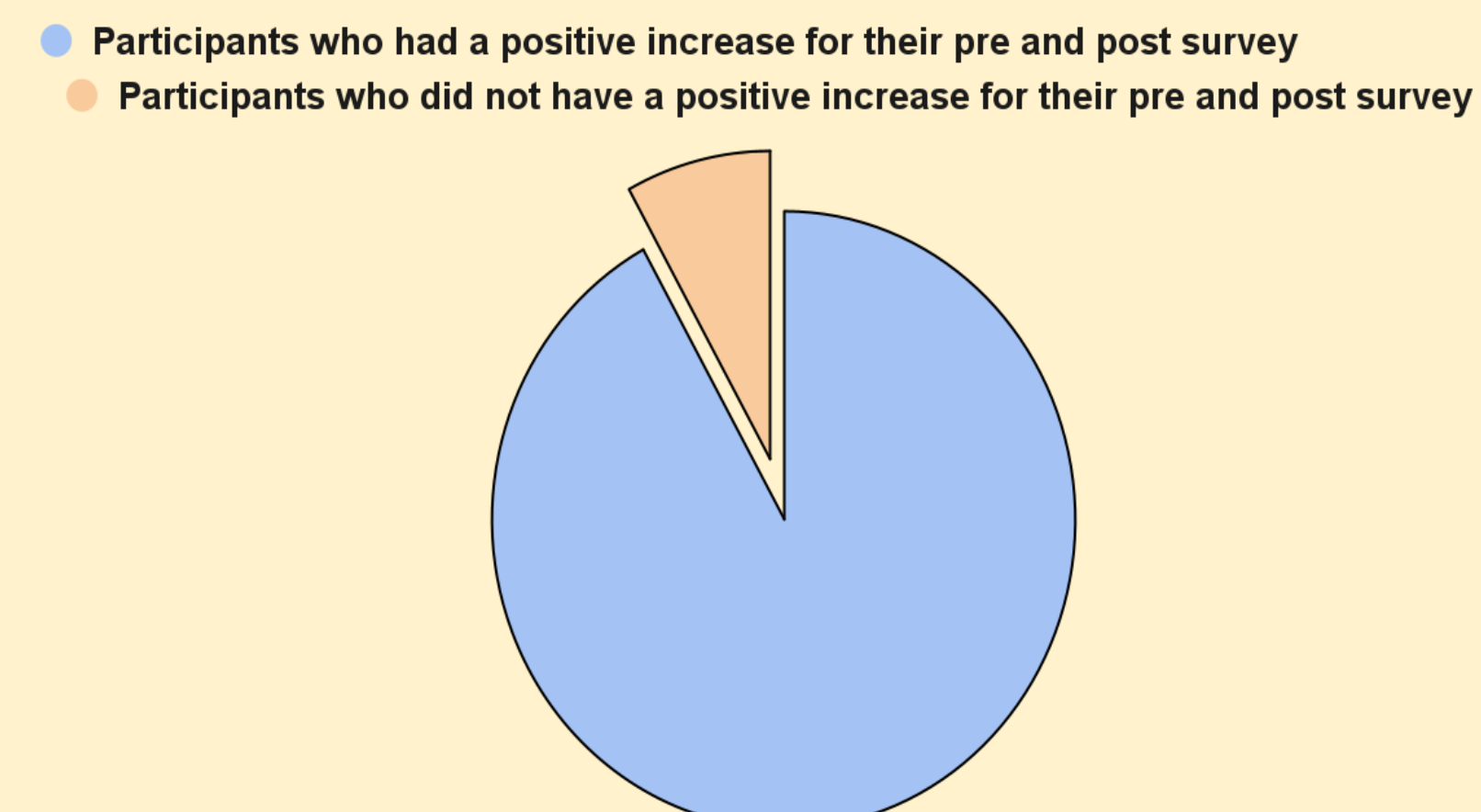
To ensure that a participants pre and post instruments were properly matched, individuals were asked to include the street portion of their address and initials (first, middle, and last) on both.

## OUTCOME

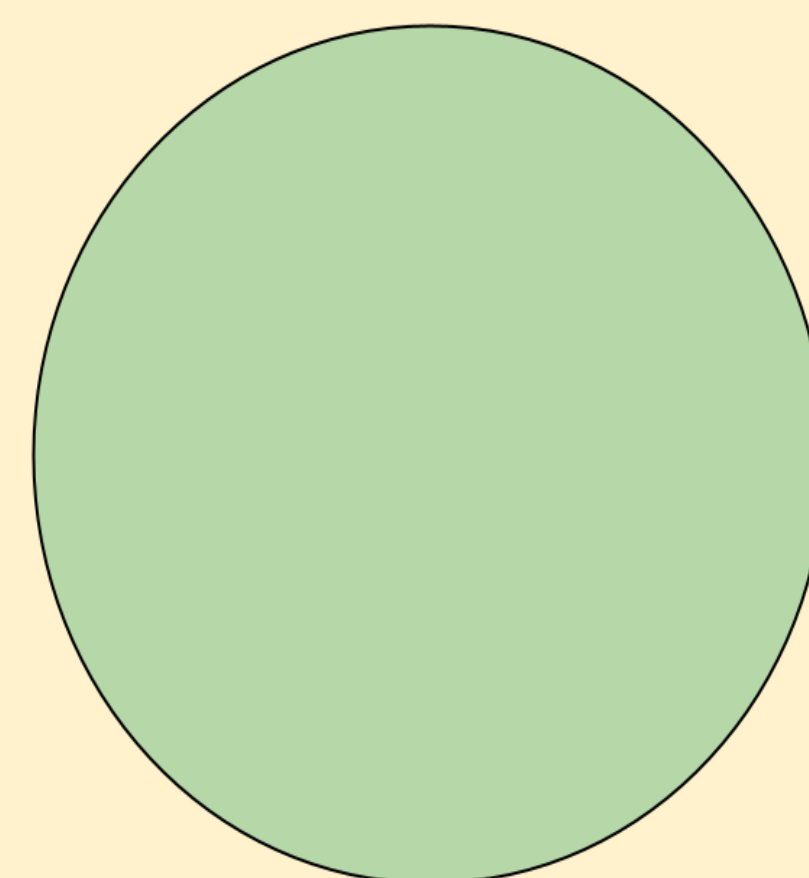
**Percentage of participants who gained valuable information that they had not known prior to the event**



**Percentage of participants who's pre and post survey had a positive increase**



**Percentage of participants who felt that they gained valuable information during the event**



## DISCUSSION

By creating a virtual event for college-age African American women, focused on breast cancer, awareness and preventative education was brought to the forefront. Thereby, this rarely targeted demographic was able to receive age-appropriate relevant information. Consequently, armed with breast cancer basics and mammogram timelines, this knowledge can assist participants with possible early detection in the future.

## REFERENCES

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4. Susan G. Komen (2020). Breast Cancer Statistics. [online] <https://ww5.komen.org/BreastCancer/Statistics.html>
5. Breast Cancer Prevention Partners. (2020). African American Women and Breast Cancer. [online] <https://www.bcpp.org/resource/african-american-women-and-breast-cancer/>

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