

ABSTRACT

Infant mortality is a health disparity that describes the death of an infant that is younger than one year old. Historically, African Americans have had the highest rate of infant mortality compared to any other race in the United States. This study will be used to provide pertinent information that attendees can apply that can help lower their chances of experiencing Infant Mortality. Participants will be recruited through social media digital flyers and word-of-mouth. Next, they will be asked to attend an informational virtual session where they will be given a pre-test, a short presentation, and a post-test. The results from both tests will demonstrate how much each person learned during the session.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

As of 2017, 11 per 1,000 African American child births result in infant mortality. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is defined as the death of a healthy infant before their first birthday. SIDS could be caused by physical, environmental, and maternal risk factors. Including low birth weight, physical risk factors could encompass brain defects and respiratory infections. A baby's sleeping position is also vital to overall health, as the baby should be sleeping on the stomach or the side and sleeping on a soft surface, on their own bed. Being a mother younger than 20 years old and the use of cigarettes, drugs, or alcohol increases her baby's potential chance of SIDS. It is also recommended for the infant to not be overheated or have their head covered as they sleep. Breastfeeding for six months is also an advised way to reduce the risk of SIDS because breast milk gives the baby antibodies and nutrients needed to protect them from infections and help develop the brain.



METHODS AND PROCEDURE

The research population was recruited through social media and word-of-mouth. To begin, each participant was given a pre-test that explored their knowledge on infant mortality, then, an informational presentation was given. The information presented described what infant mortality is and how safe sleeping habits for infants greatly reduces the risk of SIDS. After the presentation, a post-test was given to show how much each participant learned from the session. To ensure that participants' pre and post instruments were properly matched, yet refrain from collecting identifying information, individuals were asked to type the street portion of his/her address and their initials (first, middle, and last) on both. Since the event took place virtually via Zoom, the surveys were administered via Google Doc.

OUTCOME

Image 1: Pre-Test

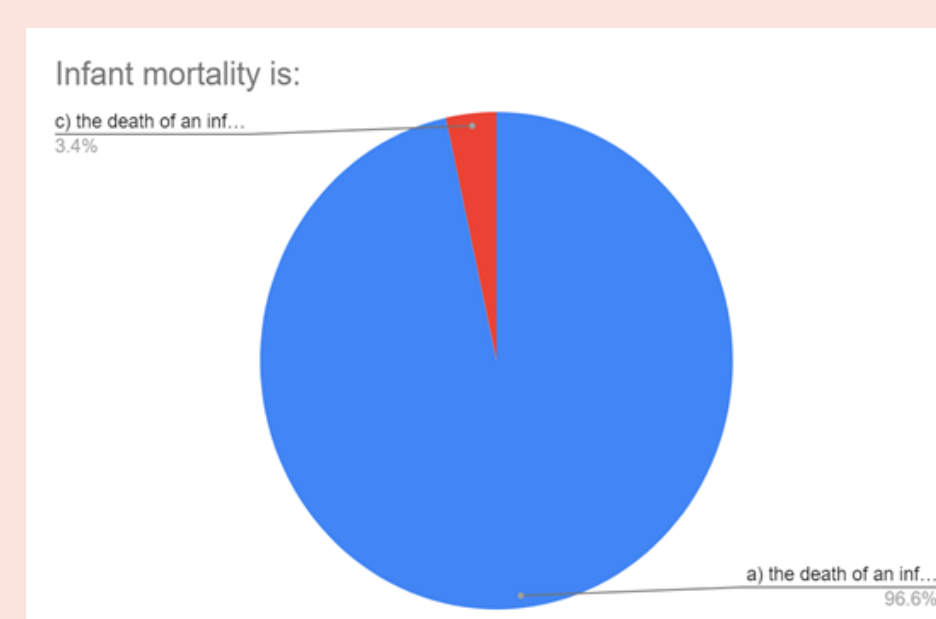


Image 2: Pre-Test

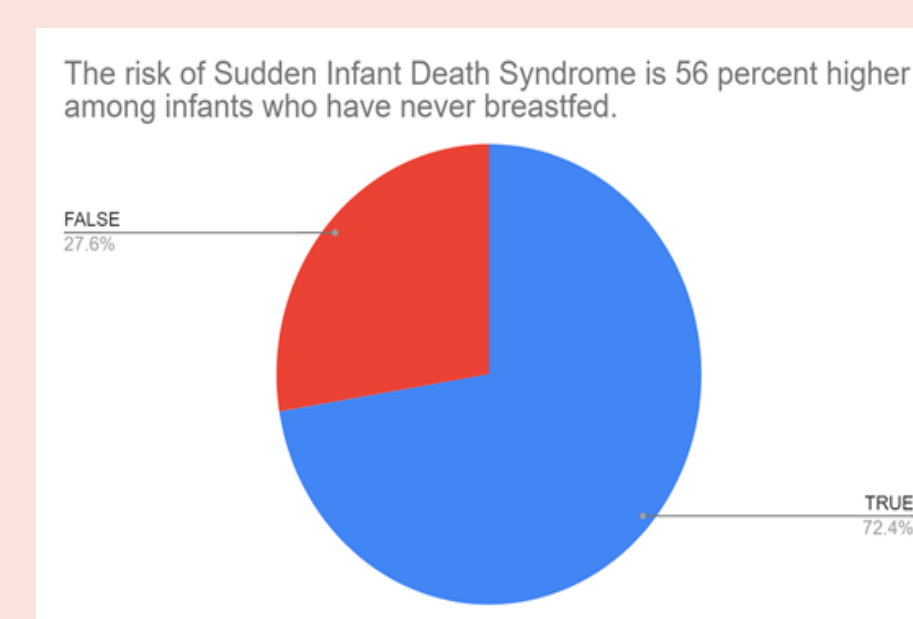


Image 3: Post-Test

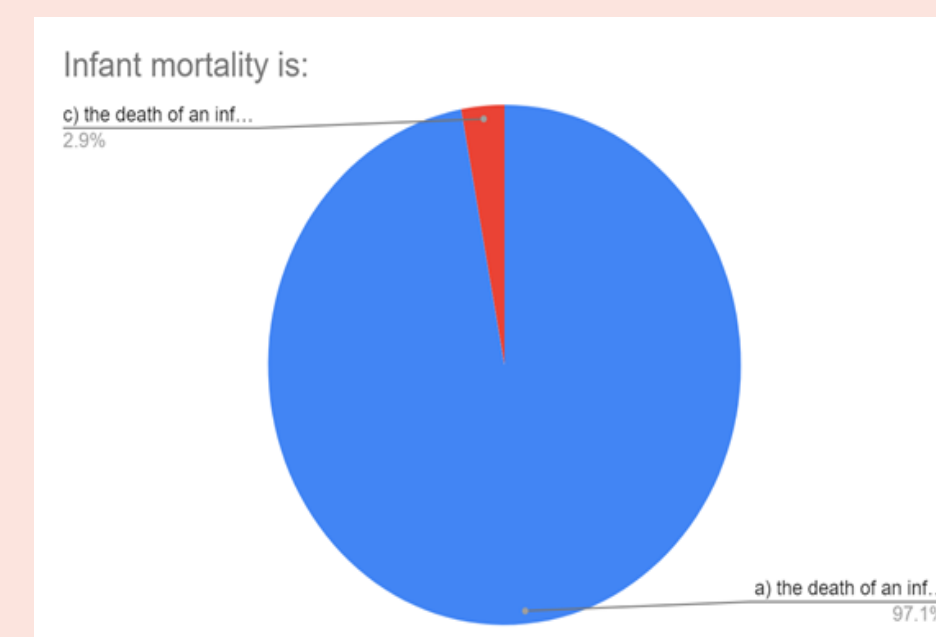


Image 4: Post-Test

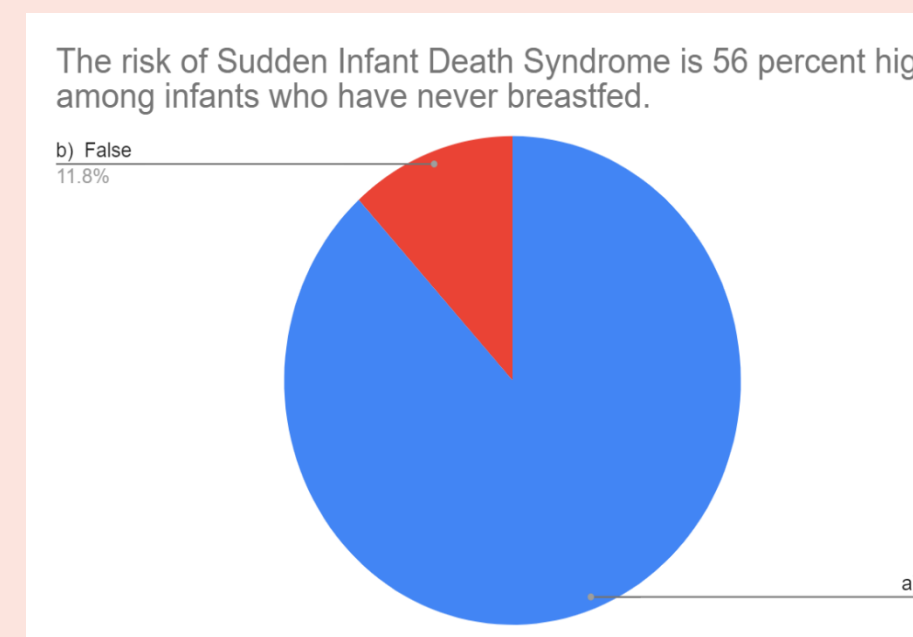
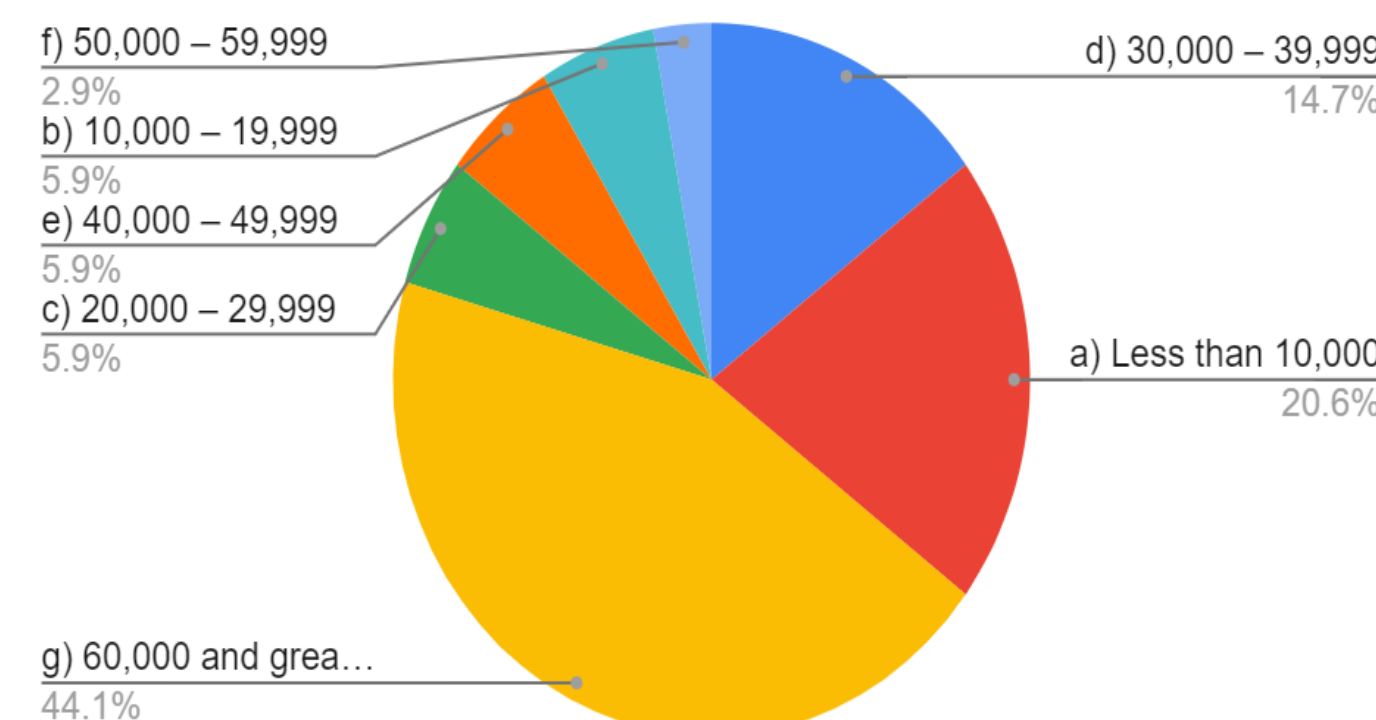


Image 5: Demographics

What is your total household income, including all earners in your household?



SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

Learning information from this event assisted the target audience of how to best take precautions and initiative to do their part to help decrease the rates of infant mortality among African Americans. This second intervention in October 2021 showed growth from the intervention from March 2021 by not only reaching more people but also tripling attendance in October 2021. However, 100% of participants from the March 2021 event knew what Infant Mortality meant after the project vs 97.1% at the October 2021 event. Neve teaching participants preventative measures that can be incorporated to help prevent Infant Mortality.



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