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Mr. Speice 2A

Independent Study and Mentorship

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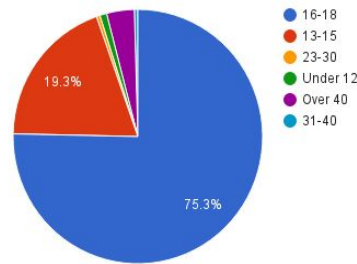
Original Work Assessment

Back in October when I first started my journey into my original work, it took a lot of thought for me to discover what I wanted to learn about based off of what interested me the most, so I looked back at past research assessments and reread the articles about preventing drug abuse; this topic sparked my curiosity. I knew that there were several local problems in North Texas with various types of drug abuse- recreational and prescription. Therefore with some advice from Mr. Speice, I decided on creating a survey that I would send out that would allow me to discover how different age groups viewed the issue of drug abuse in Frisco. However with almost any project, its goals/purpose changes over time, so after discussing with my mentor, I focused on discovering the accessibility of drugs and what (mainly) high school students' experiences and opinions are on various topics within drug abuse. I had the intent of making it anonymous in order to maintain confidentiality, so people would feel safe to put their actual experiences down as they actually happened instead of lying to protect themselves. This offered safety and allowed me to accurately analyze the data.

By taking notes on the best ways to write a survey, I took a couple pointers about avoiding non-specific questions and placing questions in a specific order based on chronological factors or looking at general ideas. This not only helped aid the drug abuse survey for my original work, but also helped me evaluate future suggestions when building a project from the

ground up. Once it was established, I broadcasted to the teachers of the science department

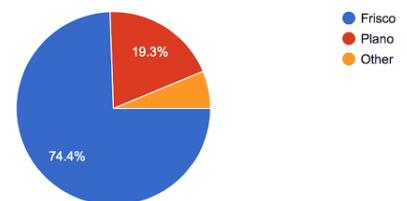
How old are you?



asking if they would let their students take the survey as almost every student at Reedy attends a science class. This allowed me to get the most of responses from teens my age and see their input about the accessibility of drugs in our community. I also shared the survey with friends living in

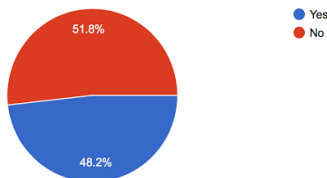
Plano to see if I could get some varied responses other than just the people that live in Frisco. About 6.3% of my 225 respondents were from another city, but still within the limits of North Texas. This was important because it was my original goal to maintain responses all within local areas.

What city do you live in? (223 responses)



Furthermore, I found that about 48.2% of people knew someone personally in their life

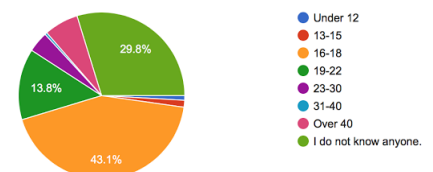
Do you know anyone in your life (family, friends, yourself) who abuses drugs? (224 responses)



that were involved in drug abuse. Also, I saw that the most prominent age of the people the respondents knew that abused drugs was from the ages of 16-18 (43%): most likely due to the

majority of respondents being 16-18 years old (75%), so they would know about their peers' involvement. I realized that there could have been some errors with some participants knowing the same people that abuse drugs, but it still is an overwhelming amount to have half of the respondents personally connected with drug abuse through themselves, family, or friends.

What is the most prominent age of the people that you know who abuse drugs? (225 responses)



I saw how people defined drug abuse based upon what their parents taught them and how they interacted with drugs. One of my participants defined it as “when a person uses drugs in excessive amounts and is to the point where they are no longer in control of their addiction.” This definition is from the point of view of a teenager 16-18 years old from Frisco which gives a lot of insight of how they view drug abuse in their community. There were various responses representing the emotional interpretation of drug abuse and a more methodical thinking and statistical approach. These logical responses tend to have the symptoms of being addicted to drugs or possible causes that led to the occurrence of drug abuse in them.

For my original work product, I wanted to evaluate the responses using Google Forms and use a succinct way of collecting my data. I wanted to add some commentary to my responses in order to discover why participants answered in certain ways. This helped me understand local drug abuse better and start to think about what steps I need to take next in order to compare my survey responses to national averages.

My mentor’s advice on my topic and how to tweak my original work to become something manageable and realistic was invaluable throughout this process. Through the information in my survey and the help of my mentor and research, I believe I gained a better understanding into a critical subject in pharmacy. Through this process, I believe I showed the technicalities of hard work and innovation. I hoped to not only enhance my knowledge of drug abuse, but my community’s understanding. My goal that stayed the same throughout my original work is to make a large impact on someone’s life, so that way they can see the detriments of abusing prescriptions and other drugs.