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IMPLEMENTING NEW SERVICES AT WSU MOBILE HEALTH UNIT USING A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSET SURVEY

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BACKGROUND

- Health inequities exist in minority and vulnerable populations due to social determinants of health and lack of access to quality healthcare

- The Global Health and Urban Equity (GLUE) program at Wayne State University aims to address health inequities in urban populations worldwide through research, education, and community engagement.
- The program brings together interdisciplinary teams of scholars and practitioners to develop and implement innovative solutions to health challenges faced by urban populations.
- GLUE members chose capstone projects that involve conducting research on a particular health equity issue, analyzing the data, and proposing a solution or intervention to address the issue.
- Mobile health clinics (MHCs) can address these barriers by leveraging existing community assets to improve chronic disease outcomes, increase rates of preventative health screenings, and decrease emergency room visits in underserved groups.
- Wayne State University's (WSU) Mobile Health Unit is in the process of expanding services provided.

PROBLEM

- Despite the potential benefits of MHCs, there are still challenges in delivering healthcare services to underserved populations.

- One of the challenges is that patients may not be aware of the availability of MHC services.

- Another challenge is that MHCs may face limited funding and resources to operate effectively.

- As a result, there is a need for targeted interventions and outreach strategies to increase awareness of MHC services and improve their sustainability in delivering healthcare to underserved populations.

QI OBJECTIVE

- Develop a community health asset survey for the project
- Use single or serial validated surveys to assess community member healthcare needs
- Administer surveys on paper or electronically
- Enter survey data into a database for further review by team members
- Inquire about healthcare and preventative services that participants would like to see implemented at each site

BARRIERS/SETBACKS

SURVEY RESULTS

The team began distributing surveys (both paper/pencil and electronic options are available) at MHU sites in February 2023.

Data collection still in process

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This survey is voluntary and is intended to help the WSU mobile health clinic team identify healthcare services that you would be interested in to improve your health outcomes. Involvement and responses will remain anonymous to protect your privacy.

Zip Code _____

MHU Community Health Needs Survey

1. Education level

- ☐ Junior HS or less (1st-8th grade)
- ☐ Some high school
- ☐ Graduated high school or earned GED
- ☐ Some college / technical school (no degress)
- ☐ 2-year college degree
- ☐ 4-year college degree
- ☐ Master level graduate degree
- ☐ Doctorate level graduate degree
- ☐ Other:_____

2. Insurance

- ☐ No insurance
- ☐ Independently paid insurance
- ☐ Employer benefit insurance
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Medicare
- ☐ Other:_____

3. Preferred language

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ Other:_____

4. Which of the following preventative services would you be interested in? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Influenza vaccine
- ☐ Tetanus booster
- ☐ Mammogram
- ☐ Colorectal cancer screening
- ☐ Cholesterol check
- ☐ HIV screening
- ☐ Hepatitis and STD screening
- ☐ Pregnancy testing
- ☐ Other:_____

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5. Which of the following healthcare services would you be interested in? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Arrange medical appointments elsewhere
- ☐ Apply for government benefits
- ☐ Diet and Nutrition classes
- ☐ Obtain free medications
- ☐ Health Education Class
- ☐ Mental health services
- ☐ Alcohol / drug dependence counselling
- ☐ Other:_____

6. How would you like the mobile health unit appointments to take place?

- ☐ In-Person
- ☐ Virtually/Online (i.e. ZOOM)
- ☐ Mixture of Both

7. If you needed to visit a mobile health site in-person, would you need help with transportation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

8. If some of the mobile health services are virtually/online, do you have the technology (i.e. phone, computer or tablet) to join a ZOOM call?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't Know

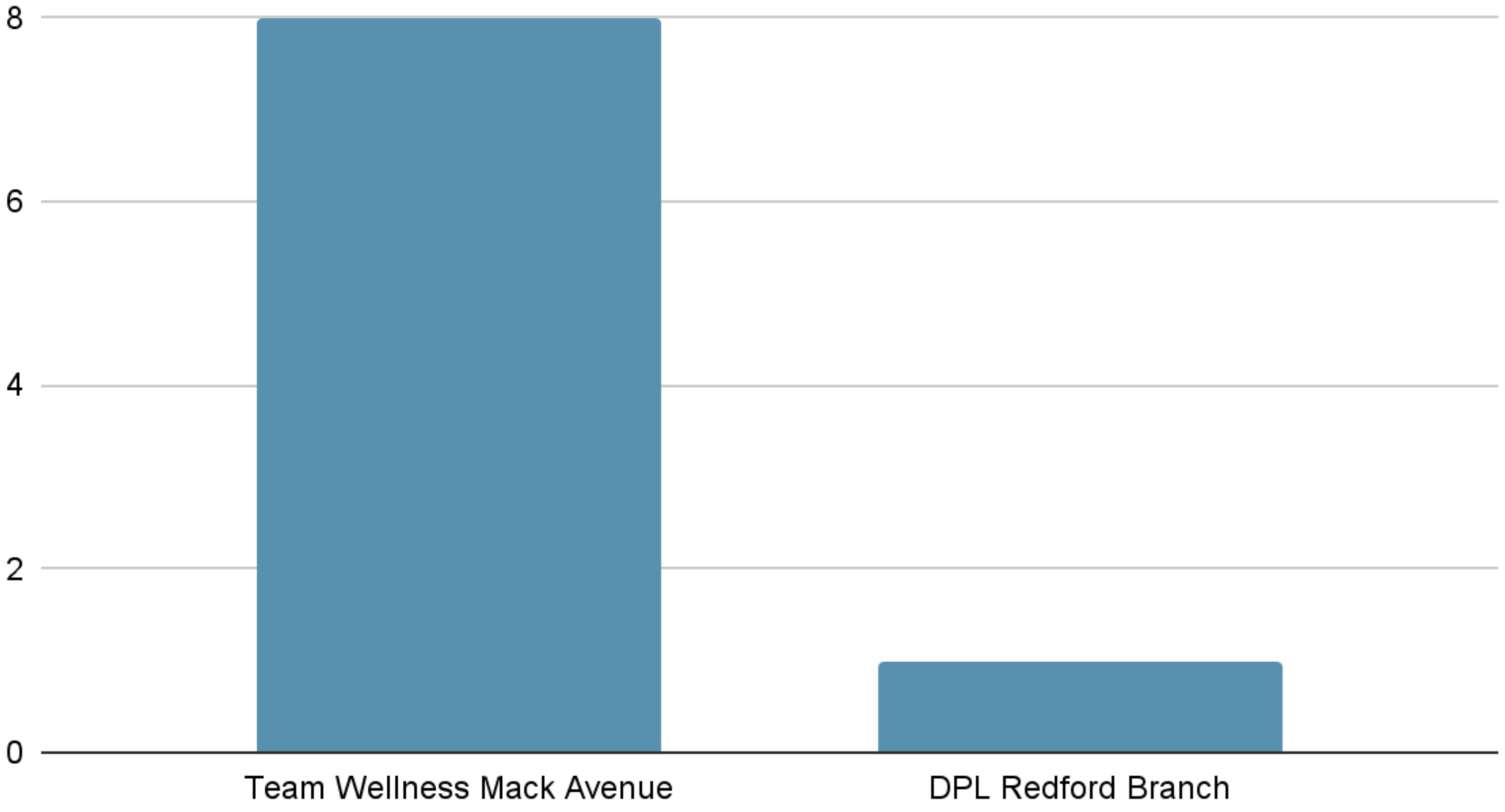
SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 9 responses have been recorded so far

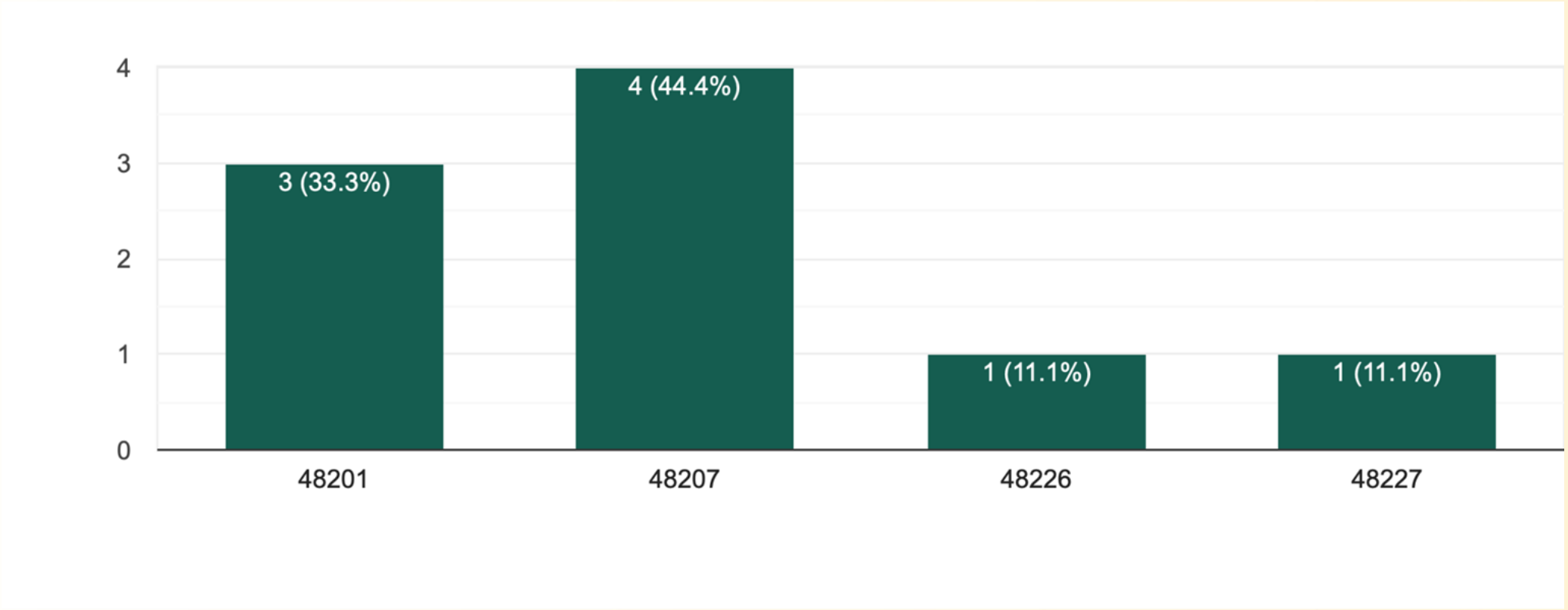
Age range (23-84) with a median age of 47 years

8 surveys were collected at Team Wellness Mack Ave and 1 at Detroit Public Library

Survey Responses



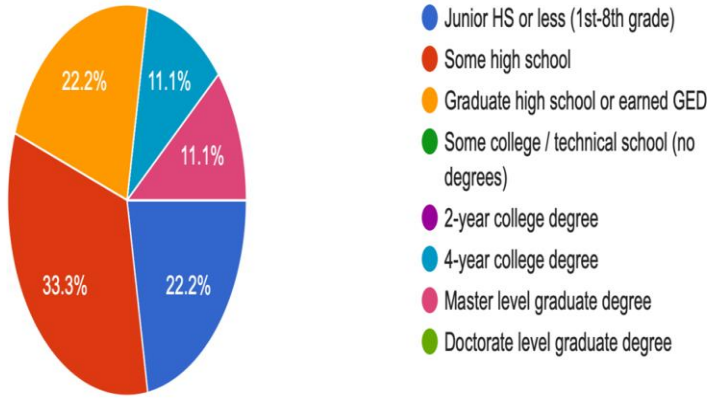
SURVEY RESPONSES BY ZIP CODE



48201 & 48207 are located in Southeast, MI where many health disparities are present

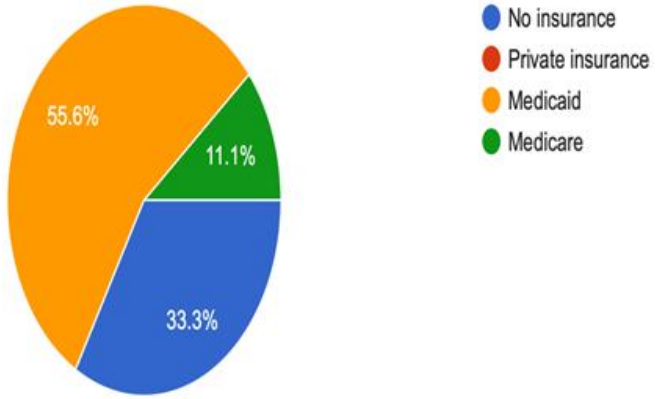
Education Level

9 responses



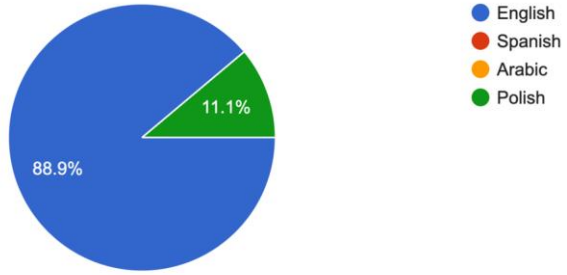
Insurance

9 responses



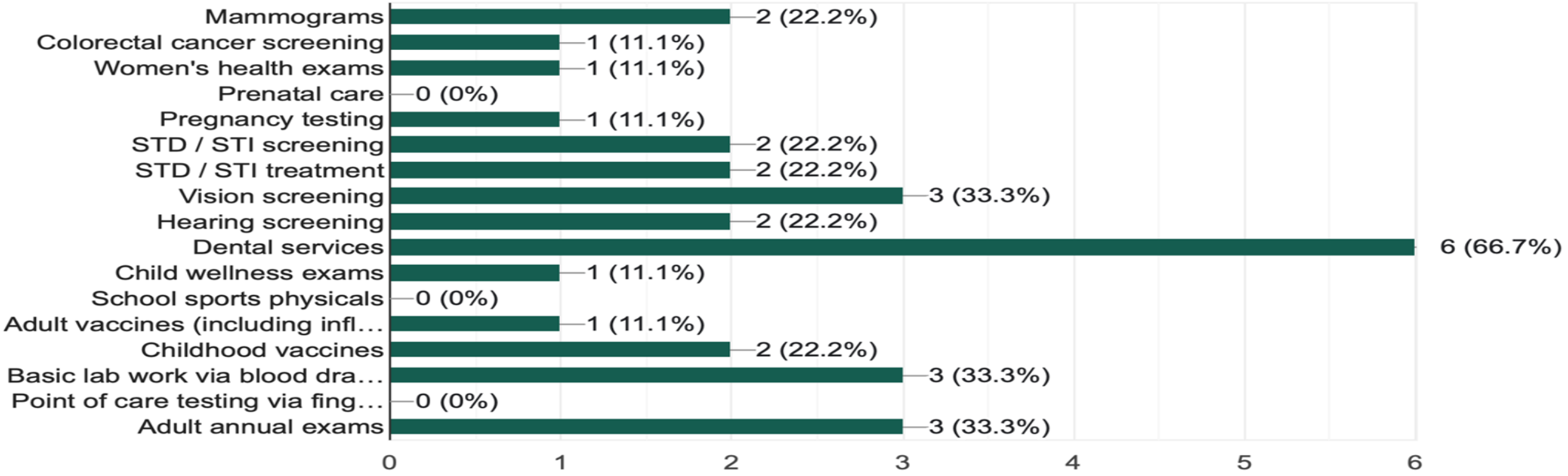
Preferred language

9 responses



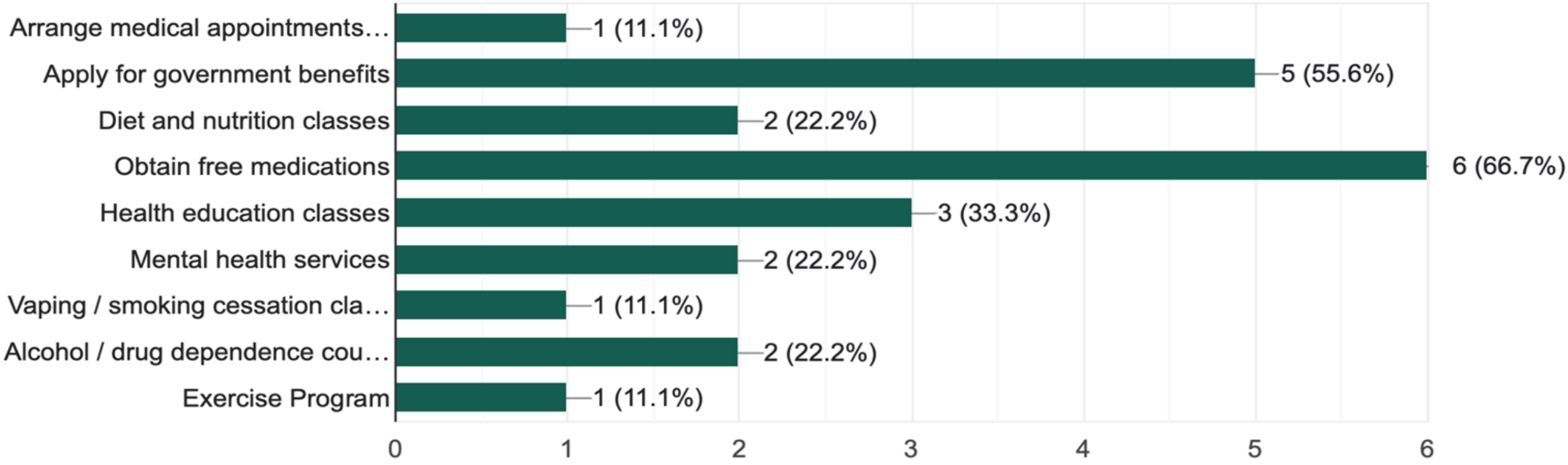
Which of the following preventative services would you be interested in? (Please check all that apply)

9 responses



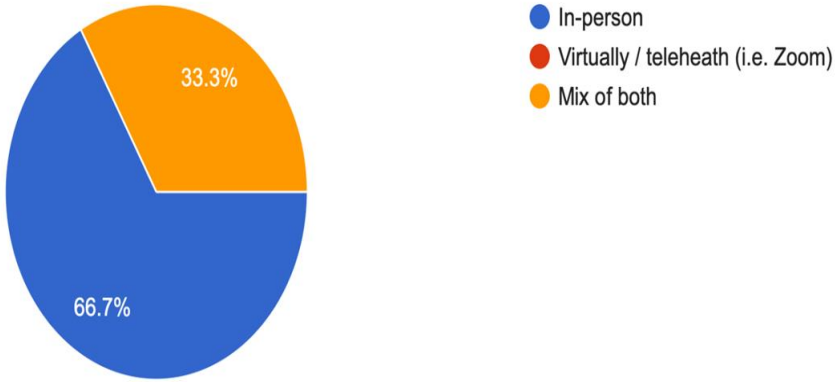
Which of the following healthcare services would you be interested in? (Please check all that apply)

9 responses



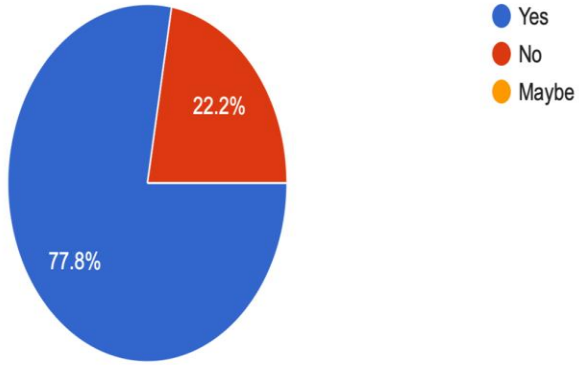
How do you prefer to see a medical provider (i.e. physician or nurse practitioner)?

9 responses



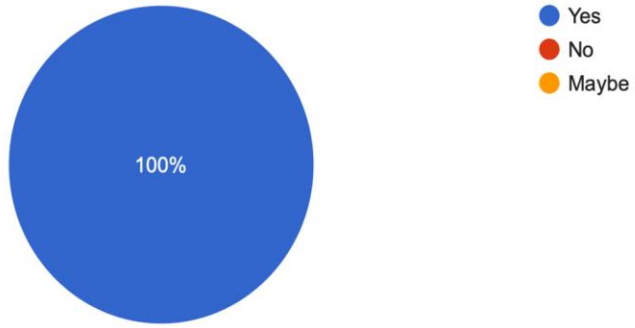
If you need to visit a medical provider in-person would you need help with transporation?

9 responses



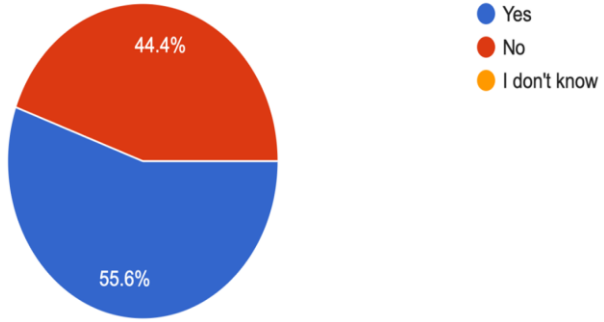
Are mobile health unit sites easier for you to access than other facilities for medical care?

9 responses



If a medical provider is seeing patients virtually (i.e. telehealth), do you have the technology (e.g. phone, computer, or tablet) to join a ZOOM call?

9 responses



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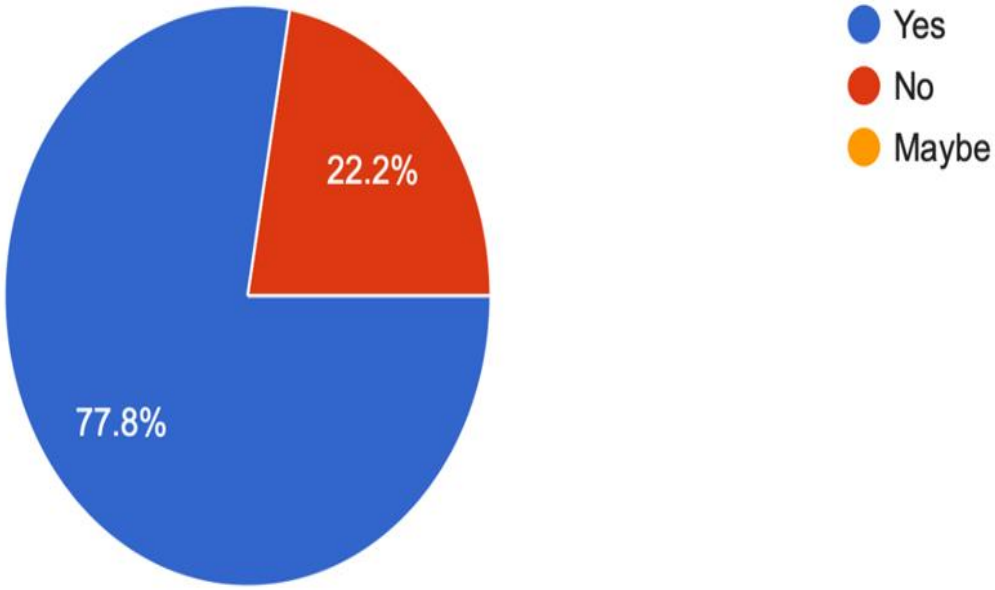

CONCLUSION

- Preliminary data collected informs new interventions and resources suggested by community members and site leaders.
- The project uncovered new opportunities and challenges that required a shift in focus or priorities.
- The initial objectives were to examine barriers to community level needle exchange programs and implementation of women sexual health screening and preventive services in established the Mobile Health Unit.
- Through further evaluation and collaboration with the MHU leaders, the priority shifted to the community health asset survey.
- The team anticipates proposing a wound care component utilizing resident physicians or medical students volunteering at each site.
- In the future, a partnership with Wayne Health for STD/STI treatment and dental services is proposed.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- Lack of access to primary and preventive care contribute to healthcare inequity
- Mobile health is an approach to address these barriers and improve health equity
- Community involvement in the survey process can build trust and rapport with the community, leading to greater engagement and participation in health promotion activities and services
- Preventable conditions such as diabetes, colon cancer, sexually transmitted infections, and hypertensive heart disease disproportionately affect vulnerable, underserved patient populations
- There is a national movement towards more community-centric methods of care delivery, such as free clinics, student-run health centers, and mobile healthcare delivery systems
- These methods serve to meet underserved populations in settings other than traditional hospitals.

THANK YOU!