

Assessing Exposure of a Career as a Doctor among High School Students in Disadvantaged California Communities

Introduction

Early exposure to medicine as a career among high school students in underserved communities is crucial for igniting passion and confidence in the next generation of URM physicians to serve the diverse communities of California.

OBJECTIVES

We hypothesize that after participating in this program high school students will have increased awareness about the pathway to medicine and interest in pursuing a career in medicine.

Methods

A 50 minute in-person presentation was given to high school students in Humboldt, Solano, and Riverside Counties to promote exposure to a career in medicine. A demographic survey assessed students' disadvantaged status. Pre- and post-surveys assessed participants' knowledge of the medical school process.

Figure 1- Race/Ethnicity

What is Your Race/Ethnicity?

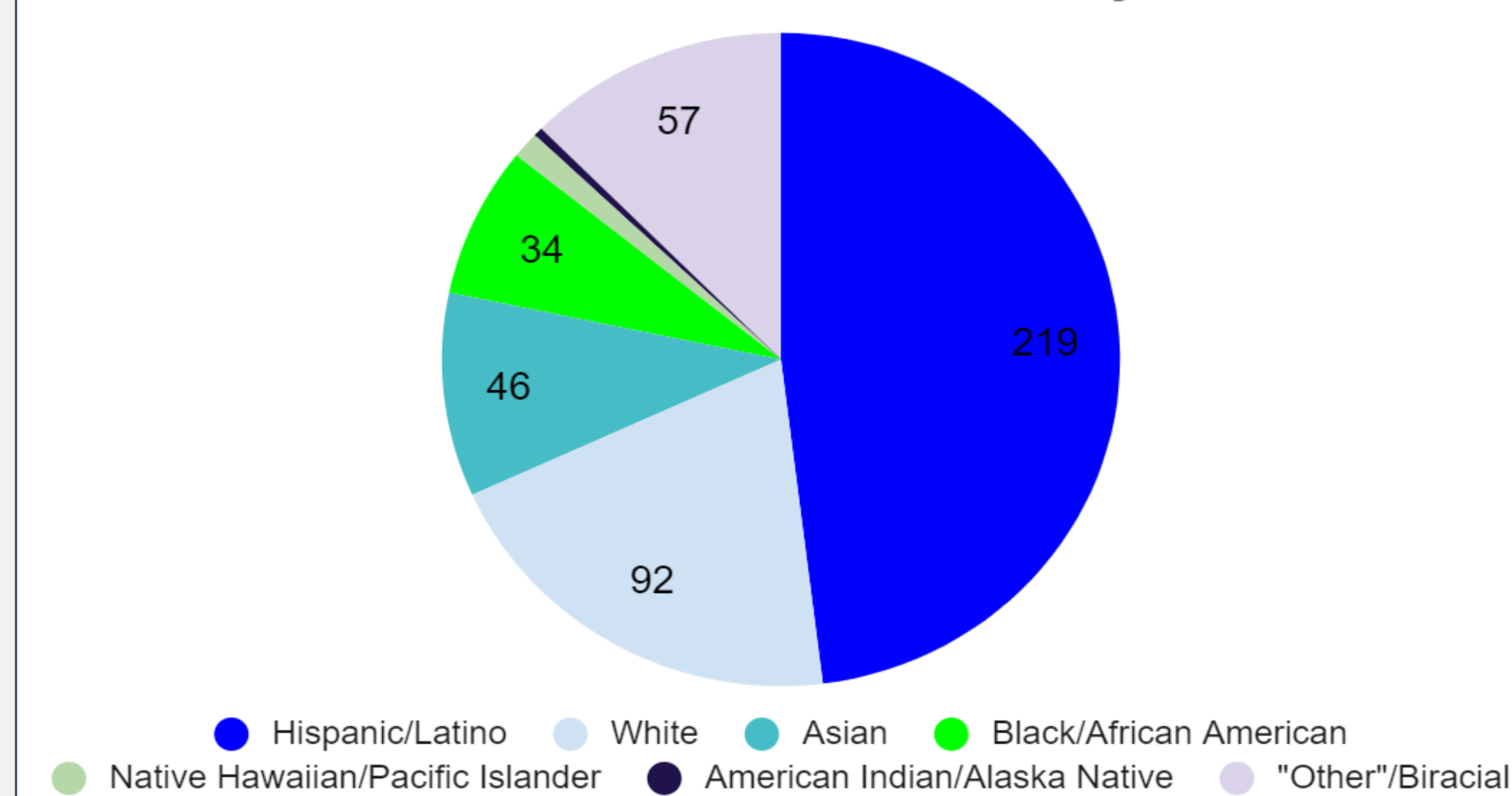


Figure 2- Disadvantaged Status

Do you consider yourself disadvantaged?

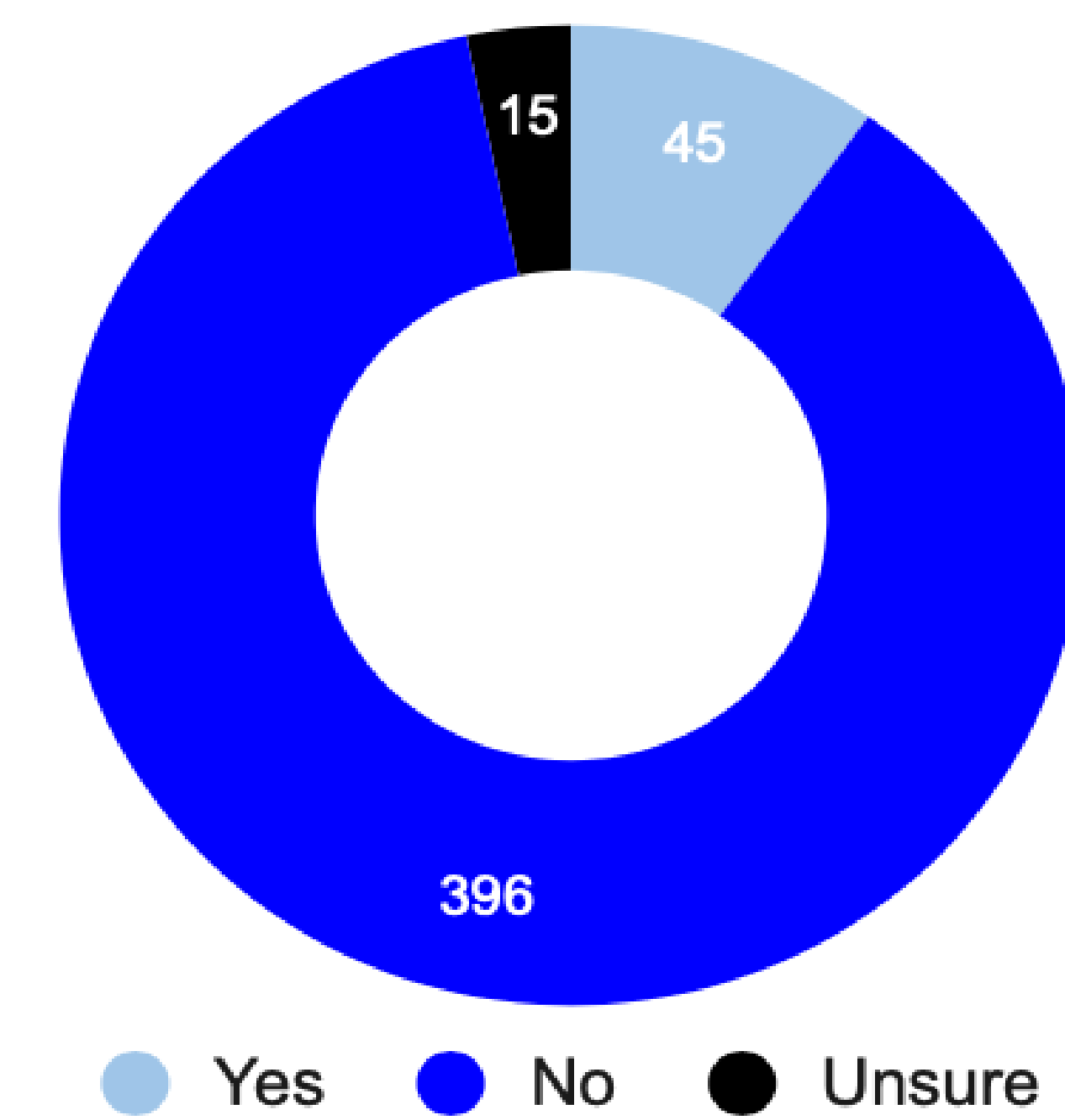
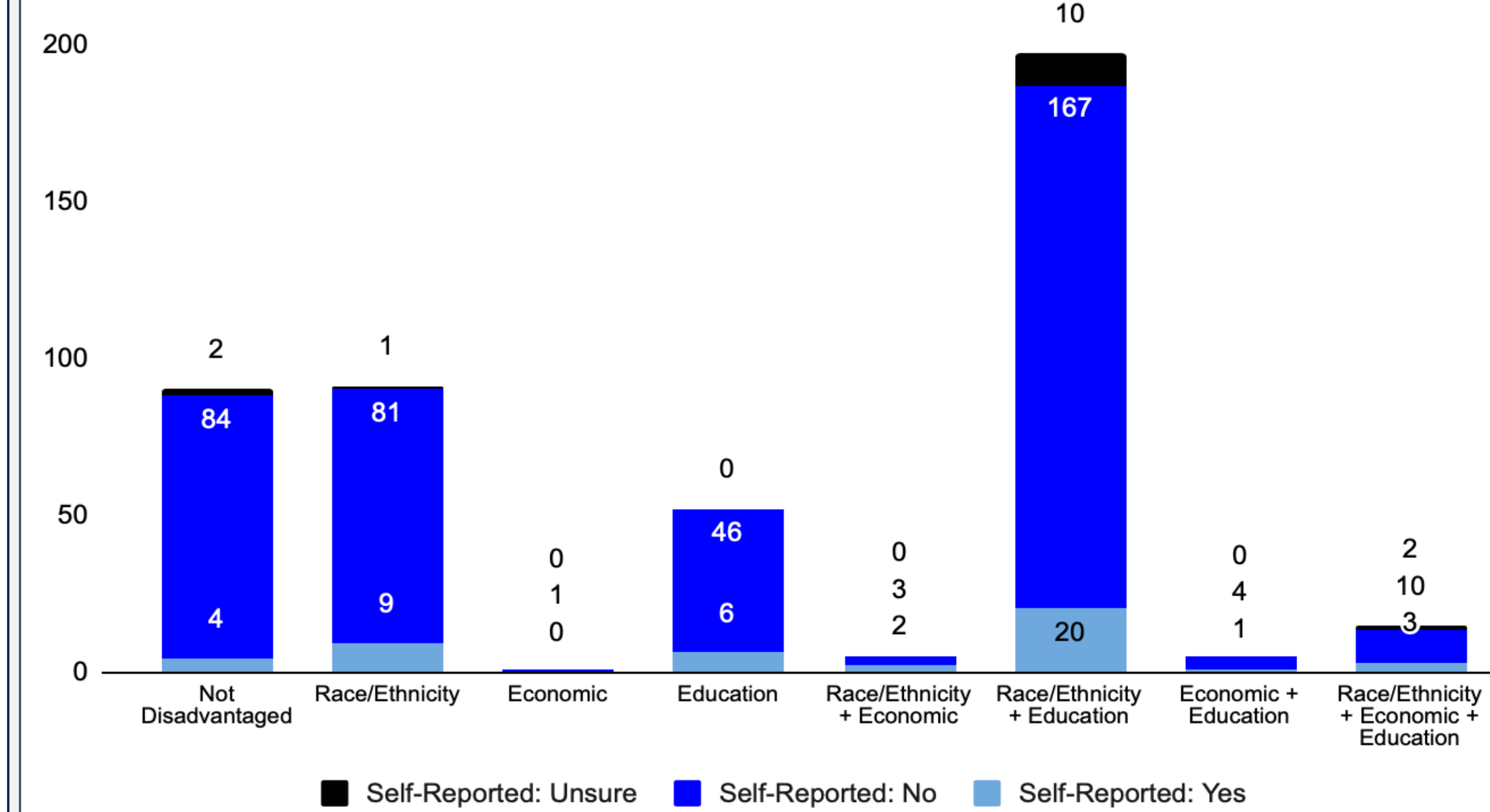


Figure 3- Disadvantage Status

Self-Reported vs Researcher Adjusted Disadvantaged Status



Results

- 69% (n=314) of 456 students were racially/ethnically URM (Figure 1).
- 396 (87%) of 456 students stated they were not disadvantaged (Figure 2). However, 312 (78%) qualify based on their race/ethnicity, socioeconomic, or educational status (Figure 3).

Figure 4- Becoming a Doctor

Interested in becoming a doctor

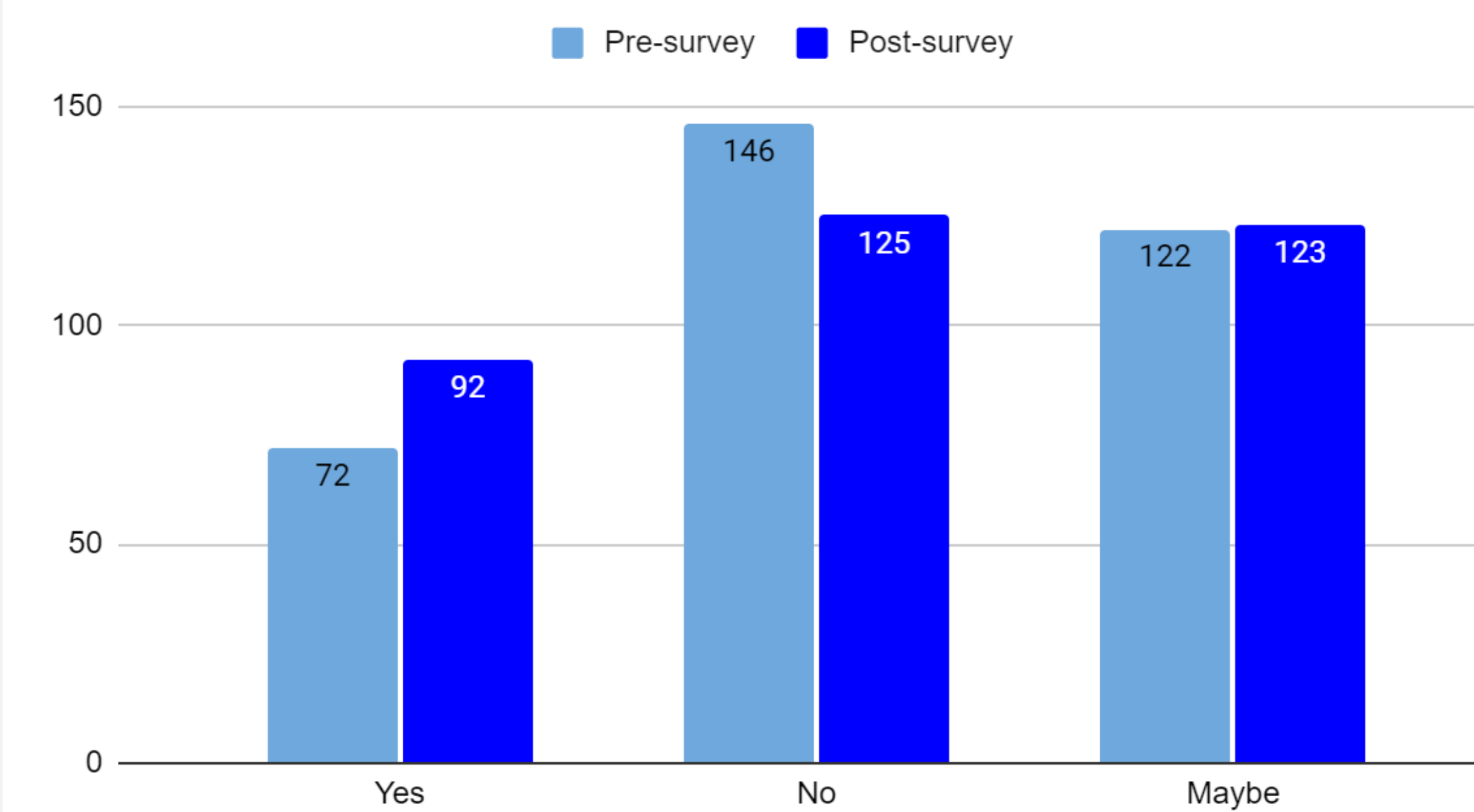
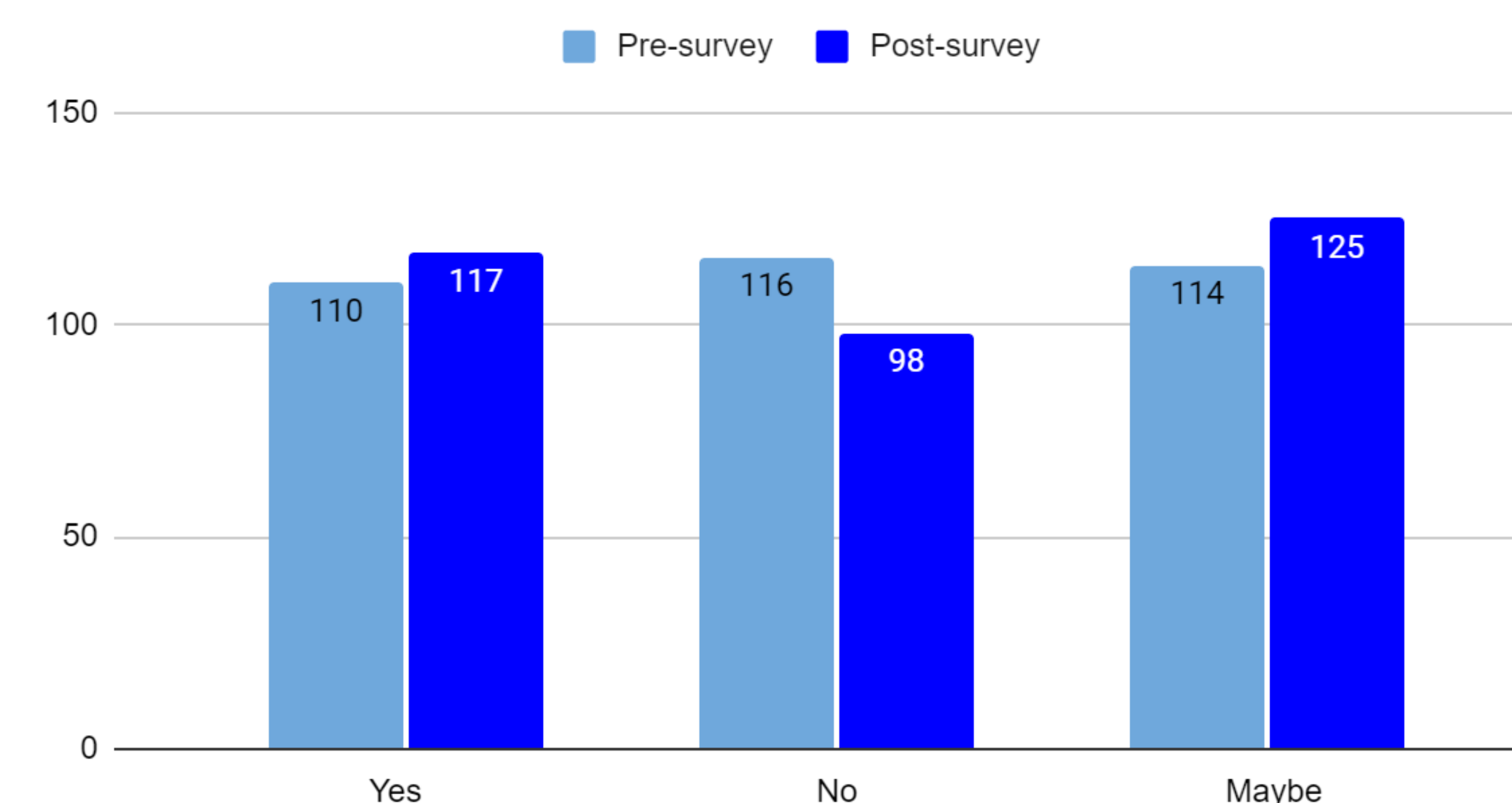


Figure 5- Becoming a Doctor

Capable of becoming a doctor



Results

- There was a 6% (n=21) change in students who initially were not interested in becoming a doctor. Following the presentation, 20 indicated "yes", and 1 indicated "maybe" (Figure 4)
- There was a 5% (n=18) change in students who initially did not perceive themselves as "capable". Following the presentation, 7 saw themselves capable and 11 indicated "maybe" (Figure 5)

LIMITATIONS

- Small sample size
- High schools choose when students get access to presentation
- Student self-selection to participate in program
- AAMC's definition of "disadvantaged" was not provided to students prior to completing demographic survey

Discussion

Outreach programs like this, may be the only exposure students from disadvantaged communities receive to a career as a physician, and they are imperative in igniting the interest even if it is in one student.

PHOTOS

