

Assessing Interest, Topic Preferences, and Barriers for Participation in a Virtual Teleconferencing Program (VTP) Connecting Providers and Spanish Speaking Families Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD)

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INTRODUCTION

- Early diagnosis and treatment has been associated to improve long-term family and developmental outcomes^{5,6}
- There are ethnic disparities in ASD treatment and diagnoses: Hispanic children are:
 - diagnosed less and later than non-Hispanic white (NHW) children.
 - more likely to present with severe symptoms at diagnosis
 - less likely to receive evidence-based therapy and specialized medical care after diagnosis than NHWs.⁷
- Data by the California's Department of Developmental Services for Persons with ASD across Demographic and Expenditure Categories has evidenced that racial minorities including Hispanic received the lowest per-person spending across age groups.⁴
- College students with ASD compared to their neurotypical peers are 1.18x, 2.21x, and 1.16x more likely to report worse physical health, mental health, and depression, respectively.³
- Clinical providers should continue working on identifying effective strategies to address health disparities through community engagement.

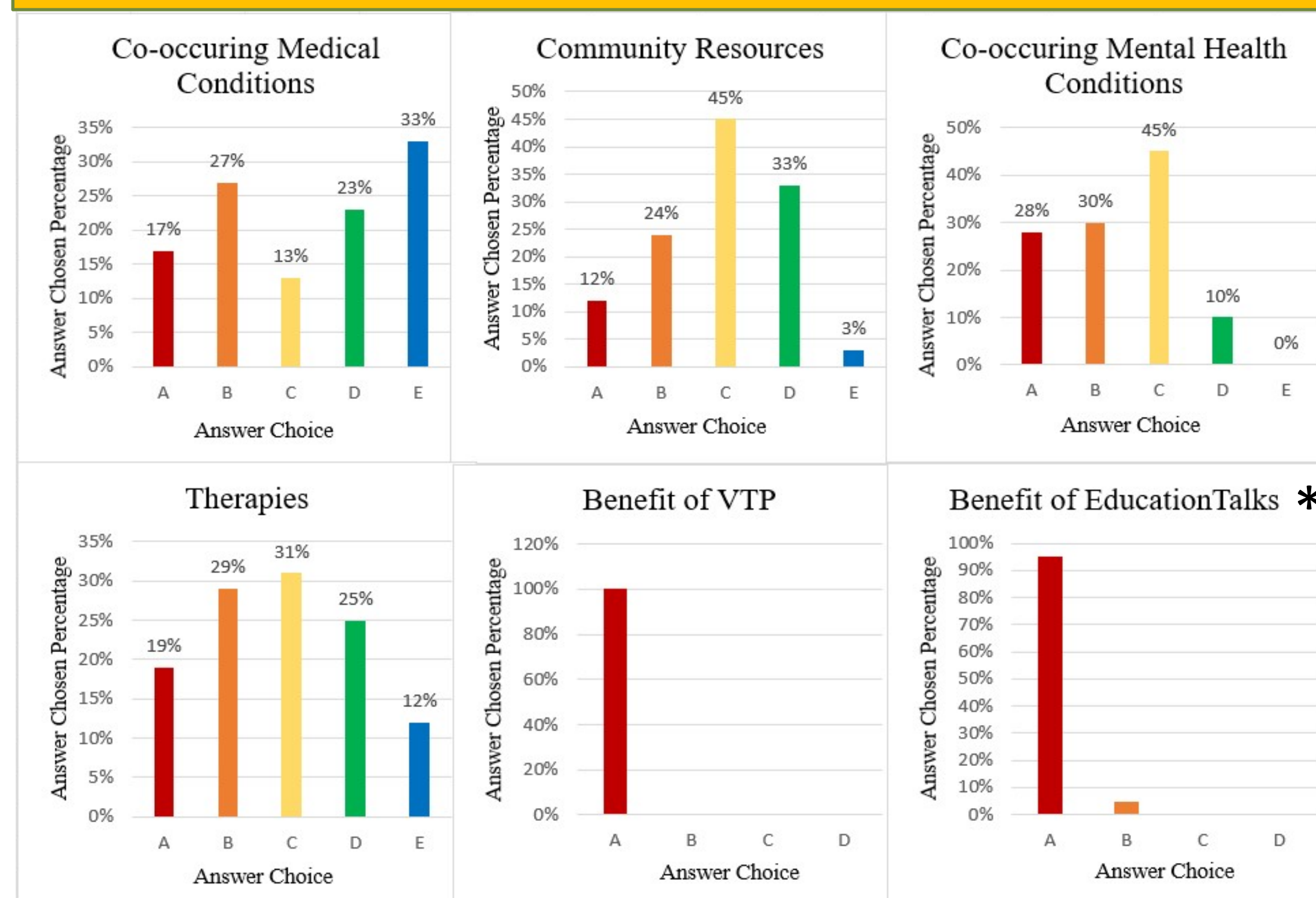
OBJECTIVE

Identifying interest, topic preferences, and potential barriers in Spanish speaking families living in the Northern California area through their participation on a (VTP) supporting providers caring for children with ASD and NDD.

METHODS

- Bilingual autism specialist provided a virtual conference to Spanish speaking family members of three different community parent organizations.
- Seven questions were formulated by the presenter exploring knowledge and resources gaps.
 - The questions with answer choices are found here: 
- Participants shared their answer through chat or voice which were then recorded in an excel sheet.
- Percentages of answers chosen were generated for each question from each presentation/discussion session
 - The answer choices with the highest and lowest percentages were recorded.

RESULTS



*Results for question 7 are identical

DISCUSSION

- Participants were most interested in learning more about:
 - feeding problems
 - special education services
 - emotional problems (depression, irritability, and aggression)
 - other therapies (occupational, speech, and physical).
- Participants shared:
 - That a VTP connecting academic experts with local families will be beneficial to families
 - Interest in participating in education talks
 - That hearing how cases are approached clinically would be very beneficial

CONCLUSIONS

Results are supporting the use of a VTP connecting professionals and families caring for people with ASD. The academic multidisciplinary team should work on the VTP program curriculum development based on these results.

STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

- Community participation in program development is key for meaningful improvements in public health.
- Participants were motivated members of community partnership groups and may not reflect the whole community.

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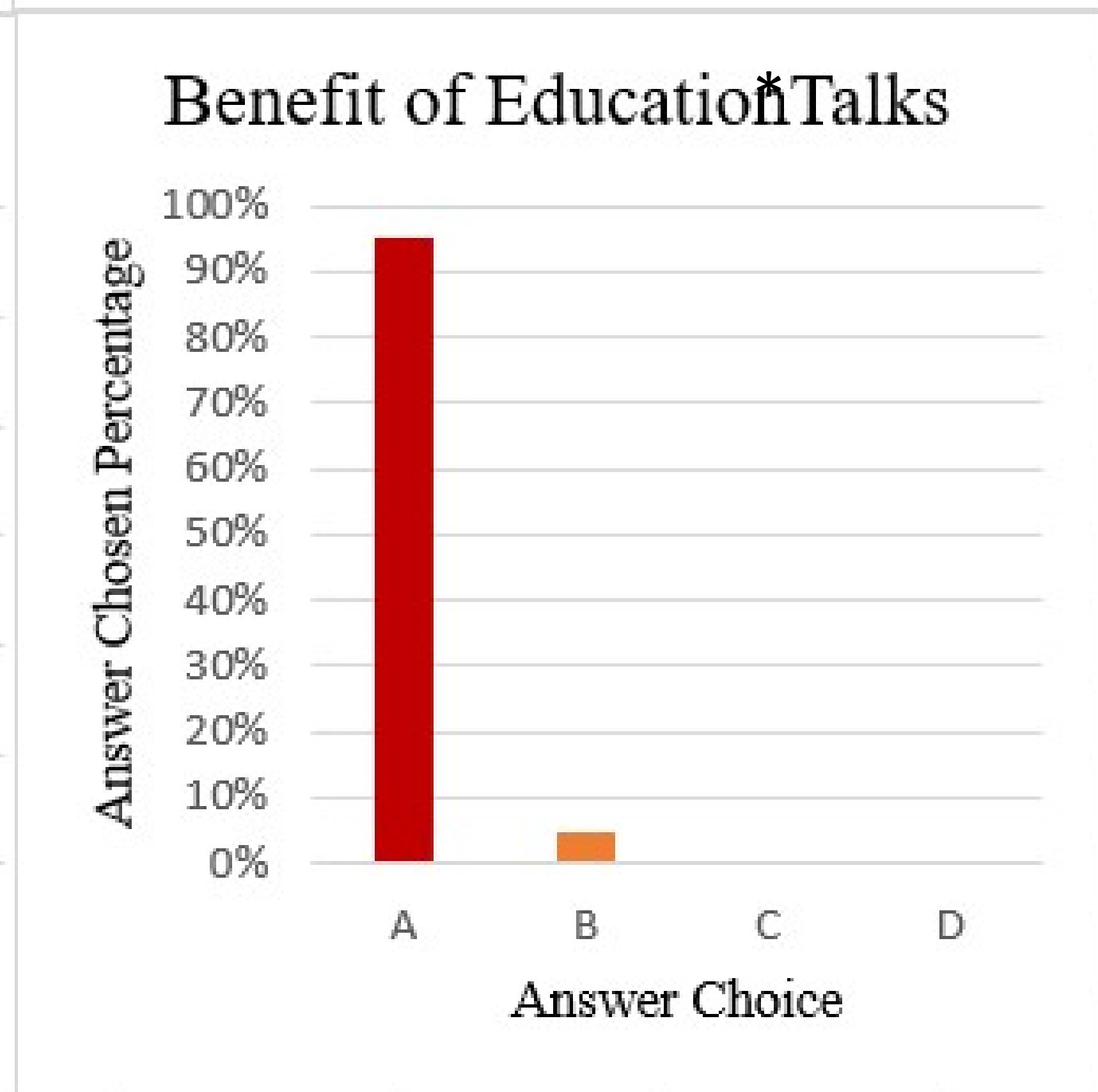
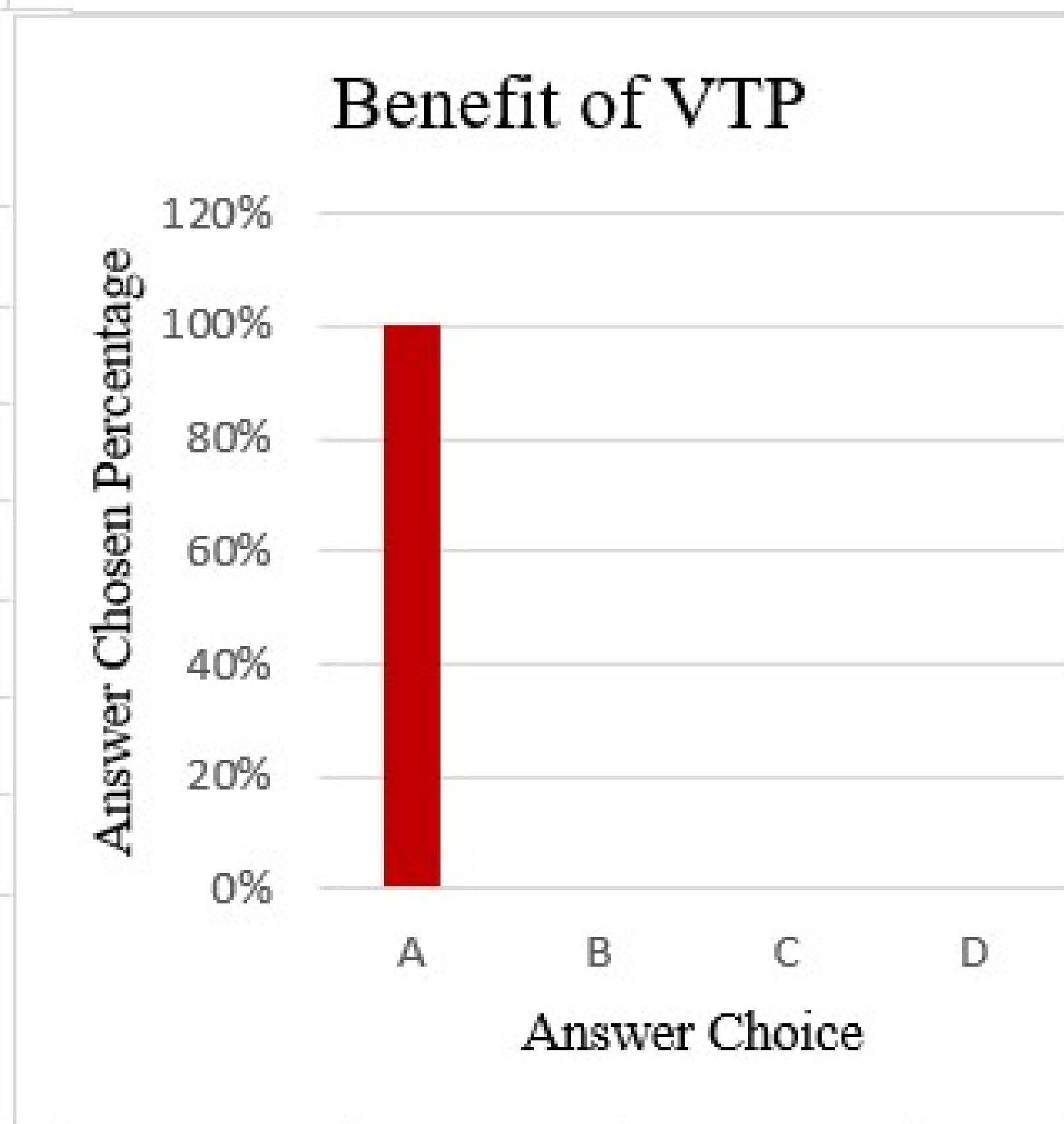
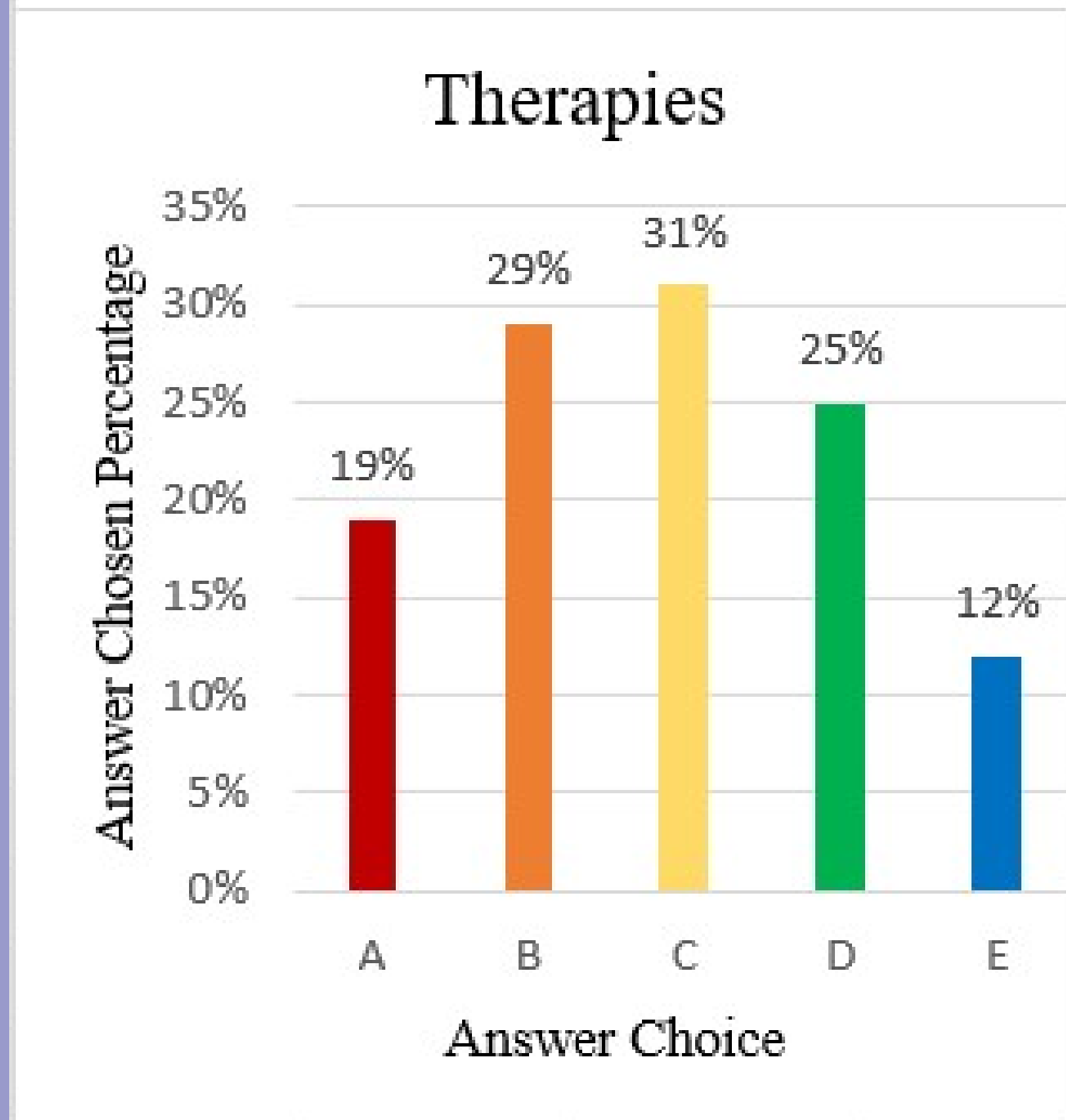
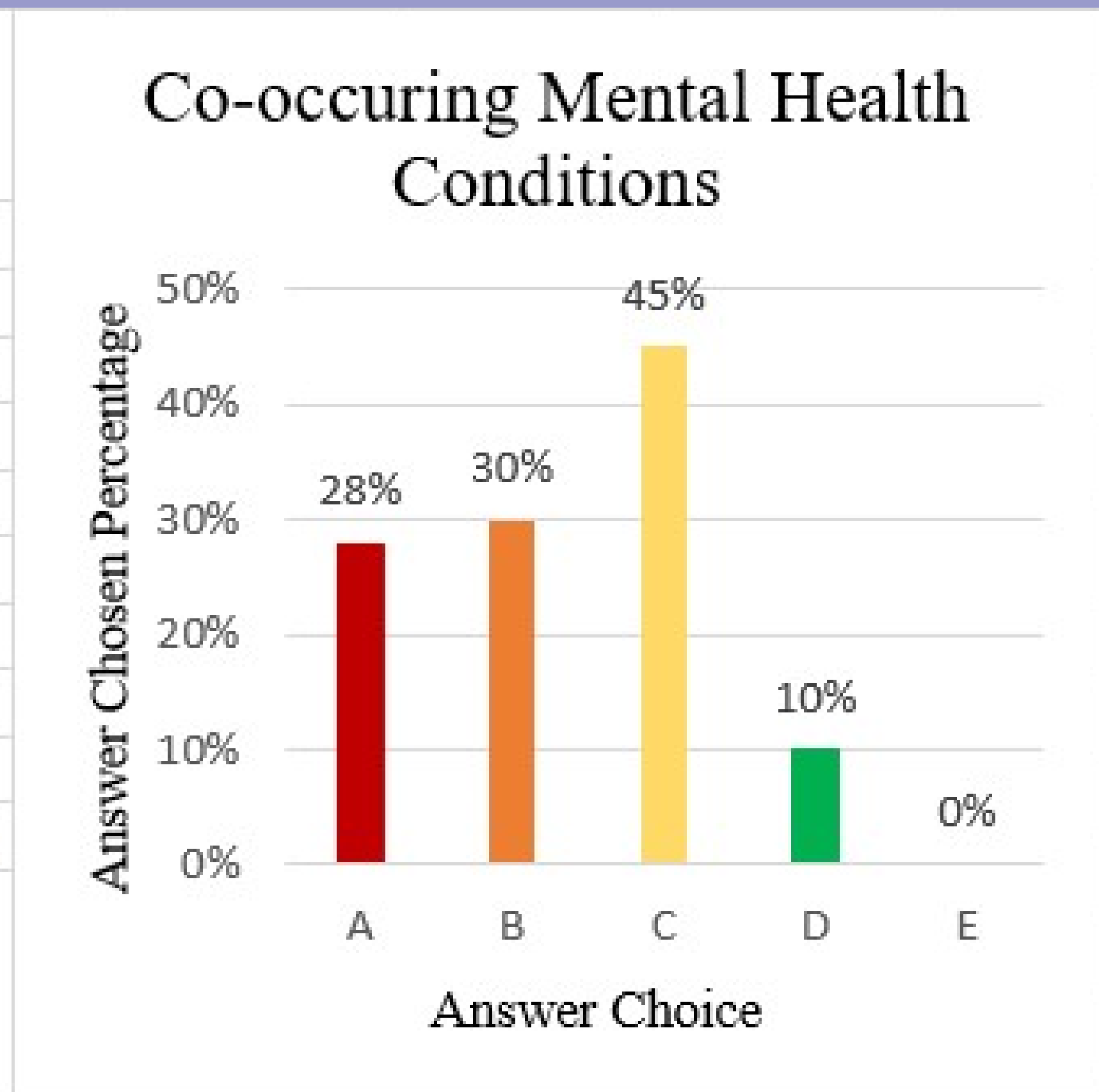
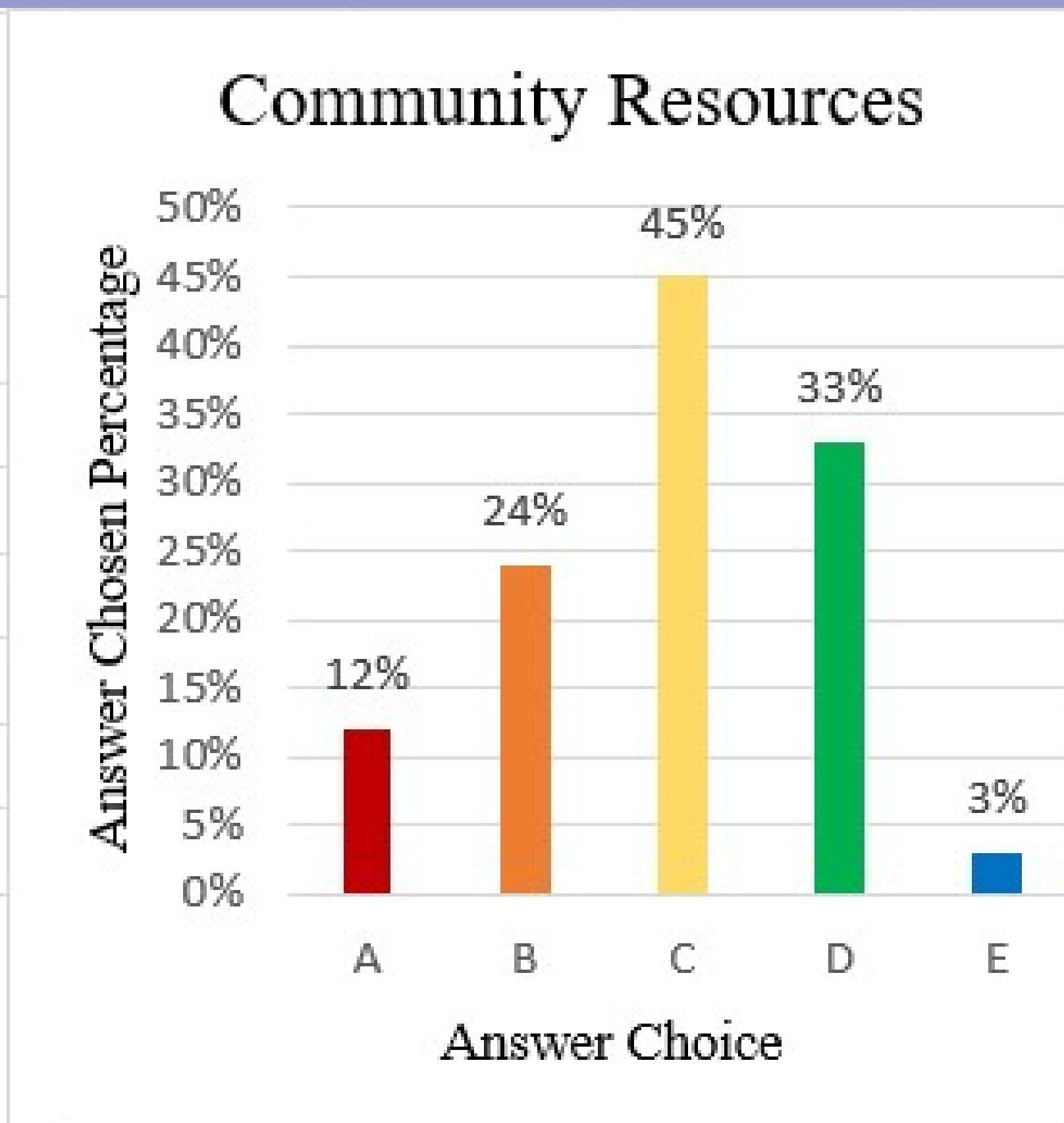
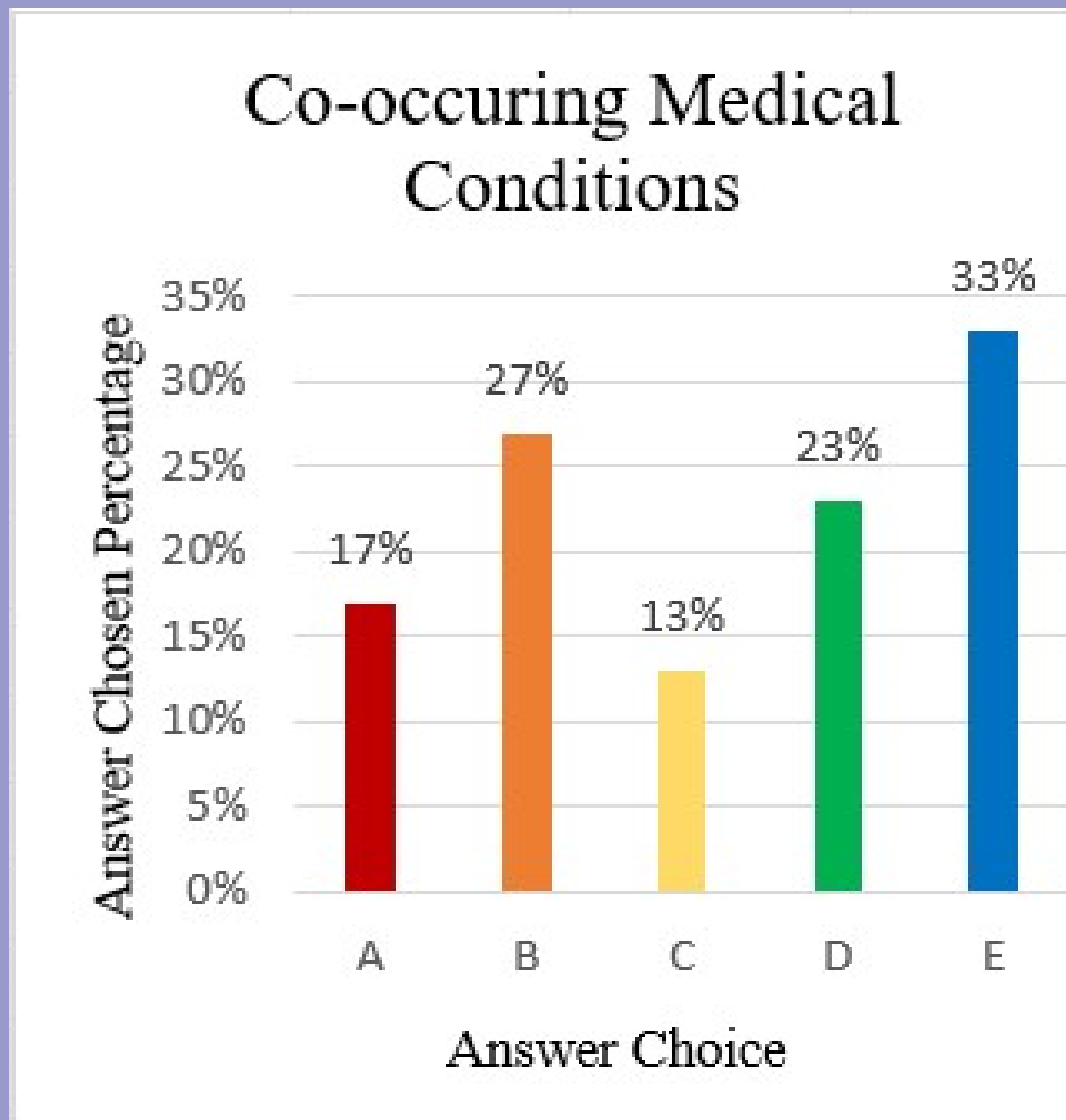
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