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Impact of a Video Adaptation of Noblesse Oblige on Rho Chi Membership Perceptions and Involvement

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Background

- The Rho Chi National Honor Society is pharmacy's academic honor society. The Society consists of students who are in the top 20% of their respective class based on academic performance (grade point average). At least 50% of the pre-advanced pharmacy practice experience curriculum must be completed for eligibility. Traditionally, all Rho Chi members of the Alpha Eta chapter are expected to serve on an academic committee to assist underclassmen in professional pharmacy courses. However, there may be a lack of understanding among members on the implications of Rho Chi membership beyond providing academic support as students.
- According to Article II of the National Bylaws, "The Society's vision is to achieve universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in pharmacy."¹ However, some members may perceive Rho Chi as an ultimate academic goal to achieve, rather than a platform for intellectual growth and professional contributions once inducted.
- An article published in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists (AJHP) in 2006 by Dr. Max D. Ray entitled "Curbside Conversation about Noblesse Oblige and Moral Commitment" explores the lifelong moral obligations of Rho Chi members to the pharmacy profession once inducted.²
- A video adaptation of the article was developed to engage students in a discussion regarding Rho Chi membership expectations and students' perceptions.

Objective

- To evaluate the impact of a video adaptation about a noblesse oblige article on chapter members' perceptions regarding the lifelong commitment to and moral obligations of Rho Chi involvement.

Methods

- The Class of 2019 Rho Chi members were given an 8-question survey (pre-survey) before and 11-question survey (post-survey) after viewing a video adaptation of an AJHP's article on noblesse oblige and moral commitment (intervention). Surveys were distributed during a 2018 Rutgers Rho Chi Spring General Interest Meeting.
- Paper-based pre- and post-surveys collected members' self-perceptions regarding membership expectations. Pre-surveys also captured demographic information while post-surveys identified potential future video utility.
- A total of 34 Rho Chi members were eligible to participate in study. Study investigators were excluded from participating in the study.
- Investigators used descriptive statistics to analyze survey data.

Results

Figure 1: Demographic Information

What is your primary racial or ethnic identification?	N = 28	%
Asian	16	57.1
Hispanic or Latino	1	3.6
White/Caucasian	11	39.3
Other	2	7.1
Total responses from eligible Rho Chi members	28/34	82.4

Figure 3: When Should New Members be Shown the Video?

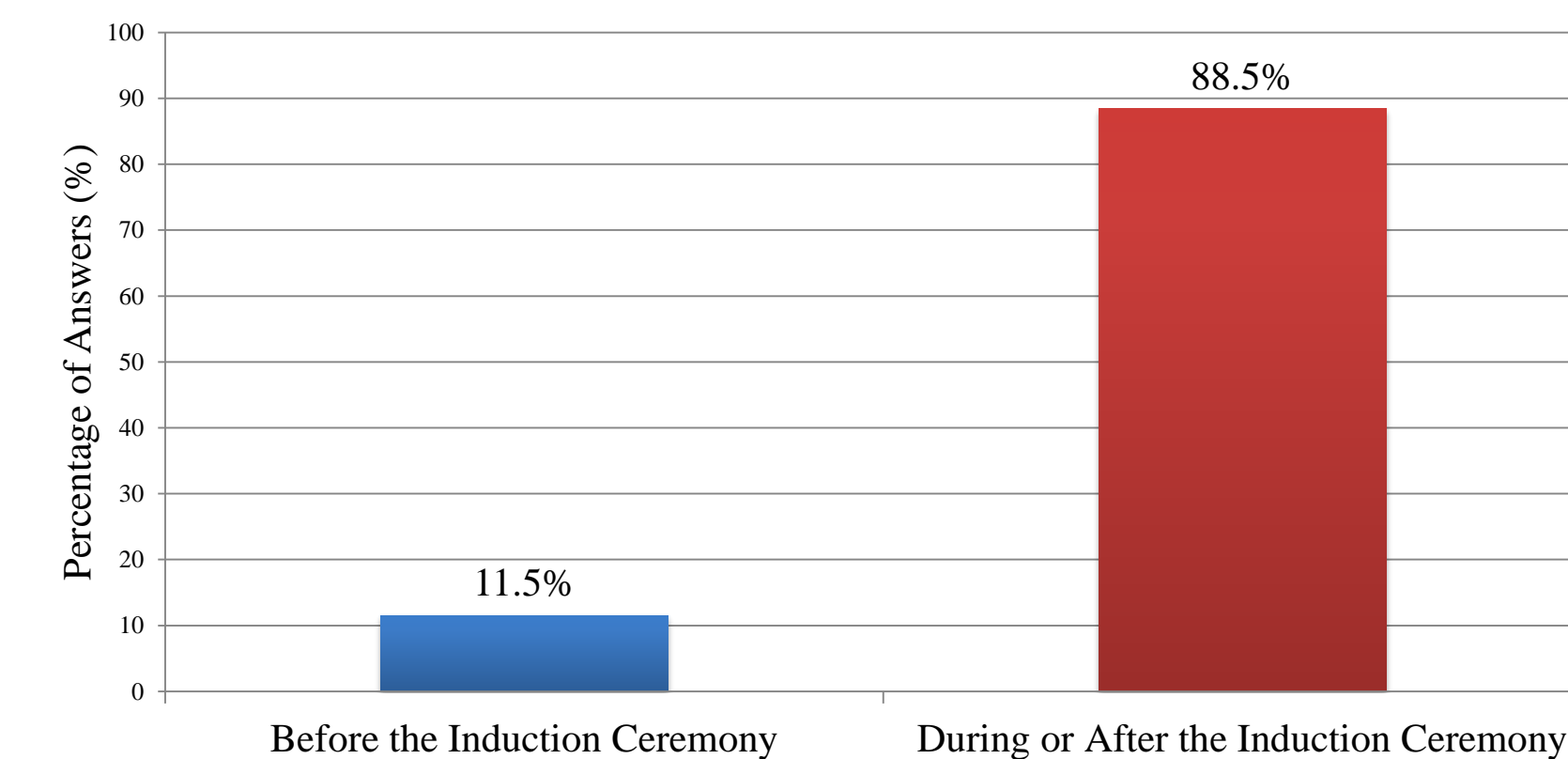


Figure 2: Post-Survey Impact on Members' Perceptions of Rho Chi

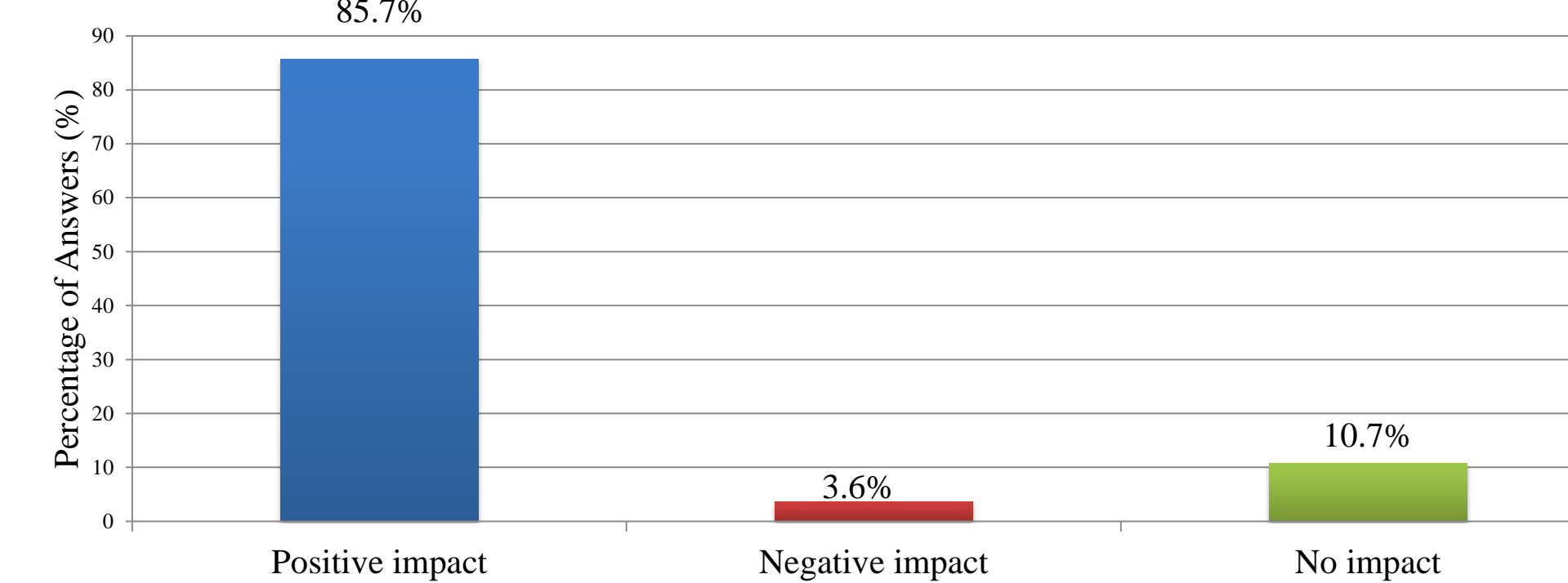


Figure 4: Who Should Be Shown the Rho Chi Video?

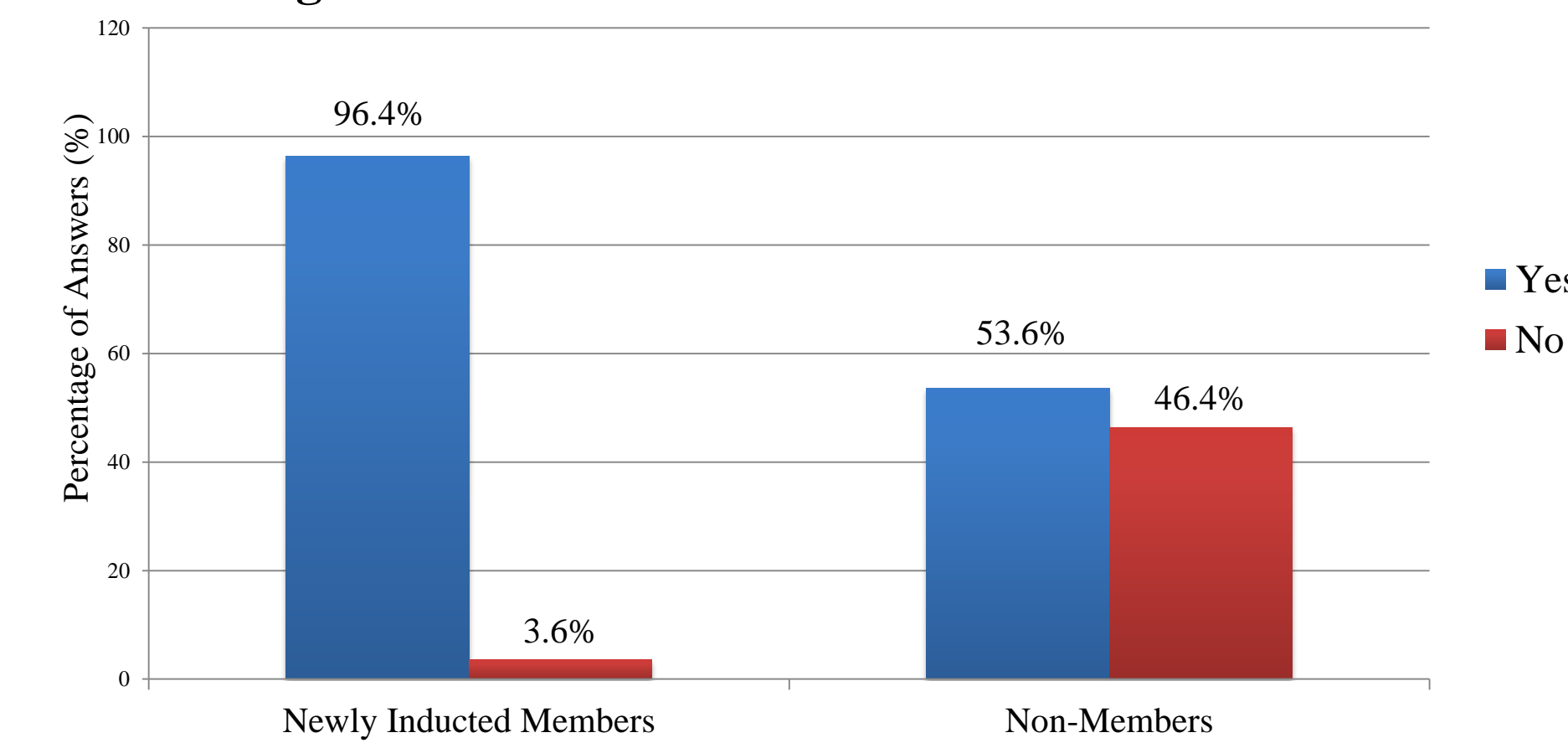
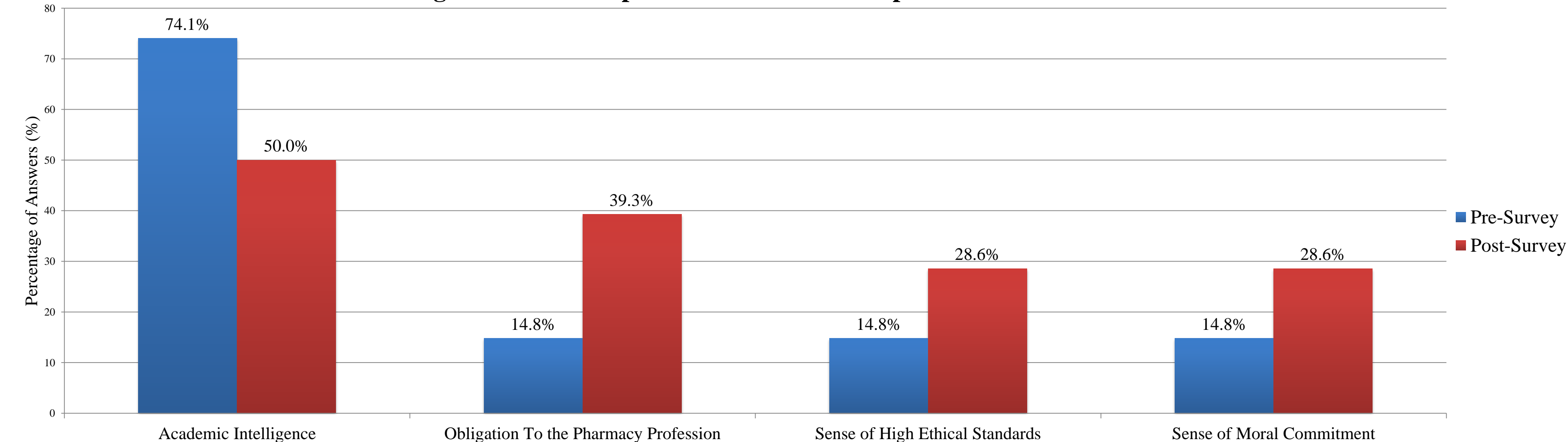


Figure 5: Video Impact on Members' Perceptions of Rho Chi Values



Discussion and Limitations

- Based on the post-survey results, most students (85.7%) indicated that the video positively impacted their perception of Rho Chi. Most students also recommended presenting the video to new inductees, particularly during or after the induction ceremony. In addition, approximately half the members believed the video would have a positive impact on non-Rho Chi members. This result suggests a need for a follow-up study evaluating the value of Rho Chi members to non-Rho Chi student pharmacists and pharmacists. Additionally, there is an opportunity for further studies evaluating noblesse oblige with all student pharmacists as pharmacists use their academic expertise to help others.
- Pre- and post- survey results demonstrate that post-intervention many students altered their responses for the top three values that embody Rho Chi members.
- Values with the greatest increase in selection post-intervention included: obligation to pharmacy profession, sense of high ethical standards, and sense of moral commitment. Academic intelligence had the greatest decrease in selection.
- While academic intelligence is an important characteristic of Rho Chi members, the video appears to have helped students realize other important Rho Chi responsibilities. These qualities are summarized in the Mission of Rho Chi which states The Society, "stimulates critical inquiry to advance pharmacy, contributes to the development of intellectual leaders, promotes highest ethical standards."³
- Results may not be reflective of all Rho Chi members' perception based on individual chapters' goals and expectations of Rho Chi membership.

Implications

- Video review of noblesse oblige and the meaning of Rho Chi membership improved members' perceptions of Rho Chi and shifted the emphasis of membership values from academic intelligence to moral commitment, ethical standards, and obligation to the profession.
- Future Rho Chi chapters may benefit from reviewing and discussing the video on noblesse oblige with their members.

References and Acknowledgements

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