



Arizona State University Students' Perceptions of COVID-19



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Background and Research Questions:

The 2020 academic year has **required students to make difficult choices** about whether to attend college in person while the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across the United States. Many universities have worked hard to develop unprecedented mitigation strategies to help students feel **safe** on campus and to help **stop the spread** of COVID-19 within their communities.

This research project looks at how **students' perceptions of COVID-19 impacted their actions** during the Fall Semester 2020 at Arizona State University including the Tempe, Downtown Phoenix, West, Polytechnic, and Lake Havasu campuses.

Guiding research questions:

- How well do students understand COVID-19?
- What is the range of behaviors based on the responses?

Methods:

A survey was sent to ASU students via Social Media platforms and Barrett Honor's Digest to assess their knowledge and perceptions on COVID-19.

Number of Responses = 162

Survey Questions:

Concern – How concerned are you about contracting COVID-19?

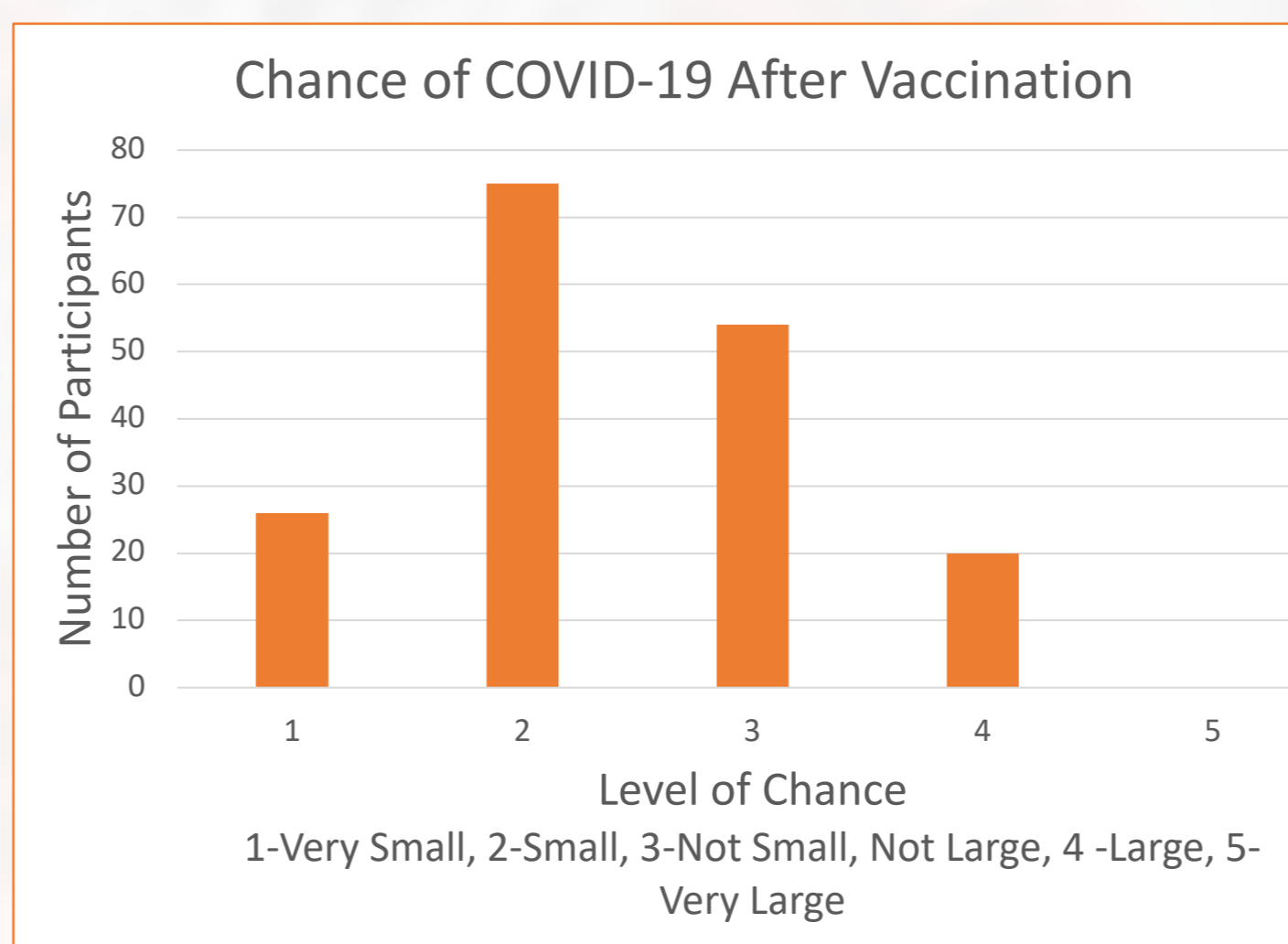
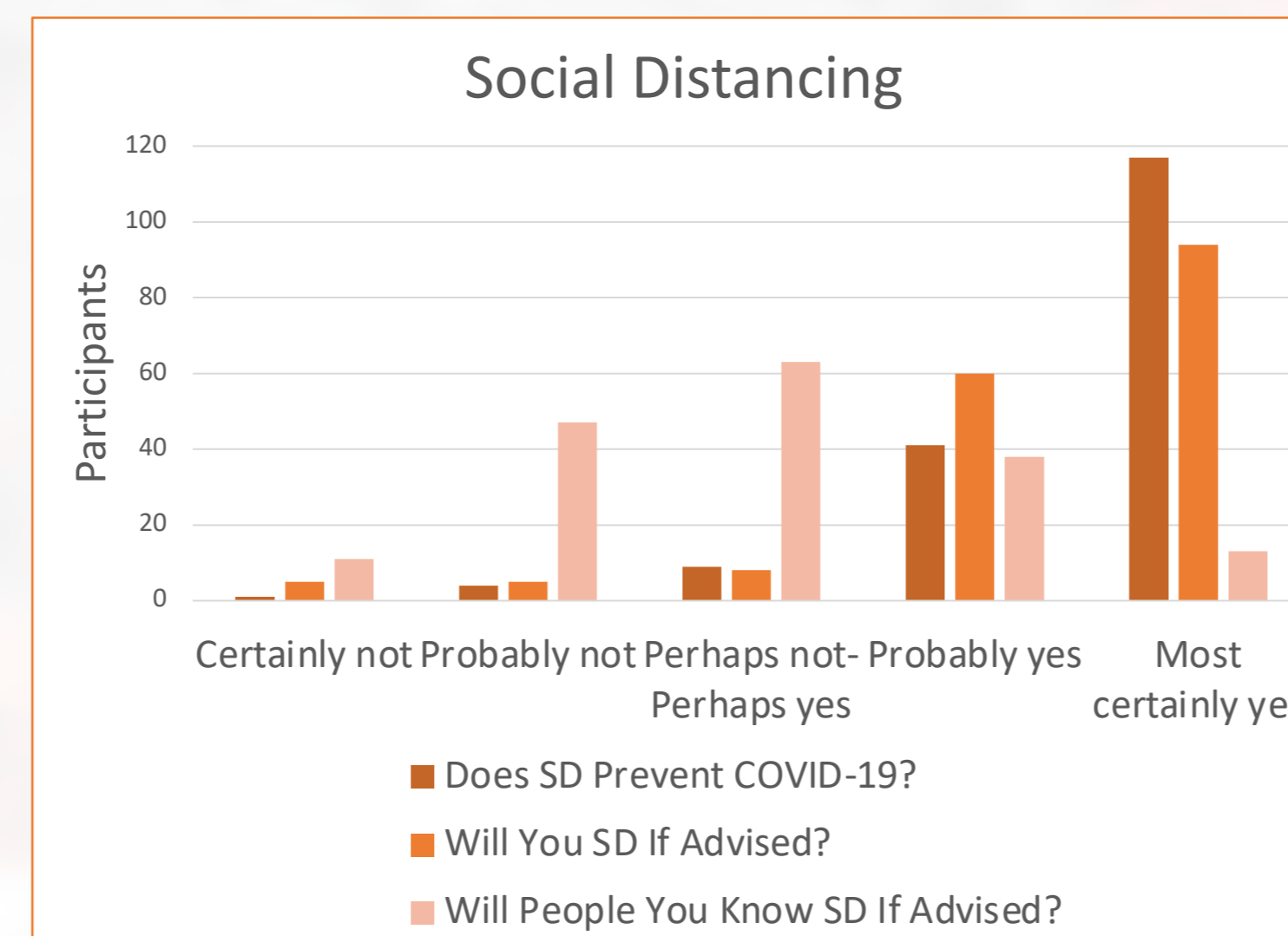
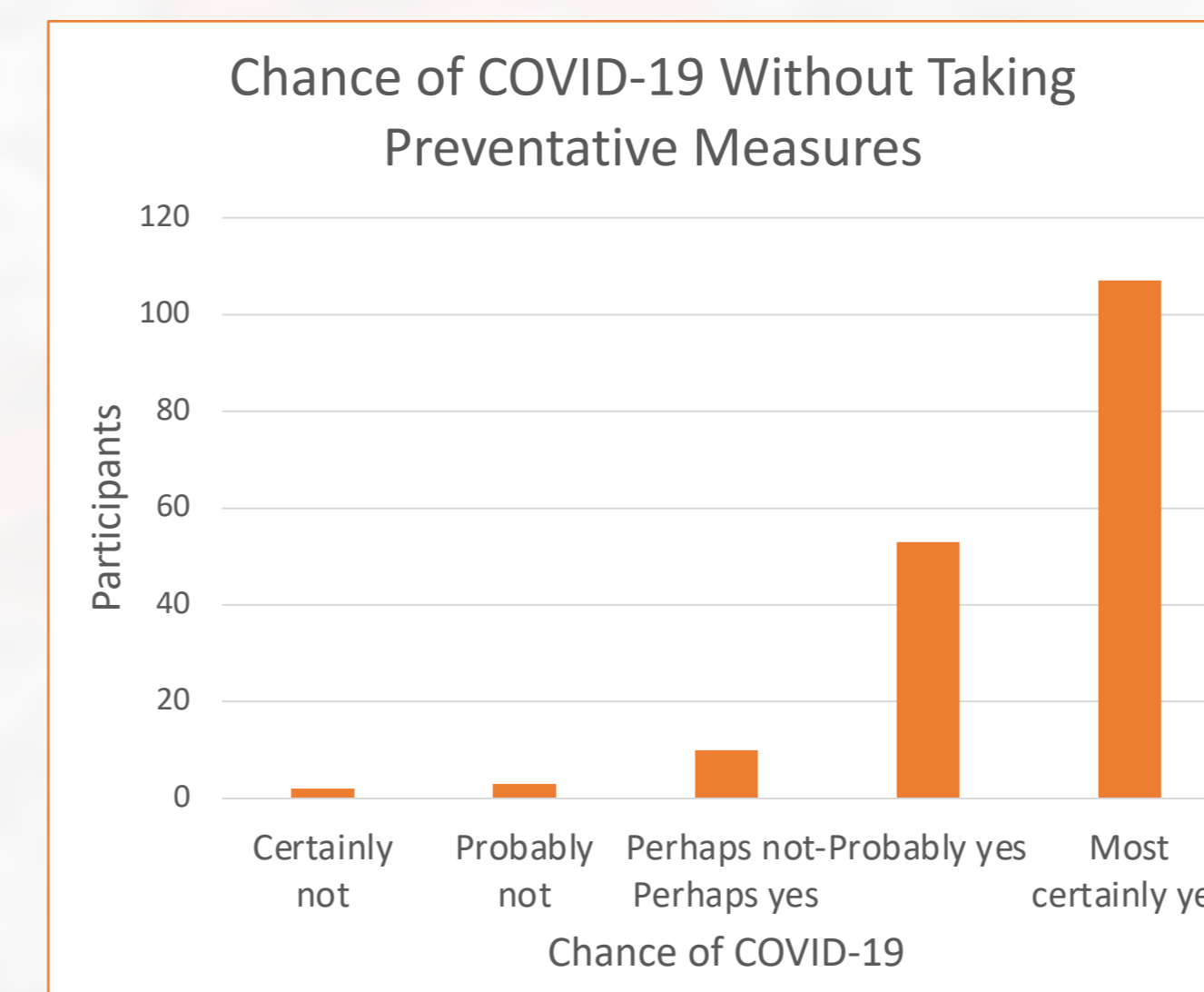
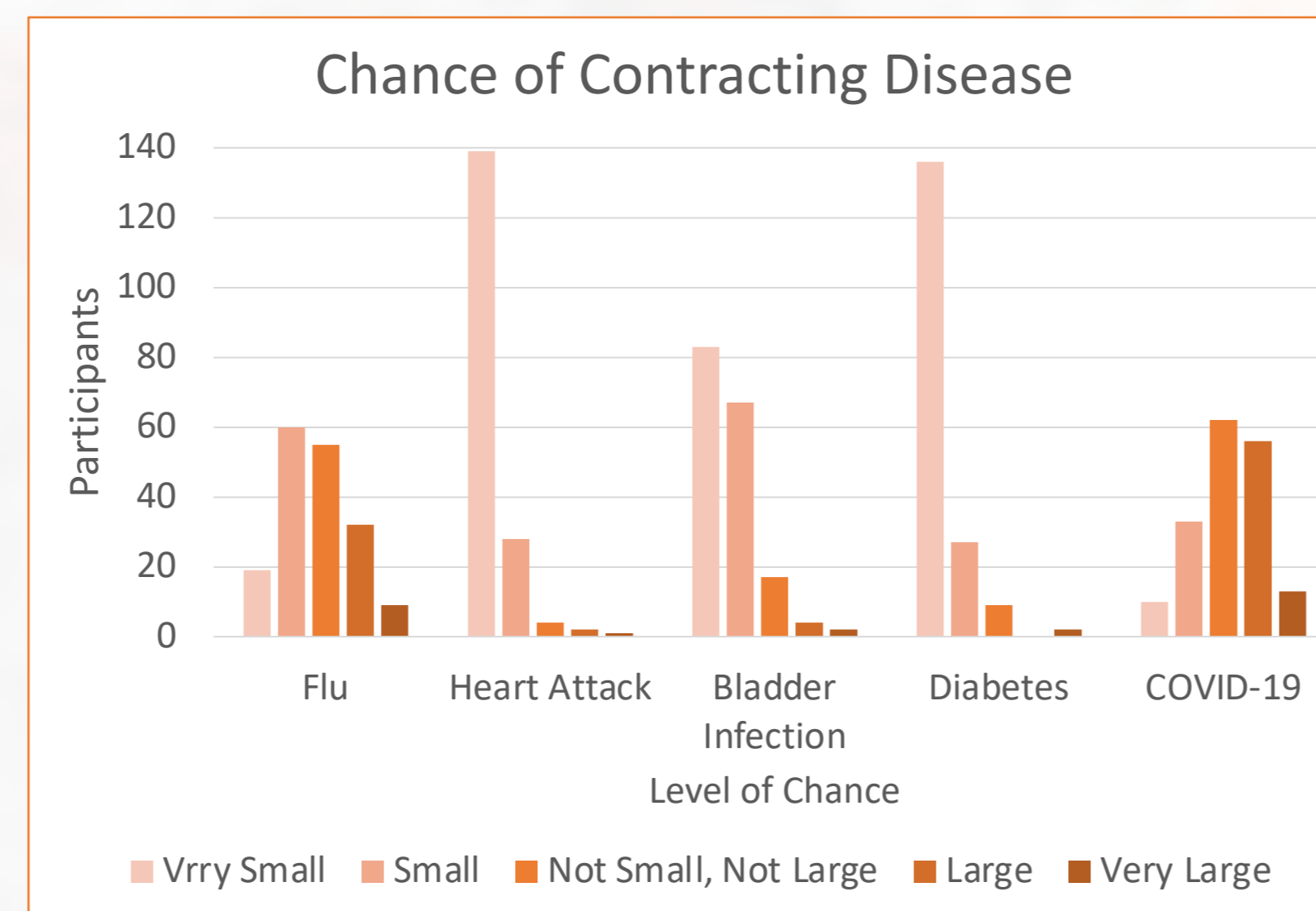
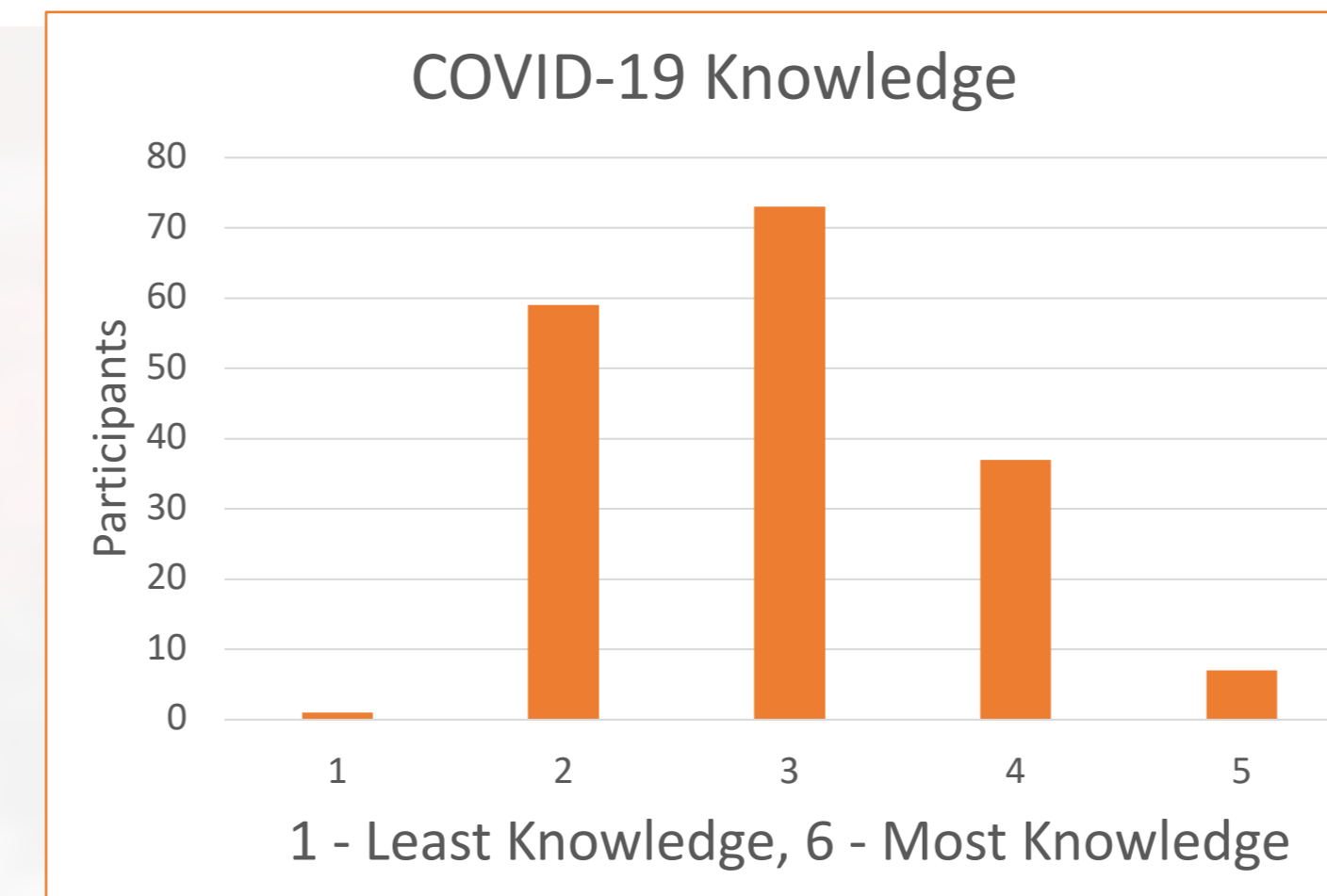
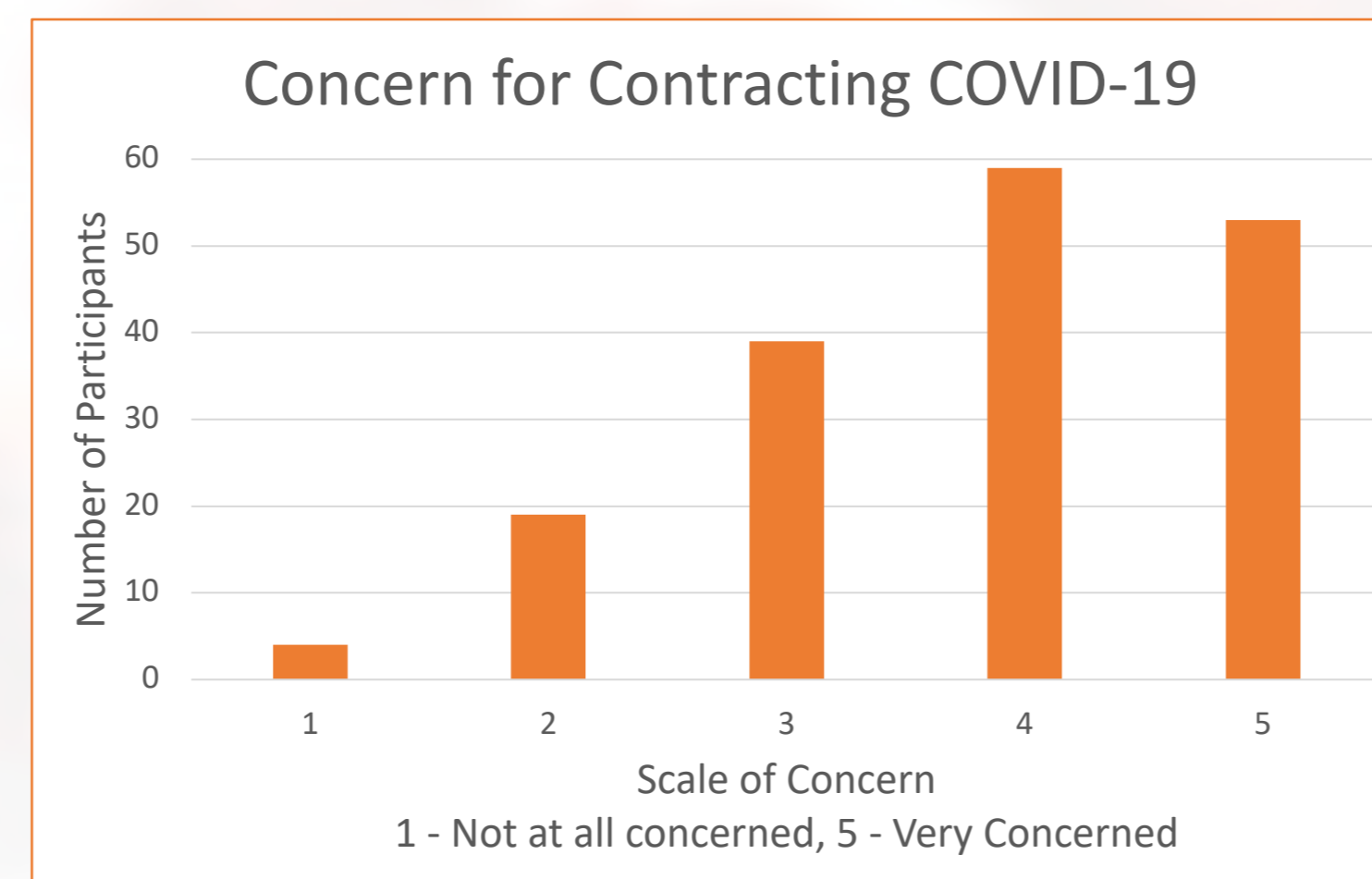
Knowledge – What is COVID-19?

(1) Is an inflammation of the lungs (2) Always gives symptoms (3) Can only be contracted once in a lifetime (4) Can be prevented by good hygiene

Preventative Measures – Do you think you can contract COVID-19 in the coming year if you do not take any preventative measures?

Vaccine – Suppose you have been vaccinated against COVID-19. What do you think your chance of contracting COVID-19 is in the following year.

Results from the survey:



Preliminary Conclusions:

- Students have **little knowledge** about COVID-19 but are **concerned** about contracting the virus.
- Students find the chance of contracting the flu and COVID-19 to be similar and more likely than other diseases.
- Students think **preventative measures lower chances** of contraction.
- Social Distancing can help **prevent** COVID-19 and students generally agree to comply with these guidelines
- Students think there are lower chances of contracting COVID-19 after vaccination.

Next Steps:

The next step for this project is to **interview** participants to better understand patterns revealed in the survey. In particular:

- Did the **student's perception of COVID-19 change** over the course of the semester? If so, what changed their mind?
- Did the preventative measures taken by their university **affect their decision making** throughout the semester? If so, what measure was the most effective?

References and Acknowledgments:

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