



Increasing Dreamcatchers Parent Awareness of Academic Resources

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INTRODUCTION

DreamCatcher is a program that pairs low-income middle school students a part of the Palo Alto Unified School District from both Palo Alto and East Palo Alto with tutors who are either in high school or attend Stanford University. DreamCatcher members come into the program twice a week to get help on their homework and engage in motivating activities (Dreamcatchers, 2008).

This Dreamcatchers does not have a plan to give parents information on the cost-free academic support resources available to them when their child is no longer attending Dreamcatchers after middle school.

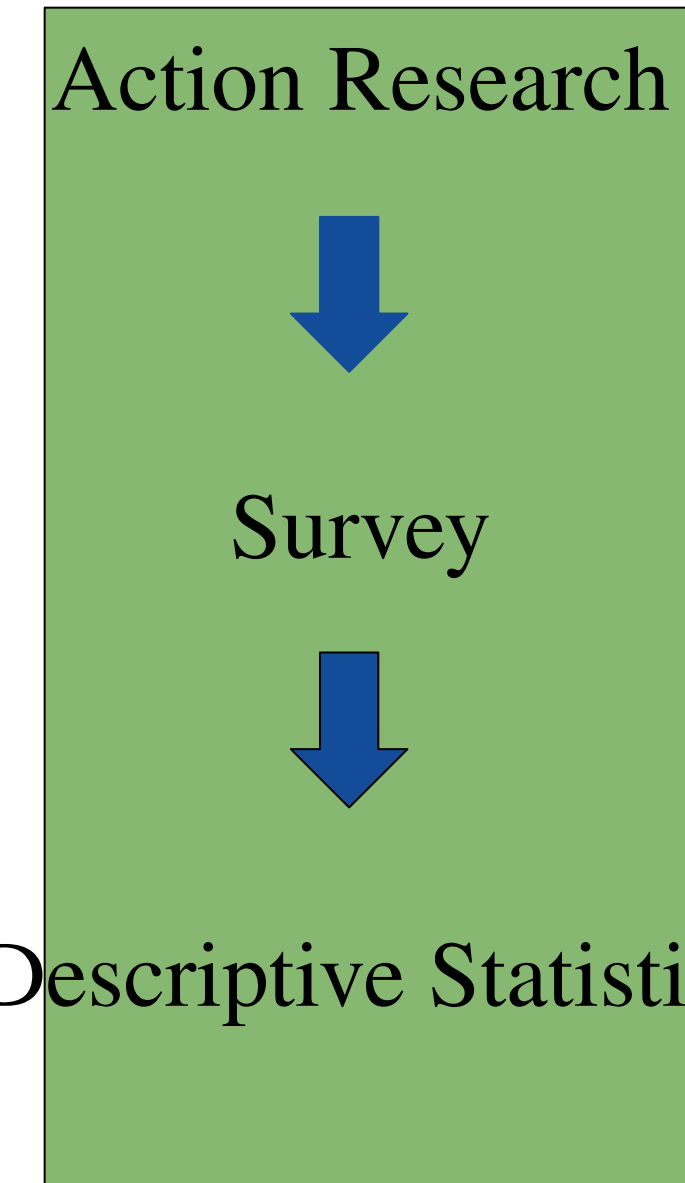
Dreamcatchers' parents are not receiving information on where what they are, what these programs require of students who are applying, and when the deadlines for these sign-ups take place.

There are many academic support programs implemented in the area that require a student to apply at the end of their last year in middle school.

This is a study using action research that investigates Dreamcatchers' parents' awareness of academic support resources that PAUSD offers during the school day, after school, and resources that are available for their students in the community can help identify areas in which parents of these Dreamcatchers students need more information.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES



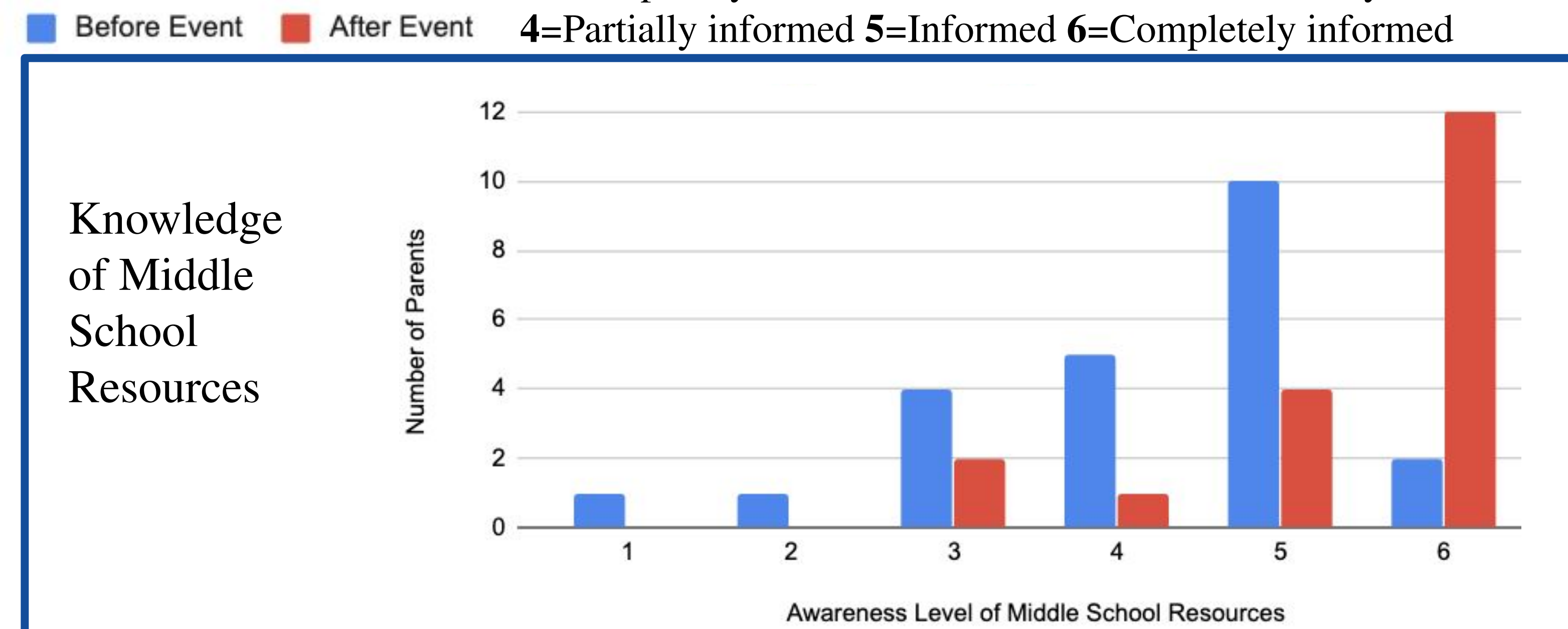
A Dreamcatchers parent event was set up to find parents' knowledge of academic resources, inform parents of various resources available to their child, and evaluate the effectiveness of the event.

At the beginning of the event, parents filled out this questionnaire. The questionnaire includes 4 questions that ask the guardian to rate on scales from 1 to 5 on their informant of resources. After the event, the parents took the same survey again and findings were analyzed using descriptive statistics—more specifically a double bar graph..

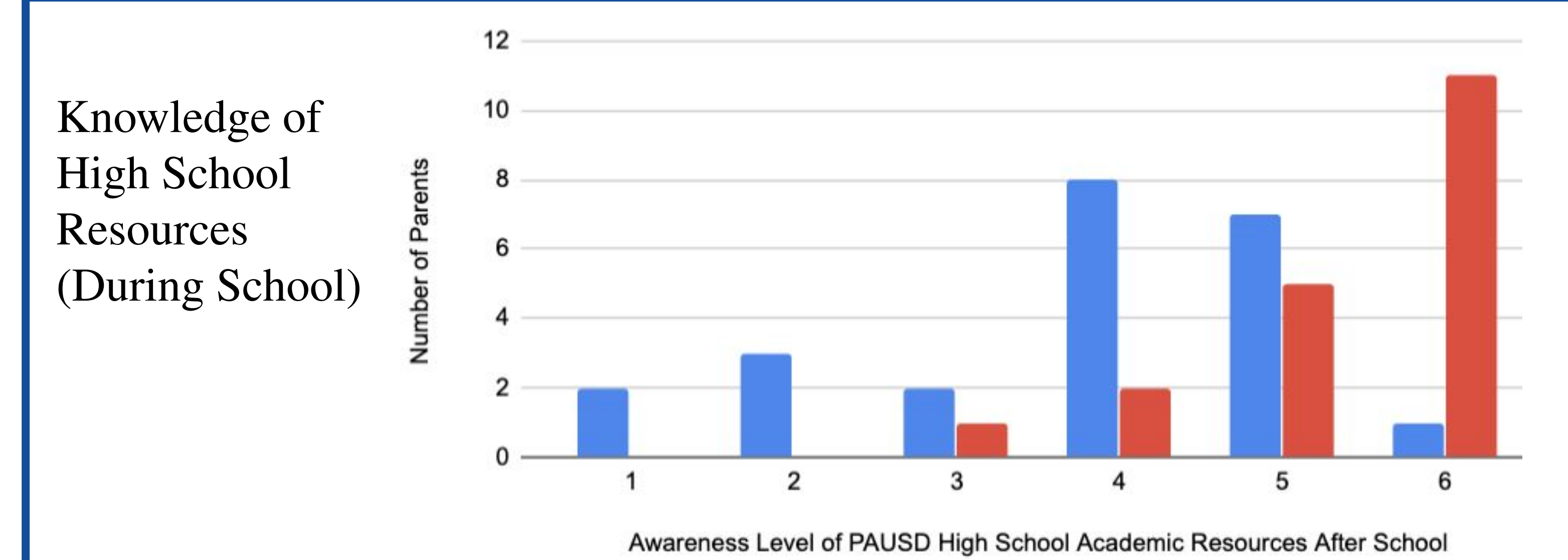


DATA AND FINDINGS

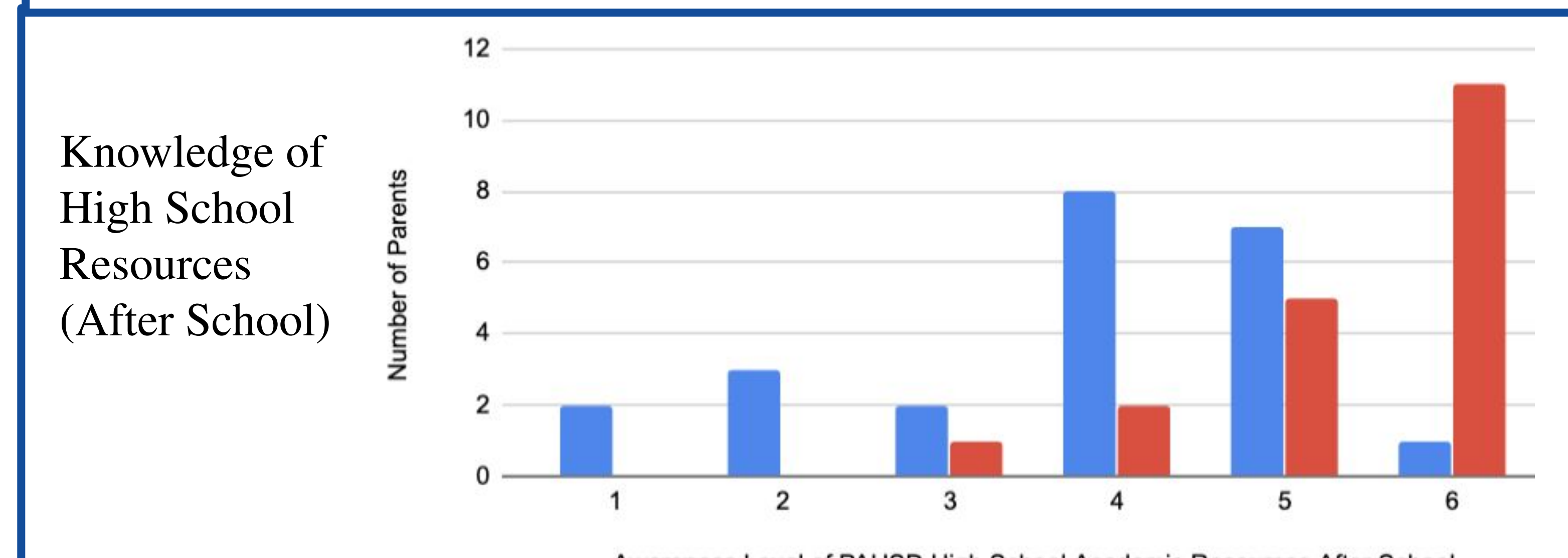
1=Completely uninformed 2=Uninformed 3=Partially uninformed 4=Partially informed 5=Informed 6=Completely informed



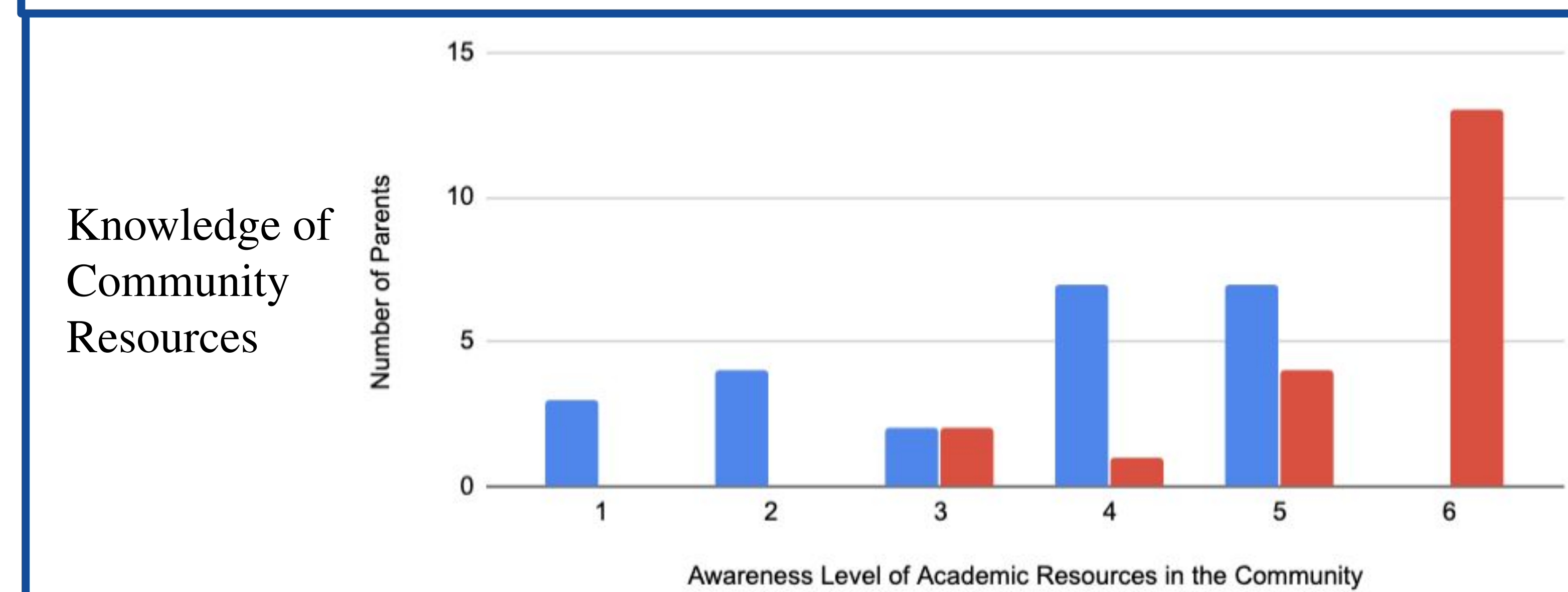
Knowledge of High School Resources (During School)



Knowledge of High School Resources (After School)

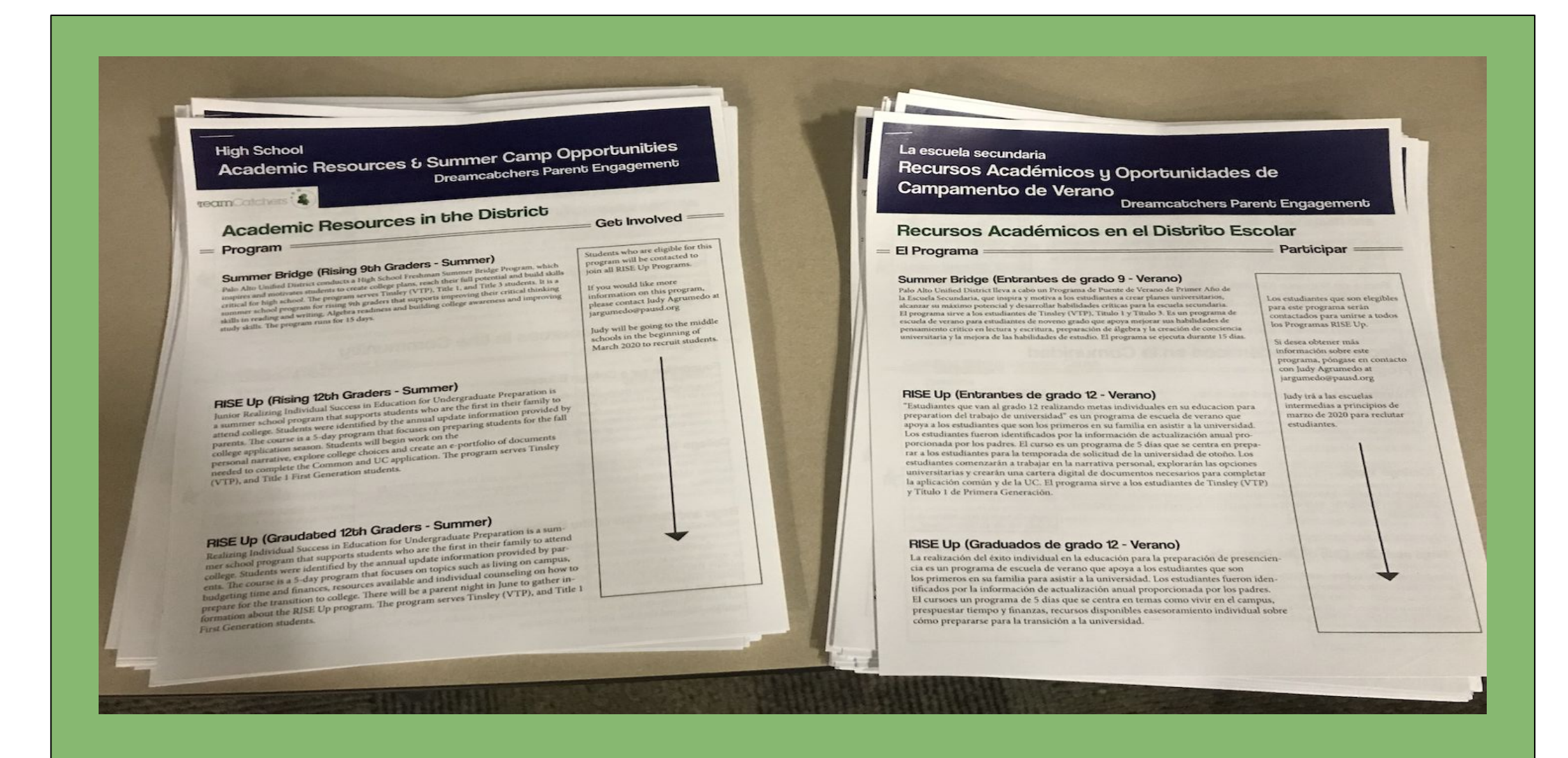


Knowledge of Community Resources



CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

- Dreamcatchers' parents were greatly misinformed of the academic resources available to their child in both middle school and high school (in the district and in the community.).
- Parent engagement events that have information on academic resources in the school district and in the community greatly increase parental awareness.



IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- Have parents give input on what specific information would help them further increase their knowledge of academic resources in next year's parent engagement event.
- Test how effective this event was in engaging these students in these academic resources.
- Test how helpful one-on-one conversations are for parents in comparison to these parents engagement event where parents are able to hear others' questions and comments.

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