



The Effect of Music on the *Black Lives Matter* Movement



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INTRODUCTION

The 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, was finally ratified by the last state in 1995. However, racism continues today. Music has always been a tool to assist with highlighting the social injustices that African Americans face. Many artists, such as Vic Mensa and Kendrick Lamar, rap about the problem of police brutality against African Americans. However, the issues that face this community are only becoming worse despite the increase in social media and activists' efforts. Many social justice efforts started with poems, oral stories, and grassroots efforts, followed by the Civil Rights movement in response to the mistreatment of African Americans in society. As many systems of oppression are still in play today, including (but not limited to) police brutality, the Black Lives Matter movement was formed to combat the various problems that African Americans face. This organized movement often utilizes music as means of communication. The messaging that is often conveyed is intended to bring awareness to the inequalities that African Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement.

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

My findings indicate that a lot of people other than African Americans, such as white and Asian people, actually know a lot about the issue going on regarding police brutality against African Americans. Many of the participants in my survey already had a foundational understanding of police brutality and were able to quickly grasp the messages conveyed in the song and apply it to their understanding of the social climate.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

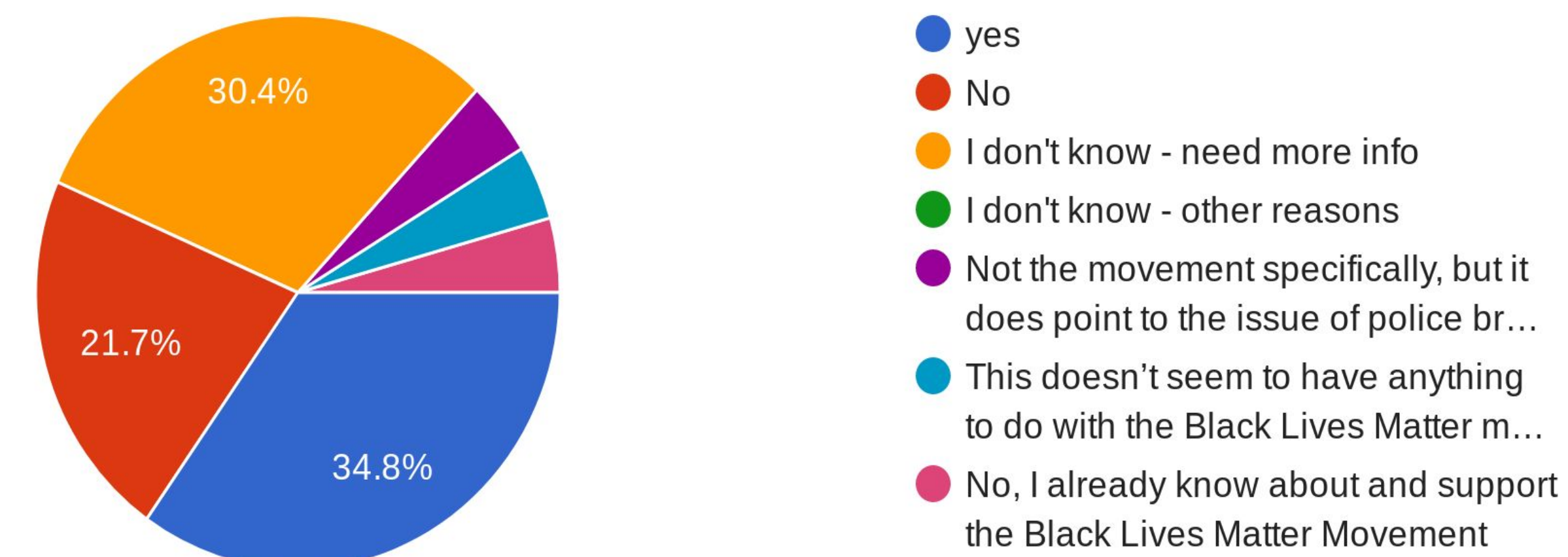
I submitted my research survey to the AAR staff, who then distributed it to students at Paly. The survey asked participants to listen to a song by Kendrick Lamar, "i". The songs lyrics highlight the various injustices that African Americans face, in particular at the hands law enforcement. However, it also demonstrates the resiliency of the African American community. The research questions investigated how people connect the messaging of the song with the messaging from the Black Lives Matter movement.



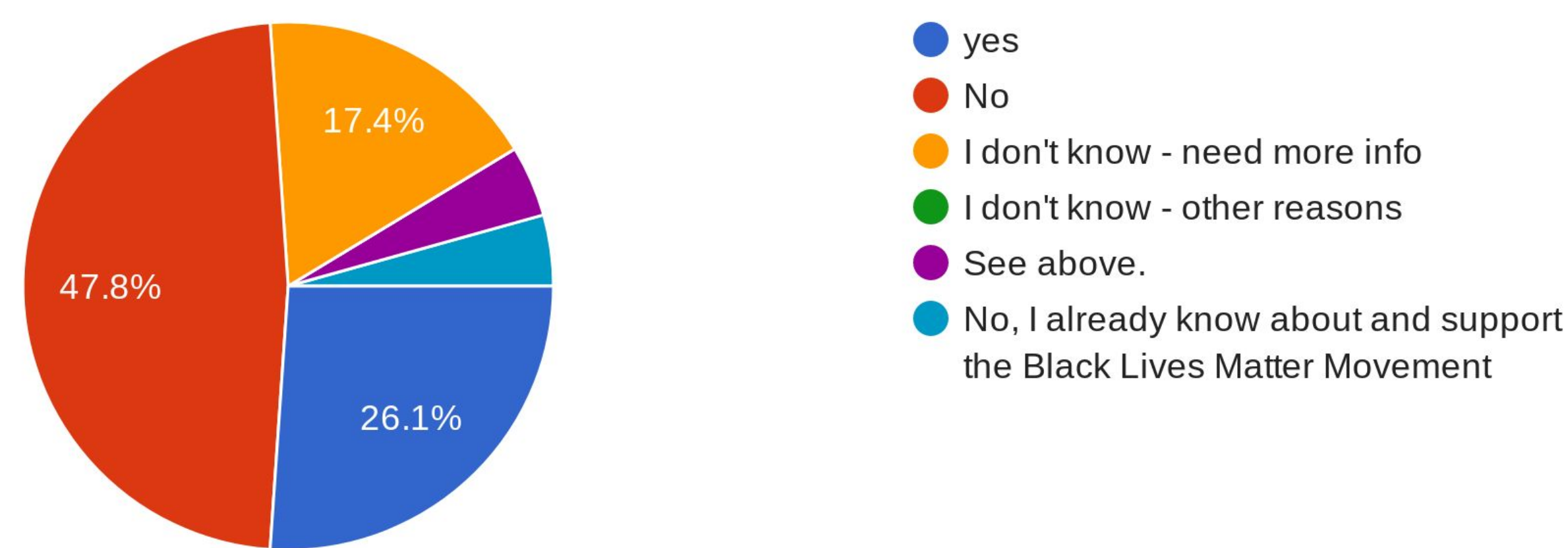
DATA AND FINDINGS



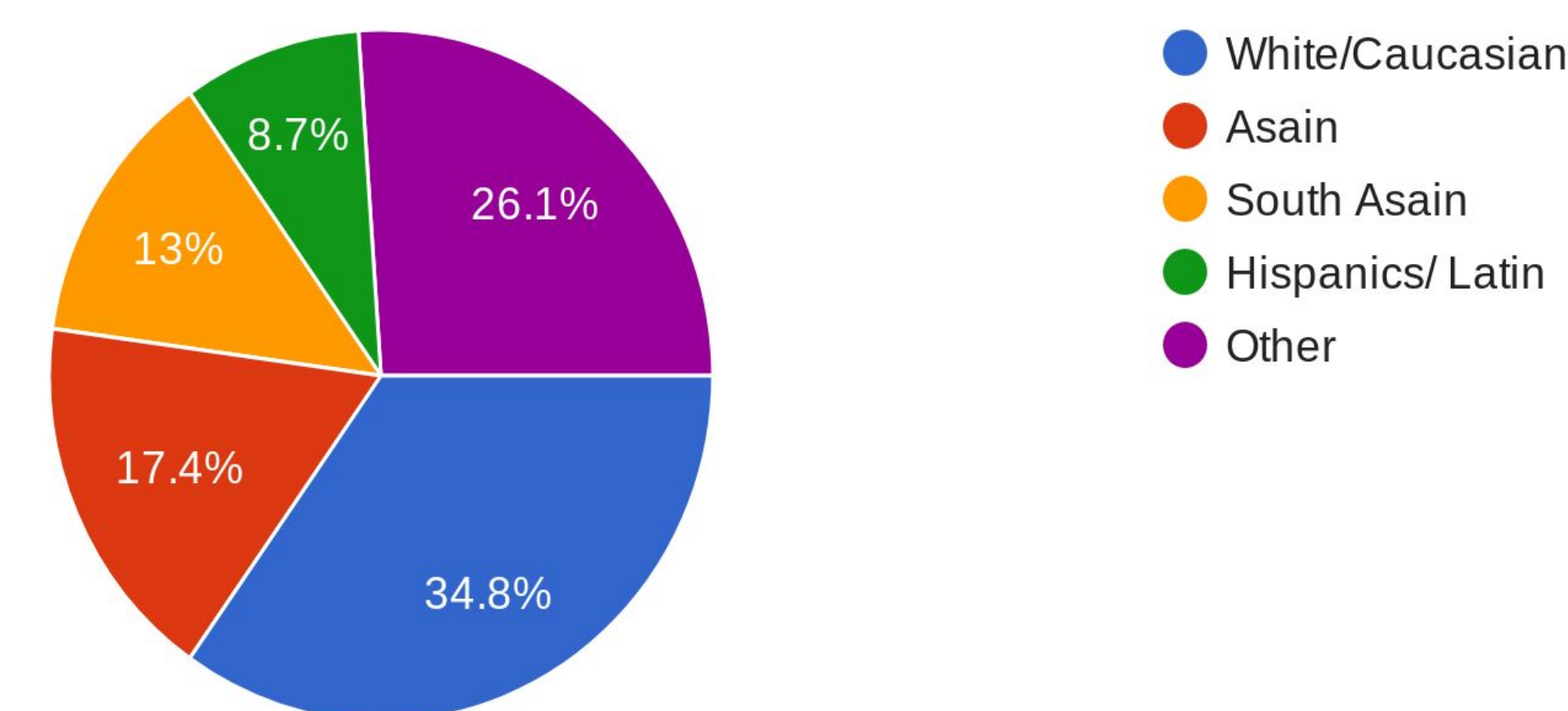
Same song - did it affect your understanding of the Black Lives Matters movement?
23 responses



Same song: Does this song change your perspective of the treatment of African Americans when dealing with the police?
23 responses



What are your ethnicities/ racial groups?
23 responses



IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It was interesting to see the number of people who gained new information about police brutality after listening to the messaging in "i". I found this fascinating because the media coverage of these issues still doesn't capture the attention of the masses. At the same time, I was also pleased to know that a significant number of my peers are aware of police brutality because of the Black Lives Matter movement. To continue spreading awareness, I believe that Black Lives

Matter could continue to spread awareness through music. However, I believe that the message would reach a broader audience if the movement incorporated various genres of music.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

Special thanks to Ms. Kaci, Ms. Chute, and Ms. Tabron for helping make this project possible.

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