Culture & COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States

Background

Tensions related to race and culture have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating pre-existing health and social disparities. Due to their role within communities, Extension professionals have the capacity to improve resilience during public health crises by promoting equity and inclusion.

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Purpose

The purpose of this study was to understand Americans' perceptions of race and cultural relations during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide recommendations for Extension professionals to reduce the implications of racial and cultural tensions.

Methods

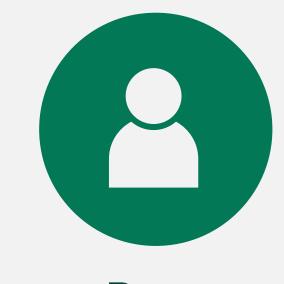
Data were collected via online survey January 8-21, 2021. Sample included 1,549 adult Americans. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used to understand concerns related to race and culture during COVID-19.



Findings

Demographic Differences

Results showed that people with different demographics and beliefs had different perceptions of racial and cultural relations during COVID-19. Influencing factors included:











Race

Education Level

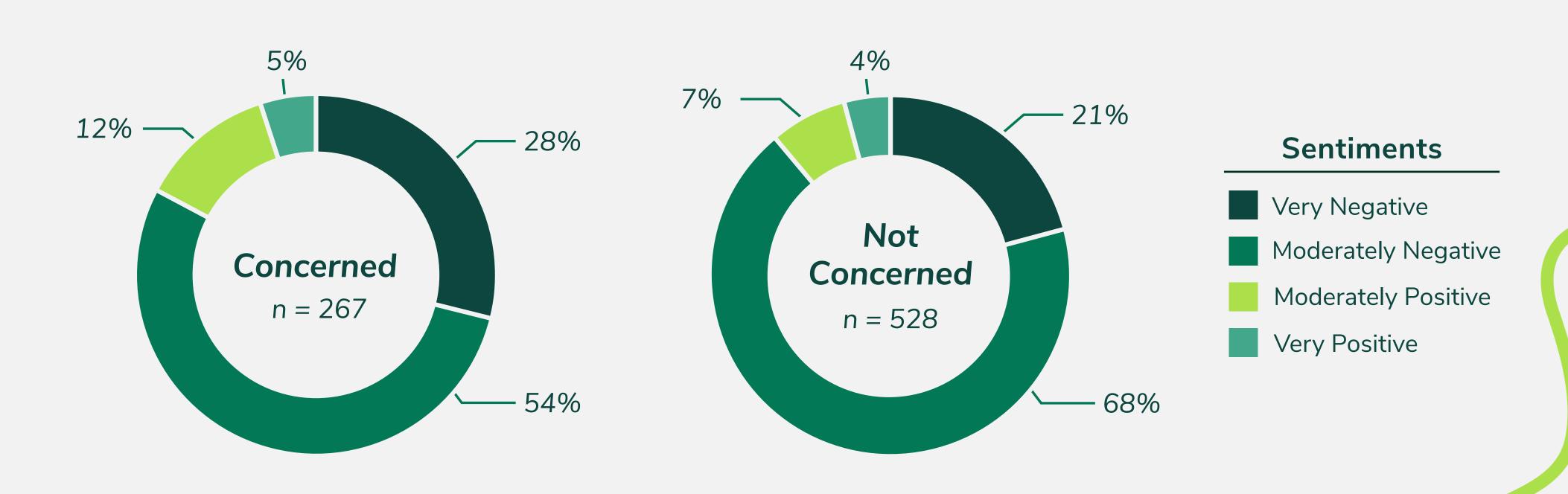
Rural / Urban

Political Beliefs

Vaccine Beliefs

Sentiment Analysis

NVivo sentiment analysis results indicated difference in sentiment between those who were concerned about race and culture during COVID-19 and those who were not.



Recommendations

By understanding the factors that influence Americans' perceptions of racial and cultural relations during COVID-19, Extension professionals can develop materials and resources to better reach underrepresented populations.









