

Survey of College Freshmen in Dormitories on Behaviors and Attitudes Related to Influenza Vaccination
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Background & Purpose

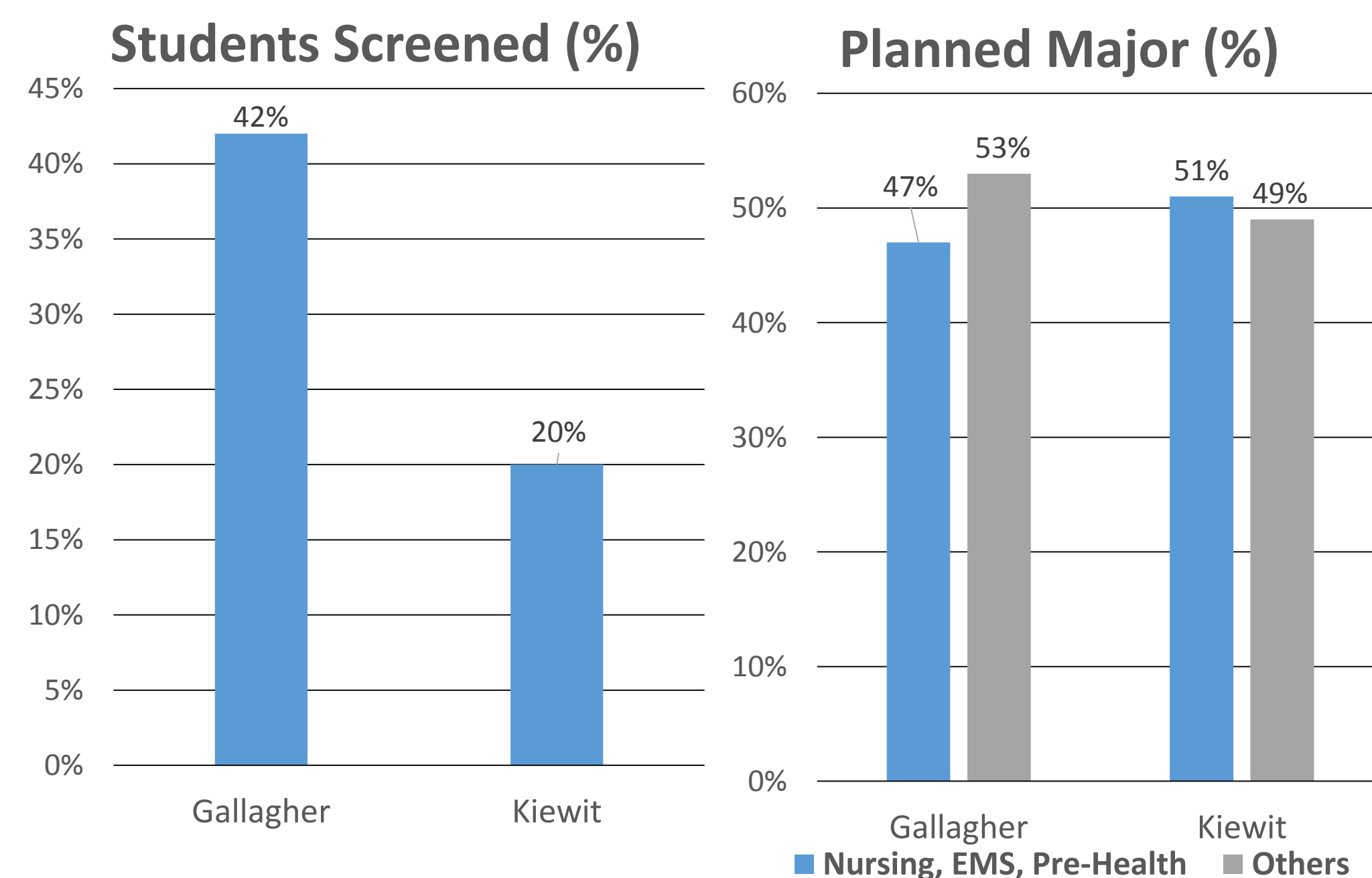
- Creighton University (CU) Operation Immunization (OI) pharmacy student volunteers work with CU Student Health to provide free influenza immunizations to students and employees.
- The current project is aimed to assess student's behaviors and attitudes towards the influenza vaccination to guide advocacy efforts in future influenza seasons.

Project Description

- Data was collected on two occasions in each dormitory lobby, as well as through e-mail in one dormitory, in April and May 2016.
- A 10 question survey identified demographics, experiencing influenza-like illness (ILI), vaccination status, beliefs about the vaccine and parent education status.
- A systematic literature search identified previous reports on influenza vaccination on college campuses.
- Data was analyzed using Qualtrics software.

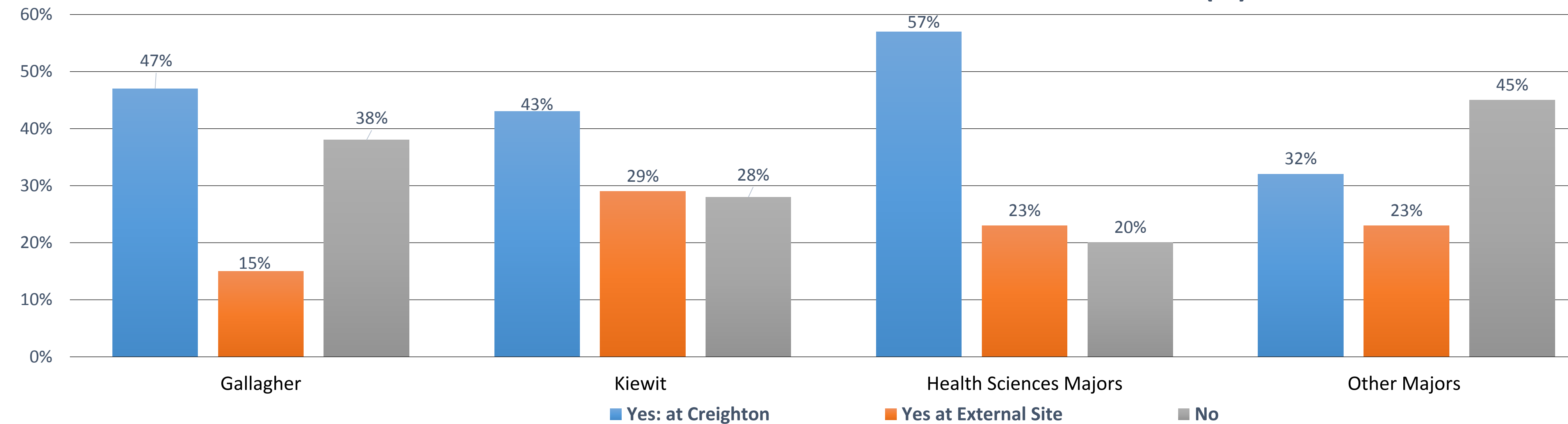
Demographics

- Total number of residents: 184 (Gallagher Hall), 456 (Kiewit Hall)
- Number of residents screened: 77 (41.8% Gallagher), 91 (19.9% Kiewit)
- Students in a health sciences major: 36 (Gallagher Hall), 46 (Kiewit hall); 82 total
- Students in a non- health sciences major: 41 (Gallagher Hall), 44 (Kiewit Hall); 85 total

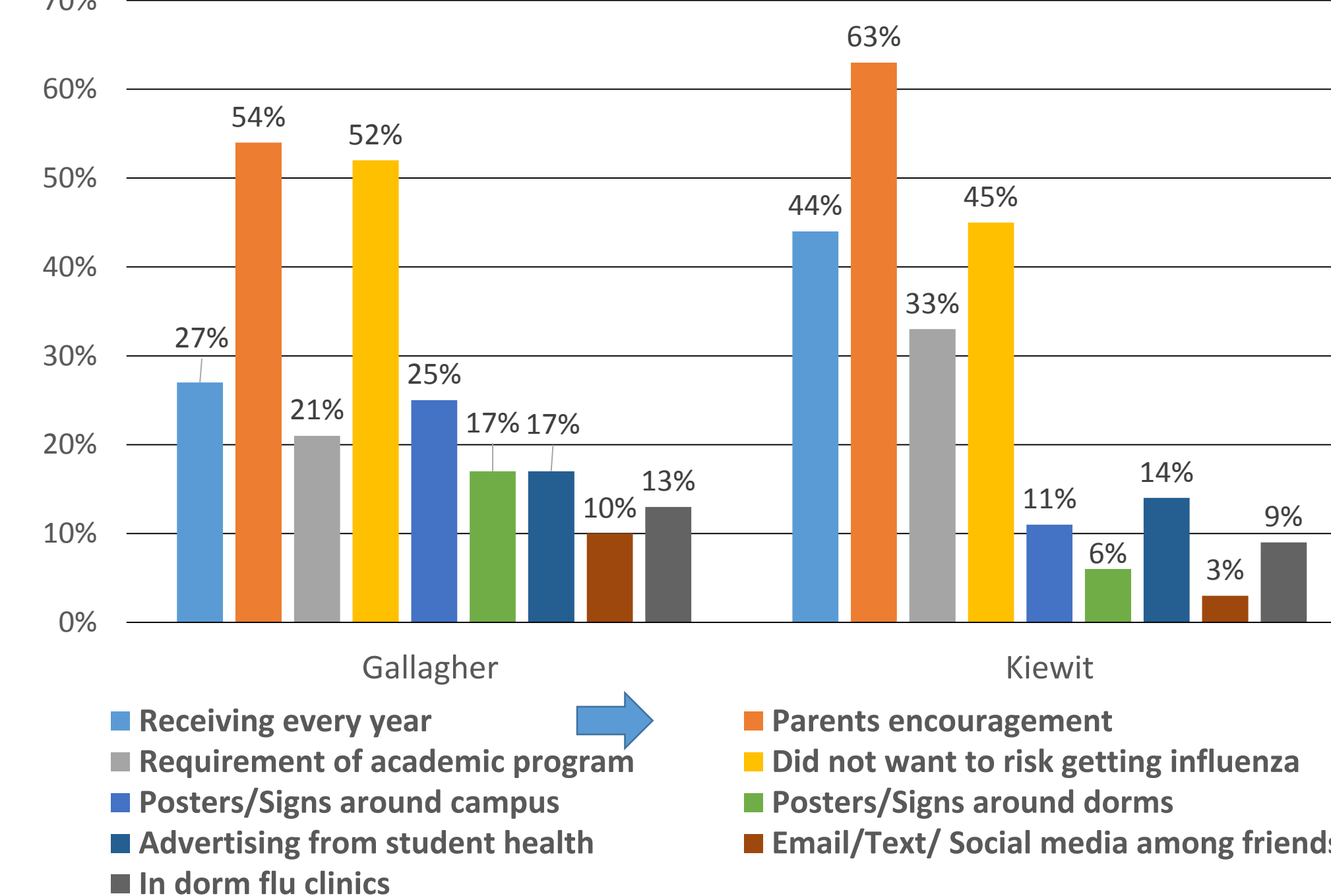


Survey Results

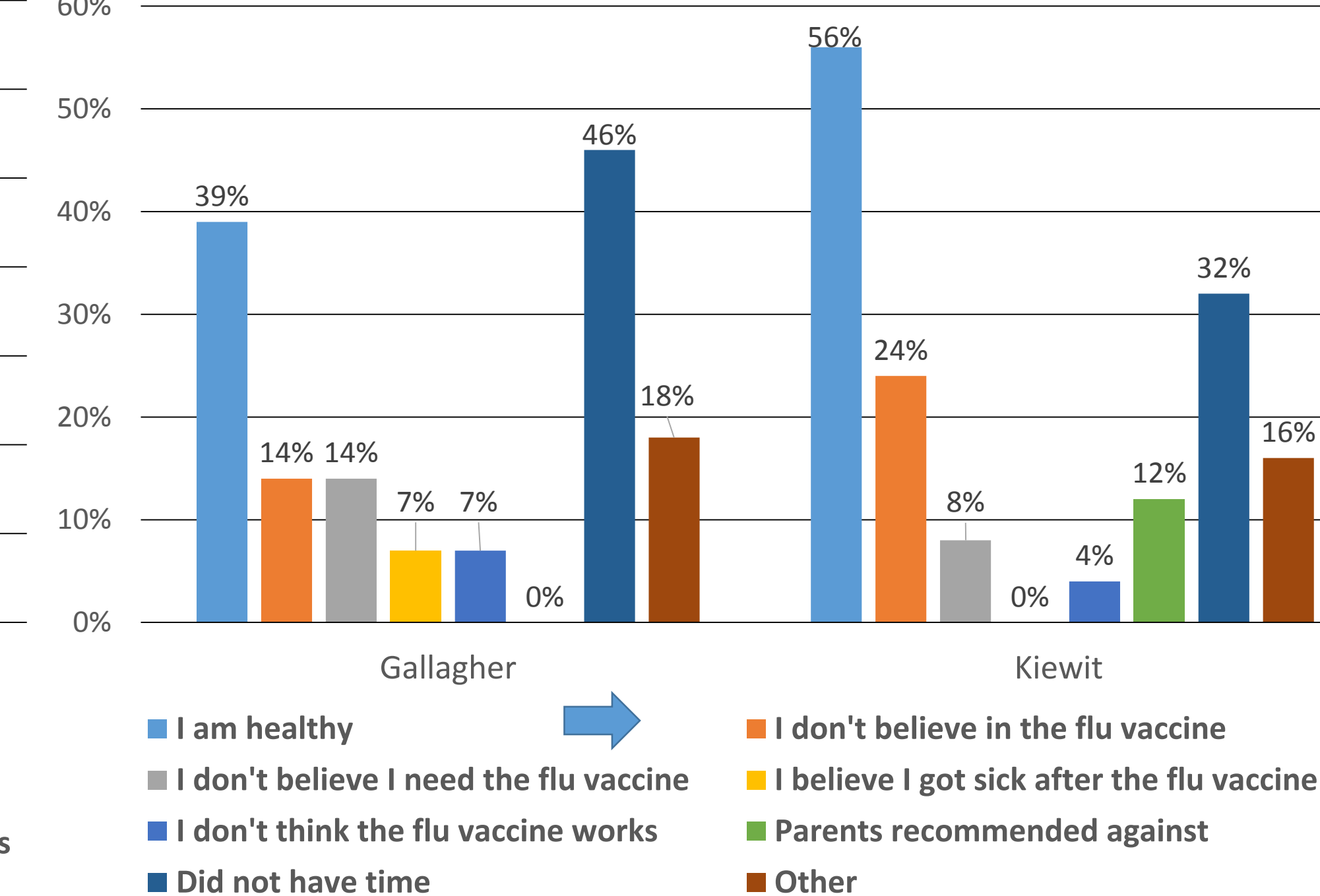
2015-2016 Influenza Vaccination Rate Results (%)



Motivators to Receive Vaccination (%)



Motivators Not to Receive Vaccination (%)



- An overall (on or off-campus) vaccination rate of 66 percent was reported (Gallagher Hall: 62%, Kiewit Hall 71%)
- Students who were health sciences majors had a higher overall influenza vaccination rate of 80%
- Students were most commonly motivated to receive the influenza vaccination due to: 1) Their parent's encouragement (59%), 2) Did not want to risk getting influenza (48%), and 3) Received one annually (36%)
- Reasons students did not receive the influenza vaccination were due to: 1) Their belief of being healthy (41%), or 2) Not having time (40%)
- Of students who received the influenza vaccination, 54% claimed to have experienced an influenza-like illness (ILI) between August 15, 2015 and March 31, 2016; Of students who did not receive an influenza vaccination, 67% claimed to have experienced an ILI.
- Of students who experienced an ILI, 53% missed class or work

Discussion

- Compared to a study done by Agarwal, the surveyed freshman CU students had similar behaviors in getting the influenza immunization. Vaccination side effects, self- efficacy and perceived susceptibility were important factors in making their decision to be vaccinated.
- In comparison to a study performed by Uddin, et al., surveyed CU students also indicated that receiving a prior influenza vaccination was influential to choosing subsequent influenza vaccinations (37%). However, level of parental education did not influence rates of receiving an influenza vaccination in surveyed CU students.
- Students often claimed to have experienced at least one episode of ILI regardless of receiving flu vaccination (54%) or no flu vaccination (67%).
- This study provides a snapshot of our current student influenza vaccination efforts at Creighton University, and vaccination rates for freshmen dorm-living students.
- Limitations:
 - Convenience sampling
 - Small sample size
 - Only freshman students living in two dormitories were surveyed
 - Short time frame for students to complete the survey
 - Surveys were not administered on the same days

Conclusions

- Students who are enrolled in a health science major were more likely to receive an influenza vaccination.
- The students' beliefs about the influenza vaccination appeared influential to their decisions regarding receipt of the influenza vaccination.
- Lack of time and forgetting about publicized opportunities were also common reasons for failure to obtain vaccination.
- A substantial proportion of students claimed to experience an episode of ILI regardless of receipt of the influenza vaccination.
- It is hoped that further survey research can increase understanding of the attitudes and behaviors of freshman students related to flu vaccination, and guide future efforts in vaccination advocacy and advertisement for university clinics.

References

- Agrawal V. A/H1N1 vaccine intentions in college students: An application of the theory of planned behavior. *J Am Coll Health*. 2014;62(6):416-24. doi: 10.1080/07448481.2014.917650.
- Uddin M, Cherkowski GC, Liu G, Zhang J, Monto AS, Aiello AE. Demographic and socioeconomic determinants of influenza vaccination disparities among university students. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2010 Sep;64(9):808-13. doi: 10.1136/jech.2009.090852.

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