



# Racism in Medicine: Impact of Discussion Among Medical Students

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## Introduction

The AMA has recognized racism as a threat to public health, advancement of health equity, and a barrier to appropriate health care. Medical students at WSU SOM identified a curricular gap surrounding topics of history of racism in Detroit and the consequences of this history on health, attitudes toward health, and medical training in Detroit.

A self-assembled student task force contacted physicians who could address the complexity of racism in medicine. The panel of four Black female physicians addressed topics including racism in medical research and influences on patient attitudes and health. Attendance was required for first year WSU SOM medical students with invitations for optional attendance extended to all WSU SOM medical students and the Detroit community.

## Aim

This study aims to demonstrate how formal education of topics of racism in medicine can impact student perceptions and awareness and should be included in medical education curriculum.

## Methods

Qualtrics surveys were created with Likert scale questions and distributed via email to attendees before and after the event. The pre-survey response rate was n=455 and post survey response rate was n=366. Total paired response rate for pre- and post- survey among medical students was n=347. Responses were obtained via Likert scale and open-text questions.

## Results

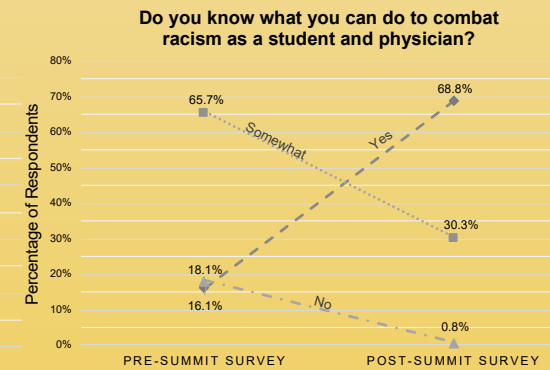
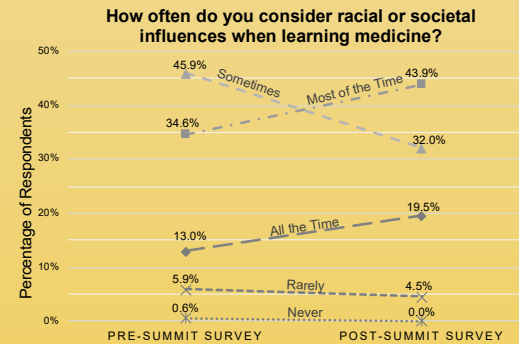
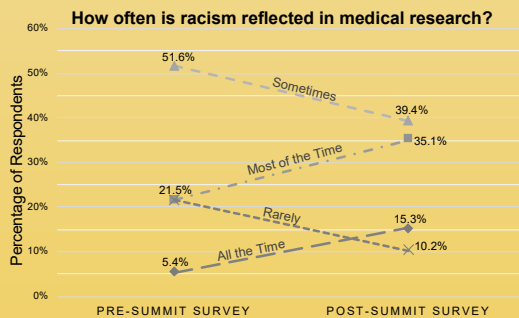
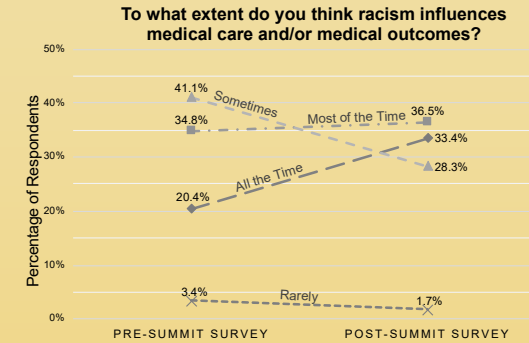
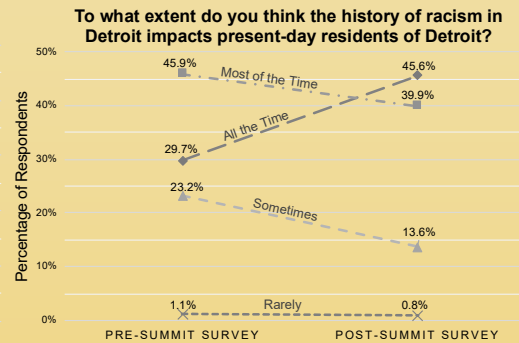
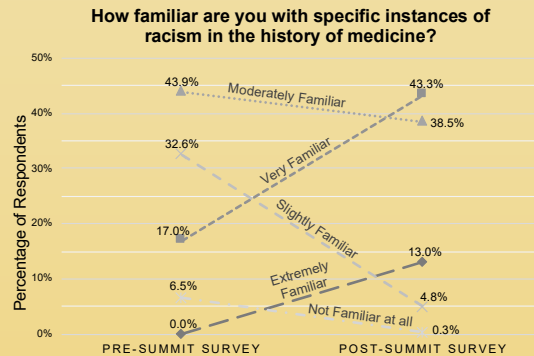


Figure 1. Change in participant (N=353) responses for each Likert response between the pre-summit survey and post-summit survey. Each graph shows the change in each response for each of the six survey questions.

## Conclusion and Future Directions

- Investigation of student perceptions and capacity for perspective change in relation to the Racism in Medicine Summit has demonstrated that formal educational interventions can provide students with increased awareness of racism and other social determinants of health as they continue their medical training.
- Future directions: Demonstrable changes in medical student attitude, awareness, or comfortability surrounding topics of racism and health care after the Racism in Medicine Summit provides opportunity to incorporate longitudinal curricular integration of racism in medicine topics formally into the academic curriculum of medical students.

## References

