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A Participatory Group Process to Collect and Disseminate COVID-19 Needs Assessment Data

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Introduction

- The Richmond, VA COVID-19 Needs Assessment Survey (RVA CoNA) was created in March 2020 to identify behaviors and needs related to COVID-19 in Richmond area adults ages 18 and over.
- Survey respondents answered questions in the following areas: healthcare, education, access to transportation, employment, behaviors, and self-reported illnesses.
- Through two phases of data collection including internet-based surveys and paper/pencil surveys, the results identified mental health as a priority.
- Community partners, through this study, were able to work towards connecting people with mental health resources as a priority.

Study Aims

- Summarize the process used to develop the RVA CoNA
- Summarize preliminary survey results from a second phase of data collection as well as initial feedback from community partners
- Summarize initial conclusions and results dissemination strategies.

Methods

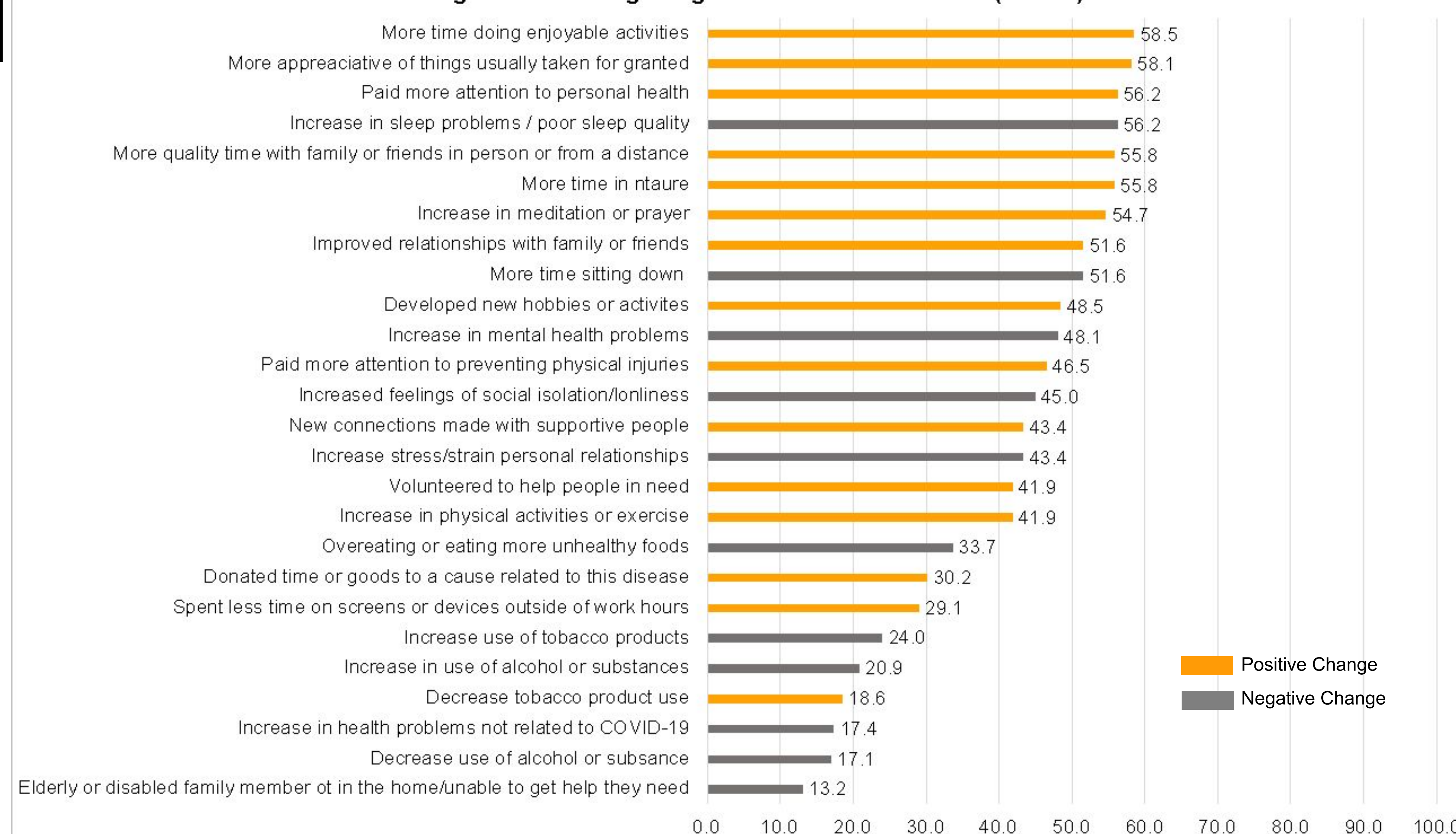
- The RVA CoNA was created through as a partnership of community organization leaders, community neighbor residents, and researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University in a series of stages including: (1) survey development, (2) pilot testing, (3) survey administration, (4) review survey results, (5) identifying dissemination strategies, and (6) Identifying activities informed by survey results.
- Two phases of data collection were conducted using: internet-based surveys (August 4, 2020-March 4, 2021; N = 350) and paper/pencil surveys (May 22-October 22, 2021; N = 265).
- All surveys were administered to Spanish/English speaking adults 18 and over residing in the Richmond
- Ascertainment for paper and pencil survey occurred through events organized by by community partners.
- Summary statistics were produced in R (Version 3.6.1)
- Second phase data collection results were discussed by the Peter Paul Community Action Network in December 2021.

Results

Table 1. Summary Statistics

	N	%
Gender		
Female	149	69.8
Male	68	30.2
Education		
College Graduate or Greater	69	30.7
Some College or Less	149	69.3
Marital Status		
Married/Partner	79	37.8
Divorced/Single	140	62.2
Race		
White	38	16.9
Black/Other	187	83.1
Financial Burden		
No	62	34.7
Yes	147	65.3
Age		
18-49	128	56.9
50+	97	43.1
Since COVID-19:		
Increased Loneliness	105	46.7
Increased Mental Health Problems	113	50.2
Increased Substance Use	50	22.2
Before COVID-19:		
Stress	120	53.3
Anxiety and/or Depression	112	49.8
Loneliness	58	25.8
Total	225	100.0

Changes Since the Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic (N = 258)



Conclusion

- The RVA CoNA was able to identify the most pressing needs of citizens in the Richmond community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We were able to identify themes in the various needs of Richmond residents (e.g., mental health, education around COVID-19, connecting with resources)
- Through the CAN meeting, the importance of community/academic partnerships was proven to be significant through the study, as it provided an eagle's eye view of the study.
- The results were able to lead to a less-stigmatized mental health conversation in addition to working towards improved access to mental health resources.
- We are sharing the results of the study with community members and they have appreciated the feedback and analysis of the most pressing needs during this pandemic.
- Results are in the process of being utilized across organizations to support Richmond-area residents.

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To learn more about the RVA CoNA, visit <https://rampages.us/rvawellness>.

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Works Cited

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