



Does Instruction Change UW-Eau Claire Students' Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Islam?



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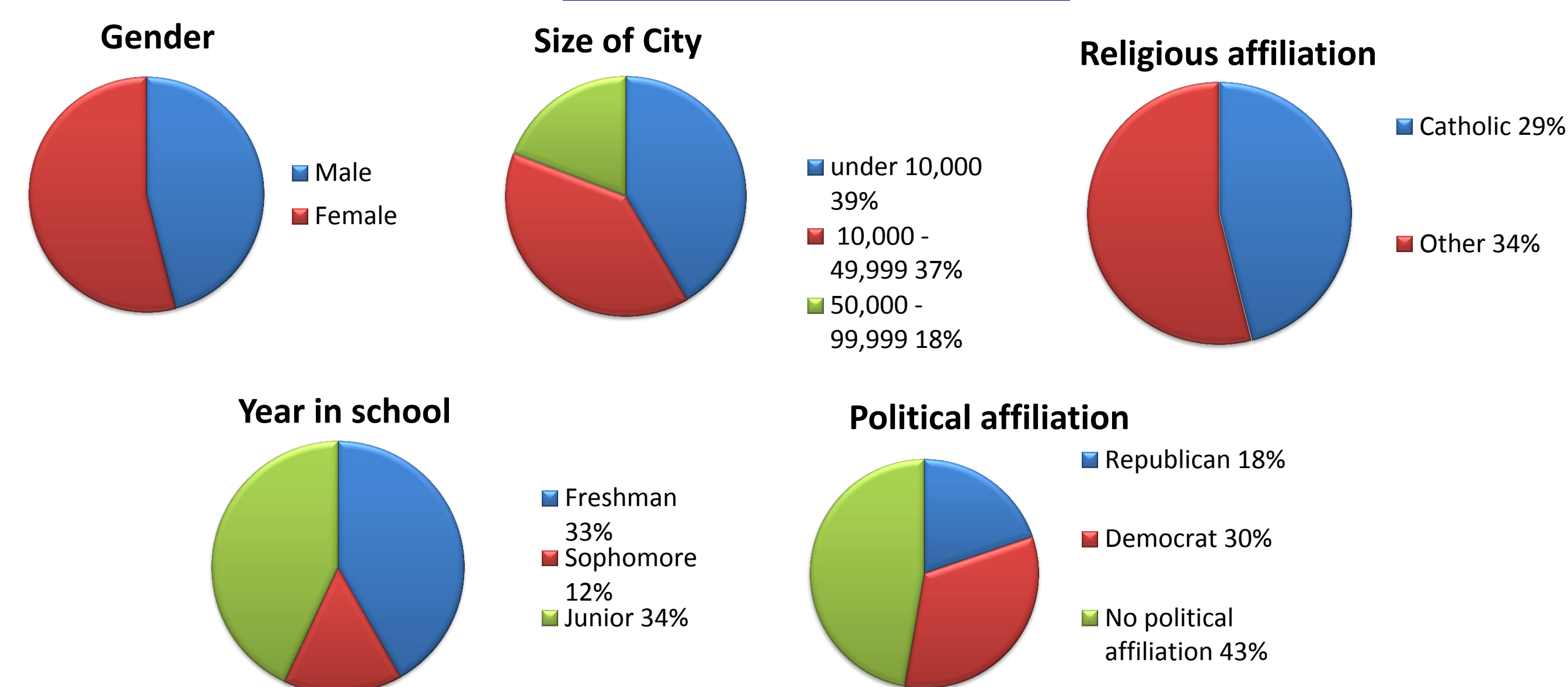
Introduction

Students in ESL 291 researched UWEC students' knowledge of and attitudes toward Islam before and after direct instruction. The researchers created a survey for Professor DeGrave's Geography III (Human Geography) students. They administered the survey at the beginning of the instructional unit on Religion, and again at the end. They hypothesized that Professor DeGrave's Geography students would increase their knowledge of Islam as a result of the instruction and dialogue, and that attitudes also would become more positive.

Survey Process

- Identify survey population: GEOG 111.(003,006).
- Develop survey of knowledge and attitudes.
- Administer pre survey electronically on April 4,2011.
- Presentation in GEOG classes on April 11,2011.
- Administer Post survey electronically on April 13,2011.

Survey Subjects



Intervention

- On April 11,2011 the ESL 291 class did presentations in Professor DeGrave 's Geography 111 classes (sections 003, 006)
- Introduction : Background information on Islam
 - General Information about the Faith
 - Prophets and Holy Books
 - Map of Arab world – Map of Islam.
 - 20 minute question - answer session.

Knowledge Questions:

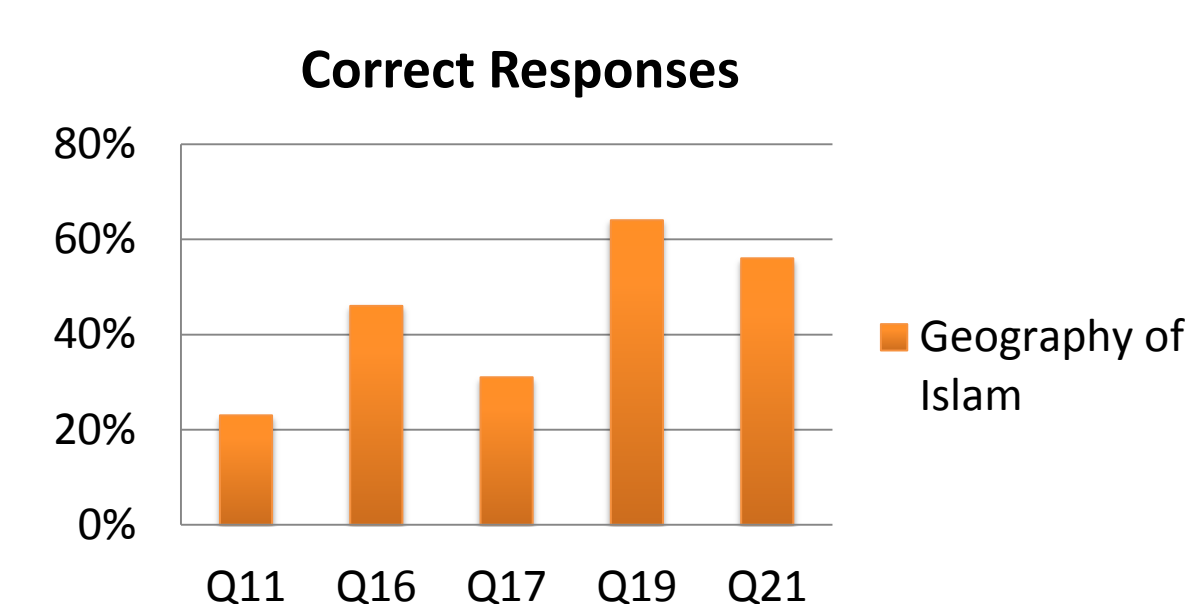
- ◆ K1: Geography of Islam:
 - Q11: Approximately what percent of the world's population is Muslim? 34%,22%, 19%, 12%.
 - Q16: Which of these countries is predominantly Muslim? Turkey and Uzbekistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Oman and Yemen, All of the above.
 - Q17: The following is a holy city according to Islam: Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina, All of the above.
 - Q19: According to the "Foreign Policy" website, the fastest growing religion in the world is: Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam.
 - Q21: Among world religions, I believe Islam is the: first, second, third, fourth most common religion.

◆ K2: General Knowledge:

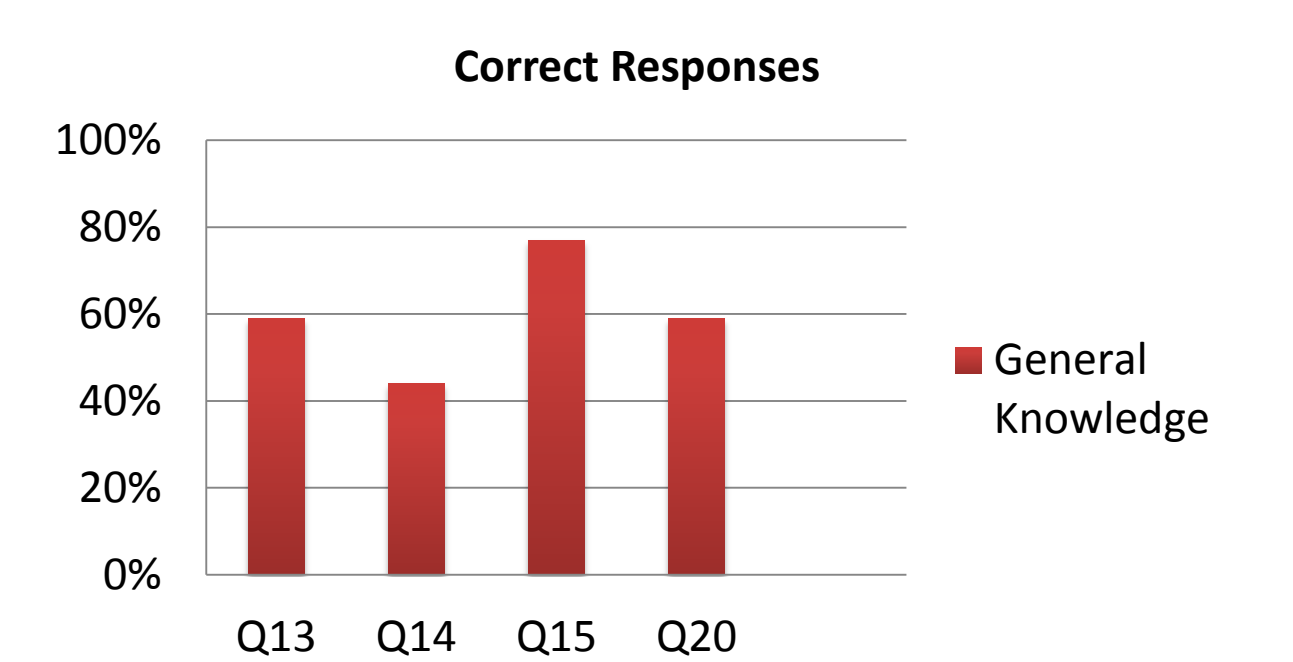
- Q13: Muslims eat all meat except: beef, poultry, pork, fish.
- Q14: Based on Islamic principles, Muslims should pray: 3,4,5,6 times a day.
- Q15: "Islam" and "Muslim" refer to these two things, respectively: A person, a religion- a place of worship, a person- a religion, a person-The are interchangeable.
- Q20: What is the "Hajj"? A party, mosque, special food, pilgrimage to Mecca.

◆ K3: People:

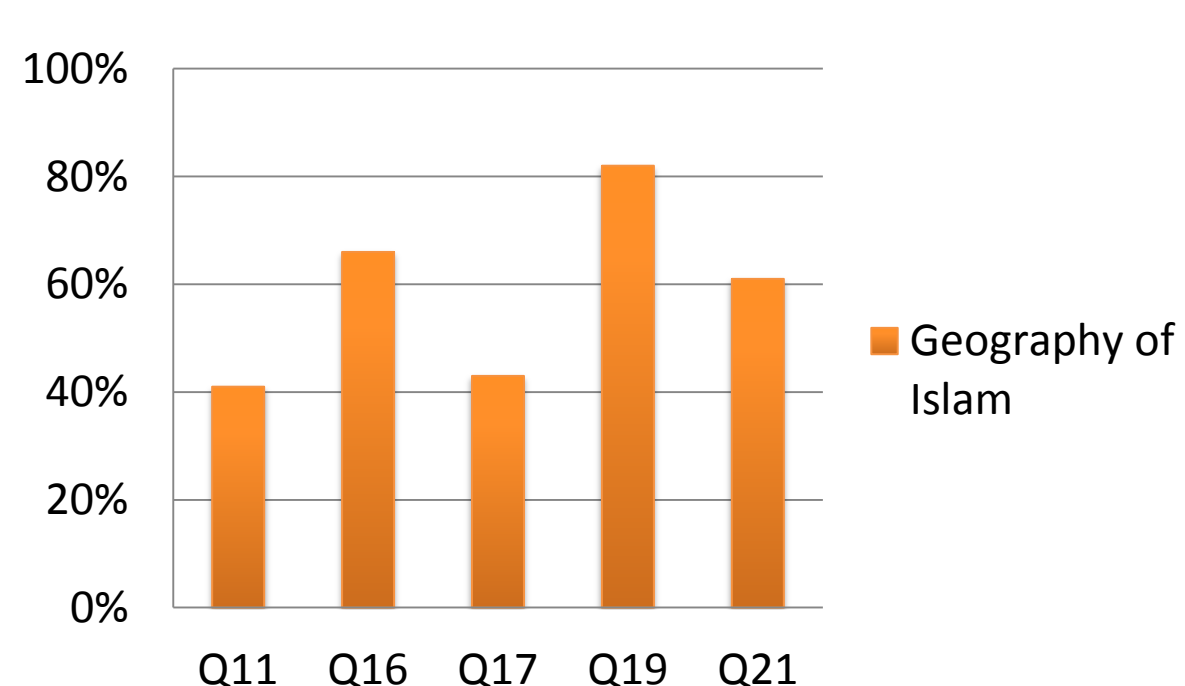
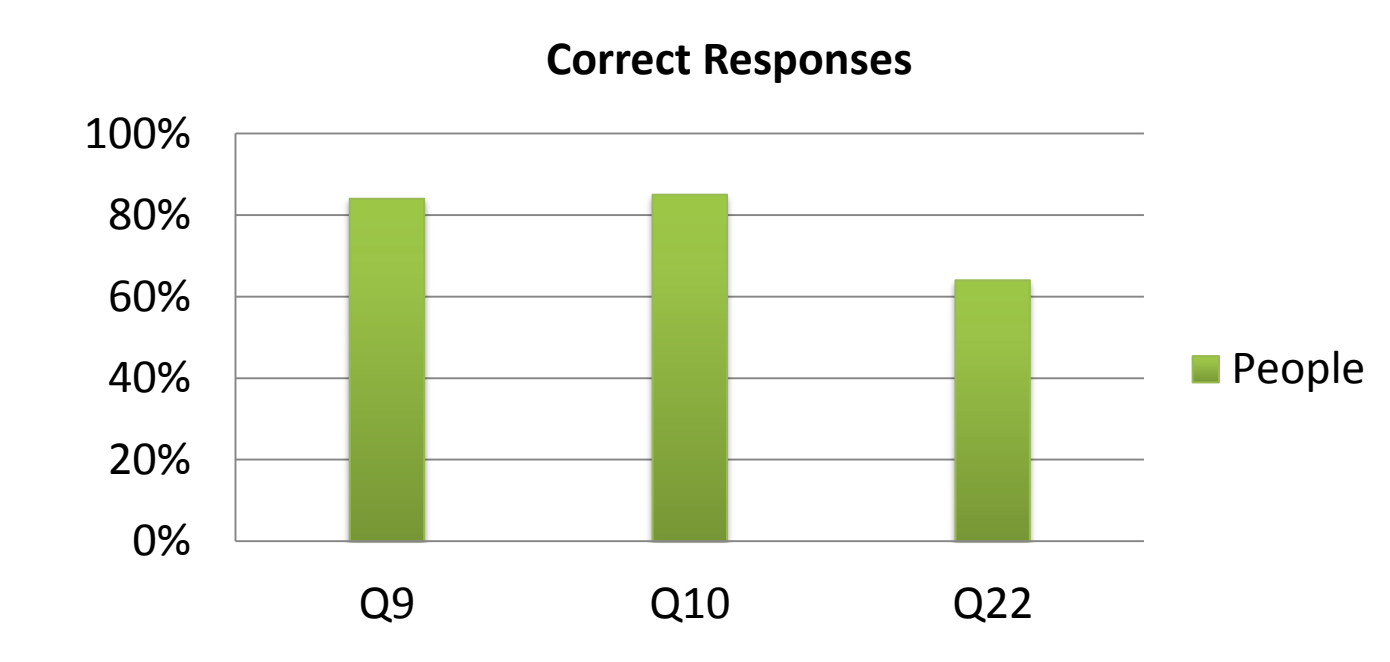
- Q9: All Arabs are Muslim. T,F
- Q10: All Muslims are Arab. T,F
- Q22: Muslims acknowledge the importance of which of the following as prophets? Jesus and Mohammad, Moses and Abraham, Abraham and Mohammad, Moses and Mohammad, All of the above.



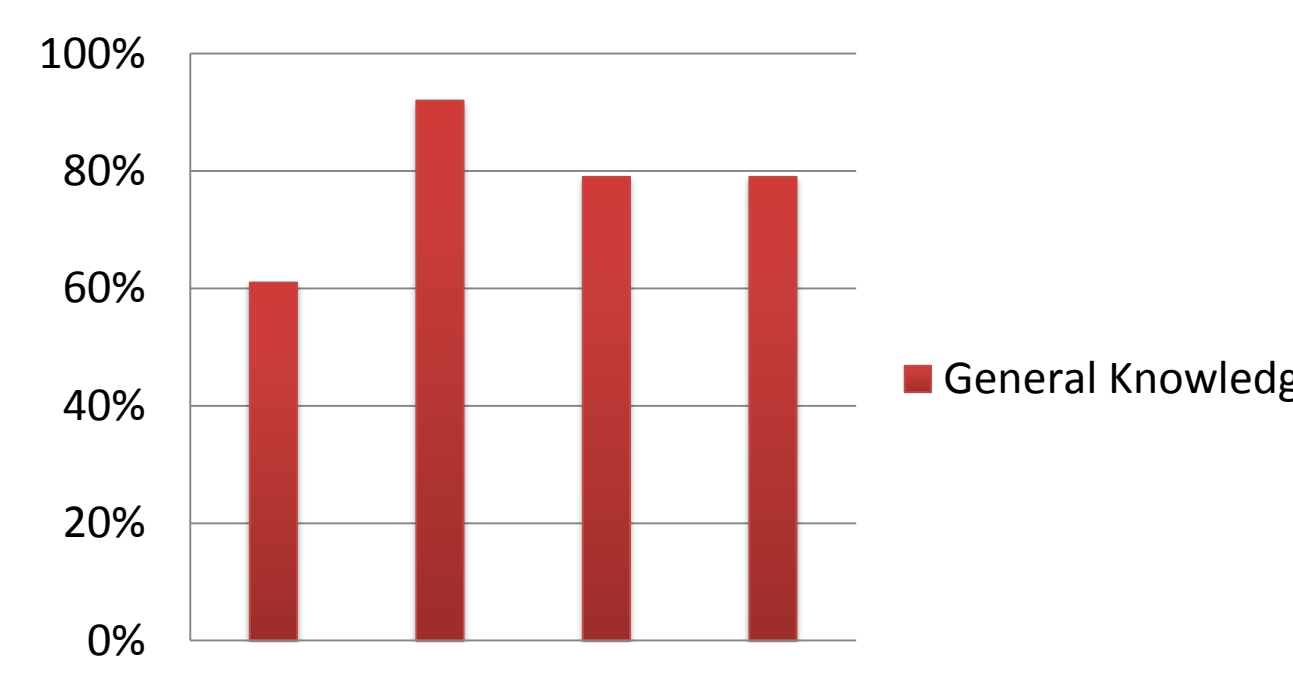
Pre-Survey Result



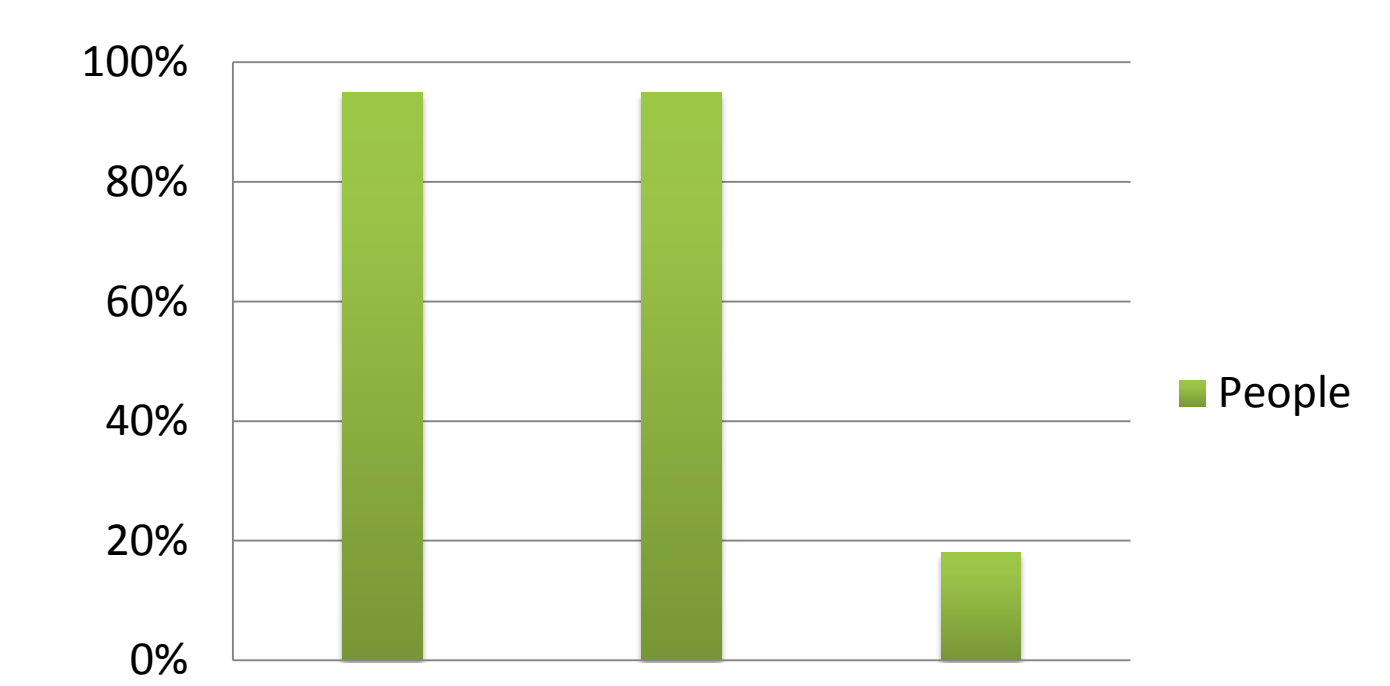
Pre-Survey Result



Post-Survey Result



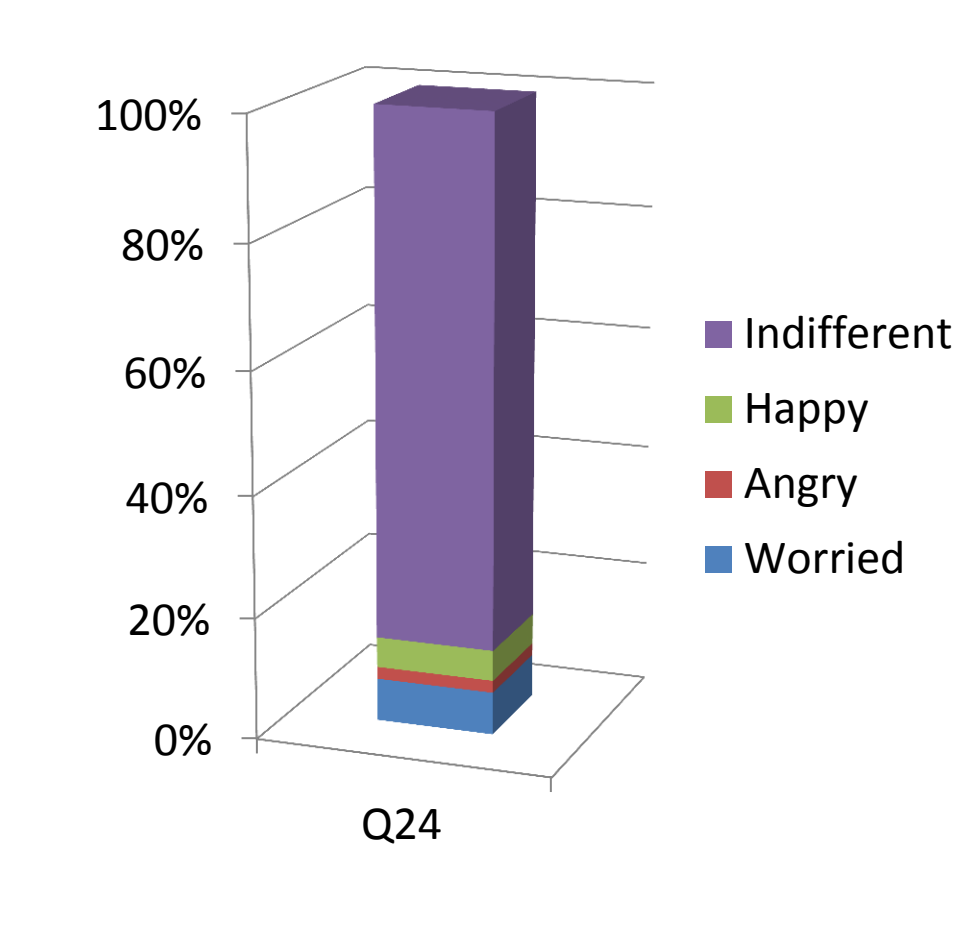
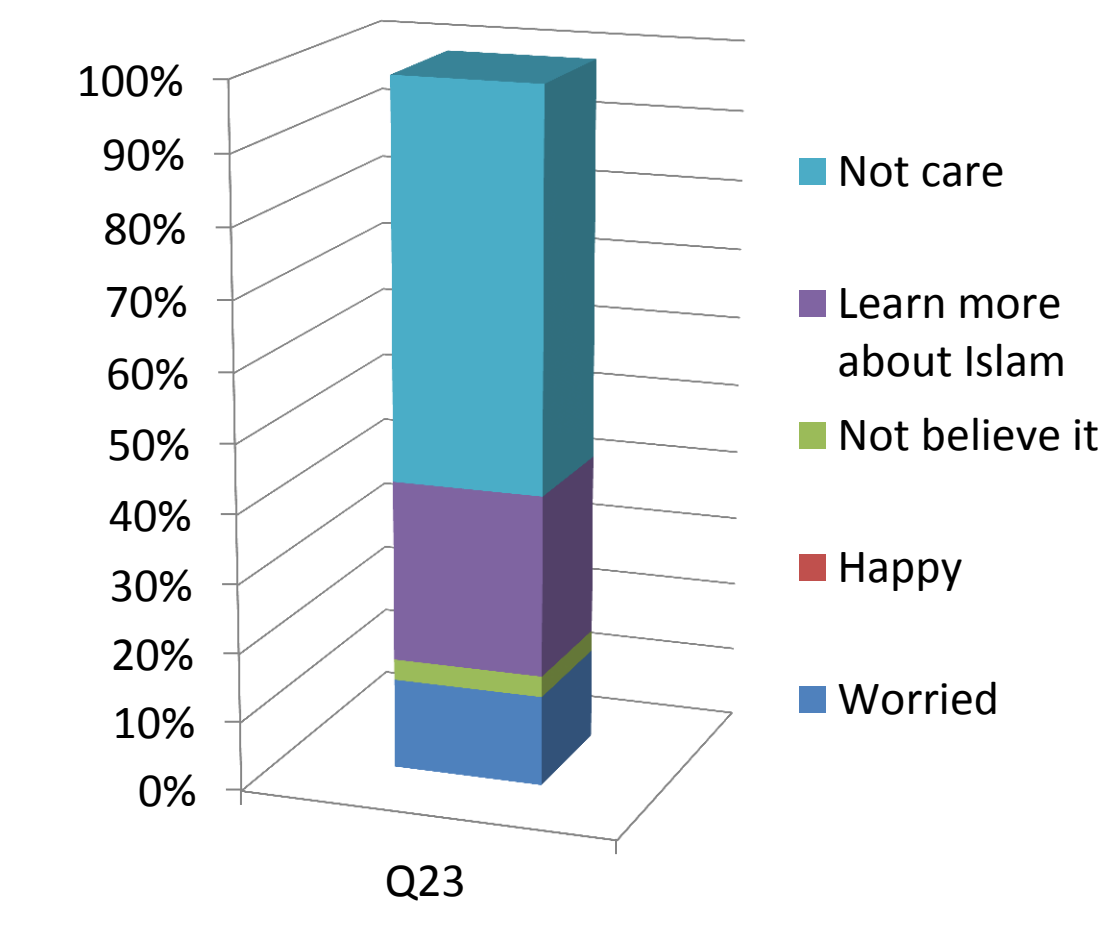
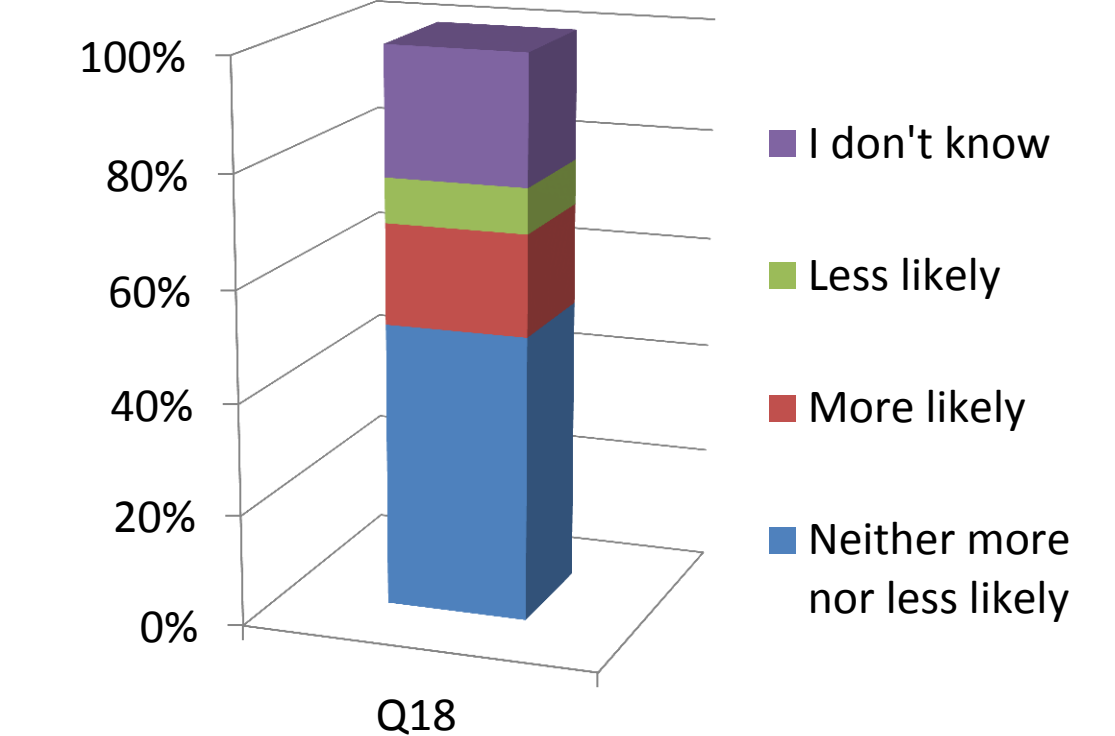
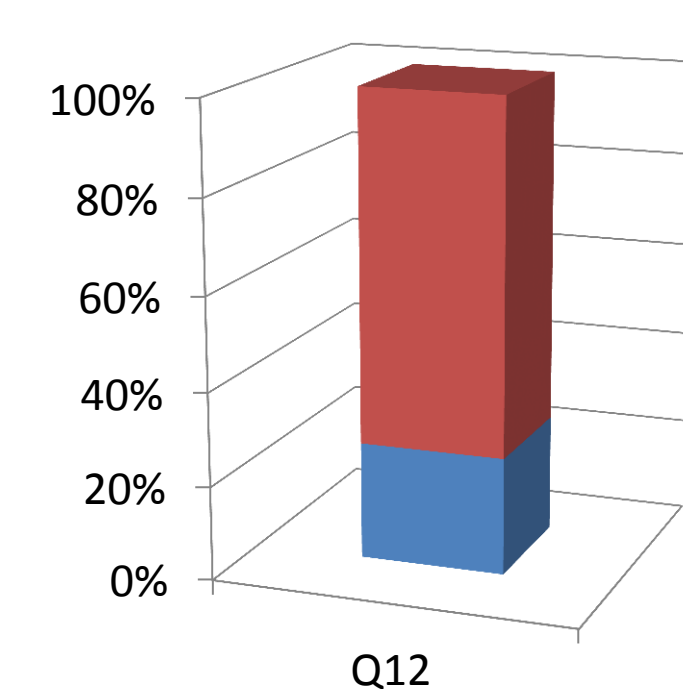
Post-Survey Result



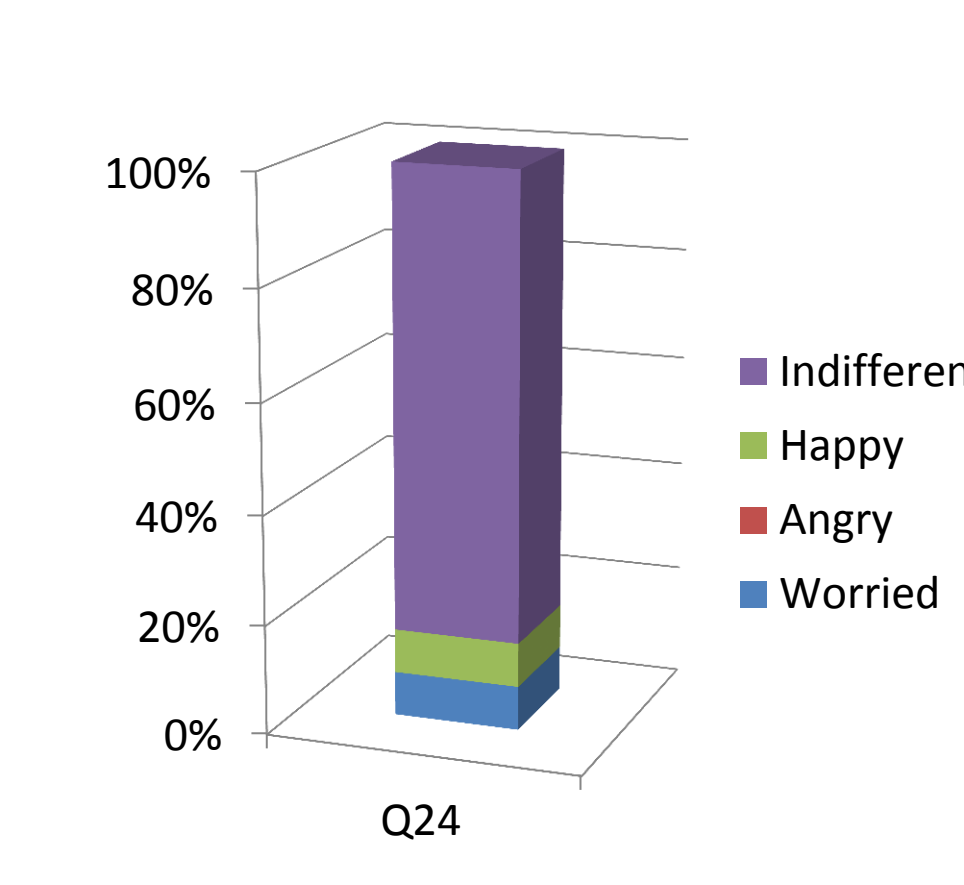
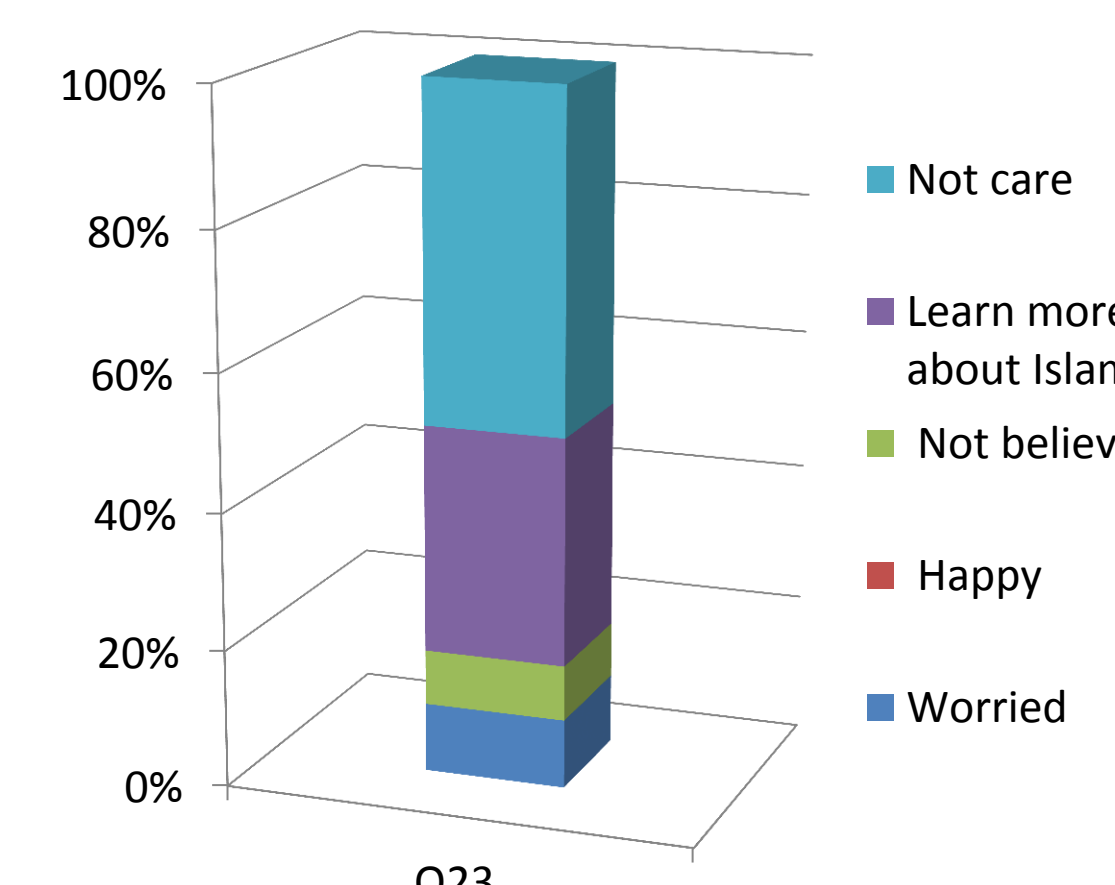
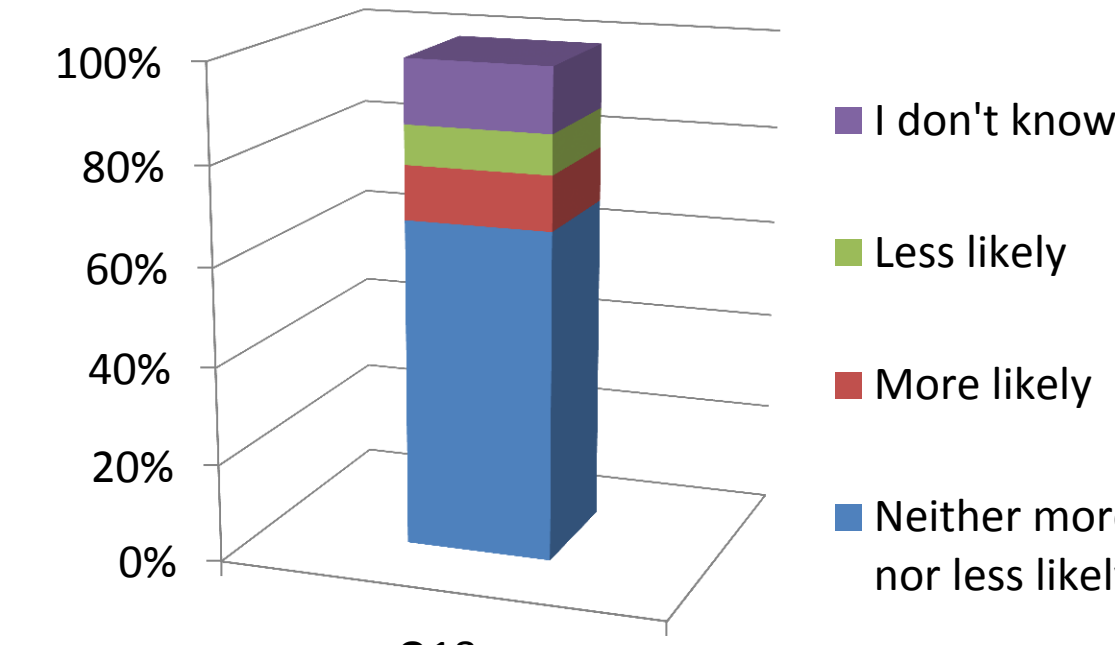
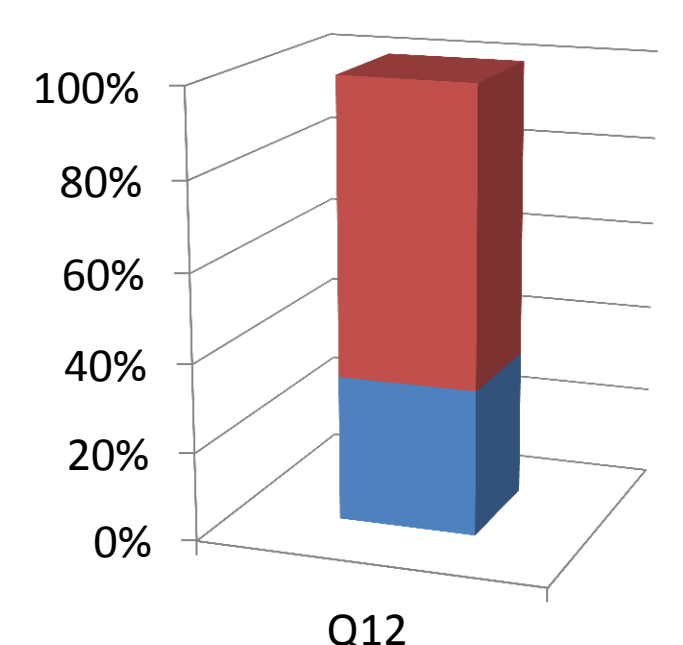
Attitude Questions:

- Q12: I have a friend or acquaintance who is Muslim. T,F
- Q18: Compared to other religions, I believe Islam is: more, less, neither more nor less violent, I don't know.
- Q23: If Islam were the fastest growing religion in the United States, I would be: worried, happy, not believe it, want to learn more, I wouldn't care.
- Q24: If I heard a mosque was being built in my neighborhood, I would feel: worried, angry, happy, indifferent.

Pre-Survey Result



Post-Survey Result



Conclusion

The researchers found that direct instruction followed by an informal question-answer period increased students' knowledge of Islam and contributed to more positive attitudes toward Islam.

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