



Exploration in the Association of Authoritative Parenting and Adolescent's Success in a Junior College Honors Program

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Introduction

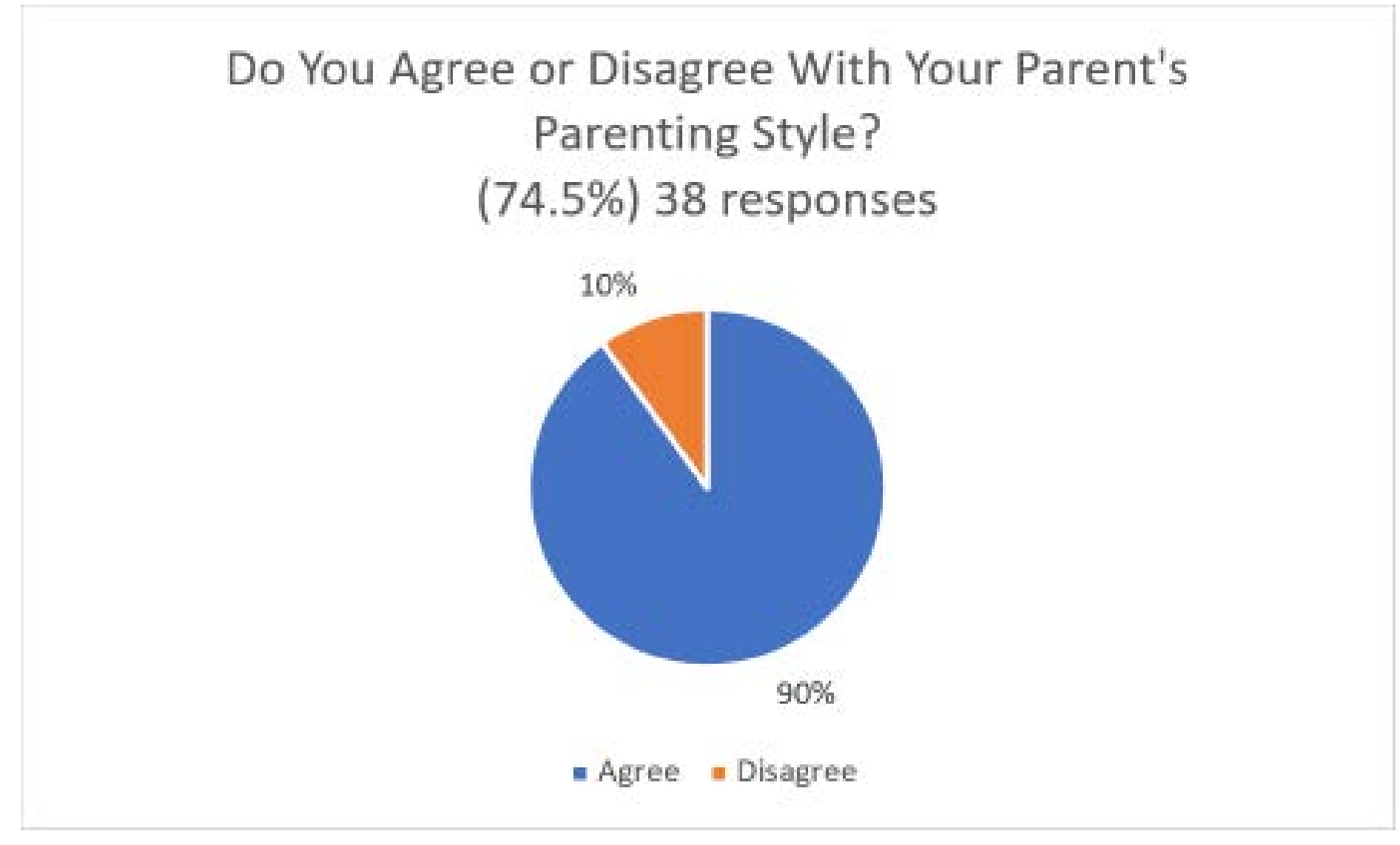
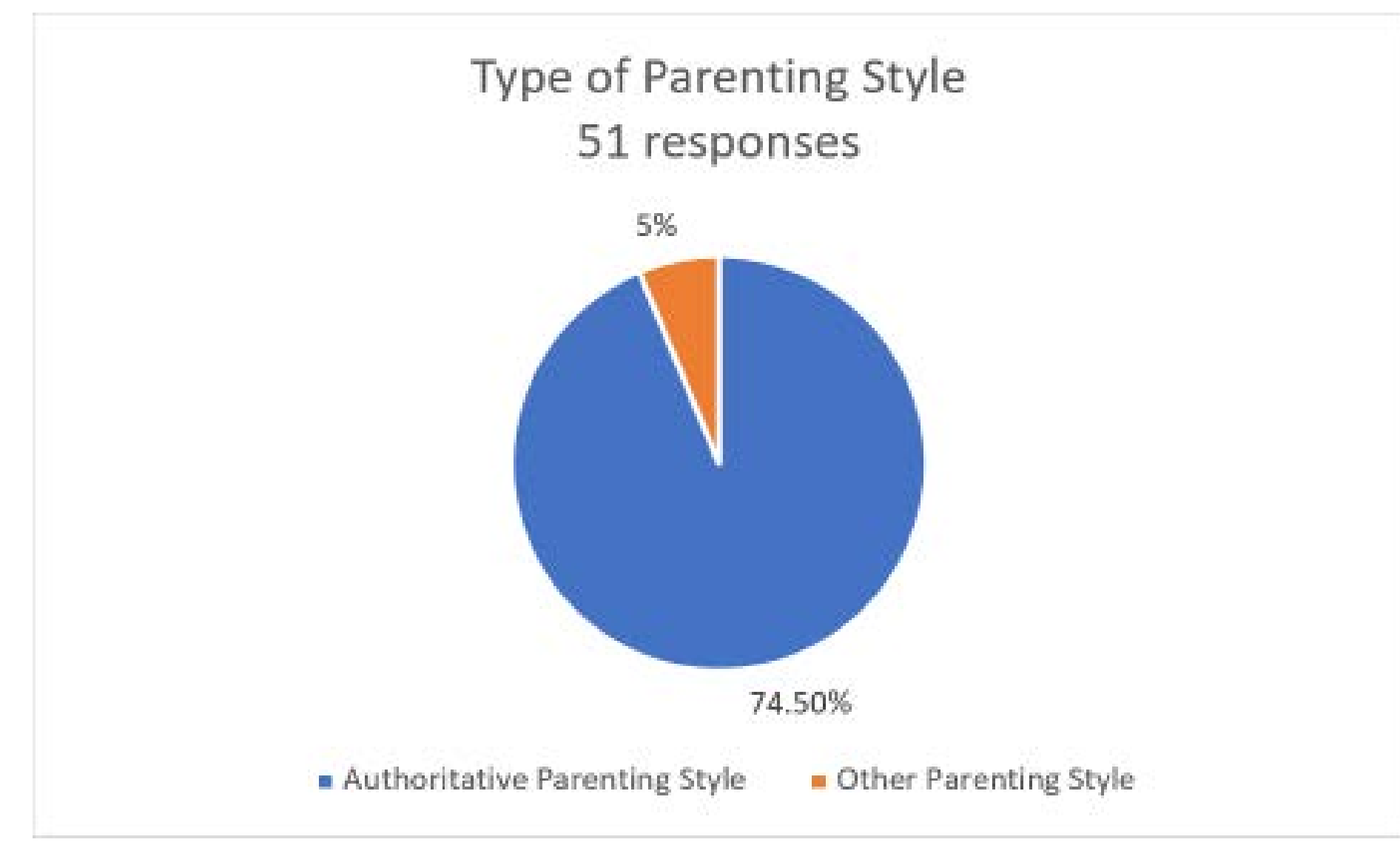
Parenting styles have a big impact on how children develop into adults and their future success. A clinical and developmental psychologist defines an authoritative parenting style as a unique combination of high control and positive encouragements. This parenting style involves high levels of parental warmth and responsiveness paired with high levels of parental demandingness and control. Authoritative parents encourage their children to be independent but also set limits and boundaries. Discipline is applied but in a supportive, non-punitive way. Authoritative parenting is also known as parental “tough love” because these two approaches to parenting have the same definitions. What impact does parental tough love have on adolescents? Does it positively or negatively affect a child's success? Is this parenting style an effective way to raise a child? There is a significant gap in the research in regard to the impact of parental tough love on children. The purpose of this study is to examine how authoritative parenting or parental tough love impacts children and adolescents. The presented study examines authoritative parenting and its associations with a child's success. Findings from the review suggest how successful the theory of “parental tough love” is. Specifically, this study analyzes the relationship between parental involvement and success related to academic performance, social and emotional outcomes, and performance outcomes in school activities.

Purpose and Significance

The evidence found in this study could be used to help inform parents of the positive and negative outcomes of authoritative parenting and whether it is the best parenting style to use on children. The evidence could also be used to help expand on future studies including how members of the extended family's parental approach affect a child's success.

Research Methods

A retrospective literature review was used to conduct this study. Publications in this study include systematic reviews, individual research studies, and critically appraised research studies. Databases used in this study include Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, SAGE Journals, JSTOR, and EBSCO. Many topics and terms used include authoritative, outcomes, tough love, academic success, benefits, support, parenting styles, children, and educational development. This study was done within the honors program at Tyler Junior College. I conducted a qualitative survey questionnaire. The survey was sent through email by the head of the honors department. No specific ethnicity, race, age, or gender was used.

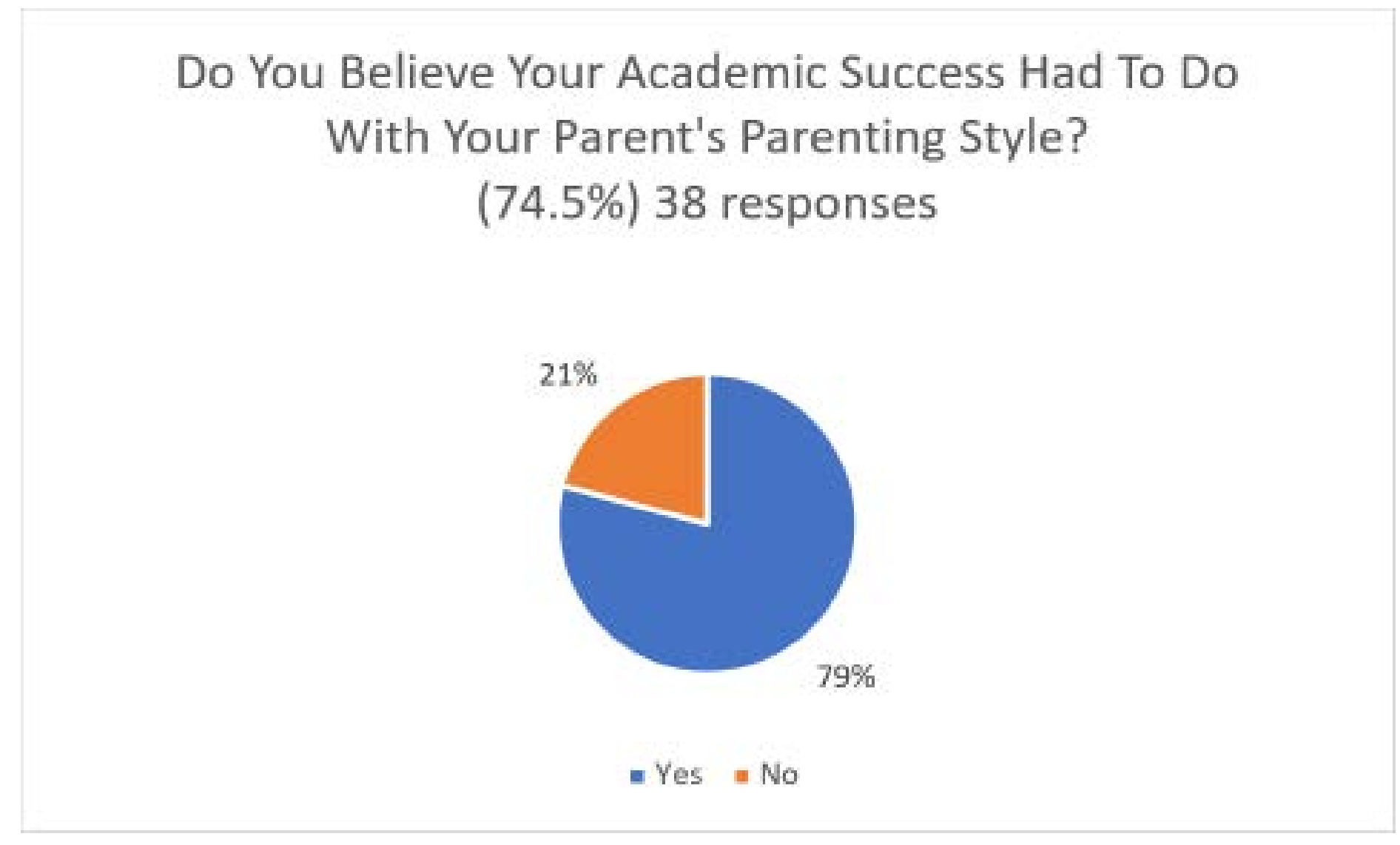
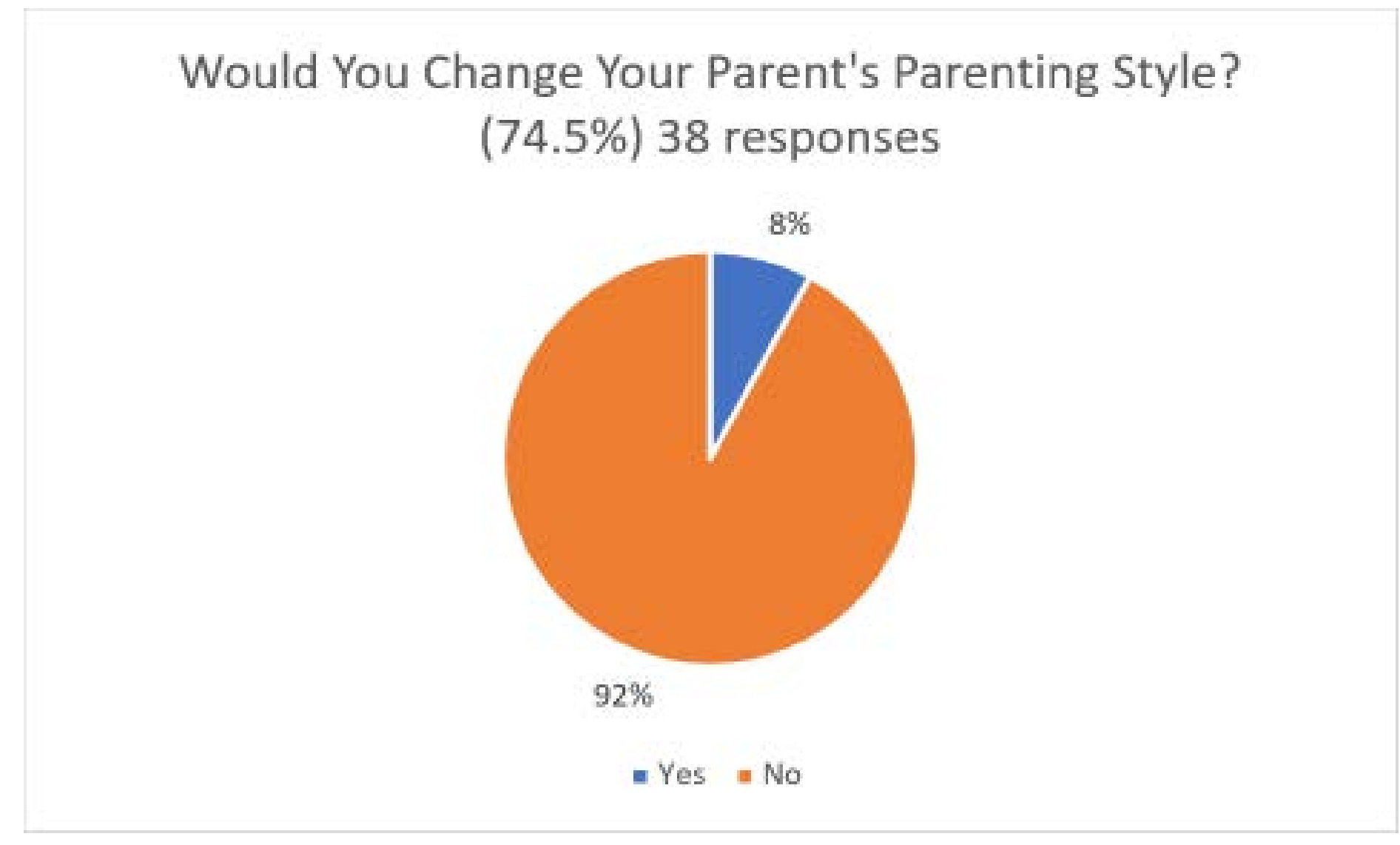


Research Question

Does adopting an authoritative parenting style positively or negatively affect a child's success?

Hypothesis

I predict parental tough love or an authoritative parenting style nurtures successful adolescents.



Conclusion

38 out of the 51 students that completed the survey said that they had authoritative parents. Out of the 38 students, about 90% said that they agreed with their parent's parenting style. 92% said they would not change this style.

79% of the students with authoritative parents believe that their academics success was greatly impacted by their parent's parenting style. Overall the students with authoritative parents had good grade point averages.

97% of those students said they rarely or never felt the need to go against their parents. Furthermore, students with authoritative parents had more positive mental outcomes than negative mental outcomes. 28 of of 38 students believe their overall mental health had to do with their parents parenting style.

32 of the 38 students were involved in some type of sport in high school or college. 32 out of the 38 had or have a job. 35 out of the 38 have been involved in some type of organization or club in highschool or college. Based on this research I can conclude that parental tough love or an authoritative parenting style nurtures successful adolescents.

This study demonstrates that kids raised by authoritative parents are highly associated with students that demontrate traits such as independent, self-reliant, socially accepted, academically successful, and well-behaved.

They are less likely to report depression and anxiety, and less likely to engage in antisocial behavior like delinquency and drug use. This style also results in kids who have better mental health overall.

