



# The Community Impact of Hate Crimes

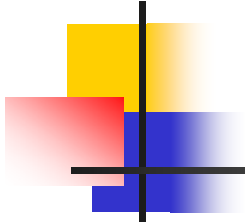
---

## **National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Symposium April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Presenter #1, Jonathan Lomotey  
Researcher, Centre for Community Based Research

Presenter #2, Sidikat Fashola  
Researcher, Research and Statistics Divison, Justice Canada

Presenter #3, Joseph Oywak  
Program Coordinator with the Reception House Waterloo Region



*Francis Pitia, a disabled Sudanese refugee, was set upon by a group of at least seven thugs, all of them white and believed to be in their 20s, outside a park in Kitchener, Ontario. They screamed racial epithets at Mr. Pitia and two other Sudanese men, before beating him unconscious, using his own crutch to inflict more damage. The attack on Mr. Pitia seems to have been provoked solely by racial hatred.*

Globe & Mail: August 1, 2006



# Methodology

---

## **Research purpose**

- The purpose of this study was to understand community impact of hate crimes
- Research Question:  
What are the emotional, psychological and economic impacts of hate motivated crimes on a community?

## **Location/Communities**

- Kitchener, Ontario
  - Identity community: African-Canadian community of Kitchener-Waterloo
  - Geographic community: Postal Code Area N2G



# Methodology

---

## Who participated in this study

- 623 individuals

<b>Community</b>	<b>Method</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Survey</b>	<b>Focus Group</b>	
Identity	196	10	<b>206</b>
Geographic	411	6	<b>417</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>623</b>



# Methodology

---

## **Research design**

- Case study design
- Mixed methods approaches: Quantitative and qualitative data gathering methods
- Community involvement:
  - Consultation with a community reference group, and
  - Hiring and training community researchers



# Methodology

---

## How were they selected?

- Random sampling - purchase of 4,000 randomly selected phone numbers for postal code area N2G from Survey Sampling International (SSI) for telephone interviews
- Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) – a method that combines snowball sampling with a mathematical model for calculating sampling error
  - RDS begins with interviewing a few selected people (usually 4). At the end of an interview, a participant nominates 4 new people to be recruited
- Purposive sampling – selection based on displayed keen knowledge and interest in the incident



# Methodology

---

## How we gathered data

- The survey
- Focus groups
- Electronic media scan

## Instruments used:

- Survey - consisting of three main sections:
  - Section 1: Items for assessing **personal impact** –  
Included the Impact of Event Scale (IES) (Horowitz, Wilmer & Alvarez, 1979)
  - Section 2: Items for assessing **community impact** and **reaction**
  - Section 3: Items for collecting **demographic information**
- Open ended interview guide for the focus groups



# Methodology

---

## **What processes were used for gathering data?**

- Surveying procedures
  - Face-to-face interviewing (Response rate 46.0% )
  - Telephone interviewing (Response rate 17.1% )
- Focus group facilitation - Interactive discussion of the research topic using open-ended question guides with probes
- Electronic media scan – collection of incident related stories and articles from the local and/or mainstream media
  - Keyword/phrase search on media and other online publication websites



# Kitchener Case

## Selected Demographic Indicators by Community

	African Identity (N=196)	Geographic (N=411)
<b>Sex (Male)</b>	65%	45%
<b>Marital Status (Legally Married)</b>	60%	38%
<b>Median Age Range</b>	30 to 39	40 to 49
<b>Median Annual Household Income Range</b>	\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$50,000 - \$59,999
<b>Highest Level of Education (Post-Secondary)</b>	58%	64%
<b>Not born in Canada</b>	99%	17%
<b>Median range of years lived in Canada</b>	5 to 9 years	20 years or more
<b>Median range of years lived in Kitchener</b>	3 to 5 years	10 years or more



# Victim Impact

---

- The *Horowitz Impact of Event Scale* (IES) is a validated tool for diagnosing clinical levels of stress, and is often used to study the impact of traumatic events and diagnose post-traumatic stress.
  - 15 subjective questions related to an event
  - Total Stress Score (out of 75):
    - 0-8 = Sub-clinical
    - 9-25 = Mild Range
    - 26-43 = Moderate Range
    - 44+ = Severe Range



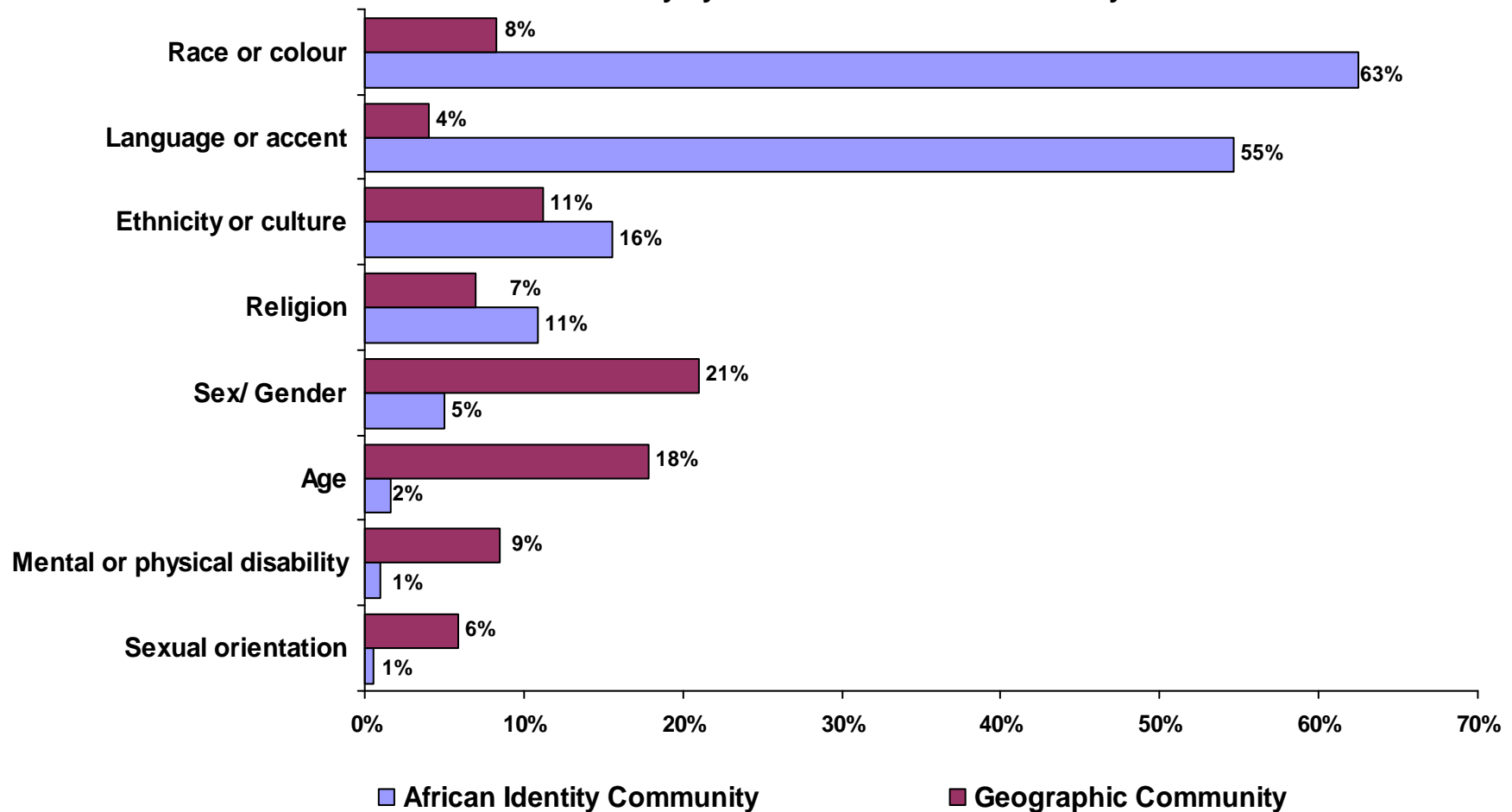
# Comparison of Averages

	<b>Geographic Community</b> (Victoria Park Neighbourhood, N=220, Random sample)	<b>Ethnic Community</b> (African-Canadian Kitchener Residents, N=109, RDS / Snowball sample)
<b>Horowitz Impact of Event Scale (Score)</b>	<b>mean 16 out of 75</b>	<b>mean 47 out of 75</b>

- The surveyed African-Canadian residents of Kitchener experienced severe clinical symptoms of post-traumatic stress from the hate crime incident.
- The surveyed residents of Kitchener experienced mild clinical symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

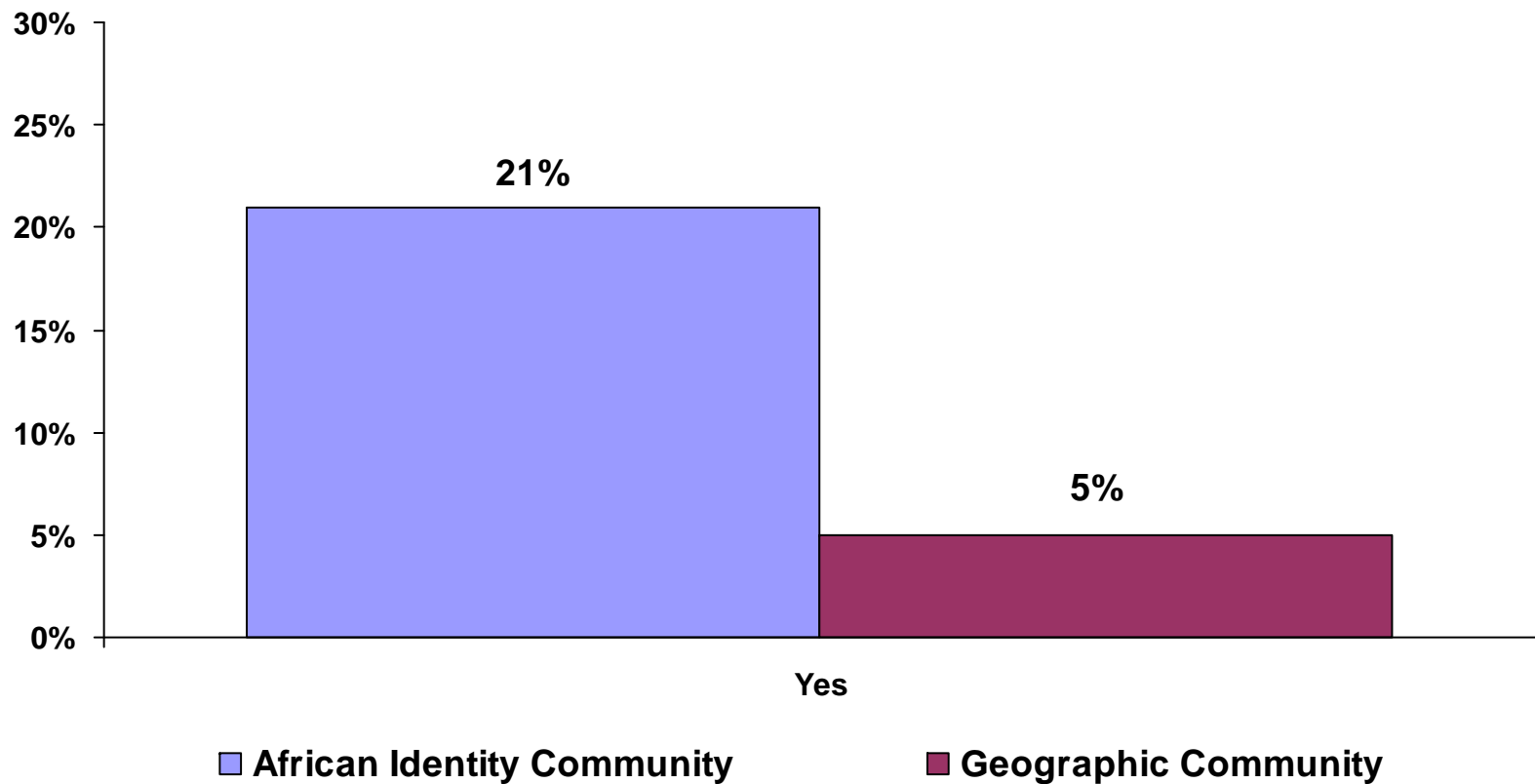
# Risk factors related to score severity on the IES

In the past five years, do you believe you have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada because of your...



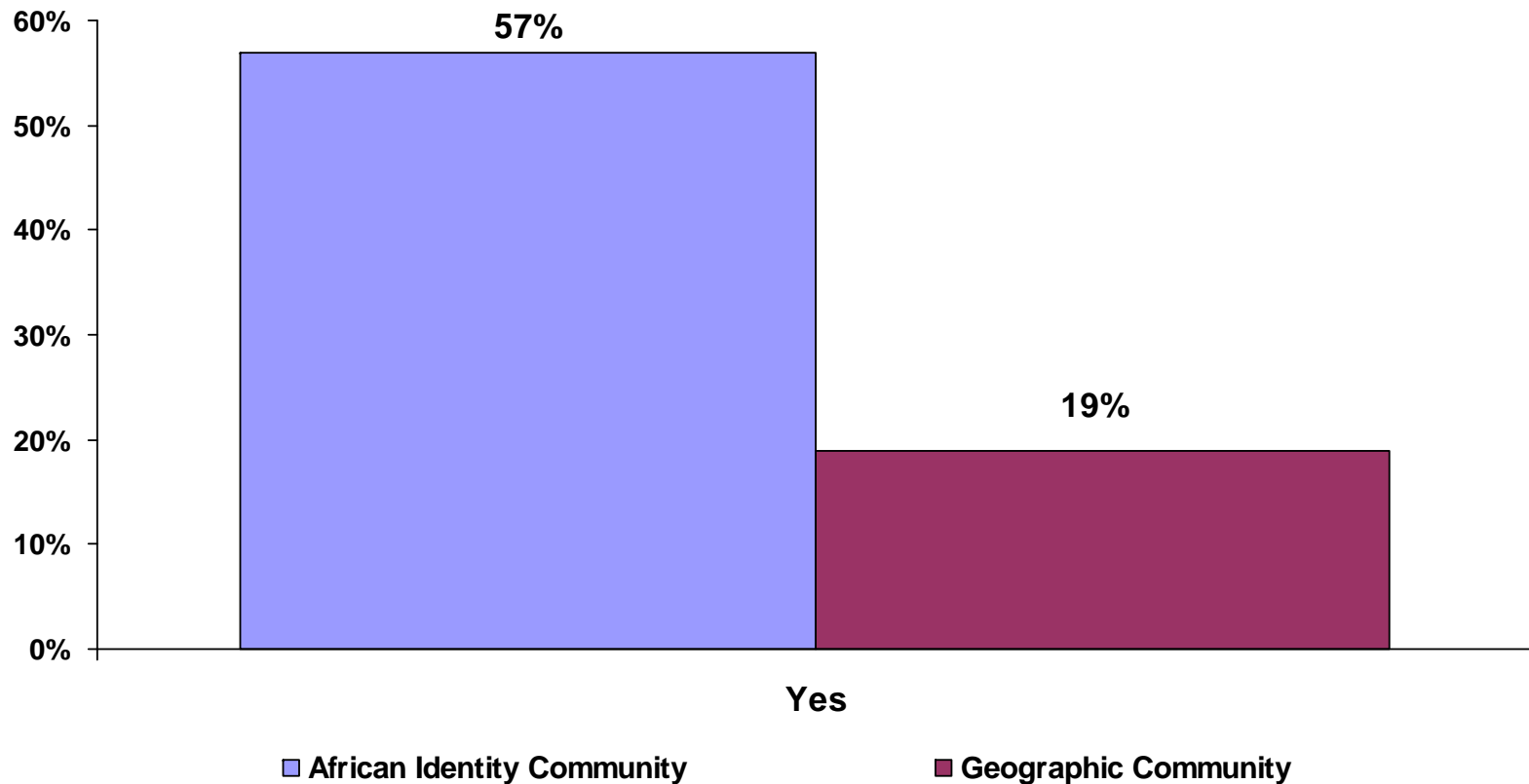
# Risk factors related to score severity on the IES

In the past five years, do you believe you have been the victim of a hate crime?



# Risk factors related to score severity on the IES

In the past five years, do you believe a close friend or a family member has been the victim of a hate crime?





# Risk factors related to score severity on the IES: Multiple Regression Analysis

---

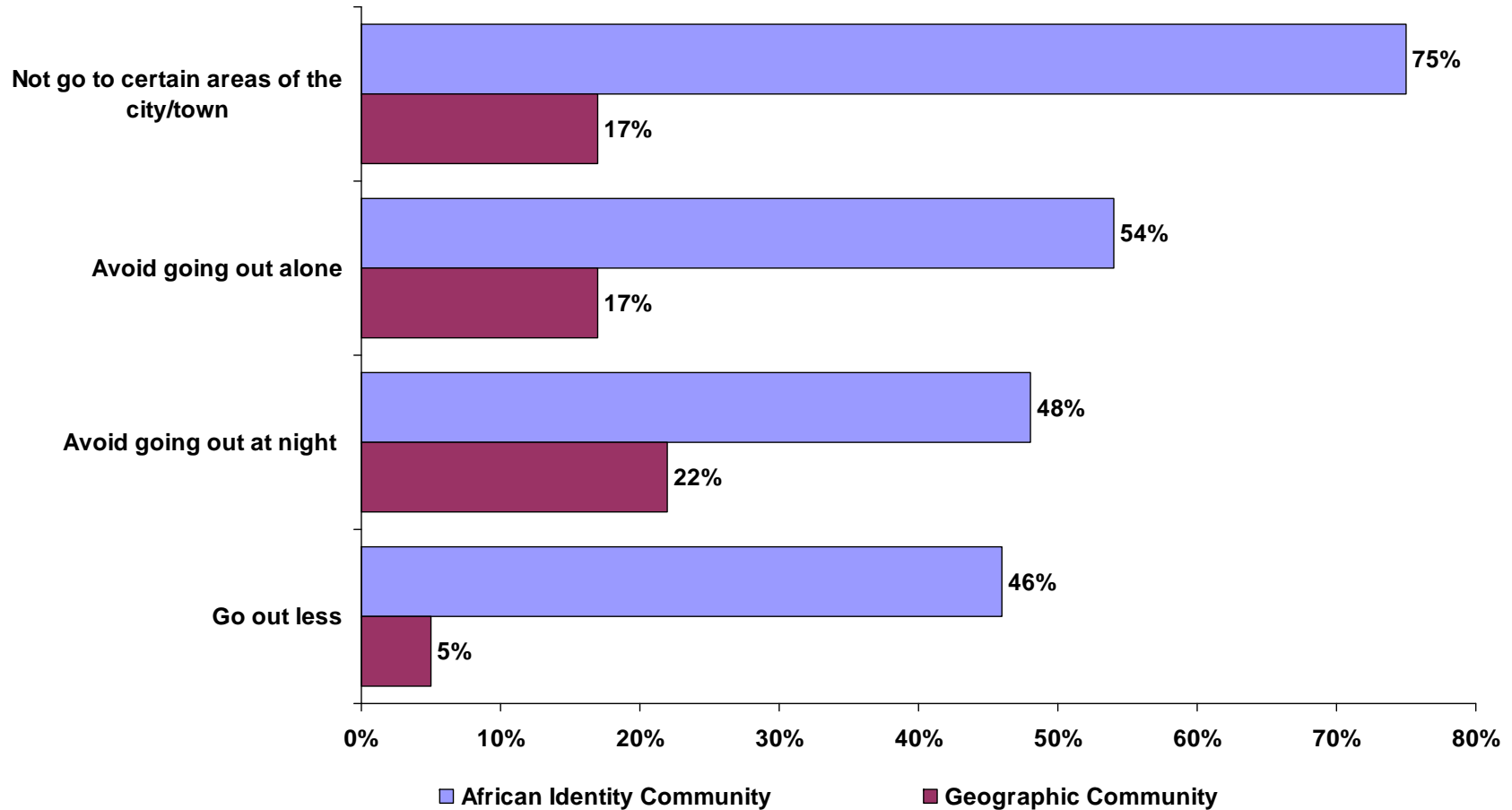
## **Risk Factors**

- Immigrant status
- Household income
- Having known a close friend or family member who had been the victim of a hate crime within the past five years
- Visible minority status
- Having experienced discrimination or being treated unfairly because of a personal attribute within the past five years



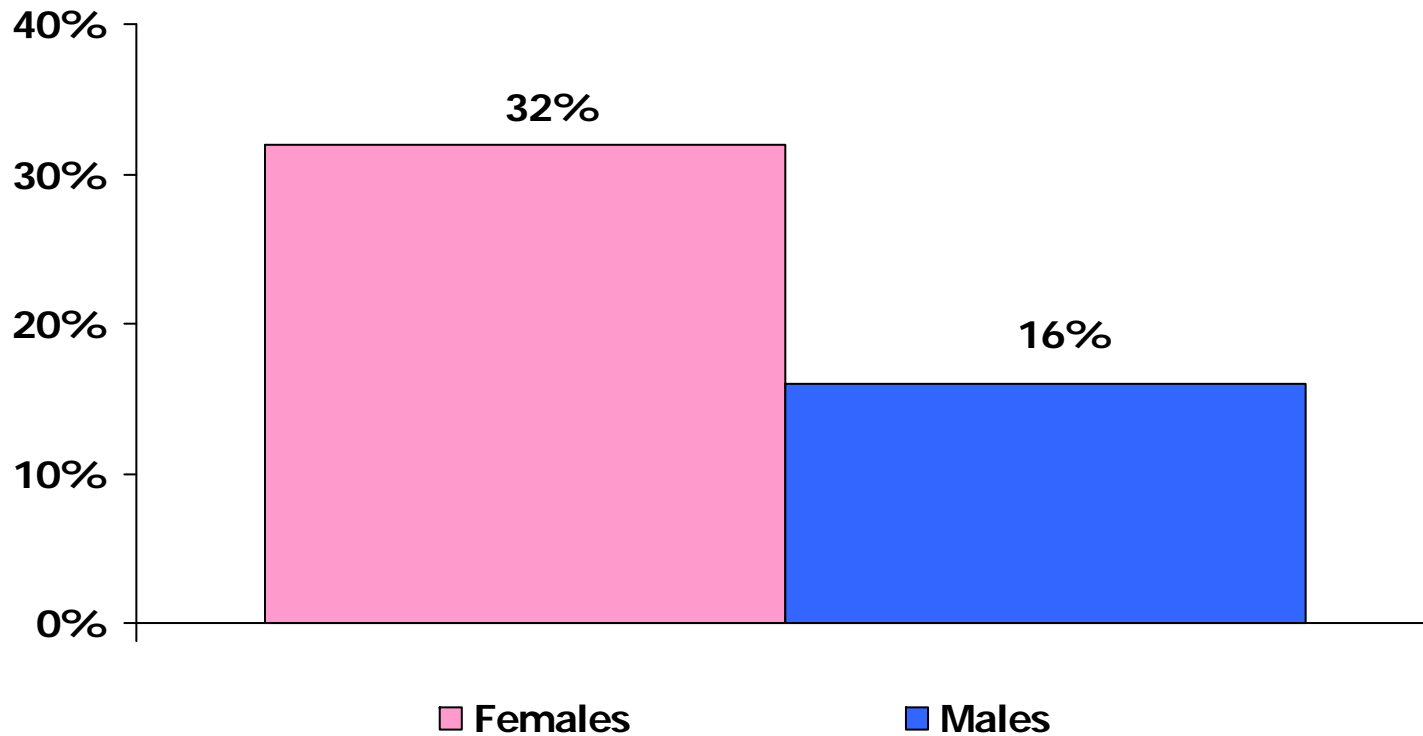
# Protective Measures

Some people react to traumatic events by trying to protect themselves and their families. Did you have any of the following reactions after the incident?



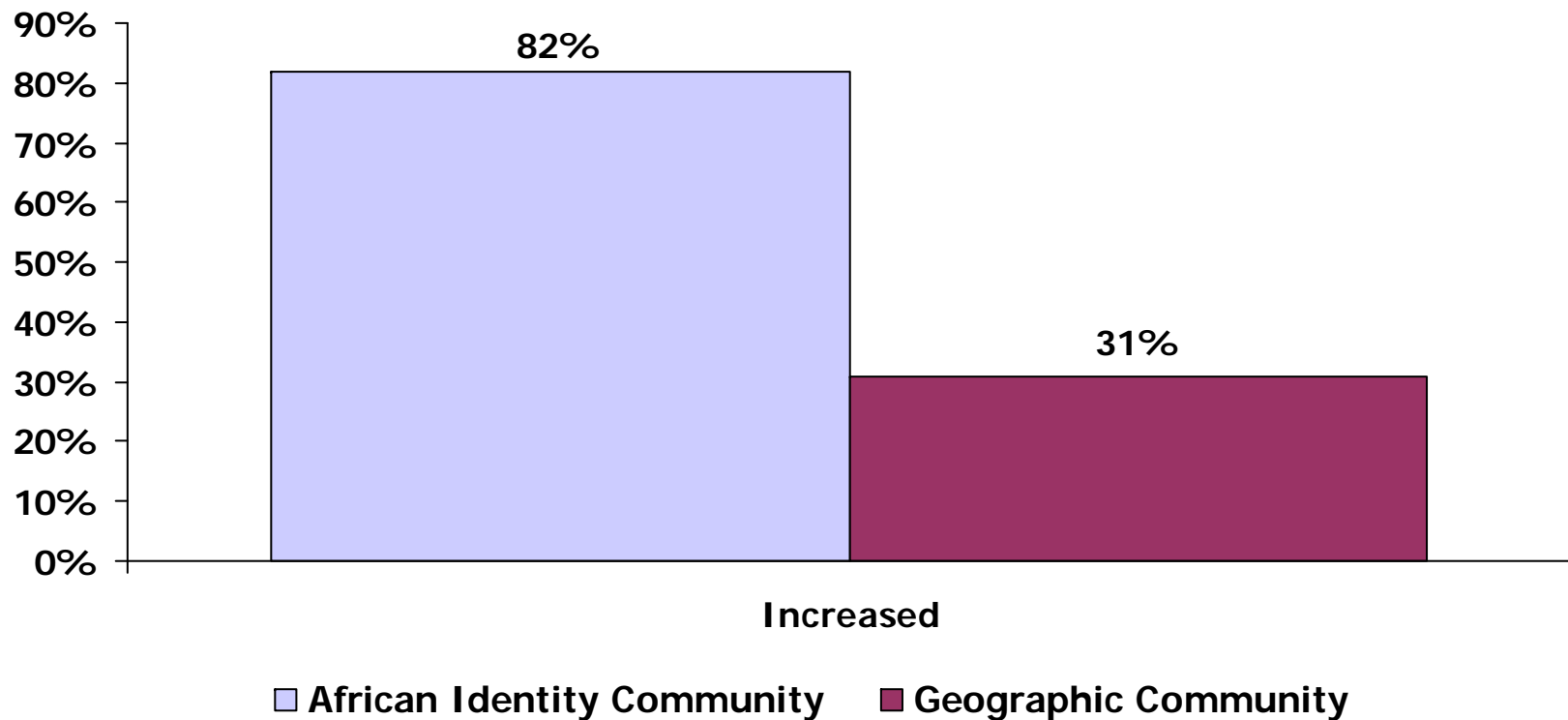
# Protective Measures (Gender Based Analysis)

## Avoided going out alone



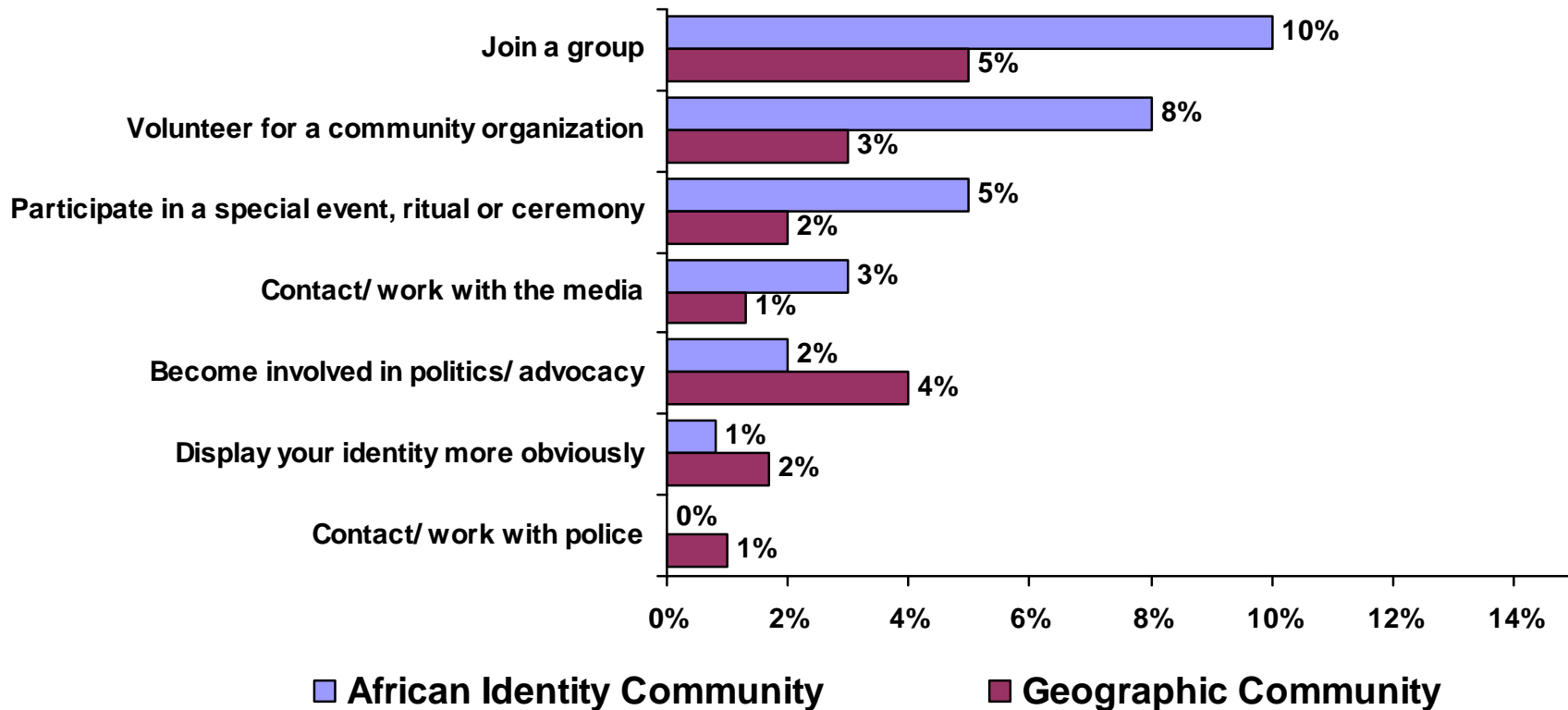
# Sense of Safety

After this incident, did your fear for your personal safety or the safety of your family change at all?



# Reaching out to the Community

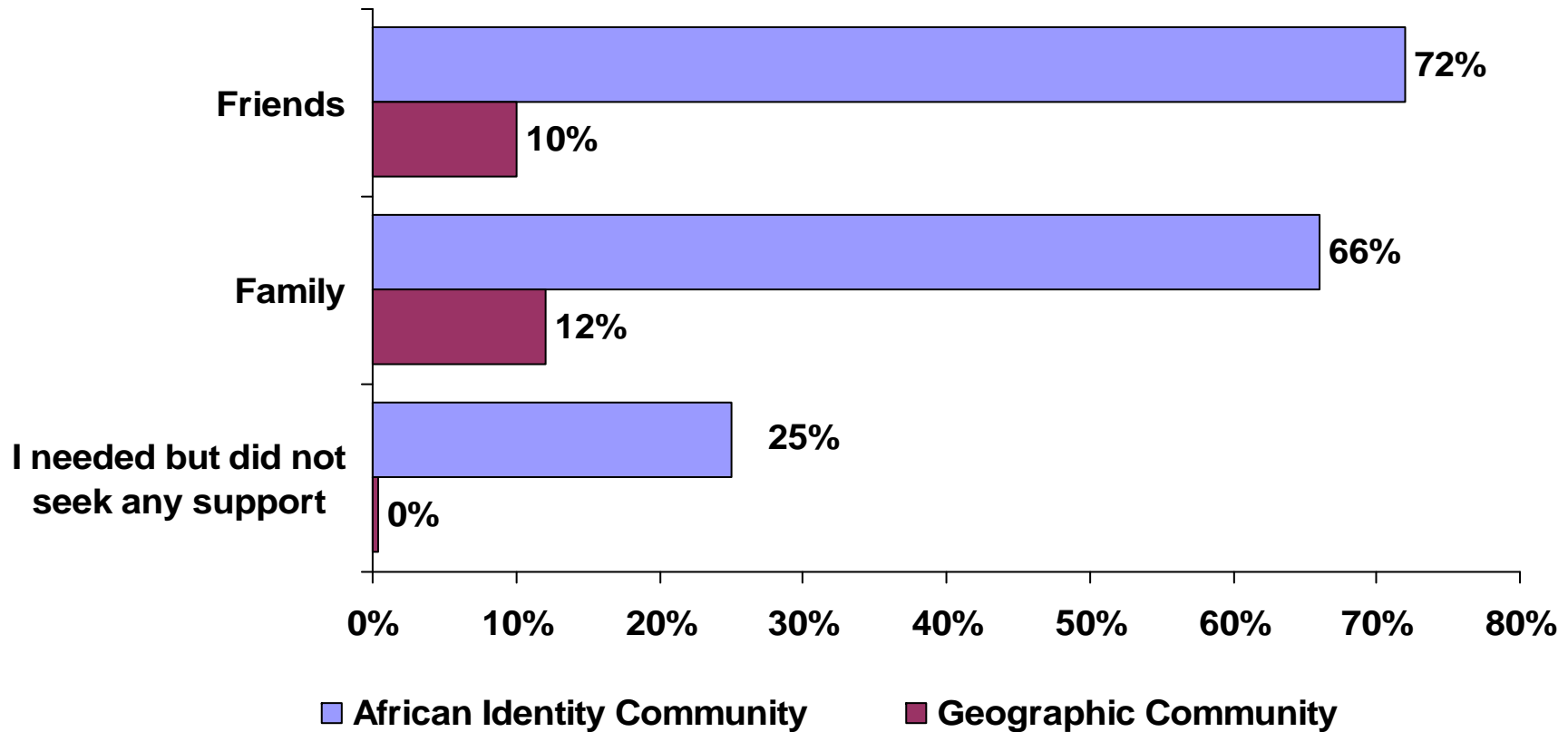
Some people react to traumatic events by reaching out and becoming more active in the community. Did you have any of the following reactions after the incident?





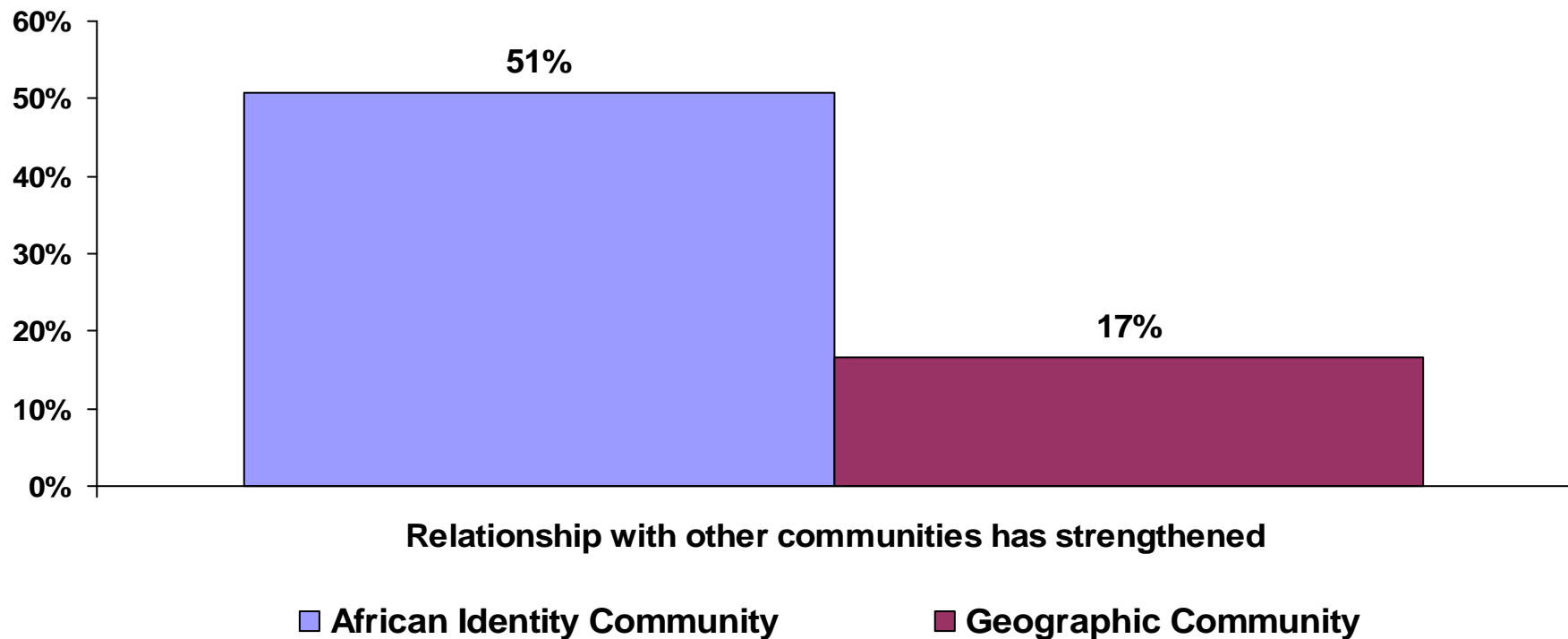
# Support Networks

Did you seek support from any of the following people or organizations to help you deal with your reaction to the incident?



# Relationships with other ethnic/cultural communities

In your opinion how has the incident affected the relationship between members of your ethnic/ cultural community and members of other ethnic/ cultural communities?





# Conclusions

---

- People in the community samples experienced clinical levels of post-traumatic stress from hates crime that took place in their community
  - Members of the African community experienced more post-traumatic stress than members of the geographic community in which the crime took place.
- There were certain risk factors that were related to a higher score on the Impact of Event Scale.
- After the hate-crime incident many people in the community samples experienced increased levels of fear for their personal safety and the safety of their family, especially members of the African community.
- After the hate crime incident many community members took measures to protect themselves and their family, especially members of the African community.
- The majority of members of the Kitchener African community felt that the incident strengthened their relationship with other ethnic/cultural communities.