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Introduction

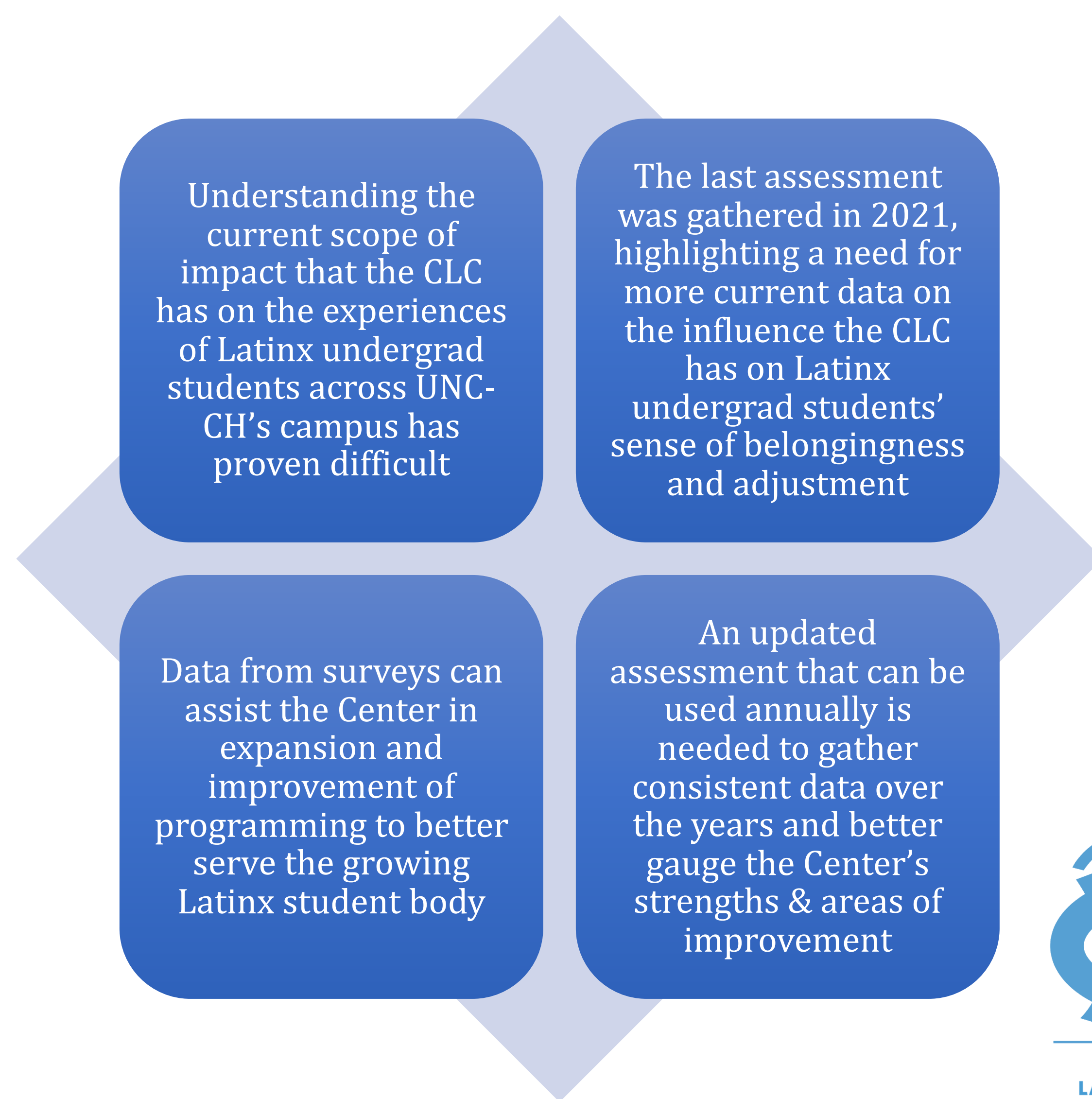
Meet the Carolina Latinx Center

Established in 2019, the CLC provides resources and a space for Latinx undergraduate/graduate students with the goals of:

1. Supporting UNC Chapel Hill's Latinx Communities
2. Educating the campus and beyond through engagement, scholarship, cultural awareness, and public service

The CLC manages various programming that further aim to help Latinx students grow as leaders and figures of their heritage on and off campus.

Statement of the Problem



Literature Review

- Research emphasizes the importance of building an understanding of the processes that support Latinx Students' sense of belonging within university campuses (Dueñas and Gloria, 2020)
- In establishing communities for Latinx students, universities can create an opportunity to provide an education environment that fosters Latinx students' academic and professional growth through cultural awareness (Veggeberg, 2021).
- Cultural centers serve a unique role in the lives of Latinx college students as they provide a space that validates the cultural background and knowledge of students who are searching for cultural familiarity on their campus (Lozano, 2019)
- Whether serving as an "anchor" or "launching pad, spaces like the Carolina Latinx Center contributes to Latinx students' sense of belonging and their ability to thrive (Lozano, 2019)
- Spaces geared towards serving the Latinx community within universities provide a reminder to students that they are not alone in the alienation and isolation they experience on campus (Deeb-Sossa et al., 2022)

Methods

Project Objectives

1. Develop a new survey using Qualtrics that builds off past assessments that will be used annually to gather consistent data on the CLC.
2. Utilize multiple strategies to increase the survey response rate, particularly among students who are not familiar with the CLC and its program.

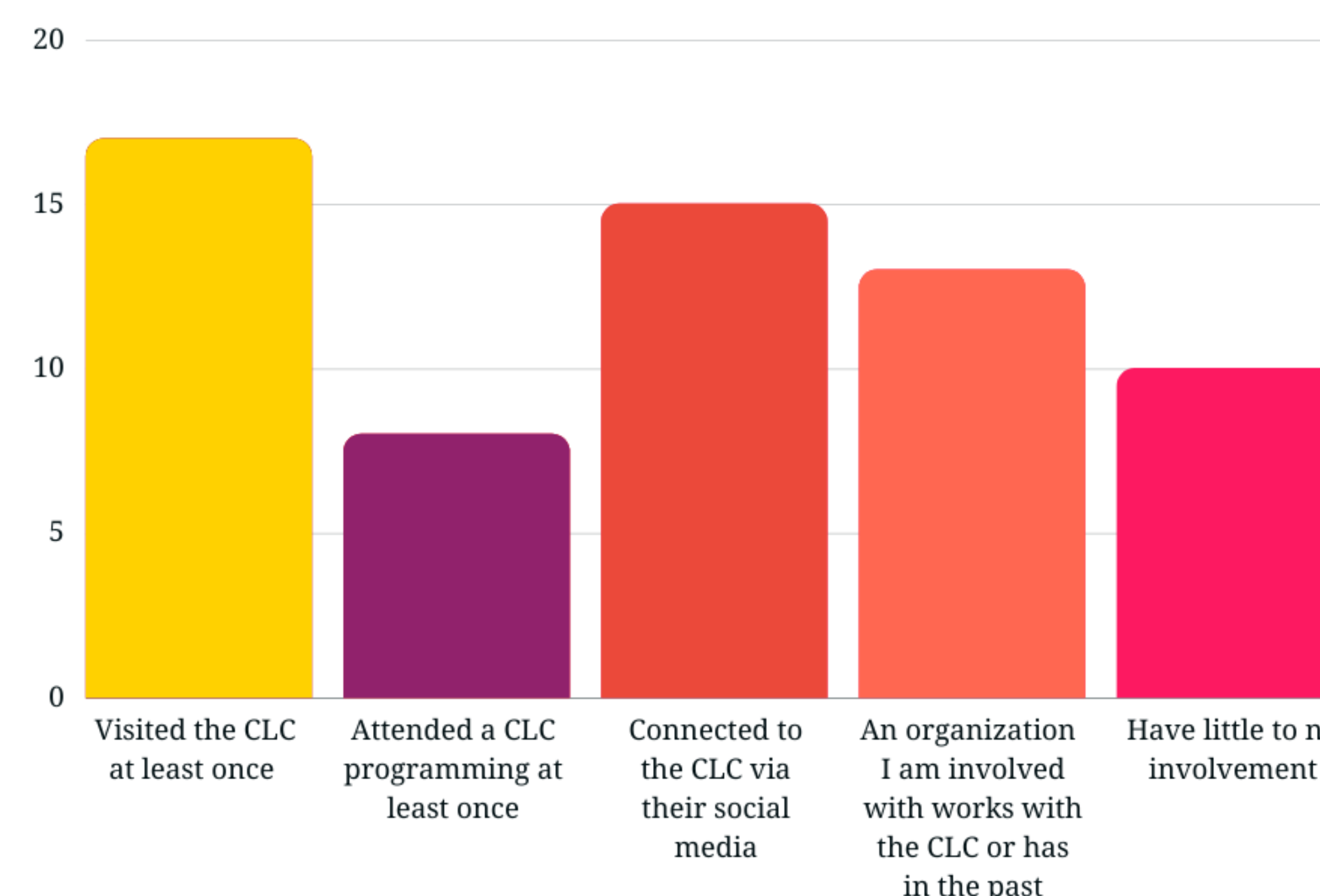
Procedures

- Step 1 REVIEW PAST MATERIALS:** Review and alter questions from the past survey to ensure present developed assessment is relevant to the current climate of 2023.
- Step 2 CREATE SURVEY:** Develop additional questions consisting of general demographics, Likert scale and ranking, and open-ended questions. Then add each section into Qualtrics.
- Step 3 DISTRIBUTE SURVEY:** Create graphics and flyers to be posted and shared through email and social media. Send out emails to departments. Facilitate presentations and discussions about assessment within targeted classrooms on UNC-CH's campus.
- Step 4 ANALYZE FINDINGS:** Allow survey to run course of 2 weeks; Analyze data received from the completion of survey.

Findings: Level of Involvement

Over the course of 2-3 weeks promotion of the assessment, the study received 32 responses providing various findings. Among the 32 participants, 43.8% were Seniors, 25.0% were Juniors, 15.6% were Sophomores and 31.2% were Sophomores and First years. Among the spectrum of underclassmen and upperclassmen, 68.7% of students were involved in the CLC in one or more capacity. However, 31.3% of students stated that they had little to no involvement at all. For those who are not involved, they expressed a desire for the Center to provide a greater method of outreach and advertisement to students of events and opportunities the Center offers.

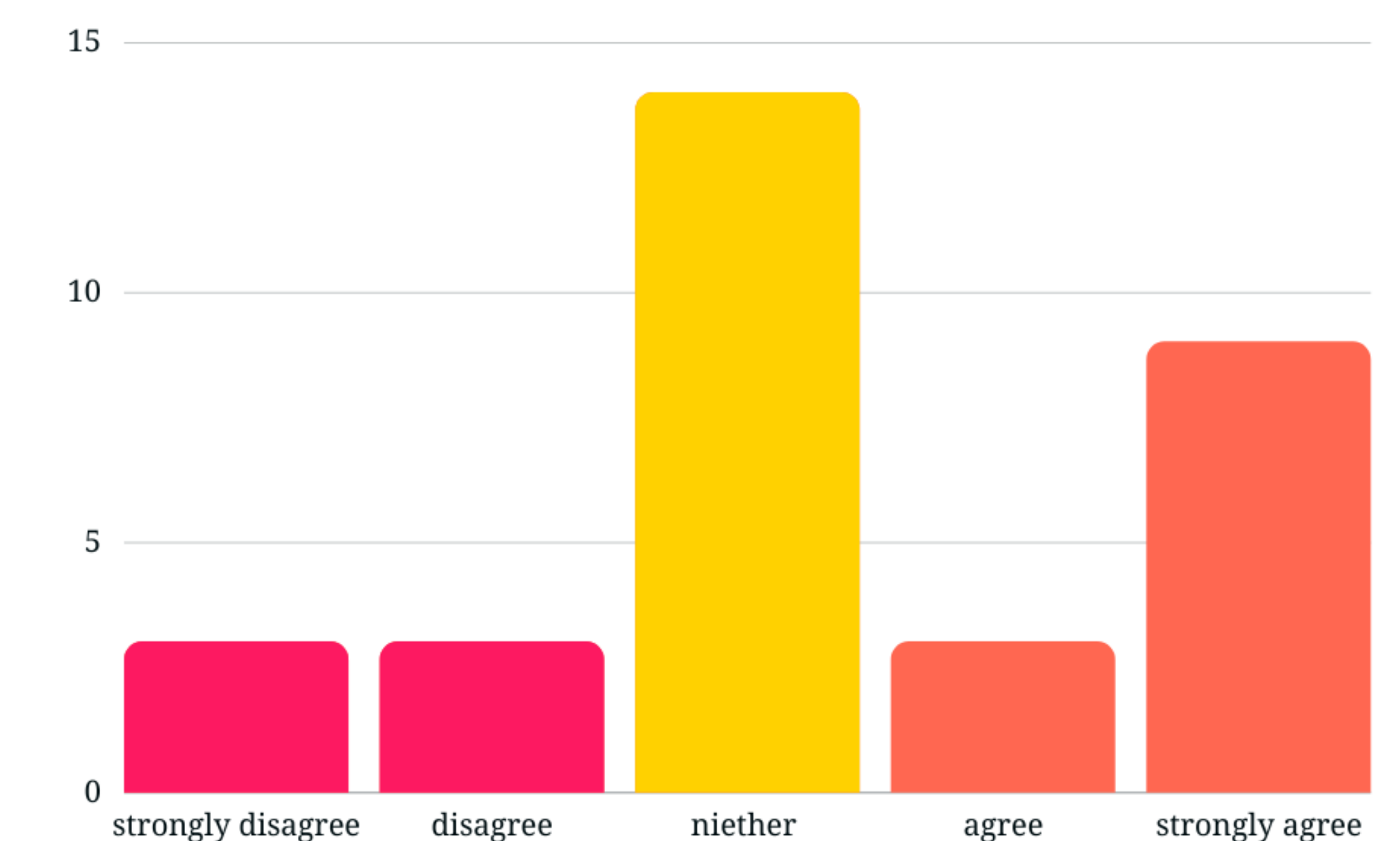
Level of Involvement with the Carolina Latinx Center In 2022-2023



Results: Support Extended

When asked whether they believed that they have been able to become easily involved with the CLC since entering UNC-CH, 34.4% of students disagreed with the statement. However, over 53.1% agreed with the statement CLC staff has been approachable and available to support them during their time at UNC-CH.

I feel that the CLC has supported me during my time at Carolina



Discussion

- Connecting students to cultural centers early in their college experience is essential in providing Latinx students with the cultural validation and nourishment needed to sustain them at PWIs (Lozano, 2019).
- The results show that the CLC has succeeded in providing the support Latinx undergraduate students need to thrive at UNC-CH.
- However, Improvements have been shown to be needed in advertising and outreach to upperclassmen and transfer students and increasing involvement with communities such as the Indigenous Afro-Latinx, Mixed-Race and LGBTQ+.
- These findings highlights the importance of the services that the CLC provides in students' sense of belonging within the university.

Limitations

- The assessment contained many qualitative questions which could have increased students' reluctance to complete the survey
- A 2-to-3-week promotional period resulted in limited the ability to reach large groups of students and increase responses
- The survey only received 32 responses from students reducing the power and validity of the study.

References

Deeb-Sossa, N., Caporale, N., Louie, B., & Mendez, L. (2022). Qualities of safer and unsafe spaces at an emerging HSI: Community-based participatory research to center Latina/o/x undergraduates' voices in addressing campus issues. *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15348431.2022.2134137>

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Lozano, A. (2019). Anchor and launching pad: The role of a Latino cultural center in Latinx college student success at a historically white institution. *Future Review: International Journal of Transition, College, and Career Success*, 1(2), 19-28

Veggeberg, K. V. (2021). Building Communities for Historically Marginalized Latinx Students. In *Higher education's looming collapse: Using new ways of doing business and* (pp. 179-185). essay, ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD.