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MARITAL SATISFACTION AMONGST NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NORTH AMERICA (NINA): A PILOT STUDY

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Background

- The black African immigrants population more than doubled in the U.S, from 574,000 to 1.6 million, between 2000 and 2016.
- The census data also indicated that 35% of African Immigrants originated from West Africa of which over a third (38.7%) are from Nigeria
- The largest African Immigrant populations are found in California, New York, Texas, Maryland and Virginia. (Anderson and Lopez 2018)



Background Continued

- Conflicts have increased among Nigerian immigrants as they become adjusted to living in the U. S.
- There are clashes of the traditional family structures and American culture.
- External issues have led to arguments, violence, and other disruptions (Akinsulure-Smith, Chu, Keatley & Rasmussen, 2013).



Study goal

- The goal of this study was to ascertain the level of marital satisfaction amongst NINA s in a faith based community
- Faith based because of easy access and openness to respond to marital issues.



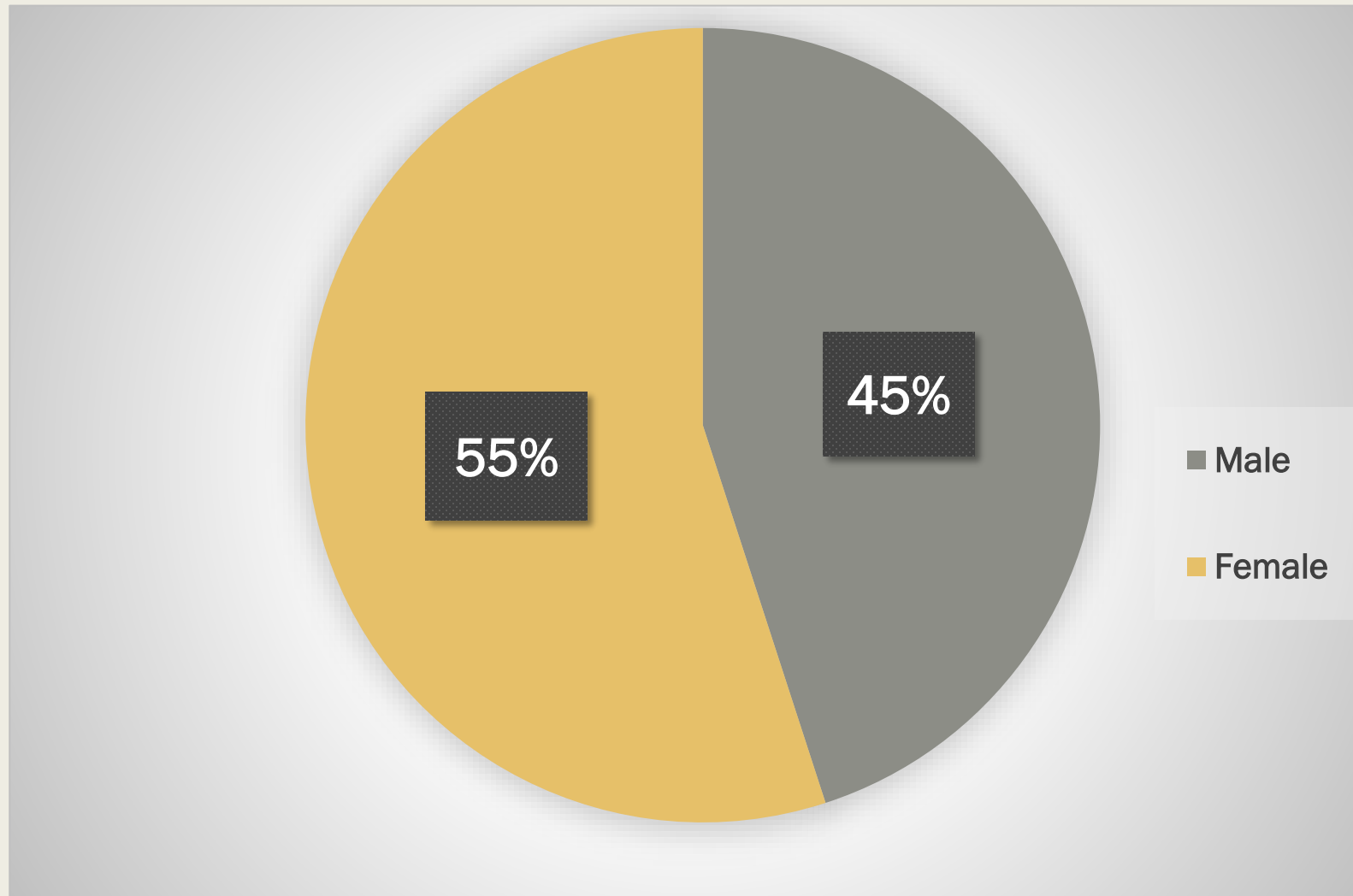
Description of Study/Methodology

- IRB approval for the study received from Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois.
- Approval received from the Nigerian Adventist in North America (NANA) group.
- Standardized survey tool to measure index of marital satisfaction was used (WALMYR Assessment Scales, 1977).
- Survey distributed during the annual NANA camp meeting.
- Implied consent attached to the survey tool.
- Data analyzed for descriptive and correlation with main variables by SPSS v.25 (2017).

Survey Tool and Scoring

- Questionnaire measures the degree of satisfaction with the present marriage
- 25 questions in Likert scale format – ‘none of the time’ to ‘all of the time’
- Questions touched on items like affection, trust, fear, fun, confidence, common interests, finances, future, excitement, arguments, and disagreements.
- Each question has a score of 1-7 with negative questions reversed scored.
- Scores below 30 indicate no clinically significant problem.
- Scores above 30 indicate clinically significant problems.
- Scores above 70 indicates severe distress in the marriage relationship.

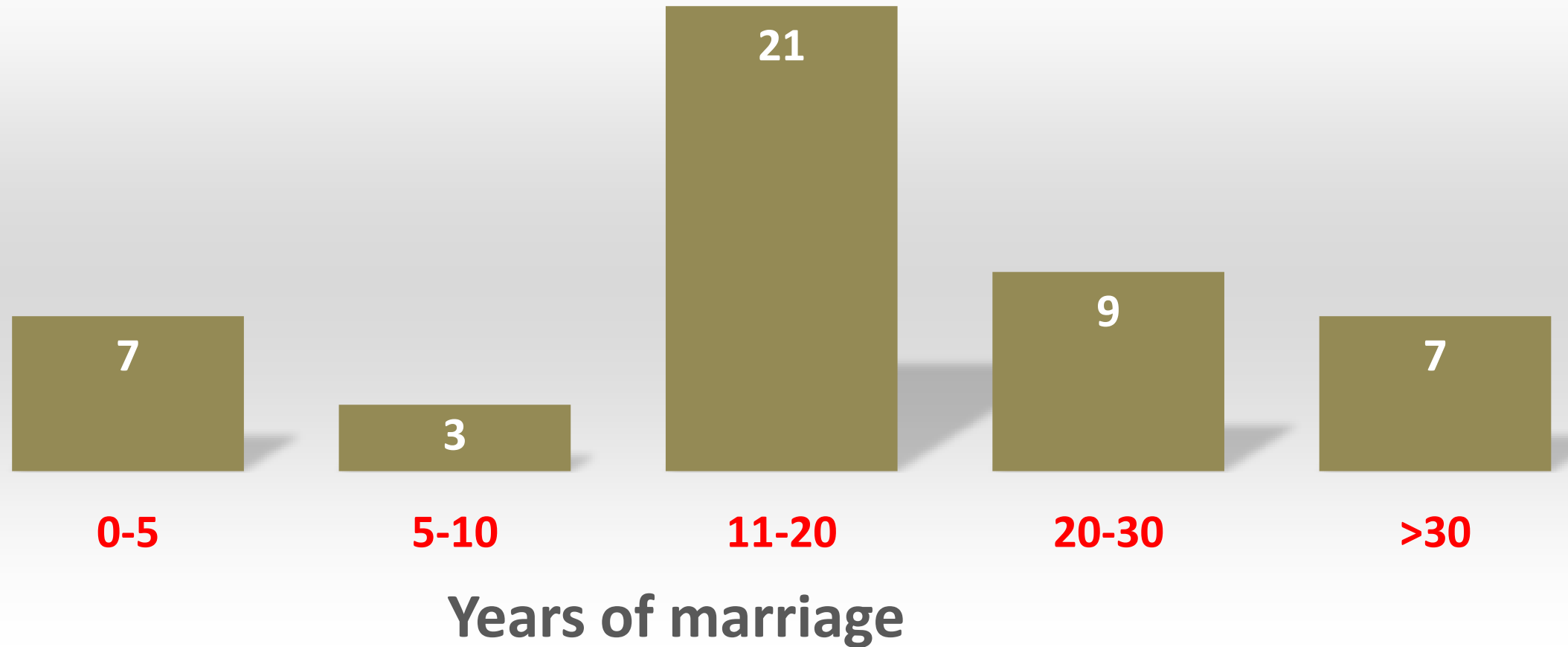
Description of Study participants



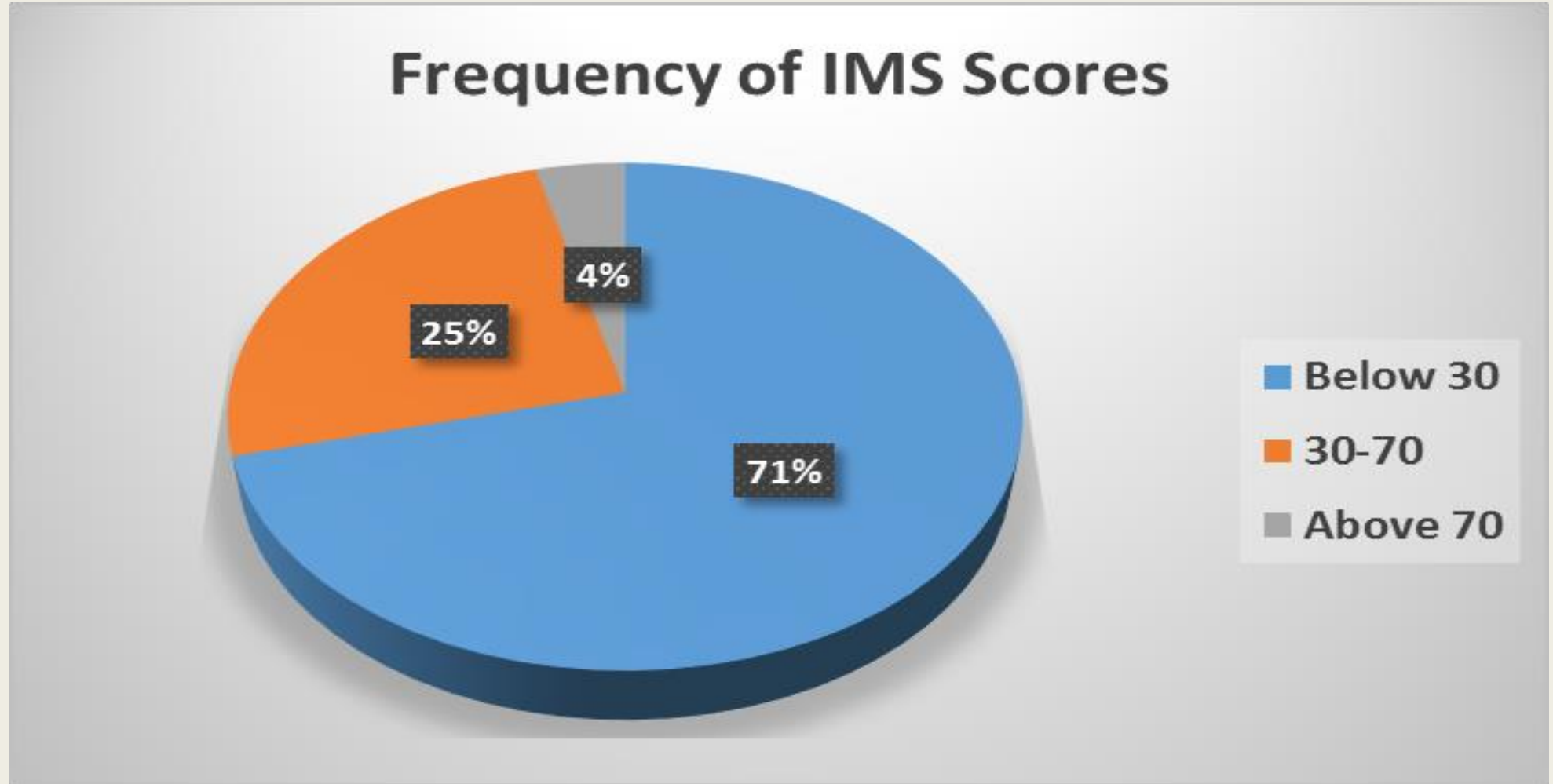
Description of participants

- 77% were married and are living with their spouses
- 78% were married in Nigerian before immigration.
- Primary reasons for immigration are employment (43%) and education (33%)
- All participants were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Description of participants



Results



Results

- Overall, majority of respondents (71%) have no clinically significant problem with their marriage relationships
- 29% had clinically significant problems
- Only 4% were experiencing severe distress in their relationship at the time of the study.



Results - correlations

	IMS Scores	P value
Gender	-0.013	0.933
Reasons for immigration	-0.238	0.111
Age	-0.12	0.423
Who immigrated first	0.096	0.524
Where was the marriage contracted	0.031	0.839
N	49	

No significant finding

Discussion

- There is a paucity of literature on the study of marital satisfaction of Nigerian immigrants in North America.
- Studies in literature address abuse, parenting practices , and identity issues.
- Qualitative data collected during the same period did not reflect the result presented here (data and result in future presentation).
- It is not unusual for Nigerians not to divulge their marital problems to another person “you don’t wash your dirty linen in public”
- Survey tool may not be sensitive to Nigerian cultural practices.
- The high percent of satisfaction may be due to religious orientation. .

Follow up Study

- Same study
- Use culturally sensitive questions
- Wider audience
- Mixed method approach



References

- Akinsulure-Smith, A. M., Chu, T., Keatley, E., & Rasmussen, A. (2013). Intimate partner violence among West African immigrants. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*. 22 (2), 109-126.
- *WALMYR Assessment Scale Scoring*, (1977). WALMYR Publishing Co.: Tallahassee, FL.
- IBM Corp. Released 2017. *IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows*, Version 25.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.