



# Analyzing the Correlation Between Public Awareness and Financial Aid and Support Programs for Individuals With Epilepsy Within Florida

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## Abstract

### **Objective:**

The goal was to cultivate awareness for people with epilepsy and other disabilities within Florida by hosting a 2k Fun Run Fundraiser.

### **Methods:**

In order to combat the lack of epilepsy and general disability knowledge in Florida, I have chosen to conduct an action research modeled intervention that is cyclic in nature.

### **Results:**

Quantitative data included \$2139.53 collected and 50-60 participants. Qualitative data included personal observations of joy from participants

## Implications:

What begins with community engagement and discourse, can lead to larger changes with policy makers. Influential events that occur in local communities have the capability to spread and foster change across the state.

## Limitations

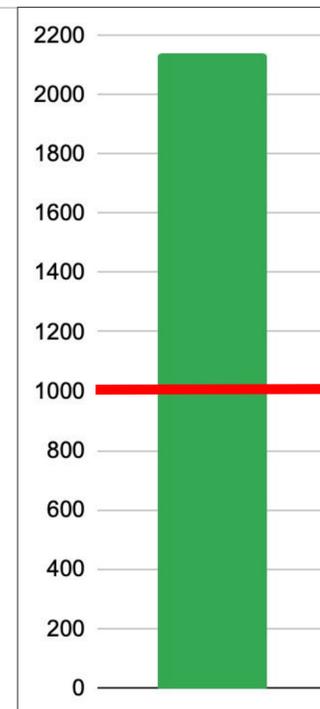
An initial problem was found in the establishment of the 501(c)(3). A small error found in the Articles of Incorporation portion of the application increased the time that the nonprofit's status was pending.

## Qualitative Data

During the event, I kept a log of some of the less tangible effects of the run. I noticed that there was an exorbitant amount of jubilation from every participant and volunteer. I witnessed a large amount of hugging, smiling, high fives, and cheering. In particular, I noticed that much of this joy revolved around the children with special needs in attendance.



**Donations Gathered:**  
Presented is a bar graph of all donations collected before and during the 2k Fundraiser. The initial donation goal was \$1000. This goal was exceeded by \$1139.53.



## Gap In Research

There is an abundance of research regarding the correlation between public and community awareness to federal funding and support programs. However, there is significantly less research conducted on the connection between increased awareness and reduced stigma for individuals suffering specifically from epilepsy. Further, these studies are rarely state specific with highly minimal amounts of data recorded about this topic in Florida.

Therefore, there is an easily identifiable gap in research for a correlational study regarding public awareness and financial aid for individuals with epilepsy within the Florida region.

## Question:

**To what extent can a local community event spread awareness for individuals with epilepsy and other disabilities?**