



Area Health Education Centers

Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages
February 17, 2021

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Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Agenda

- ▶ AHEC Overview
- ▶ Accomplishments, Challenges, and Opportunities
- ▶ COVID-19 Efforts
- ▶ Questions and Answers



Area Health Education Centers Program



AHEC Program: Legislative Authority

- **Legislative Authority**

- The Areas Health Education Centers Program is authorized under Section 751 of the Public Health Service Act.



AHEC Program: Purpose & Eligibility

- **Program Purpose**

- To develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations.

- **Eligibility**

- Recipients of AHEC funding are public or nonprofit private accredited schools of allopathic medicine and osteopathic medicine or a consortium of such schools. In states and territories in which no AHEC Program is in operation (or there is not an accredited school of medicine), an accredited school of nursing is eligible for funding.[Insert eligibility requirements]



AHEC Program: Overview








- **Program Information**

- FY 2021 annual appropriation: \$43.3million
- 48 AHEC Programs
 - 46 are in Schools of Medicine
 - 2 are in Schools of Nursing:
 - University of Alaska School of Nursing
 - Montana State University School of Nursing
- AHEC Programs are located in 46 states, including the District of Columbia and the Republic of Palau
- 261 AHEC Centers

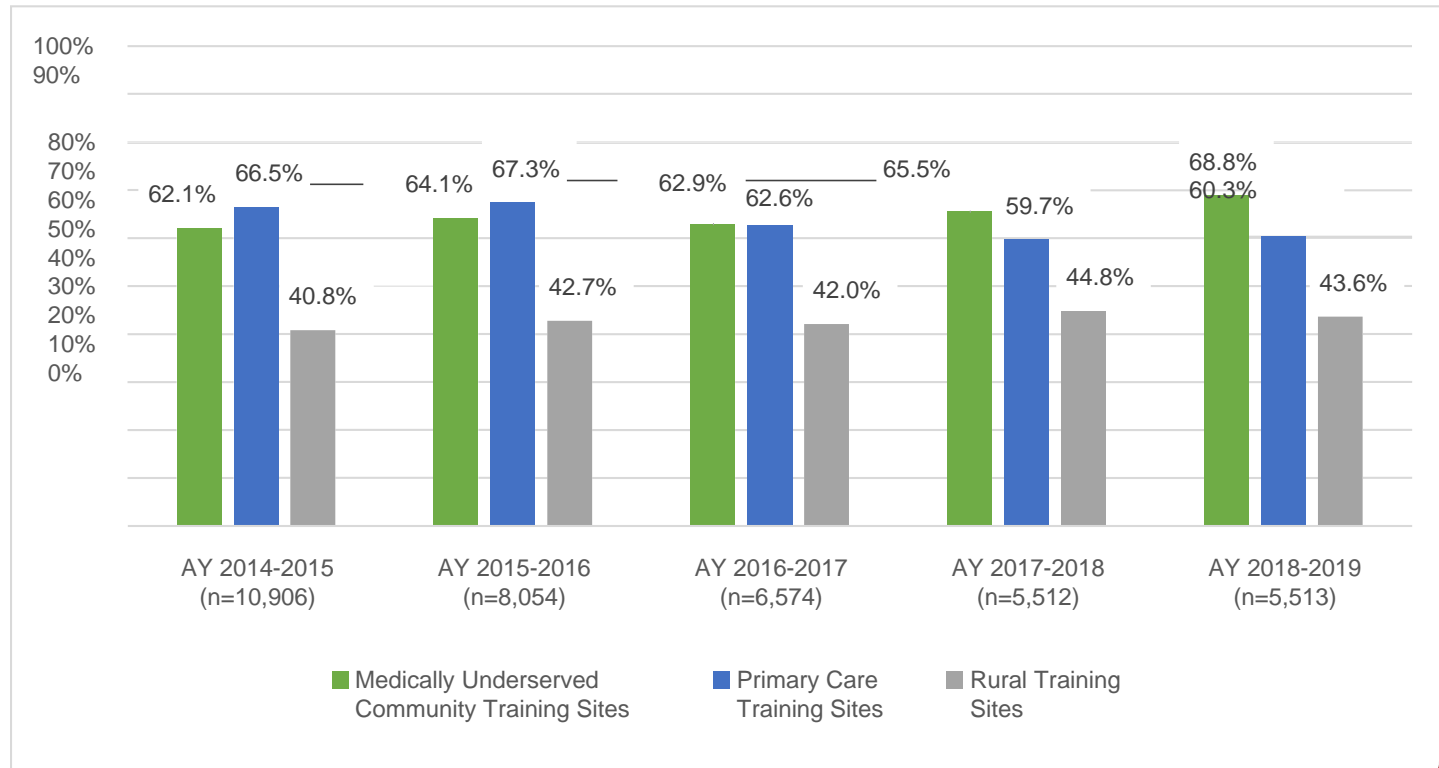


AHEC Program: Areas of Focus

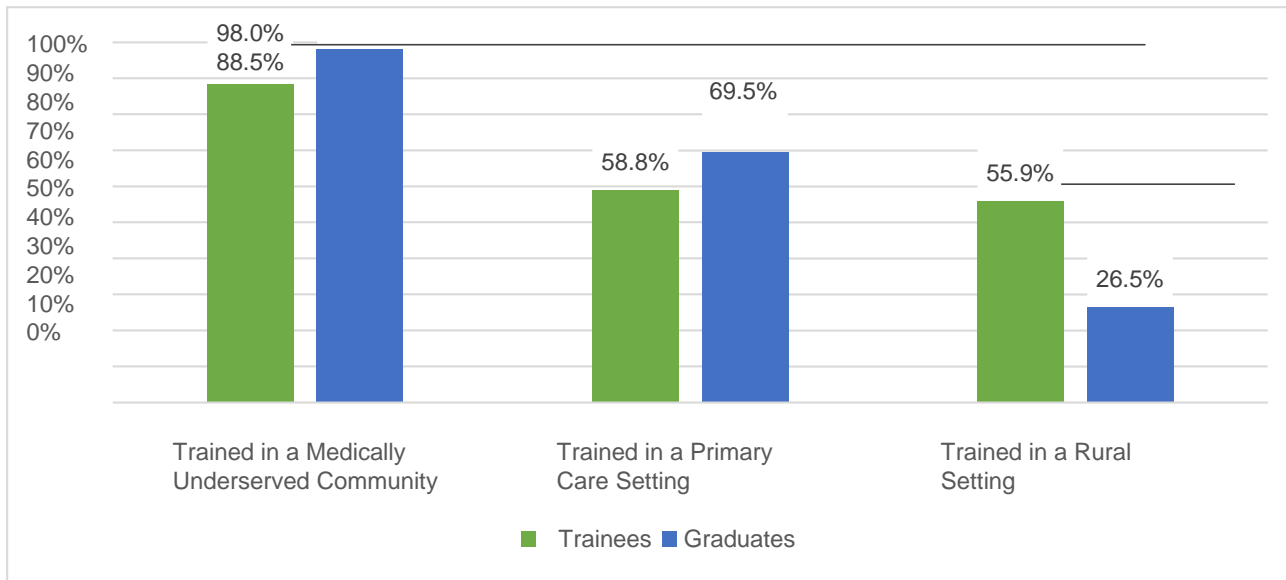
Distribution • Diversity • Practice Transformation

 AHEC Scholars	HRSA/AHEC branded interdisciplinary educational and training program
 Core Topic Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-professional Education• Behavioral Health Integration• Social Determinants of Health• Cultural Competency• Practice Transformation• Current/Emerging Health Issues
 Strategic Partnership Activities	Strategic partnerships to coordinate educational/training activities to maximize the impact and outcome
 Statewide Evaluation	Must develop and implement a statewide evaluation in collaboration with AHEC Centers
 Community-Based Experiential Training	Training must be team-based and specialized in rural and underserved areas and populations
 Pipeline	Limited funding to support youth public health pipeline (9th -12th grade) program
 Continuing Education	Limited funding for continuing education activities focused on the Core Topic Areas for health professionals

Percentage of Experiential Training Sites, by Site Location (AY 2014-2019)



Percentage of AHEC Scholars who Received Training, by Setting (AY 2018-2019)



Total Trained by Training Program Type and Discipline (AY 2014-2019)

Non-Degree (Structured & Unstructured) Training Programs including Continuing Education

Discipline	AY 2014-2015	AY 2015-2016	AY 2016-2017	AY 2017-2018	AY 2018-2019	Total AY 2014-2019
Multiple Disciplines	372,366	369,929	402,045	270,380	282,408	1,697,128 (91.5%)

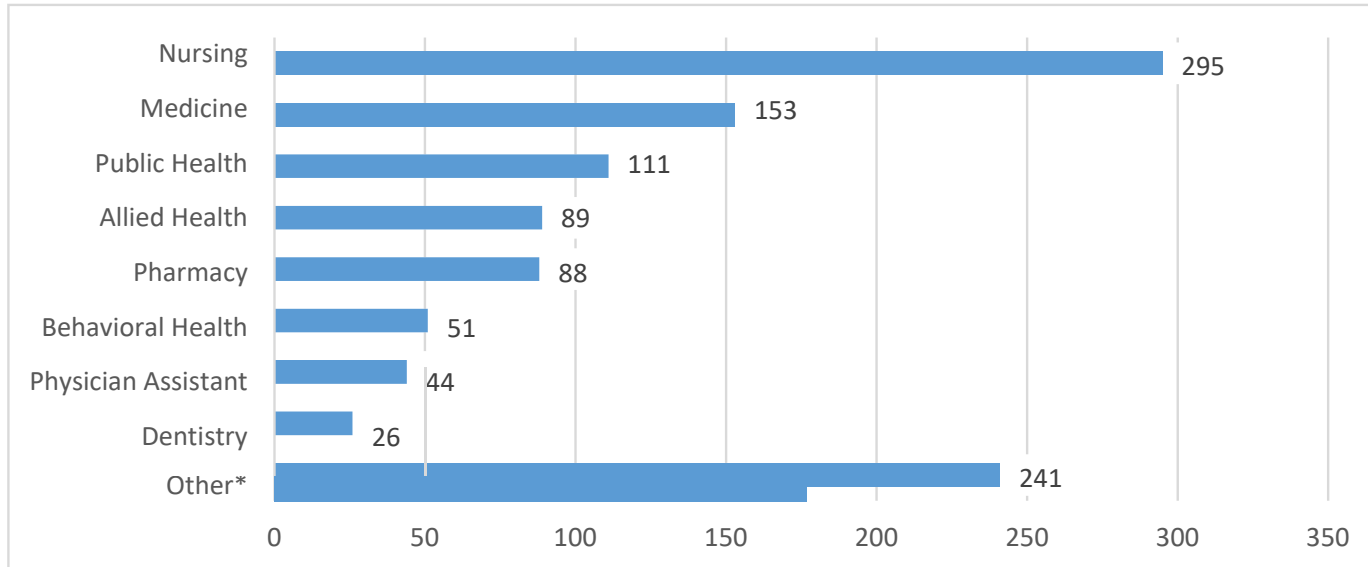
Practicum/Field Placement and Degree/Diploma/Certificate Academic Training Programs

Discipline	AY 2014-2015	AY 2015-2016	AY 2016-2017	AY 2017-2018	AY 2018-2019	Total AY 2014-2019
Student	30,135	35,022	31,867	24,070	22,011	143,105 (7.7%)
Medicine	2,317	1,806	2,274	1,757	1,380	9,534 (0.5%)
Behavioral Health	128	351	172	133	293	1,077 (0.1%)
Nursing	412	359	186	409	169	1,535 (0.1%)
Dentistry	43	44	43	10	21	161 (0.0%)
Public Health	21	28	11	2	7	69 (0.0%)
Physician Assistant	10	33	0	0	0	43 (0.0%)
Other	353	446	669	408	295	2,171 (0.1%)
Total Trained	405,785	408,018	437,267	297,169	306,584	1,854,823 (100.0%)



Disciplines of AHEC Scholars Trainees in AY 2018-2019 (n=1,098)

Chart 5: Disciplines of AHEC Scholars Trainees in AY 2018-2019 (n=1,098)



AHEC Program: Challenges & Opportunities

- **Challenges and Opportunities**

- COVID-19 Impact on Program Operations
- Lack of Preceptors
- Data Tracking Systems

- **Future Plans**

- AHEC Simulation Education and Training NOFO – FY21
 - Anticipated release: Spring 2021
- AHEC FY22 Competition
 - Anticipated release: 2022



AHEC Program: COVID-19

- **COVID-19 Efforts - Prevent, Prepare, Respond**
 - AHEC award recipients received one-time funding dedicated to COVID-19 activities (approx. \$4.2 million awarded)
 - Activities include:
 - Telehealth equipment purchases
 - Curriculum development for student and patient education and training
 - Expansion of didactic and clinical training using distance-learning platforms
 - Screening, testing, and contact tracing
 - Providing culturally competent, high-quality care to all patients affected by COVID-19



Questions



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