

Advocacy, Community, and Training Immersion Program: Interprofessional Education on COVID-19 and Healthcare Disparities

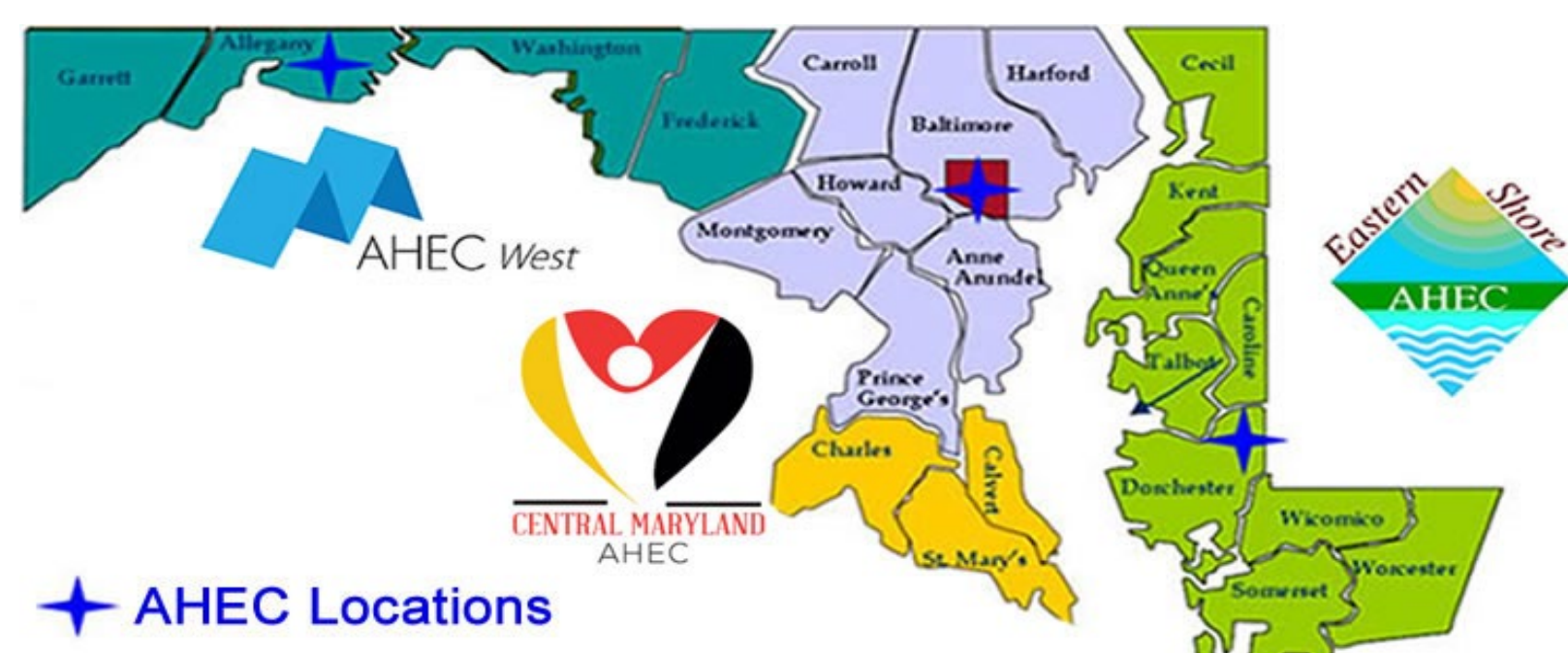
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BACKGROUND

- Considering racial injustice events and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority populations, the Advocacy, Community, and Training (ACT) Immersion Program was designed to enhance the AHEC Scholars Program (ASP).
- ASP was created to facilitate interprofessional opportunities for health profession students who are interested in practicing in rural and/or underserved areas.
- Scholars participated in COVID-19 webinars and implicit bias trainings.
- The ACT Immersion Program was piloted from December 2020 through July 2021 in three AHEC regions in Maryland; Central Maryland (CMAHEC), Eastern Shore (ESAHEC), and Western Maryland (AHEC West).



PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES, REQUIRED ACTIVITIES, AND DEADLINES

Program Learning Objectives	Required Activities	Deadline for Completion	Notes
1. Gain knowledge on the impact of COVID-19 on diverse populations	Complete at least three virtual COVID-19 educational modules	December 31, 2020	These training modules will be delivered online/remotely. Links to these modules will be emailed to the participants.
2. Understand the concept of systemic racism, implicit bias, privilege, race, and its impact on healthcare delivery	Complete at least one virtual anti-racism and one virtual implicit bias training	February 28, 2021	These training modules will be delivered online/remotely. Links to these modules will be emailed to the participants.
3. Demonstrate knowledge on community based interprofessional practice in underserved communities	Participate in at least one community-based IPE activity in an underserved community	May 1, 2021	In order to meet Learning Objectives 3 and 4, Scholars will spend two (2) days immersed in an underserved community: rural Eastern Shore, urban Central Maryland or rural Western Maryland.
4. Formulate experiences and perspectives on health disparities and racial prejudices in underserved communities	Develop at least one reflective summary and share it with your peers and facilitators	May 31, 2021	

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

- Current AHEC Scholar
- Agrees to complete 100% of the program requirements listed above
- Participates in the "Immersion Weekend" activities
- Documents participation in program activities in the AHEC Scholars Program Space on Blackboard

An incentive of \$300.00; \$150 at the beginning and \$150 at the completion of all required activities was offered to the participating Scholars.

PARTICIPANTS ENROLLMENT

- A total of **30 Scholars** signed up for the program
- CMAHEC:** 5 medical students; 3 physician assistant students; 1 social work student
 - ESAHEC:** 8 pharmacy students; 1 medical student; 1 physician assistant student
 - AHEC West:** 8 physician assistant students; 2 medical students

METHODS

ACT Immersion Program Components:

FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CORE COMPETENCIES



Required prerequisites:

- COVID-19 Training (3 webinars)
- Implicit Bias Training (Parts 1 & 2)

Immersion Weekend:

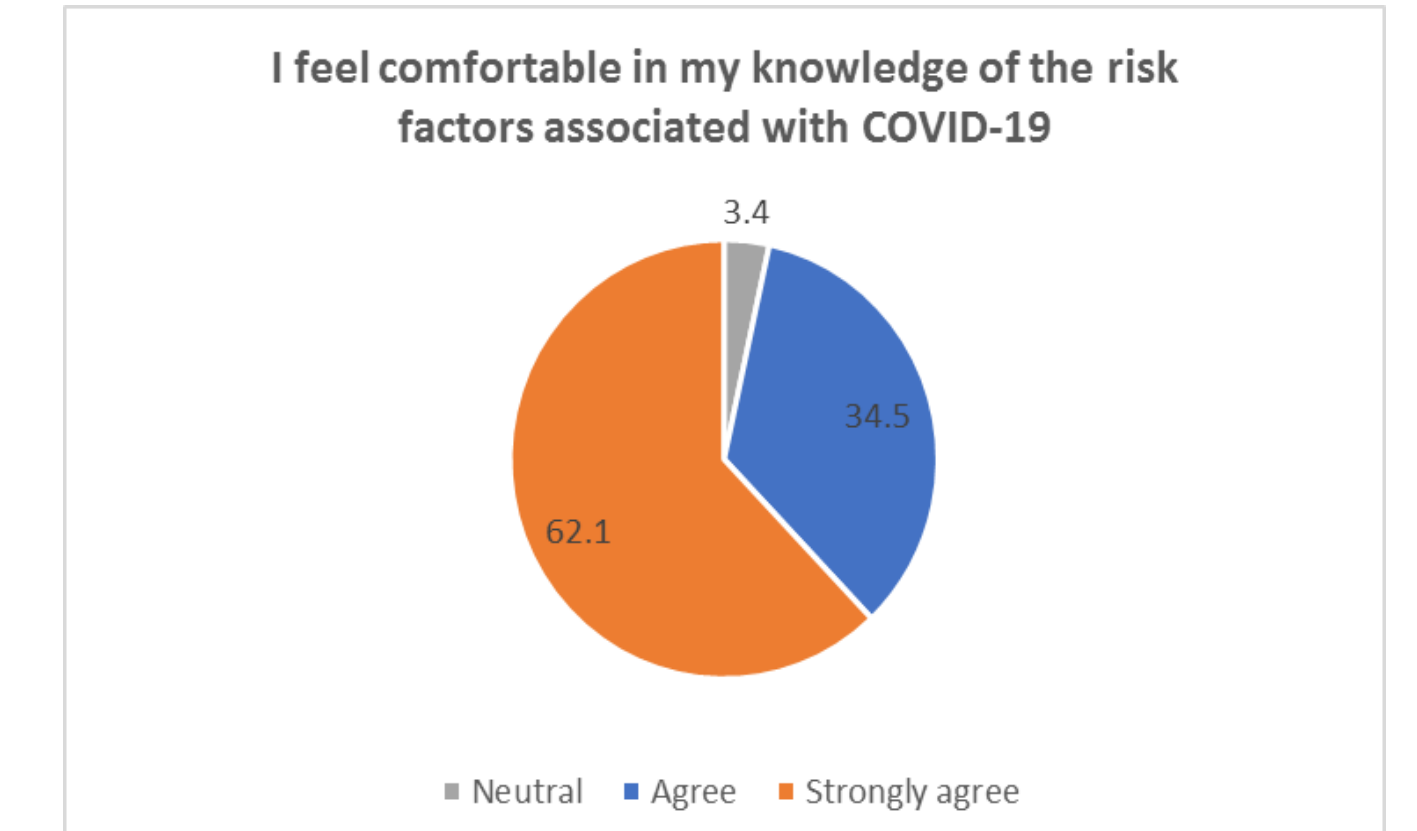
- IPE Experiential Training
- Poverty Simulation Workshop
- The Providers Movie, Food Distribution, Vaccine Clinics

ACT Immersion Weekend Region Specific Events

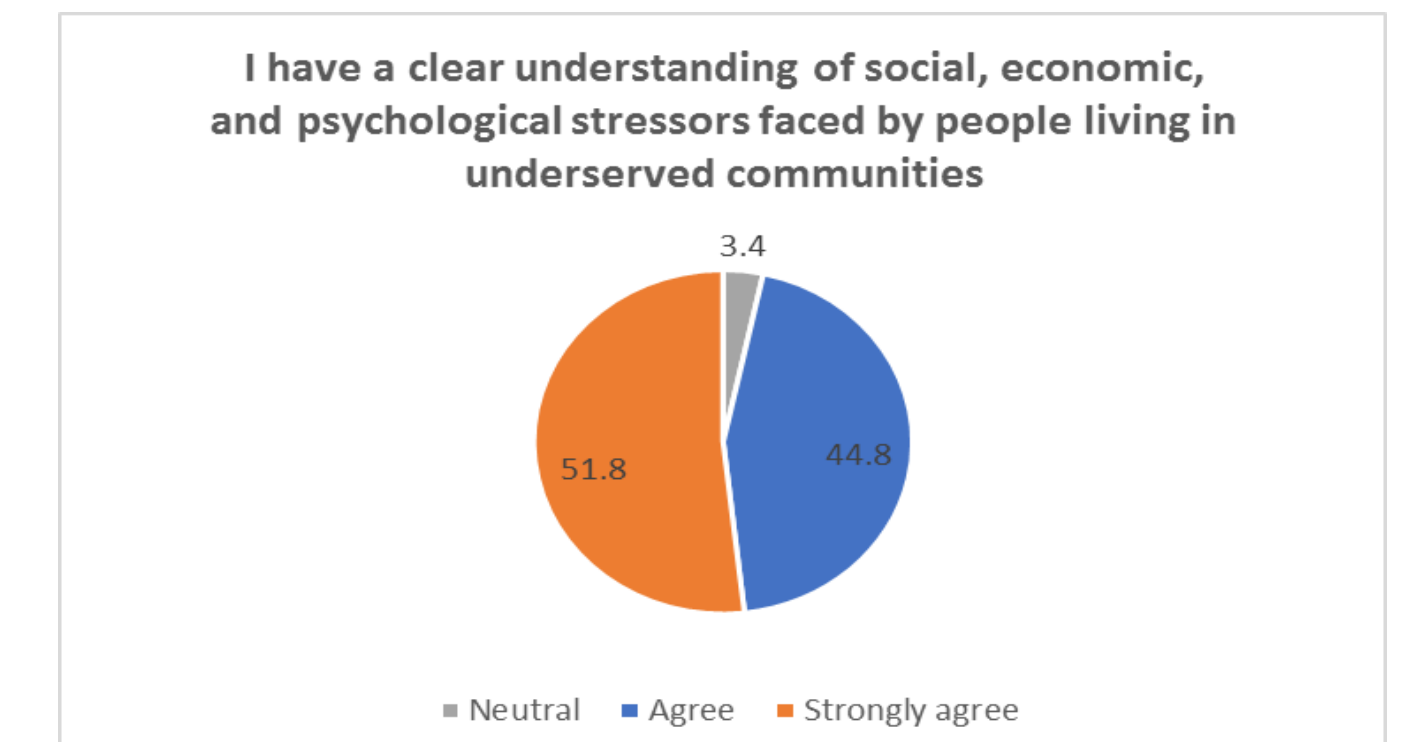
AHEC West April 23-24, 2021	Central Maryland AHEC April 16-17, 2021	Eastern Shore AHEC April 16-17, 2021
Friday Mind Body Medicine "The Providers" Film Watch Party and Discussion	Friday Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) Simulation & Debrief	Friday Presentation: "Making iLeuPulm a Success" Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) Simulation & Debrief
Saturday Mind Body Medicine Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) Simulation The Healing Allegory Project Scholar Reflections Evaluation and Wrap Up	Saturday Community Food Distribution Walking Tour to and from the Viaduct (distributing hand sanitizer & masks to homeless) Scholar Reflections Opioid Workshop Evaluation and Wrap-up	Saturday Presentation: Reground or Response: SDOH Scholar Reflections Scholars volunteer at COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics Evaluation and Wrap-up

RESULTS

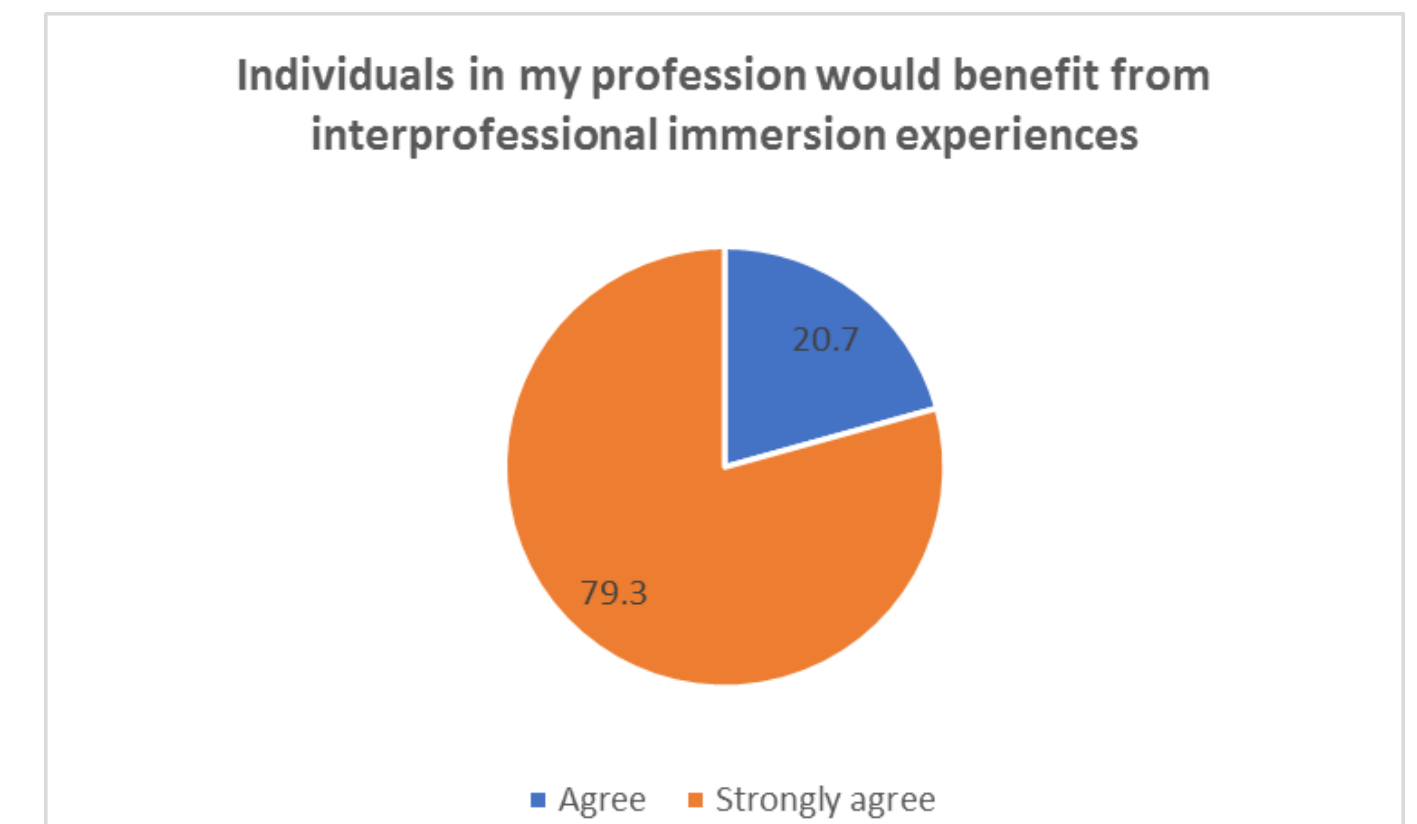
COVID-19 Training:



Practice in Underserved Communities:



Professional Development:



CONCLUSION

- The ACT Immersion Program increased Scholars' knowledge on COVID-19 and their awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. It gave them a first-hand practice experience in underserved communities.
- Similar immersion programs, for health profession students, are needed to prepare the future health workforce to work with each other in rural and underserved communities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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OBJECTIVE

- The overall goal of the ACT Immersion Program is to expose Scholars to underserved communities through interprofessional education (IPE) didactic and experiential learning opportunities.