

# Area Health Education Centers Program

## Academic Year 2017-2018

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

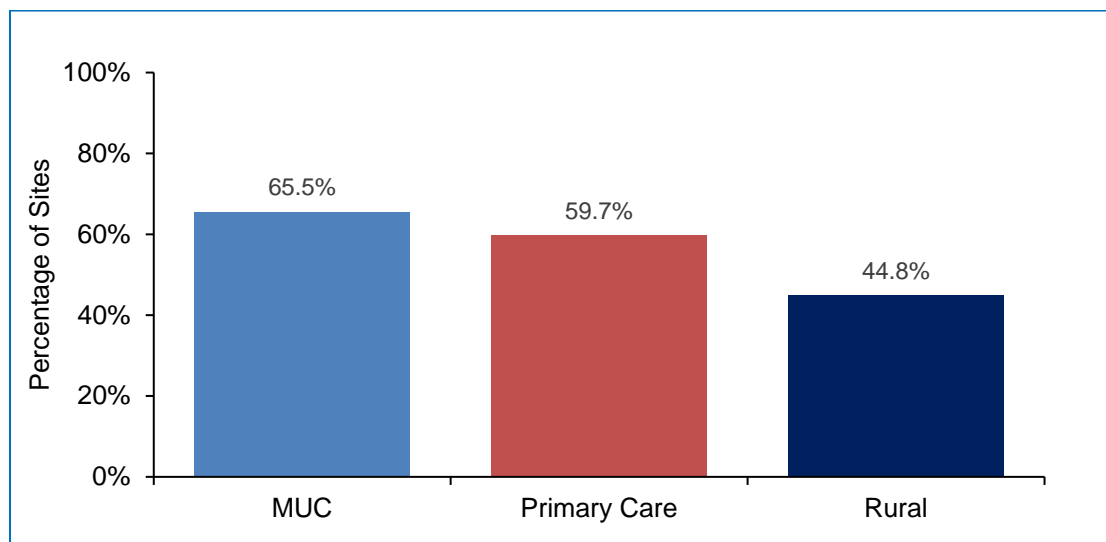
HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated or economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care by supporting the training of health professionals – focusing in particular on the geographical distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most.

The AHEC Program aims to develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. In turn, these networks support increased diversity among health professionals, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, enhance health care quality, and improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations. Below is a descriptive summary of the characteristics and accomplishments of awardee programs and trainees who received AHEC support during Academic Year 2017-2018.

### Select Program Characteristics

| Program Name | Awardees | Trainees | Trainee Characteristics         |       |               |       |                    |
|--------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------------|
|              |          |          | Underrepresented Minority (URM) |       | Disadvantaged |       | Program Completers |
| AHEC         | 49       | 297,169  | 71,424                          | 24.0% | 100,112       | 33.7% |                    |

### Clinical Training Settings



Note: A Medically Underserved Community (MUC) is a geographic location or population of individuals that is eligible for designation by a state and/or the federal government as a health professions shortage area, medically underserved area, and/or medically underserved population. Training settings are not mutually exclusive.

For more information, visit the website: [bhw.hrsa.gov](http://bhw.hrsa.gov)

# Area Health Education Centers Program

## Select Program and Trainee Characteristics

- In Academic Year 2017-2018, the AHEC Program supported more than 3,600 different types of training programs including pre-pipeline and pipeline activities, as well as community-based field placements for health professions trainees.
- A total of 297,169 students and residents participated in these programs, 288,662 of whom completed their training during the academic year.
  - Approximately 49 percent of trainees were female and 50 percent were age 19 or younger.
  - Eleven percent of trainees self-identified as Hispanic or Latino heritage. The majority self-identified as White (43 percent), 11 percent as Black or African American, 3 percent as Asian, 1 percent as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 1 percent as American Indian or Alaska Native.
  - Approximately 34 percent of AHEC students and residents reported coming from a financially or educationally disadvantaged background, and 43 percent reported coming from a rural background.
- Of the 26,789 trainees participating in AHEC-sponsored community-based field placements, 49 percent were medical students. The remaining trainees represented a variety of health professions, including nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and physician assistant programs.

## Clinical Training Sites

- AHEC awardees collaborated with 5,512 clinical sites to provide training experiences to students and residents. This included 274 Federally-Qualified Health Centers, 347 Community Health Centers, 94 Rural Health Clinics, and 38 Critical Access Hospitals.
- Approximately 60 percent of clinical training sites were in primary care settings; 66 percent were located in medically underserved communities; and 45 percent were in rural areas. Nearly 14 percent of the training sites offered substance use treatment services.
- Over 35 percent of the clinical sites incorporated interdisciplinary team-based approaches, where 5,731 non-AHEC students and residents from a variety of professions and disciplines were trained on teams with AHEC trainees.

## Continuing Education

- AHEC awardees implemented 1,915 unique continuing education courses that were delivered to 137,301 faculty members and practicing professionals nationwide.
- Approximately 53 percent of continuing education course participants were concurrently employed and practicing in medically underserved communities.