

Area Health Education Centers Program

Academic Year 2016-2017

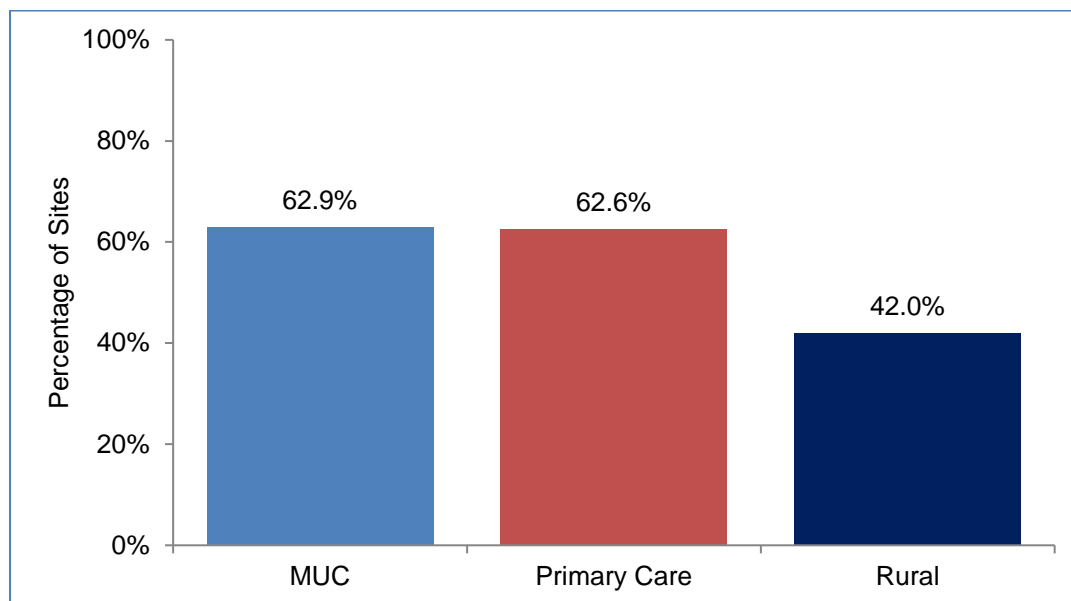
HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated or economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care by supporting the training of health professionals – focusing in particular on the geographical 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 2016-2017.

Select Program Characteristics

Program Name	Awardees	Trainees	Trainee Characteristics				
			Underrepresented Minority (URM)		Disadvantaged		Program Completers
AHEC	52	437,267	135,100	30.9%	173,615	39.7%	

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

Area Health Education Centers Program

Select Program and Trainee Characteristics

- In Academic Year 2016-2017, the AHEC Program supported more than 4,300 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 437,267 students and residents participated in these programs, 425,353 of whom completed their training during the academic year.
 - Approximately 49 percent of trainees were female and 63 percent were age 19 or younger.
 - Nearly 18 percent of trainees self-identified as Hispanic or Latino heritage. The majority self-identified as White (52 percent), 10 percent as Black or African American, 4 percent as Asian, 1.5 percent as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 1 percent as American Indian or Alaska Native.
 - Approximately 40 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 35,222 trainees participating in AHEC-sponsored community-based field placements, 51 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 partnered with 6,574 clinical sites to provide training experiences to students and residents. This included 306 Federally-Qualified Health Centers, 351 Community Health Centers, 123 Rural Health Clinics, and 47 Critical Access Hospitals.
- Approximately 63 percent of clinical training sites were in primary care settings; 63 percent were located in medically-underserved communities; and 42 percent were in rural areas.
- Training at the clinical sites incorporated interdisciplinary team-based approaches, where 17,895 non-AHEC students and residents from a variety of professions and disciplines were trained on teams with AHEC trainees.

Continuing Education

- AHEC awardees implemented 3,307 unique continuing education courses that were delivered to 214,789 faculty members and practicing professionals nationwide.
- Approximately 41 percent of continuing education course participants were concurrently employed and practicing in medically-underserved communities.