



Stanford
MEDICINE

2021

Community Health Symposium
ABSTRACT

Noelle Pineda, MD, MPH; Melanie Ramirez, BA; Luis Arreola, NREMT; Alivia Shorter MA, MPH; Janine Bruce, DrPH; Marilyn Winkleby, PhD, MPH

EXPANDING THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS PIPELINE: A MIXED METHODS ANALYSIS OF A HIGH SCHOOL BIOMEDICAL PROGRAM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Background: The underrepresentation of individuals from minority and low-income backgrounds is a persistent issue in medicine. High school biomedical pipeline programs offer a promising strategy to diversify the medical pipeline by supporting underrepresented students towards successful transition into college and health careers.

Objective: To explore long-term impacts of a high school enrichment program, Stanford Medical Youth Science Program (SMYSP, <https://smysp.spcs.stanford.edu/>), on alumni using a cross-sectional mixed methods approach.

Methods: SMYSP participants between years 1988-2019 were invited to complete an e-survey. A sub-sample (n=21) of alumni underwent semi-structured, in-depth interviews. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed. Team-based coding and theme analysis were performed with input from SMYSP collaborators.

Results: Of 83 survey respondents, 45% completed or were enrolled in an undergraduate program; 40% completed or were enrolled in a graduate program. Twenty-one alumni were interviewed (66% men; age 17-46 years; 43% Latino; 29% Asian; 14% Black; 5% Native; 5% White; 5% Mixed). The following themes emerged:

- Clinical experiences (e.g., hospital internships) were often described as the most impactful program component
- Inspiration was gained by meeting mentors that “looked like me” during the program
- Participation at a young age was important in developing self-confidence to pursue higher education
- Many reported a sense of belonging in school and/or work despite challenging academic and career journeys

Conclusions: High school biomedical pipeline programs for underrepresented students can have positive, long-term impact. Programs like SMYSP should serve as a model to guide the development of future programs seeking to support underrepresented students interested in health professions. Establishing collaborations with nursing facilities as well as reaching out to CMS regarding policy guidance.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

SUMMER MEDICAL YOUTH SCIENCE PROGRAM