

Title: Fostering Future Maternal and Child and Public Health Leaders: MCHC/RISE-UP Experience

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Background: Addressing projected shortages in the public health workforce, especially among African American, Latino/as, Native Americans, and select Asian American populations is a significant public health and educational challenge. The CDC is addressing this challenge through an innovative leadership program at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, the Maternal Child Health Careers/ Research Initiatives Program for Student Enhancement-Undergraduate Program (MCHC/RISE-UP). MCHC/RISE-UP engages diverse undergraduate and post baccalaureate scholars in experiential leadership tracks to introduce students to interdisciplinary approaches to the maternal and child health and public health fields.

National Consortium: The MCHC/RISE-UP created a national consortium among Institutions, Universities, and University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), including (1) Kennedy Krieger Institute partnering with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, (2) University of South Dakota and Sanford School of Medicine and Research Institute partnering with Tribal Serving Institutions, and (3) University of Southern California and Children's Hospital partnering with California State University Los Angeles, a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution to provide geographically and culturally-relevant learning opportunities and enroll diverse college junior, senior, and recent baccalaureate degree scholars.

Hypothesis: It was hypothesized that MCHC/RISE-UP leadership experiences would promote a diverse, skilled, and committed maternal and child and public health workforce.

Leadership Activities: Students participated in up to two of three public health leadership tracks: 1) Clinical, (2) Community Engagement and Advocacy, and /or (3) Research. The consortium's unifying distance learning curriculum examined the CDC's Winnable Battles using an epidemiological and evidence-based flipped classroom approach.

Scholars: During the 2012-2016 enrollment periods, 2,931 students applied for MCHC/RISE-UP. There were 197 accepted scholars for the MCHC/RISE-UP, 56 (28.4%) African American (Non-Hispanic), 53 (26.9%) Hispanic/Latino, 34 (17.3%) Asian, 19 (9.6%) White (Non-Hispanic), 16 (8.1%) American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4 (2.0%) Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 15 (7.6%) Biracial/Other.

Outcomes: The majority of students (n=155; 78.7%) graduated from undergraduate institutions. Of the graduates, 83.8% (n=130) of MCHC/RISE-UP scholars planned to enter public health or healthcare fields. Improvements were noted in eight maternal and child health core competencies, including knowledge, self-reflection, ethics, critical thinking, negotiation, family-centered care, teaching/mentoring, and community.

Implication: Scholars enrolled in MCHC/RISE-UP demonstrated commitment to pursuing public health and healthcare careers. Increases were noted in maternal and child health core competencies.