

Rural VIP No. 11: Your Connections with RhPAP Programs & Learners

The eleventh survey for the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent on August 6, 2020 to 184 members. This document provides a summary of the themes provided by respondents.

Key Learnings



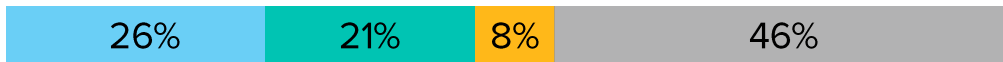
- **Q1:** Not all respondents had experienced RhPAP initiatives. **Of those that have, 92 per cent of respondents rate the initiatives as extremely valuable or very valuable.**
- **Q2:** The majority of respondents are **extremely interested (56 per cent) or very interested (32 per cent)** in knowing when health-care learners are in their communities.
- **Q3:** **Over 60 per cent of respondents or members of their A&R committee have connected with health-care learners** visiting their community for rural education experiences or placements; 12 per cent of respondents have not connected with visiting learners, while 24 per cent of respondents reported that they were unsure or not aware of learners in the community.
- **Q4:** When asked about how respondents or their A&R committees have connected with health-care learners, activities included **welcoming or following up with learners (92 per cent); providing information packages about the community (85 per cent); inviting learners to local events (46 per cent); and helping with accommodations (46 per cent).**
- **Q5:** Respondents shared how their committee finds out about learners coming to the community. Results include hearing from **contacts at the local hospital/clinic**, being informed by an **RhPAP Rural Community Consultant**, or through **Alberta Health Services.**

1. If you have supported, volunteered, or participated in any of the following RhPAP initiatives, please rate how valuable the experience was for you and/or your community:

High school skills day



Post-secondary skills weekend



Accommodations/housing for health-care learners staying in your community



Mentorship/physician shadowing program



Continuing education training and events for health-care providers



Rhapsody Award nomination and/or celebration event



Community learning event or conference



Other initiative (please specify in comments)



- Extremely valuable
- Very valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Not so valuable
- Not at all valuable
- N/A – have not experienced

Good to know

- Not all respondents had experienced RhPAP initiatives. Of those that have, **92 per cent rate the initiatives as extremely valuable or very valuable.**

- All respondents who volunteered, supported, or participated in **high school skills days** and the **physician mentorship program** found the initiatives to be extremely valuable or very valuable.
- Overall, **95 per cent** of respondents who supported **accommodations for health-care learners** in their communities found the activity to be extremely valuable or very valuable, and **93 per cent** of respondents who volunteered, supported, or participated in **continuing education training and events for health-care providers** reported the initiative to be extremely valuable or very valuable.

Q1 - Other initiatives:

“**Medical Student Tour** of our Attraction and Retention Committee Area.”

“**Staff** who support communities.”

“Having an **RhPAP Rep** present during [attraction] and retention committee meetings.”

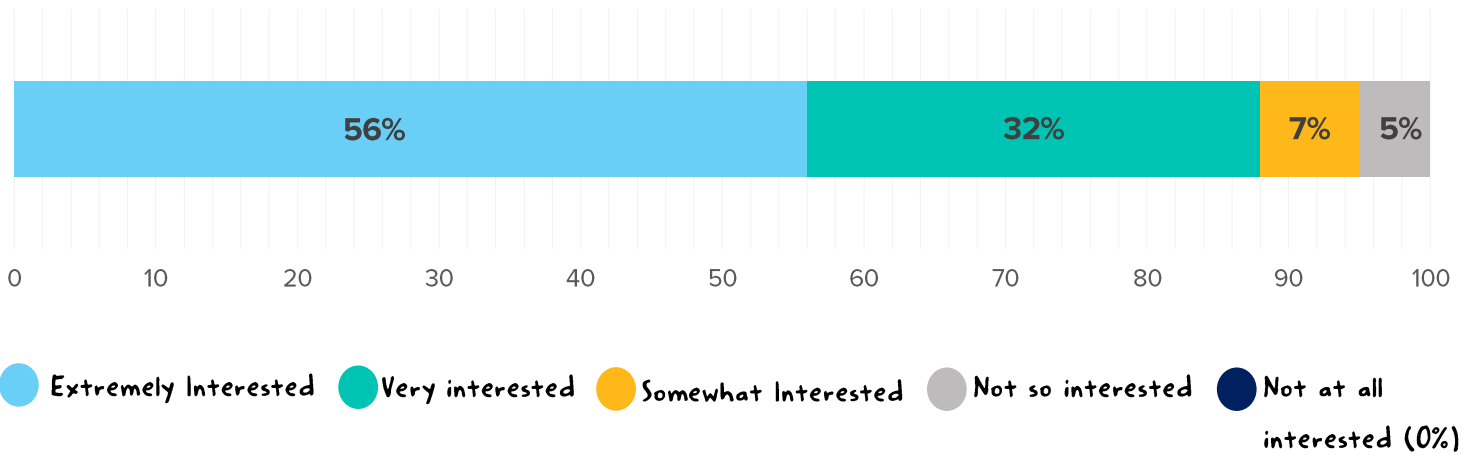
“While we have not hosted a high school skills day, the physicians, nurses (at hospital) and pharmacists have had interested students, from our town and surrounding areas, **job shadow for a day**. The feedback that we have received from those students **has been very positive**.

It gives high school students an opportunity to base their secondary school choice on an actual experience, and hopefully increase their interest in rural medicine/nursing/pharmacy. Rural experiences do offer quite a different experience than in urban centres; something we hear frequently from the learners that we have at the clinic as well.”

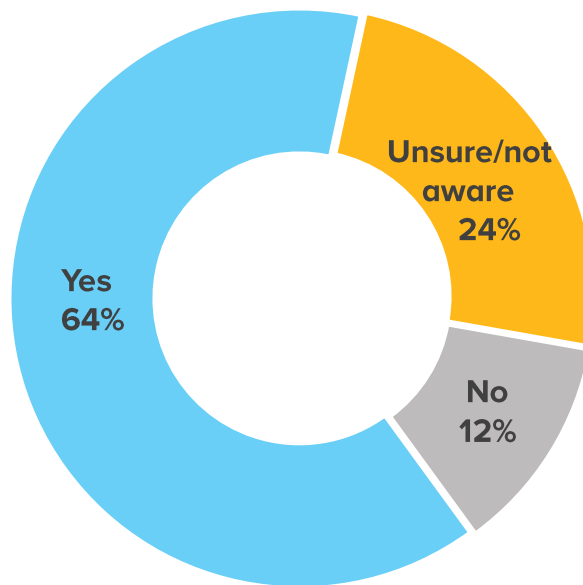
“Years ago, our community participated in the **medical students** visiting for 48 hrs and connecting to rural medicine options (**UofA & NADC pilot project**).”



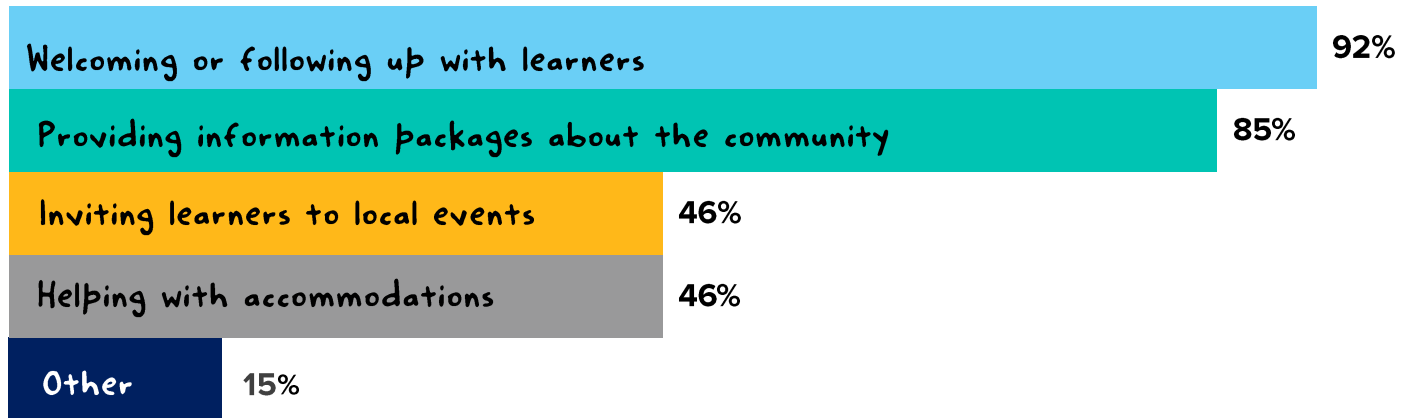
2. How interested are you in knowing when health-care learners are in your community?



3. Have you or any members of your attraction and retention committee connected with health-care learners that may be visiting your community for rural education experiences or placements?

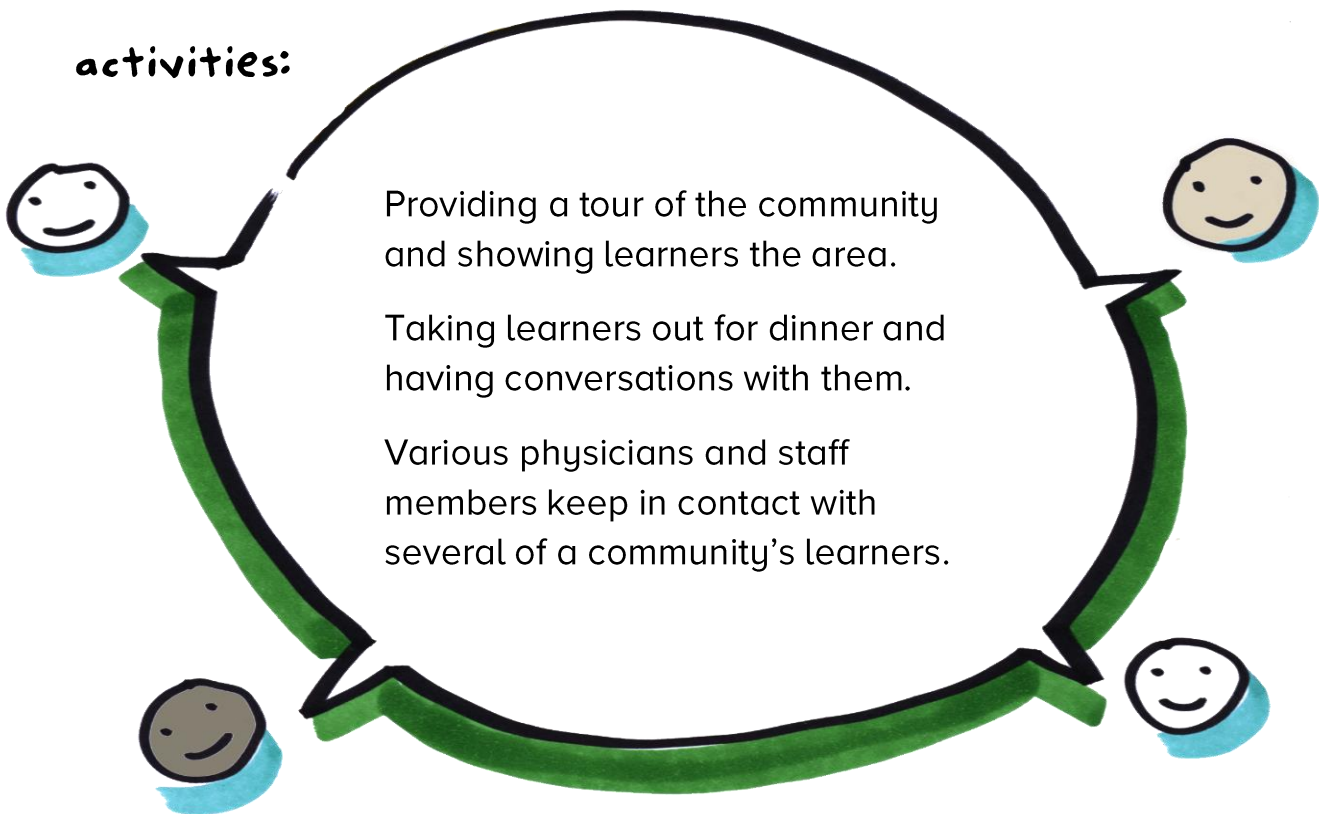


4. If you answered 'yes' to Question 3, how have you or your attraction and retention committee connected with learners in your community? Choose all that apply.



Other

activities:



Providing a tour of the community and showing learners the area.

Taking learners out for dinner and having conversations with them.

Various physicians and staff members keep in contact with several of a community's learners.

5. If you answered 'yes' to Question 3, how does your attraction and retention committee find out about learners visiting your community?

# of comments	Theme of the comments
11	Contacts at the clinic or hospital Site managers, local physicians, clinic managers, A&R committee members who work in the clinic
7	RhPAP Rural Community Consultants
4	Alberta Health Services
4	Other Primary Care Network; local foundation; people who sit on the A&R committee; an event where learners tour the community

What you said (sample comments):

“From physicians who head up either the Med students or resident programs. It’s a very imperfect process, one that could be improved. We often have little or no advance notice of learners arriving.”

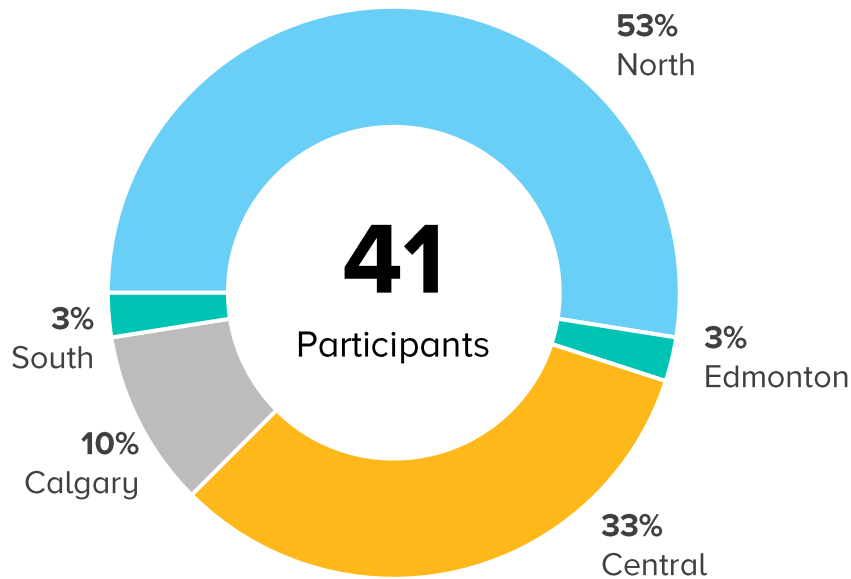
“Members of our Attraction and Retention Committee work in the clinic; we receive all notifications of students joining the clinic for their Rural Family Medicine rotation.”

“Through our clinic board member or site manager, often miss them though. No consistent connection for the message to flow.”

“Only through one specific event where learners specifically tour our community.”

“Through our RhPAP reps.”

6. In which AHS (Alberta Health Services) zone do you live?



** Totals may not add due to rounding*

What will we do with this feedback?

We will share these survey results with RhPAP stakeholders interested in learning about your experiences with health-care learners. The feedback helps us understand committees' current connections to learners and will inform the support that we provide to rural communities. Your voice makes a difference —thank you for participating!

RhPAP also shares learnings and feedback from the Rural VIP with health-care leaders, including Alberta Health, and the RhPAP Board of Directors, who represent the following organizations: Alberta Health Services, Alberta Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

To view the results of past Rural VIP surveys, click [here](#).

Questions about RhPAP's Rural Voice Information Panel?

Email us at ruralVIP@rhpap.ca