

Rural VIP No. 14: Rural Health Education and the Pathway to Rural Practice

The fourteenth survey for the members of the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent out November 5, 2020 to 227 members.

The purpose of the survey was to determine if there are resources related to rural health-care education in respondents' communities and if panel members know what is locally available, if students in the community know how to find information about rural health education, careers, and pathways, and to increase general awareness about health-care education and resources available for youth.

This document provides a summary of the responses.

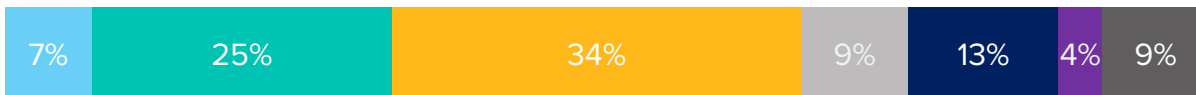
Key Learnings



- **Q1:** Although 66 per cent of respondents indicated that information about health-care careers is available in their community, 98 per cent of respondents agree that there is a need to further develop local community resources and supports that encourage students to consider careers in rural health care.
- **Q2:** 75 per cent of respondents have indicated that their communities have participated in at least one activity or initiative to promote health-care careers. 25 per cent of respondents are not aware of any such activities in their community.
- **Q3:** The most common strategy proposed by respondents to promote health-care careers in their community was to engage with students early. Recommendations included knowledge sessions, career counseling, and mentorship programs targeted towards junior high and high school students.

1. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Information about health-care education pathways and careers is available in my community.



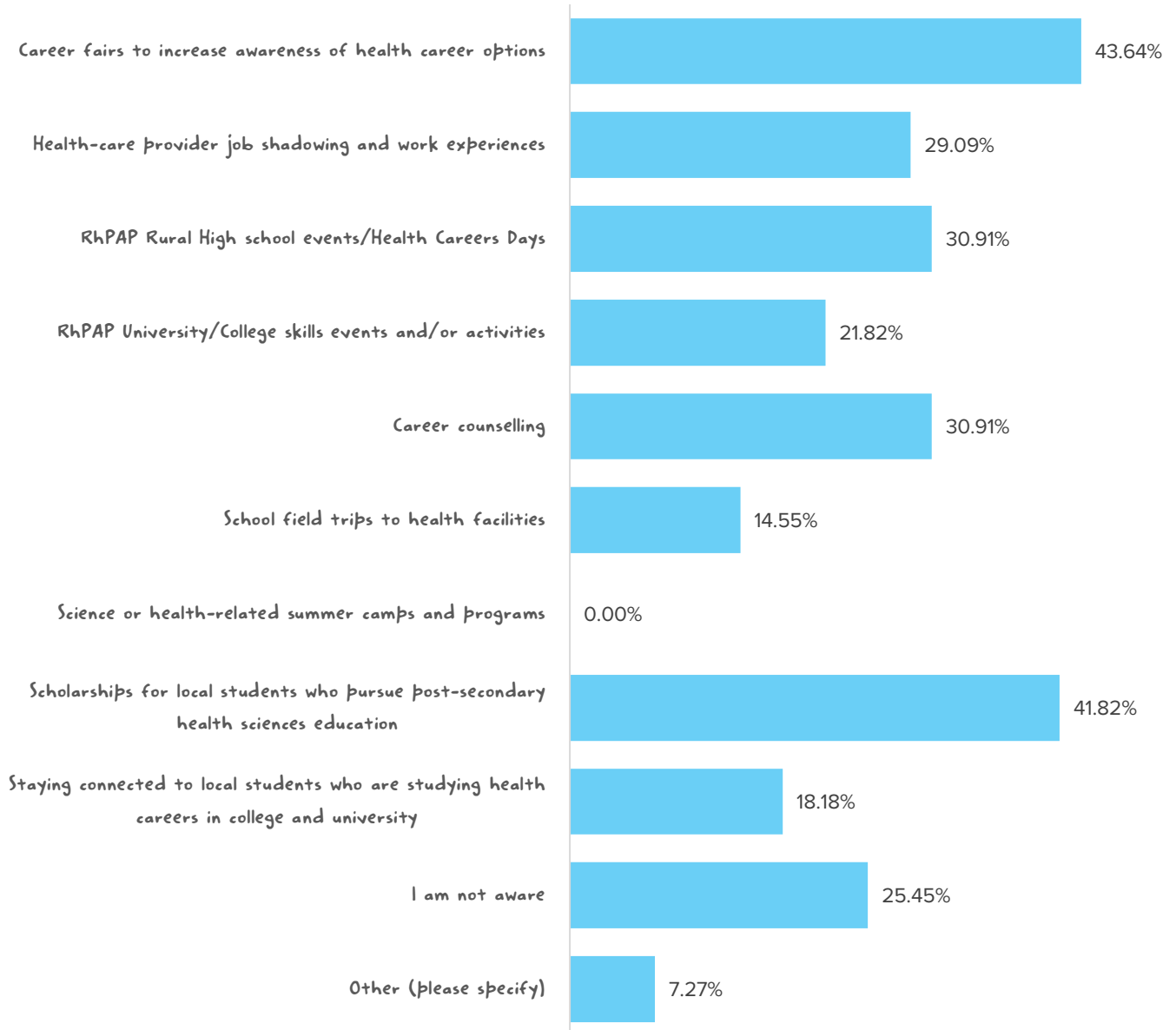
My community encourages local youth to pursue health sciences career paths.



There is a need to develop my community's resources and supports that encourage students to consider careers in rural health care.



2. Has your community implemented or utilized any of the following activities and initiatives? Choose all that apply.



3. Are there additional supports that would help your community encourage and promote rural health-care career paths to local students? Please provide a brief description below.

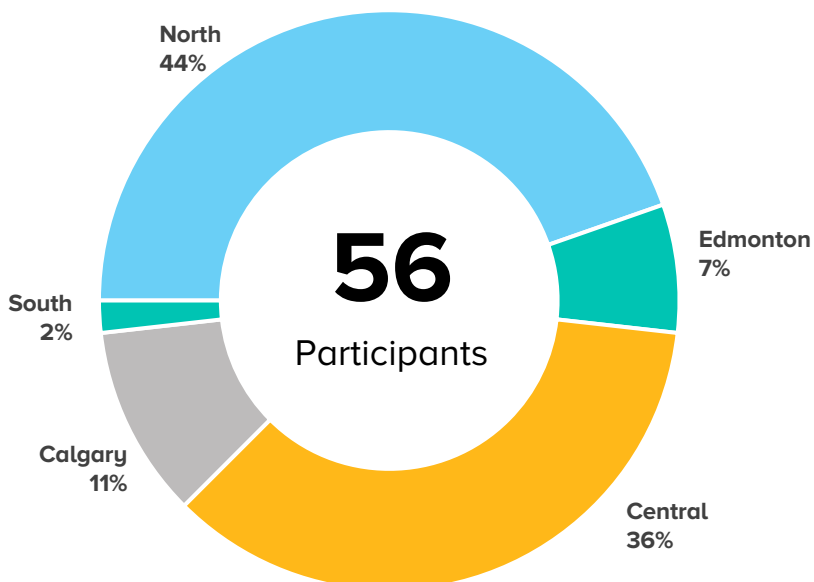
% of comments	Theme of the comments
43	<p>Early exposure Targeting high school students early with career counseling, knowledge sessions, and mentorship opportunities.</p>
19	<p>Scholarship and funding opportunities Providing financial supports to students interested in receiving rural experience and pursuing a career in rural health care.</p>
14	<p>Career fairs Hosting career fairs in rural communities to promote local careers in health-care professions.</p>

What you said:

- “I believe that mentorship values are of great value. Experiential knowledge is powerful in the minds of the youth.”
- “A better developed local healthcare scholarship program and more involvement from [the Northern Alberta Development Council] in our community to promote bursaries and scholarships.”
- “Having the expertise available to counsel students and the ability to lay out what the options are in the health care field...”



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



** Totals may not add due to rounding*

What will we do with this feedback?

Your input helps us determine the Rural VIP's awareness and understanding of Rural Health Education and the Pathway to Rural Practice and will inform RhPAP's educational resources and programming. Thank you for participating in our survey.

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