

A Hub of Diversity - IIHHS

Programs in the IIHHS address the needs of underrepresented groups and vulnerable populations. Diversity, access and inclusion are themes that are essential to program development, implementation and evaluation. Transformative learning experiences result for our students, as they encounter so many contexts which expand their perspectives. Also, progress toward a more just and inclusive community is a defining feature of our common purpose, across all IIHHS programs. The details presented here bring more robust diversity data than has been previously gathered for our annual reporting. We welcome the opportunities we have through the scope of Institute work to extend the reach of the university in this manner. The table below reports the percentage of IIHHS programs engaged with individuals whose demographic or other relevant characteristics appear on the left.

Low socioeconomic status 77%

Medicaid 68%

Medicare 36%

No health insurance 64%

Rural 77%

Lack of transportation 73%

Children with special healthcare needs 64%

Children with special educational needs 68%

Children with special psychological needs 64%

Children with incarcerated parents 36%

Pregnant and/or parenting teenagers 32%

People living with HIV/AIDS 23%

People diagnosed with mental illness 55%

LGBTQ+ 41%

Homeless 41%

Senior citizens 36%

Limited English Proficiency or Speak languages other than English 59%

Immigrants 64%

Refugees 41%

Migrants 59%

Latino/Hispanic 73%

Arabic 41%

Russian 32%

Kurdish 27%

Eritrean 23%

Bosnian 9%

Croatian 9%

Serbian 14%

Congolese 14%

African American/Black 55%

Asian 55%

Hawaii or Pacific Islander 9%

Native American 18%
Multi-racial 64%
Other ethnic or racial background (please list) 14%
Hearing impaired 50%
Visually impaired 45%
Low literacy 68%
Other vulnerable populations (please list) 14%

Clarifications for "other vulnerable populations" included:

Ethiopian, Sudanese, Ukrainian, individuals with a brain injury, substance using adults and substance exposed infants, and children with physical disabilities.

Considering all of this evidence which speaks to the diversity, access and inclusion achieved by Institute programs, it truly brings to mind a busy and vibrant tapestry of people and cultures. Drilling down from the overview, program level reports offer insights that have the benefit of particular contexts. For instance:

- The Community Health Interpreter Service has filled language requests for Amharic (6) Arabic (2687) Bosnian (16) Croatian (6) Farsi (26) French (29) Kurdish (874) Kurdish- Kurmanji/Bahadinani (36) Kurdish-Sorani (57) Russian (1172) Spanish (11344) Swahili (3) Tigrinya (256) Ukrainian (9).
- Teens reached by the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program are 24% Latino, 7% Black, 4 % Asian, 4 % Native American, 61% White.
- The Child Development Clinic's 306 clients included 31 Multi-racial, 1 Asian, 9 Black, 21 Hispanic, 4 Other and 240 White.
- Future Forward students were originally from Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Colombia.
- The Gus Bus Parent Surveys from Spring 2017 identified that 84% of participating children receive free or reduced lunch. The same Parent Survey indicated that 31% of students served are Hispanic/Latino, 18% Caucasian/white, 25% African American, 23% Middle Eastern, and 2% of surveyed parents indicated Other. Furthermore, 10% noted that their child has a special need or disability.
- The Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program's report on country of origin for the students and families served lists: Mexico- 18; El Salvador- 13; Puerto Rico- 51; Colombia- 10; Iraq- 9; Honduras- 14; Eritrea- 2; Sudan-5; Congo-7; Dominican Republic- 5; Nepal- 2; Cuba- 4. Spoken Languages are Chatino, Moro, Amharic, Otomi, Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish, Tigrinya.
- Healthy Families programs' clients are 90% Caucasian; 95% English speaking; 92% single/unmarried parent; 68% live in cycle of poverty/dependence; 63% first time parents; 53% parents report being abused/neglect as a child; 53% of parents have no health insurance; 47% have history or active substance abuse issues; 37% report significant lack of transportation; 95% of children have Medicaid.
- Suitcase clinic clients included 14 Hispanic, 31 African-American and 130 Non-Hispanic and Non-African-American.

Reflective practice and service within these and all of the other IIHHS programs offer students rich opportunities to more fully understand how accomplishing the university mission is fundamentally tied to diversity.