

# INTRODUCTION

**Context:** Efforts to increase the diversity among healthcare providers may help close the gap of health disparities, combat inequities, and address medical access in underserved populations<sup>1</sup>. In response to the need for more healthcare providers from populations under-represented in medicine, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-COM) hosted a week-long day camp for high school students with the goal of introducing them to different healthcare careers and osteopathy.

**Objective:** To determine the effect of a healthcare camp on recognition of careers in medicine and awareness of the osteopathic profession.



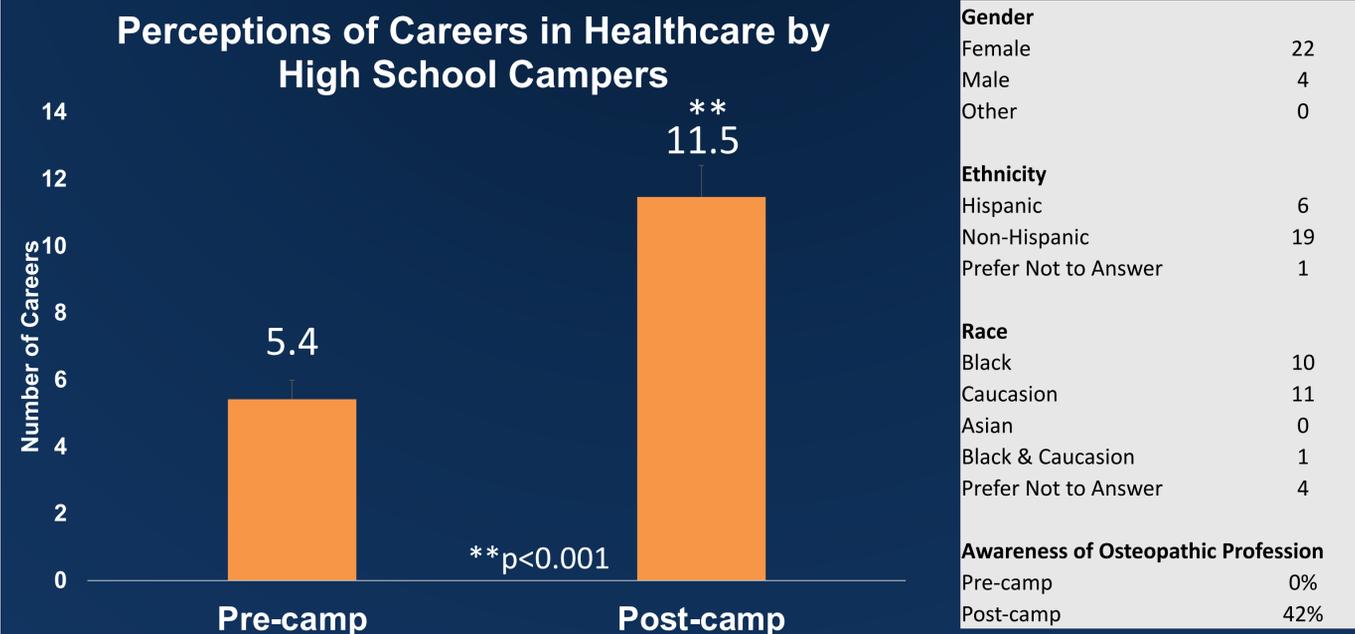
## METHODS

- Hypothesis was tested through administration of an anonymous and voluntary pre- and post-camp survey.
- Demographic data included gender, race, ethnicity, the presence of a healthcare worker in their immediate family, and previous participation in a healthcare camp.
- Survey included asking participants to list careers in healthcare during the pre-camp survey.
- Campers rotated through activity stations daily, highlighting a unique patient case using Simulation, Anatomage table, ShareCare virtual reality, and osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) lab.
- Onboarding and debriefing sessions were utilized to facilitate discussion and contextualize relative healthcare provider roles related to the patient case of the day.
- Current osteopathic medical students, along with other students in the health professions, served as counselors and activity leaders allowing campers to create connections with in-training members of the medical community.
- At the conclusion of the healthcare camp, a second survey was administered to all participants that asked campers to list careers in healthcare.
- A Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test was employed to compare participants' pre- and post-camp responses of their perceptions of healthcare careers. The effect of demographic data on responses to careers in healthcare were analyzed using either the Mann-Whitney U test or the Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA, as appropriate.



# Marian's Healthcare Camp Increases Campers' Perceptions of Careers in Healthcare:

## A Model for Addressing Disparities



**Brian Skinner, PharmD, BCPS, Clint Whitson, MS, & Julia Hum, PhD**  
College of Osteopathic Medicine

# RESULTS

- Response rate:** 100% for both pre- and post-camp surveys
- Demographics:** 15% of participants identifying as male and 85% as female. The participants included three sophomores (11.5%), nine juniors (34.6%), twelve seniors (46.2%), and two incoming college freshmen (7.7%). Additionally, 24% of participants indicated their ethnicity as Hispanic while the remainder selected Non-Hispanic. Of the campers 46.1% identified as Caucasian, 42.3% as Black, and 15.3% preferred not to answer.
- Perceptions of Careers in Healthcare:** Prior to the intervention of the healthcare camp, participants were able to list on average 5.4 healthcare professions, which significantly increased to 11.5 careers on the post-camp survey ( $p < 0.05$ ).
- Awareness of the Osteopathic Profession:** Increased from 0 to 42% as indicated by listing DO, osteopathy, osteopathic, or OMM in the pre- and post-camp surveys.
- Demographic data did not significantly affect program outcomes as assessed by survey data related to perception of careers in healthcare or awareness of the osteopathic profession.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The survey results support the implementation of a healthcare camps as an effective measure to increase the perception of careers in healthcare while also enhancing the awareness of the osteopathic profession in high school students.
- Future healthcare camps will include an overnight component to expand the student population beyond that of central Indiana.
- Further, as a means of encouraging and supporting campers to continue to pursue a career in healthcare, camp attendees are eligible for additional scholarships should they attend Marian University.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the Tom Wood Family Foundation for their generous support of and vision for Marian University's Healthcare Camp.