

Strategies and Challenges to Diversifying Standardized Patients at a Rural Regional Campus

**Olwen Menez¹, Ruth Zagales¹, Taylor Colleton¹, Claudia Rodriguez
Artze¹, Laura Cordero¹**

¹Indiana University School of Medicine

BACKGROUND

- **Standardized patients (SPs) have been commonly used in medical student education.**
 - 94% of U.S. medical schools employing this approach.
- **Why is it important?**
 - Diverse SPs can increase students' transcultural self-efficacy perceptions.
 - Provides formal cultural competency instruction.
- **What's the problem?**
 - Training efforts for SPs lack diversity-focused approaches.
 - There is a need for enhanced diversity initiatives within SP programs, particularly in recruitment and training.

Our Goal:

- Expand on current recruiting practices that aim to racially and ethnically diversify the SP population at a rural regional medical campus.

METHODS

**SP
Recruitment**
IUSM
Evansville

**Flyer
Handouts**
over 5
month period



Interested
individuals
contacted the
**simulations
facilitator**



**Information
Session**



**Background
Check**



**Vendor
Packets**



**Begin
Working!**



- Flyer handed out at local wellness fairs, cultural festivals, engagements with diversity officers, and collaborations with minority health coalitions

DIVERSE PATIENT ACTORS NEEDED

IU School of Medicine-Evansville is seeking to fill the role of Standardized Patients. Individuals who are trained to portray patient scenarios for the instruction of medical students.

- **Paid** with Flexible Hours
- **No acting or medical background** needed
- Training provided
- 18+ age requirement

For more information:
Dori Van Vlack
dvanvlac@iu.edu
812-909-7204

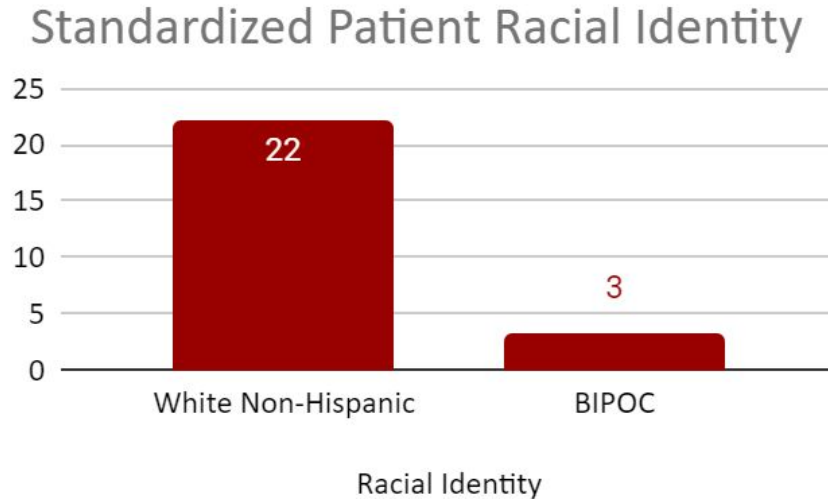


SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
EVANSVILLE

RESULTS

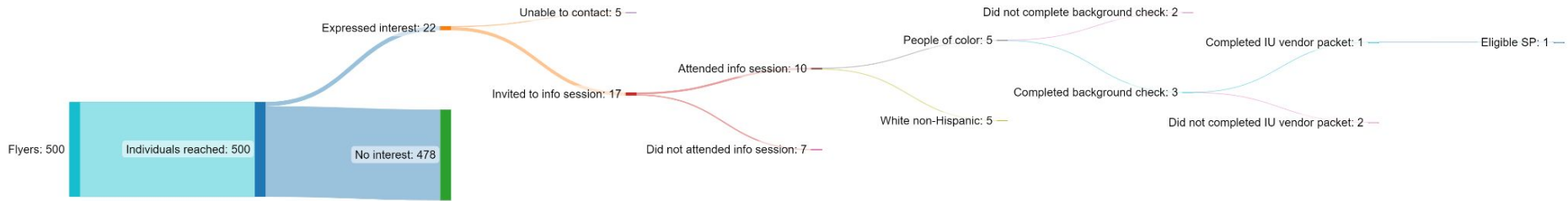
Prior to recruitment efforts:

- Original population of SPs: 25 individuals (22 White, 3 BIPOC)



After recruitment efforts:

- 22 individuals responded to the 500 distributed flyers
- 17 respondents were invited to a scheduled information session and 10 attended.
- Of the 10 present, 5 were people of color.
- Out of these 5, 3 filled out the background check information.
- From these, only 1 person completed the vendor packet.



Progression of Recruitment Efforts

Summary

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- Although white individuals make up 78.4% of Evansville's population, they make up an overwhelming 88% of the SP pool. The SPs on medical campuses should reflect the population.
- Obstacles that prevented individuals from working as SPs included:
 - language barrier
 - lack of transportation
 - Time commitment

Because of the variety of barriers to recruiting and involving diverse individuals to work as SPs, it is crucial that recruitment be on-going and from all angles to ensure that diversity is achieved.

Future Directions

- Opportunity to engage with diverse patients while practicing cultural humility.
- Provides a realistic view of the patient populations they will encounter once they are practicing physicians.
- Having culturally affirming educational experiences early on can help reduce health disparities in the future.
- Longitudinal recruitment of diverse SPs using multifaceted approaches should be continued to ensure the highest quality education.

Acknowledgements

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QUESTIONS?

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