



Healthcare camp for high school students enhances the understanding of foundations of osteopathic medicine, identifying implicit bias, and recognizing social determinants of health

Elijah Liu, Alexa Neff, Mary Flanagan, Alexis Klink, Kasey Kruse, Joseph Vroegop, Ashley Orr, Brian Skinner, Julia Hum

College of Osteopathic Medicine, Marian University, Indianapolis, IN



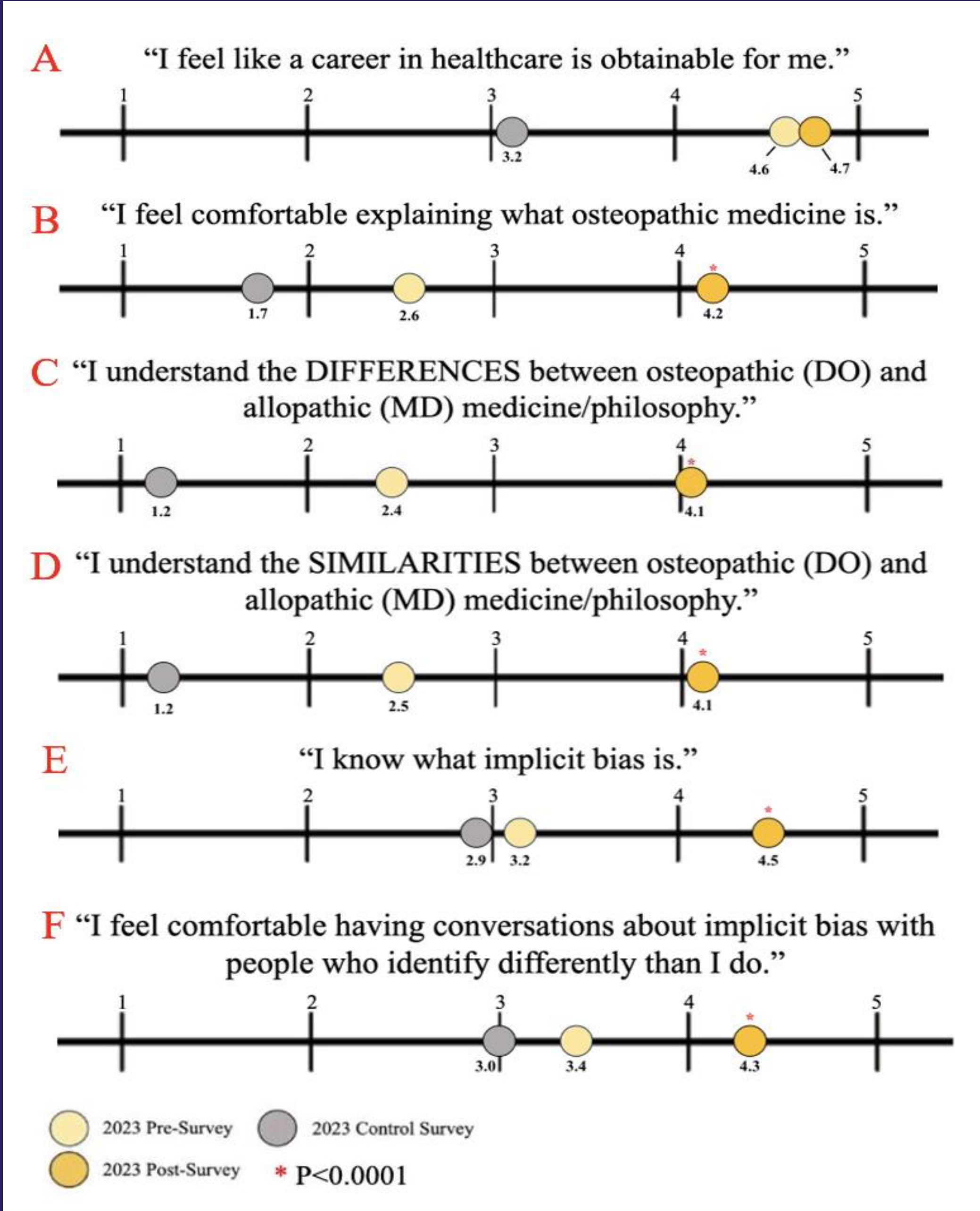
Introduction

- Efforts to reduce health disparities and increase access to underserved populations may be outpaced as populations diversify further.
- Early exposure of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Belonging (DEIAB) initiatives within healthcare to high school students may improve perceptions of attainability as well as an understanding of equitable representation in healthcare.
- Marian University hosted a 5-day camp at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-COM) for high school students to learn about a spectrum of health professions, with emphases on osteopathic principles and DEIAB-related health topics.

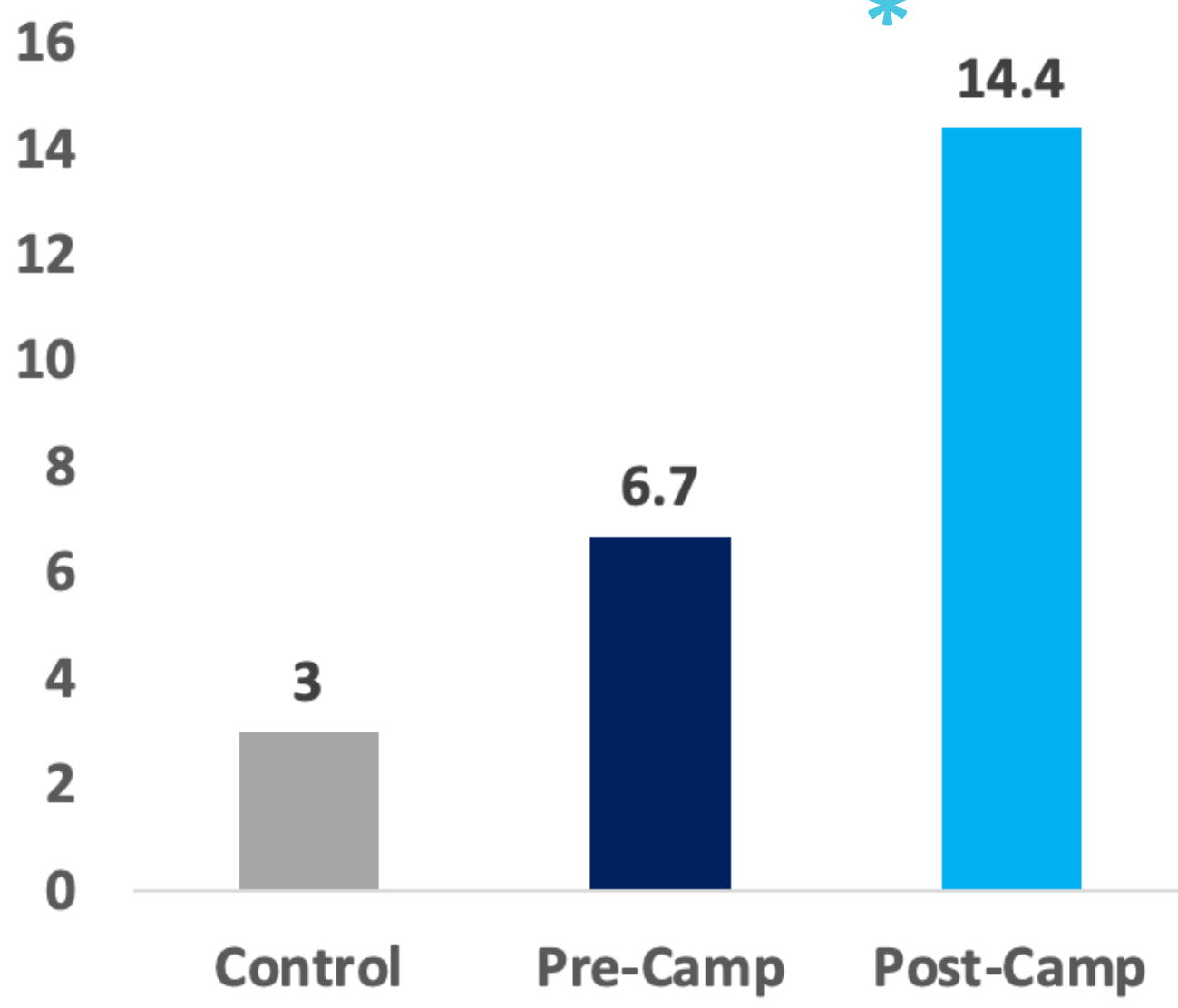
Methods

- The objectives for this project were assessed using pre- and post-camp voluntary, anonymous and confidential surveys. The study was reviewed and approved by the MU IRB (SU22.139).
- Campers completed Likert-scale questions and were asked to list careers in healthcare.
- A control group of campers were surveyed at the Marian University's Engineering Camp for high school students.
- Pre- and post-responses were matched, and statistical analyses were performed including a Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test to compare pre-survey and post-survey responses for the Likert-scale statements.

Results



List Careers in Healthcare



Total Number of Participants	Campers: 63	Control: 13
Grade in School		
9 th Grade	1.6%	0.0%
10 th Grade	17.5%	0.0%
11 th Grade	34.9%	46.2%
12 th Grade	44.4%	53.8%
Freshman in College	1.6%	0.0%
Race/Ethnicity		
White or Caucasian	41.3%	76.9%
Black or African American	12.7%	7.7%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	22.2%	7.7%
Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish origin	11.1%	7.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%
Other, Bi-/Multi-Racial	9.5%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	3.2%	0.0%
Gender		
Cisgender Male	34.9%	69.2%
Cisgender Female	58.7%	23.1%
Transgender Male	0.0%	0.0%
Transgender Female	0.0%	0.0%
Non-binary/Third gender	1.6%	0.0%
None of these describe me, and I want to specify as:	0.0%	0.0%
Prefer not to say	4.8%	7.7%

Conclusion

- Overall, campers at the healthcare camp demonstrated an enhanced understanding of osteopathic philosophy, implicit bias and social determinants of health compared to age-matched control campers.
- Bolstering opportunities for high school students to be exposed to the diverse range of careers in healthcare and fostering DEIAB values along the way will serve the future of our healthcare system well.



Acknowledgements

Marian University's Healthcare Camp is made possible through the generous sponsorship by the Tom and Julie Wood Family Foundation.



Recognizing members of MUCOM's Healthcare Camp planning committee, faculty, staff, student volunteers, and research team.