

ABSTRACT

With increasing competitiveness across the country regarding admission into healthcare professional schools, undergraduate students and prospective applicants are in need of in-depth advising on the application process. We aimed to implement a pre-health advising program to help PhysioCamp volunteers feel adequately prepared during the application process.

INTRODUCTION

- In the 2021 application cycle for medical schools in the US, there was a 17.8% increase in applicants when compared to 2020.
- With an increase in number of applicants, there is a dramatic increase in competitiveness of admissions.
- PhysioCamp grew to include undergraduate student volunteers and PhysioCamp Advising was developed to provide these students with access to an advisor who had been through the admissions process.
- The aim of this project is implementation of a pre-health advising program and improvements based on post-session evaluation surveys.

MATERIALS & METHODS

- Participants were recruited through the PhysioCamp organization via email.
- Participants only included PhysioCamp team members and volunteers.
- All sessions took place over Webex and lasted between 30 minutes to one hour.
- Session objectives were established via a Google form that participants filled out prior to each advising session.
- Participants were asked to fill out a short 12 question post-evaluation on Google Forms of the program and the advisor to elaborate on any strengths or weaknesses identified within the PhysioCamp Advising Program.
- The evaluation form used a combination of the Likert Scale and free response questions.
- Post-session evaluation results were gathered and summarized to create improvements for the PhysioCamp Advising Program.

RESULTS

100% Satisfaction

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>“It was very easy for me to get an advising appointment. It is also less daunting to speak to someone who is currently in medical school and can more easily be considered a peer than a university pre-health advisor.”</p>	<p>“The only improvement I could think of was having more advisors”</p>
<p>“I think it is a great way to get guidance and direct answers to questions that students may have. It also provides the opportunity to network!”</p>	<p>“It would be nice if there was more guidance available for students on different healthcare tracks.”</p>

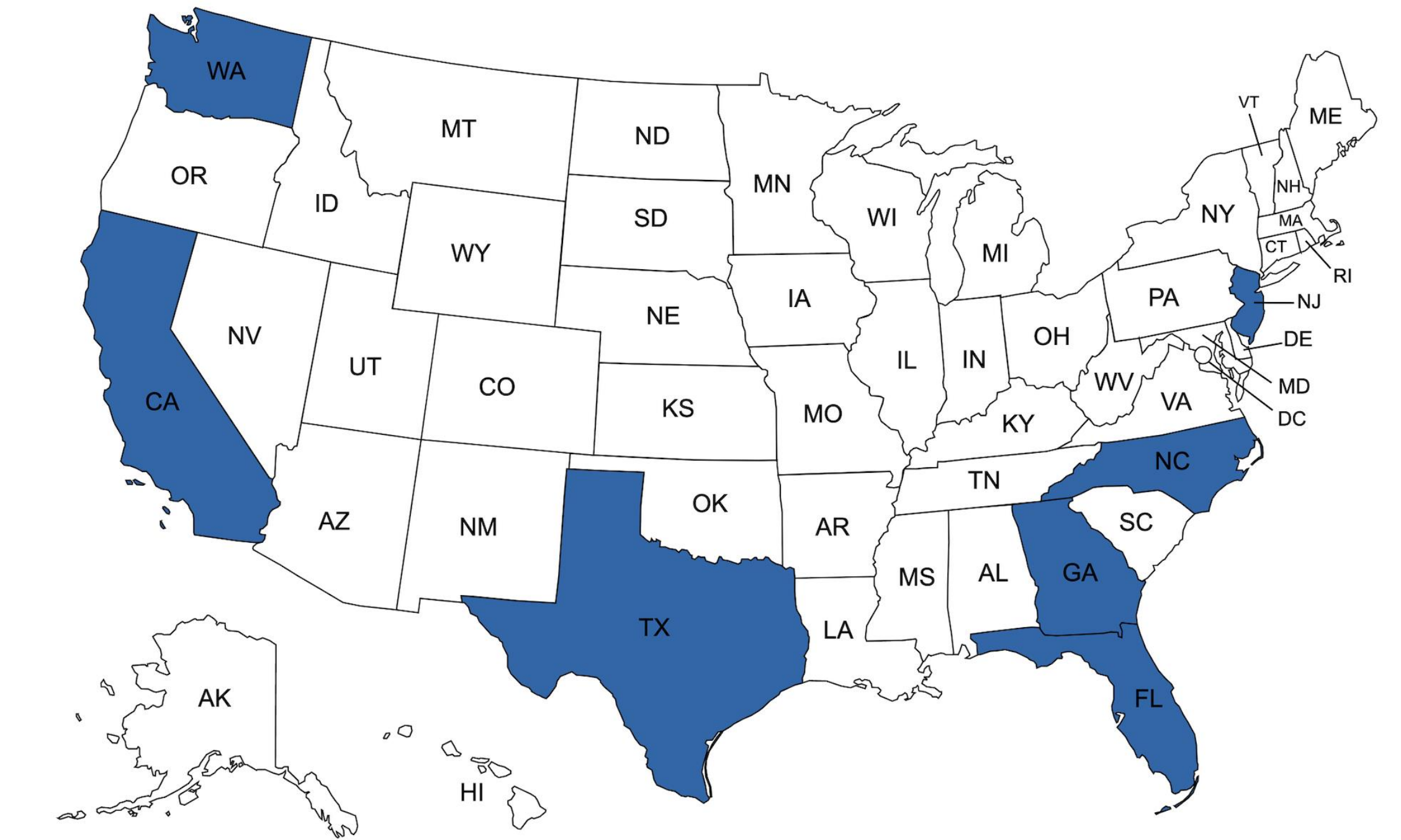


Figure 4. States reached through PhysioCamp Advising

DISCUSSION

- Based on the results from the post-session feedback form, plans moving forward should be based on expanding the number of advisors.
- To allow for expansion of the program, we recommend that there be two advisors available for each health professional school who have robust and diverse backgrounds within the healthcare field.
- Current strategy is to connect advisees with contacts within their professional interest.
 - Limitations to this can include delays in communication and scheduling issues.
- Future evaluations should include acceptance rate of these participants into their respective programs.

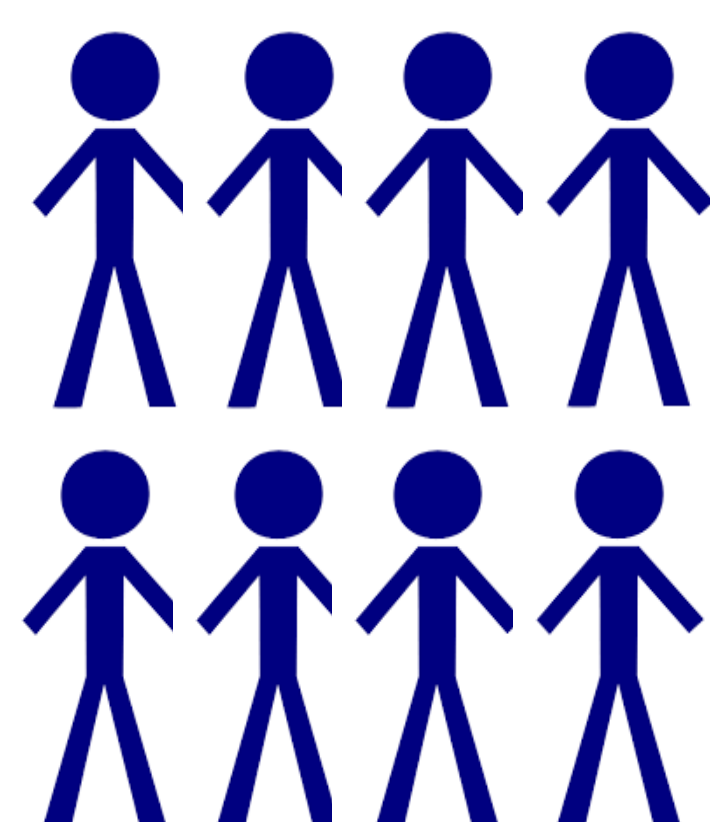
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- “Our Goals.” Physiocamp, <https://physiocamp.org/>.

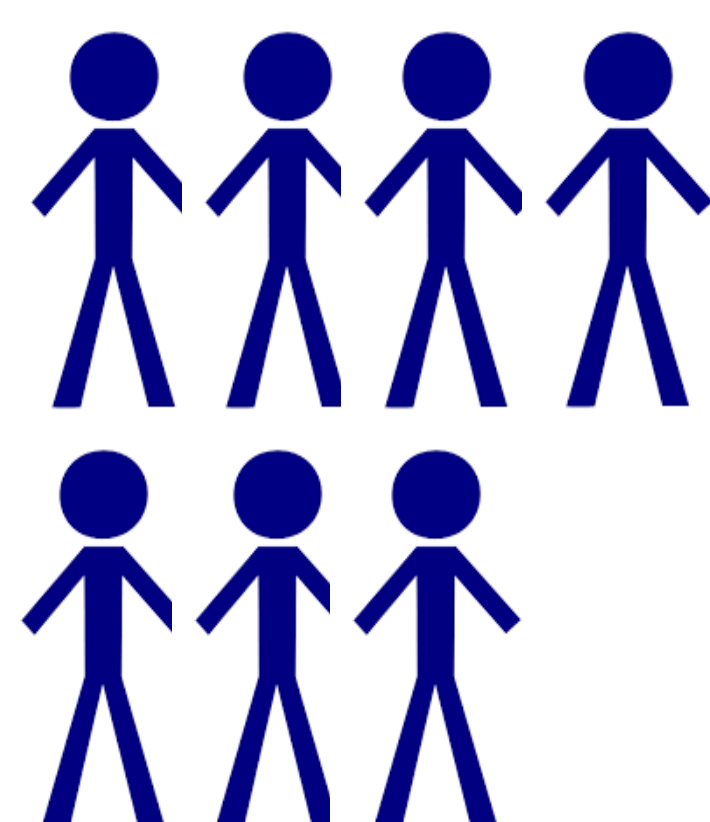
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Participants



Responses



Ages of Participants

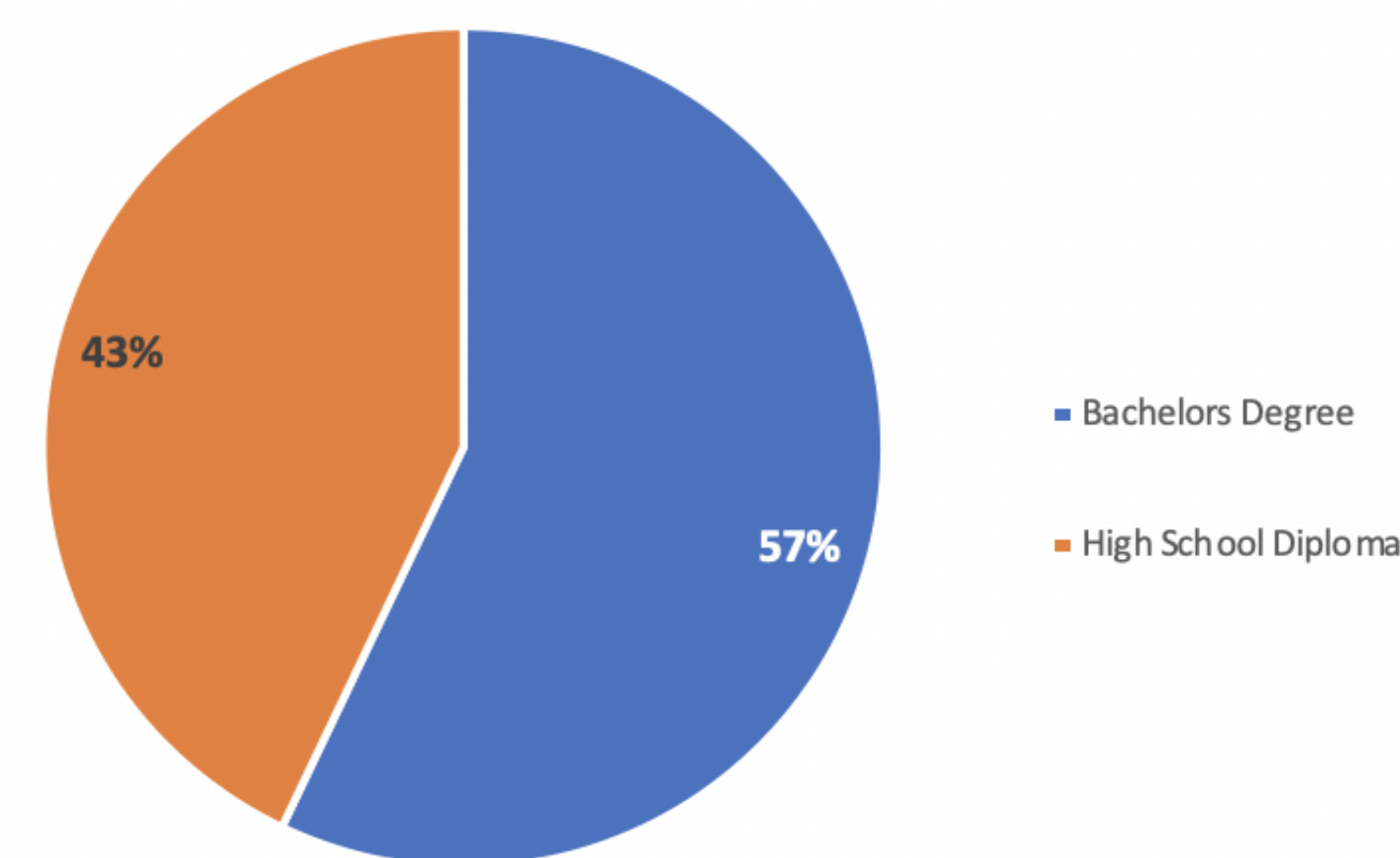
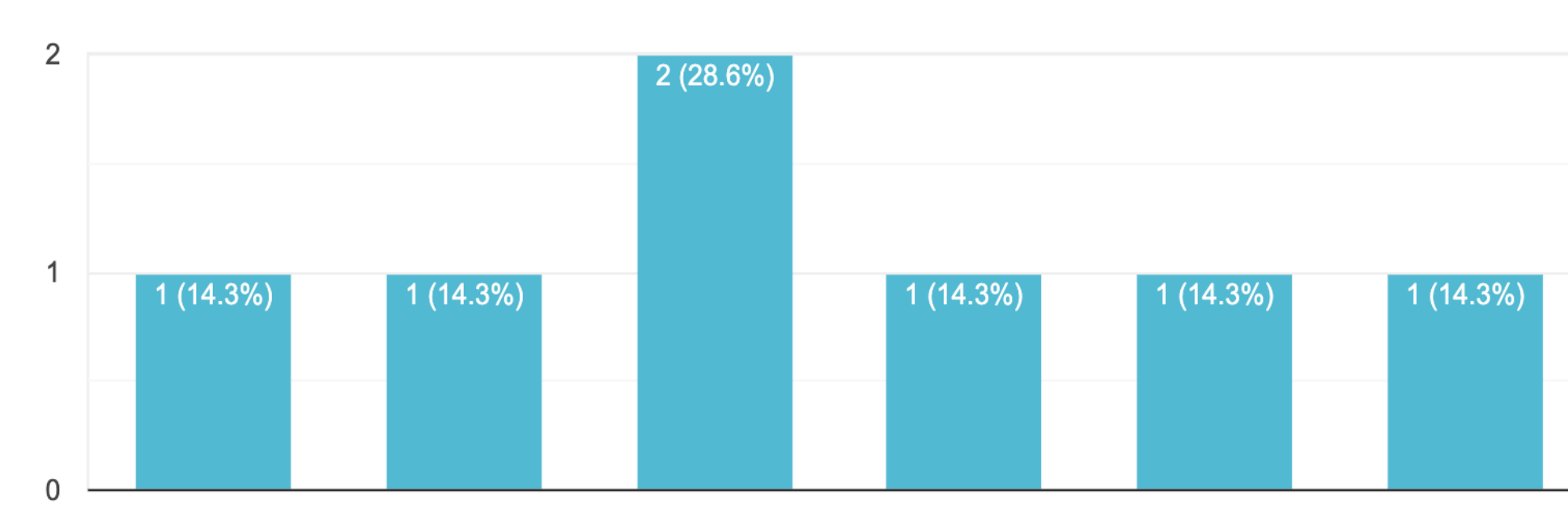


Figure 3. Advisees included those with bachelor's degrees (57.1%) and high school diplomas (42.9%).

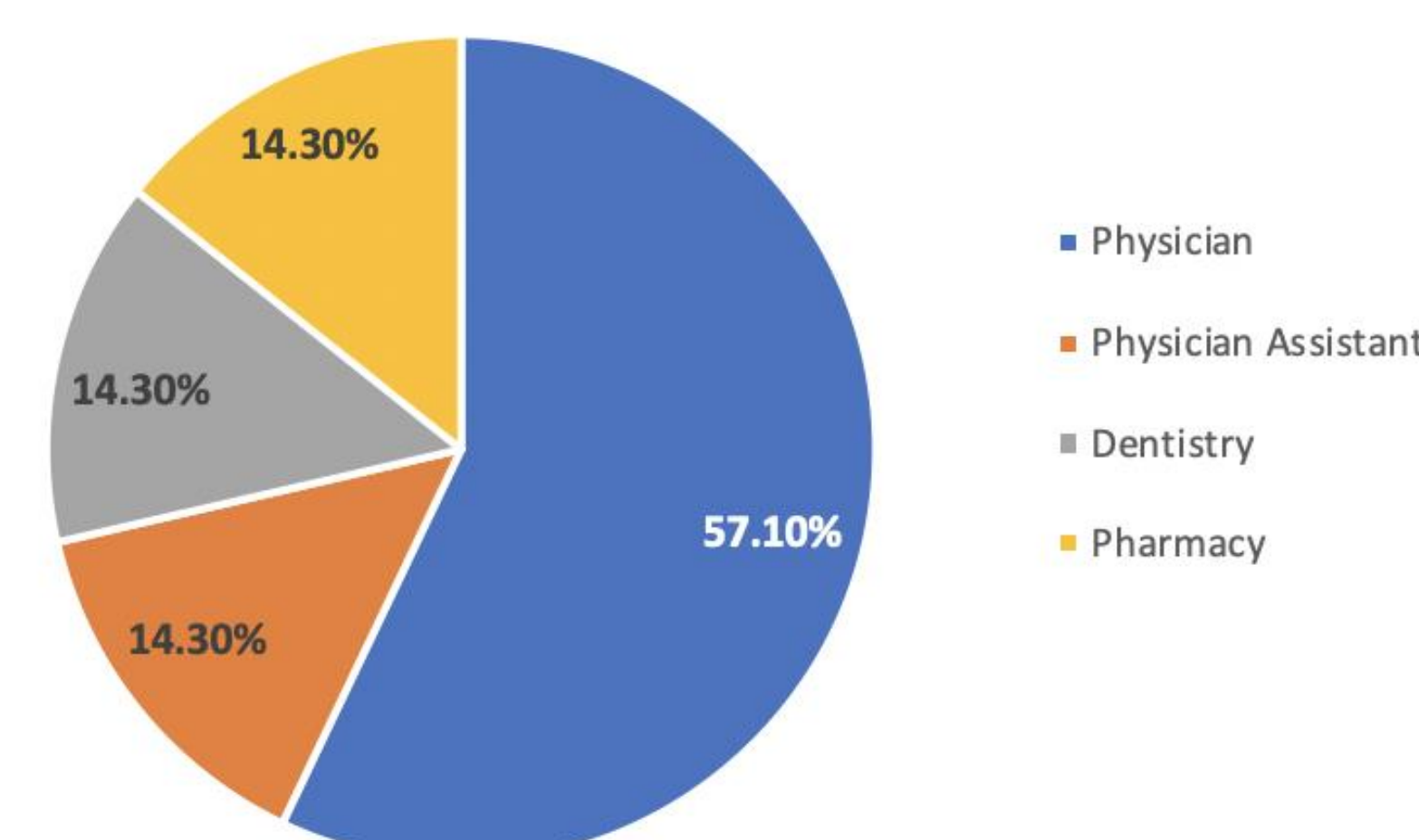
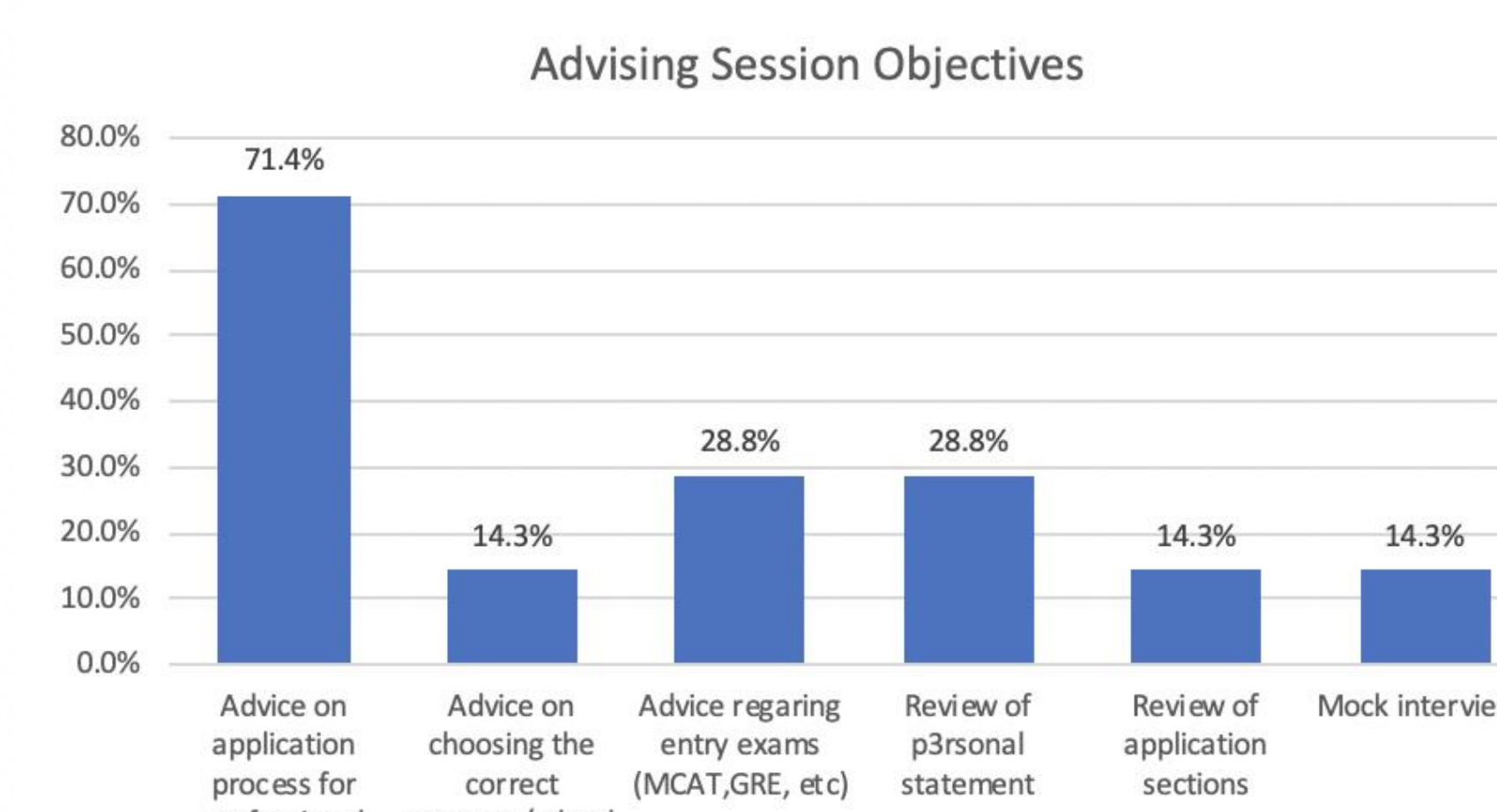


Figure 1. Healthcare interests among participants at the time of their advising session.

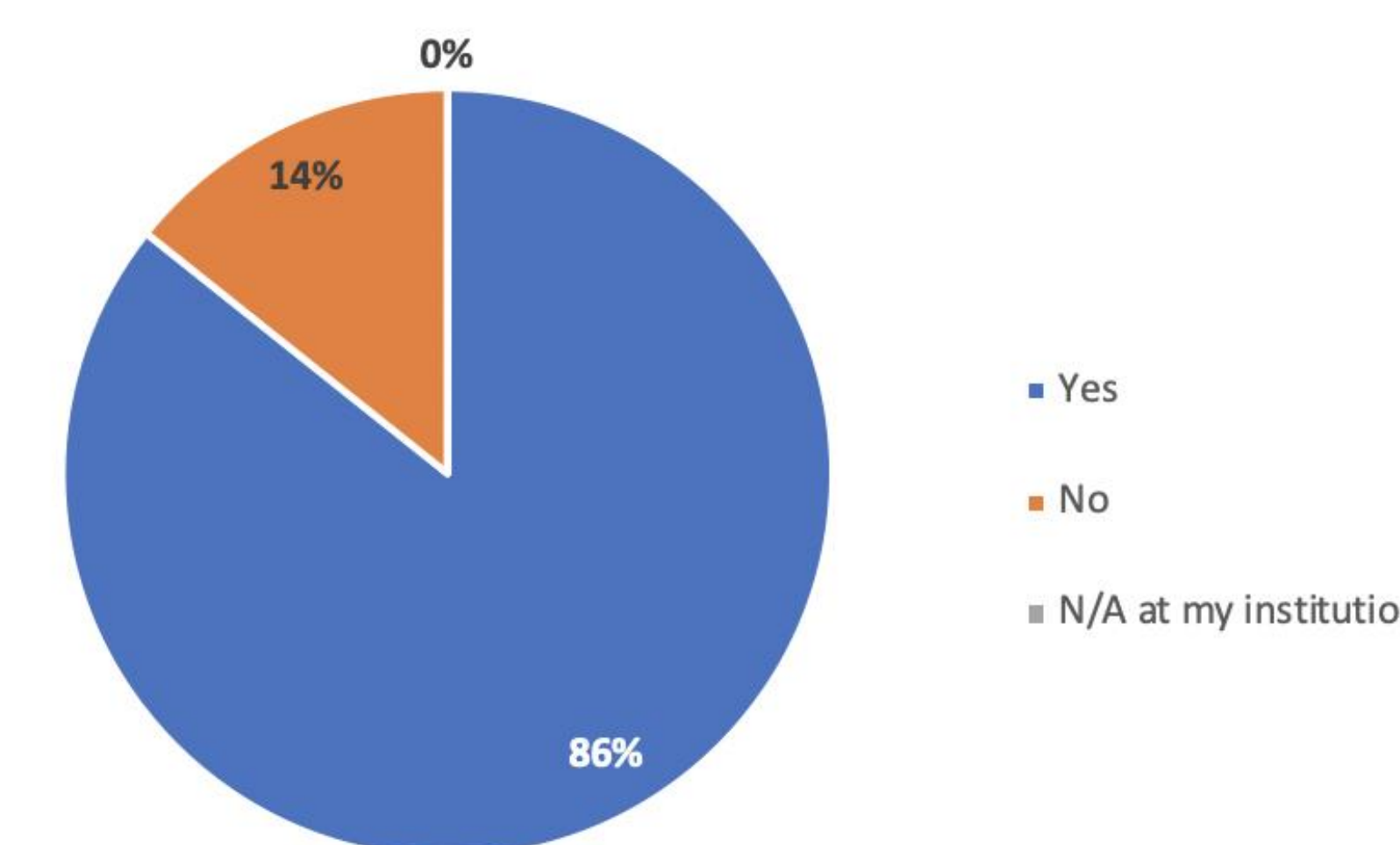


Figure 2. Participants indicated if they had been a member in a pre-health track at their undergraduate institution.



