

The Junior Healthcare Leaders of Alabama

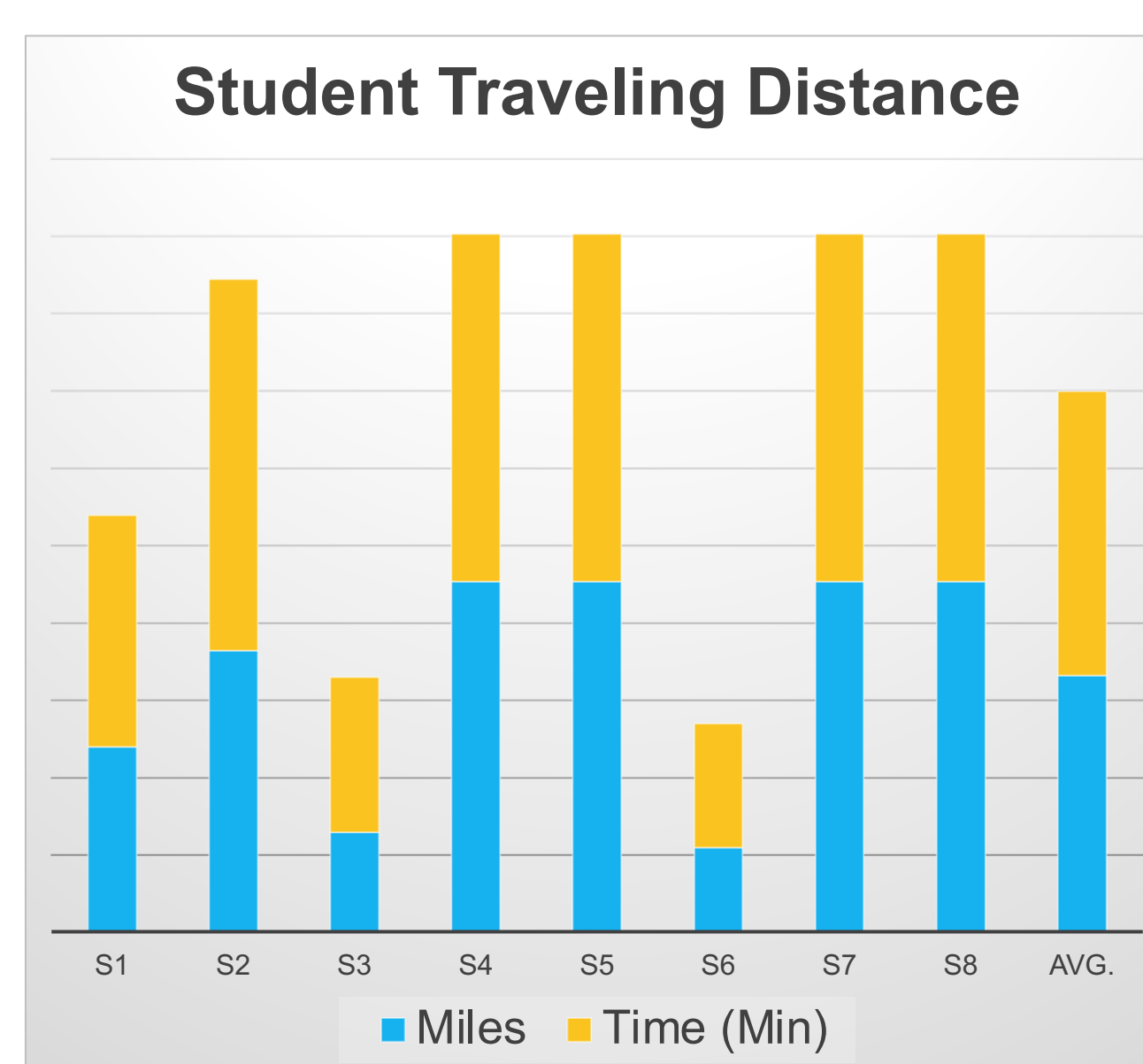
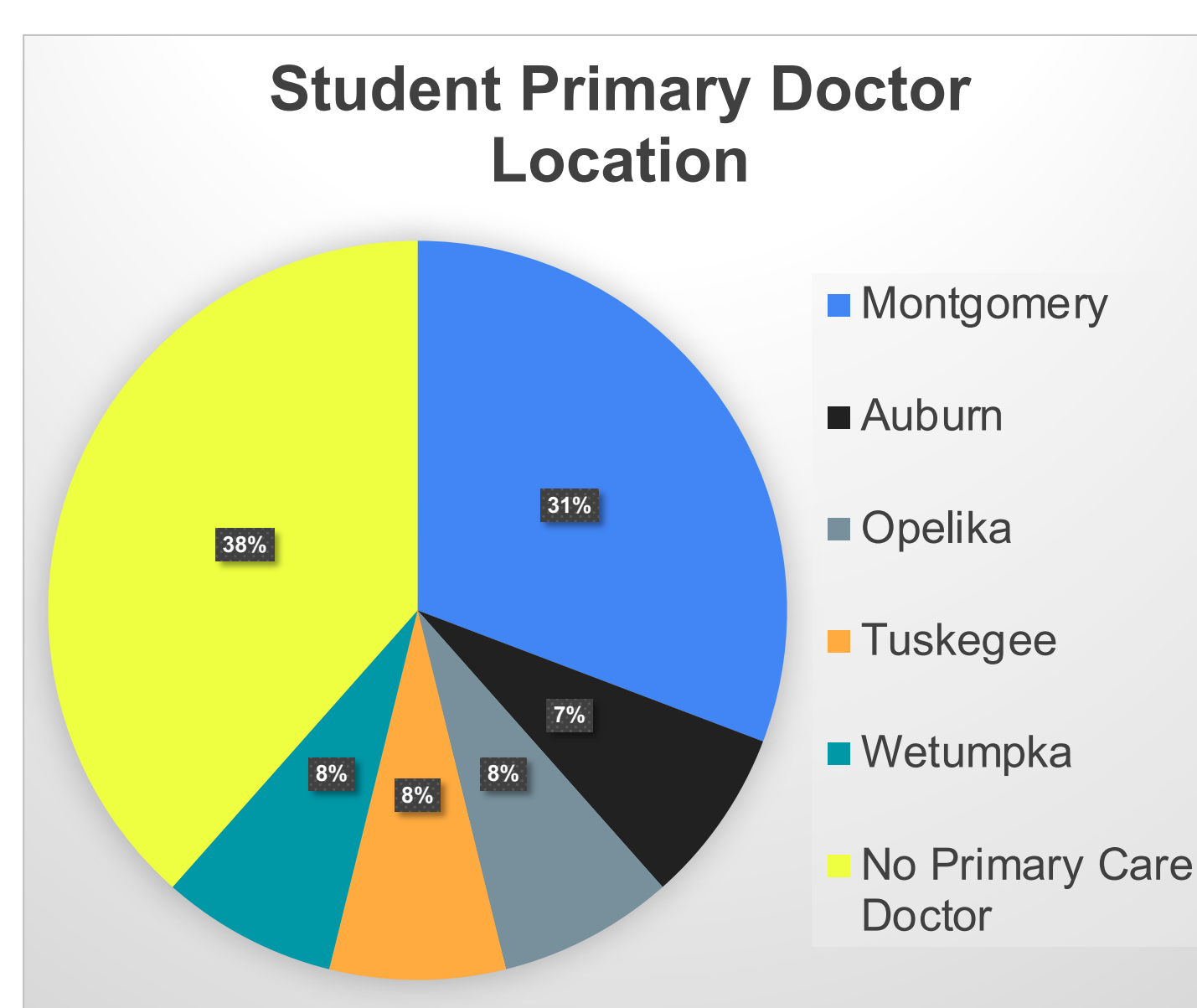
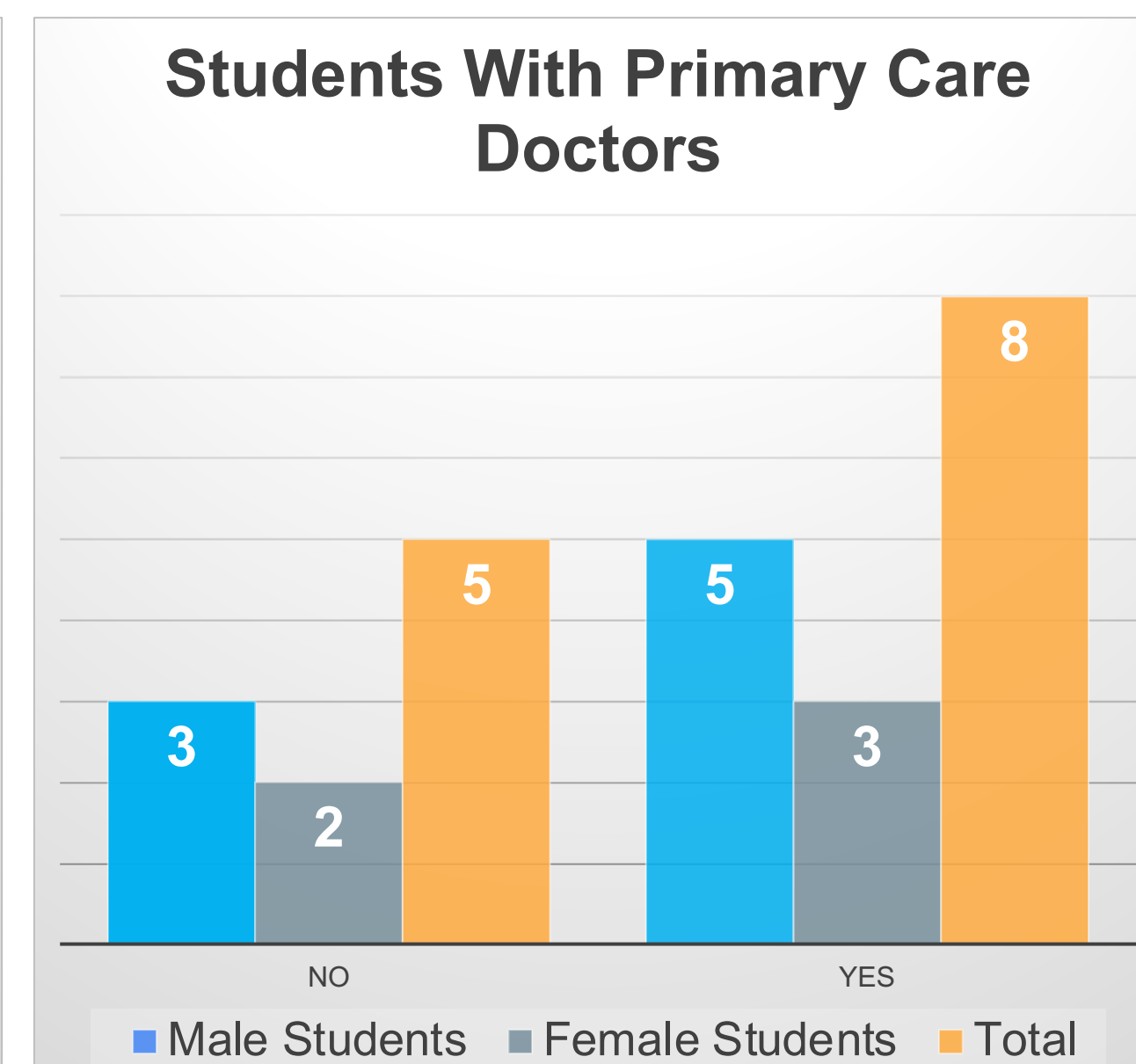
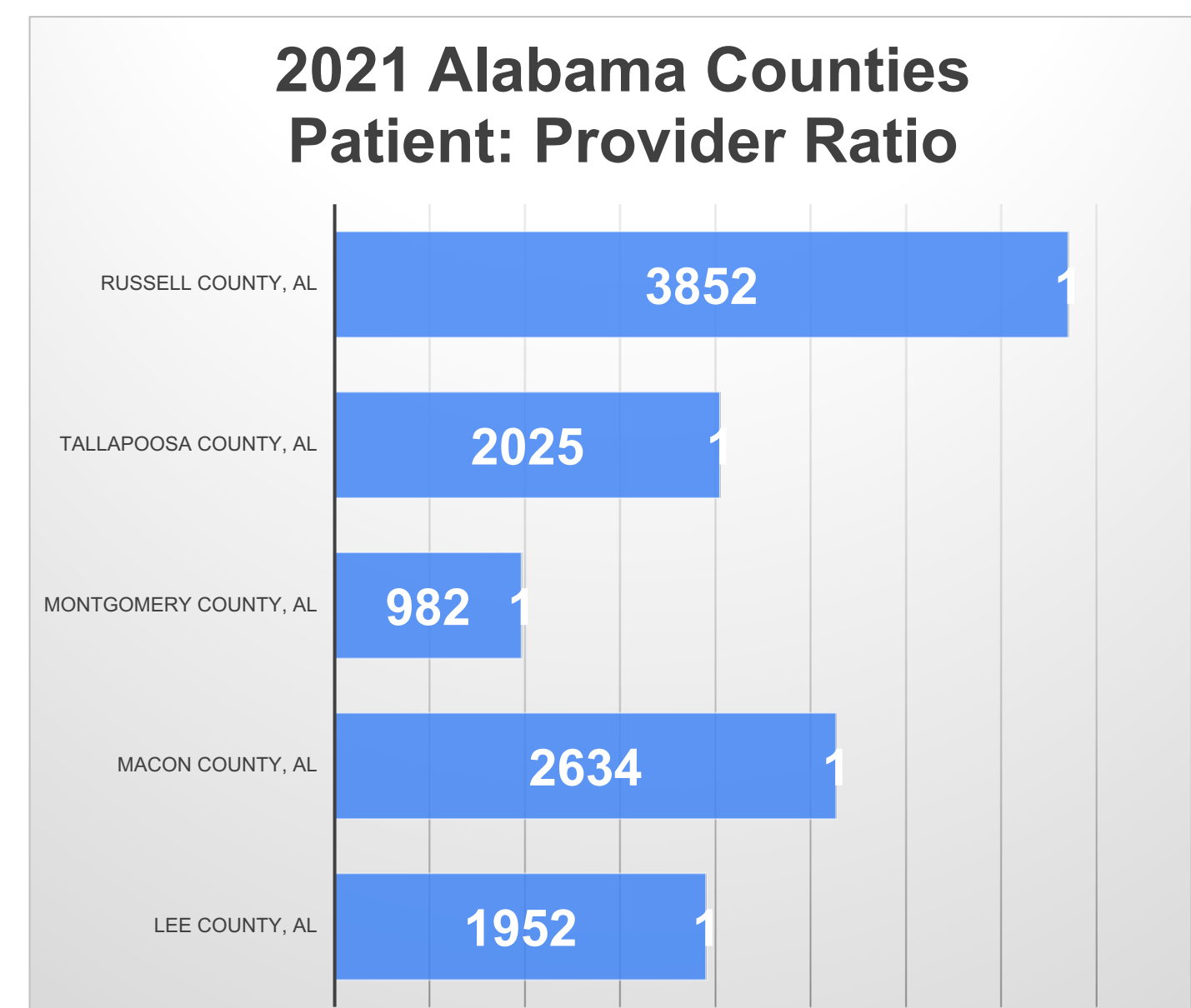
Chigozie Chinakwe & Micah Grey

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama; The Harrison College of Pharmacy; & Notasulga High School 21st CCLC



Background

Upon investigation, a trend was noticed where rural areas in Alabama generally have a lower literacy rate, limited access to a healthcare provider, and limited access to a reliable broadband source. Because of this, residents and patients have little access to health literacy resources which heavily contribute to negative health outcomes that are prevalent within these rural areas. With Notasulga High School, located in Notasulga, Alabama, being the target site of the initiative, it's been documented that health literacy, broadband infrastructure, traveling distance, and other social determinants act as health barriers within this community.



Introduction

The Junior Healthcare Leaders of Alabama's (JHLA) initiative focuses on increasing health literacy within adolescents in the rural Alabama community of Notasulga. The goal is to establish health equity through the practice of health information comprehension and career readiness. Throughout the year, student participants were engaged in active learning and were provided the foundational knowledge needed in order to understand disease states that commonly lead to mortality within the state of Alabama.

Logic Model

Inputs

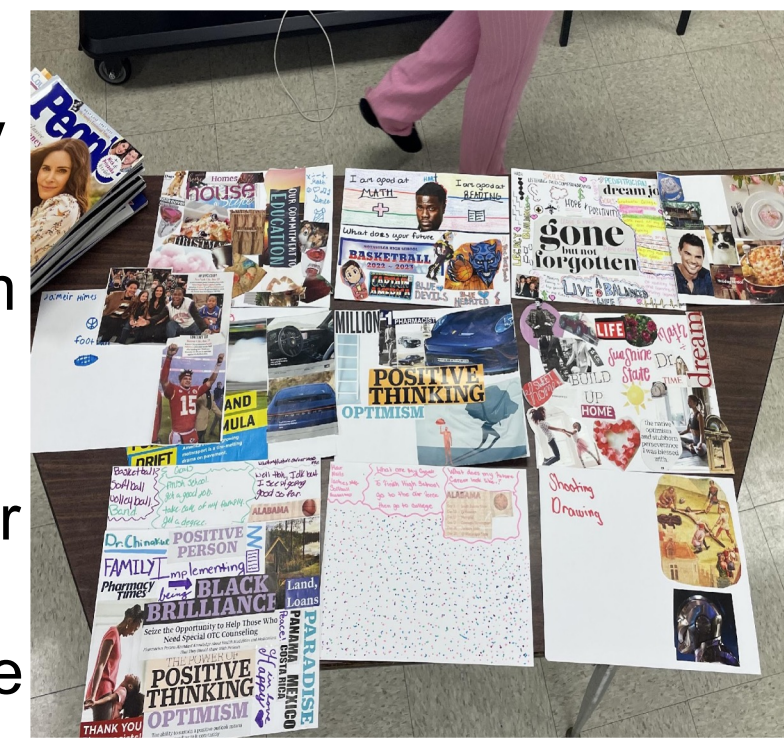
The inputs of the initiative included funding from the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Alabama and Walmart Incorporated to purchase needed materials; Partnership with Macon County School District and Blue Devil N.A.T.I.O.N. 21st CCLC and Notasulga High School for facility use and participant pool; and Volunteer instructors from the Harrison College of Pharmacy.

Activities

The primary activities of the initiative consist of biweekly learning sessions with an average duration of 3 hours. The first hour and a half embraces the active learning experience, promotion of emotional intelligence, and an incentive system, while providing customized health information material to students. The remaining time focuses on recreation and relationship building with the students.



Volunteer instructor, Joy Massey & JHLA Program Director Joi Chinakwe creating career and life vision boards with the students!



Program participant, Amariyana Law showing off her affirmation jar after a lesson led by ASF Fellow Kiara Anderson



Outputs

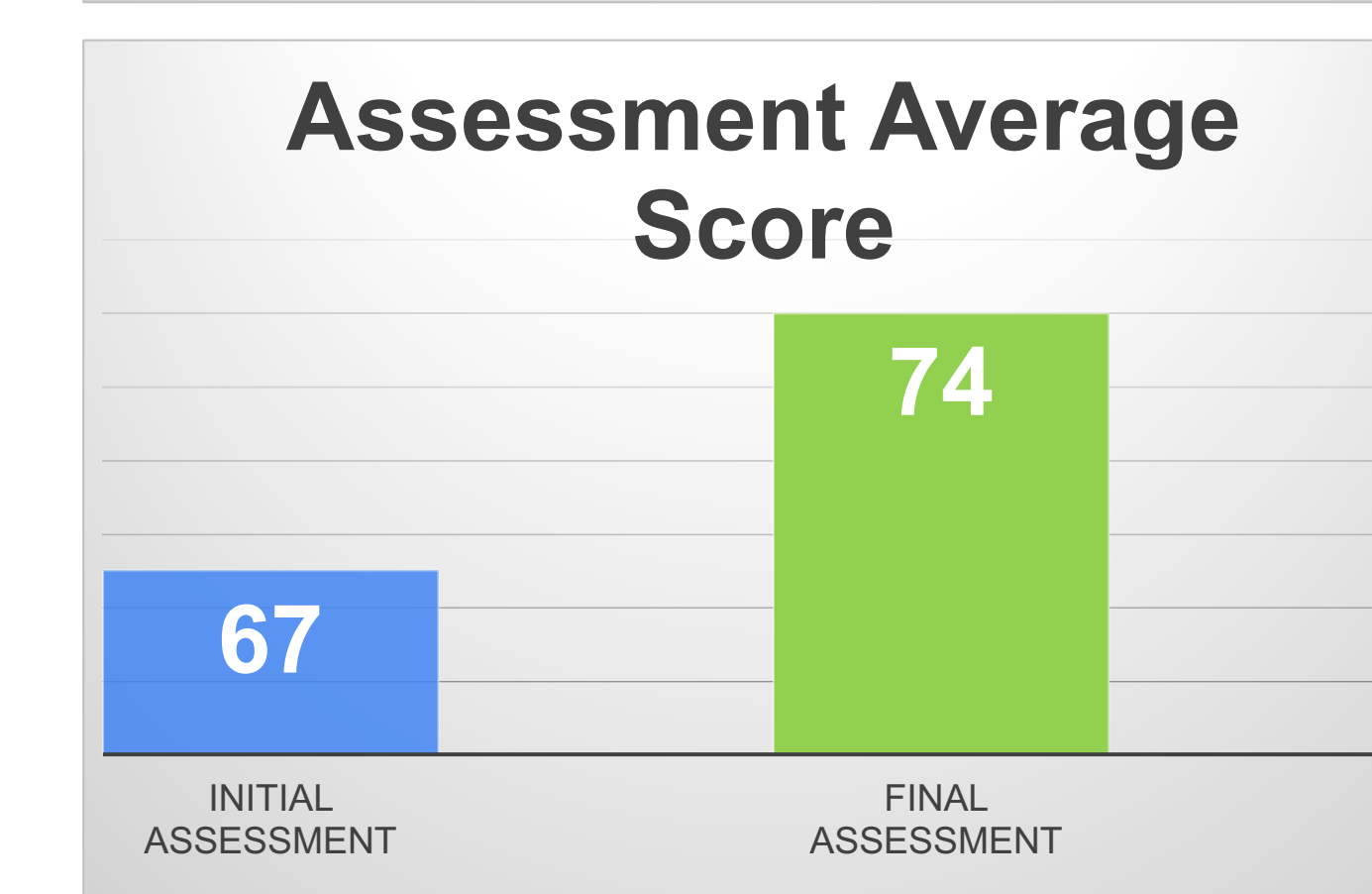
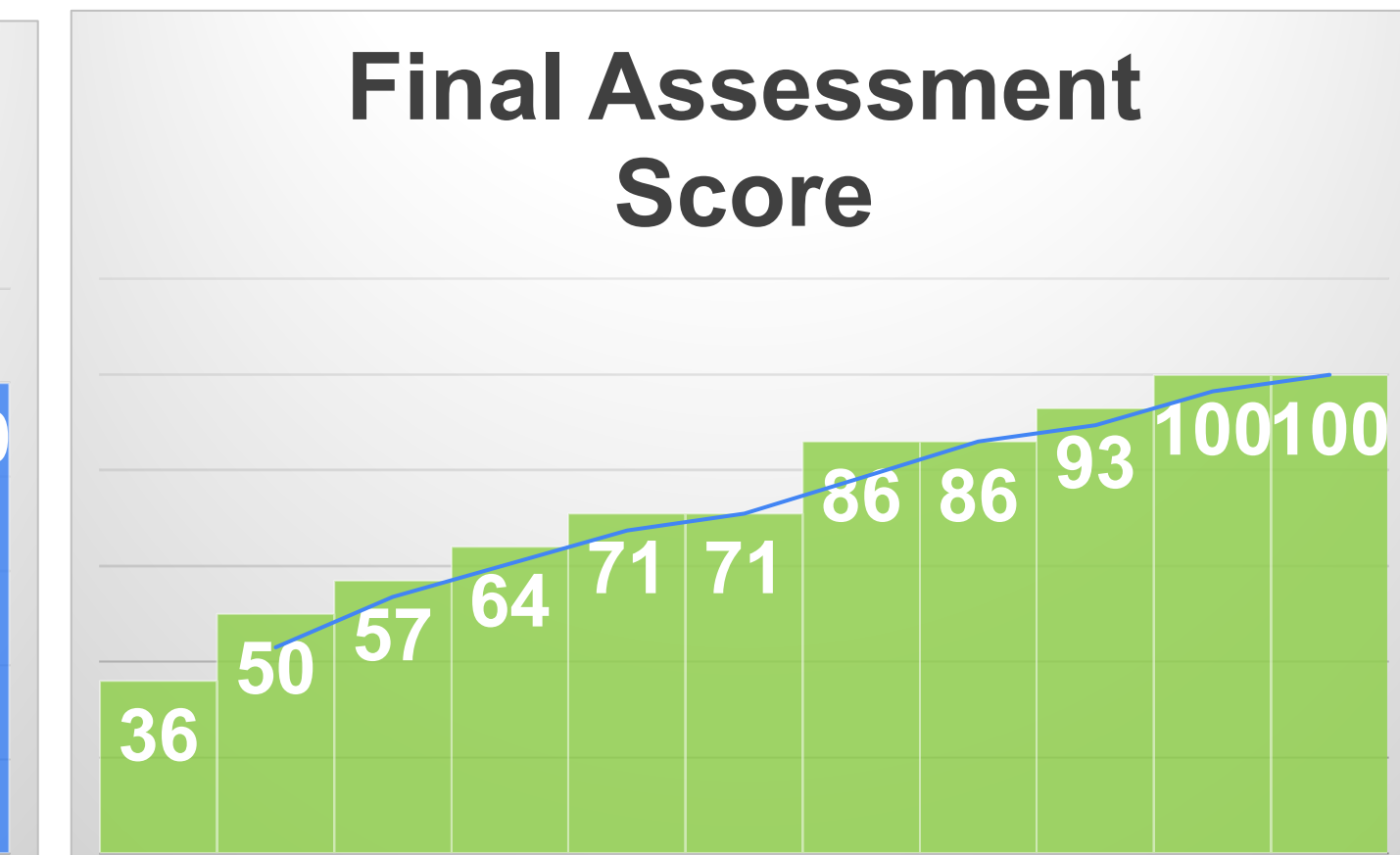
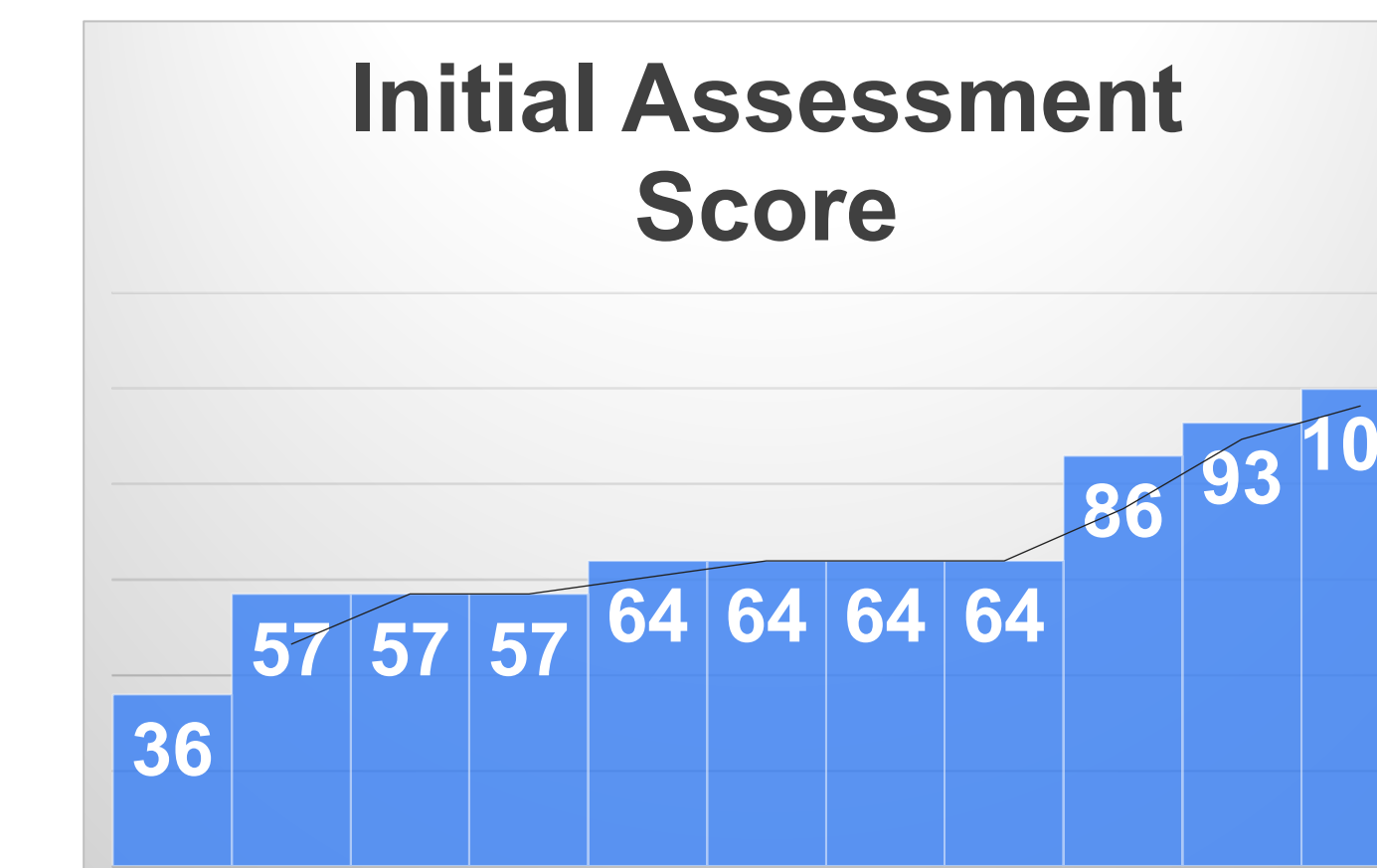
The focal output of this initiative are the thirteen students at Notasulga High School who participated and completed the program. Upon their completion of twenty learning sessions, participants will be eligible to commemorate their accomplishments with a white coat ceremony held in their honor.

Outcomes

The primary outcome of the JHLA initiative is to develop the overall comprehension and understanding of health information in adolescents. The secondary outcomes of the JHLA initiative are to provide career readiness and develop the emotional intelligence of our participants.

Impact

The health literacy of our students increased by 10.4% based on the results from a knowledge-based assessment and survey given before and after JHLA's intervention. The sustainability plan for JHLA is currently in the works. Our long term plan is to implement three chapters of the program: a collegiate chapter, a junior chapter, and a senior chapter. We are now in stage one of implementing a collegiate chapter of the program to where we can hopefully become a campus organization.



Critical Assessment

Some barriers that were encountered pertained to communication and project site relocation. There was a barrier of communication between the original planned project site and our initiative, causing us to pivot and partner with a new organization and location site. This ultimately caused a initial delay in the program start date, and delayed the start of our curriculum material. We have learned that creating health equity within a community not only requires time and a plan, but it also requires a heart that is open to creating relationships first and the patience to build bonds within the community next.

Acknowledgements

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