

# Health Equity and Criminal Justice: Student and alumni feedback on the development of a new MPH concentration

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# **Disclosure Statement**

**The authors have no  
relevant financial  
relationships with any  
commercial interest to  
disclose.**

# Presentation Outline

1

## **Criminal Justice and Public Health**

Frame Mass incarceration as a public health issue

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## **Developing the HECJ Concentration**

Explain the process for developing the Health Equity and Criminal Justice (HECJ) concentration

2

## **Touro University California (TUC) Public Health Program**

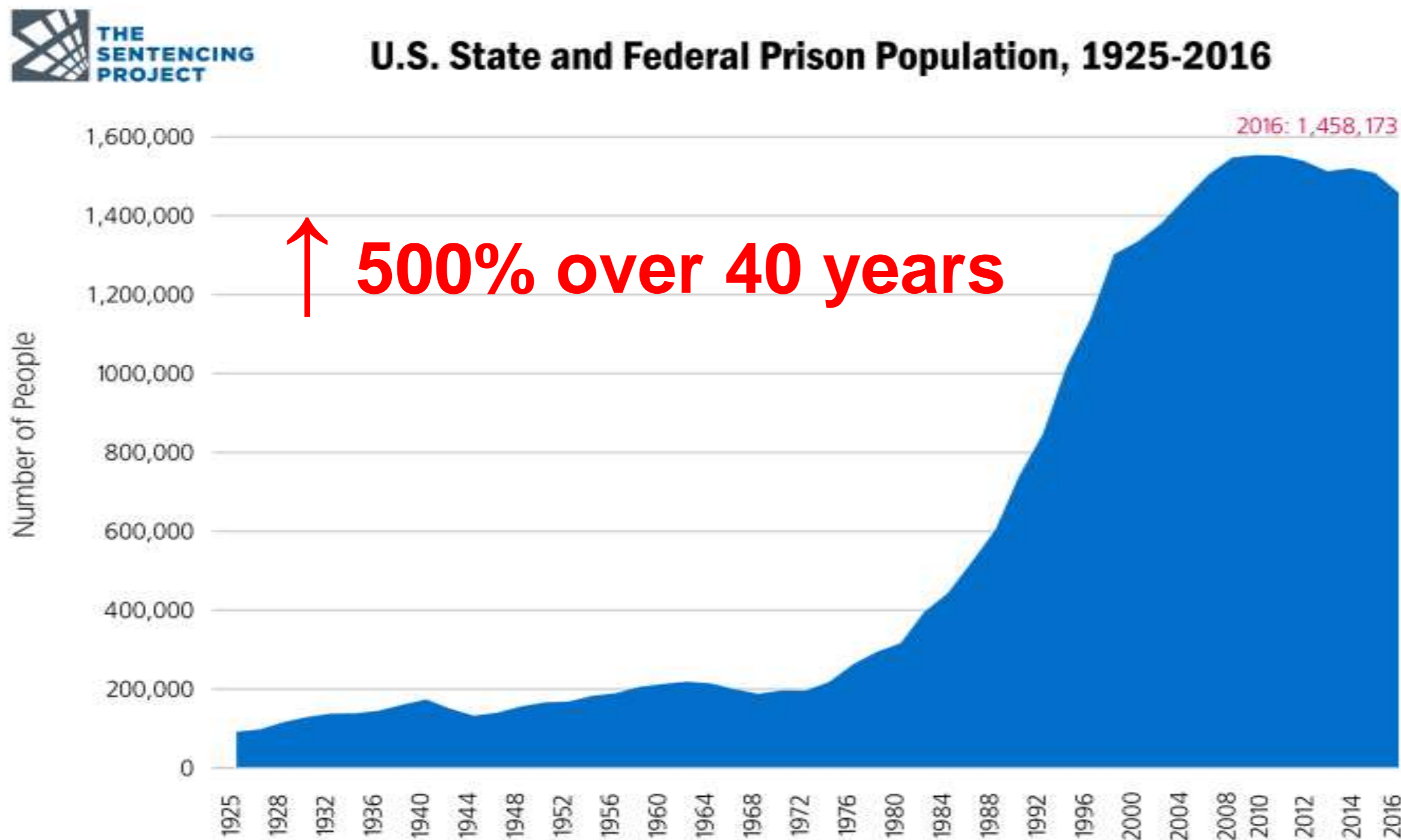
Describe our Public Health Program offerings and mission

4

## **Needs Assessment**

Highlight results from a needs assessment among students/alumni

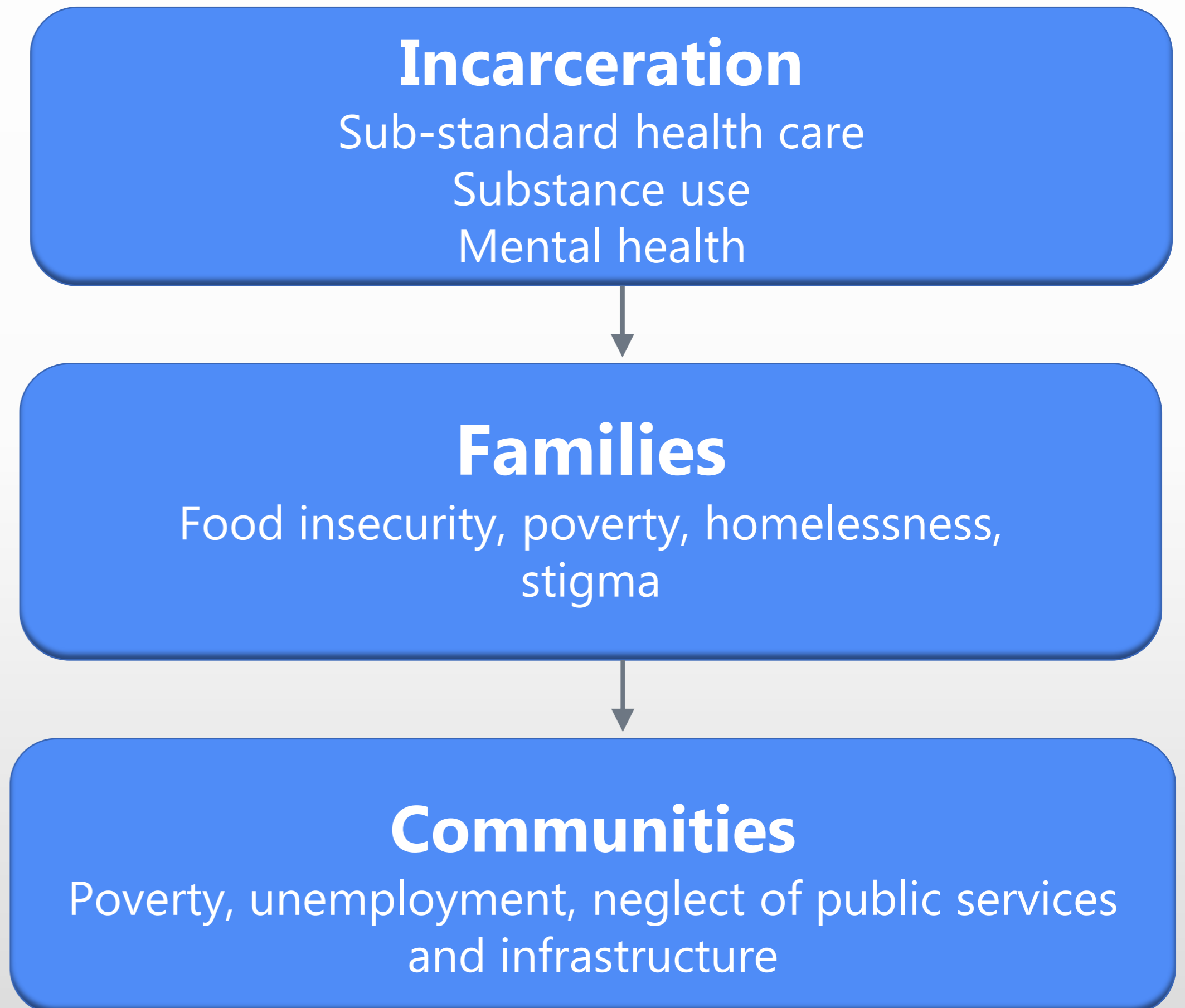
# Background



People of color are disproportionately impacted

# Mass Incarceration Is A Public Health Issue

- US incarcerates more than any other nation
- 600,000 people are released each year, and 5 million are on parole or probation
- 79 million (1 in 4) Americans have a record
- **Pervasive systemic racism** plagues the U.S. criminal justice system
  - Economic, medical, and social burdens on **African American & Latinx** individuals, families, and communities.



# Touro University California

## Master in Public Health Program



### Dual DO/MPH

Doctor of Osteopathic  
Medicine/MPH

### Dual PharmD/MPH

Doctor of Pharmacy/MPH

### Joint MSPAS/MPH

Master in Physician  
Assistant Studies/MPH

### Independent MPH

Master in Public Health

*Our mission is to promote the health and well being of local and global communities through education, service, and research with a focus on underserved populations.*

**GOAL: Develop an innovative MPH concentration centered around the impacts of incarceration on individuals, families and communities.**

**AIM: To infuse criminal justice education focused on prevention, correctional health and reentry into a Public Health framework and curriculum.**

# HECJ Concentration Development Timeline





# Survey Methods



## Cross-sectional

Anonymous, self-administered electronic survey



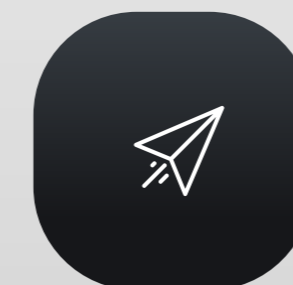
## Two versions of the survey

- Student and Alumni
- Community member and potential employers



## Distribution (October 2017)

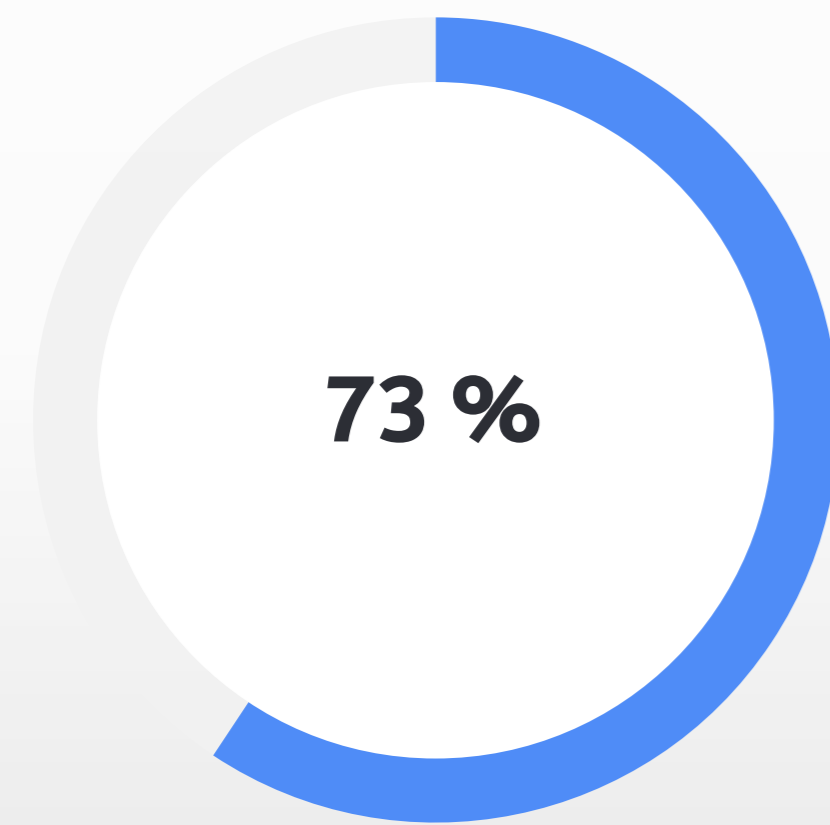
- Emailed to all students/alumni lists
- Posted to Facebook
- Posted to course websites



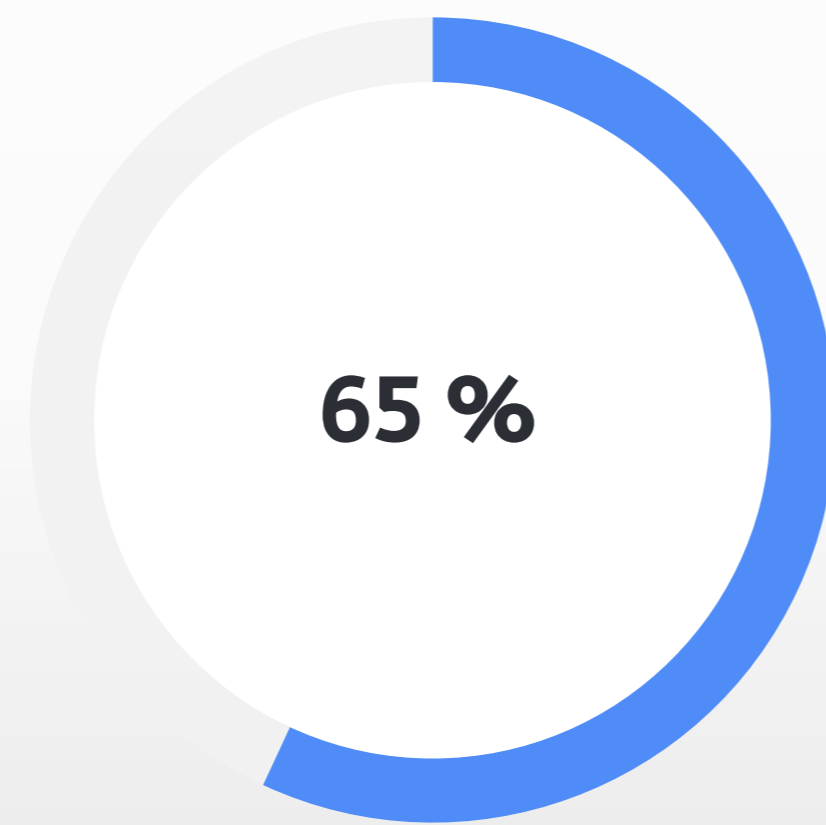
## Incentive

- \$50 Amazon gift card raffle

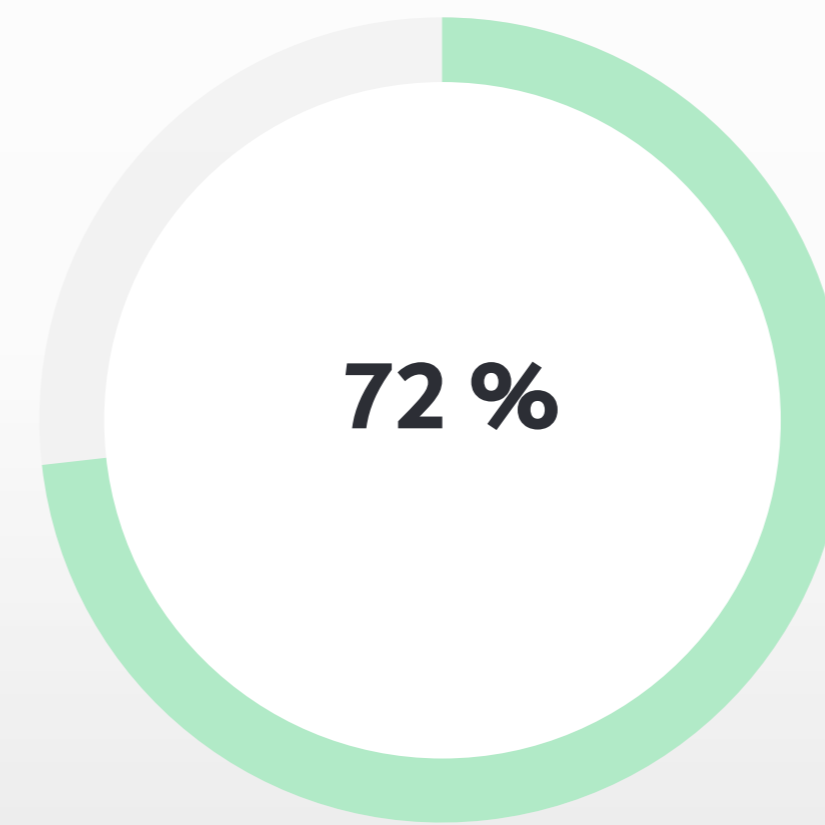
# Student and Alumni Survey Demographics (N=152)



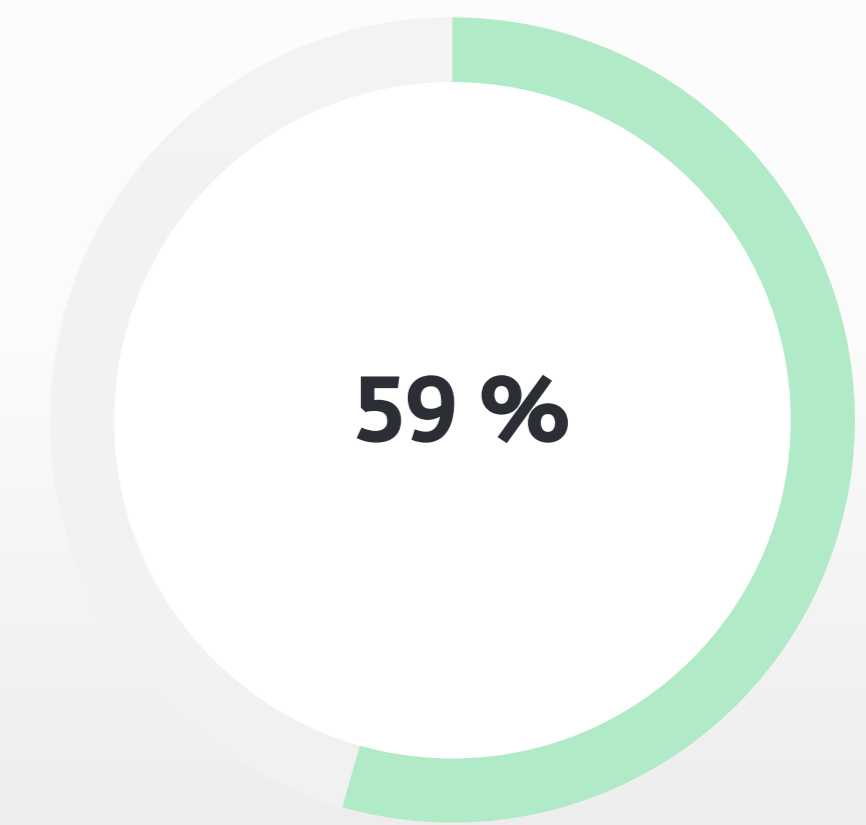
**“Female”**



**“Non-white”**

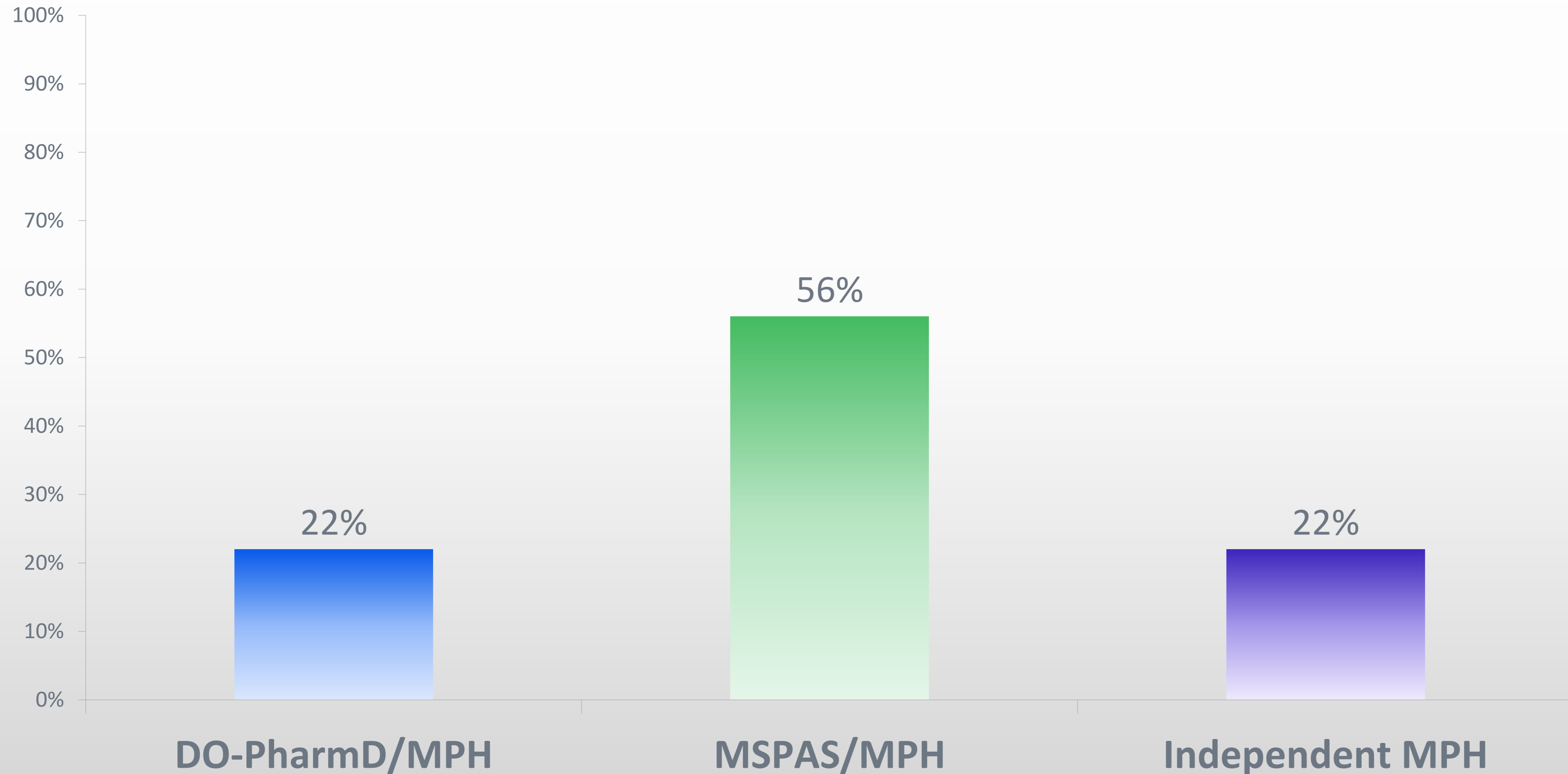


**Current Student**

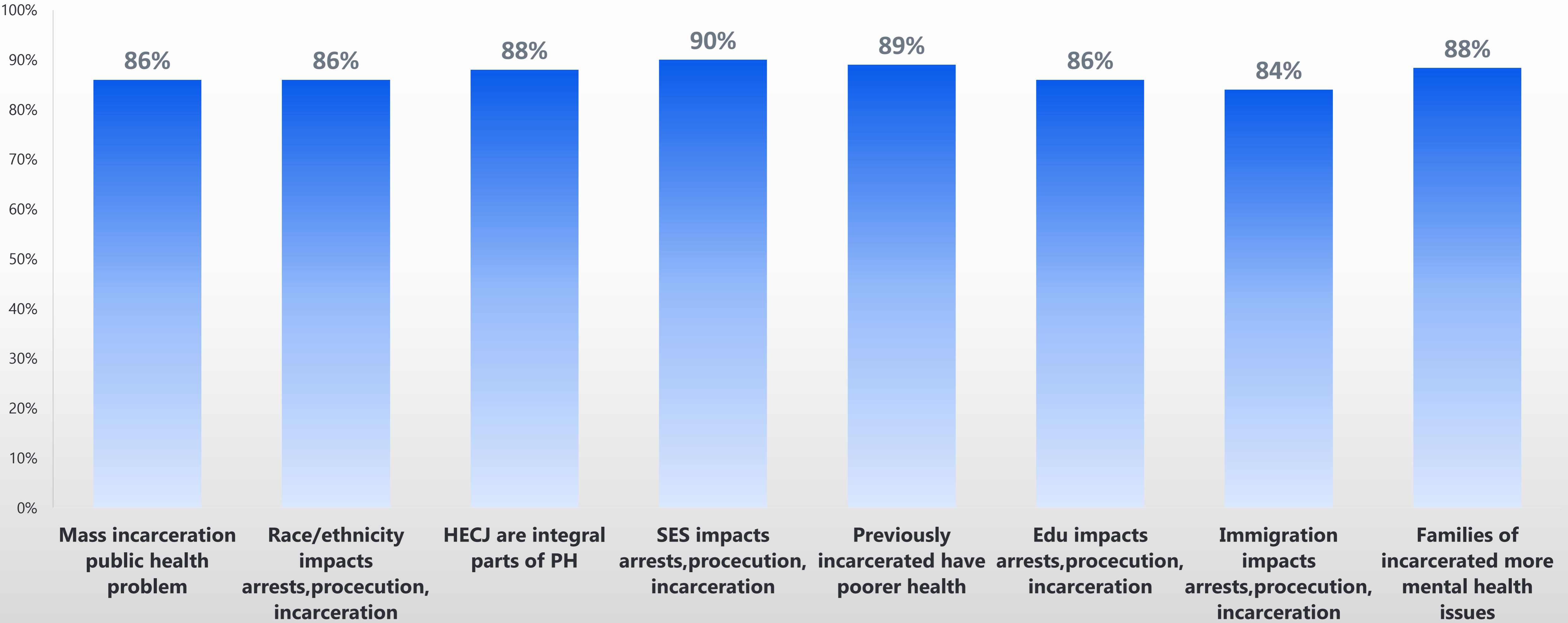


**Community Health  
Concentration**

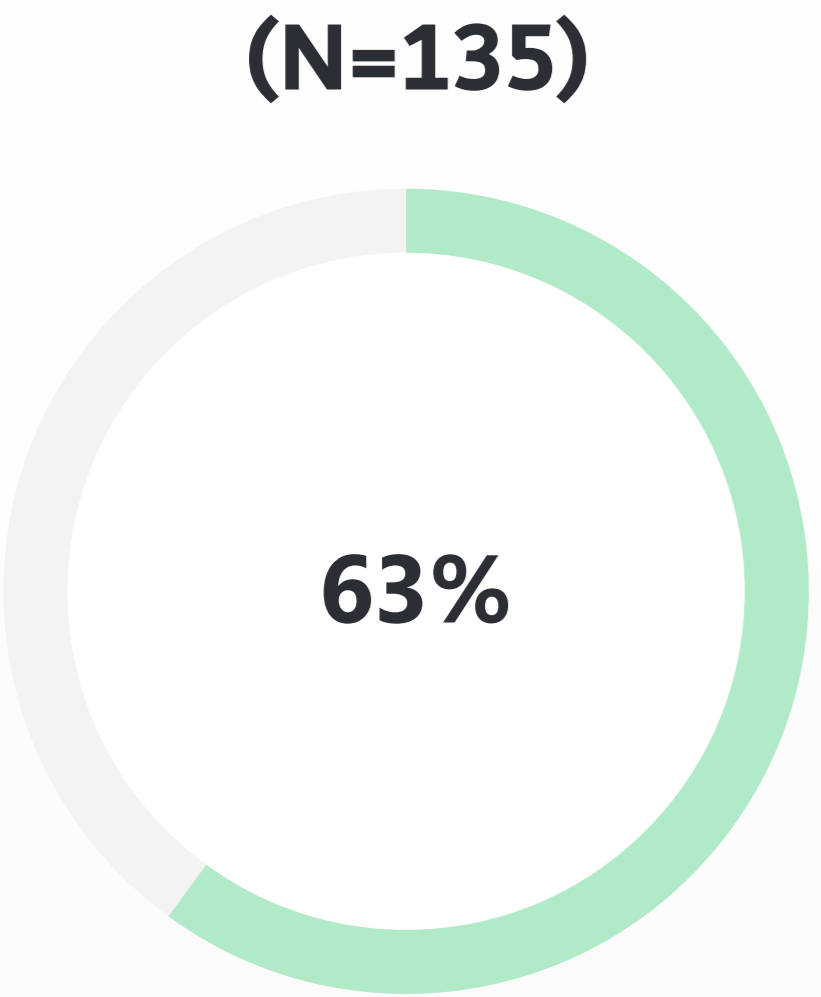
# Student and Alumni Program of Study (N=152)



# **(Strongly Agree/Agree) with statements about criminal justice and public health (N=131)**

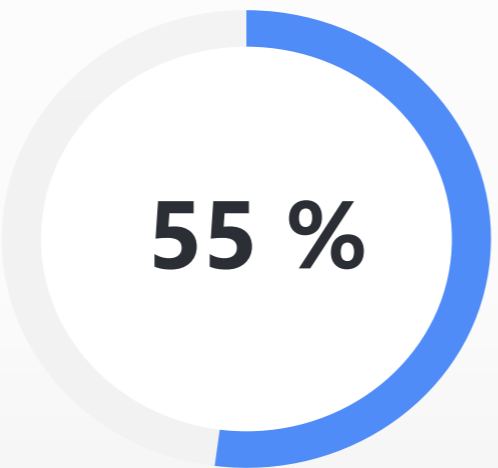


# HECJ Concentration Interest

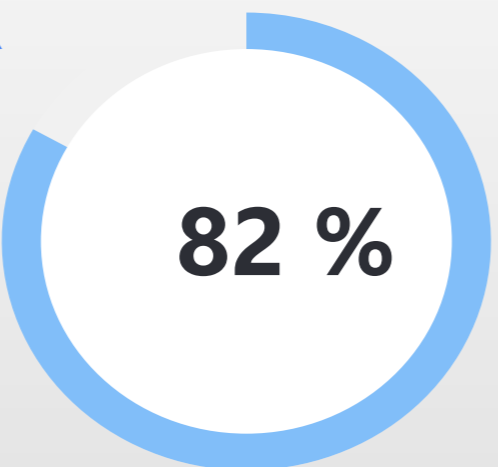


Would have been interested in the Concentration if it had been available

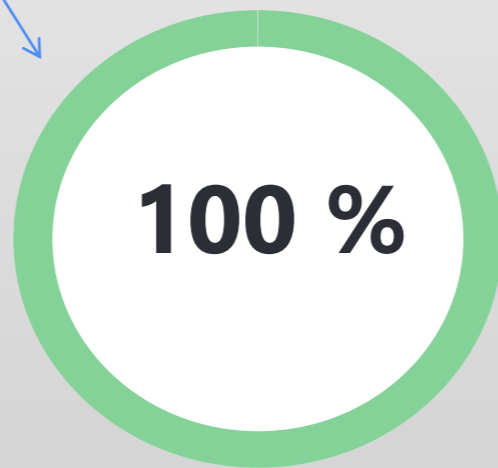
N=85



Would have been interested in a capstone focused on HECJ



Would have been interested in completing a HECJ field study



Think it is important/useful for TUC to have this HECJ concentration as part of the MPH Program

“Health equity is a central action theme of public health...the reason we do the work we do. Understanding powerful forces that impact health equity, such as criminal justice, is critical to being an effective public health leader.”

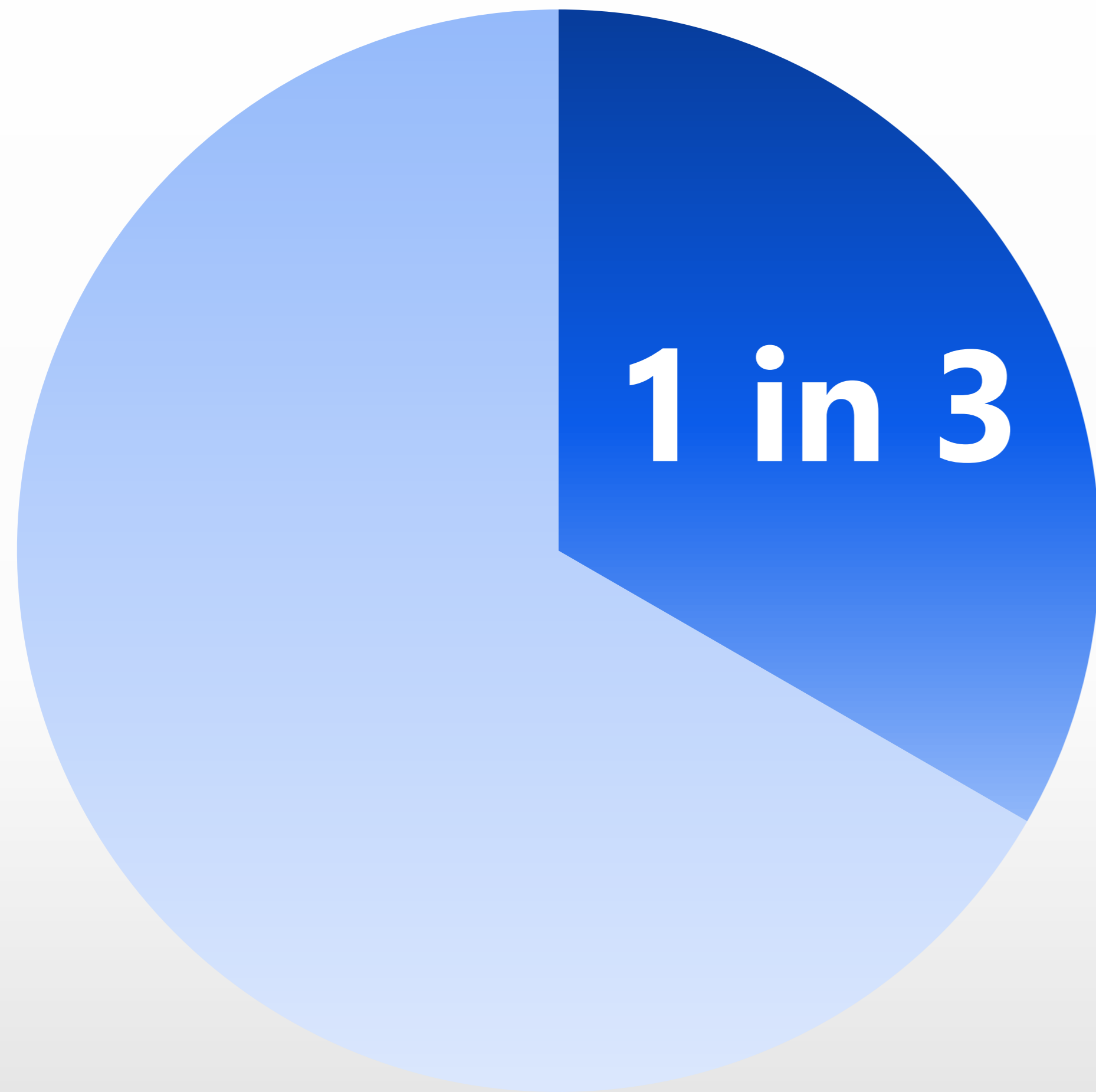
- Current Student, DO/MPH, Community Health Concentration

# Topics to cover in training students in HECJ

Topic	% Believed Important
Health of incarcerated individuals	86%
Incarceration impacts on families	85%
Incarceration impacts on communities	79%
School to Prison Pipeline	76%
Chronic Health Impacts of incarceration	75%

N=85

**Additional Topic Suggestions:** “social groups formed within prison and why”; “intersection of gender identity and incarceration”; “drug policy and public health alternatives to drug criminalization”; and “undocumented immigrants.”



# Personal or Professional Experience with Impacts of Mass Incarceration (N=145)

Family member (40%)

Patient (29%)

Work-related experience (16%)

# Conclusions

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- No other accredited US MPH program offers HECJ concentration
- No national standards for teaching health care workers about correctional health, and few clinical programs with related topics as part of the curriculum
- The HECJ concentration will fill an educational gap and provide a pedagogical model for training socially-conscious public health professionals to address the health impacts of the U.S incarceration epidemic



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**THANK YOU!**

