

INTRODUCTION

Racial/ethnic disparities in STEM/health careers persist, and racially minoritized youth, especially girls, often face bias in science education. **Hexacago Health Academy (HHA) 2.0 seeks to address these disparities.** HHA 2.0 is a social justice-based interactive educational intervention focused on increasing self-efficacy and outcome expectations among youth of color around entering into STEM/health careers.

CURRICULUM

The HHA 2.0 curriculum emphasizes experiential learning, game play, near-peer mentorship, analysis of real data, and asset-based approaches.

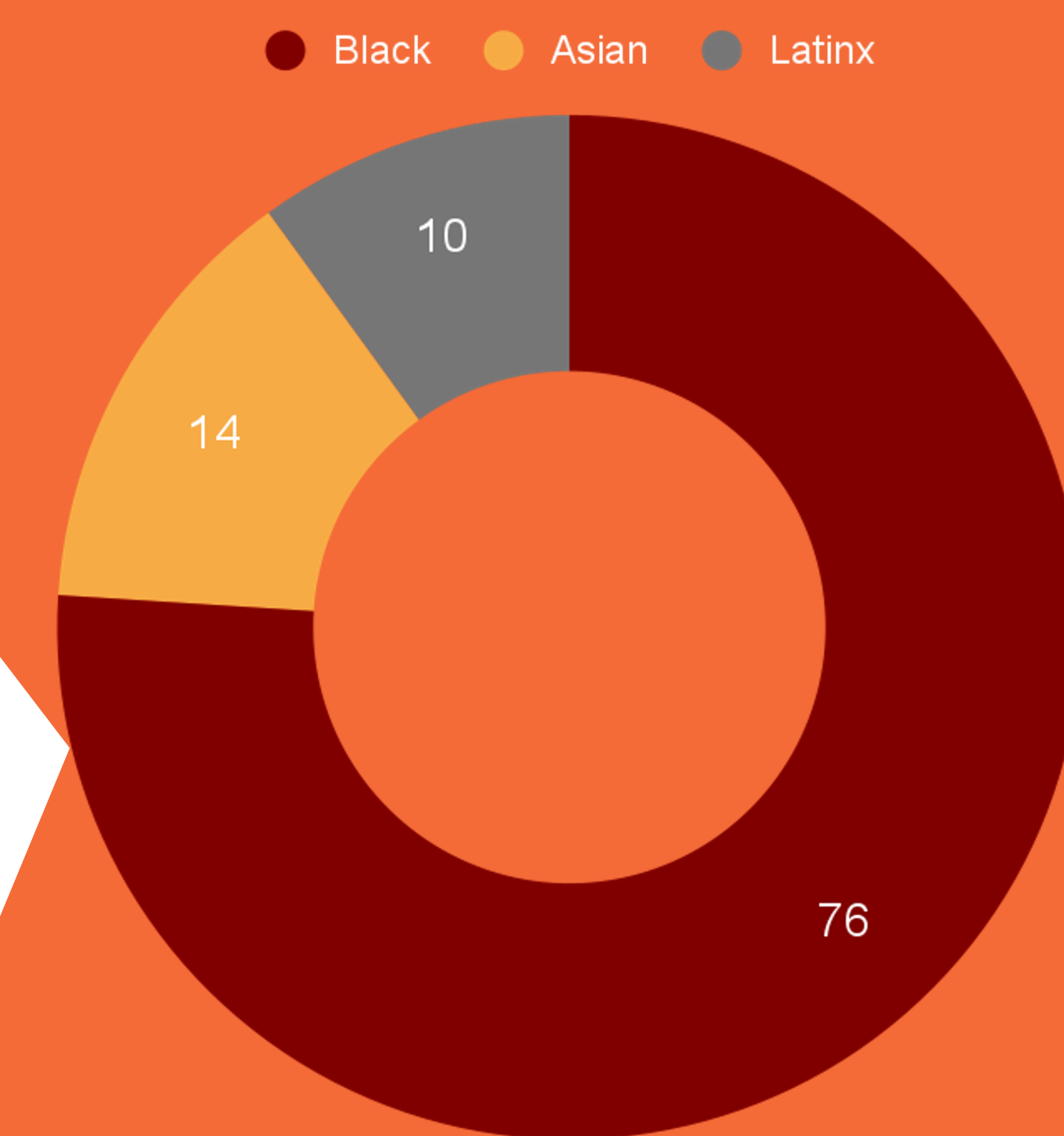
The summer 2021 program focused on two separate content areas – **HIV** and **Reproductive Justice**. Specific topics included:

HIV: cell biology, AIDS causative agent analysis, contact tracing

Reproductive Justice: debunking the preterm birth gene theory, the case of Henrietta Lacks, juvenile incarceration

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

73% female
(27% male)
mean age=16.45



Hexacago Health Academy 2.0: An interactive social justice science program to increase interest in STEM and health careers among youth of color

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MEASURES

Participants answered program evaluation questions immediately following the program and participated in qualitative focus groups regarding their experience.

CONCLUSION

Engaging, justice-focused science education has the potential to combat disparities in STEM/health.

RESULTS

QUALITATIVE QUANTITATIVE →

1) Science and Social Justice

"Normally, when I think about social justice, I don't really think about how that would relate to the science field. So this program was really eye opening about that."

2) Efficacy for STEM/health

"I believe participating in the activities, including the matching game and the lineage game really helped solidify my understanding, not only for just a health topic, but just also a stem career as well. It gave me a lot of support to know some further steps."

3) Peer Mentors as a Source of Support

"I really did like my peer mentor. I feel like my whole group connected with him, and he did make the whole experience a lot better."

4) Program Differed From School Settings

"Firstly, I think what stuck out to me the most is the way you guys approached educating us. I think the ways and strategies you guys did it, it really made the information stick with me longer than I thought it would've."

EvaluationProgram	% Agree
This program increased my interest in this field of study.	85.7
This program helped me clarify my future academic interests.	76.8
This program helped me clarify my future career interests.	78.6
This program helped me develop intellectual and critical thinking skills.	92.8
This program improved my ability to evaluate arguments.	87.5
I am confident in my ability to communicate scientific knowledge effectively.	89.3
The program increased my ability to collaborate and work in teams.	87.5
This program helped me develop intellectual skills (e.g., critical or creative thinking, quantitative reasoning, problem solving, etc.).	92.9
This program helped me develop professional skills (e.g., written or oral communication, computer literacy, teamwork, etc.).	83.9
This program enhance my sense of social responsibility.	87.5

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