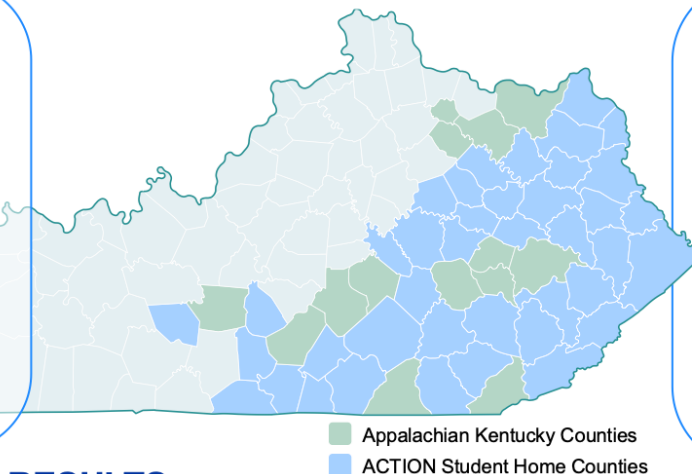


BACKGROUND

Kentucky has the highest overall cancer incidence rates and the second highest cancer mortality rates in the US with the highest burden localized to the Appalachian region of the state. Residents of Appalachian Kentucky experience other disparities such as high rates of poverty and low education attainment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify national rankings and overall cancer incidence and mortality rates as it relates to the state of Kentucky as well as the Appalachian region of the state.
- Describe key health behaviors and social determinants of health driving Kentucky's cancer disparities.
- Discuss the ACTION Program as it relates to addressing cancer disparities within Appalachian Kentucky and how a similar model may be utilized to address other populations' unique cancer disparities.



METHODS



High school

Monthly teaching sessions

5-week residential summer program



Undergraduate

Bi-weekly group meetings

Year-round programming

Research

Education

Clinical shadowing

Outreach

2 years of student engagement

RESULTS



High school

All ACTION high school students have graduated high school and **44 out of 48** graduates are attending college.



Undergraduate

- **\$150,000** in scholarships have been awarded since 2023.
- Co-authored **22** peer-reviewed publications.

Alumni Outcomes

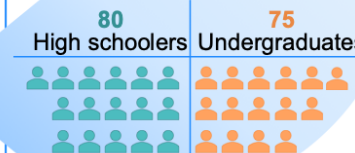
34 students
Medical School
(10 in residency)

4 students
Pharmacy School
(2 graduates)

1 PhD earned

4 students
Physician Assistant School
(3 graduates)

Since 2016, ACTION has engaged **155** students:



■ = 5 students

CONCLUSION

ACTION is a novel model for addressing Kentucky's unique cancer and education challenges and could be adapted to engage students in other community settings.



Above: 3 books published featuring 90 student essays and stories.
Below: 2 student examples from the ACTION photovoice project: an in-person exhibit that has been continuously exhibited since 2021.



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Scan to view an online version of the photovoice project