

IMPACT REPORT

2021 Virtual Forum for Migrant and Community Health



Recognizing Our Essential Workers.



OVERVIEW AND INPUTS

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the three Regional Stream Forums transformed into one consolidated training event, the 2021 Virtual Forum for Migrant and Community Health. The Virtual Forum (VF) was hosted and organized by the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (traditionally East Coast), the National Center for Farmworker Health (traditionally Midwest) and the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (traditionally West Coast).

Together the host organizations convened a Planning Committee composed of health center staff, representatives from the Farmworker Health Network, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and academia to assist in the selection of the educational content of the VF. In close partnership with HRSA, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) and the Office of Quality Improvement/Strategic Partnerships Division, the Planning Committee worked to address priority areas for workforce development of health center staff to achieve quality of care and reduce the health disparities experienced by the populations served, including migrant and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAW) and their families and other special and vulnerable populations. The forum content addressed HRSA's 2021 Overarching Priorities for the Regional Stream Forums including a variety of intensive and educational sessions on mental health, opioid and other substance use disorders, diabetes and chronic disease management, maternal health, emergency preparedness, occupational health and safety, social determinants of health, health equity, clinical workforce development, value-based care, ending the HIV pandemic, intimate partner violence, enabling services, telehealth, culturally-competent services, building collaborations and partnerships, and increasing access to care for agricultural workers and their families. In light of the pandemic, the Virtual Forum also addressed the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the updates on the COVID-19 response for Agricultural Workers and best practices from the field to mitigate exposure.

The VF offered a multi-track program featuring sessions related to agricultural worker health. Track names included: data and farmworker research, agricultural communities, emergency response, social determinants of health, diabetes and wellness, innovative integration, policy and environment, mental wellness, innovative partnerships, and Community Health Workers (CHW) and Promotorxs. The educational content of the sessions was developed specifically to address the training needs of a diverse workforce population including clinicians, health educators, outreach workers, social workers, researchers, administrators, and board members. All educational sessions were submitted for CEU approval with varying accrediting institutions to provide educational credits in the professional areas of medicine, nursing, health education, social work, and community health work.

The virtual format allowed for communities across the country to come together to learn, share ideas, and connect with each other like never before. The VF included opportunities to hear from important leaders through open plenaries, as well as breakout sessions for smaller groups. Being virtual, attendees were able to chat during the presentation, ask questions through the Q&A, and have immediate access to online resources. The VF also featured two follow up webinars in May that built on attendees' initial feedback and needs collected during the Forum: Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence: Communication Tips and Strategies presented by Robyn Correll, MPH, CHWI, Adjuvant Media; and Integrated Care: Honoring Indigenous Leadership in Farmworker Communities, Part Two presented by Mario Ivan Banelos, Latino Community Fund; Antonio Flores Quin, General Coordinator of Ireta P'urhpecha and Community Navigator, King County Health Department; Gloria Ramirez, Community Navigator.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

OUTPUTS

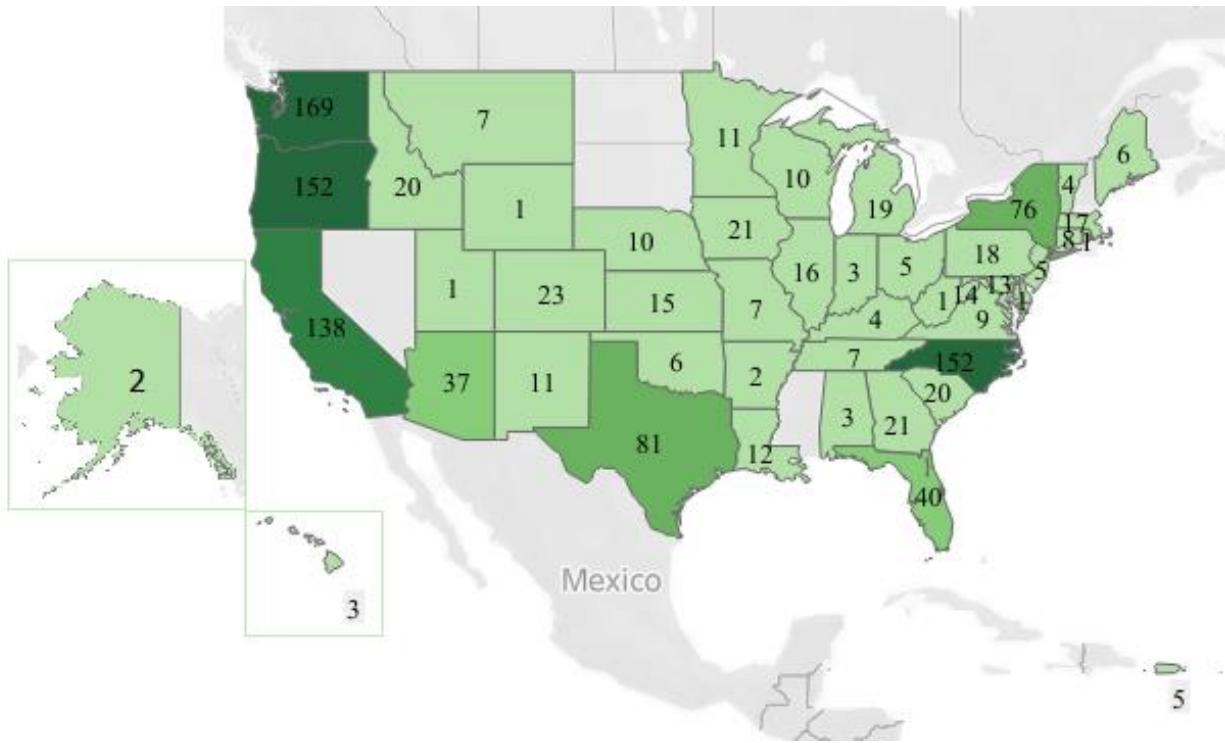
The VF included five days of education and training, information resource sharing, networking, and program and policy development for community-centered health professionals and their partners. The VF was held **March 22nd – 26th, 2021** with two follow up sessions occurring May 24th and May 25th, 2021. The VF had 48 educational breakout sessions, 3 plenary sessions, and 2 follow up webinars, providing **17.5 CEU** hours. This year's plenaries featured keynote speakers: Jim Macrae, Associate Administrator of Primary Health Care, HRSA; Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez Lainz, Epidemiologist from the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine with the CDC; Rachel A. Gonzales-Hanson, Sr. Vice-President for Western Operations at NACHC; Maria Hinojosa, Emmy Award-Winning Journalist and Host of "Latino USA" on NPR; and Dr. Roberto Dansie, nationally renowned psychologist, motivational speaker, and expert in rural/migrant/Indian health and education.

This year's forum reached more people than ever before, with 1,238 registrants from varying disciplines in migrant health, with the majority identifying their primary responsibility as community health workers, front line staff, executive directors, administrators and managers, board members, and healthcare providers. Of the 1,238 registrants, 785 attended at least one session during the live event. The recordings and conference materials were made available to all registrants for 90-days post event.

REGISTRANT SNAPSHOT

Registrants represented 45 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Washington (13%), North Carolina (12%), Oregon (12%), California (11%), and Texas (6%) were the five states with the largest number of registrants. Approximately 61% (777) of registrants work in rural areas.

FIGURE 1: HOME STATE OF VF REGISTRANTS



Out of the 1,238 registrants, it is estimated that 37% of registrants currently work for a health center, 21% for a community-based organization, and 15% in education or for an academic institution. A total of 170 health centers were represented by registrants. As shown below in Figure 2, approximately 70% of registrants reported this year’s virtual forum as their first forum.

FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE OF REGISTRANTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED PAST STREAM FORUMS

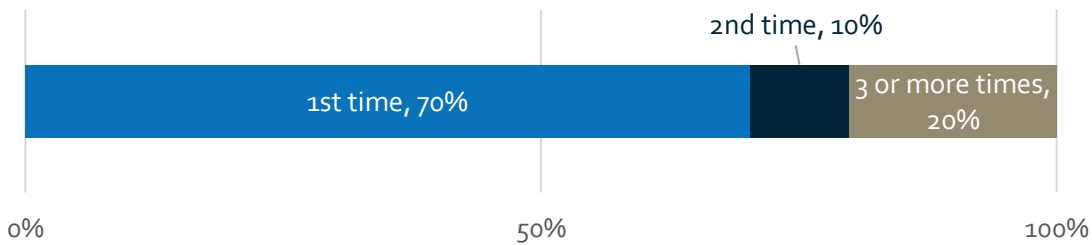
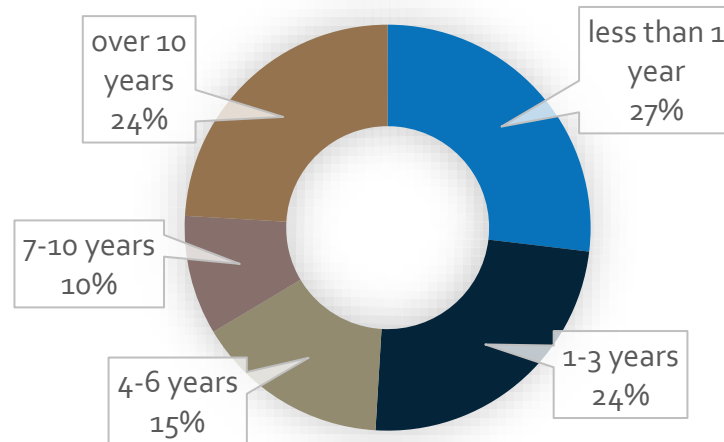


Figure 3 illustrates how many years VF registrants have worked in Migrant health. Almost 25% of registrants (29) have been working in Migrant Health for over ten years, while another quarter of registrants (27%) have been working for less than one year in Migrant Health.

FIGURE 3: REGISTRANTS AND YEARS WORKED IN MIGRANT HEALTH



Registrants hold various roles and titles at their respective organizations. The most common roles held by registrants were Program Coordinators (13%), Community Health Workers/Promotoras (13%), Administrators (11%), and Outreach Workers (11%).

VIRTUAL FORUM GOALS

The VF addressed six overarching goals. The goals, along with a comprehensive list of educational session titles, are outlined in the table below. Detailed information on learning objectives is available on the [VF webpage](#).

Goal 1	Session Titles
Increase knowledge and understanding of the emerging issues most prevalent in the MSAW population, to include prevention, screening, treatment, service delivery models, tools, and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotorxs & Psychologists Address Stigma & Barriers to Mental Health • H-2A Agricultural Worker Program: Trends in Health Care Access and Employer Visa Certification • Assessing Opioid Misuse in Agricultural Worker Communities • Intimate Partner Violence • How Promotorxs & Community Health Workers Can Promote Mental Health in Agricultural Communities & Bridge Patients to Integrated Care • Immigrant Dairy Worker Health & Safety Trainings – Wisconsin & Minnesota • A.I.M.E.S for Health • HIV: Patient Centered Approaches Strategies & Responses

- Salud Mental: Integrated Healthcare Mental Health Education & Program Development
- Integrated Care: The Nuts & Bolts of How Primary Care Providers Can Work with Behavioral Health
- Integrated Health Care: A Holistic Approach to Deliver Health Services
- Implementation of Integrated Care in Primary Care Clinics: What Administrators Need to Know

Goal 2

Improve delivery of diabetes management and prevention for the MSAW population through increased knowledge of promising practices and partnership development strategies.

Session Titles

- Advancing Agricultural Worker Health: Lessons Learned from Diabetes Prevention & Management
- Using GIS & CHWs to Address Comorbid Diabetes & Depression
- Nutrition, Health & Fitness: Key Cornerstones in Preventing Chronic Conditions
- "Produce"ing Powerful Partnerships to Optimize Patient Outcomes
- Hot Topics in ADA's Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes

Goal 3

Improve access to service delivery models, innovative strategies, and promising practices that address all issues that impact access to care for the MSAW population.

Session Titles

- Starting from the Beginning: Ag Worker Health 101
- U.S. Immigration Policy - Today & Tomorrow: What Migrant Health Providers Should Know to Better Serve Their Patients
- Protecting Agricultural Workers from Pesticide Exposure & Illness
- Promotorxs & Pesticide Drift Protocols Post Exposure & Future Advocacy
- Innovative Strategies for Expanding Health Care Access to Farmworkers
- Hybridizing Musculoskeletal Health Education for CHW & MSAW
- Improving Farmworker Health through Handwashing
- Immigration Policy: How are Health Centers Responding to Patient Needs?
- Developing Sustaining & Leading Resilient Teams
- Building the Pillars Critical to Successfully Increasing Access to Care for Ag Workers
- Importance of Value-Based Contracts in Community Health Centers (CHCs)
- Effective Health Center Board Orientation & Ongoing Education
- Outreach, Advocacy & Collaboration in Meeting Community Emotional Health Needs

Goal 4

Increase of knowledge and understanding of SDOH issues most prevalent in the MSAW population, available SDOH screening tools and resources, and strategies for partnership development.

Session Titles

- Structural Competency: A Framework to Analyze & Address Health Inequities
- Social Determinants of Health Panel
- Strengthening Health Center's Collaboration with Migrant & Seasonal Head Start
- 'EmpowHered' Health - Reforming the Health Care System for Positive Maternal Health Outcomes
- Digital & Health Access for Agricultural Workers & Their Families
- Federal Protections in Healthcare for LEP Individuals & Their Families
- Honoring Indigenous Leadership & Farm-Worker Communities
- Integrated Care: Honoring Indigenous Leadership in Farmworker Communities Part Two
- Connecting With Farmworkers: Elevating Their Voices Through Research
- Using Traditional Curanderismo Healing for Stress & Anxiety

Goal 5

Enhance Health centers' response to COVID-19 related to prevention, education, and culturally sensitive care to the MSAW population.

Session Titles

- Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)
- COVID-19 Supporting Farmworker Communities Panel
- Telehealth Outreach During the COVID19 Pandemic: Transforming NC Farmworkers' Health
- CDC COVID Vaccine Updates & Strategies
- Building Covid-19 Vaccine Confidence: Communication Tips and Strategies
- Psychology of Recovery: Serving Latinxs Affected By COVID-19 & Wildfires
- "The Village Approach" Patient-Centric Care Amidst a Pandemic
- Promotor-Led Program Insights to Reduce Infection & Transmission of Sars-Cov-2
- Innovative CHC Responses for COVID-19 Outbreaks
- Fostering Fortalezas: Resiliency Building Skill Practices During Stressful Times

OUTCOMES

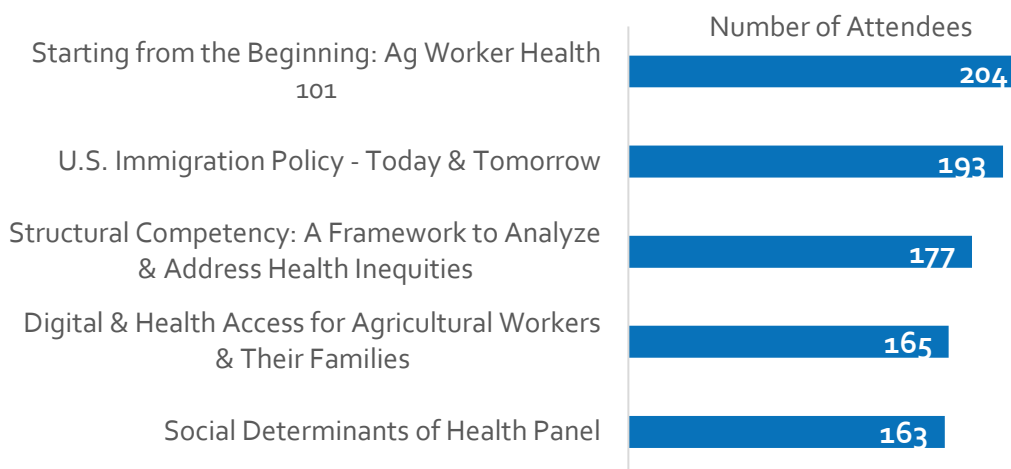
Multiple methods are used for evaluating outcomes of the VF, including session surveys immediately following every session (n=1256), an exit survey assessing the full event (n=198), and a three- to six-month follow-up survey with all attendees assessing their success in implementing something learned from the VF. Analysis of initial survey results from the VF indicate high levels of attendee satisfaction, high relevance of materials presented to improve work performance, and high confidence in attendees' ability to implement new knowledge and skills.

- **94%** of survey respondents “agreed to strongly agreed” that information and skills acquired in the VF would improve their work performance
- **95%** of survey respondents at the VF indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall content of the educational sessions.
- **95%** of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the content at the VF will assist them in working with MSAWs
- **88%** of survey respondents indicated being “mostly confident to extremely confident” in their ability to implement knowledge and skills gained at the VF

INDIVIDUAL SESSION OUTCOMES

Figure 4 illustrates the most popular breakout sessions during the VF.

FIGURE 4: NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT HIGHEST ATTENDED BREAKOUTS



Participants evaluated individual sessions directly following the session. Questions were weighted on a 5-point Likert scale, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

The following are the sessions with the highest satisfaction score average for the VF:

- Promotorxs & Psychologists Address Stigma & Barriers to Mental Health (4.85)
- Hot Topics in ADA's Standards of Medical Care Diabetes (4.83)

- Connecting With Farmworkers: Elevating Their Voices Through Research (4.79)
- U.S. Immigration Policy – Today and Tomorrow: What Migrant Health Providers Should Know to Better Serve their Patients (4.78)
- Improving Farmworker Health through Handwashing (4.77)

Participants were asked to assess their confidence to apply information from each session at their health center/organization. The following sessions had the highest scores:

- Improving Farmworker Health through Handwashing (4.77)
- Developing, Sustaining, & Leading Resilient Teams (4.65)
- How Promotorxs & Community Health Workers Can Promote Mental Health in Agricultural Communities & Bridge Patients to Integrated Care (4.64)
- Connecting With Farmworkers: Elevating Their Voices Through Research (4.63)
- CDC COVID Vaccine Updates & Strategies (4.63)

Participants were also asked to evaluate their gain in knowledge based on each session. The following sessions had the highest scores:

- Improving Farmworker Health through Handwashing (4.69)
- How Promotorxs & Community Health Workers Can Promote Mental Health in Agricultural Communities & Bridge Patients to Integrated Care (4.55)
- Promotorxs & Psychologists Address Stigma & Barriers to Mental Health (4.52)
- Hot Topics in ADA’s Standards of Medical Care Diabetes (4.5)
- Protecting Agricultural Workers from Pesticide Exposure & Illness (4.42)

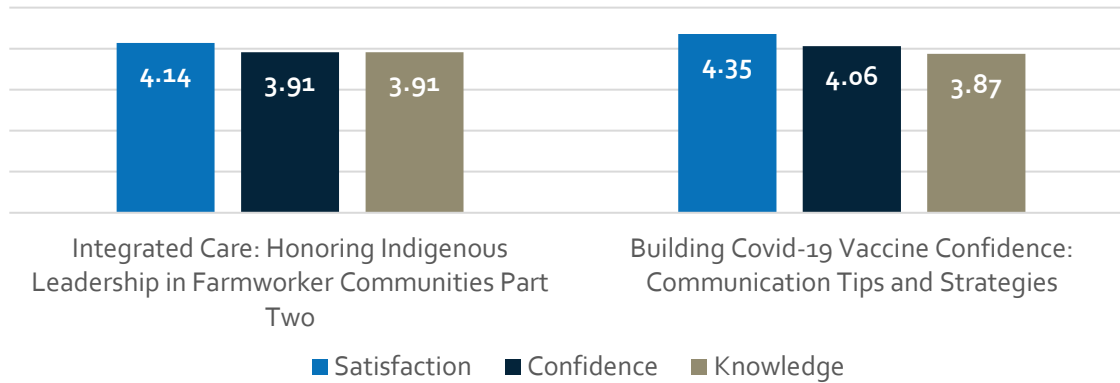
Registrants were invited to attend two follow-up webinars on May 24th, and May 25th. Both webinars were well attended (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: ATTENDANCE AT MAY FOLLOW-UP WEBINARS



Attendees were asked to evaluate the follow up webinars directly following the session using the same weighted questions as above to assess their satisfaction, confidence to apply information, and knowledge gained. Figure 6 illustrates each session evaluation outcomes.

FIGURE 6: MAY FOLLOW-UP WEBINAR OUTCOMES



QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

Attendees were asked to identify two potential ways they could implement knowledge gained during a session they attended into the workplace, as well as asked to provide ideas for topics at future Stream Forums.

Concepts to implement in the workplace

- Assist families with access to mental health care
- Step up SDOH efforts
- Use telehealth services as a CHW
- Verify interpretation will be made by appropriate personnel for our clients at contracted providers.
- Utilize Whatsapp to keep in contact with agricultural workers
- Adapt materials for cultural and linguistic competence to meet the needs of clients
- Encourage female clients to do My Chart
- Implement strategies for resiliency for self, clients, and staff
- Advocate for client needs
- Give information about free health care opportunities through clinic
- Incorporate traditional holistic practices
- Use more of the resources available for pesticide exposure prevention

Ideas for future Stream Forums

Topic Type	Topic Idea
Health Topics	Sexual Health
	Mental Health
	Hypertension

	Diabetes
Social Determinants of Health Topics	Farm worker housing Health insurance for agricultural worker families Animal Euthanasia as Workplace Stressor for Agricultural Workers Domestic Violence LGBTQ+ issues Disability issues H-2A Labor Immigration Law News and Updates Indigenous Spirituality
Workforce Development Topics	Building Partnerships How to create rapport with crew leaders Activism Build a connection with agricultural workers Integration of CHW into the medical team Organization marketing and promotion Trauma Informed care Staff retention
COVID-19 Related Topics	COVID-19 Vaccinations Adapting to COVID

PARTNERSHIPS

The VF was a collaborative effort, with diverse partners supporting planning efforts, providing workshops as presenters, hosting exhibitor booths, and contributing sponsorships. Partners represented universities/research institutions, Community Health Centers, government (local, state, federal), community-based nonprofits, Primary Care Associations (PCA), National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAP), and numerous other organizations including consultant groups, coalitions, foundations, primary education, and other private entities. This rich multi-sector environment provided a venue for partnerships and cross-disciplinary collaborations among attendees, presenters, sponsors, and exhibitors.

The host organizations, NCCHCA, NCFH, and NWRPCA, each facilitated planning to help review abstracts, provide feedback, and select the content for the VF. Fifty-two organizations were represented in planning committees to ensure multiple perspectives and a diverse offering of content to attendees.

Eighteen organizations supported the VF as an exhibitor and/or sponsor. Exhibitors and sponsors shared their expertise, knowledge, and resources with attendees throughout the VF and provided intimate opportunities to learn from each other.

Workshops included presenters representing 69 unique agencies, including universities, health centers, government agencies, non-profits/community-based organizations, PCAs/NTTAPs, and other subject matter experts.

The table below illustrates the breadth of partners that came together to provide attendees with a comprehensive, informative, and collaborative event.

Sector	# of Distinct Partner Orgs	Examples
Universities/Research Institutions	23	Cornell University, Florida State University, Idaho State University, University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Community Health Centers	32	Ampla Health, Finger Lakes Community Health, High Lakes Health Care, Sea Mar Community Health Center, Valley View Health Center
Government	9	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Seattle – King County
Nonprofits	12	Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists, Futures without Violence, Migrant Legal Action Program, National Immigration Law Center
PCAs/NTTAPs	24	California Primary Care Association, Idaho Primary Care Association, FHN Members
Other (Consultants, private etc.)	4	JBS International Inc, SinfoniaRX, Chidren’s Program

CONCLUSION

This year’s pivot to one central Virtual Forum instead of three in-person Regional Stream Forums brought opportunities to provide increased access to workforce development and education for health center staff and associated professionals. Attendees gained knowledge specifically about the agricultural worker population and HRSA priority areas and developed skills to implement concepts at their respective organizations. The Virtual Forum decreased financial barriers to attend by providing free registration and eliminating travel costs. Attendees were also able to connect with and learn from peers from across the country for the first time. More than ever, the Virtual Forum allowed for professionals across sectors to engage and learn from each other, building upon successes and driving new collaborative projects to address current emerging issues.

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