

THE PROGRAM

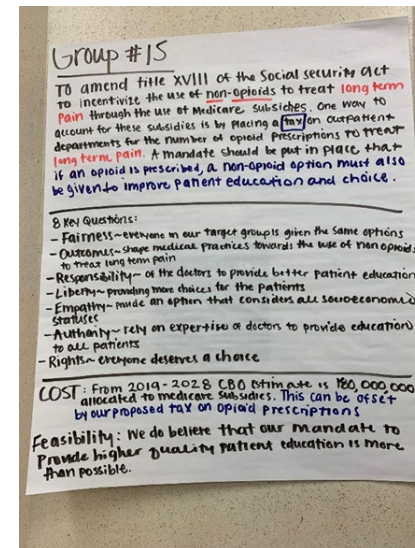
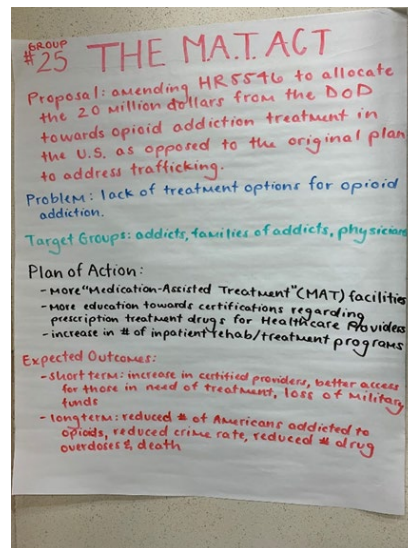
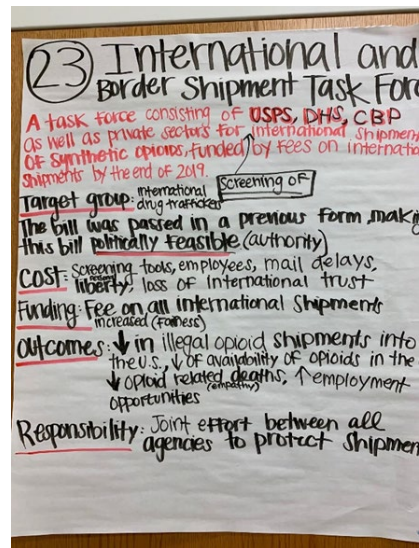
Note: Health Policy Summits have been offered since Fall 2019; only Fall 2019 is provided here as an example. The Health Policy Summit (HPS), in its 7th consecutive year, takes place in October and March for approximately 370 students each year in business, health sciences, nursing, occupational therapy, public policy and social work. Students draw on their varied expertise and come together for one interprofessional (IPE) and interdisciplinary 3-hour event to develop creative proposals to address the Opioid crisis in Virginia. Proposals are put into poster format, displayed around the room and shared with legislators in attendance.

As a result of participating in the Health Policy Summit, students will:

- develop an appreciation for the variety of knowledge and skills in their own and other professions by working in interprofessional teams
- increase their skill in building relationships by working with their teammates prior to, and during, the bi-annual Health Policy Summit
- develop an understanding of the role of a citizen in addressing public concerns and taking action on social problems.
- develop a foundational understanding of the opioid epidemic and the prevention, emergency and interventive approaches.
- be more motivated to stay informed and more confident, motivated, and comfortable to take political action to address community health problems

Students with the best proposals, as determined by their peers utilizing the [8 Key Questions](#) as a framework for decision making, present their proposals to legislators in attendance.

PROPOSALS
FROM
OCTOBER 2019
PARTICIPANTS



THE PARTICIPANTS

180 undergraduate students participated in the event in Fall 2019. 90 of the students were from nursing, 30 from social work, 30 from public policy and the remaining students were from business, health sciences and occupational therapy programs. These programs represent three colleges within James Madison University – the College of Business, College of Arts and Letters and the College of Health and Behavioral Studies. The students were all currently enrolled in a policy related course such as Health Policy, Social Policy, Community Health Nursing or Health Economics and participated in the Health Policy Summit as part of their coursework.

THE ASSESSMENT¹

After the conclusion of HPS in Fall 2019, participants were asked to complete a short survey. Of the 180 participants, 140 completed the survey, yielding a 78% response rate. Three different sets of items were administered. In the first set, students were asked if the HPS experience increased their knowledge and understanding. In the second set, students were asked if the HPS experience affected their civic self-efficacy, motivation, and sense of social responsibility. The third set of items inquired more about the logistics and structural features of the summit.

THE RESULTS

Overall, the results are very positive. Results for each item set are provided below. The values in each graph represent the percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the item.



Participants in the March 2019 Health Policy Summit.

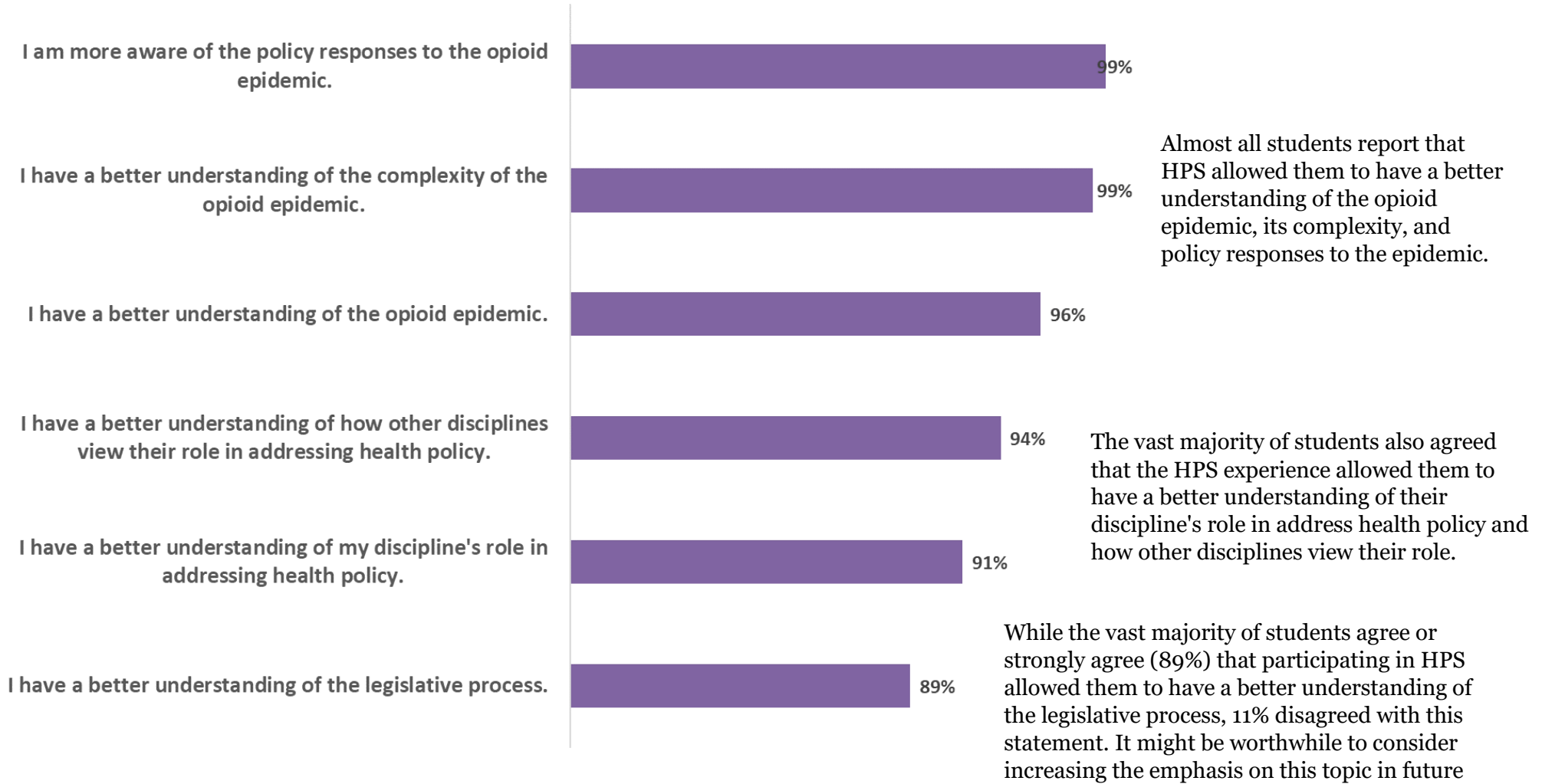
Photo credit: <https://www.jmu.edu/news/chbs/2019/04-16-health-policy-summit.shtml>



¹ This report describes only the assessment approach utilized in Fall 2019. Other assessment approaches were used in previous years.

The Health Policy Summit increases students' knowledge and understanding.

As a result of my experience in the HPS:



The Health Policy Summit increases students' civic self-efficacy, motivation, and sense of social responsibility.

As a result of my experience in the HPS:

I am more motivated to stay informed about community health issues (like the opioid epidemic). 99%

I am more motivated to take political action (e.g., vote, protest, contact public officials) to address community health issues. 99%

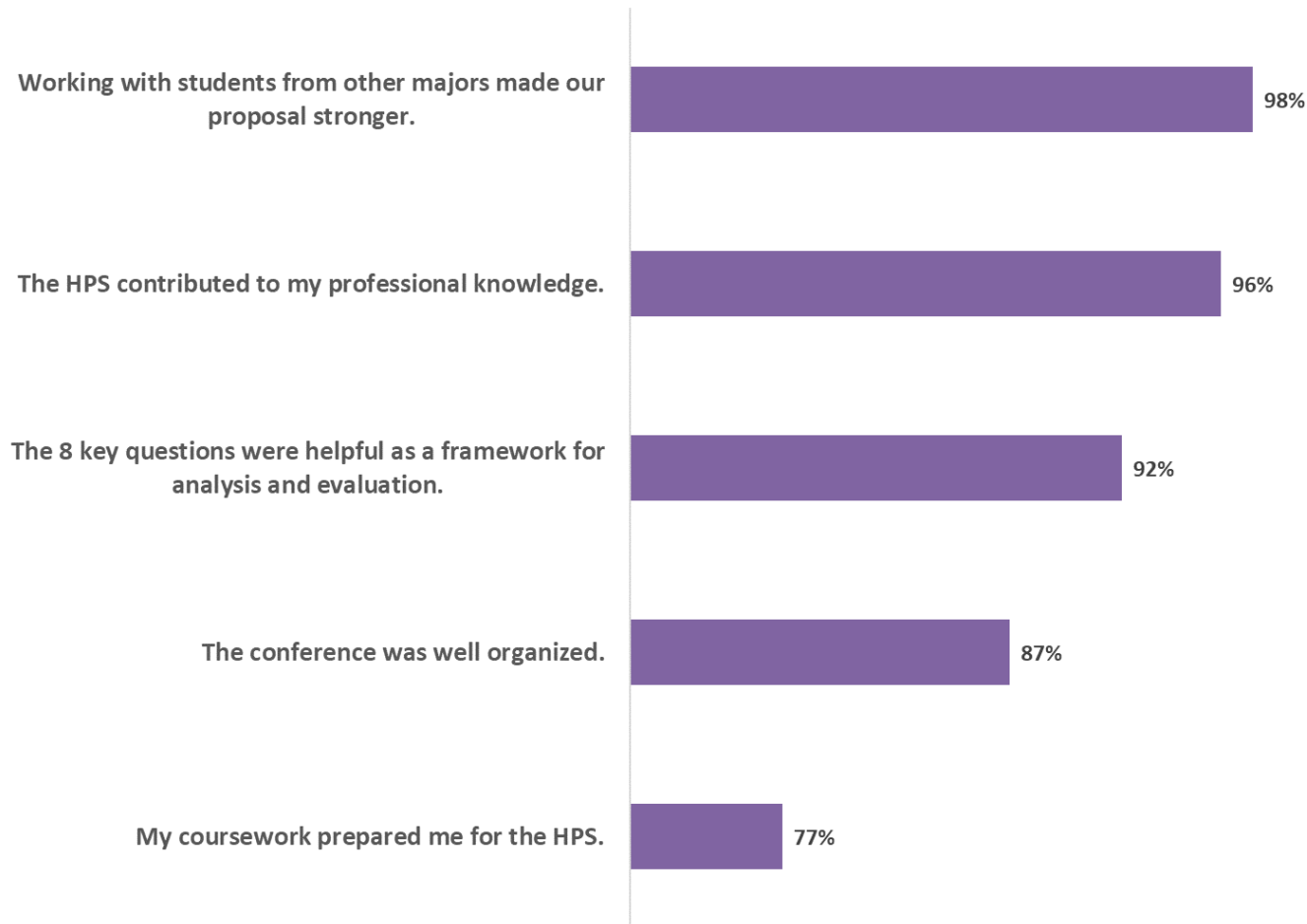
I am more aware of the value of making a difference in the civic life of our community. 96%

I am more confident in my ability to take political action (e.g., vote, protest, contact public officials) to address community health issues. 95%

I am more comfortable advocating for policy change. 95%

Almost all students agree that the HPS made them feel more comfortable, confident and motivated to stay informed about community health issues and take political action. 95% also agreed that the HPS experience made them more aware of the value of making a difference in the lives of others.

The Health Policy Summit helped students see the value of working across disciplines to address public health issues and the utility of Ethical Reasoning in Action's 8 Key Questions in evaluating policy.



HPS allowed students to understand the value of working across disciplines; 98% of students reported that working with students from other majors made their proposals stronger.

92% of students agreed that the 8 Key Questions were helpful and a framework for analysis and evaluation

Some thought may need to be devoted to how the conference could be better organized or how coursework could better prepare students for the conference. Although the vast majority (87%) felt the conference was well organized, 13% did not. As well, 23% of students did not feel their coursework prepared them for the HPS.



Participants in the March 2019 Health Policy Summit.

Photo credit: <https://www.jmu.edu/news/chbs/2019/04-16-health-policy-summit.shtml>

MOVING FORWARD

Faculty are encouraged with the results of the evaluation from the Health Policy Summit. Trends in the data show that students are more informed and more confident to address these important health related needs. The results are very high, though this could be due to the fact that most of the students are enrolled in health or policy related course and therefore have a predetermined interest in the topic. These results will be integrated into future plans for the Health Policy Summit – specifically around incorporating more coursework to prepare students for participation in the summit and to ensure that activities or organized to maximize the short amount of time available for the summit. Some classes will be hosting a guest speaker on basic health care or including a more thorough understanding of the opioid crisis prior to the event. In the past, students have also struggled with the organization of the event. It has become much more efficient in response to prior years feedback in assigning students tables ahead of time, extending the time for developing their proposal and moving to group voting on posters rather than individual voting. This may contribute to the relatively high score of 87% of students saying the conference was well organized.