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**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
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FOR MASSHEALTH

June 9, 2026

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Aaron Michlewitz  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Cindy Friedman  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care  
Financing  
State House, Room 313  
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John Lawn  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care  
Financing  
State House, Room 236  
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John Velis  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health,  
Substance Use and Recovery  
State House, Room 513  
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Mindy Domb  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health,  
Substance Use and Recovery  
State House, Room 33  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs,

Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021, line item 1599-2026 requires that MassHealth report the following information on the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner fellowship program: (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures. Please find this information in the attached report. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Nordberg at [Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov](mailto:Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Levine  
cc: Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA

## **FY25 Legislative Report: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program**

In calendar year 2023, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing, a program of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan GSN) and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (MLCHC) launched the \$11.6 million Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program for recent PMHNP Graduates and current PMHNP Students funded through item 1599-2026 of the acts of 2021 (see appendix I for authorizing statutory language). The PMHNP Fellowship Program aims to increase the community health center (CHC) PMHNP workforce pipeline and increase the diversity of PMHNPs working in CHCs. See appendix II for PMHNP Fellowship Program eligibility and prioritization information.

This report includes information on (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures.

### **I. Program Activities to Date (Including Number of Applicants and Participants):**

The program is being implemented in multiple cohorts.

- Cohort 1 (FY24): The CHC Request for Proposal (RFP)<sup>1</sup> and PMHNP Fellow applications ran concurrently from August 14 to September 25, 2023. A total of five CHCs applied.
  - Total CHCs funded: 3
  - Total Fellow slots approved: 10
    - 7 Graduates
    - 3 Students
  - Total contracted funds: \$840,477
  - Total Fellow applicants: 27
    - 12 Graduates
    - 15 Students
  - Total Fellows placed: 7
    - 4 Graduates
    - 3 Students
  
- Cohort 2 (FY25): The CHC RFP and PMHNP Fellow applications ran concurrently from February 28 to April 1, 2024. A total of fourteen health centers applied. Of the fourteen health centers, five were previously approved in Cohort 1 and requested additional fellows under Cohort 2.
  - Total CHCs funded: 14
  - Total Fellow slots approved: 29
    - 23 Graduates

- 6 Students
  - Total contracted funds: \$3,936,687
  - Total Fellow applicants: 56
    - 30 Graduates
    - 26 Students
  - Total Fellows placed: 24
    - 19 Graduates
    - 5 Students
  
- Cohort 3 (FY25): The CHC RFP was open from August 28 to September 30, 2024. Seven CHCs applied. Of the seven CHCs, five were previously funded in Cohort 2. Applications for PMHNP Fellows were open from January 6 to January 31, 2025.
  - Total CHCs funded: 7
  - Total Fellow slots approved: 9
    - 8 Graduates
    - 1 Student
  - Total approved funds: \$1,779,482
  - Total Fellow applicants: 36
    - 21 Graduates
    - 15 Students
  - Total Fellows placed: TBD – applications still under review

## **II. Participant retention:**

The first cohort of four Graduate Fellows (from FY24) will complete their 12-month Fellowship during the spring of calendar year 2025. One Graduate Fellow departed the program prior to completion. The FY26 Legislative Report will contain participant retention data across multiple cohorts.

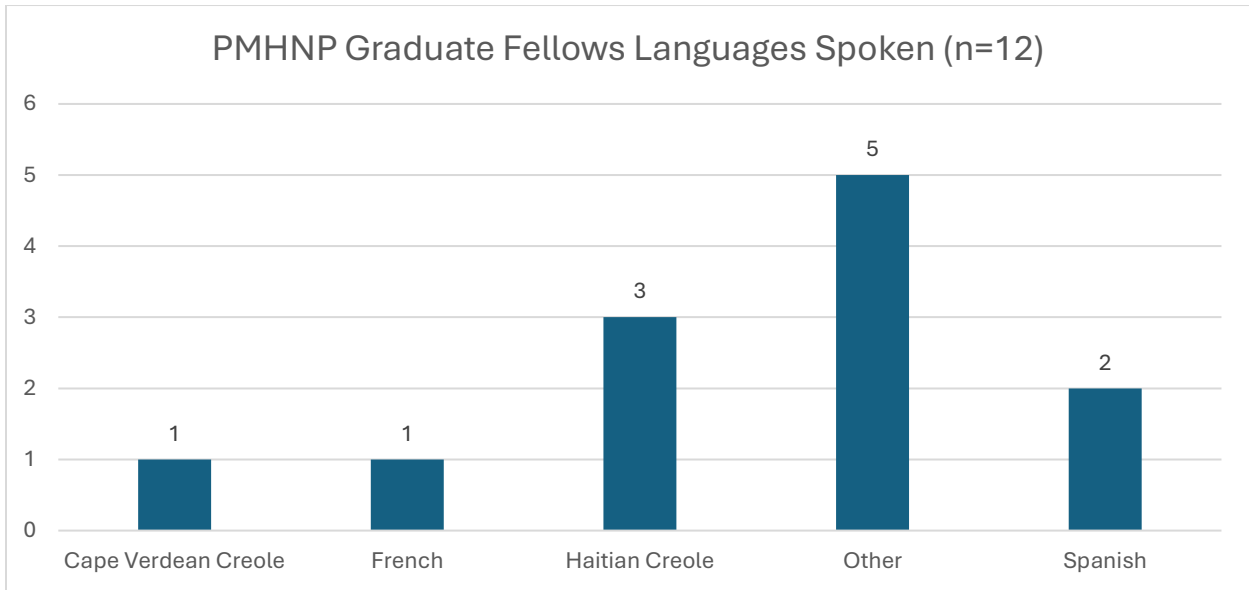
Retention incentives for PMHNP Fellow participants are as follows:

Funding Category	Available Funding
Available funding for CHCs to go towards a retention incentive for Graduate Fellows who become permanent hires of the CHC after their 12-month service commitment ends.	\$10,000/Fellow
<p>Grant incentive to support preceptor development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graduate Fellows who complete the 12-month service commitment and become permanent hires of the CHC or maintain their employment.</li> </ul> <p>Graduate Fellows will be eligible to receive an incentive to participate in a preceptor training through UMass Chan GSN to prepare them to serve in the role of preceptor for future Fellows.</p>	\$5,500 per Graduate Fellow/year for up to 2 years (up to \$11,000 per Graduate Fellow over 2 years)

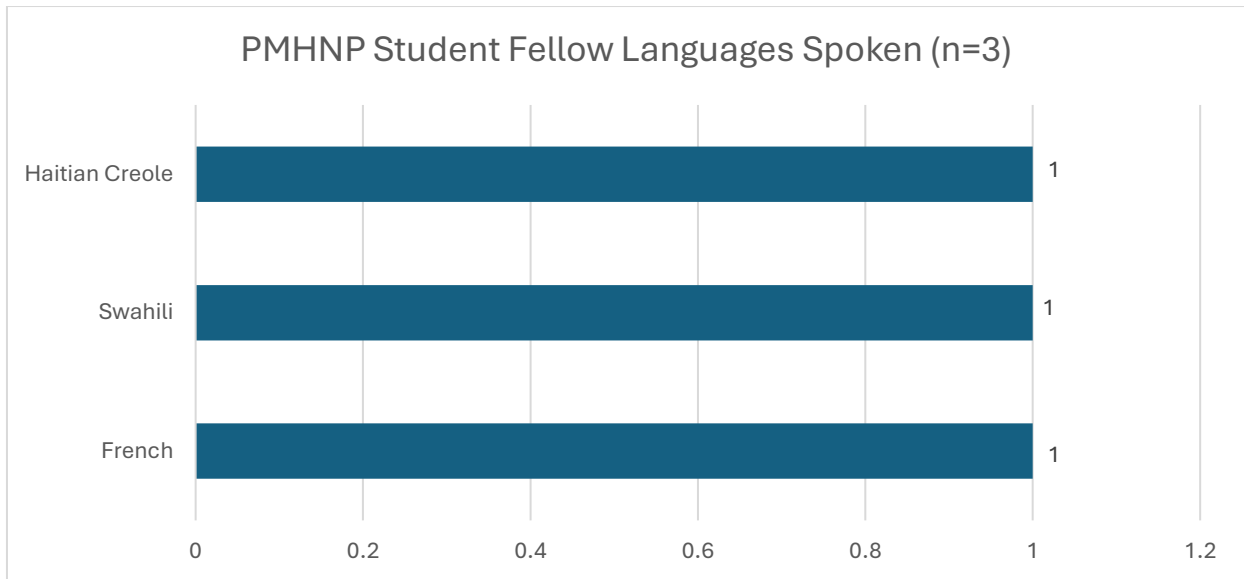
### III. Efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners:

UMass Chan GSN and MLCHC have worked to increase diversity in the PMHNP workforce, effectively matching bilingual candidates and those with cultural competencies matching CHC patient populations. The program maintains comprehensive demographic tracking, analyzing alignment between Fellow candidates and CHC service communities through detailed data on language capabilities, race, and ethnicity for both placed Fellows and the applicant pool. This data is compared against CHC patient population demographics to ensure sustained representation. Early results demonstrate successful demographic matching between placed Fellows and the communities they serve, particularly in language capabilities and cultural representation.

**All Participating Fellow Language Diversity as of February 2025:**

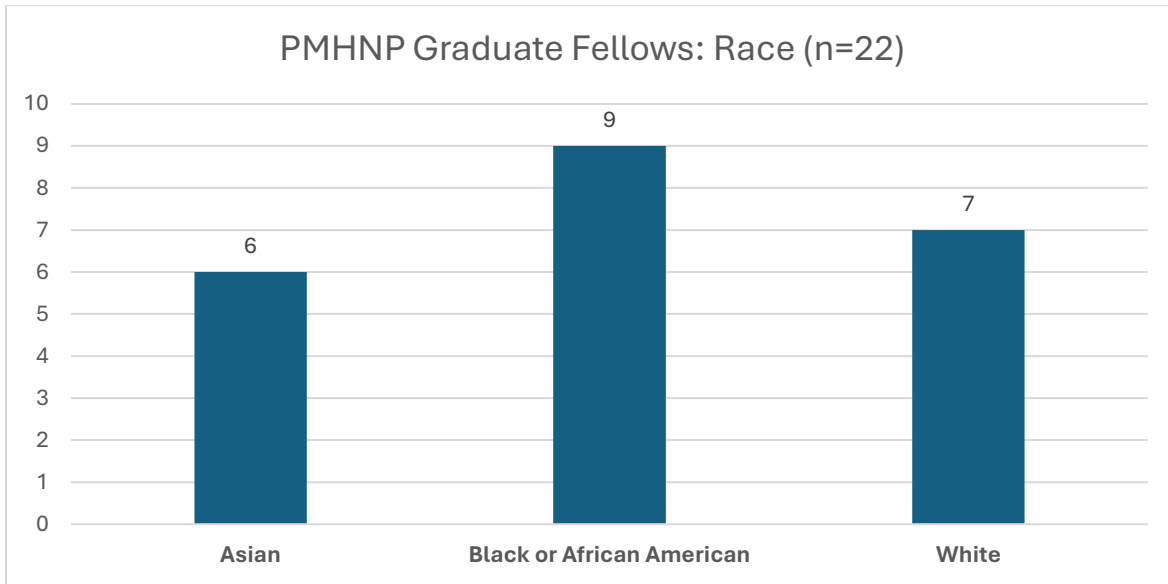


*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option.*

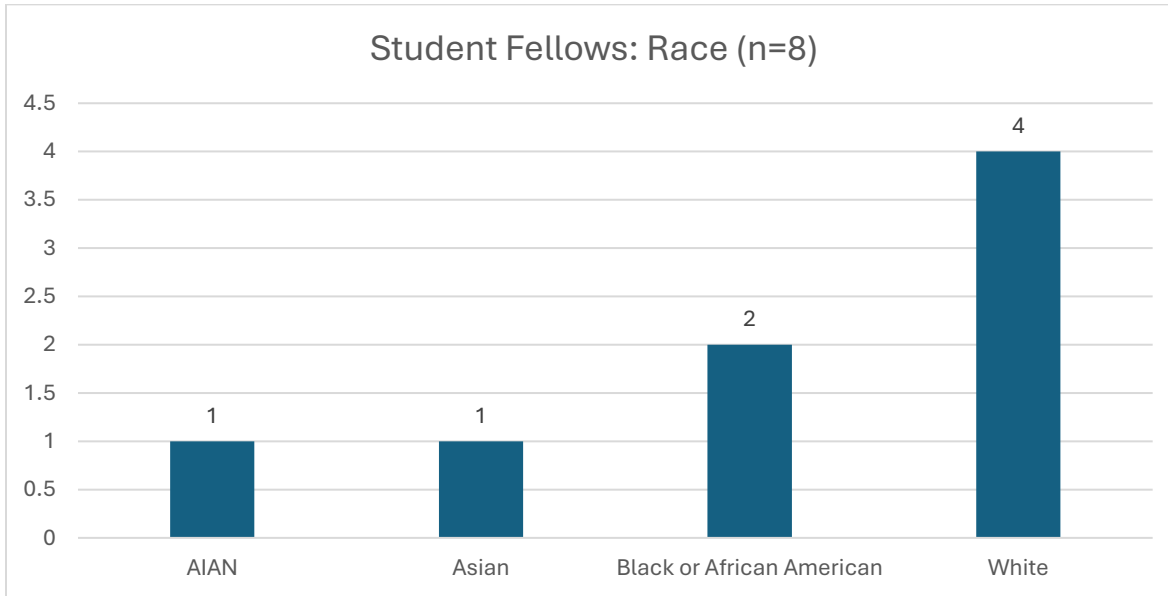


*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option.*

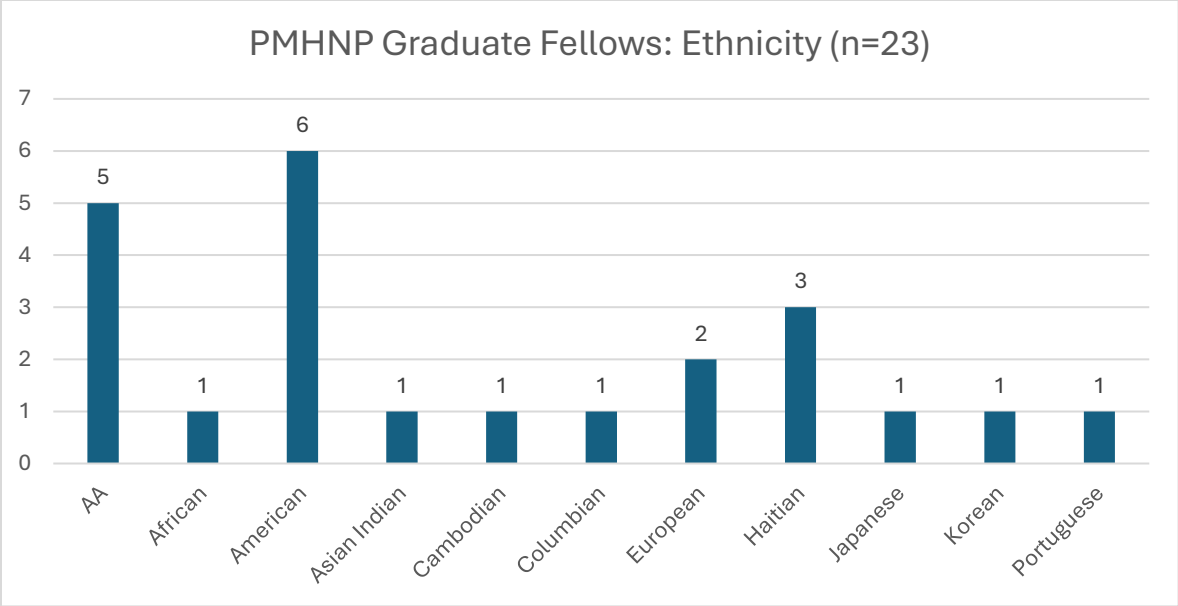
**PMHNP Participating Fellow Race and Ethnicity Information:**



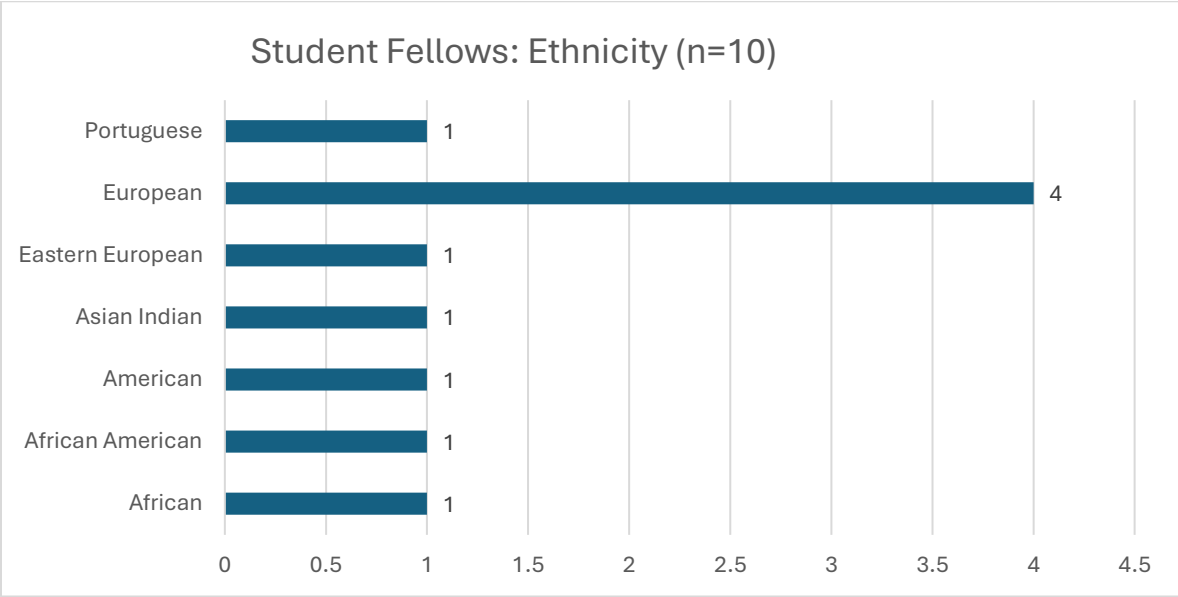
*\* Note: Participants were able to select more than one option*



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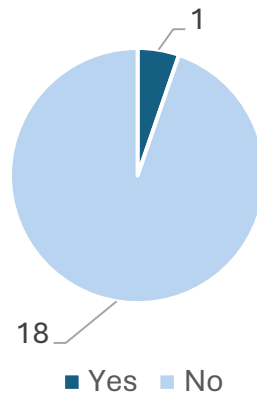


*\* Note: Participants were able to select more than one option*



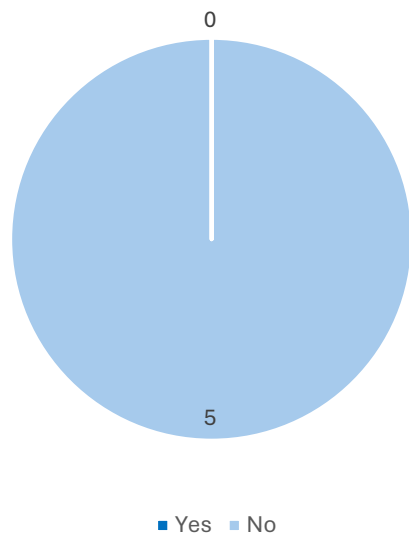
*\* Note: Participants were able to select more than one option*

### Hispanic/Latino Origin Graduate Fellows (n=19)



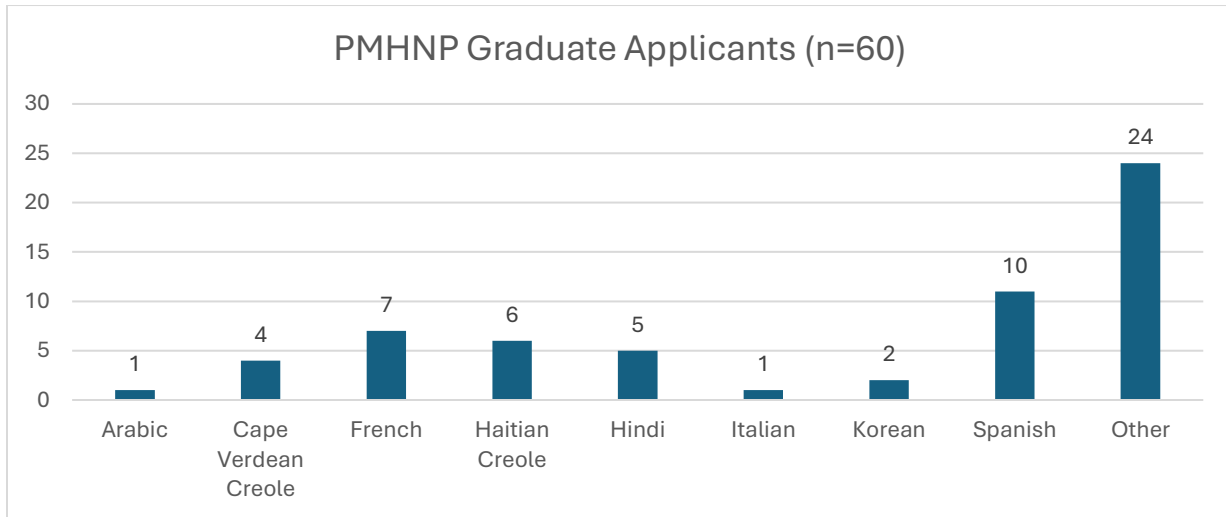
*\* Note: Participants responding yes or no*

### Student Fellows: Hispanic/Latino (n=5)

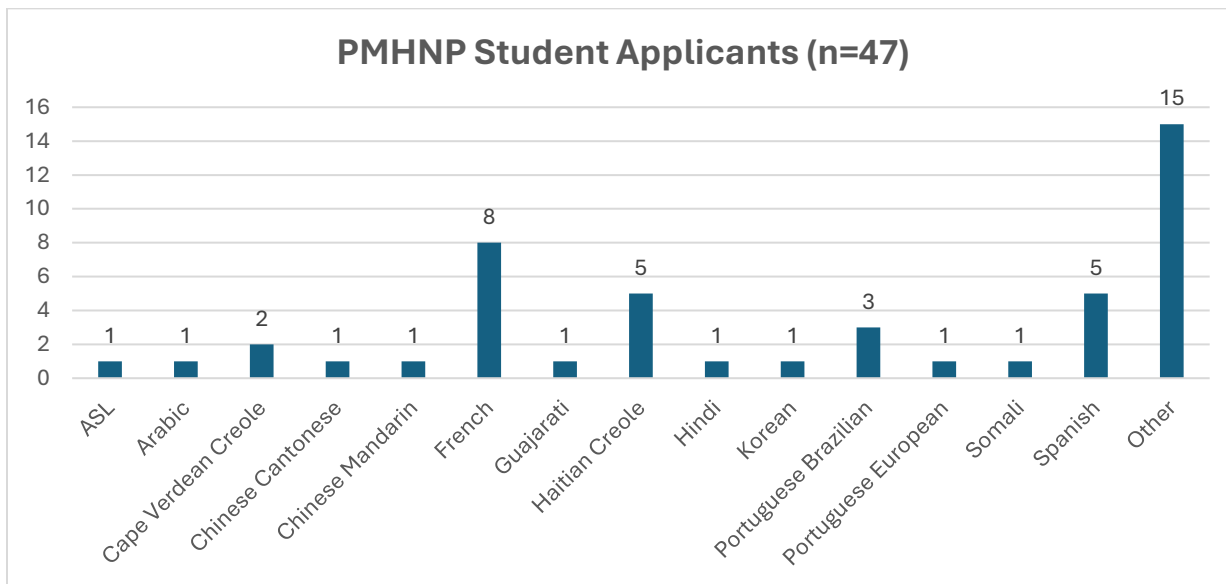


*\* Note: Participants responding yes or no.*

**All PMHNP Fellow Applicant Language Diversity as of February 2025:**

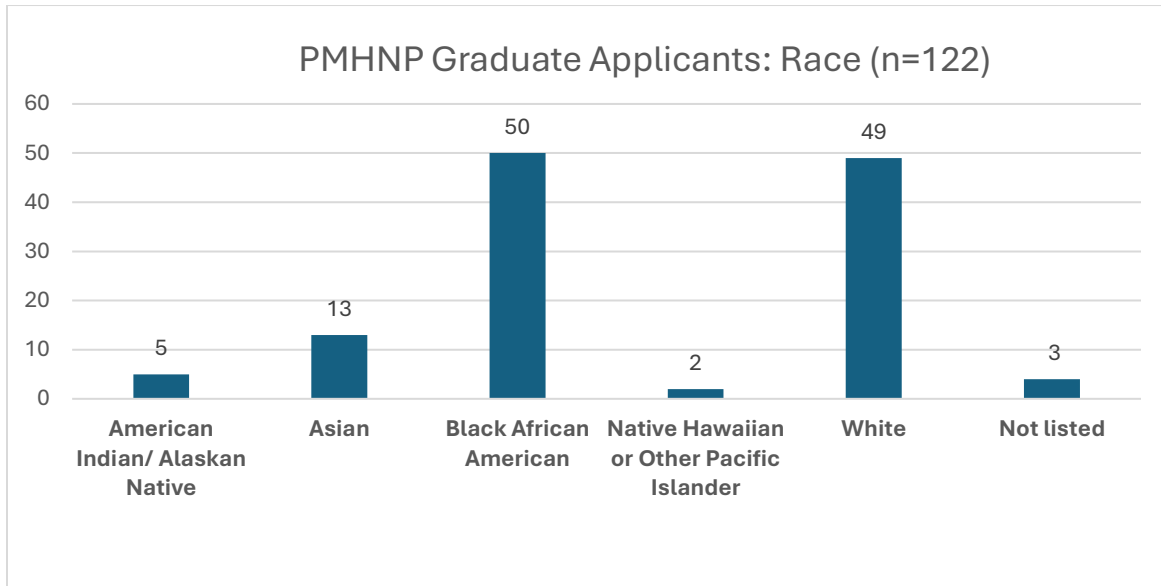


*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*

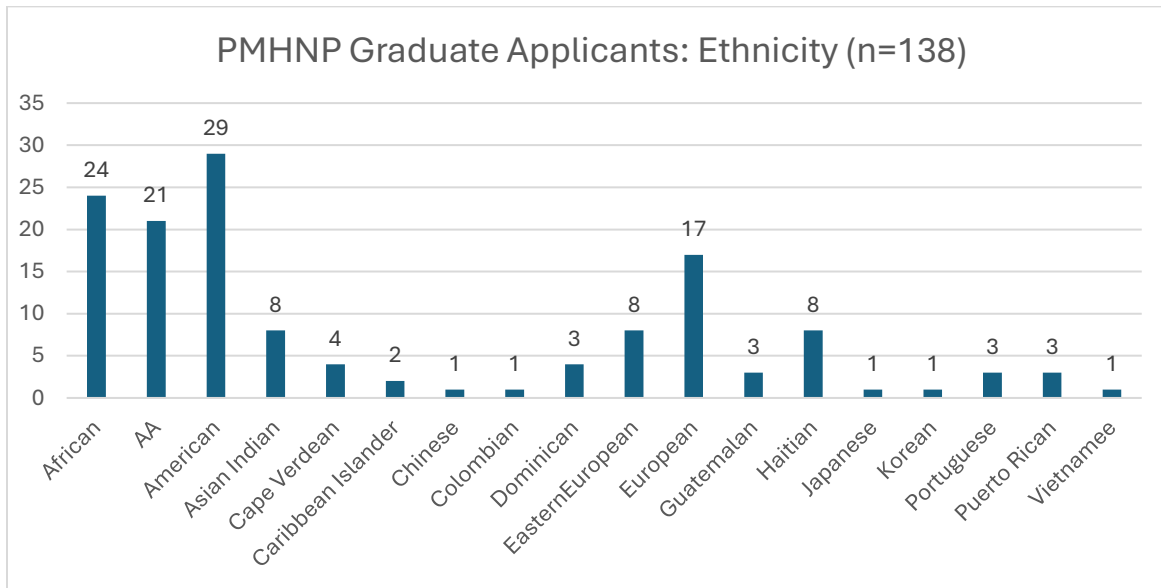


*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*

**PMHNP Applicant Race & Ethnicity Information:**

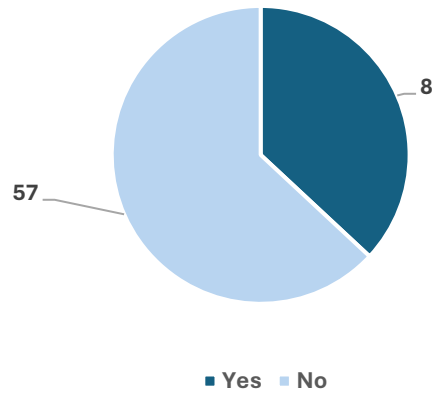


*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*



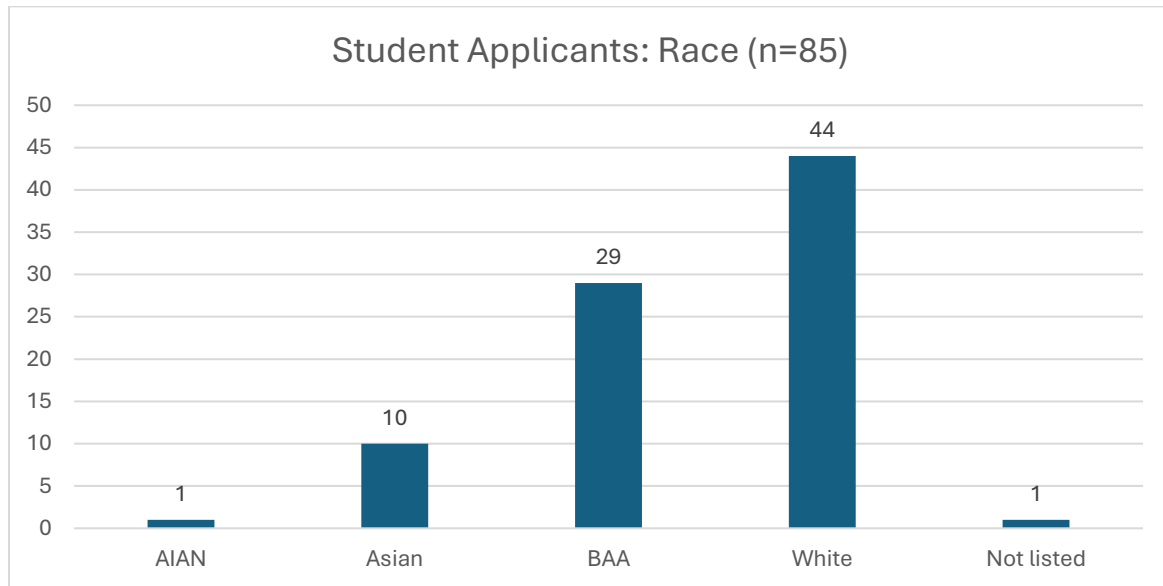
*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*

Hispanic/Latino Origin  
Graduate Applicants Cohorts 1&2 (n=65)

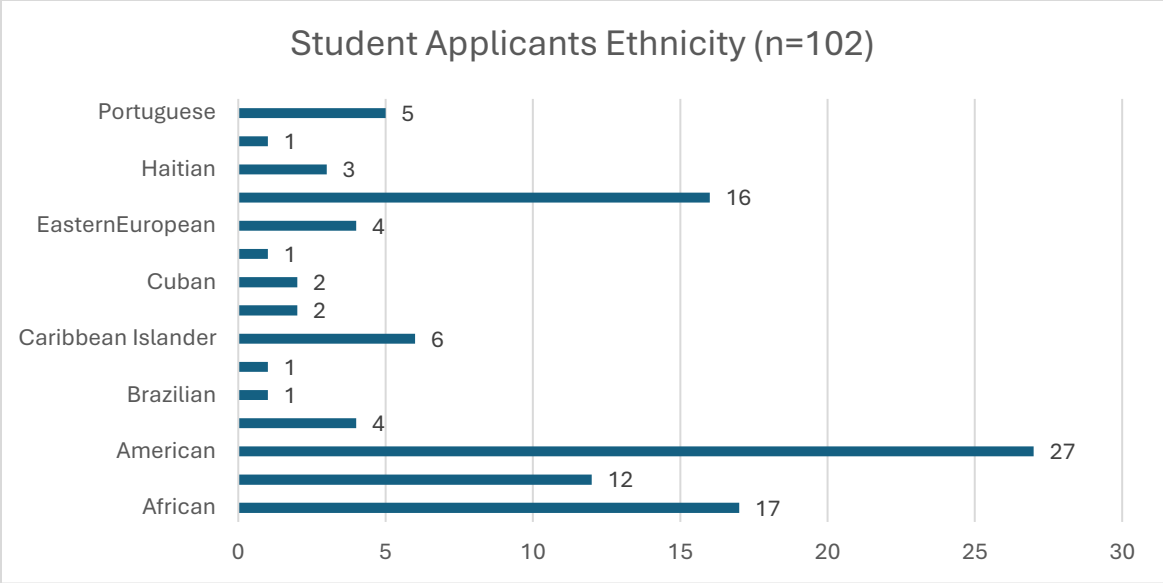


*\* Note: Applicants responding yes or no*

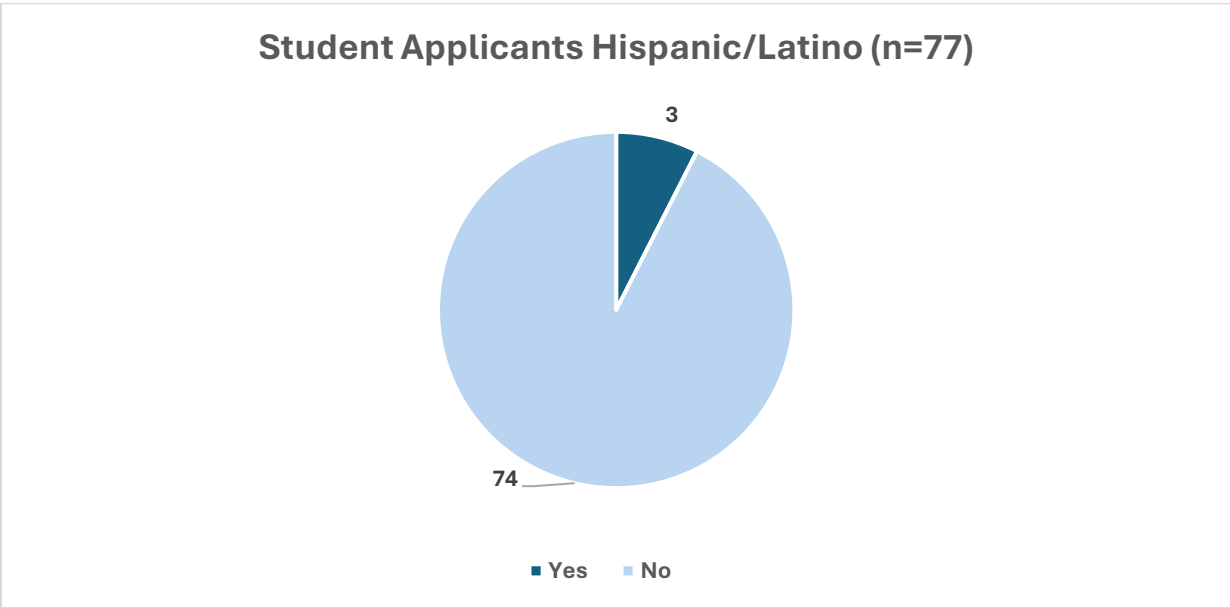
Student Applicants: Race (n=85)



*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*



*\* Note: Applicants were able to select more than one option*



*\* Note: Applicants responding yes or no*

**IV. Program expenditures:**

The UMass Chan GSN ISA has a maximum obligation of \$11.6 Million. Of these funds, \$7,667,648 are allocated as pass-through funds to participating CHCs to support their PMHNP Fellowship Programs for both Graduate and Student Fellows. The remaining funds totaling \$3,932,352 supports weekly training and education (didactics) for PMHNP Graduate Fellows provided by UMass Chan GSN, and administrative costs for the grant, including administrative payments to the MLCHC. **Total funds paid to UMass Chan GSN through FY24: \$3,062,408**

## **Appendix I: Chapter 102 of the acts of 2021**

### **An Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs**

1599-2026. "...For a reserve to enhance and expand access to mental and behavioral health supports and services and community-based primary care; provided, that funds in this item shall be administered by the executive office of health and human services; provided further, that not less than \$11,600,000 shall be expended for a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner fellowship program to recruit and retain psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners at community health centers; provided further, that annually, not later than April 1, the executive office shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery and the joint committee on health care financing that shall detail: (I) the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner applicants and participants; (II) participant retention; (III) efforts to diversify the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners; and (IV) all program expenditures;..."

## **Appendix II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program Eligibility**

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program aims to recruit, educate, and retain PMHNPs at community health centers (CHCs). All Massachusetts' CHCs that meet the criteria to qualify as a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a hospital-licensed health center, or an FQHC look-alike are eligible to apply for funding. Current PMHNP Students and recent Graduates are eligible to apply for placement. Student Fellows will complete a semester-long placement while Graduate Fellows will be under a 12-month service commitment.

### **CHC Prioritization**

CHCs that serve diverse communities, rural communities, or are in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area ([HPSA](#)) or a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area are strongly encouraged to apply. At least one rural CHC will be funded during each year of the program.

### **CHC Selection**

CHCs will be selected and evaluated for funding based on their demonstrated capacity to provide the following:

- 1) A commitment to hire Graduate PMHNP fellows who have passed the national certification exam by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, have a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Advance Practice Nursing License in good standing with the Board of Registration in Nursing, and are eligible to apply for Mass Controlled Substance License/DEA by the start of the Program.
- 2) A commitment to building culturally diverse psychiatric capacity both by prioritizing hiring qualified PMHNP candidates who reflect the patient population's cultural and linguistic backgrounds and providing services to communities that are underserved by limited access to behavioral healthcare.
- 3) Capacity and capability to precept all Fellows.
- 4) Capacity to provide adequate prescribing Preceptor support for PMHNP Graduate Fellows.
- 5) Ability to ensure adequate patient panels for Fellows in terms of size, diversity, and clinical complexity.
- 6) Ability to ensure adequate care team support (e.g., medical assistants, registered nurses, community health workers, behavioral health clinicians, psychiatrists, or experienced PMHNPs for consult support, and support staff) for Fellows.
- 7) Ability to provide adequate physical space (e.g., exam/treatment rooms) for Fellows.
- 8) Ability to provide coverage and systems to ensure that the clinical needs of patients are met in the Fellows' absence (e.g., sick day, vacation time, etc.).
- 9) Ability to ensure that Fellows work as part of a multi-disciplinary care team.

### **Fellow Selection**

All Fellow applicants must meet the minimum eligibility criteria listed below. Graduates and Students who are bi-lingual and/or reflect the population served by a community health center (CHC) (e.g.,

languages spoken, lived experience in urban or rural underserved communities) are strongly encouraged to apply.

- **Graduate Fellow Minimum Eligibility:**

- Completed a PMHNP program
  - Graduation dates within 18 months of application opening, will receive priority.
- Licensed registered nurse in Massachusetts and in good standing.
- Are either board certified as a PMHNP with an APRN license in Massachusetts OR are eligible and will soon sit for board certification in Massachusetts.
  - Fellow applicants who are not board certified at the time of application must be eligible to apply for a Mass Controlled Substance License/DEA prior to the fellowship start date.

- **Student Fellow Minimum Eligibility:**

- Licensed registered nurse in Massachusetts and in good standing.
- Are currently enrolled part-time or full-time in a PMHNP academic program.
- Have approval from their school's program director or coordinator to pursue this placement.