

Impact of Precollege Pharmacy Exploration Program on Undergraduate and PharmD Program Recruitment



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Objectives

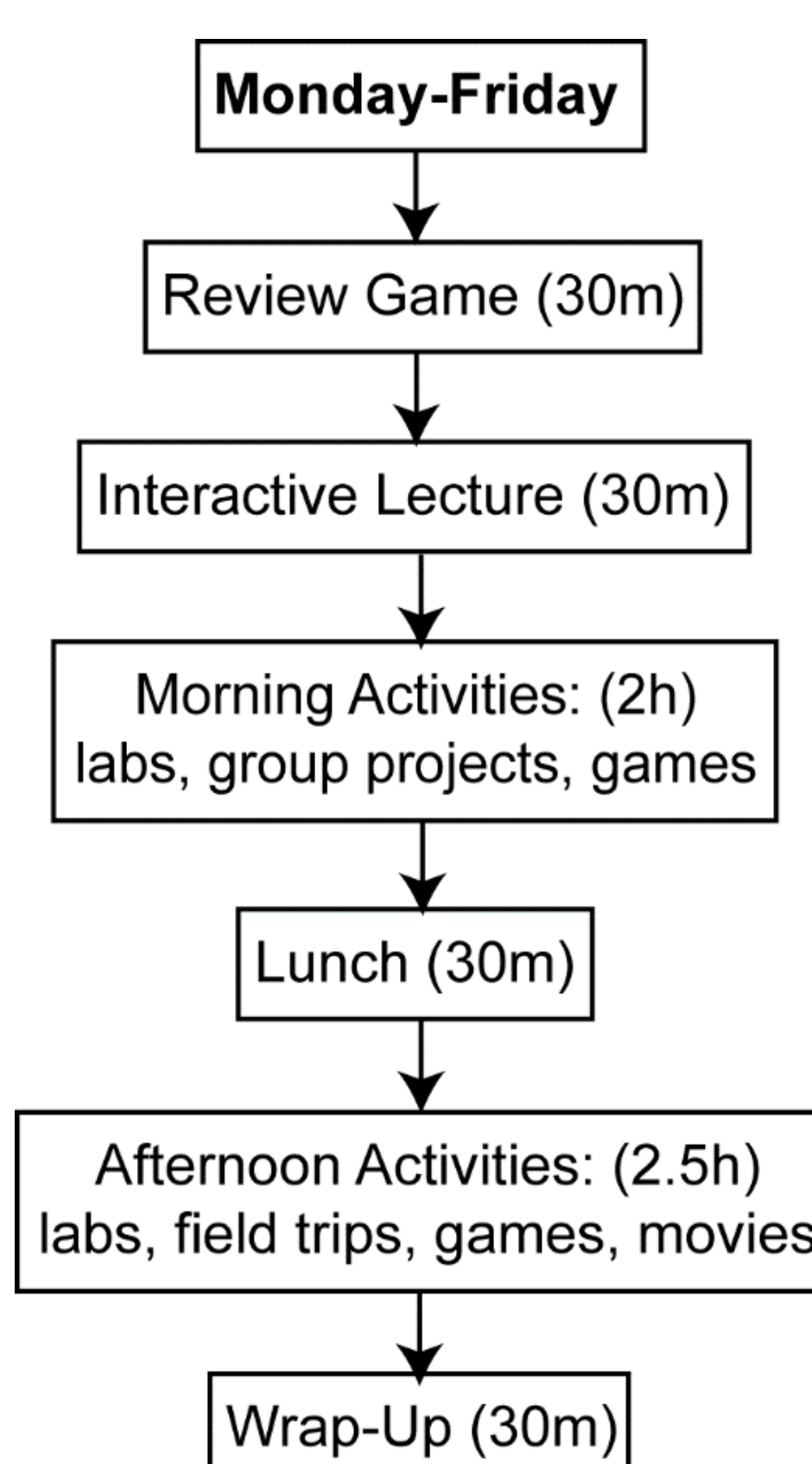
To evaluate impact of a high school pharmacy exploration summer program on interest and enrollment in a pharmaceutical sciences undergraduate major with possible matriculation to a PharmD program.

Methods

The interdisciplinary nature of pharmaceutical sciences challenges students to integrate and apply scientific knowledge from multiple disciplines to solve problems related to personal health and disease. Because drugs and disease pique student's interest, we hypothesized that introducing students to the wide-ranging opportunities in pharmacy would increase interest and future enrollment in pharmacy-related majors, pharmacy school applications and careers. Thus, we created and implemented a sustainable, week-long science enrichment and career exploration program for high school students titled, "Pills, Potions, and Poisons" (PPP). This program provides students with an overview of pharmacy and its relationship to health, disease, and society. Students learn through a variety of approaches including lecture, discussion, games, and hands-on experiments. In addition, students explore a variety of pharmacy-related careers through hospital pharmacy visits, community pharmacy activities, visiting speakers, research lab visits and discussions with student teaching assistants, faculty and recruitment and admissions staff.

PPP Program Overview

This flowchart gives a general overview of the structure of each day of the PPP program. Students learn through a variety of activities including experiments, simulation, discussion, debate, and games.



Communication & Teamwork skills



Left: 2023 participants create poster to advocate for health inequality. Right: 2023 participants learn to take a medication history.

Career Exploration



2023 participants learn to compound a diaper rash cream from PharmD faculty and students.

Results

From the summer of 2012 until the summer of 2022, a total of 490 high school students enrolled in our PPP program. Of those 490 students, 68 of those students went on to enroll in our Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences undergraduate major, and 35 have enrolled in our PharmD program, with 32 of those students enrolling in both programs.

Figure 1: Number of students enrolled in Bachelor's of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences program by year of PPP enrollment

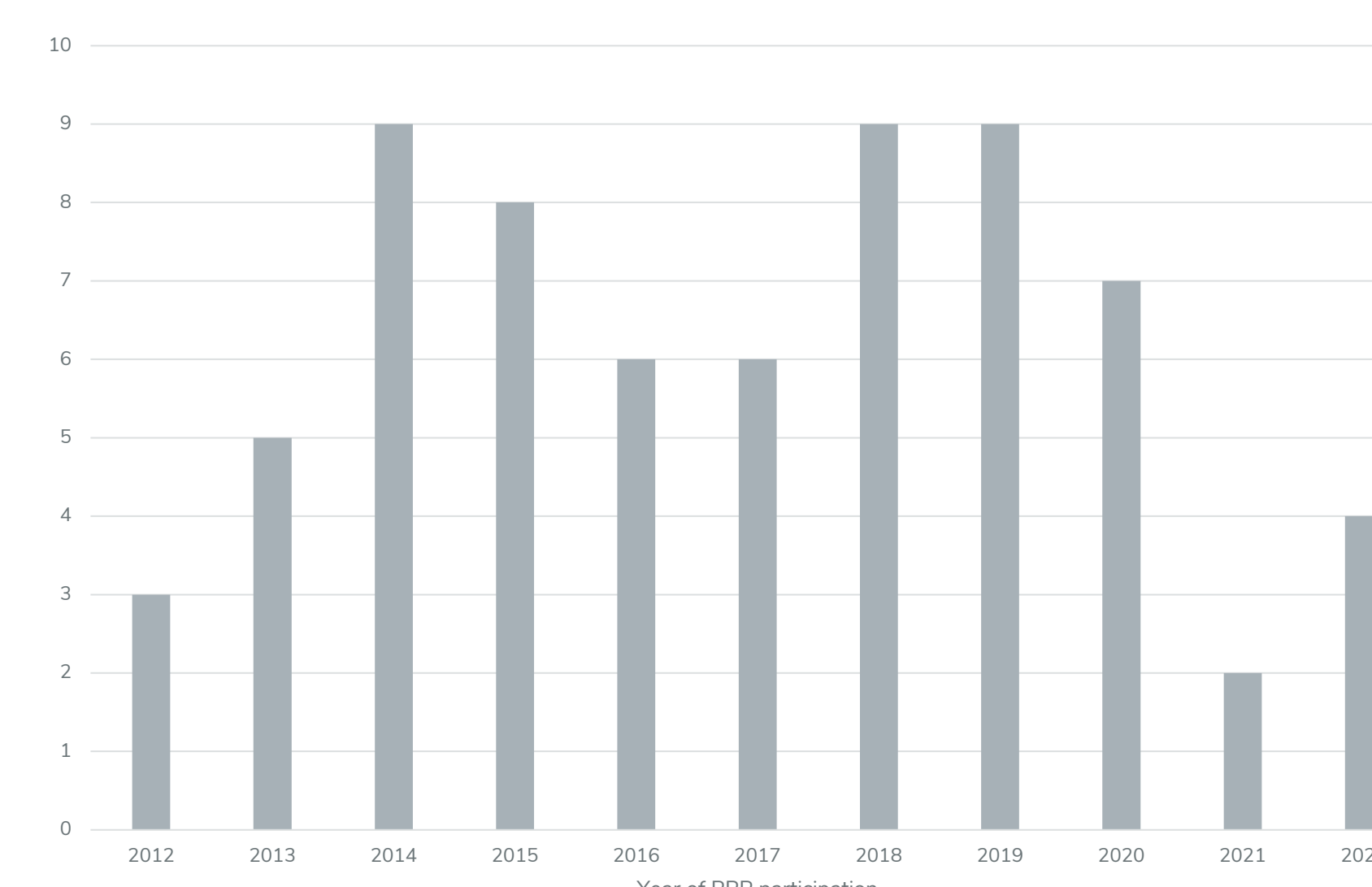
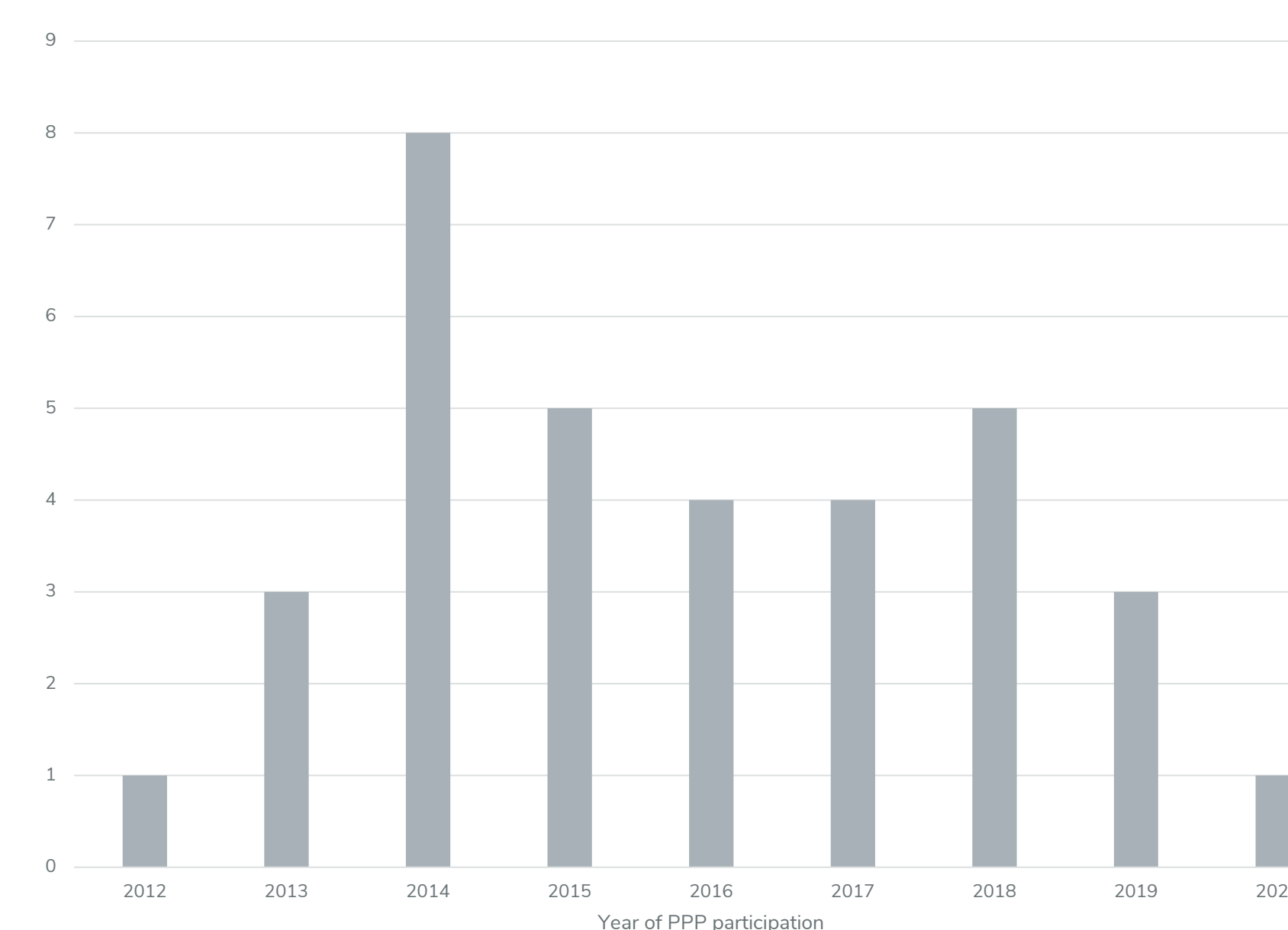
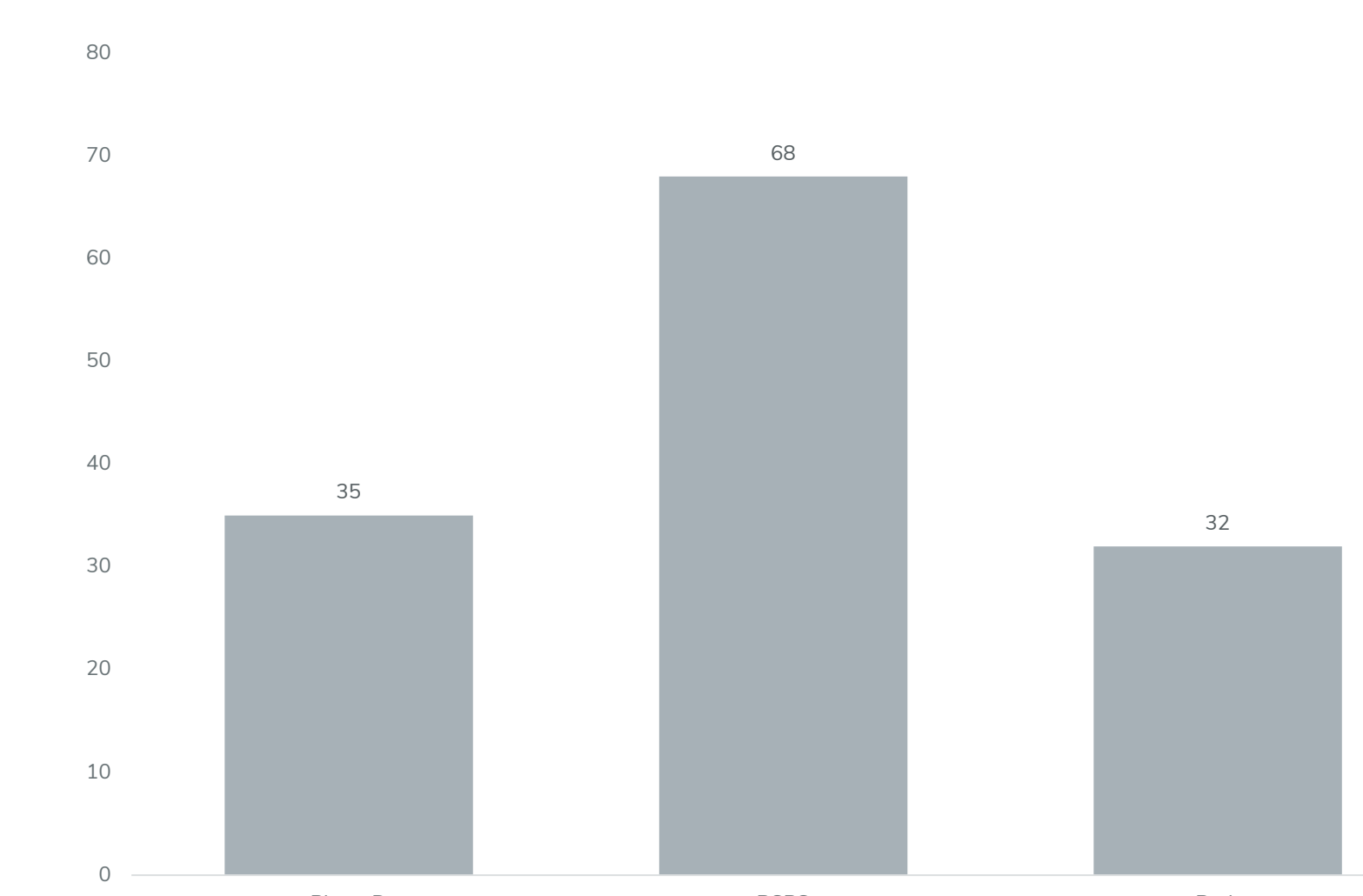


Figure 2: Number of students enrolled in PharmD program by year of PPP enrollment



Between the years of 2012 and 2020, we offered the PPP program to an average of 48 students per summer. Figure 1 shows the number of PPP participants by year of PPP enrollment that matriculated into our Bachelor's of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences program. Figure 2 shows the number of PPP participants by year of PPP enrollment that matriculated into our PharmD program.

Figure 3: Number of PPP participants who enrolled in College of Pharmacy Programs, 2012-2022



The Bachelor's program often acts as a feeder program to our PharmD program at Ohio State. Therefore, we wanted to see how many of our past PPP participants enrolled in both our Bachelor's and PharmD programs who participated in PPP between 2012 and 2020. As shown above, 32 students were identified as enrolled students in both programs over the period studied. As a proportion of the BSPhS students shown above are active undergraduates, we expect the combined number to go up over the next few years.

Conclusion

Efforts put towards successful precollege summer programs equip Colleges of Pharmacy with an engaging recruitment method to increase interest and overall enrollment in both undergraduate and professional pharmacy programs. Future endeavors aim to provide financial support to PPP participants in need and expand activities to include more facets of the field of pharmacy.



Pills, Potions and Poisons 2023 participants and staff.