

Understanding Race as a Social Construct as a Pre-requisite for Undergraduate Medical Education: A Student-Led Anti-Racism Curriculum for Incoming Medical Students



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BACKGROUND

- **Medical school curricula** continue to **falsely teach that race is a biological or genetic risk** factor for disease¹
- Few interventions exist to teach students about **race as a sociopolitical construct** and its **use and misuse** in medicine and science
- In 2019, medical students designed and piloted a curriculum designed for **medical school orientation** based on ***Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century***² by **Dorothy Roberts**
- Sharing results of the pilot program on social media resulted in **hundreds of requests for the curriculum around the U.S. and world**
- Here we present program evaluation data from **14 institutions** that implemented the program in **2020**

METHODS

- **Curriculum and facilitator guide** was **disseminated via social media**
- Students were provided a copy of ***Fatal Invention*** and participated in **small group discussions** with **faculty and student facilitators**
- Participants evaluated program using **REDCap survey**

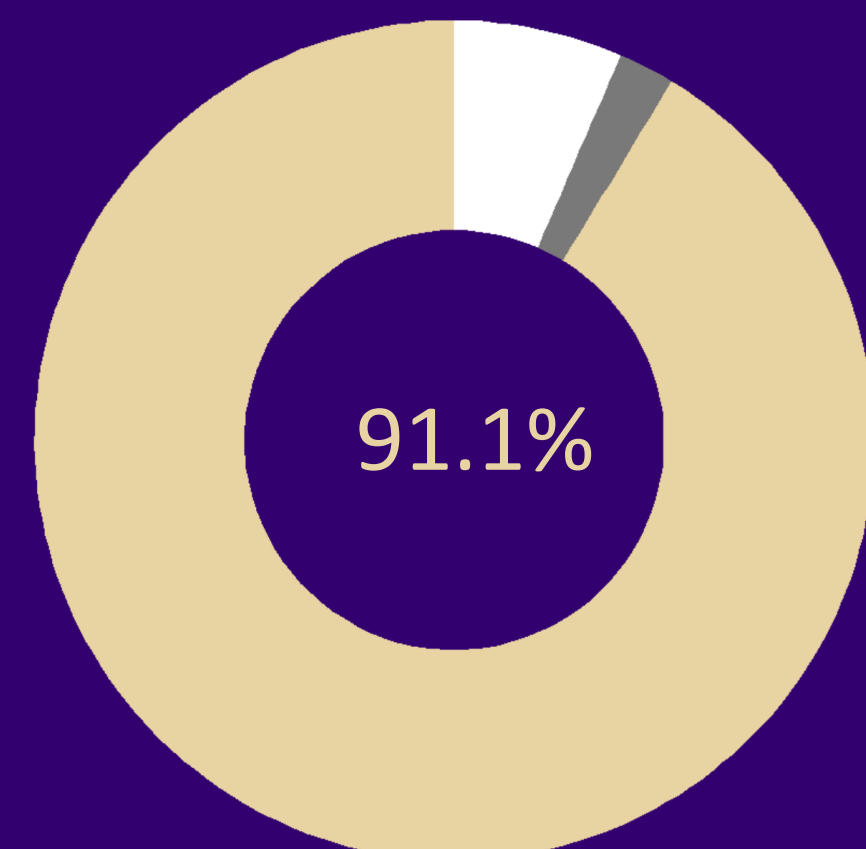


SCAN FOR CURRICULUM

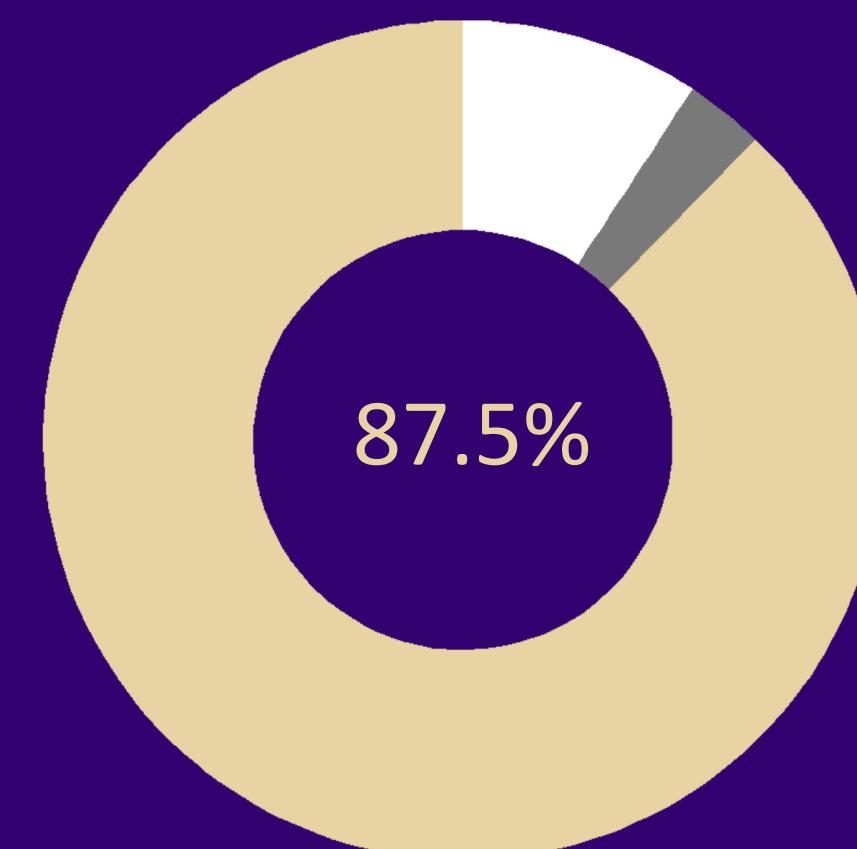
CONCLUSIONS

1. **The enthusiastic national response to the program suggests a need for validated curricula with anti-racist learning objectives**
2. **Reading *Fatal Invention* provides effective content for facilitated discussion in early, pre-clinical medical education that improves student understanding of race and the effect of racism on health outcomes**
3. **Student and faculty co-facilitated programs could be more efficacious than traditionally top-down pedagogic models**
4. **Anti-racist content in medical education can be effectively shared and standardized across institutions to inform best practices**
5. **Students want this as a part of their training**

Do you think anti-racism education is necessary in medical school?



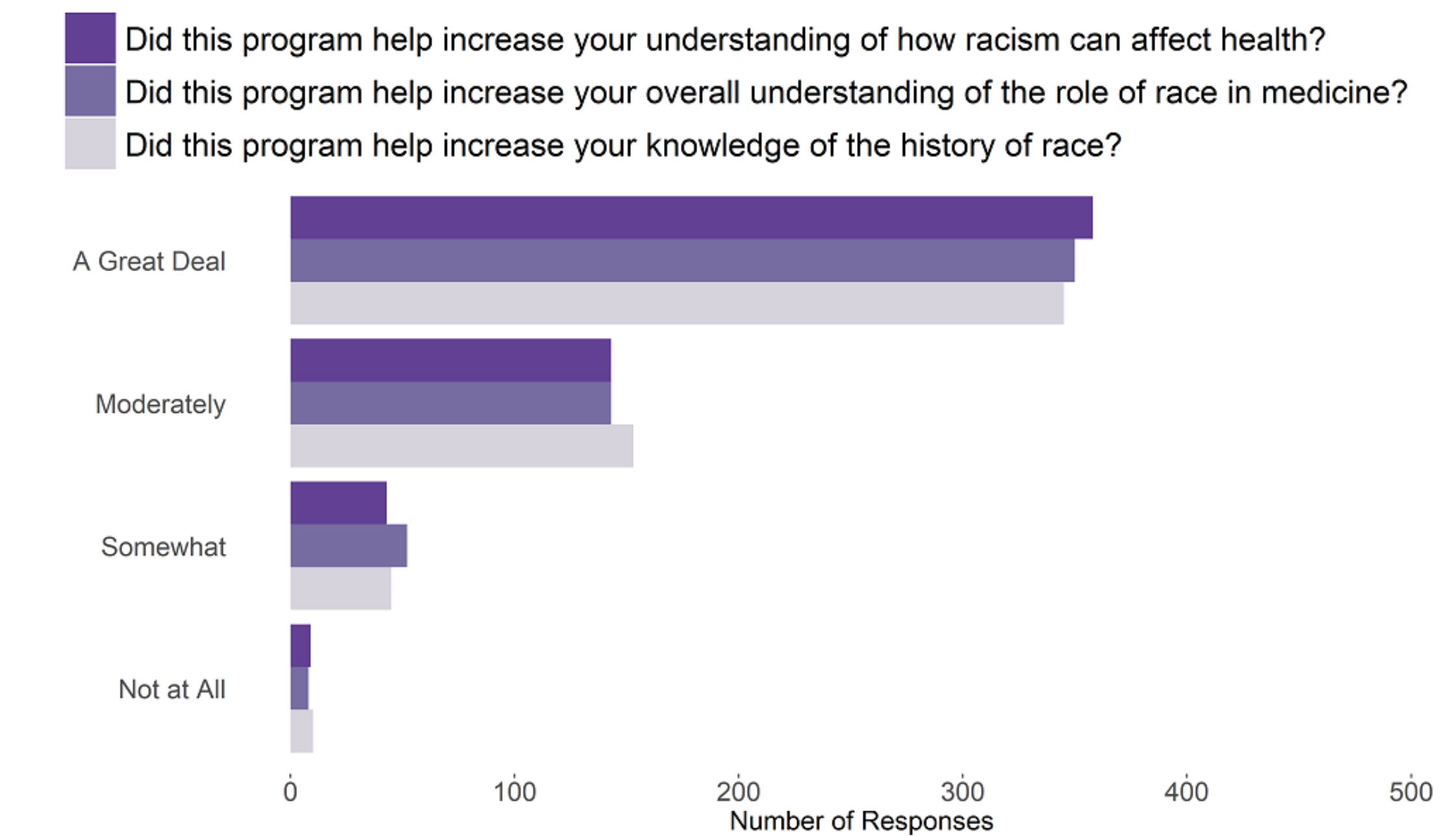
Would you like to see this program offered to next year's class or at other medical schools?



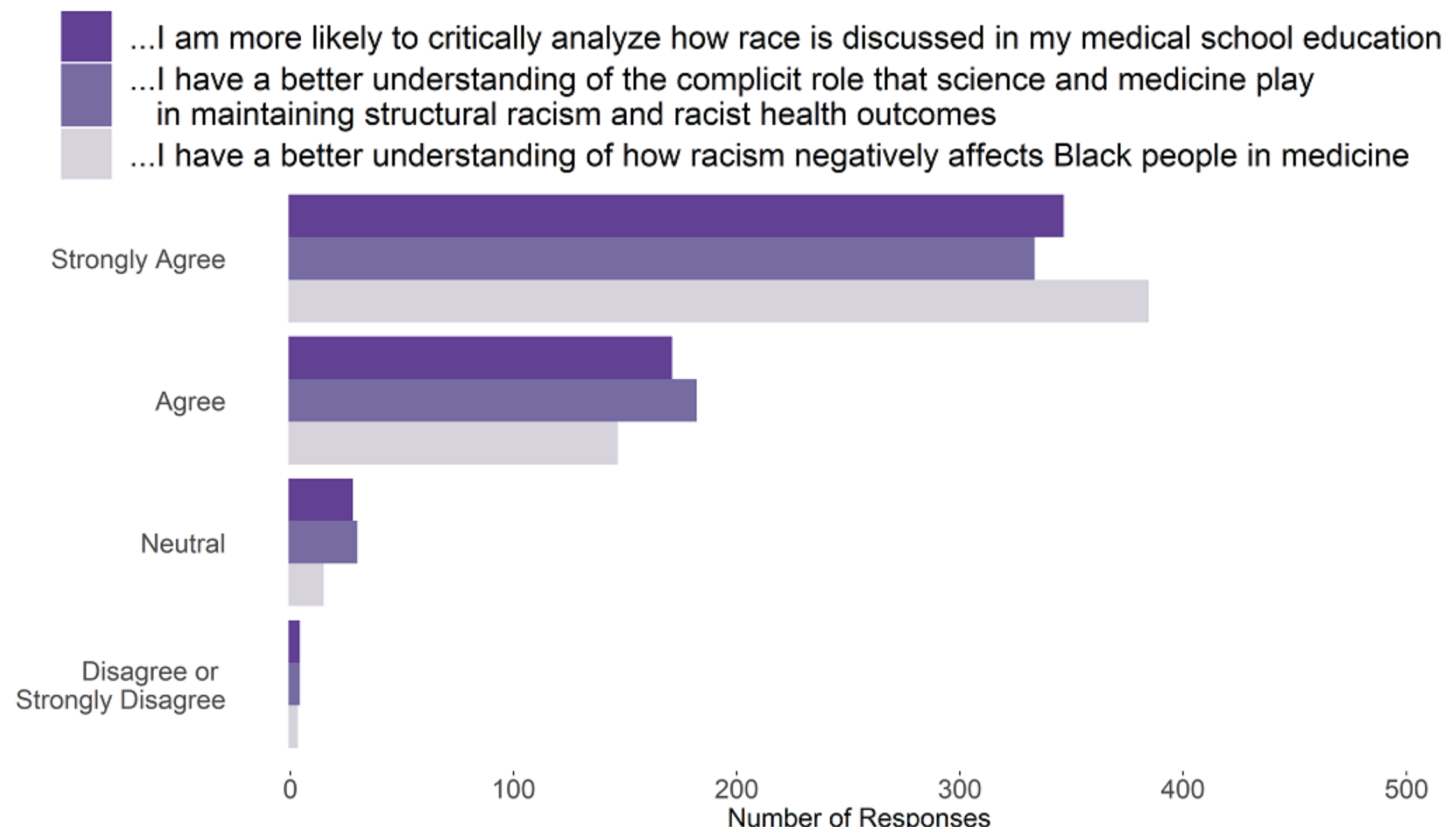
Yes
No
Maybe

RESULTS

- 553 STUDENTS** across **14 INSTITUTIONS** in **9 STATES** and **3 COUNTRIES**
- > **76%** MS1, **20%** Dental Students, **4%** MS2-4
 - > **10%** Black, **1%** Indigenous, **10%** Non-Black POC, **54%** White, **25%** Other
 - > **84%** mandatory; **16%** voluntary
 - > **81%** had prior exposure to the concept of race as a social construct



As a result of the summer reading program and discussion groups...



¹ Nieblas-Bedolla, E., Christophers, B., Nkinsi, N. T., Schumann, P. D., & Stein, E. (2020). Changing how race is portrayed in medical education: recommendations from medical students. *Academic Medicine*, 95(12), 1802-1806.
² Roberts, D. (2011). *Fatal invention: How science, politics, and big business re-create race in the twenty-first century*. New Press/ORIM.