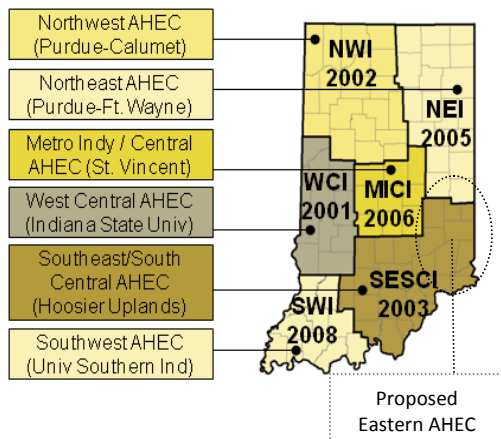


Indiana Area Health Education Centers Program

In Indiana and throughout the country, Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) work to improve access to quality health care through community-academic partnerships. By linking the Indianapolis-based academic medical center to communities around the state, the Indiana AHEC program:

- improves the **distribution** of Indiana’s health care professionals to areas and populations most in need of primary care;
- improves the **diversity** of the health care workforce in order to eliminate health disparities and increase access to health care for minority and disadvantaged populations;
- improves the **quality** of health care for all Hoosiers.



Indiana AHEC 2007

Connecting Students to Careers...

- ☑ 19,027 K-12 students in 53 **Kids Into Health Careers** outreach programs at dozens of Indiana schools
- ☑ 317 K-12 students participating in intensive academic enrichment and career exploration programs
- ☑ 18% of those completing intensive activities are racial/ethnic minorities under-represented in the health professions
- ☑ 73% of all participating students are educationally or economically disadvantaged

Connecting Health Professionals to Communities...

- ☑ 1,219 health professions trainees across Indiana
- ☑ 80 medically underserved sites providing clinical education to health professions trainees

Connecting Communities to Better Health...

- ☑ 1,330 continuing education participants in 43 offerings
- ☑ 302 participating clinicians from safety-net sites

Founded in 2001, the Indiana AHEC program is coordinated by the IU School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine. A statewide Advisory Board of more than 40 health care and health professions stakeholders guides program development. Six AHECs have been established in communities around Indiana. Each regional AHEC is guided by a community advisory board. In Indiana’s medically underserved communities, shortages of primary care health professionals result in poorer health and increased health care costs. Indiana’s regional AHECs accomplish their goals through several types of activities:

- **Recruiting pre-college students**—particularly students from under-represented minorities and from educationally disadvantaged and poorer families—into the health professions. Minority health professionals are more likely to serve vulnerable populations. And students who are from rural areas are more likely to return to practice in these areas if they receive high-quality training, mentoring, and support.
- Assisting in the **ambulatory training of health professionals**. Health professionals who train in underserved communities are more likely to serve those populations when their training is done.
- Providing **continuing education**, particularly to primary care providers and those who care for the underserved. Continuing education improves the quality of care and enhances professional satisfaction. These benefits improve retention of health professionals in Indiana’s rural and urban underserved areas.