

The importance of diverse voices in animal welfare: A veterinary medical perspective

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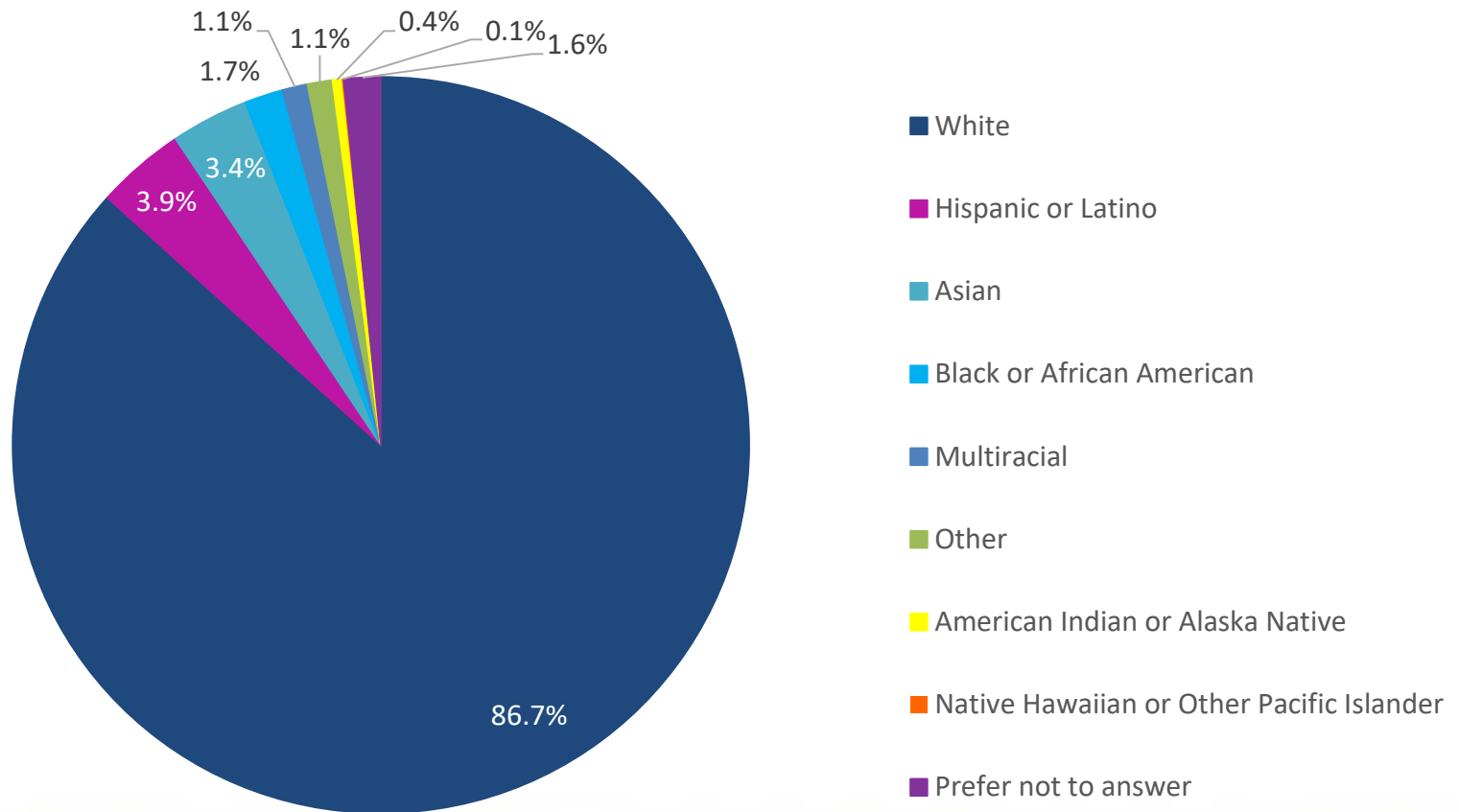
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Tuskegee University**



AVMA Membership – End of Year File 2018

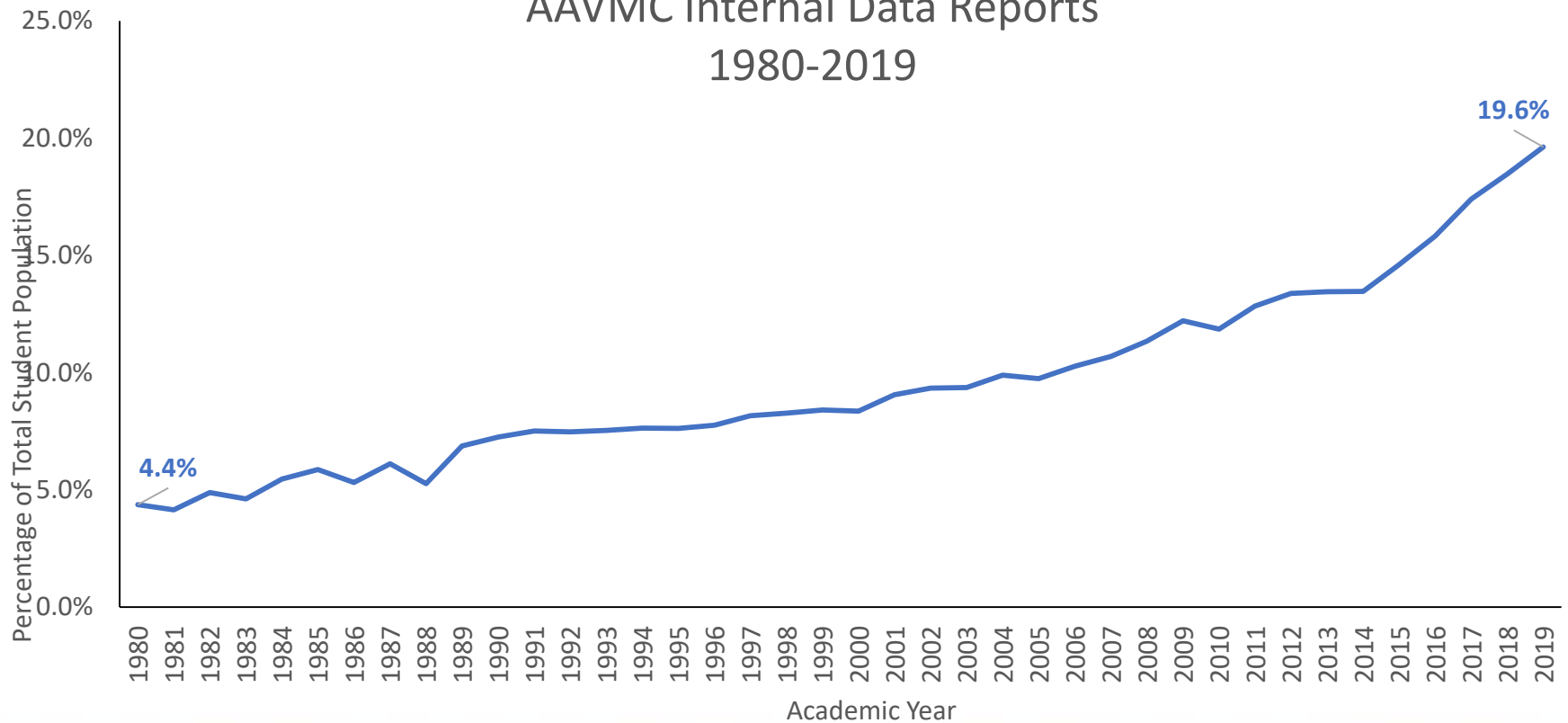


Data courtesy of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 2018.

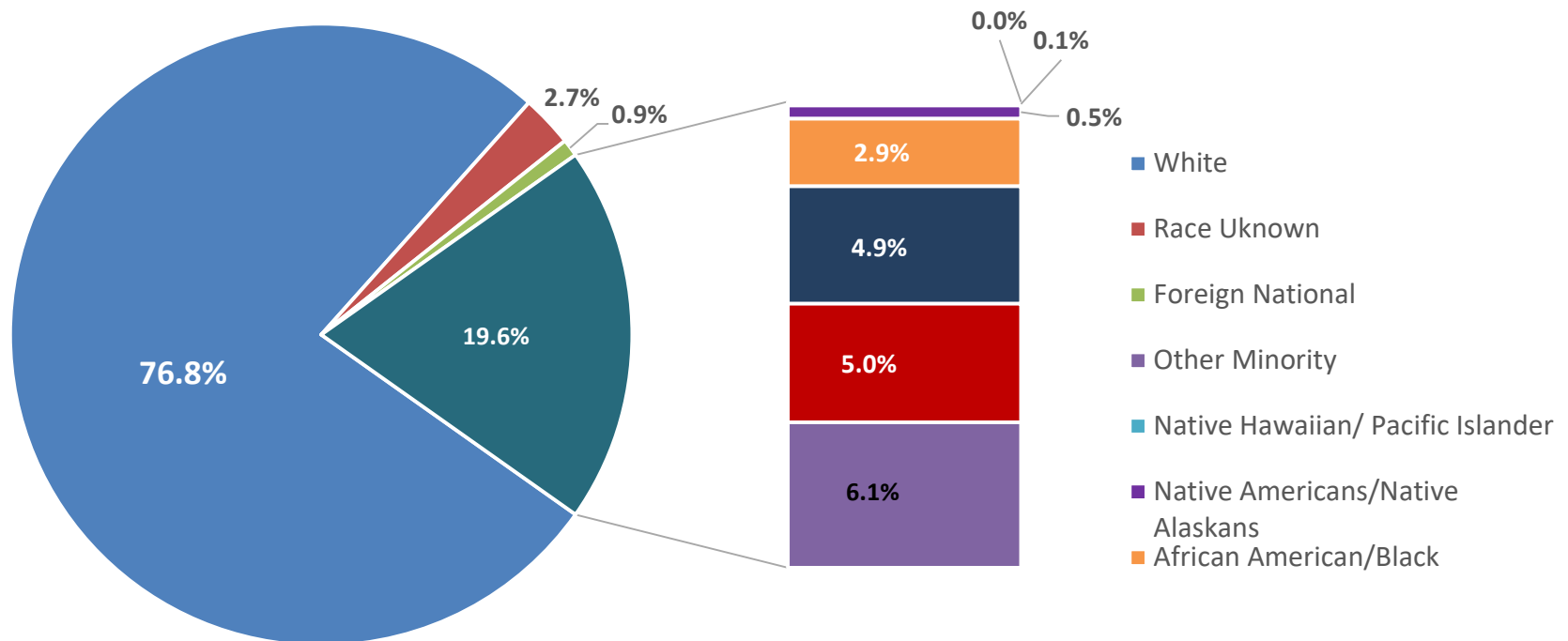


Percentage of Historically Underrepresented Students Matriculating at US Colleges of Veterinary Medicine

AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980-2019

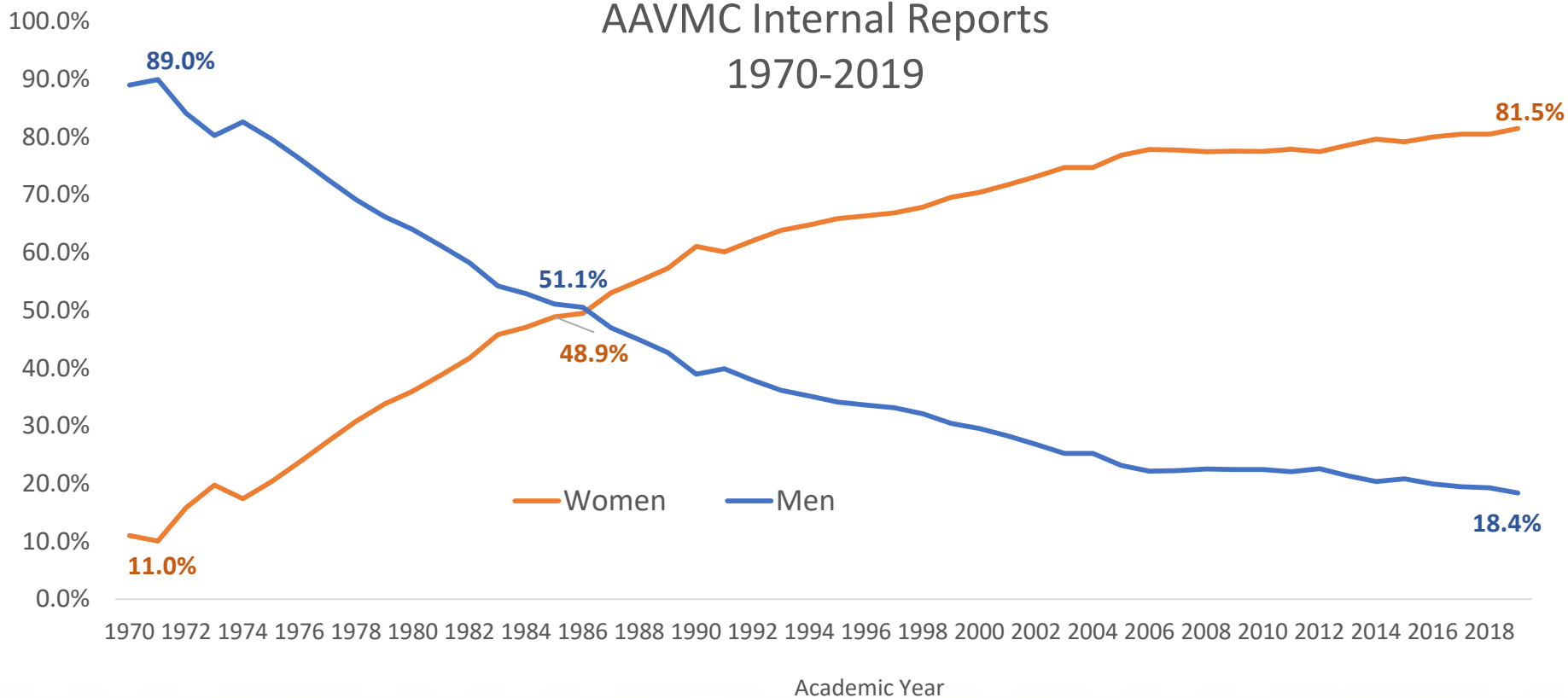


Racial and Ethnic Demographics of DVM Students at US Colleges of Veterinary Medicine with Underrepresented Student Breakout AAVMC Internal Reports 2019



Enrollment in the US Veterinary Medical Colleges by Sex

AAVMC Internal Reports
1970-2019



Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine's Diversity Programs' Success (within the last 10 years)

Among DVM students

From 6.7% URM representation to **24%** in 2018-19

35% URM representation in Class of 2021

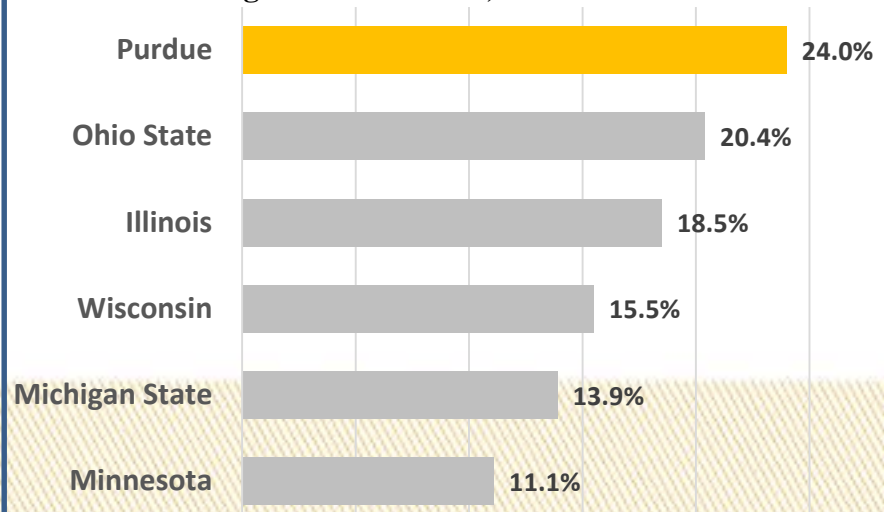
National ranking: **# 6 out of 30 U.S. Colleges**

Among faculty (from 2006-07 to 2017-18)

From 6.9% to **15.2%** URM

From 28.7% to **50.5%** women

**Underrepresented Minority Students in DVM Program
Big Ten Universities, 2018-19**



Importance of Diversity in Animal Welfare

Diverse voices from the veterinary community are needed to address challenging and complex issues of society

- Care and welfare of animals in natural disasters
- Disease eradication and the impact on diverse communities
- Judicious use of antibiotics
- Humane euthanasia
- Urban farming
- Sustainable food systems

Decision making benefits from diverse voices

- Policy development by state and federal government
- Impact of policies and procedures on diverse communities
- Improvement of animal health and welfare in diverse communities



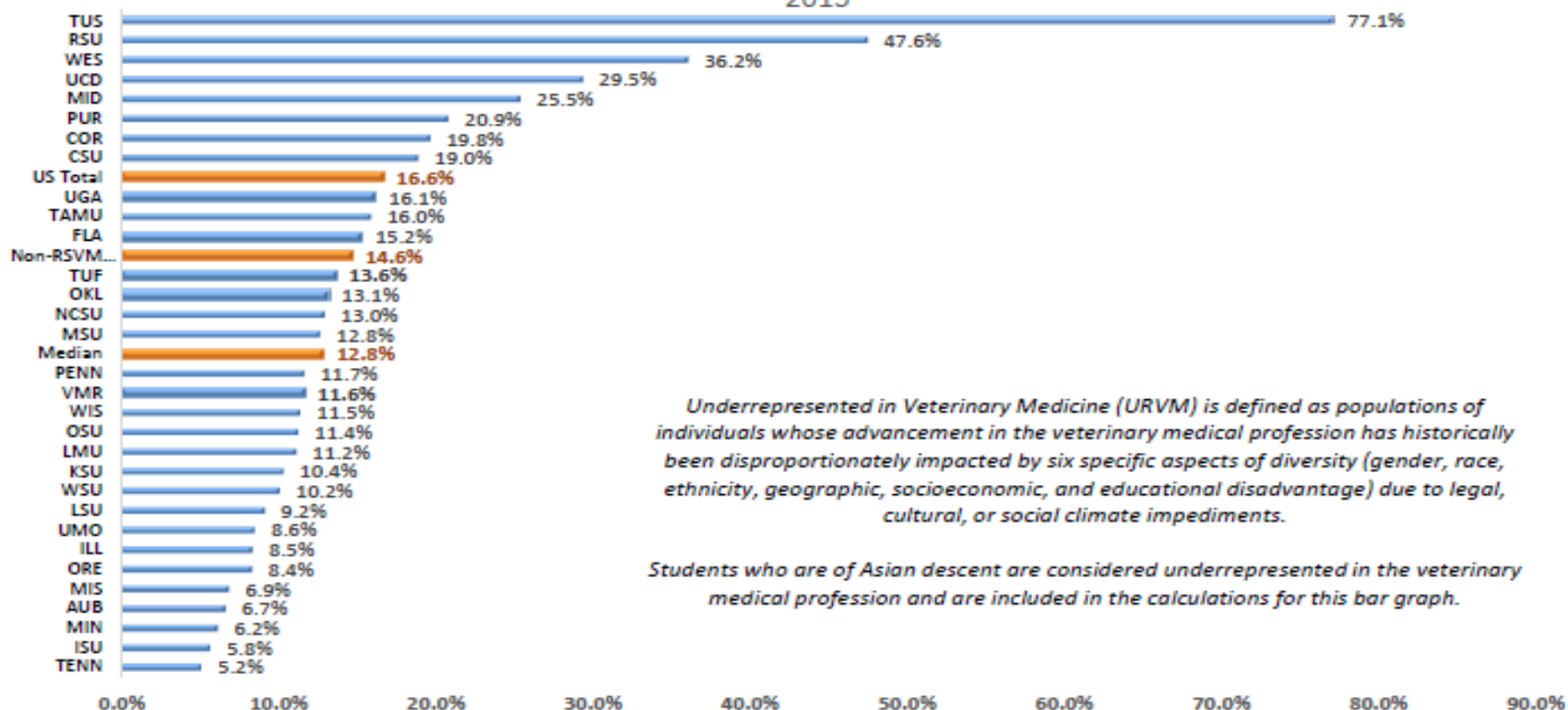
The Tuskegee Legacy.....

- To educate African Americans, underrepresented populations, socioeconomic backgrounds for the veterinary profession
- Remain true to the legacy and in the forefront of being the most diverse veterinary school in the US (30)
- The TUSVM produces slightly less than 70% of African American veterinary medical graduates in the US



Presence of Racially and Ethnically Underrepresented Students at US Colleges of Veterinary Medicine*

AAVMC Internal Reports
2015



Underrepresented in Veterinary Medicine (URVM) is defined as populations of individuals whose advancement in the veterinary medical profession has historically been disproportionately impacted by six specific aspects of diversity (gender, race, ethnicity, geographic, socioeconomic, and educational disadvantage) due to legal, cultural, or social climate impediments.

Students who are of Asian descent are considered underrepresented in the veterinary medical profession and are included in the calculations for this bar graph.

*This data set includes enrollment data from Ross University due to the high number of American students enrolled.

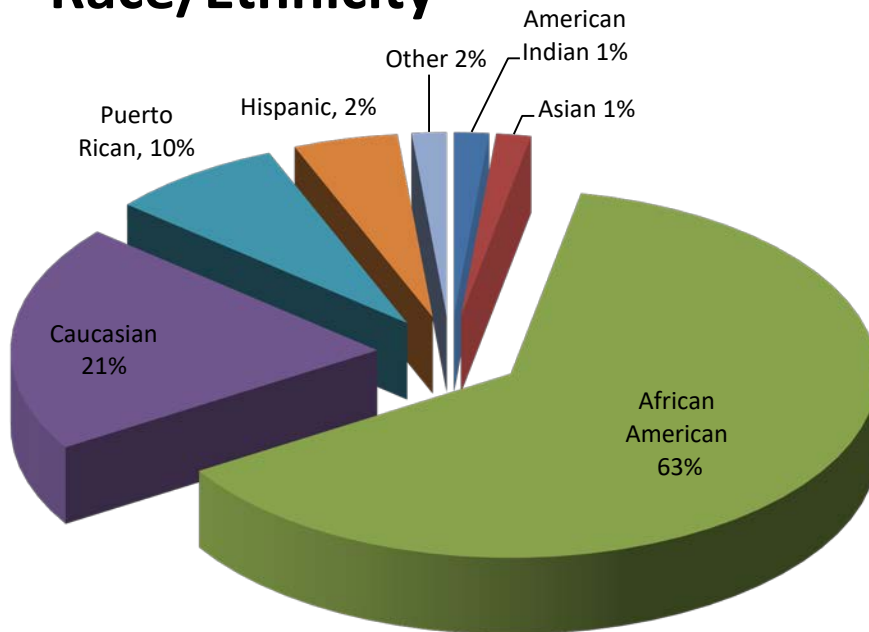
**This bar represents the US Total without Ross University.

THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

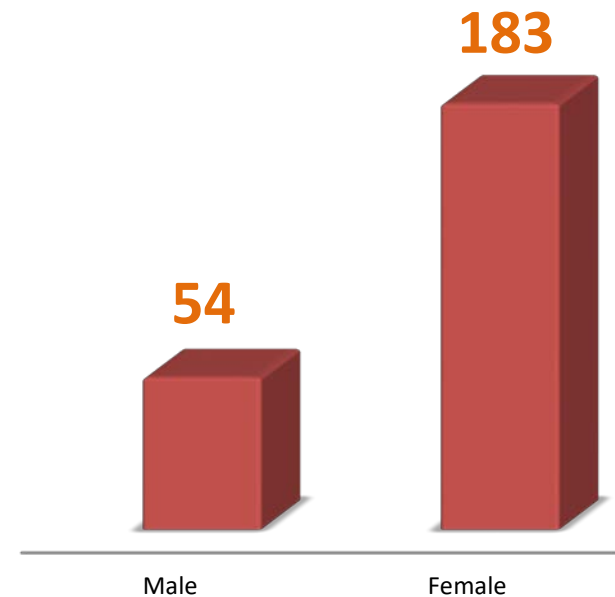


Student Enrollment

Race/Ethnicity



Gender





Lack of Veterinary Participation in Animal Welfare Science

- Lack of training
- No formal courses in the veterinary curriculum
- Curricula in veterinary colleges are focused primarily on health and disease
- Lack of demand by companion animal owners/clients for animal welfare services/information
- Food animal/equine owners generally more engaged since they are frequently targeted by animal rights groups
- Veterinary organizations' failure to assume leadership roles in contentious animal welfare issues



Animal Welfare

Leading Efforts to Promote and Protect Animal Welfare

- Advancement of animal welfare education and research requires:
 - Collective efforts of experts (educators, scientists and other stakeholders)



Educators Bridging the Gap

- Recognize the need for diversity of talents and resources
- Awareness in pre-veterinary medical programs
- Training and education in veterinary medical curriculum
- Continue education for veterinarians as major topics at conferences
- Veterinarians educated to an advanced level in all aspects of animal welfare science and ethics



Veterinarians should be uniquely positioned to step forward to provide the public, general veterinary practitioners, and other stakeholders with accurate information, advice, and advanced expertise concerning animal welfare questions and challenges

~ American College of Animal Welfare (ACAW)



QUESTIONS