

Background

Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training programs were developed to equip healthcare professionals with evidence-based strategies to combat tobacco use - the leading cause of preventable deaths in the world.¹ Those trained can use pharmacotherapy, counseling, and other interventions to treat patients.² This form of treatment proves to be more effective because it is tailored to the specific needs of each patient and their tobacco journey.³

Methods and Development

In the state of Kansas, a TTS course is offered through the University of Kansas Medical Center. The KU Tobacco Treatment Education program was accredited in 2020 and six cohorts have been trained from the summer of 2020 to the spring of 2023. The following describes and compares the demographic characteristics of graduates, the location, types of the trainee organizations of the TTS training program and growth in funding sources over time.

Age Ranges of TTS Graduates

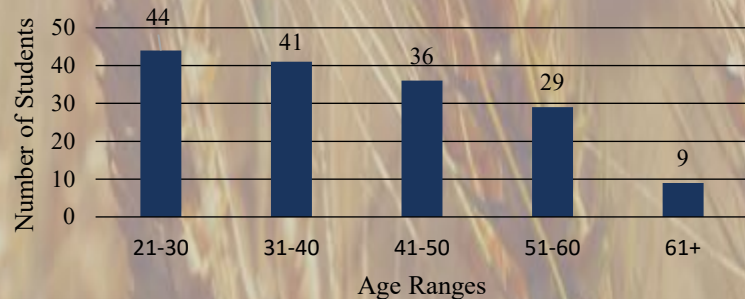


Figure 1 shows the variety of age groups trained in the TTS program.

Results

In total, 159 individuals have completed the program. Among those, the majority work in Sedgwick (11%), Johnson (11%), or Wyandotte counties (11%). The most common age group of graduates is 21-30 and the least common is 61 and older (FIG 1). The geographic spread of participants has increased over time. Few, however, are from western Kansas (FIG 2). The most common category of career represented by the graduates are those in behavioral health and the least common are those working in rehabilitation centers (FIG 3).

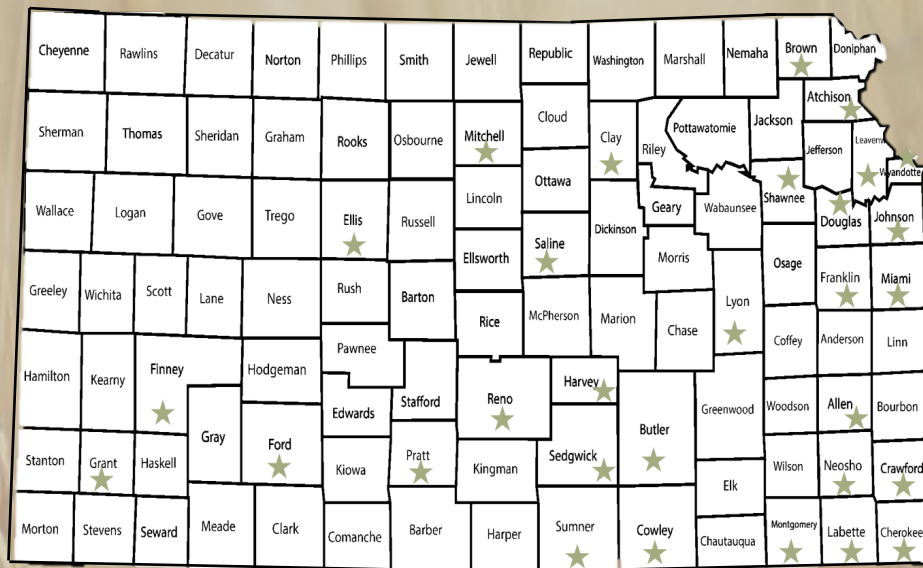


Figure 2 depicts the counties of employment for TTS graduates in the state of Kansas.

Evaluation and Conclusion

Funding has increased from a single source to multiple sources over time thereby increasing the reach of the program. Future promotion for the program's recruitment needs to be focused toward the northwestern counties of the state while continuing to attract those from the common counties in the past. With continued growth in this program, tobacco use, and its related health consequences should decline in Kansas as more are trained to treat tobacco use disorder.

TTS Graduates' Employment Organizations



Figure 3 represents the types of careers the TTS graduates have.

References

- Jacobovitz, S. (2014). *Tobacco kills: A Call to Industry*. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 64(24). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0735109714068648?via%3Dihub>
- Pbert, L., Jolicoeur, D., Reed, G., & Gammon, W. L. (2007). An evaluation of tobacco treatment specialist counseling performance using standardized patient interviews. *Nicotine & tobacco research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, 9(1), 119-128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14622200601078491>
- Sheffer, C. et al. (2021). The Emerging Global Tobacco Treatment Workforce: Characteristics of Tobacco Treatment Specialists Trained in Council-Accredited Training Programs from 2017 to 2019. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(5), 2416. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052416>