



# Who's Involved and Who Isn't? A Demographic Study of Senior FFA Members in Agricultural Education

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## FFA Involvement Correlations

**GPA & FFA Involvement**  
 21.4\*      15.0\*      8.6\*  
**A+ through A-**    **B+ through B-**    **C+ through C-**  
 \*Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**Gender Identity & FFA Involvement**  
 19.5\*      17.1\*  
**Female**      **Male**  
 \*Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**RUCA Classification & FFA Involvement**  
 17.9\*      19.5      18.3      21.5\*  
**Metropolitan**    **Micropolitan**    **Small Town**    **Rural**  
 \*Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**Ethnicity & FFA Involvement**  
 19.8<sup>a</sup>    10.6<sup>ab</sup>    13.7<sup>a</sup>    16.7<sup>b</sup>  
**White**    **Hispanic, Black or African**    **Other**  
**Latino, or Latinx**    **American**    **Minority**  
<sup>ab</sup>Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**Ethnicity & No FFA Involvement**  
 4.7%\*    17.6%      17.5%      10.3%  
**White**    **Hispanic, Black or African**    **Other**  
**Latino, or Latinx**    **American**    **Minority**  
 \*Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**Socioeconomic Status & FFA Involvement**  
 16.7<sup>a</sup>      20.5<sup>ab</sup>      13.8<sup>b</sup>  
**Free Lunch**    **No Free Lunch**    **Prefer not to answer**  
<sup>ab</sup>Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

**Future Plans Include Ag. & FFA Involvement**  
 12.9      14.6      15.5  
**Military**    **Training/Vocational**    **Two-Year**  
**School**      **School**      **College**  
 20.9\*      16.8      10.7  
**Four-Year**    **Ag-Related**      **Non-Ag-**  
**College**      **Job**      **Related Job**  
 21.8\* **Pursuing Ag.**    16.1\* **Not Pursuing Ag.**  
 \*Statistically significant difference at 0.05 level

## Introduction

- Participation in the National FFA Organization (2022b) is a crucial component of the three-component model of school-based agricultural education (SBAE).
- A record 760,113 members are enrolled in the organization as of 2020, just 13 years after the organization reached the half-million mark in 2007 (National FFA Organization, 2022c).
- With increased membership, barriers to involvement must be identified to ensure all members could achieve the FFA's mission.
- This nationwide descriptive study of 2020-2021 high school senior members of the National FFA Organization was conducted to provide an updated and focused look into its student membership.
- The study occurred in fall of 2020 with 1,528 respondents completing the online survey. An overview of involvement allowed us to understand certain barriers that impacted the participation of students from various demographic identities.

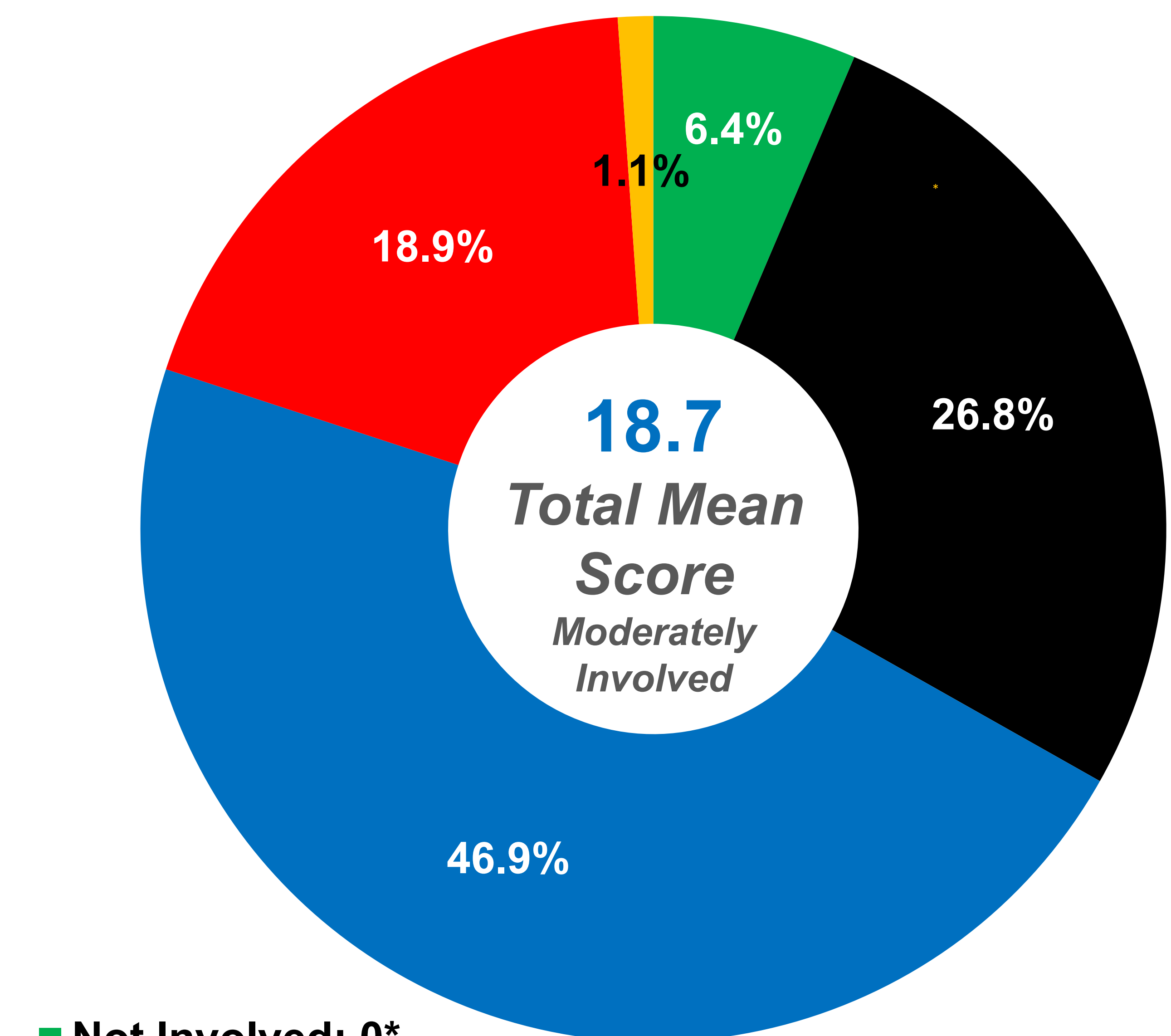
## Methods

- An online Qualtrics® survey was developed to understand students' FFA Involvement, Academic Success, and Demographics:
  - FFA Involvement** determined by the impact of one's level of involvement at the chapter (1), district/area/region (2), state (3), or national (4) level in eight events in the organization:
    - Officer Positions
    - Leadership Development Events (LDE)
    - Career Development Events (CDE)
    - Agriscience Fair
    - Conventions
    - Leadership Conferences or Camps
    - FFA Degrees
    - Proficiency Awards
  - Academic Success** as a factor of their level of involvement or engagement
  - Demographic Data** to compare socio-economic, geographic, and other interests as it relates to their engagement
- Data Collection.** The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Means, frequencies, and percentages were calculated for all variables. For statistical analyses, significance level was set a priori at 0.05. ANOVA analyses with Tukey post-hoc test were conducted for FFA Involvement and GPA, gender, RUCA classification, ethnicity, SES (free/reduced lunch), and future plans involving agriculture. Additionally, Chi-Square analyses were conducted for FFA No Involvement and ethnicity.

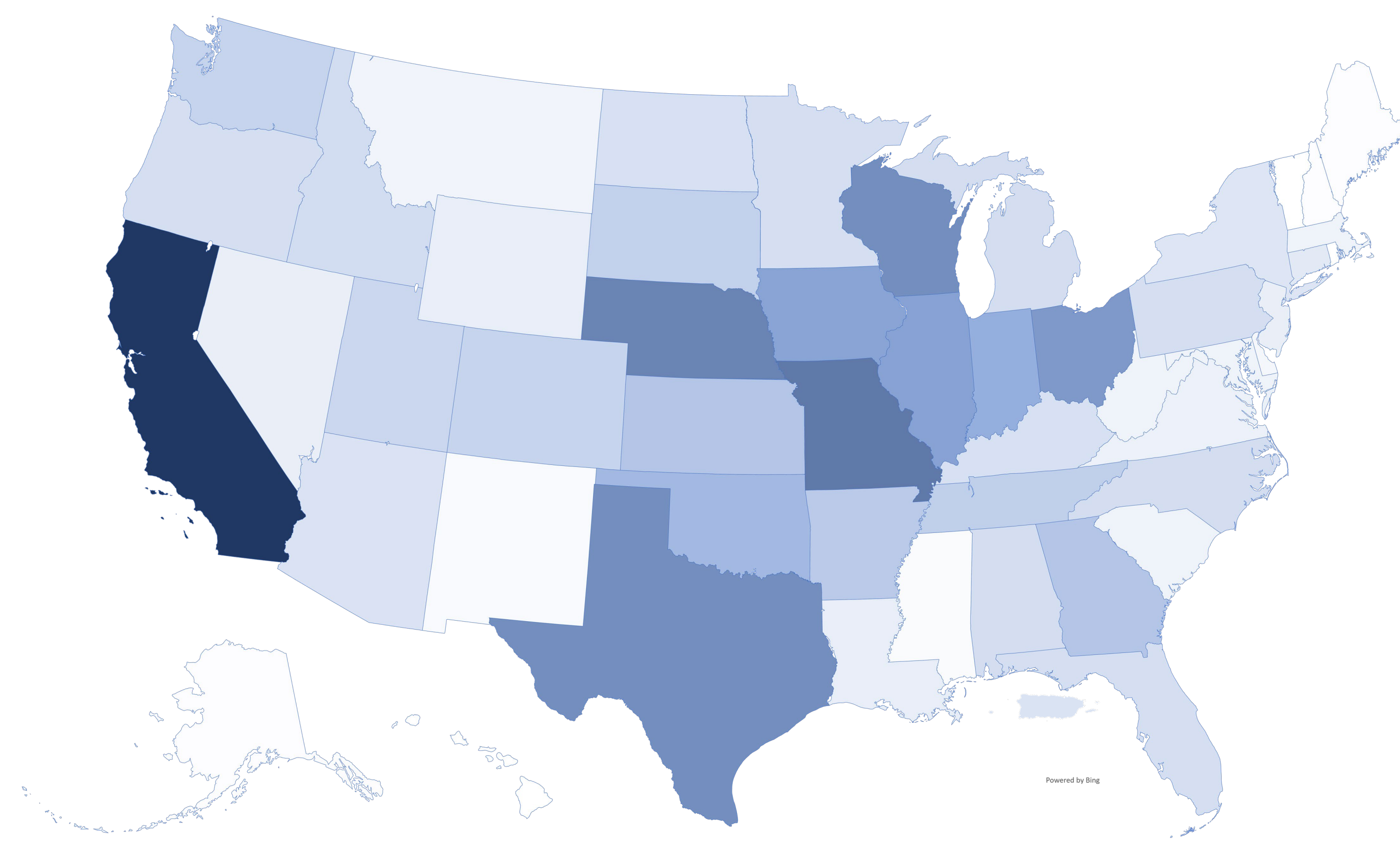
## Conclusions

- Rural, White females with an "A" GPA, not receiving free and reduced lunch, planning to attend a 4-year college, and pursue Agriculture as a career have a higher level of involvement in the FFA.
- A lack of learning on the students' part and professional development on the teachers' part are barriers to participation and involvement (Astin, 1999; Velez et al., 2018).
- Focused, targeted efforts on local, state, and national levels must occur to actively involve FFA members from groups with low involvement.

## Results



\*75 Respondents indicated they had No Participation in any of the eight Involvement areas.



Survey Respondents' State of Participation (f) 0 129

- 0 Respondents from Hawai'i, Rhode Island, or Vermont
- Every other state had at least 2 Respondents
- Puerto Rico had 3 Respondents

## Acknowledgements

- We thank the students of the National FFA Organization for providing the responses to the Qualtrics® survey as well as the parents of those under the age of 18 for providing consent to allow their students to participate.
- We acknowledge Dr. White, Mrs. Tennery, and Mrs. Mackey for all of their contributions to the study.
- References are available upon request from mcbrid44@purdue.edu