



Mission

Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) train front-line workers in state and local health departments, preparing them to protect American citizens in the event of a public health emergency – inclusive of infectious, environmental, occupational, and terrorist threats. Created in 2000 with CDC funding, the network of 27 centers located in graduate, accredited schools of public health has already reached hundreds of thousands of public health workers through applied training and targeted technical expertise aimed at protecting communities in real-world crises. The CPHP network of world-renowned preparedness experts, convened and coordinated by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), ensures a strong public health response is available across the nation when and where it is needed.

Importance

State and local public health professionals from across the nation and around the world face many new challenges. The North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness (NCCPHP) helps them successfully address these challenges through the applied expertise of its faculty and staff in epidemiology and surveillance, outbreak detection and investigation, public health law, curriculum development, and distance education. Whether determining training priorities through an online assessment of more than 11,000 public health workers or developing and implementing training plans and courses to meet these priorities, NCCPHP designs its products and services and evaluates its efforts to ensure that the audience's needs are being met.

NCCPHP provides a wide range of training programs – from 30-minute, just-in-time, online modules about emerging public health issues to a graduate certificate program in field epidemiology – most of which are offered in distance learning formats. Long-standing relationships with state and local public health partners and the high standards of the

nation's first and highest-rated public school of public health (per US News and World Report in "America's Best Graduate Schools 2006") contribute to NCCPHP's reputation as a trustworthy and dependable source for training and technical assistance.

Accomplishments

- *Sponsors the Team Epi-Aid (TEA) student epidemiology response program* which provides surge capacity to state and local public health agencies for outbreak investigations and responses to other public health emergencies. In 2006, TEA had 47 students who volunteered 969 hours of service to North Carolina counties (Alamance, Durham, Polk, Surry and Yancey), the North Carolina Division of Public Health and other states (Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina).
- *Partners with the State of North Carolina to deliver customized training programs* which address identified training needs. With the North Carolina Division of Public Health, NCCPHP has developed several online courses that are being offered routinely to state public health workers. These courses, "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Local Health Departments" and "Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation in North Carolina," have provided free continuing education to more than 223 public health workers in over 75% of the state's counties.
- *Offers more than 163 online modules available free to public health workers* on a training Web site, with 17 new trainings added in 2006. More than 15,900 registered users in all 50 states have completed over 25,900 trainings for free continuing education credits.
- *Maintains a learning management system* that more than 11,000 public health workers have used to assess their training needs and develops customized agency-wide training plans based on identified training needs for public health departments in South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina.
- *Offers expertise and training to public health agencies across the nation upon request* including the national debut of the first ever implementations of the CDC's Public Health Emergency Law course in West Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The *FOCUS on Field Epidemiology* periodical goes out to more than 6,000 us-

ers on a bi-monthly basis. In 2006, a mental health preparedness training curriculum for local health department staff and volunteers was developed for use in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Contact

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