



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

The Arizona Center for Public Health Preparedness (AzCPHP) aims to improve unified public health preparedness and capacity to respond to all-hazard types of public health emergencies in Arizona and the Southwest. A unique aspect of the AzCPHP preparedness training curriculum includes the development of culturally competent preparedness materials appropriate to Arizona's tribal nations and to the U.S.-Mexico border region. The AzCPHP fills a unique gap in responding to the specialized needs of the state, county, tribal and cross-border partners, building on well-established collaborations. Currently, the center has two separate subcontracts with Dine College in Navajo Nation and with the Tohono O'odham Nation Community College. These colleges have been selected to adapt our existing public health preparedness training materials to serve their unique cultural needs.

In addition, there have been several collaborative partnerships with the smaller tribes in Arizona in providing assistance with Pandemic Influenza Preparedness. AzCPHP

is currently working with San Carlos Apache Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab-Paiute Tribe, and Ft. Mohave Tribe to develop training materials in addition to providing technical assistance with workshops and presentations covering prevention measures, community preparedness, and isolation and quarantine. These tribes cover the North-western, Central, and Eastern part of the state, expanding our current tribal outreach of the Northeastern and Southern Region.

Accomplishments

- The AzCPHP offers a three-part *Certificate Program in Public Health Preparedness* that will provide a comprehensive framework for approximately 1,300 public health professionals, public health managers, administrators, and leaders involved in all aspects of public health emergency management. The Certificate in Public Health Preparedness is a 40-hour program of study delivered in a blended instruction format. The curriculum addresses the core functions of public health professionals in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities with an all-hazards approach. The three-part program consists of the following components:
 - Introduction to Public Health Preparedness (115 individuals trained)
 - Preparedness in the Southwest (just released in January 2007)
 - Arizona Public Health Preparedness Seminar (301 participants)
- The Student Aid for Field Epidemiological Response (SAFER) 2007 spring semester team is comprised of eight new public health graduate students with an additional 26 alumni that participate in outbreak investigation with the state health department. Throughout the two-year history of the program, over 40 public health graduate students have been trained in outbreak response and have contributed a total of 170 hours of service to the state. The SAFER team partners with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to provide students with training in surveillance, reporting procedures, and outbreak investigations, including:
 - Pertussis outbreak in Pima County
 - Norovirus outbreak at a local assisted care facility

- Case-control of possible food borne outbreaks with Maricopa County Health Department
 - Norovirus outbreak at the Grand Canyon
 - Hepatitis A outbreak investigation with ADHS
 - West Nile Virus health education study
 - Salmonella outbreak in Sierra Vista, AZ
- In 2005, the ADHS Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response contracted with the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health to develop and deliver Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness & Response Training curricula for the tribes in Arizona. This project was funded through a separate contract with the ADHS, and was a huge success which subsequently led to an additional training session in April 2006 in Navajo Nation. In total 202 representatives of the public health and emergency management workforce received training. There were representatives from the Indian Health Service, tribal health programs, law enforcement, fire, EMS and other first responders, natural resources such as veterinary and range management programs. In addition local leaders and community members also participated.
- AzCPHP has developed a Tribal Preparedness Training Task Force in collaboration with the Critical Response and Emergency Systems Training (CREST) program, a HRSA-funded all-hazards preparedness training grant for the clinical workforce. The goal of the task force is to create a network of tribal representatives already serving on existing committees to address issues, challenges, gaps, and barriers to preparedness-related training activities and to identify broader training needs for tribal programs. The taskforce consist of a group of inter-disciplinary professionals with broad reaching experience including community health representatives, health care professionals, first responders, bioterrorism coordinators, and representatives from the Indian Health Service, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, and the Arizona Department of Health Services.
- AzCPHP is working with the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Border Health to identify cross-border training needs for the U.S.-Mexico Border States. Additionally, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC) has enthusiastically developed a web cast portal linking directly to the seminars offered by AzCPHP. This portal provides

access to states on both sides of the United States-Mexico international border.

- Another significant milestone in border-related preparedness activities is fulfillment of a contract with the California Office of Binational Border Health to implement an online assessment tool designed to identify the training needs of the public health preparedness workforce dedicated to the U.S.-Mexico border region. The AzCPHP collected, analyzed, and reported data to the contractor along with recommendations for future studies and training programs.

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