



## 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

In Georgia, the largest state east of Mississippi, Atlanta is often viewed as the hub of public health expertise. As the Georgia state capital, Atlanta contains three university and college-based public health preparation programs (Emory, Morehouse, and Georgia State) and is home to the CDC, the American Cancer Society, and the National Arthritis Foundation.

The Emory Center for Public Health Preparedness (Emory CPHP) seeks to address how to disseminate this concentrated, Atlanta-based public health preparedness expertise to the state public health workforce who does not otherwise have access to these resources. The Emory CPHP uses technology as a primary strategy of disseminating public health preparedness and response expertise throughout the state via podcasts, CD-ROMs, web-based lectures, case studies, and other interactive trainings.

## Accomplishments

- Collaborated with the Georgia Division of Public Health and local health agencies to *develop a system to track preparedness training needs and activities of the public health workforce across Georgia*. Almost 4,000 public health workers profiled their training needs using the system. The information that was collected is used to develop targeted state and district training plans. When developing training programs, the Emory CPHP also uses evaluations from previous trainings and responds to requests from state and local partners.
- *Developed and disseminated via CD-ROM and the web: 54 instructional lectures; eight interactive trainings; four web-based case studies; and five conference proceedings (as of January 1, 2007)*, with more than 23,000 copies of these CD-ROM trainings distributed to state and local public health workers across Georgia and the nation. Trainings, developed by the Emory CPHP, have been adopted by academic preparation programs within Georgia as well as a local AHEC (Area Health Education Center). Other CPHP have incorporated the Emory CPHP's products into their own offerings – as evidenced by requests to duplicate CD-ROMs, requests for large quantities of CD-ROMs, and requests to link to specific web-based materials. In addition, Emory CPHP products have been requested by professional organizations including the local public health affiliate and medical association of emergency room physicians. It is anticipated that requests will continue to increase with the offering of continuing education credits for nurses, physicians, health educators, pharmacists, and other health professionals.
- *Provided three Leadership Institutes for Public Health Preparedness for the nursing leadership in three health districts in Georgia (Rome, LaGrange, and Gainesville)*. A total of 54 nursing leaders participated in these Institutes. As the culminating project for the Leadership Institutes, the participants developed a plan for implementing either a Strategic National Stockpile Dispensing Site or a Special Needs Population Shelter. For each participating district, this work continued after the Leadership Institute. Evaluation findings from a one year follow-up to the first Leadership Institute indicate that the nursing leaders were overwhelmingly satisfied with the Institute and that the Institute was beneficial to participants in helping them set up an SNS site in their respective communities.

- Held an annual Emergency Preparedness Summit for Faculty in Georgia Schools of Nursing, and invited representatives from all nursing programs within the state.
  - The first summit, held in August 2005, had 50 participants representing 27 of 35 Georgia schools of nursing, the Emory CPHP, the University of Puerto Rico, state and local public health in Georgia, and CDC. Major areas of discussion were the: (1) Role of preparedness education in nursing preparedness programs; (2) Role of nursing schools in educating the existing nursing workforce; and (3) Role of nursing preparedness programs and students in responding to emergencies.
  - The second summit, held in August 2006, had 42 participants representing 23 of 35 Georgia schools of nursing, the Emory CPHP, Georgia Division of Public Health, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – Shreveport, and University of South Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness. Major areas of discussion for the second summit were: (1) Experiences from Katrina; (2) Emergency preparedness curriculum for nursing students; (3) Update from the state; (4) Pan flu update/insights from the Emory CPHP; and (5) breakout sessions examining emergency preparedness content in four nursing speciality areas.
  - A third summit is planned for April 2007.
  - A follow-up evaluation of the first two summits showed that between 50-61% of participants identified the following emergency preparedness gaps and deficiencies in their current curricula: disasters associated with explosive agents emergency response training; mass casualty emergency response training; bioterrorism emergency response training; information about chain of command in various scenarios; triage training; infectious disease emergency response training; natural disaster emergency response training; information about working with other key stakeholders in an emergency situation; and information about communications during an emergency situation. Summits like those held by the Emory CPHP are one mechanism for assisting nursing faculty in addressing these curricular gaps.
- Worked with the Georgia Division of Public Health to develop the Georgia Public Health Preparedness Scholars Program which provides tuition support to 12 state and local public health workers. The employees' participation in this program better prepares them to respond to public health emergencies in their communities as indicated by self reports from local health directors.
- Collaborated with the Health Care Georgia Foundation to obtain funding for five new scholars beginning fall 2006.
- Collaborated with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Graduate School of Public Health to establish the UPR Center which develops and implements emergency preparedness and response trainings for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Working with the Emory CPHP, the UPR Center has established the following programs: Mini Residency for UPR Faculty, First Responder Trainings, and the adaptation of existing and the development of new curricula for the public health workforce in Puerto Rico.
- The UPR CPHP translated into Spanish five CD-ROM trainings that were originally developed in English by the Emory CPHP: Nuevas Amenazas a la Salud Pública: Bioterrorismo (Emerging Threats in Public Health: Bioterrorism); Nuevas Amenazas a la Salud Pública: Terrorismo radiológico y nuclear (Emerging Threats in Public Health: Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism); Nuevas Amenazas a la Salud Pública: Terrorismo químico (Emerging Threats in Public Health: Chemical Terrorism); El universo de la viruela (The Universe of Smallpox); and, Preparación en Salud Pública: ¿Sabemos de que se trata? (Public Health Preparedness: Do We Know What It Is?).
- Collaborated with COTPER (CDC) and the Georgia Division of Public Health to begin a formal relationship with the Business Executives for National Security (BENS).

## Contact

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