



NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER

New York and New Jersey

Summary of the PHTC

The Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's School of Public Health, and the School of Public Health at the University of Albany comprise the New York and New Jersey Public Health Training Center. The Center's focus is bi-fold, addressing the needs of the current workforce and preparing the future public health workforce. The three goals of the Center are:

- Devise, implement, and evaluate a readily accessible competency-based educational program to improve the knowledge, attitudes, and skills of the current and future public health workforce of New York and New Jersey;
- Improve access to a diverse and culturally competent public health workforce; and,
- Collaborate with other Public Health Training Centers and similar organizations to inform state and local policy and practice on public health workforce development and credentialing.

Impact of the PHTC

The NYNJ PHTC continues to develop new trainings to meet the needs of our workforce. Some examples include:

- In February 2003, the NYNJ PHTC launched "Orientation to Public Health," an interactive web-based course for health department employees new to the field of Public Health. The course has been an overwhelming success, with 3,399 people having registered for the course as of mid-February 2004. 87% of trainees indicated that the course helped them gain a better understanding of the Public Health field, and 71% indicated that the information learned in the course would help them perform their jobs more effectively.
- A number of health departments have adopted the "Orientation to Public Health" course as a part of their orientation for new staff. This has proven to be applicable locally (e.g. The New York State Department of Health, The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services) and across the country (e.g. Spokane County, Washington Department of Health).
- The Center will focus its efforts on developing three web-based training modules in cross-cultural competence and communication skills training, a high priority need identified by the New York State Department of Health.