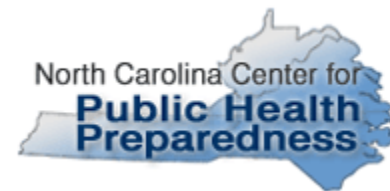


Center Spotlight



At the North Carolina Institute for Public Health

A quarterly newsletter highlighting NCCPHP activities and accomplishments

April-June 2005

This spring, we worked towards completing activities outlined in our first grant year, and began developing and implementing projects for future years.

The Center assisted the Metropolitan Health Department of Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee, as they prepared their application for Project Public Health Ready Certification, completing an assessment and training plan, and began offering trainings to meet identified needs. In Virginia, a 5-part videoconference training series, "E is for Epidemiology" was concluded in May, and a new 7-part series, "I is for Investigation" began in June. The statewide training plan developed in partnership with the West Virginia Office of Threat Preparedness was presented to local and regional training directors at a meeting in Charleston, WV. In North Carolina, the Center's workforce development staff continue to use data provided by the Public Health Workforce Development System to help public health agencies implement lifelong learning strategies that best target the priority training needs of their employees.

This fall, the first cohort of 70 students will begin the Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology, a joint project of the Center, the Institute for Public Health, and the Department of Epidemiology. In addition, we plan to unveil a new seminar series in Public Health Preparedness this academic year, where public health students, faculty, and professionals will be invited to hear lectures from experts on various preparedness topics. We are also planning several new training courses, including Public Health Emergency Law, based on a CDC manual developed for state-level adaptation.

---Pia MacDonald, NCCPHP Director

Surveillance & Epidemiology

Team Epi-Aid (SPH student volunteers to assist the state with outbreak investigations)

This summer, Team Epi-Aid is assisting the North Carolina Division of Public Health with a study of the health effects of recreational water exposure to be conducted at Falls Lake Recreation Area. Other Team Epi-Aid activities this quarter include assistance with an outbreak of *salmonella* to Mitchell County, technical assistance with communicable disease data analysis to Randolph County, and student training on Epi Info software and hypothesis generation.

Articles Published

Frieden TR, Mostashari F, Kerker BD, Miller N, **Hajat A**, and Frankel M. Adult Tobacco Use Levels After Intensive Tobacco Control Measures: New York City, 2002-2003. *Am J Public Health*. 2005. 95(6):1016-1023.

Harrison LM, Davis MV, MacDonald PDM, Alexander LK, Cline JS, Alexander JG, **Rothney EE, Rybka TP**, Stevens RH. "Development and Implementation of Public Health Workforce Training Needs Assessment Survey in North Carolina." *Public Health Rep*. 2005. 120 (Supplement 1): 28-34.

MacDonald PDM. "Team Epi-Aid: Graduate Student Assistance with Urgent Public Health Response." *Public Health Rep*. 2005. 120 (Supplement 1): 35-41.

Training & Education

Training Web Site

In the second quarter of 2005, the NCCPHP Training Web Site had 1,115 new registered users and 2,312 new completed trainings. So far this year, NCCPHP has developed 13 new Web-based distance learning modules that allow users to receive free continuing education units.

FOCUS on Field Epidemiology periodical

Two new issues of FOCUS were published this quarter:

- Volume 2, Issue 3: Developing a Questionnaire
- Volume 2, Issue 4: Selecting a Study Design

NCCPHP also conducted a survey of FOCUS users to improve our product and better understand the ways in which people use the periodical.

Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology

The application deadline for fall admission to the Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology was June 30; more than 90 applications were received from public health professionals in 13 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada. A cohort of 70 students will begin the Certificate this fall.

Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation training course

A total of 29 communicable disease nurses completed the spring 2005 course. To date, 87 nurses from local health departments across North Carolina have completed this training course.

North Carolina Epi Teams Conference

Nearly 350 public health workers from across the state attended the North Carolina Epi Teams Conference held June 8-9 in Research Triangle Park, NC. NCCPHP staff sat on the planning committee for the Conference, presented information on distance learning opportunities, and exhibited the *FOCUS on Field Epidemiology* periodical.

Epi Info Software Training

NCCPHP conducted training sessions on the Epi Info Software program to nearly 40 public health workers in 5 local health departments this quarter.

Hightow LB, **MacDonald PDM**, Pilcher CD, Kaplan AH, Foust E, Nguyen TQ, Leone PA. "The Unexpected Movement of the HIV Epidemic in the Southeastern United States: Transmission Among College Students." *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2005. 38(5): 531-537.

Presentations

Exhibit of NCCPHP resources. Eastern District Meeting of the North Carolina Public Health Association, New Bern, NC. May 11-12, 2005

Exhibit of NCCPHP resources. Western District Meeting of the North Carolina Public Health Association, Boone, NC. May 18-19, 2005

Horney J, Alexander LK, MacDonald PDM. "Determining User Satisfaction with Online Public Health Preparedness Training." Poster presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting. June 25, 2005.

Lifelong Learning

NCCPHP staff continued their assistance in lifelong learning and workforce development. Agency-wide training plans have been completed for Buncombe, Cabarrus, Carteret, Catawba, Northampton, and Wilkes counties.

Other notable accomplishments include the following:

- *Gaston County*: created separate training plans for each of the health department's 4 administrative divisions, and assisted with opening a new "Learning Resource Center" that will provide staff with the infrastructure necessary to complete online trainings at work.
- *Chatham County*: presented 8 trainings on identified staff training needs, and installed newly-acquired H.323 technology purchased through Academic Health Department grant funds.
- *New Hanover*: presented 3 trainings based on identified staff training needs.

Our Public Health Workforce Development System has a new look! The web site, available at www.PublicHealthPreparedness.org, has been redesigned to be more inviting to new users and provide more user assistance before they even log in.

NCCPHP also added 30 new trainings to the System's training catalog and provided technical assistance to users in Alamance, Buncombe, Chatham, Forsyth, Hertford, and Northampton counties.

Work with Partner States

This quarter, we have worked with 11 states (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) on projects that include development of statewide training plans, assistance with training, and technical assistance in our areas of expertise.

NCCPHP facilitated the second annual State Public Health Preparedness Partners' Annual Workshop on April 7 with 30 attendees from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Attendees participated in preparedness training from Center staff and guest experts, worked together on an exercise, and had the opportunity to network with colleagues from other states.

NCCPHP assisted two local health departments--Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee and San Antonio, Texas--with completing their requirements for Project Public Health Ready (a collaboration between NACCHO and the CDC to prepare the staff of local governmental public health agencies to respond to emergencies and protect the public's health via a competency-based training and recognition program).

NCCPHP in the News

"NCCPHP recognized for Public Service Award." *Carolina School of Public Health e-NEWS: Alumni Update.* July 2005, 2(1):5.

Jennifer Horney quoted in: Kitto K. "Burr formulating bill to coordinate national emergency response." *Durham Herald-Sun.* May 14, 2005.

Team Epi-Aid receives Office of the Provost Award-photo with caption. *Impact: a quarterly newsletter.* The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2005.

"New Lifelong Learning Initiative takes shape in NC health departments." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter.* The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2005.

"NCCPHP hosted workshop for state partners." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter.* The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2005.

"Leadership and preparedness training underway in partner West Virginia." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter.* The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2005.

We completed the "E is for Epi: Epidemiology Basics for Non-Epidemiologists" training series presented via PHIN videoconference network to 22 satellite sites across Virginia, presenting Session IV: Surveillance on April 7 and Session V: Epidemiology Specialties Applied on May 5. We began the next training series, "Outbreak Investigation Methods: From Mystery to Mastery," with Session I: Recognizing an Outbreak on June 2.

Just last month, NCCPHP sent information about our training products and technical assistance to contacts at every local health department in Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. This mailing included information on our Lifelong Learning Initiatives, Training Web Site, FOCUS on Field Epidemiology periodical, and Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology, as well as a poster to remind employees about the Training Web Site.

(News Continued)

"Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology Available in Fall 2005."

Epi Notes. (North Carolina Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Section quarterly newsletter). March-May 2005; page 11.

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