

Center Spotlight



At the North Carolina Institute for Public Health

A quarterly newsletter highlighting NCCPHP activities and accomplishments

2005 Year in Review

This year, NCCPHP has seen some amazing numbers in terms of the audience we have served with our training products.

To encourage this growth, we began producing two new electronic newsletters: the **Monthly Update**, which is sent to registered users of the Training Web Site and features links to the newest trainings each month; and the **Center Spotlight**, sent to NCCPHP partners that highlights our accomplishments each quarter.

NCCPHP now offers more than 140 online modules available free to registered users on our **Training Web Site**, with 29 new trainings added just this year. The Training Web Site has 8,349 registered users in all 50 states and 136 foreign countries who have completed 11,167 trainings for free continuing education credits. The number of registrations and training completions each month have both been steadily rising this year, with the number of completions surpassing the number of registrations in April 2005. As of December 2005, 14% of users have completed more than 6 trainings at the NCCPHP Training Web Site.

NCCPHP completed our second volume of publication of **FOCUS on Field Epidemiology**, featuring topics on study design, interviewing techniques, forensic epidemiology, and others. There are currently 2,608 subscribers to the bimonthly periodical, but based on a survey of these subscribers, many users pass along or share the publication, putting our actual reach at 2,904 to 9,374 users.

The NCCPHP **Lifelong Learning Initiative** is growing, with 16 North Carolina counties now participating. The workforce development system at *PublicHealthPreparedness.org* now contains 9523 registered users who have completed an assessment of their training needs. Based on this information, all 16 lifelong learning counties have received assistance from NCCPHP in creating a customized training plan, and public health employees have completed 295 trainings available through the system.

New programs this year include the **Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology**, which enrolled its first cohort of 70 students this fall, and the **Symposium Series for Public Health Preparedness**, featuring national speakers on timely topics in public health preparedness.

NCCPHP has also expanded the reach of our services well beyond our state and region. We conducted **field epidemiology trainings** in El Paso, Tx., and Denver, Colo., and offered online training to the State Department of Epidemiology in Kansas. NCCPHP also offered our expertise in **workforce development and assessments** to Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Texas, and other states.

We implemented the CDC's **Public Health Emergency Law** course for the first time ever at two locations in West Virginia, and are planning similar courses for Tennessee and Nebraska, as well as North Carolina, in the spring of 2006. We also offered consultation on the Emergency Law course to Alabama, Massachusetts, Mid-America Alliance, and Wyoming.

NCCPHP's **Team Epi-Aid** program has also been widely used this year, with 12 students volunteering 490 hours in service to state and local public health agencies. In 2005, Team Epi-Aid projects included conducting interviews for a study of health effects of recreational water exposure at Falls Lake Recreation Area, assistance with an outbreak of salmonella in Mitchell County, technical assistance with communicable disease data analysis in Randolph County, and assisting with a rapid needs assessment in Florida following Hurricane Wilma.

NCCPHP also created a new resource for trainers in 2005, titled "**E is for Epi: Epidemiology Basics for Non-Epidemiologists**," which features a facilitator's guide and CD-ROM with ready-to-present trainings on basic epidemiology topics. We distributed nearly 3,500 copies of "E is for Epi" to individuals across the world, with requests coming from locations as far away as South Africa and Vietnam. Some recipients requested additional copies to share with colleagues, and hundreds of recipients asked to be added to the mailing list for any future materials we produce.

NCCPHP was very pleased to publish 10 articles in peer-reviewed **journals** and present 19 oral and poster abstracts at **academic conferences** across the nation. We also exhibited our training products and services at **state public health association meetings** in West Virginia and Georgia, and continued our yearly exhibits in Tennessee and North Carolina

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