

# Center Spotlight



a program of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health

*A quarterly newsletter highlighting NCCPHP activities and accomplishments*

*April-June 2006*

NCCPHP has some new projects around pandemic and avian influenza. In addition to developing avian influenza response training curriculum in Southeast Asia, we are working in partnership with the North Carolina Division of Public Health to provide technical assistance around pandemic influenza response plan development to local health departments. Furthermore, we are working with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to develop seminars for county agriculture extension and emergency management workers.

NCCPHP hosted our first-ever Lifelong Learning Conference this quarter, drawing 80 participants from 37 local North Carolina health agencies, three Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams, the NC Division of Public Health, the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, and the Iowa Center for Public Health Preparedness. And we will have another great opportunity to share our resources with partners nationwide, with 2 oral presentations and 5 posters accepted to the American Public Health Association 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held November 4-8 in Boston, Mass.

*---Pia MacDonald, NCCPHP Director*

## Surveillance & Epidemiology

### Team Epi-Aid (SPH student volunteers to assist urgent public health response)

This quarter, Team Epi-Aid continued to assist with data analysis for statewide *Cryptosporidium* surveillance, and a Medical Reserve Corps project in Alamance County. Ten Team Epi-Aid volunteers helped conduct a community health assessment in Surry County. Team Epi-Aid will also be participating in a pre-hurricane assessment in Carteret and Onslow counties, which will be similar to a rapid needs assessment but conducted before a storm.

### Technical Assistance to North Carolina

This quarter, NCCPHP began developing a training package for the Orange County Medical Reserve Corps per a request from the volunteer coordinator at Orange County Health Department. We are working to develop online training modules in partnership with PHRST 5.

## Publications

Hightow LB, Leone PA, **MacDonald PDM**, **McCoy SI**, Sampson LA, and Kaplan AH. Men Who Have Sex With Men and Women: A Unique Risk Group for HIV Transmission on North Carolina College Campuses. *Sex Transm Dis.* June 14, 2006; 35 (5).

## Presentations

Case study of lessons learned in Asheville. Presented at the Water Resources Research Institute Conference, Raleigh, NC. April 5, 2006.

"Assuring a competent and prepared public health workforce through implementation of a lifelong learning policy in local health departments across North Carolina: The role of health educators." Presented at the National Conference on Health Promotion and Education, Washington, DC.

In the past three months, NCCPHP has conducted Epi Info trainings for public health staff in Appalachian Health District, Durham County, Harnett County, Johnston County, New Hanover County, Scotland County, and Yadkin County, as well as for the Division of Public Health.

NCCPHP staff attended and presented at the NC Epi Teams Conference on May 17 in Research Triangle Park, with an attendance of nearly 320 local and state public health workers. At the conference, NCCPHP distributed summary communicable disease reports to all local health departments and PHRSTs, and conducted both basic and advanced Epi Info training sessions.

Other assistance to local Epi Teams in North Carolina this quarter includes creating data entry screens for the Fort Bragg medical clinic, providing technical assistance to Henderson County on creating, managing, and analyzing a communicable disease log, and conducting training programs for public health staff in Alamance, Johnston, Richmond, Scotland, and Wayne counties.

### **NACCHO Foodborne Illness Systems Demonstration Project**

This quarter, NCCPHP participated in the Project 516 kick-off meeting in Greensboro with PHRST 5 and the project grantees, and provided support for training sessions conducted with all grantees at various locations across the state. NCCPHP staff worked with UNC Greensboro to create handheld computer versions of evaluation surveys used in the grantee training sessions, helped administer pre- and post-training evaluations, and provided suggestions about the trainings based on evaluation data.

Furthermore, NCCPHP is assisting with planning and evaluation for a mass exercise in August, as well as a vaccination clinic for Hepatitis A outbreak simulation.

Project 516 is a partnership with PHRST 5 that provides funding and training for local health departments to attain handheld computer and GIS technology that will enhance their work.

### **Avian Influenza Rapid Response Team Training in Southeast Asia**

Much work has been done this quarter on the avian influenza project, including development of all training modules and much communication with regional leadership and content experts from the CDC's Thailand International Emerging Infections Program. Four NCCPHP staff traveled to Bangkok on June 14-15 to meet with course advisees in preparation for the training course to be held on July 17-21, 2006.

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## **Training & Education**

NCCPHP staff provided training to fellow members of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, presenting an "Introduction to Epidemiology" for the NCIPH Public Health 101 lunch-and-learn series, and also providing a training on developing online surveys using SurveyMonkey.

## **Presentations**

*(continued)*

Overview of Project 516. Presented at the 2006 NC Health Summit sponsored by ESRI. May 15, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. Eastern District of North Carolina Public Health Association annual meeting, Atlantic Beach, NC. May 3-5, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. North Carolina Epi Teams Conference, Research Triangle Park, NC. May 17, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. North Carolina Epi Teams Conference, Research Triangle Park, NC. May 17, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. South Carolina Public Health Association annual meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC. May 23-25, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. Western North Carolina Public Health Association annual meeting, Clemmons, NC. May 23-25, 2006.

"Communicable Disease Control Training for North Carolina Public Health Workforce: An Internet/Classroom-Based Hybrid Course." Poster presented at Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference, Anaheim, Calif. June 5-8, 2006.

## Training Web Site

In the second quarter of 2006, the NCCPHP Training Web Site had 3,410 newly completed trainings and 1,707 new registered users, for a total of 11,955 users. We developed a new evaluation form for all online training modules that gathers more useful information for us, and is easier to complete for participants.

## FOCUS on Field Epidemiology

A new issue of FOCUS on Field Epidemiology was published this quarter. "Cohort Studies for Outbreak Investigations" covers the basics of conducting a cohort study and discusses how to calculate measures of disease (prevalence, risks) and disease association (relative risk).

## Preparedness Training Series

Enrollment in NCCPHP's new Preparedness Training Series reached 628 participants by the end of June. The series highlights a different preparedness-related event and pair of featured trainings each month.

## Public Health Emergency Law

NCCPHP conducted another round of the CDC's Public Health Emergency Law (PHEL) course on May 23-25 for 130 participants at three locations across Tennessee. Previous sessions have been implemented for public health and law enforcement personnel in West Virginia and North Carolina.

According to Gene Matthews of the CDC Law Foundation in the CDC Final Report on Public Health Emergency Law, "NCCPHP's unique and innovative approach to PHEL training provides an exemplar model of service and capacity-building that other academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness may want to emulate. This is particularly important since jurisdictions have expressed the need for assistance in organizing and providing PHEL training."

## Advanced Practice Centers Training Conference

NCCPHP implemented a series of three webinars for the NACCHO Advanced Practice Centers (APC) project on April 10, 20, and 24, with between 70 and 85 participants per session from health departments across the country. While many participants had preparedness-related job titles, attendees included those from a full range of public health positions.

What is a webinar? It's a cross between a webcast and a conference call. Webinar technology enables participants to view presentation slides and submit questions online and listen over the phone as presenters discuss their training resources and answer the audience's questions. To participate, you must have both a computer with an internet connection and a telephone.

NCCPHP also completed the APC Trainer's Guide and CD-ROM, which NACCHO will distribute to conference attendees and other interested parties nationwide.

## Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology

NCCPHP is now accepting applications for our fall 2006 cohort of students. Sixty students are currently participating, and will complete the certificate in December 2006.

## NCCPHP in the News

University of North Carolina SPH Accepting Application for Certificate in Field Epidemiology - Due July 31, 2006. *ASPH Friday Letter*, April 21, 2006.

"Hurricane Katrina: North Carolina Conducts After Action Review of Mississippi's Response." *Epi Notes* Volume 2006-1; March 2006-May 2006: pp. 4, 6.

"Special studies class assists in Mississippi." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2006.

"North Carolina and the Institute help the Mississippi Department of Health." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2006.

"What is a WEBINAR?" *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2006.

"Public Health Emergency Law." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. May 2006.

## ***Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation training course***

In partnership with the General Communicable Disease Control Branch at the NC Division of Public Health, we provided technical support for the 15-week Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation training course. A total of 36 public health staff from 26 North Carolina counties participated in the spring 2006 course.

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## **Lifelong Learning**

The first-ever Lifelong Learning Conference "The Key to a Prepared Workforce" was held April 27 at the UNC Friday Center. Conference highlights included information and strategies presented by Lifelong Learning Counties in a panel discussion, small group discussions on challenges and resources, the presentation by keynote speaker, Dr. Hugh Tilson, and a toolkit filled with resources for preparedness trainings and strategies for workforce development.

NCCPHP is collaborating with the North Carolina Institute for Public Health on their Public Health Academy project. The Academy will provide training and support for local health department employees across North Carolina in public health and leadership topics.

NCCPHP staff have provided training and assistance to Catawba, Harnett, Pitt, and Yadkin counties on various issues related to lifelong learning and the online workforce development system (WDS).

## **Project Public Health Ready**

NCCPHP continues to assist 25 northeastern North Carolina counties to reach their Project Public Health Ready goals by August 2006. NCCPHP staff have facilitated the Advisory Committee and Core Group meetings, prepared regional assessment instruments available to all PHRST 1 counties, and are providing much assistance to counties as they work to complete the assessment by the end of July.

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## **Work with Partner States**

This quarter, NCCPHP hosted our third annual State Partners Meeting on June 9 at the UNC Friday Center, with attendees representing seven states. NCCPHP also facilitated a conference call in May on using mobile data collection techniques to address rapid needs assessments, after-action reports, and public health threats.

Assistance to partner states includes the following activities:

### ***Florida:***

NCCPHP discussed using mobile GIS in the development of public health "strike teams" with Florida Department of Health.

**Illinois:**

NCCPHP discussed implementation of the CDC's Public Health Emergency Law course.

**Mississippi:**

We completed and submitted the Hurricane Katrina After Action Report based on visits to Mississippi to partners in both Mississippi and North Carolina.

**Tennessee:**

We are planning to deliver avian influenza trainings at Nashville-Davidson Metro stakeholder meetings for pandemic flu on July 21 and August 30 in Nashville. We are also developing pocket guides for all rapid responders on collection of potential biohazards, and biological agents posters with reference laboratory information for local health departments.

**West Virginia:**

NCCPHP is assisting with planning to pilot the statewide strategic training program with local public health agencies in and around Morgantown in August. We also worked to update the Training Plan Curriculum Template into workforce groupings to depict levels of optimal training.

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