

# Center Spotlight



a program of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health

*A quarterly newsletter highlighting NCCPHP activities and accomplishments*

## *January-March 2006*

In the first quarter of 2006, NCCPHP has expanded its partnerships and training audience across the nation and the world. We received a grant to develop Avian Influenza train-the-trainer curriculum materials for rapid response teams in Southeast Asia, and applied for funding to partner with a Guatemalan university to provide training in field epidemiology for epidemiologists in Central America. We helped organize the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Advanced Practice Centers Conference and hosted the CDC's regional Epidemic Intelligence Service conference here at UNC.

In addition, Team Epi-Aid students and NCCPHP staff joined with North Carolina's Public Health Regional Surveillance Team 5 (PHRST 5) to spend spring break lending a hand to Mississippi's recovery from Hurricane Katrina. For more details, see the State Partners section. We are thankful to the UNC Carolina Center for Public Service who awarded Team Epi-Aid with a \$1000 Gulf Coast Relief Grant to support the trip.

---Pia MacDonald, NCCPHP Director

## Surveillance & Epidemiology

NCCPHP hosted the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) regional conference at UNC on March 30-31, with 15 presentations from regional EIS officers on surveillance, nosocomial infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and infectious diseases.

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

This quarter, Team Epi-Aid assisted with developing educational materials for an outbreak of hepatitis A in Alamance County and completed creating Epi Info screens and data entry for a statewide *Cryptosporidium* surveillance form. Students also attended training sessions on Epi Info and incident command.

Forty Team Epi-Aid student volunteers and 5 faculty and staff from UNC traveled to Biloxi during spring break to help conduct an after action report community assessment of existing hurricane damage and assist with cleanup efforts in Jackson and Hancock counties. For more details, [see the State Partners section](#).

## Publications

**Horney J, MacDonald PDM, Rothney E, Alexander L. [User Patterns and Satisfaction with Online Trainings Completed on the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness Training Web Site](#). *J Public Health Manage Practice*. 2005. 11(Supplement 1):S90-94.**

## Presentations

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. NACCHO Local, State, and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit, Washington, DC. February 22-24, 2006.

Exhibit of NCCPHP materials. 27th Annual Minority Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC. February 24, 2006.

"Using the Capture-Recapture Methodology to Assess the Sensitivity of Foodborne Disease Surveillance." Presented at the International Conference of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Atlanta, Ga. March 19-22, 2006.

## Technical Assistance to North Carolina

NCCPHP staff developed an Epi Info program for the NC General Communicable Disease Branch that will generate county-specific reportable disease reports at the touch of a button, based on data reported to the state. This program will allow county and regional health officials to see disease trends in their counties without having to wait for summary data from the state.

NCCPHP is coordinating the Year 2 "Project 516" Mobile GIS Grant in partnership with PHRST 5. Staff reviewed applications from counties needing assistance with a mobile GIS project, selected grant recipients, and began scheduling training sessions for grantees.

NCCPHP conducted Epi Info trainings for public health staff in Yadkin County, PHRST 5, and Fort Bragg in February and March.

## NACCHO Foodborne Illness Systems Demonstration Project

NCCPHP published a newsletter with survey results of foodborne disease reporting practices for healthcare practitioners, infection control practitioners, and laboratory personnel in North Carolina, and created 3 foodborne disease reporting training modules to address specific needs of each audience. Staff attended a site visit with NACCHO and PHRST 6 in Asheville to share these products.

## Avian Influenza Rapid Response Teams in Southeast Asia

NCCPHP received a grant to coordinate the "Curriculum Development for Avian Influenza Rapid Response Teams in Southeast Asia" project with the CDC's Thailand International Emerging Infections Program. NCCPHP staff will travel to Thailand this summer to present training on avian influenza and rapid response to public health workers from various nations in Southeast Asia.

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## Training & Education

### Training Web Site

In the first quarter of 2006, the NCCPHP Training Web Site had 3,154 newly completed trainings and 1,902 new registered users, for a total of 10,248 users. Thus far in 2006, NCCPHP has developed 6 new Web-based distance learning modules that allow users to receive free continuing education units.

We added a new training package around pandemic and avian influenza, and are working with PHRST 5, the NC Medical Reserve Corps, NC Disaster Response Network, and the NC Office of Disability and Health to develop trainings to meet their specific needs.

## NCCPHP in the News

"Get your own copy of the new '**E is for Epi**' training resource!" APHA Epidemiology Section Newsletter, Winter 2006.

"**Lesneski** receives WCHL 1360 Village Pride Award." Featured news on SPH Web site: <http://www.sph.unc.edu/>. February 7, 2006.

"New **preparedness training series** offered in 2006." *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. March 2006.

"Save the Date for **Lifelong Learning!**" *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. March 2006.

"**Team Epi-Aid vs. Wilma.**" *Impact: a quarterly newsletter*. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. March 2006.

Television interview featuring **Jennifer Horney** and **Anjum Hajat** regarding pandemic influenza and public health preparedness. NBC 17 News. March 24, 2006.

## Preparedness Training Series

New for 2006, NCCPHP launched the 2006 Preparedness Training Series, with each month highlighting a preparedness-related event and related featured training. Enrollment in the series reached 450 by the end of March.

## Public Health Emergency Law

NCCPHP presented the CDC foundational course, Public Health Emergency Law, for 104 North Carolina public health and law enforcement personnel on March 8. Now staff are preparing for 3 courses to be offered in Tennessee during May. We have also shared our course materials with the Alabama CPHP and Illinois attorneys.

## Advanced Practice Centers Training Conference

NCCPHP staff coordinated the annual NACCHO Advanced Practice Centers (APC) Training Conference held in Washington, DC, on February 21-22. Now efforts are underway to compile a Trainer's Guide and CD-ROM of materials from the various APCs, and present a brief overview of the presentations in April via 3 "webinars" combining webcast and conference call technology.

## Symposium Series for Public Health Preparedness

The following presentation was offered this quarter:

"Community Health and Needs Assessments: Principles, Practice, and the Hurricane Wilma Experience, Florida, 2005" with Stacy Young, epidemiologist at CDC, and "Enhancing Epidemiological Investigations Using Mobile GIS" with Steve Ramsey, team leader for NC PHRST-5

## 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.

## *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. There were 34 public health staff from 26 counties who participated in the Spring 2006 course.

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## Lifelong Learning

The Workforce Development portion of NCCPHP web site has been updated, featuring new lifelong learning resources, as well as information on the Lifelong Learning Conference.

NCCPHP staff have worked with the following North Carolina counties on various issues related to lifelong learning and the online workforce development system (WDS):

- Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital - training opportunities, participation on boards and teams in North Carolina
- PHRST 3 - NCCPHP lifelong learning resources to preparedness coordinators and hospital partners
- Alamance County - conducted preparedness training needs focus groups; met about training plan; sent updated WDS assessment report
- Buncombe County - sent information on NCCPHP training needs assessment, trainings, and Lifelong Learning Conference to new preparedness coordinator
- Cabarrus Health Alliance - conducted avian flu training session on March 10 (N=65); matched NCCPHP trainings to the 10 Essential Services upon their request
- Caswell County - met about lifelong learning and potential opportunities for staff training
- Catawba County - discussed "Focus Day" on lifelong learning and staff development scheduled for March (N=12) and NCCPHP trainings and resources; completed training table to help employees determine trainings they wish to take
- Forsyth County - sent updated WDS assessment report
- Gaston County - combined content from all division heads into a single training plan to use for accreditation
- Jackson County - created customized training plan
- Northampton County - conducted training session on HIPAA and public health law on March 6 (N=60)
- Orange County - contacted about family preparedness plans for staff
- Wilkes County - assisted management team with training plan and WDS questions

NCCPHP staff also responded to WDS data requests from Pitt, Catawba, and Onslow counties, provided user passwords for Halifax, Craven, Northampton counties, and provided technical assistance with WDS to individuals in Catawba, Northampton, Onslow, Robeson, and Yancey counties, and South Carolina

### **Project Public Health Ready**

NCCPHP is assisting 25 northeastern North Carolina Project Public Health Ready counties in meeting project objectives and accomplishing goals by the August 2006 deadline. NCCPHP staff have facilitated Advisory Committee and Core Group meetings, prepared regional assessment instruments available to all PHRST 1 counties, and presented workshops with all local health departments.

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## **Work with Partner States**

This quarter, NCCPHP has been preparing for our third annual State Partners Meeting scheduled for June 9, 2006, and facilitated the February conference call: "Lessons Learned from the City of Milwaukee Health Department Implementation of incident command systems during Monkeypox and Pertussis Outbreaks."

- **Colorado:**  
NCCPHP staff presented training to 25 local and regional emergency preparedness planners in the Department of Public Health and Environment.
- **Mississippi:**  
NCCPHP assisted the NC Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response (PHP&R) with Mississippi Department of Health After Action Report. NCCPHP staff distributed our NC hurricane evaluation report to the Mississippi Department of Health, and collected data with the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services and PHP&R on February 13-18 in Jackson and Gulfport, MS, for a total of 100 completed interviews and 490 online survey responses.

In addition, this activity included coordinating a UNC Special Studies class trip to provide support services and conduct a 6-month-post-hurricane community health assessment targeting elderly and disabled populations. NCCPHP staff supervised 45 students on March 13-15 to provide service at free clinic, conduct the after action study survey, and clean up property. To complete this activity, staff worked closely with NC PHRST 5 on planning, training in interviewing techniques, supervising review of interview data, and data analysis. Upon return to UNC, NCCPHP staff coordinated a de-briefing for participants with UNC Counseling Services.

As a follow-up to this effort, NCCPHP staff also spoke with the Mississippi Department of Health about continued involvement of UNC SPH in relief and recovery efforts on the gulf coast and initiated planning for a gulf coast advocacy group with the UNC Public Health Leadership Program and the University of Michigan.

- **Tennessee:**  
NCCPHP presented 6 Public Health Preparedness and Public Health 101 trainings for 200 members of the Nashville/Davidson Metro Health Department & "Lentz University" on February 1-8. Staff also recorded these trainings in the sound booth at UNC to make them available to future employees who did not attend the training sessions.
- **Texas:**  
NCCPHP is working with the El Paso Health Department to set up additional trainings for their public health staff.
- **West Virginia:**  
NCCPHP staff are working with the Public Health Preparedness Training Plan Implementation team to establish training levels and identify appropriate courses for each level that meet priority training needs. The team has selected initial measures to monitor progress, and is working to pilot the training process in 6 eastern West Virginia counties.

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*Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to  
"improve the capacity of the public health workforce  
to prepare for and respond to terrorism and other emerging public health threats."*