



Advancing Public Health

Field Epidemiology Training Program

Overview

The Division of Epidemiology and Surveillance Capacity Development (DESCD) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Coordinating Office for Global Health.

DESCD works to improve the health of the people of the United States and other nations by partnering with national and international organizations and foreign governments to build strong, transparent, sustained public health systems.

Field Epidemiology Training Program

A major focus of DESCDC centers on applied epidemiology training programs such as the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP), which has an added laboratory component.

DESCDC offers these applied epidemiology programs to help foreign countries develop, set up, and implement dynamic, public health strategies to improve and strengthen their public health system and infrastructure.

The FETP, which was started in 1980, is modeled after CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

FETP Curriculum

The FETP is a two-year, full-time training and service program; it involves classroom instruction and field assignments. FETP trainees take courses in epidemiology, communications, economics, and management. Trainees also learn about quantitative- and behavior-based strategies.

In addition, FETP trainees work in the field, where they conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys; evaluate surveillance systems, perform disease control and prevention measures; report their findings to decision-makers and policy-makers; and train other health workers.

Resident Advisors and Staff

To establish an FETP, DESCDC typically provides Ministries of Health with an in-country resident advisor for 4 to 6 years to help guide training and technical assistance.

As of March 2007, DESCDC had 10 resident advisors in 9 countries (China, Guatemala [two advisors], India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, and Thailand).

Located at CDC's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, DESCDC's staff of physicians, epidemiologists, public health advisors, instructional designers, health communications specialists, and support personnel provide additional scientific expertise, training consultations, and other programmatic support and advice to enable foreign Ministries of Health enhance their own health protection and health promotion programs.

Accomplishments

- CDC-supported programs have trainees from 42 countries
- Of 25 programs in existence between 2001–2006, 16 are currently sustained by the host country
- Current training programs have collectively produced more than 940 graduates
- 92 percent of graduates remain in government public health service following training

Partnerships and Funding

Developing partnerships is an important element of establishing, supporting, and sustaining FETPs. DESCDC regularly collaborates with national and international organizations such as USAID, WHO, the Ellison Medical Foundation, and the World Bank to help set up and support FETPs around the world.



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Coordinating Office for Global Health
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