

Johns Hopkins Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center - Overview

The Johns Hopkins Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (JH-PERLC) is a training center focused on providing preparedness and response training for the public health workforce. JHPHPP strives to make ongoing contributions to public health emergency preparedness systems, research, and training. The two current, CDC-funded centers within the JHPHPP, the Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (JH-PERRC) and Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (JH-PERLC) represent a two-sided approach to public health system preparedness. The center strives to enhance 1) the ability of public health systems to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies through tailored trainings to improve both competency and capacity, and 2) research activities aimed at increasing the readiness, willingness, and ability of public health professionals, their agencies, and others within the public health emergency preparedness system to respond in an emergency.

The JH-PERLC training outreach consists of partner-requested activities, whereby Johns Hopkins staff and faculty develop and deliver training (or lectures, interactive exercises, workshops, etc.) that responds to the partner's identified needs. In addition, the JH-PERLC designs, develops, delivers, and evaluates CDC-established, competency-based public health preparedness and response curricula. These guidelines are specific to the mid-level public health works in our regional catchment area (e.g.: Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia).

Partners

JHPHPP aims to enhance public health system competency, capacity, and public health workers' willingness to effectively respond to emergencies. JH-PERLC partners include the public health workforce of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

National Network of Learning Centers

JH-PERLC is part of a network of training centers, called the Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC), which is funded by the CDC. The PERLC serve in a national capacity to meet the preparedness and response training and education needs of the US public health workforce. The PERLC provide competency-based training to state, local, and tribal public health authorities within defined service areas. In doing so, PERLC provide specialized training, education, and resources, in addition to exercising consultations for partners on request. PERLC are acknowledged for their unique capacity to adapt and tailor preparedness training to meet stakeholder requirements. The PERLC are established within CEPH-accredited schools of public health and serve as an important national resource to meet the requirements of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), Sec. 304 (d). <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror07/PAHPAPublicLaw.pdf>

Key Activities

JH-PERLC has developed a variety of training opportunities that include:

- Face-to-face preparedness symposia at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and throughout the region
- Core competency-based preparedness trainings for mid-level public health workers
- Over 50 free online, "just-in-time" training modules;
- RAPID-Psychological First Aid Workshop
- Incident Command for Public Health Agencies



Key Accomplishments

Building Capacity and Capability in the Mental Health Response to Emergencies and Disasters

Since 2005, the Johns Hopkins Public Health Preparedness Program has been offering its version of an emergency mental health intervention to non-mental health professionals who volunteer or are required to respond to disasters and emergencies. Known as RAPID-Psychological First Aid (PFA), this six-hour interactive workshop highlights the critical components of PFA; this includes reflective listening, assessment of needs, prioritization, intervention, and disposition and guiding providers step-by-step through its administration.



Since the initial pilot of this training in fall 2005, Johns Hopkins faculty has trained over 2,500 people nation-wide on the concepts of RAPID-PFA. Through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, this training program is now a key membership requirement for all para-professionals in MD RESPONDS (the State of MD's ESAR-VHP program).

Advisory Committee a Critical Component in Research to Practice Translation

The Johns Hopkins PERLC decided to convene monthly meetings of its advisory committee. The advisory committee consists of key public health partners at the state, local, and community level, faculty with subject matter expertise in a variety of disciplines (e.g., risk communication, policy, environmental health, law/ethics), and PERLC program administration. To enhance the effectiveness of the PERLC advisory committee, it was combined with the Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC) advisory committee. Now, on a monthly basis, the PERRC and PERLC committee, known as the Johns Hopkins Public Health Preparedness Programs Advisory Committee, meets to discuss the critical intersections between research and practice. Researchers discuss their project findings; key partners discuss needs and initiatives at the state, local, and community levels; and subject matter experts and program administration synthesize findings into plans for training and learning that meet partner needs and align with CDC program objectives.

Contact Information

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CDC Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC)

For more information about the PERLC program please email us at perlcprogram@cdc.gov or visit our website at <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/perlc.htm>.