

University of North Carolina Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center - Overview

The UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) is a program of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, the service and outreach arm of the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The UNC CPHP brings together faculty and staff from the UNC Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UNC PERLC) and the North Carolina Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center to target pandemic influenza planning, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, emergency law, public health surveillance, mental health preparedness, and applied epidemiology.

Partners

UNC PERLC focuses specifically on meeting the training needs of the public health workforce at local, regional and state public health agencies in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. UNC PERLC collaborates with key partners in each state to develop training around national Public Health Preparedness & Response (PHP&R) Core Competencies. Additionally, these training activities are developed to align with designated high-priority target Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Capabilities.

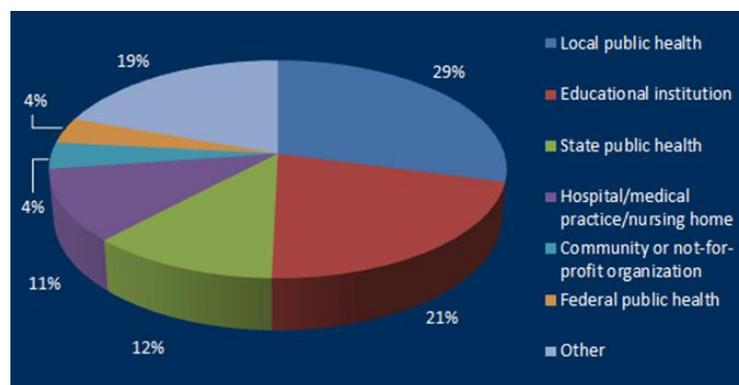
National Network of Learning Centers

UNC 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 the Council on Education for Public Health (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

The UNC-PERLC Training Web Site (TWS) was launched in 2003. Now, with over 189 training offerings, and more than 53,800 registered users from 177 countries, UNC PERLC resources are used domestically and internationally. The chart below shows the percentage of the various TWS users that access the UNC-PERLC resources.



Key Accomplishments

Web-based Training for Public Health Professionals

The UNC CPHP Training Web Site was designed with user-friendliness in mind, specifically accommodating users with varying degrees of computer literacy. The site offers 189 free, short (30-90 min) trainings; continuing education credit and post-training certificates of completion; user-friendly site navigation allowing learners to search for trainings by topic, keyword, competency or continuing education credit type; and integration with the TRAIN learning management system. Since its launch in 2003, the UNC CPHP Training Web Site has seen steady increase in usage. As of March 2012, the site boasts nearly 54,000 individual users from all 50 US states and 15,000 completed training sessions from a variety of public health occupations and agencies.



UNC CPHP research associate Matt Simon demonstrated using a handheld GPS unit for data collection and navigation during the Durham County Community Health Assessment.

Reproductive Health Assessment Toolkit

Following a disaster, state and local health departments can assess unmet reproductive health needs using the following toolkit designed by UNC CPHP and the CDC: <http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/reproductivehealth/>.

The Spatial Health Assessment and Research Program (SHARP)

SHARP works to assist hospitals and state and local public health agencies with community-based data collection and spatial analysis projects related to community health needs assessments. Examples of past projects include:

- Assessing reproductive health needs post-disaster; pilot-tested in two Georgia counties and 1 North Carolina county affected by severe flooding
- A survey of Potassium Iodide (KI) distribution with the 10-mile emergency planning zone of a North Carolina nuclear power plant
- Public health and public safety messaging assessment following wildfires in Pender County, North Carolina
- Training local health departments in use of GIS as part of a statewide preparedness effort
- A pre-hurricane assessment of community preparedness in Carteret County, North Carolina

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>.