



PHAP
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Public Health Associate Program

The need for fellowship and training programs is more critical than ever, as the United States is experiencing a public health workforce crisis. The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) estimates that 250,000 more public health workers will be needed by 2020 just to maintain current capacity.



Program Description

The Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is a CDC Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) development program that provides opportunities for promising future public health professionals to gain broad experience in the day-to-day operation of public health programs. PHAP is geared toward recent baccalaureate college graduates (BA/BS) who are beginning a career in public health.

PHAP's mission is to prepare highly qualified, entry-level professionals who are capable of meeting the public health workforce needs of the 21st century through frontline experience in state, tribal, local and territorial public health agencies.

Upon completion of a two-year appointment, Associates are qualified to compete for entry-level career positions as CDC public health advisors and equivalent positions in public health operations at the local and state levels.

Learning Prevention in the Field

As "assignees" to agencies in the governmental public health system, most Associates hold host-agency positions that are functionally indistinguishable from their local co-workers. Associates work in a variety of settings and program areas. There are eight competency domains that outline their general scope of work. In addition to state, tribal, local and territorial public health agencies, Associates may be assigned to CDC quarantine stations in major international airports within the United States. This affords Associates the opportunity to work on prevention across a multitude of settings.



(Above) John-Paul Mutebi, CDC Entomologist, trains Jamie Feld, 2010 PHAP Associate, to collect mosquito larvae from irrigation canals as part of a CDC EPI AID for West Nile Virus.

Program Areas

Each appointment consists of two different one-year assignments selected by the host agency in approved program areas including those listed below:

- STD, TB, and/or HIV
- Other Communicable Diseases
- Chronic Disease
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Preparedness
- Global Migration and Quarantine
- Immunization
- Injury Prevention
- Maternal/Child Health

(Left) PHAP Class of 2010





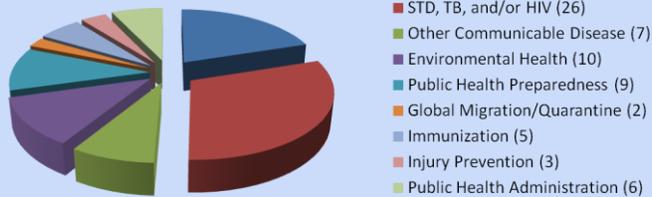
Shane Ryan, 2010 PHAP Associate, takes samples from calves at a correctional facility's dairy farm in CO, investigating a possible E. coli outbreak.

Competency Domains

The PHAP competencies are the individual skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for the delivery of essential public health services. The following eight domains (skill sets) provide a framework for the development of job assignments, training curricula and performance evaluation:

1. Analytic and Assessment Skills
2. Program Planning Skills
3. Communication Skills
4. Cultural Competency Skills
5. Partnership and Collaboration Skills
6. Public Health Practice and Knowledge Skills
7. Financial Planning Skills
8. Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills

Class of 2008 - 2010 Current Assignments by Public Health Program Area As of October 1, 2010 (N=85)

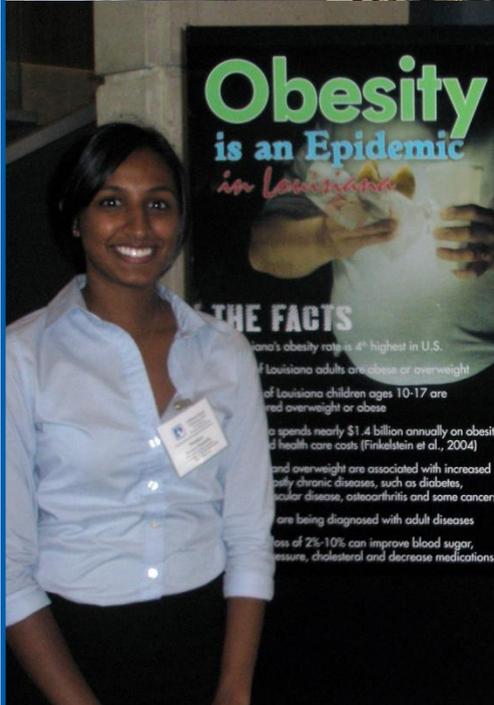
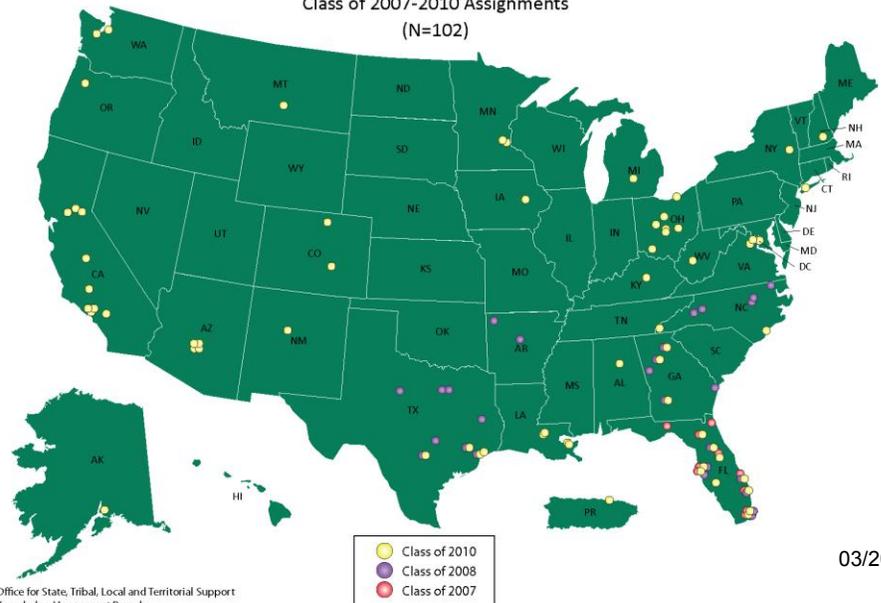


Healthcare Reform Leads to PHAP Expansion

In 2007, the inaugural, pilot class of 10 Associates began work in Florida. Assigned to local health agency host sites, Associates engaged in day-to-day operations to gain first-hand experience and develop skills in frontline services. An additional 27 Associates were hired in 2008 and placed in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, and Texas. In 2009, no Associates were hired due to budget constraints. However, efforts to expand the program began at that time. In 2010, with the help of funding from the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), PHAP progressed from a pilot program to a nationwide program, hiring 65 Associates to work across 23 states, 1 territory, and the District of Columbia. For more information on PHAP, visit www.cdc.gov/PHAP.

Public Health Associate Program

Class of 2007-2010 Assignments (N=102)



Soumya Mamidala, 2010 PHAP Associate, presents on behalf of the Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management and the Louisiana Action for Healthy Kids Team at the 3rd annual Pennington Biomedical Research Center Childhood Obesity Conference.