

Georgia Public Health Training Center

University of Georgia College of Public Health



Overview

- The goal of The Georgia Public Health Training Center (GPHTC) is to build the capacity of the current and future generation of public health workers for the purpose of advancing and improving the competency of the public health workforce and the overall health of Georgia citizens.
- The GPHTC serves all 159 counties in Georgia, with a special emphasis on those counties that are rural and medically underserved.
- The primary target audiences for the GPHTC are state, district and local public health employees and public health employees working in health care organizations within the state. The secondary target audiences are students training in public health programs across Georgia.

Key Activities

- Georgia is one of the ten most populous states in the U.S. and has the worst overall health rating of those ten. Georgia faces challenges in public health issues such as cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, diabetes, infant mortality, number of primary care physicians available and access to healthcare. Addressing these issues through the GPHTC will help Georgia's workforce effectively deal with these challenges and bring better health to Georgia's citizens.
- The GPHTC is partnering with other state universities offering public health training to develop and deliver educational programs throughout the state.
- Effective July 1, 2011 a reorganization of public health in the state of Georgia will take place, making the Department of Public Health a direct reporting unit to the Governor. GPHTC will provide trainings in leadership, management, technical public health skills and other competency trainings to support this organizational change.

Public Health in Action



Student Sarah Hines prepares to move to Southwest Georgia to complete her internship with the local health district on quality improvement measures for the 14 counties in rural Southwest Georgia.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- The GPHTC benefits Georgia by providing a learning environment for the state's public health workforce, which will help develop and strengthen their technical, scientific and leadership skills. This prepared workforce will improve the health status of the Georgia's rural and underserved areas.
- The GPHTC has developed a program to support public health students who want to train (required internships) in rural and underserved areas of the state. Working with our partner universities in Georgia in this capacity will help to provide mass coverage of the state and will result in a better trained future public health workforce.
- The GPHTC has worked collaboratively with the Emory Public Health Training Center to conduct a statewide training needs assessment of the public health workforce. The electronic survey, distributed by the state health office, has yielded valuable information for developing and delivering the specific training programs that the workforce needs in order to succeed at tackling the state's public health issues.

Key Partners

Practice Partners

- Georgia Division of Public Health
- District and local public health departments

Academic Partners

- Armstrong State University
- Emory University
- Fort Valley State University
- Georgia State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia Health Sciences University

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Marsha Davis, PhD

Co-Principal Investigator: Joel M. Lee, DrPH

Center Coordinator: Ashley Wells, MPH, CHES

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HRSA Public Health Training Centers



The Health Resources and Services Administration funded Public Health Training Centers (PHTC) are partnerships between accredited schools of public health, related academic institutions, and public health agencies and organizations. The PHTC Network improves the Nation's public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of current and future public health professionals. Public Health Training Centers assess the learning needs of the public health workforce, provide accessible training, and work with organizations to meet other strategic planning, education, and resource needs.

<http://www.publichealthtrainingcenters.org>



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