

New Hampshire Public Health Training Center

The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice



Overview

The purpose of the New Hampshire Public Health Training Center (NH PHTC) is to strengthen the public health infrastructure in New Hampshire. The project is housed at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice (TDI) and its graduate program in public health. The New Hampshire Area Health Education Center (NH AHEC), also a program of TDI, manages the project, taking advantage of its statewide network of health and public health faculty and training sites. The NH PHTC operates in the context of existing agencies programs such as the NH Department of Health and Human Services and the University of New Hampshire graduate public health program.

The NH PHTC targets members of both the current and future public health workforce. There are between 1,000 and 1,500 public health workers currently in the state. There are approximately 60 graduate students being trained each year in public health programs for future work in the field, and seven preventive medicine residents. Finally, as many as 200 high school students participate each year in training and career exploration activities in public health.

Key Activities

The southern region of our state is home to a refugee resettlement area. Members of the public health workforce need support in interpreting both language and culture. Our key activities that address this need include the following:

- Provision of medical interpretation training to develop the health and public health workforce and improve access to care for limited English speakers.
- Coordination of cultural competency training to assure a culturally competent health care and public health workforce is trained to address the needs of the increasing diversity in NH.

Public Health in Action



Trained Medical Interpreters improve the communication between patients and providers. In 2010-2011, NH has trained 38 medical interpreters speaking 16 languages.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

Needs assessment

In addition to the activities described above and depicted in the accompanying photograph, we have begun, in this first year of our project, to provide training to public health workers across the state in response to needs raised by partners and stakeholders. We will conduct our first formal needs assessment in the fall of this year during a meeting of the Public Health Network. We are also collaborating with the NH Department of Health and Human Services and the NH Public Health Association to both assess and address needs.

Current workforce

Training is provided regionally through the NH AHEC network, which covers the entire state. Programs are offered at times and locations convenient to learners to ensure maximum accessibility.

Future workforce

Students who have received stipends from the NH PHTC are just now submitting their reports and deliverables. An early example is a summary report to the NH DHHC on a survey of participants in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program.

Key Partners

- NH Dept of Health and Human Services
- New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition
- NH Public Health Networks
- Breathe New Hampshire
- NH Chronic Disease Self-Management Network
- New England Trained Interpreters Association

Leadership

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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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