

New Jersey Public Health Training Center

UMDNJ-School of Public Health & New Jersey Medical School



Overview

- The mission of the NJ Public Health Training Center is to safeguard and improve the health of New Jersey citizens by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial and leadership competence of the current public health workforce and by addressing anticipated public health workforce needs.
- The geographic area served is the entire state of New Jersey.
- The NJPHTC's target audience includes the current and future public health workforce. Titles include Health Officer, Public Health Nurse, Health Educator, Epidemiologist, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Physician, Nutritionist, and students in public health, medicine and nursing.

Key Activities

- New Jersey, like the rest of the U.S., has been greatly impacted by the economic crisis. According to a 2011 NACCHO survey of local health departments, New Jersey has lost 53% of its local public health workforce due to layoffs and/or attrition and has seen a reduction in staff time by almost 34%.
- The NJPHTC is actively working to enhance and broaden the existing skills of all members of the current NJ public health workforce, while also seeking to introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the profession as a means of addressing the significant workforce shortage. The Center is also working to implement public health curricula into community colleges across the state.
- A key emphasis is training for NJ's 100 Health Officers, emphasizing skills such as leadership, strategic planning, and quality improvement.
- The Center has actively supported the establishment of a Grand Rounds initiative with the NJ Medical School, emphasizing topics with public health significance. The audience is the current workforce and graduate public health and medical students.

Public Health in Action



Local Public Health Nurse facilitates exercise developing a fishbone diagram for identifying the root causes of a public health issue. Nursing Summit VII, held in Middlesex County, NJ for the NJ Association of Public Health Nursing Administrators

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- While the public health workforce is the Center's primary 'audience,' the nearly 9,000,000 NJ residents across the state are the ultimate beneficiaries of training provided. Maintaining and supporting a highly qualified public health workforce that can respond to public health concerns of all types is a key objective.
- Through participation in 'Bridging the Gaps,' the Center supports seven teams of students from UMDNJ's professional graduate schools each year. Teams are placed in agencies providing services to areas of highest need/lowest resources, such as Camden, New Brunswick and Newark, NJ.
- The Center is working with each of NJ's public health associations to assess the specific training needs of each discipline, based on the Public Health Core Competencies. In addition, key informant interviews and focus groups serve as additional tools to identify needs.
- Most programs are recorded and available on the NJ PHTC website, to increase accessibility. The Center is using a live streaming process, which allows viewing by anyone in the state (or beyond).
- To date, the Center has sponsored or co-sponsored thirty-five trainings and seminars, serving 1,045 public health professionals.

Key Partners

- New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
- New Jersey Health Officers Association
- New Jersey Society of Public Health Educators
- New Jersey Environmental Health Association
- New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators
- Bridging the Gaps

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Mitchel A. Rosen, MS

Co-Principal Investigator: Pauline (Polly) Thomas, MD

Coordinator: Colleen McKay Wharton, MA, MCHES

New Jersey PHTC

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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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