

NC Preparedness & Emergency Response Research Center (NCPERRC) Update Report to NCALHD -- March 2010

Summary of data requested from NC Local Health Departments (since June 2009)

Project	Research objective	LHD sample	Sampling strategy	Method & Burden	Data collection dates
Project 1 Accreditation	To understand the preparedness of accredited and non-accredited health depts. 1) Broad preparedness measures 2) H1N1 measures	1) Health Director or Preparedness Coordinator (PC) 2) PC or other LHD staff and response partners	1) All 85 NC LHDs 2) 10 LHDs (50% accredited, 50% non-accredited)	1) Web survey (30-60 min) 2) Preparation calls and in-person interviews with LHD staff (3 -4 hrs) plus focus group with response partners (2-3 hrs)	1) 4/10 to 5/10 2) 8/09 to 9/09, 9 LHDs participated
Project 2 Surveillance	To understand: 1) how users interact with surveillance systems (focus on NC DETECT) and what needs are not being met 2a) design of NC EDSS evaluation 2b) how NC EDSS is being used and what user needs met or not met	1) Health director and daily surveillance system user 2a) Health director and/or nursing staff 2b) NC EDSS lead staff and 2 other staff	1) Random sample of 15 LHDs 2a) NCAHLD Preparedness and Epidemiology committees 2b) Random sample of 30 LHDs	1) In-person interviews (2 hrs) 2a) Web survey (5 -10 min) 2b) Questionnaires (TBD)	1) 6/09 to 9/09, 14 LHDs participated 2a) 12/09 with 46 respondents 2b) TBD
Project 3 Regionalization	To determine: 1) the structural capacity of the PHRST teams 2) what public health preparedness support and services PHRST teams deliver to their customers 3) what support and services the public health epidemiologists (PHE) provide to health depts, hospitals and DPH	1a) All PHRST teams 1b) Individual PHRST team members 2) Preparedness Coordinator (or other staff) 3) TBD from LHD	1) All members of 7 PHRSTs 2) All LHDs 3) Random sample of LHDs (TBD sample size)	1a) Paper survey (team) (2-3 hrs) 1b) Paper survey (individual) (30 min) 1c) Site visits to PHRSTs (2-3 hrs) 2) Web survey (20 min) 3) TBD	1) 8/09 to 9/09 with all PHRSTs participating 2) 7/09 to 8/09 with 84 LHDs participating 3) TBD

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Project 4 NCHAN	To understand NCHAN alerts and the decision-making behind the alerts by looking at 2004 State Fair <i>E coli</i> , H1N1, and other events	Health directors and other staff who use NCHAN	8 LHDs (2 people in each LHD, selected based on stratified size and NCHAN use)	In- person interviews (2 hrs)	8/09 to 2/10, 8 LHDs participated
Pilot H1N1 Workforce*	To understand the impact of H1N1 on other LHD activities based on comparison of billing records in 2008 & 2009	Health director designate appropriate staff to respond to this request	Random sample of 20 LHDs both accredited and non-accredited	Billing code data requested in template (30 min)	3/10 to 5/10

Notes:

- Research projects descriptions are on the Web Site <http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/ncperrc/>

* New pilot project “Effects of H1N1 outbreak on workforce capacity” awarded in January 2010 with Co-PIs Erika Samoff (UNC staff) and Colleen Bridger (Gaston County Health Director)

Preliminary findings

- ✓ **Summary of NCPERRC’s first year’s activities** and accomplishments is on the NCPERRC Web site. <http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/ncperrc/about/Year1Supplement.pdf>
- ✓ **Reports have been submitted to participating health departments** by the accreditation and regionalization (formerly called the PHRST) projects. The surveillance and accreditation projects are preparing reports of general interest to be available in April.

Other updates

- ✓ **NCPERRC Synergy & Translation Committee** met on February 25, 2010 with Rosemary Summers (guest) attending along with other members, researchers and guests from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Unfortunately Doug Urland (committee member) was unable to attend.
- ✓ **The next NCPERRC Synergy & Translation Committee** is being planned for June and members of the NCALHD Preparedness Committee will be invited to attend. An invitation with meeting details will be coming soon.