



Training

Training the public health workforce has been the major activity of NWCPHP since its inception. Public health workers come from a wide range of backgrounds and professional experiences, often with little or no formal training in the field of public health. For many people, the route to their current position was more serendipitous than planned.

Our partnerships with public health organizations help us identify the training needs of public health workers in our region. We then work to provide training on these topics through a range of distance and in-person formats. We are also actively connected to our peer training centers and are an active member in the national networks of public health training centers.

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Research

Public health is a discipline based on principles that include the collection and analysis of data as a basis for action. Yet many current public health practices are based on limited evidence of their effectiveness. Governmental and private research funds have typically targeted medical programs and services rather than public health programs and services. This is beginning to change. In the past few years, NWCPHP has received funding to coordinate several research projects, some of which include effective communication during emergencies, limited English proficiency communication strategies, and climate change research.

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Evaluation

Public health programs need to be responsive to the changing political, social, and economic environments in which they operate. The interest in rigorous evaluation of public health activities has been driven both by practitioner interest in improving the quality of services, and by the expectations of policy makers and the general public that government programs should be accountable. NWCPHP has assisted the practice community both by serving as an external evaluator of programs and by providing training and assistance to enable practitioners to evaluate their own programs.

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