



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response



Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers

Background

Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs) conduct research to evaluate the structure, capabilities, and performance of public health systems for preparedness and emergency response. The establishment of these centers was mandated by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006, which called for research to improve federal, state, local, and tribal public health preparedness and response systems. In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Office of Science and Public Health Practice, awarded \$10.9 million over 5 years to 7 accredited schools of public health for establishing PERRCs. In 2009, CDC awarded another \$2.7 million over 4 years to two additional schools of public health to establish PERRCs. An integral part of the work of these centers is to help translate study results to public health practice.

Research benefits

PERRC research directly benefits federal, state, local, and tribal public health preparedness and response activities. For example, research at one PERRC focuses on enhancing the usefulness of preparedness training. The findings from these studies are expected to identify training modalities that are more effective for improving response capabilities. The results can be used to help direct scarce resources for training. All PERRC research is focused on identifying the most critical elements needed to enhance preparedness for all hazards and to close gaps in public health preparedness and response services.

Research priorities

Each PERRC consists of 3-4 investigator-initiated research projects and an administrative core. PERRC research projects address one of the four research priority recommendations identified in an Institute of Medicine Letter Report (2008; available at www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/48812.aspx). This report resulted from a study convened at the request of CDC. PERRC research also addresses cross-cutting issues for preparedness and response, such as identifying and addressing the unique needs of at-risk populations and rural communities. State and local public health departments are collaborative partners in the research being conducted by several PERRCs.

More Information

For more information on PERRCs, go to <http://emergency.cdc.gov/cdcppreparedness/science/research> or contact the Extramural Research Program, CDC, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (ophpr_extramuralres@cdc.gov).

Research priorities and annual funding for the nine accredited schools of public health in the PERRC program are provided below. (2008-2013)

School	Research Priority	Award
Emory University (Atlanta, GA)	Create and maintain sustainable preparedness and response systems	\$1,562,676
Harvard University (Boston, MA)	Generate criteria and metrics to measure effectiveness and efficiency	\$1,717,286
Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)	Preparedness to address the risks of vulnerable populations	\$1,495,398
University of California* (Berkeley, CA)	Achieving public health and community readiness for today's challenges and future threats	\$1,506,306
University of California* (Los Angeles, CA)	Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers: A public health systems approach	\$1,193,365
University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN)	Enhance the usefulness of training	\$1,470,307
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)	Create and maintain sustainable preparedness and response systems	\$1,695,189
University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)	Create and maintain sustainable preparedness and response systems and generate criteria and metrics to measure effectiveness and efficiency	\$1,701,845
University of Washington (Seattle, WA)	Improve communications in preparedness and response	\$1,270,632

* Funded 2009-2013.