



Arizona State Report

State: Arizona

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

Public Health Emergency Preparedness: PHNs continue to work actively on public health emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza planning at the state and local level. Local PHN's have participated in preparedness and disaster training exercises. A plan for special populations' transportation and sheltering has been developed.

The Arizona County Directors of Nursing Association (ACDONA) and Nursing Section of the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA) held a joint seminar at the annual Arizona Public Health Association conference on "Mentoring the Next Generation of Public Health Nursing". Dr. Carol Easley Allen PhD, RN, past president of APHA, a national expert in public health and current Chair of the Oakwood University Department of Nursing was the speaker. Dr. Easley Allen also provided the keynote address at the conference; Public Health: Overcoming Challenges, Maximizing Opportunities.

Projects/Issues Pending:

Local Director's of Nursing created an issue brief with recommendations for policy development on Immunization of Health Department staff to be used for collaborative work with Local Directors of Health Departments.

During this time of unprecedented cuts to local health department, local public health nurses are developing impact statements on mandated services to determine minimum levels of service and implications for nursing practice and outcomes in population health.

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

Recruitment and Retention: As indicated in the last annual report Arizona continues to experience a decline in experienced PHN staff at all levels of the public health system, due to retirement and promotional opportunities outside of nursing. Positions previously requiring a registered nurse are also being modified to include other professionals as candidates. There have been persistent PHN position vacancies within County Health Departments. It is extremely difficult to find applicants for positions requiring PHN experience, particularly PHN management level positions. Salaries continue to be problematic with PHN salaries below market value.