



State and Territory Report

State/Territory: Tennessee
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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

Communicable Disease:

H1N1:

- Tennessee Immunization Program received the CDC Bull's Eye award for implementation of H1N1 throughout the state in the private sector and in the local county health departments.

Emergency Preparedness- Nursing Strike Teams:

- The Nursing Strike Team "Train the Trainer" meeting occurred in January, 2010 with the goal of training the Regional Nursing Director and Emergency Response Coordinator for each of the 13 regions across the state.
- The direction for each Region is to organize a team(s) that would respond first during an EMAC request or an emergency preparedness request within the state for emergency response and sheltering.
- Currently in the process of accessing the Regional Nursing Strike Team assignments.

Statewide Public Health Nursing Protocols:

- Statewide Public Health Nursing Protocols were added to the state intranet in July, 2009.

Statewide Public Health Nursing Orientation:

- Statewide Standardized Public Health Nursing Orientation continues to be implemented successfully in each Region.
- A Staff Development Coordinator is located in each Regional Office.
- Standardized Public Health Nursing Orientation and Practice manual is online.

Projects/Issues Pending:

State and Metro Nursing Directors: State and Metro Nursing Directors Leadership Meeting:

- Meeting is planned for July 22 with the title of "Developing Public Health Nursing Leaders for a Healthy Tennessee."
- This is a collaborative meeting between the University of Tennessee Public Health Nursing faculty staff, DNP students and the Office of Nursing within the TDOH.
- Professors or instructors from Schools of Nursing across the state of Tennessee will be invited to attend the meeting along with the State and Metro Nursing Directors.
- The TDOH Office of Nursing maintains 43 nursing contracts with Schools of Nursing across the **state of Tennessee which allows nursing students to orient in local county health departments.**

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

Recruitment and Retention:

- Recruitment and Retention of RNs to the public health system is an issue in Tennessee due to a result of multiple factors, such as an overall shortage of nurses in Tennessee with a projection of 47%vacancy rate by 2020.

Emergency Preparedness - Nursing Strike Teams:

- Continue the process of accessing the **Nursing Strike Team** assignments.

Nursing History Update:

- Tennessee Public Health Nursing Association – Nursing Section is developing the past 50 year history of Public Health Nursing with the years of 1960-20