

How to Complete the 2017 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment

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Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Agenda



- About the ECA
- Terminology
- Assessment Functionality
- Tools for Completion
- Review and Submission
- Q&A

About the ECA



ECA Purpose



- Enumerate and describe the applied epidemiology workforce
- Describe the skills of the applied epidemiology workforce
- Describe the funding supporting the applied epidemiology workforce
- Describe the level of epidemiology capacity in state health departments

Value of the ECA



- Advocate for workforce development
- Identify gaps in the epidemiology workforce
- Describe trends among epidemiology workforce
- Describe program area specific capacity
- Provide data to describe and prioritize technical assistance and capacity building, and to respond to data requests

Historical Assessments



- CSTE has conducted Epidemiology Capacity Assessments (ECA) in 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013
 - o 2017 ECA is in progress
- Historically 2+ parts
 - o Core – completed by the State Epi about their agency
 - Always 100% response rate from 50 states
 - o Individual – disseminated by State Epi to all epis in their jurisdiction
 - o Modules – subject area specific assessment to be completed by the subject area lead or State Epi
- 2017 is core only

Assessment Considerations CSTE

- Balance data needs and preserving the assessment to measure trends
- Tracking assessment completion and follow up
- Survey burden – time to completion and survey duplication
- Utilize existing frameworks
 - Essential Public Health Services
 - Applied Epidemiology Competencies (AECs)
- Publically report data in aggregate, states are not identified
- Demonstrate value for States and for National Office
 - Individual state reports

2017 ECA Methods



- Literature review of emerging issues
- Focus groups
 - CSTE National Office Staff
 - CSTE Members
- Pilot assessment (n=3)
 - Core assessment only
- Launch full assessment (all states and territories, n=63)
 - Core assessment only
- Data will be used to generate peer reviewed publications, individual state reports, comprehensive report of aggregate data

2017 Assessment Domains



1. Epidemiology leadership
2. Epidemiology staffing and funding sources
3. Epidemiology and surveillance capacity
4. Epidemiology training and the Applied Epidemiology Competencies
5. Existing practices, incentives and barriers aimed at strengthening the state epi workforce
6. Vacancies and retention of the state epi workforce
7. Preparedness
8. Leadership feedback

Terminology



Who is an epidemiologist?



- Defined by job function, not title
- “an investigator who studies the occurrence of disease or other health related conditions or events in defined populations. The control of disease in populations is often also considered to be a task for the epidemiologist.” (Last, J., 2001)
- When in doubt cross reference with the AECs

Counting Epidemiologists



- State level epidemiologists include:
 - o All those employed by the state
 - o All those working at the state level who are either federal assignees (e.g. EISO, CEFO, PHAP) or contract employees (e.g. CSTE trainee, contracted from school of public health to work at or for the State Health Department)
 - o State employees assigned to work at a local or regional level (e.g. to conduct investigations for a region of the state)

What do we mean by capacity? CSTE

- Capacity....
 - o The agency is able to lead activities, provide subject matter expertise, and apply for, receive, and manage resources to conduct key activities.

Capacity Defined - EPHS CSTE

- Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) Framework
 - o EPHS 1: Monitoring health status to identify and solve community health problems
 - o EPHS 2: Diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the community
 - o EPHS 9: Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services
 - o EPHS 10: Researching for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Vacancy



- A vacancy is defined as a position to be filled at the State Health Department that meets the following conditions:
 - o There is work available for the position
 - o The job could start within 30 days

Assessment Functionality



Moving within the Assessment



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Section 1: Epidemiology leadership within the State Health Department (Questions 1-4)

This section can be completed by the State Epidemiologist without additional input.

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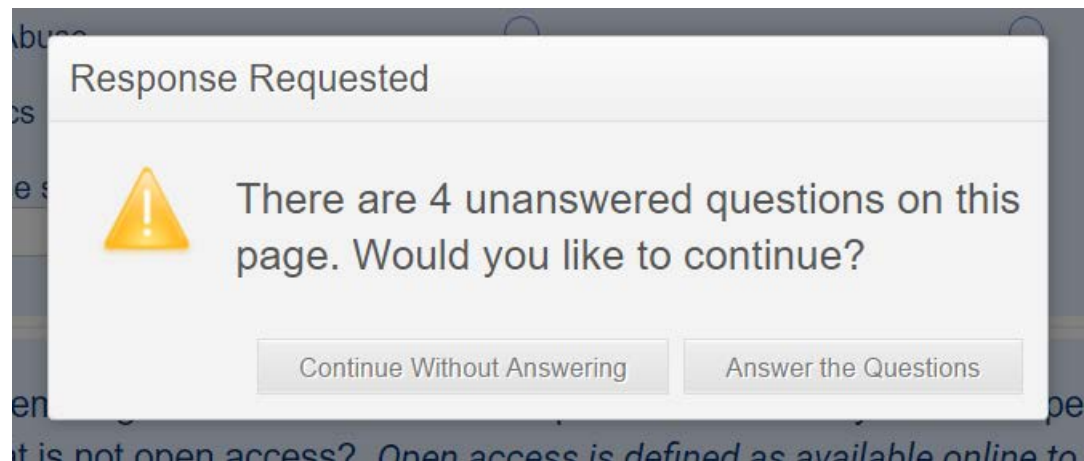
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Response Requested



Progress Bar



Tab Key



	Number supported with federal funds from CDC	Number directly funded by CDC (e.g., CEFO, EIS, PHAP, etc.)	Number supported with federal funds from other agencies	Number supported with state funds	Number supported with funds from other sources (e.g., foundations)	Total
Chronic Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Genomics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infectious Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Informatics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal and Child Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occupational Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oral Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preparedness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Substance Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vital Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (please specify) 	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sharing the Assessment



- The link can be shared with other state agency staff
- Cannot be completed by two individuals simultaneously

1. Prepare

A. Review PDF

AND

B. Determine which questions require information or would benefit from info from program leads, HR, fiscal

2. Modify & Assign

A. Modify worksheets provided to correspond to data needs from each source and assign

OR

B. Ask Program Lead/HR/fiscal to work directly in online form

3. Gather Data & Respond

A. Use PDF or online form to complete questions directed at State Epi

AND

B. Compile responses from others as needed

AND

C. Enter all data into online form

4. Review & Submit

A. Review responses for all questions

AND

B. Submit assessment

Tools for Completion



ECA PDF Preview



- Use the PDF to view the entire assessment
- Take notes prior to entering the data into the online tool

Program Area Leads

- Total number of epis by program area
- Funding sources of epis
- Ideal number of additional epis for full capacity
- Program area capacity by EPHS
- Training needs
- Challenges of staff retention

Human Resources

- Funding sources of epis
- Salary range by degree
- Salary range by career level
- Minimum hiring requirements
- Vacancies and contract positions

Review and Submission



Leadership Perspective



Survey Completion



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Q28. As the State Epidemiologist, what are the most critical issues you face?

Q29. What other thoughts, comments, concerns or questions would you like to share with CSTE with regard to the epidemiology workforce and training?

torial Epidemiologists

Responses to All Questions



Section 10: Review of assessment (Questions 30-31)

All questions within this section should be completed by the State Epidemiologist or a designated senior level health official within your agency.

Please review the previous 9 sections of the assessment prior to completing this section to confirm all questions have been answered accurately.

Q30. As the State Epidemiologist, I confirm that all questions within this assessment have been answered.

[Click here to confirm](#)

Q31. As the State Epidemiologist, I confirm that all parts of this assessment have been completed accurately, to the best of my knowledge. I have consulted with other State Health Department staff as needed.

[Click here to confirm](#)

Upcoming Dates



- Friday, May 12th 3pm ET, Office Hours
- Tuesday, May 23rd 3pm ET, Office Hours
- Wednesday, May 31st, Deadline to Submit ECA!
- June 4-8, CSTE Annual Conference



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