

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS COLLABORATIVE (SEHIC)
CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS**

Indicator: CC5: Adaptation Indicators

Measure(s): CC5.6: Number of Public Health Workforce Trained in Climate Change

MEASURE: Number of Public Health Workforce Trained in Climate Change

Last updated:	April 24, 2010
Measurement units:	Yes (with access to state's survey responses)
Geographic scale:	Statewide
Time scale:	One-time survey in 2008-2009
Significance/background:	The level of Public Health engagement on climate change will be largely determined by how fully its workforce integrates climate-related priorities into their work. In particular, education on the science behind climate change and its connection to core public health services will be an essential component of a successful public health response to the health effects of climate change.
Rationale:	Tracking the number of public health professionals trained in climate change indicates the level of awareness about the links between health and climate change across the public health sector.
Limitations:	The current indicator does not specify any level of training or specific core concepts, such as climate change science.
Data limitations:	The ASTHO survey was not made public other than through a PowerPoint presentation. Researchers must therefore request access to the survey responses provided by the state in question either from ASTHO or directly from the state department of health services.
Related SEHIC measures:	CC 1.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions CC 1.2: Air Mass Stagnation Events CC 1.3: Ozone due to Climate Change CC 1.4: Maximum and Minimum Temperatures/Heat Index CC 1.5: Increase in Heat Alerts/Warnings CC 1.6: Pollen Counts CC 1.7: Frequency, Severity, Distribution, and Duration of Wildfires CC 1.8: Droughts CC 1.9: Harmful Algal Blooms CC 2.1: Excess Mortality due to Extreme Heat CC 2.2: Excess Morbidity due to Extreme Heat CC 2.3: Number of Injuries/Mortality from Extreme Weather Events CC 2.4: Human Cases of Infectious Disease/Positive Test Results in Sentinels and Reservoirs

	CC 2.5: Respiratory/Allergic Disease and Mortality Related to Increased Air Pollution and Pollens CC 3.1: Population Vulnerability or General Social Vulnerability CC 3.2: Heat Vulnerability CC 3.3: Flood Vulnerability CC 3.4: Sea Level Rise Vulnerability CC 4.1: Total Energy Consumption per Capita CC 4.2: Renewable Energy Generation per Capita CC 4.3: Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita CC 5.1: Development of State Adaptation Plan CC 5.2: Access to Cooling Centers CC 5.3: Number of Heat Alerts, Heat Health Watch/Warning Systems CC 5.4: Number of Municipal Heat Island Mitigation Projects and Plans CC 5.5: Number of Health Surveillance Systems Related to Climate Change CC 6.1. Number, Percent, and Percent of Population of Local Governments Participating in ICLEI CC 6.2 Number, Percent, and Percent of Population Living in Cities Participating in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement CC 6.3: Creation of a State Climate Change Advisory Board CC 6.4 Completion of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory CC 6.5 Completion of a State/Local Climate Change Action Plan
Recommendations:	Identify a more systematic way to measure the level of training, whether through degrees, coursework, or a specific number of continuing education hours each year.
Resources:	J. Balbus et. al. Are We Ready? Preparing for the Public Health Challenges of Climate Change. Environmental Defense Fund, 2008.

HOW-TO GUIDE: Number of Public Health Workforce Trained in Climate Change

1. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) 2008-2009 survey of state and territorial Chief Health Officers includes a section on the current climate change workforce capacity. A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the survey is located at: <http://www.astho.org/Programs/Environmental-Health/Natural-Environment/PowerPoint--SHO-survey/>
2. Contact the Chief Health Officer in your state department of health to request a copy of their completed survey.
3. In the ASTHO 2008-2009 survey, refer to the following questions to determine the number of Public Health Workforce trained or knowledgeable in climate change present in your state:

Question 2: “I am knowledgeable about the potential public health impacts of climate change”

Question 8: “My health department currently has ample expertise to assess the potential public health impacts associated with climate change that could occur in my state or territory.”

Question 9: “My health department currently has ample expertise to respond to the potential public health impacts associated with climate change that could occur in my state or territory.”

Question 10: “My health department is capable of developing and delivering public education materials designed to reduce/prevent community contributions to climate change.”

Question 20: “My health department currently has ample expertise to create an effective plan to address the public health implications of climate change.”

Question 25: “Would further staff training significantly improve your healthy agency's ability to deal with climate change as a public health issue?”