

# Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Lessons Learned from an Online Course

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# Objectives

- Describe an online course for pandemic influenza preparedness in NC
- Present results from evaluation of pilot course
- Discuss lessons learned



# Background

- Increase knowledge and build skills relevant to pandemic influenza response for local health department personnel
  - Preparedness coordinators
  - Pandemic influenza planners
- Collaborative effort in development of course
  - NC Division of Public Health
  - NC Center for Public Health Preparedness

# Local Health Departments in NC



100 counties

86 local health departments



# Online Course Snapshot

## ■ Content

- Pandemic Influenza  
Overview and Planning
- Command and Control
- Surveillance
- Vaccine & Antivirals
- Disease Containment
- Communications

## ■ Requirements

- Orientation
- Pre- and post-course  
assessment
- Activities in each  
module
- Discussion board

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**Pandemic Influenza Preparedness**  **for Local Health Departments in North Carolina**

VIEW TODAY VIEW LAST 7 DAYS VIEW LAST 30 DAYS VIEW ALL


July 03, 2007 - July 10, 2007

 **Thu, Nov 16, 2006 -- End of Course Deadline - Extension** Posted by Molly Lynch

Thanks to everybody for their hard work as we near the end of the course. As next week is a holiday, we wanted to extend the final course deadline until the following week so that everybody has a chance to finish the modules, given your busy schedules. **THE NEW DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF ALL MODULES IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd.**

The week after Thanksgiving, we will post the post course assessment and the course evaluation for you to complete after Module 6.

Thanks for all of your hard work!

 **Tue, Oct 24, 2006 -- County Local Health Department Pan Flu Guidance** Posted by Richard Rosselli

If you have primary responsibility for drafting your agency's Pandemic Influenza plan, you may want to review the 'Essential Elements Checklist' and the 'Pandemic Influenza Review Guidelines' links located below and in

Done blackboard.unc.edu



# Demographics of Participants

- 80% participants completed the pilot course
- 66% had previously taken an internet-based course
- 88% involved in drafting county plan
- 52% were preparedness coordinators



# Evaluation of Pilot Course

- Contribution of the course to increased preparedness
  - Functional capabilities of participants
  - Pandemic influenza knowledge
- Participant satisfaction

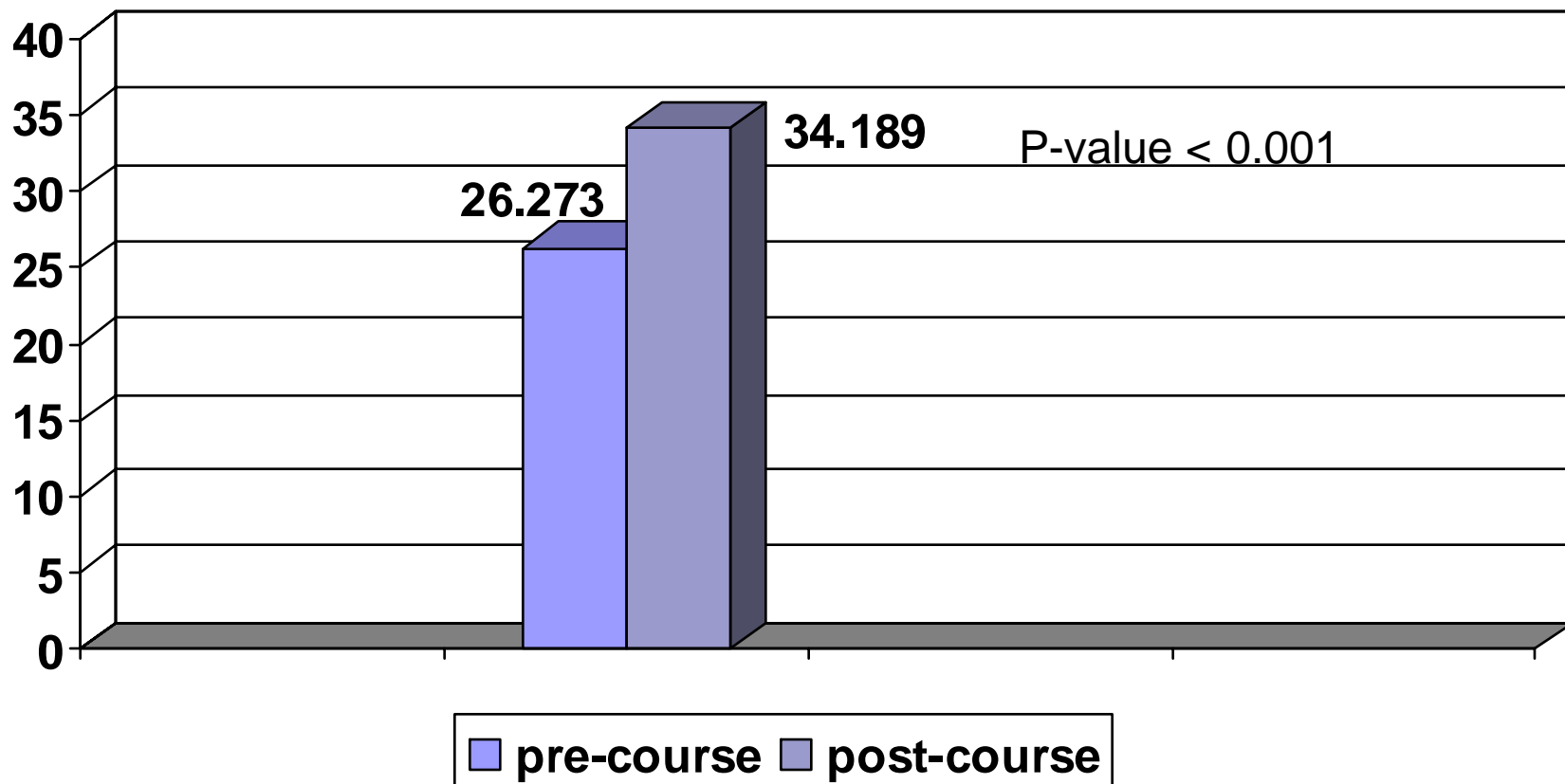




# Functional Capabilities

- Utilize FluAid software to estimate local impact
- Perform surveillance during different phases of a pandemic
- Participate in implementation of community containment measures
- Communicate effectively with the public during an influenza pandemic

# Pandemic Influenza Knowledge Assessment





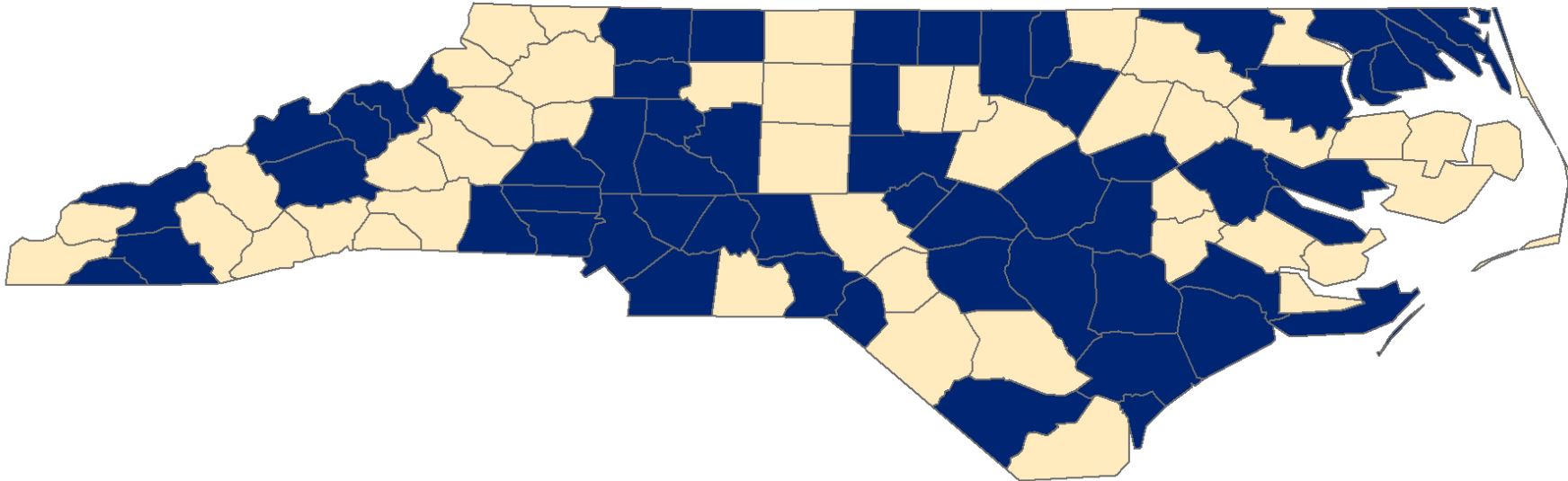
# Participant Satisfaction

- All participants would recommend the course to others
- Vast majority (97%) would use information to write or modify county pandemic influenza plans
- Majority of participants (73%) felt they spent an appropriate amount of time on course
- Lack of direct interaction with instructors was dissatisfying to some
- Review of discussion board was mixed

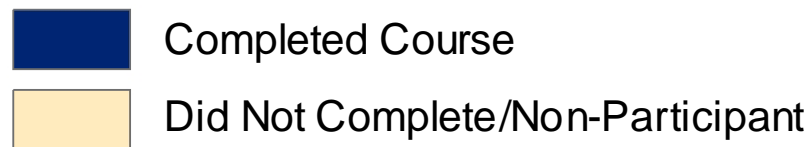


# Lessons Learned

- Distance learning format was well-received
- Interaction between participants and instructors should be increased
  - More discussion boards
  - Live TA session
- Technical hurdles should be minimized
  - Remove upload format for activities



## Online Course Completion (Fall 2006 – Spring 2007)



# Acknowledgements

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