# Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute

Rob Blake, M.P.H, R.E.H.S. Branch Chief, Environmental Health Services National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rgblake@cdc.gov

American Public Health Association Conference Washington D.C, November 5, 2007





# Environmental Health Services (EHS)

- Improve and ensure the quality and accessibility of EHS in the U.S.
- Develop and enhance the EHS professionals who deliver these services



### **Environmental Health Problems**



### What is the Problem?

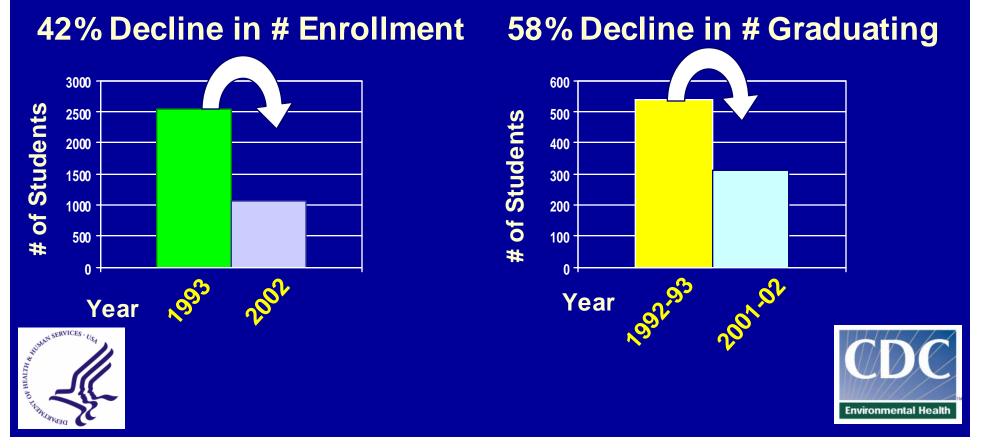
- Environmental health practice is outmoded
- Many programs lack environmental health leadership
- Role of environmental health services not well understood and often invisible
- Decrease in the number of environmental health professionals
- Disconnect between public health and environmental health





### **Declining EH Students/Graduates**

 Currently 25 universities with accredited undergraduate programs



# **Strategy Goals**



A STRATEGY TO REVITALIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES

environmental health...touching everyone's life every day

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



- 1. Build capacity
- 2. Support research
- 3. Foster leadership
- 4. Communicate and market
- 5. Develop the workforce
- 6. Create strategic partnerships

For each goal:

- 1–4 objectives
- Concrete and measurable activities



## What Is CDC's Role?

 Foster leadership to enhance environmental health services

Promote the development of a competent and effect environmental health service work force





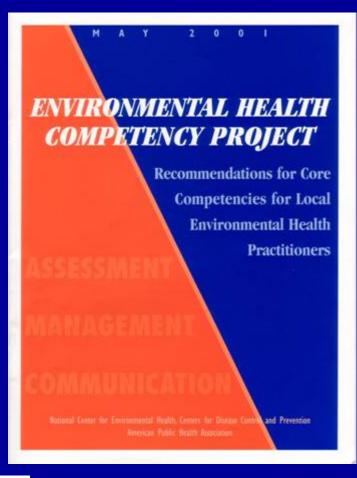
### **Current Workforce Initiatives**

- Develop needed programs and curricula to strengthen public health infrastructure
- Evaluate the effectiveness of core competencies
- Increase the diversity among EH practitioners
- Facilitate education opportunities for EH
- Increase the number of accredited programs
- Develop communications messages to promote the importance of EH services





# **EHS Workforce Core Competencies**



### **EHS** Professionals

- 1. Assess and interpret data
- 2. Manage programs
- 3. Solve problems
- 4. Evaluate programs
- 5. Build collaborations
- 6. Educate and train
- 7. Communicate and market importance





# Goal 3. Foster Leadership

- Provide guidance, training, and assistance to specifically build and enhance leadership capabilities
  - 1. Support national conferences
  - 2. Promote the use of CDC's Internet-based Environmental Health ListServ
  - 3. Develop EHS guidance documents and recommendations
  - 4. Create an EH Leadership Institute
  - 5. Develop an EH Services Corps





### Goals

- Develop the leadership competencies needed to address the EH challenges of the 21st century
- Improve EH practice within state, tribal, and local organizations







### **EPH Leadership Institute Objectives**

- Role and mission of EH
- Essential services of public health
- Inter/Intraorganizational team building
- Systems approach
- Programmatic approach

- Network of EH leaders
- Policy development
- Leadership competencies
- Leadership skills into practice
- Hands-on projects





# Class of 2005–2006 (32 fellows) State environmental health department (9) State health department (13) Local environmental health department (1) Local health department (5) Federal agency (2) University (1) School environmental health specialist (1)





### Class of 2005–2006

♦ BS	66%
♦ BA	31%
◆ BA and BS	3%
♦ MPH	22%
♦ MS	22%
♦ MA	6%
♦ Other	19%
♦ None	31%

Institute graduates from accredited EH schools

- 3% (undergraduate school)
- 0% (graduate school)





Class of 2006–2007 (39 fellows)
State environmental health department (1)
State health department (7)
Local environmental health department (6)
Local health department (21)
University (2)
Nongovernment organization (2)





### Class of 2006–2007

♦ BS	85%
♦ BA	13%
◆ BA and BS	3%
♦ MPH	13%
♦ MS	15%
♦ MA	5%
♦ MS/MPH	3%
♦ Other	15%

Institute graduates from accredited EH schools

- 12.8% (undergraduate school)
- 5% (graduate school)





### Class of 2007–2008 (41 fellows)

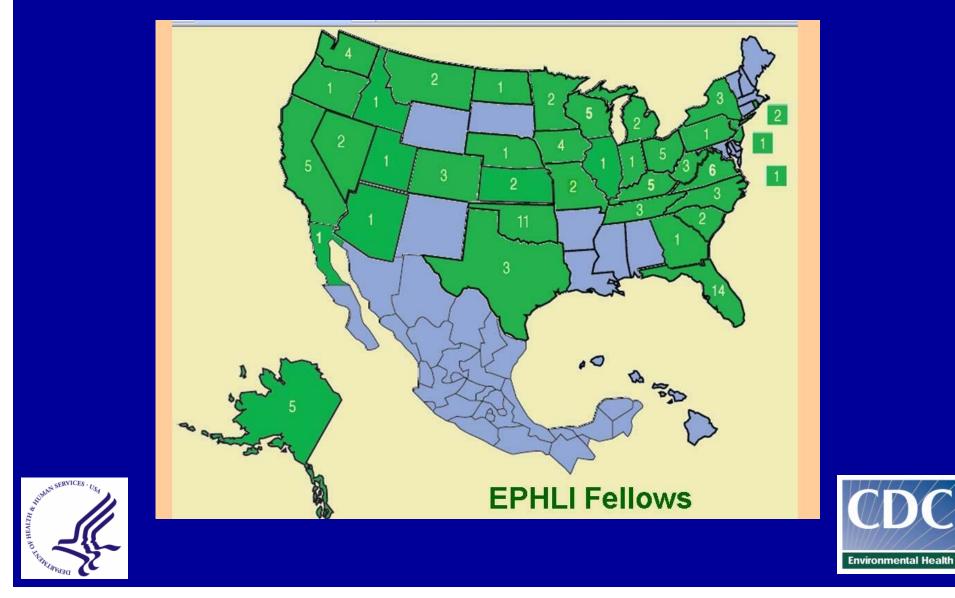
- ◆ MPH 34.1%
- ◆ BA 17.1%
- ◆ BS 19.5%
- ♦ MPA 2.4%
- ♦ PhD 7.3%
- ◆ DrPH 2.4%
- ◆ MS 17.1%

Began coursework in February 2007 Will graduate in February 2008





# **Distribution of EPHLI Fellows**



### Environmental Public Health Services...Touches Everyone's Life Every Day





