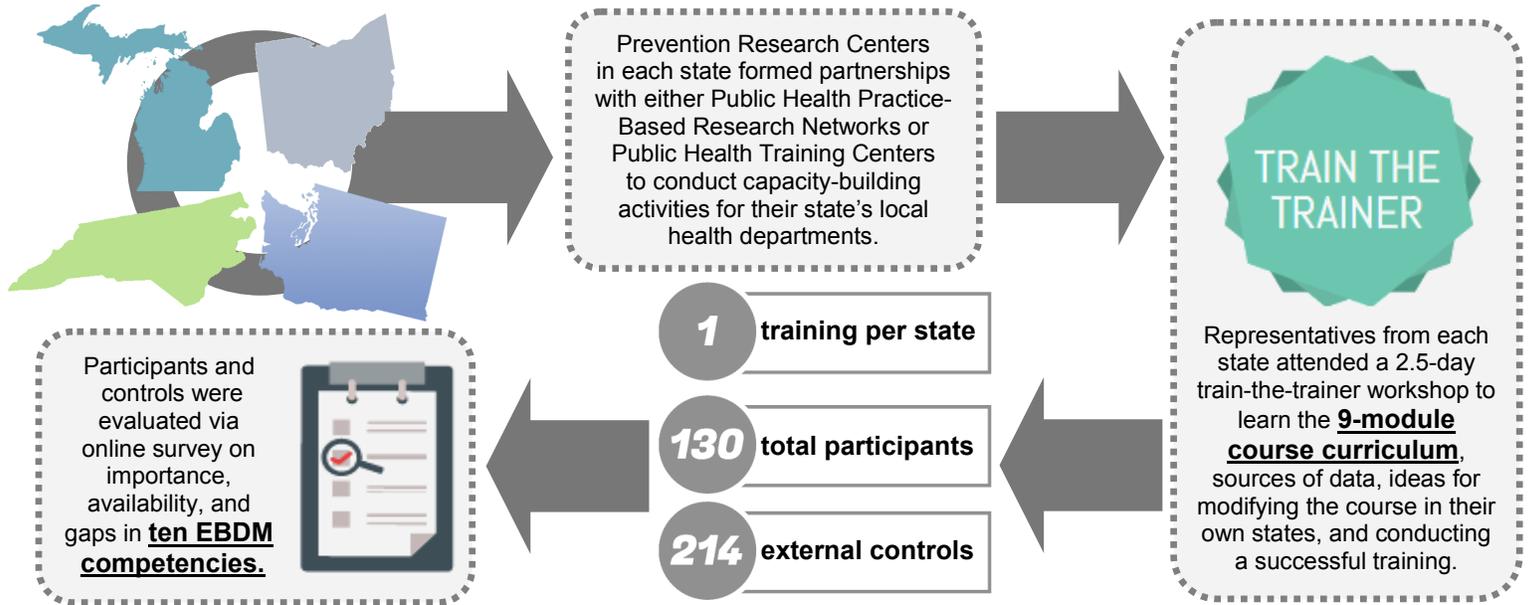




Capacity Building for Evidence-Based Decision Making: Scaling up an effective training approach

This study tested local-level evidence-based decision making (EBDM) capacity-building efforts, specifically the curriculum of an evidence-based public health (EBPH) training course, in four U.S. states (Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Washington), with a quasi-experimental design. A train-the-trainer approach was used to engage partners and improve EBDM capacity among local health departments. It demonstrates the potential for improving EBDM capacity, while allowing for local tailoring of strategies.



EBDM Competencies

- Prioritization** of program and policy options
- Adapting interventions** for different communities and settings
- Evaluation designs** useful in program or policy evaluation
- Quantifying the issue** using descriptive epidemiology
- Quantitative evaluation** approaches (e.g., surveillance, surveys)
- Qualitative evaluation** approaches (e.g., focus groups)
- Action planning** for how to achieve goals and objectives
- Community assessment** of needs and assets
- Communicating research to policy makers** effectively
- Economic evaluation** in the decision making process

Course Modules

- 1: Introduction**
- 2: Community Assessment**
- 3: Quantify the Issue**
- 4: Develop a Concise Statement**
- 5: Scientific Literature**
- 6: Develop & Prioritize Options**
- 7: Economic Evaluation**
- 8: Action Plan & Logic Model**
- 9: Evaluate the Program/Policy**

45%

of EBPH course participants indicated an increase of EBDM within their agency since completing the training.

60%

of participants reported using skills and materials at least quarterly in planning, modifying or evaluating programs, searching scientific literature, or referring to readings.

Results and Lessons Learned

- Compared to the control group, course participants reported greater increases in availability and decreases in gaps in EBDM competencies. Significant differences between controls and participants were found in the areas of action planning, evaluation design, communicating research to policymakers, quantifying issues, and economic evaluation.
- EBPH courses can effectively improve the availability of skills that are essential to EBDM among health department practitioners.

"[The course] helped raise awareness about EBDM among agency leadership, paving the way for those of us who completed the training to discuss, promote, and facilitate integration of it in our public health programming, services, grant writing, etc. and receive increased support to do so. It assisted it in becoming part of a common organizational language."