

Epidemiology Series

Forensic Epidemiology

This Workshop is a day and half, modeled after the CDC's Forensic Epidemiology training program addressing the following topics: principles of public health and epidemiology; principles of law enforcement and criminal investigation; roles of public health and crime laboratories; and coordination of joint investigations from the federal perspective. The workshop is divided into introductory lectures, followed by interactive case studies of scenarios involving biological threats to public health and safety, each of which requires the joint response of public health and law enforcement.

Learning Objectives:

1. Criminal and Epidemiological Investigative Methods
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences in public health and law enforcement investigative goals and methods
 - Show an understanding of crime scene procedures
 - Describe specimen collection and establishment of chain of custody of evidence
 - Understand the inclusion of "intentionality" in the epidemiologic differential diagnosis and investigation
2. Operations and Procedures
 - Demonstrate an understanding of controlling laws and sources of authorities for actions
 - Demonstrate an understanding of legal issues surrounding the issue of bioterrorism
 - Determine jurisdictional lead responsibilities
 - Identify additional resources to call and when to call
 - Recognize when to involve the other discipline after the problem is acknowledged
 - Coordinate public health and law enforcement activities during responses and investigations
 - Coordinate local, state, and federal resources
 - Describe on-scene control measures and interventions
3. Communications
 - Communicate and share information
 - Differentiate between treatment of information (eg., privacy, confidentiality, public disclosure)
 - Describe media relations and risk communication

