



South Central Public Health Partnership

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

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Health Risk Assessment and Taking an Exposure History

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This course provides an overview of the principles of public health risk assessment and biological monitoring to assess exposure. The goal of this course is to increase the public health practitioner's knowledge of hazardous substances in the environment and to aid in the evaluation of potentially exposed individuals and communities. The process of health risk assessment and taking an exposure history is demonstrated using case studies and taking a clinical history approach to look at how to develop, implement and interpret an exposure history such that is included in the clinical evaluation of the patient.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the four segments of the current health risk assessment model
- Name two sources of toxicity data
- Identify four different routes to evaluate when assessing exposure
- List one method of exposure assessment
- List three types of the most common biological fluids or tissues used for measuring chemicals or metabolite(s)
- Describe three reasons why population-based strategies for research are useful
- Identify two national databases which provide useful information on exposure assessment
- Name four main organ systems affected by toxic exposure
- Identify toxicants in the home and environment
- Describe the three sub-components of the exposure history form
- Explain the importance of the exposure survey
- Describe the significance of cultural history in the context of an exposure history

Competencies

- Basic knowledge and concepts:
 - All nurses should understand the scientific principles and underpinnings of the relationship between individuals or populations, and the environment (including the work environment). This understanding includes the basic mechanisms and pathways of exposure to environmental health hazards, basic prevention and control strategies, the interdisciplinary nature of effective interventions, and the role of research.
- Assessment and referral
 - All nurses should be able to successfully complete an environmental health history, recognize potential environmental hazards and sentinel illnesses, and make appropriate referrals for conditions with probable environmental etiologies. An essential component of this is the ability to access and provide information to patients and communities, and to locate referral sources.

* *Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice*

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