

National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network

“The connection between health and dwelling is one of the most important that exists.”

—**Florence Nightingale**

Housing conditions have a significant effect on public health and quality of life. Most people spend an average of 90% of their time indoors, where unhealthy and unsafe conditions can increase their risk for disease, injury, and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Healthy Homes Initiative is a holistic and comprehensive strategy to address the connection between housing and health. The Healthy Homes Training Center and Network (HHTC), as part of the initiative, provides training to public health, environmental health, and housing professionals to recognize and address housing-related health hazards.

The 2-day training, which is conducted throughout the country by HHTC partners, emphasizes the connection between housing and health and focuses on the importance of a holistic approach to identify and address a broad range of housing deficiencies and hazards. The interactive classes introduce housing, public health, and environmental health principles and allow students to gain an increased understanding of the connection between the work each professional does in a home and the health of the residents. Students learn the tools and skills necessary to resolve a broad range of housing deficiencies and hazards associated with unhealthy and unsafe homes and are encouraged to develop a plan to integrate what they have learned into their own work situations.

Training modules include lectures and individual and group exercises on

- Basic public health, environmental health, and housing principles;
- Working with people;
- Laws and codes related to housing;
- Data collection and reporting;
- Moisture;
- Ventilation;
- Injury prevention and safety;
- Maintenance;
- Contaminants; and
- Pests.



Clearinghouse

HHTC also operates a Web-based Healthy Homes Clearinghouse to offer a one-stop center for information and new research findings about healthy housing. The clearinghouse provides up-to-date scientific and best practices information about healthy homes.

Continued on next page

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Collaborations

HHTC is a collaborative effort between CDC and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HHTC is administered through a cooperative agreement with the National Center for Healthy Housing. HHTC training was developed and is carried out by many partners, including academic and nonprofit organizations and city, state, and federal agencies.

Information

For more information about the National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network,

- Contact Deborah Millette at CDC (770-488-4024; dmillette@cdc.gov) or Tom Neltner at the National Center for Healthy Housing (410-772-2776; tneltner@centerforhealthyhousing.org), or
- Visit the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthyhomes.htm>) or NCHH (<http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org>) Web sites.

November 2006