

# Public Health Nursing Perspectives on the DNP

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# Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

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- ❑ Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (*ASTDN*)
- ❑ American Nurses Association Council on Nursing Practice and Economics (*ANA*)
- ❑ Association of Community Health Nursing Educators (*ACHNE*)
- ❑ Section of PHN of the American Public Health Association (*APHA*)

# Interdisciplinary Documents: PHN Practice & DNP

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- ❑ *Healthy People 2010*
- ❑ Institute of Medicine. (2002). *The future of public health in the 21st century*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- ❑ Institute of Medicine. (2003). *Who will keep the public healthy?* Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- ❑ Clinical prevention and population health: curriculum framework for health professions (Barwick et al., 2004)

# Interdisciplinary & PHN Documents

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- *Council on Linkages Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (COL, 2001)*
- *Quad Council PHN Competencies (Quad Council, 2003)*
  - **Domains:**
    - #1 Analytic Domain*
    - #2 Policy Development and Program Planning*
    - #3 Communication*
    - #4 Cultural Competency*
    - #5 Community Dimensions of Practice*
    - #6 Basic Public Health Science*
    - #7 Financial Planning and Management*
    - #8 Leadership and Systems Thinking*

# COL & PHN Competencies Skill Levels for Individual/Families and Populations/Systems

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- **Aware: (P/S - PHN Staff/RN)**
- **Knowledgeable: (P/S - PHN Staff/RN)**
- **Advanced: (P/S - PHN Managers & Specialists/APRN)**

# PHN Documents

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- *Public Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (ANA, In Review)
  - PHN is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences (APHA, PHN Section, 1996).
  - An ecological approach forms the basis of population-focused services and programs, advocacy activities, research, and public health education, including the preparation of public health nurses.

# Advanced Education in P/CHN Content –

*Based on: Essentials of Master's Level Nursing Education for Advanced Community/Public Health Nursing Practice (ACHNE, 2003)*

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- **Epidemiology: the basic science**
- **Community assessment and diagnosis**
- **Public health administration and management**
- **Program planning, implementation, and evaluation**
- **Financial management and budgeting**
- **Continuous quality improvement**
- **Biostatistics**
- **Public/community health nursing theory**



# Advanced Education in P/CHN Content –

*Based on: Essentials of Master's Level Nursing Education for Advanced Community/Public Health Nursing Practice (ACHNE, 2003)*

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- Public/community health nursing ethics
- Population-focused research methods
- Integrated, multi-level community interventions
- Environmental sciences
- Economics of health care
- Health policy development
- Health leadership
- Information systems
- Program grant proposal development



# The RN Population: March 2000 (DHHS, 2002)

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- 6.7% public health (focused)  
post-RN master's degrees<sup>1</sup>
- 3.1% public health (focused)  
doctoral degrees<sup>1</sup>
  - <sup>1</sup> Includes nursing and non-nursing  
degrees

# CHN Nursing Programs 2003

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- 107 CHN graduate nursing specialty tracks or programs
  
- 32 Joint MSN/MPH programs
  
- 18 HRSA funded P/CHN advanced education nursing program or specialty track grants
  - *Data compiled by ACHNE based on Peterson (2004) and HRSA (2003) grantee information*

# Advanced Nursing Practice in the DNP Essentials *Draft (9-23-05)*

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Any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or *populations*, including the direct care of individual patients, *management of care for* individuals and *populations*, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and *the development and implementation of health policy*.

# P/CHN Perspectives on the DNP

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Practice

Education

Research

# P/CHN Practice Perspectives

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- Data is needed to support the change in APRN education in P/CHN from MSN to DNP
- Is there a market for P/CHN prepared DNPs?

# P/CHN Practice Perspectives

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- ❑ Will P/CHN DNP salaries be comparable to APRN colleagues in health systems?
- ❑ What is the cost-benefit of pursuing a DNP in P/CHN?

# P/CHN Education Perspectives

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- Education – The credit hours/length of time to complete DNP degree with a post-BSN entry may not be comparable to other practice doctorates.
  - Will P/CHN lose students to other shorter educational programs (MPH, DrPH, etc.)?
- Education – There is a need for nursing faculty in general and P/CHN faculty in particular and for a specific educational track in the DNP

# P/CHN Education/Practice

## P/CHN Perspectives

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- ❑ Education/Practice - Not every APRN wants a doctorate and not every APRN is capable of doctoral level work.
  - DNP doctoral coursework must be at a higher level than current Master's level courses.
  
- ❑ Education/Practice - How will a DNP in PHN result in a different "product" than an MSN, for example, based on the COL and PHN competencies?

# P/CHN Research Perspectives

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- Research – P/CHN is accumulating an important body of knowledge in community and population focused public health research in the context of the PhD or research doctorate.
  - Will PHN scientific progress be hampered if many potential P/CHN doctoral students select the DNP over the PhD?

# Conclusions

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- ❑ Utility of the DNP for P/CHN requires support from the public health nursing practice arena.
  
- ❑ Critical comparative analyses of the ACHNE essentials, PHN competencies, and the DNP essentials are warranted
  - To identify P/CHN specialty content and overlapping and/or leveling of content population and systems content in proposed DNP essentials.

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