



Leaders in Applied Public Health Epidemiology

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CSTE is an organization that supports epidemiologists practicing at the state, territorial, tribal, and local levels.

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Dear Colleague,

CSTE and CDC are pleased to release a newly developed **toolkit** to help epidemiologists and other public health practitioners understand and incorporate the *CDC/CSTE Competencies for Applied Epidemiologists in Governmental Public Health Agencies* (AECs) into everyday practice. The **toolkit** includes the following items:

- Complete AECs document
- Preface document and short summaries of the AECs
- Informational brochure
- Competency evaluation forms
- Sample position descriptions
- CD that includes an interactive quiz and an informational PowerPoint presentation

We encourage individual epidemiologists, public health agencies, and academic centers to use the competencies and contents of the **toolkit** and to move with us toward a common goal of improving epidemiologic practice. We will publish additional information about the competencies, including tools and documentation to support their use, at www.cste.org/competencies.asp and on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/od/owcd/cdd/aec/.

Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) recently led an effort to develop applied epidemiology competencies. The final product, *Competencies for Applied Epidemiologists in Governmental Public Health Agencies* (Applied Epidemiology Competencies, or AECs for short), is intended to improve the practice of epidemiology among public health agencies by creating a comprehensive list of competencies that:

- Define the discipline of applied epidemiology, and
- Describe competencies for four different levels of practicing epidemiologists working in government public health agencies.

The AECs were developed within the framework of the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals—a product of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice—and thus are consistent with the larger field of public health practice. The AECs resulted from two years of highly collaborative work by an expert panel representing local, state, and federal public health agencies as well as schools of public health. Epidemiologists at all levels of public health practice from throughout the country and academia provided substantial input into the AECs through a series of state pilots and extensive review efforts.

To request additional copies of the toolkit or to obtain more information, please contact CSTE at 770-458-3811 or email comp@cste.org.

Sincerely,

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