

# Student Outbreak Response Team

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# Introduction

- Riley County Health Department (RCHD)
  - Epidemiology Intern
  - Andrew Adams, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
  - Create a Student Outbreak Response Team

# Learning Objectives

- Conduct literature reviews about the nature of the public health work force and Student Outbreak Response Teams (SORT) and their impacts on both the needs of students and health department officials.
- Create a successful SORT program at Kansas State University with appropriate applications, bylaws, and training procedures.

# Activities Performed

- Conduct research about SORT teams across the country
- Create a list of training sessions for members
- Produce an application for interested students
- Construct a constitution and a set of bylaws
- Recruit students
- In addition to my project
  - Attended meetings
  - Assisted with the planning of BugAPalooza

# Products developed

- The Student Outbreak Response Team (SORT)
- Organization materials
  - Application
  - List of training requirements
  - SORT member information packet.
  - Constitution
  - Bylaws
  - 5 binders for each Executive Board position

# The Public Health workforce

- Large with diverse educational backgrounds
  - Many career options <sup>[11]</sup>
- Aging
  - Average age 48.3 years of age <sup>[6]</sup>
  - Close to average retirement age in U.S.: 66 years <sup>[12]</sup>
  - Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE): 57% are 46 years of age or up, 21% are 20-35 years <sup>[5]</sup>

# The Public Health workforce

- Considered Undereducated
  - 38% obtained a Master's degree <sup>[6]</sup>
  - 13% Master of Public Health (MPH) degree <sup>[6]</sup>
  - KDHE: 28% obtained a Master's degree <sup>[5]</sup>
  - Enter workforce with no formal public health training <sup>[6]</sup>
- How can these be solved?



# A solution to the Problem

- Some universities created a program for student volunteering <sup>[8]</sup>
  - Team Epi-Aid, the Student Outbreak Response Team, the Student Response Team, and Team Diarrhea
- Accredited Public Health programs and Local health agencies can work together <sup>[8]</sup>
  - Students gain public health job experience and training
  - Health agencies receive extra help in times of need
- Kansas State didn't have a recognized team

# Kansas State's SORT Team

- Purpose: provide Surge capacity for RCHD and allow students to gain professional experience and training outside their required field experience.
- January 2018-Creation and Email
  - Application
  - Information Document
  - List of training modules
- February 12, 2018-application deadline
  - Application
  - 3 HIPAA training sessions



### Kansas State University Student Outbreak Response Team

Application deadline: Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5pm

Submit applications to SORTKSU@gmail.com

#### Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for the (circle one): Fall Spring Semester

#### Education Information

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize skills and qualifications you have acquired from previous experiences and education, including any certifications

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference,



#### Short Answer Questions

In a short paragraph, explain why you want to be a member of the Student Outbreak Response Team (SORT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In a short paragraph, what are your future career goals, and how do you believe being a SORT member will help you achieve those goals upon graduation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Proof of HIPAA Trainings must be submitted along with this application.**

By submitting this application, I affirm the facts set forth are true and complete. I understand that if selected as a team member, any false statements, omissions or other misrepresentations on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

SORT President: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference,



## Student Outbreak Response Team

### What is it?

The Kansas State University Student Outbreak Response Team (KSU SORT) is a student organization open to MPH and DVM/MPH students. The purpose of the organization is twofold; KSU SORT will provide surge capacity to the Riley County Health Department during a disease outbreak, and provide MPH students with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of public health practice, outside of the academic setting, and in the workplace.

KSU SORT offers community outreach and engagement opportunities and networking opportunities with public health professionals within Riley County.

### How to Apply:

Interested students must complete the KSU SORT application in order to become a member of the team, and meet a series of criteria. In order to apply, students must be deemed eligible; eligible students must meet the following requirements:

- Must be MPH or DVM/MPH student
- Must be in good standing with the University and MPH program
- Must complete training requirements
- Applications should be submitted electronically to [SORTKSU@gmail.com](mailto:SORTKSU@gmail.com)

### Training Requirements:

All SORT members must complete a series of trainings online and in person. The [trainings have been agreed upon by the Riley County Health Department and KSU SORT.](#)

- HIPAA Training:
  - HIPAA Awareness – Module 1
  - HIPAA: Allowable Disclosures and Safeguards – Module 2
  - HIPAA: Right to Access and Documentation – Module 3
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training:
  - IS-100.b: Introduction to Incident Command System
  - IS-700.a: Introduction to National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Epidemiology Training:
  - Epidemiology, Outbreaks and Public Health in Kansas (offered in person, by RCHD staff)
  - The Dos and Don'ts of Outbreak Interviewing
- All SORT members must sign a Riley County Health Department Confidentiality form

All required trainings are available online, unless otherwise stated. Members of KSU SORT must complete trainings within 30 days, upon notification of an acceptable application.

# Kansas State's SORT Team

- Scheduled meetings
  - March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Additional opportunities
  - Okt-FLU-ber Fest and BugAPalooza
- Set up of the team
  - 5 Executive Board Positions
  - Requirements to remain on team
    - Required trainings
      - Intro to Epidemiology, 3 HIPAA, 2 Incident Command System, and Do's and Don'ts of Outbreak Investigation
- 8 Students

# Necessity for a SORT team on a National Level

- Shortage in public health workforce.
  - 20% eliminated due to budget cuts between 2008-2010
  - Specifically in the Epidemiology Concentration <sup>[8]</sup>
- Graduate Student Epidemiology Response Programs (GSERPs).
  - As of 2010 25% programs exists <sup>[9]</sup>

# Necessity for a SORT team on a National Level

- GSERPs benefit local health agencies and the students involved
  - Students
    - Gain Experience
    - Apply classroom knowledge <sup>[8]</sup>
    - 29% of Team Epi-Aid students chose jobs <sup>[2]</sup>
    - 41% of Team Epi-Aid students work in Public Health <sup>[2]</sup>
      - 80% of those work in government agencies
  - Health Departments
    - Surge Capacity: Additional assistance in times of need
    - Extra workforce at no cost to agencies <sup>[7]</sup>

# Necessity for a SORT team on a National Level

- GSERPs benefit communities
  - Healthier community, faster discovery
  - New York <sup>[1]</sup>
    - November 2011: Salmonella Outbreak in a Jewish community
    - Interviewed potential patients
    - Discovered ill individuals ate partially broiled chicken
    - Grocers pulled product
    - Packing policies with the company changed

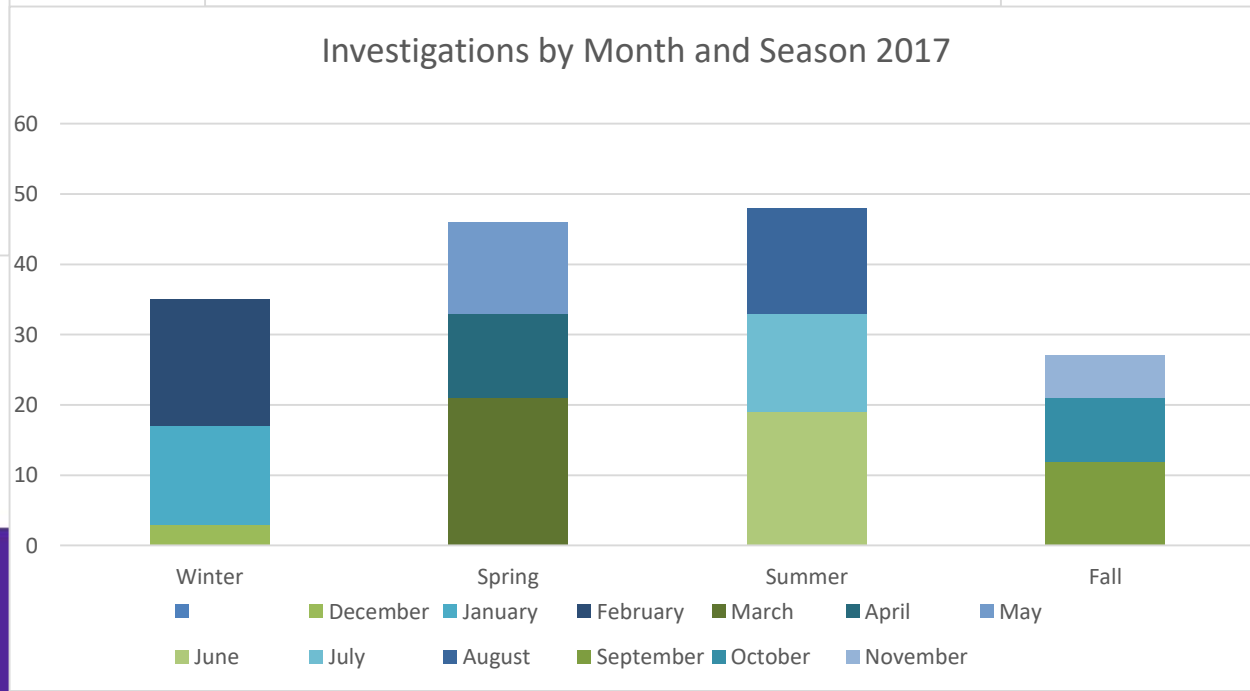
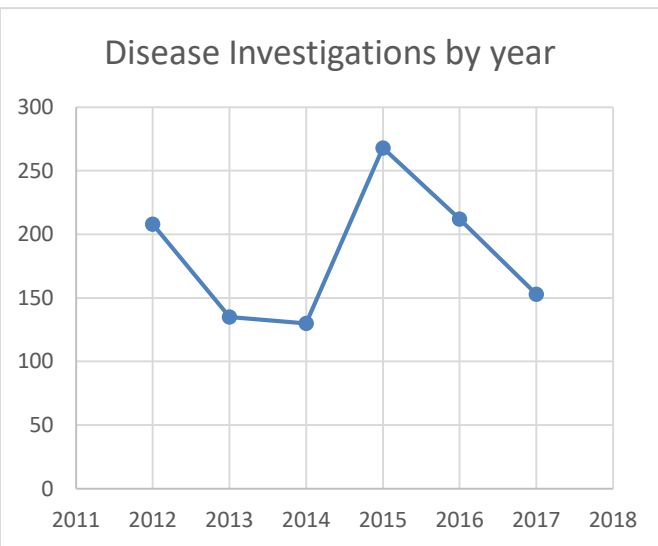
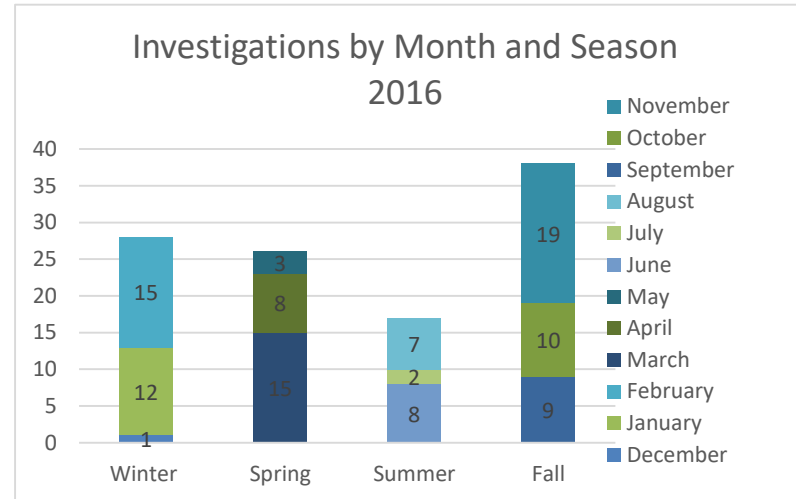


# Necessity for a Team in Riley County

- RCHD and K-State partnership
- 40 employees on staff
  - No full time Epidemiologist
- Epidemiology Team (Epi Team)
  - 5 employees are members of the Epi Team
  - 1 performs the majority of the disease investigations

# Necessity for a Team in Riley County

- 365 total cases in the past 2 years
  - 212 in 2016
  - 153 in 2017

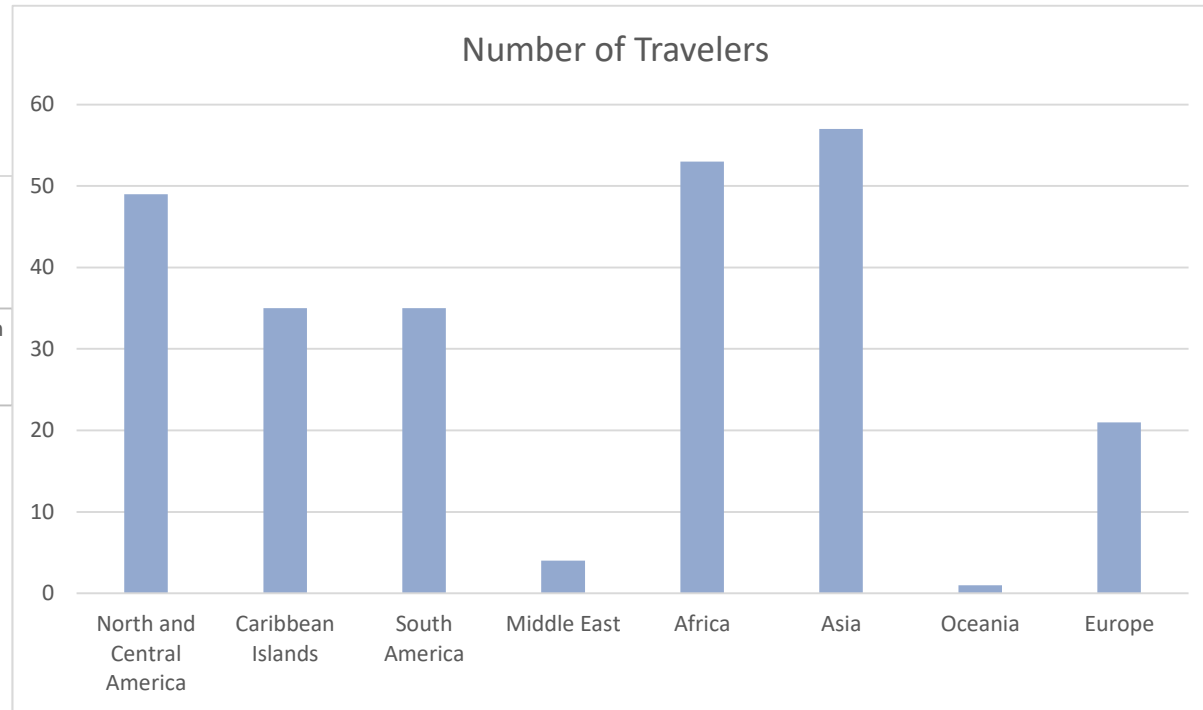
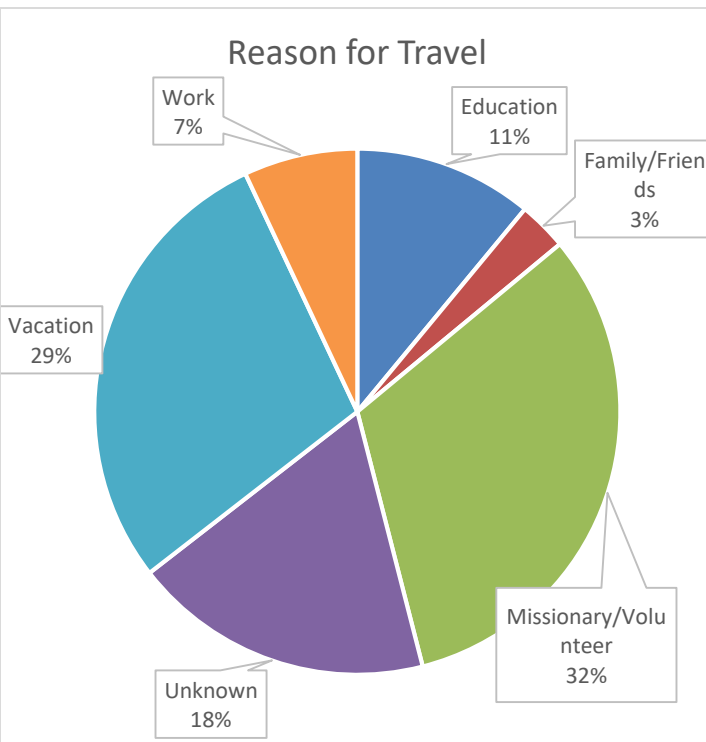


# Necessity for a Team in Riley County

- 2016 Gastrointestinal Outbreak-Manhattan High School
  - August 24, 2016: 1<sup>st</sup> call to RCHD
  - Absentees increased KDHE called in
  - September 7, 2016: KDHE Online Survey
  - September 21, 2016: Survey closed
  - 947 surveys completed, 125 individuals infected
  - At first 3 employees conducted interviews
    - The 2 remaining called in
    - Time taken out to train
    - Employee's schedules moved around

# Necessity for a Team in Riley County

- Potential for disease entry
  - Fort Riley
  - K-State



# MPH Foundational Competencies

Competency	Description
5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings	Researched SORT teams across the country and around the world to see how they benefit both students and their local health agencies' needs.
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health	SORT team was created to assist RCHD during times of high disease investigations so the health department could continue to perform and function normally.
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes	Strengthened the partnership between RCHD and Kansas State University's MPH department as well as identified other partners that may need the team's assistance in the future or to discuss their epidemiology related research.
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making	Necessary for the creation of the team to provide structure for the organization and recruit students.
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges	Skills were utilized in the planning stages particularly when discussing the required training modules members needed to complete
21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams	Partnerships are necessary for the team to thrive in the Kansas State and Manhattan communities.

# Conclusion

- Many accredited MPH programs have similar programs
  - Assist with Environmental, disease, and natural crises
- K-State SORT is currently used for surge capacity with RCHD
  - Could be used for other Wildcat region health departments
- SORT team benefits everyone
  - Students: gain experience, training, and apply classroom knowledge
  - Health Agencies: Surge Capacity with no cost and fill gap in workforce
  - Strengthen partnerships between academic institutions and health agencies <sup>[9]</sup>

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Questions?