

# **ESL NEWS**

NCPHA Epidemiology/Statistics/Laboratory Section Newsletter

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# Welcome to the New Section

The Epidemiology Section, the Statistics Section, and the Laboratory Section have officially merged. The similarities in the sections created an opportunity that couldn't be passed on. Current membership voted to combine the sections in order to broaden the possibilities at the annual fall conferences.

# Bridging Generations for New Directions in Public Health

The 2016 Annual Fall Conference will take place September 14-16 in New Bern. The ESL section will be hosting several awesome speakers. Presentations on NC Opioid Overdose Epidemic, Hepatitis C, and a 2016 Update on HIV will be included. For more information and registration, visit https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/fall-educational-information-and-registration.

## **Healthy Babies Initiative**

North Carolina has the eighth highest infant death rate in the country. NCPHA has taken on the task of brain-storming ways we, as NCPHA members, can help improve this rate. The ESL section has discussed ways to address the current situation with the Zika virus and also the overwhelming numbers of babies born addicted to opiates. Stay turned for more information and ways you can help save our babies.

## FAQs:

### Q: Why did the sections merge?

A: Several members discussed the similarities in our sections. We also realized the ways we could benefit by working together.

#### Q: Why are there two chairpersons?

A: The past officers wanted to ensure that all sections were equally represented. Cochairpersons with two year, alternating terms would make this possible.

#### Q: Why should I go to the annual Fall Conference?

A: The annual conference is a great way to learn about the topics that affect public health. It's also a great opportunity to network with others in your profession and with those in other health-care professions.

The Epidemiology/Statistics/Laboratory Section has accepted a new mission statement: "The Epidemiology, Statistics, and Laboratory Section of the North Carolina Public Health Association provides expertise and health information to support practice and research to improve the public's health." We hope you will do your part to support this statement.