



# Satellite Broadcasts Bring Quality Training to New York

## Site Story

Frustrated with the lack of appropriate training opportunities and hampered by the limited resources available for public health, New York *Turning Point* leaders were searching for ways to help public health professionals develop their skills. After partnering with continuing education staff at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany School of Public Health, they identified one solution: satellite broadcasts.

Launched in 1999, the Third Thursday Breakfast Broadcasts (T2B2) provide training on public health issues in eight areas:

- Public health basics
- Maternal-child health
- Environmental health
- Community health
- Chronic disease
- Obesity, nutrition and exercise
- Health communication
- Public health preparedness.

Each one-hour broadcast features an expert discussing a public health issue. During the last 10 minutes of each program, participants can ask questions via phone or fax.

The topics covered in each T2B2 are broad, from injury-free children to emergency preparedness, from Lyme disease to ethics in public health. For example:

- In an August 2000 broadcast, Barbara Barlow, M.D., director of surgery at Harlem Hospital, highlighted the hospital's *Injury-Free Coalition for Kids* (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). This program started out helping build a safe community in Harlem by cleaning up playgrounds, and offering children's programs in dance, art, cycling, counseling and more. It evolved into a coalition of programs

run by children's hospitals in communities around the nation. See [Program Results](#) for more information.

- After September 11, 2001 and the anthrax scare, T2B2 featured a broadcast on emergency preparedness. Kristine Gebbie, Dr.P.H., R.N., F.A.A.N., from Columbia University, reviewed core competencies in emergency preparedness.
- Lyme disease was the subject of a broadcast in May 2002. Dennis White, Ph.D., director of the Arthropod-Borne Disease Program for the New York State Department of Health and a faculty member at SUNY at Stonybrook, highlighted the geographic spread of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and provided an overview of Lyme disease diagnosis, prevention and control.

"Before T2B2, we had virtually nothing," said Jan Chytilo, director of health education in Broome County, N.Y., and site coordinator of T2B2 in her county. "Now I sit at my desk and look across at the bookshelf of taped episodes of T2B2. We lend them to our partners and watch episodes during our 'Learning Lunches.' T2B2 helps us gain both technical skills and a broader picture of what is being done in public health."

The New York State Department of Health co-sponsored the series with the New York State Association of County Health Officials, the New York State Community Health Partnership and SUNY at Albany. In 2001, the partners made the series available to public health professionals nationally through the Public Health Foundation's Training Network and other organizations, including the California Learning Network and the Johns Hopkins Training Center for Public Health. They also created a lending library of videos for local public health departments.

T2B2 broadcasts are now available for free nationally via Webcasts managed by SUNY at Albany. Past broadcasts are also available via the Web site in Webstreaming and videotape formats, and as handouts. Nurses, physicians and certified health education specialists can earn continuing education credits for current and past broadcasts.