

# VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (VCPH)

Bringing knowledge  
to practice



# WHAT IS THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (VCPH)?

The **Virtual Campus for Public Health (VCPH)** is the educational platform of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Its purpose is to help develop the skills and competencies of health workers by transforming public health services and practices in the Region of the Americas.

It functions as a decentralized network of people, institutions, and organizations that share open access courses and educational resources on public health topics relevant to the countries of the Region, through the use of information and communication technologies.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To lead strategic collaborative efforts among Member States and other partners to promote the training of human resources for health, for all people everywhere.

## VISION

To serve as the virtual platform of reference for human resources training in public health in the Region of the Americas.

## PRINCIPLES

- Public good
- Continuous education on health
- Open and interoperable resource
- Collaborative work
- Sustainability



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED BY THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH?

All VCPH courses are open access for participants and reflect PAHO's technical cooperation areas: health systems and services; health equity; equity, gender, and cultural diversity; health emergencies; noncommunicable diseases and mental health; evidence and intelligence for action in health; communicable diseases and environmental determinants of health; family, health promotion, and life course.

The VCPH offers courses in PAHO's four official languages (English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish) and automatically issues certificates of completion for those who have taken the respective assessment tests.

## TUTORED COURSES



- Intended for a group of participants selected by the countries.
- With ongoing support from a tutor who helps the participant with the development of specific health projects based on the needs of the countries.
- VCPH coordinators and tutors are specialists in the subjects taught and come from different institutions in the Region of the Americas.

## SELF-LEARNING COURSES



- Open access for an unlimited number of participants.
- Participants can work at their own pace.
- Updated every two years to ensure relevance.
- Coordinated with in-person workshops, based on the needs of the countries.

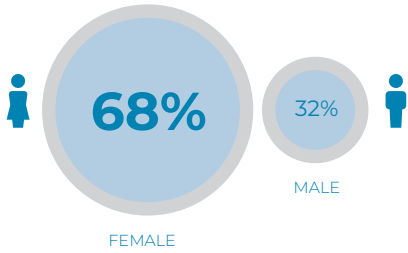
During the COVID-19 pandemic, PAHO's technical cooperation was supported by remote virtual activities. In March 2020, the VCPH actively worked to provide training courses for health workers to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 9 tutored courses and 29 self-learning courses were added, 11 of which specifically addressed the issue of COVID-19.

As of 3 April 2022, more than 895,000 people had enrolled in 24 courses focused on COVID-19 care and response, and on the effects of the pandemic.

**Between 2007 and September 2021, the Virtual Campus developed 210 tutored courses and 226 self-learning courses, which are all aligned with PAHO priorities and objectives.**

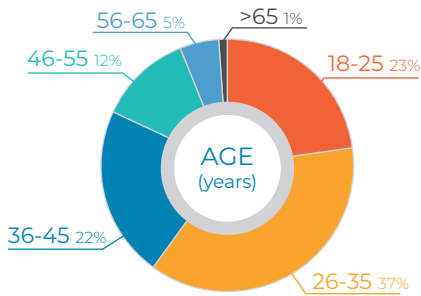
# WHO ARE THE USERS

## OF THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH?



The VCPH has more than **1.8 million users**<sup>1</sup> from 225 countries and territories around the world. Most users are health workers and health science students. To date, more than 3.46 million people have enrolled in VCPH courses.

More than 93% of VCPH users are between 26 and 55 years old, representing a significant share of the health services workforce in the Region. Of the total number of users, 13% are students, which attests to the VCPH's capacity to address public health issues starting at the educational stage.

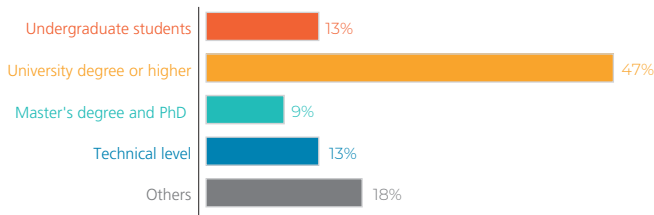


### SPECIALTY

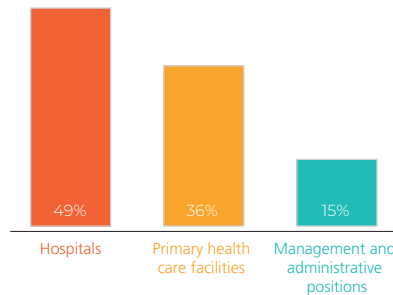


The largest group of health workers within the VCPH comprises nursing professionals at different levels within health services, followed by medical staff, then specialists in psychology, dentistry, pharmacy, nutrition, and physiotherapy; and finally, experts in midwifery, social work, and caregivers.<sup>2</sup>

### LEVEL OF EDUCATION



### WORKPLACE<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Data as of 13 April 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Pan American Health Organization. Virtual Campus for Public Health: Who are the users of the Virtual Campus for Public Health? Washington, DC: PAHO; 2022. Available from: <https://www.campusvirtualsp.org/en/who-are-users-virtual-campus-public-health>.

<sup>3</sup> Out of a total of 816,861 users surveyed.

For more information on users and countries using the Virtual Campus for Public Health, please visit the website at the following address: <https://www.campusvirtualsp.org/en/who-are-users-virtual-campus-public-health>.

# WHAT DO COURSE PARTICIPANTS SAY?

“I found the course content excellent and the exchange with other countries very enriching; and the tutoring provided exceptional support throughout the course.”

**Leadership in the management of policies and regulations on human resources for health**

“Curso muy útil. Su diseño, su contenido y su estrategia pedagógica permitieron abordar el tema con interés, dando posibilidad a la búsqueda, indagar y profundizar. La relación con la tutora fue excelente, hizo su acompañamiento siempre, su disposición fue permanente para aclarar dudas, inquietudes y sus sugerencias siempre buscaron mejorar el desarrollo del participante”.

**Efectos del mercurio en la salud humana y en el ambiente y consideraciones bajo el Convenio de Minamata sobre el Mercurio**

“This is a relevant course. I am very grateful for the opportunity to get refresher training, as we were afforded a lot of flexibility to take the courses at the times that worked best for us and were given a lot of support for our day-to-day work.”

**Accurate automated blood pressure measurement**

“Very interesting and important course for implementing this knowledge in my clinical practice, so that I can provide good care in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of preterm newborns with retinopathy of prematurity.”

**Guidelines for the management of retinopathy of prematurity, prevention and screening**

“This is an excellent course. It helped me greatly in areas I don't think I could learn from in the workplace. I learned a lot about the problems that arise during a crisis like the one we are currently experiencing with COVID-19. In the workplace, we have faced very difficult crisis scenarios and deep pain that constantly affected most of us.”

**Self-care for frontline emergency responders**

# HOW DOES THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WORK?

The VCPH works in coordination with the technical departments at PAHO in the development of virtual courses and educational resources in all the Organization's main areas of technical cooperation.

It also works with the PAHO/WHO country offices in the Region and with public health training and vocational institutions in the countries, to develop products based on the needs of health workers in each country.

## THE EDUCATIONAL PROPOSALS OF THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH:

- guarantee academic quality,
- address the public health training topics needed by PAHO Member States,
- are consistent with the historical perspective of continuing education in health, and
- promote strong links between theory and the problems faced by health services.

**The Virtual Campus for Public Health supports implementation of the Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage by improving the availability, relevance, and competencies of health workers with the aim of making universal health and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a reality.**



# HOW IS THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZED?

**The Virtual Campus works as a network and links the following nodes:**

## REGIONAL NODE

This is the central node that hosts the courses coordinated by PAHO regional technical departments in Washington D.C. (United States of America).

## SUBREGIONAL NODE

This node manages and links projects in the subregions of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

## COUNTRY NODE

Under the leadership of the PAHO Country Office and the national health authority, the country classrooms in the VCPH offer courses that are coordinated and administered directly by experts in each country.





## REGISTRATION

All interested individuals (students, health workers, and other professionals) can use the Virtual Campus. To do so, they only need to register as users and enter the available courses:

[www.campusvirtualsp.org/en](http://www.campusvirtualsp.org/en)

For assistance in the development and design of courses, please contact us at the following email address: [cvsp@paho.org](mailto:cvsp@paho.org).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

 @campusvirtualsp     @campusvirtualsp

PAHO/HSS/HR/22-0016

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Funded with a contribution from the United States of America