

# CHANGE MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
College:	Public Health	Department:	
Current Major Name:	Public Health	Proposed Major Name:	No Change
Current Degree Title:	Master of Public Health (MPH)	Proposed Degree Title:	No Change
Formal Option(s):	N/A	Proposed Formal Option(s):	N/A
Specialty Fields within Formal Option:	N/A	Proposed Specialty Fields within Formal Option:	N/A
Date of Contact with Associate Provost for Academic Administration: <sup>1</sup>			
Bulletin (yr & pgs):	CIP Code: <sup>1</sup> 51.2201	Today's Date:	January 27, 2015
Accrediting Agency (if applicable): Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH)			
Requested Effective Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Semester following approval	or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific Date: <sup>2</sup> Fall 2015
Department Contact Person: Kathryn Cardarelli		Phone: 218-0241	Email: <a href="mailto:kathryn.cardarelli@uky.edu">kathryn.cardarelli@uky.edu</a>
2. CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS			
		<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1.	Number of transfer credits allowed (Maximum is Graduate School limit of 9 hours or 25% of course work)	9	No change
2.	Residence requirement (if applicable)	N/A	No change
3.	Language(s) and/or skill(s) required	N/A	No change
4.	Termination criteria	Scholastic probation for three Semesters or failing twice the final examination.	No change
5.	Plan A Degree Plan requirements <sup>3</sup> (thesis)	N/A	No change
6.	Plan B Degree Plan requirements <sup>3</sup> (non-thesis)	42 credit hours	No change
7.	Distribution of course levels required  (At least one-half must be at 600+ level & two-thirds must be in organized courses.)	At least one-half must be at 600+ level & two-thirds must be in organized courses.	No change
8.	Required courses (if applicable)		
9.	Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)	N/A	No change
10.	Final examination requirements	Capstone defense	No change
11.	Explain whether the proposed changes to the program (as described in sections 1 to 10) involve courses offered by another department/program. Routing Signature Log must include approval by faculty of additional department(s).		
	N/A		

<sup>1</sup>Prior to filling out this form you MUST contact the Associate Provost for Academic Administration (APAA). If you do not know the CIP code, the APAA can provide you with that during the contact.

<sup>2</sup>Program changes are typically made effective the semester following approval. No changes will be made effective until all approvals are received.

<sup>3</sup>If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

## CHANGE MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

12.	List any other requirements not covered above.
	Certified in Public Health exam
13.	Please provide a rationale for changes. If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.
	<del>At the January 2015 Administrative Council meeting in the College of Public Health, the council voted to recommend to Academic Affairs Council and Faculty Council that the CPH exam be removed as a requirement for MPH students. The recommendation was derived from a survey of alumni who had taken the CPH exam to assess the perceived utility and value of the CPH credential. A majority of the responding alumni did not perceive the CPH credential as providing a competitive edge in seeking employment. Furthermore, respondents <b>indicated that</b> most employers did not recognize the certification. Due to the responses the College received, the Administrative Council believes <b>resources would be better applied to other student-centric programs than to require the exam for future MPH cohorts.</b></del>

At the January 2015 Administrative Council meeting in the College of Public Health, the council voted to recommend to Academic Affairs Council and Faculty Council that the CPH exam be removed as a requirement for MPH students. The recommendation was derived from a survey of alumni who had taken the CPH exam, sparse national support for such an exam, none of our peer institutions require their students to take the exam, no definitive evidence that having this credential (passing the exam) makes a difference in hiring practices, and hence no additional value gained for the extra cost (to either students or the program) of the exam. The Administrative Council believes resources would be better applied to other student-centric programs than to require the exam for future MPH cohorts.

## SIGNATURE ROUTING LOG

**General Information:**

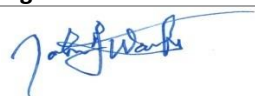

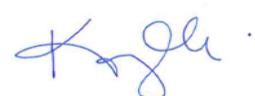
Proposal Name: MPH Program Change

Proposal Contact Person Name: Andrea Perkins Phone: 218-2021 Email: [andrea.perkins@uky.edu](mailto:andrea.perkins@uky.edu)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

**Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:**

Reviewing Group	Date Approved	Contact Person (name/phone/email)	Signature
Academic Affairs Committee	3/12/15	John Watkins/218-0240/john.watkins@uky.edu	
Faculty Council	3/25/15	Steve Fleming/218-2229/steven.fleming@uky.edu	
Academic Dean-Public Health	3/26/15	Kathryn Cardarelli/218-0241/Kathryn.cardarelli@uky.edu	

External-to-College Approvals:

Council	Date Approved	Signature	Approval of Revision <sup>6</sup>
Undergraduate Council			
Graduate Council	5/7/15	<i>Roshan Nikou</i>	
Health Care Colleges Council	4/21/15	Pam Stein	
Senate Council Approval		University Senate Approval	

Comments:

<sup>6</sup> Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.

# Assessing the CPH Credential

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Katie Cardarelli

January 14, 2015



# Purpose

- To assess the value of the CPH certification.
- We sought to hear from alumni who have obtained the certification to see if the credential benefited them or made no difference in their job search or in the advancement of their careers.

# Population

- 49 alumni: graduates from 2010-2014 who registered for the CPH exam
- The list only goes back to 2010 because that's the year the college started paying for the exam; so, that's when we had a mechanism for tracking students who expressed an interest in having the college pay for their exam.
- Prior to 2010, an alumnus would have had to have taken the exam and reported it back to the college, which either did not happen or was not tracked.

# Methods

- Alumni received an e-mail from Scot McIntosh on 12/04/14 asking them to complete a brief survey that would be used to assess the value of the CPH. A link to the Qualtrics online survey was included in the e-mail.
- A reminder e-mail was sent to the same list of alumni on 12/10/14. The e-mail thanked those who had already completed the assessment and urged those who had not to consider completing it.
- The survey was closed on 12/17/14.

Alumni were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statements pertaining to the CPH credential.

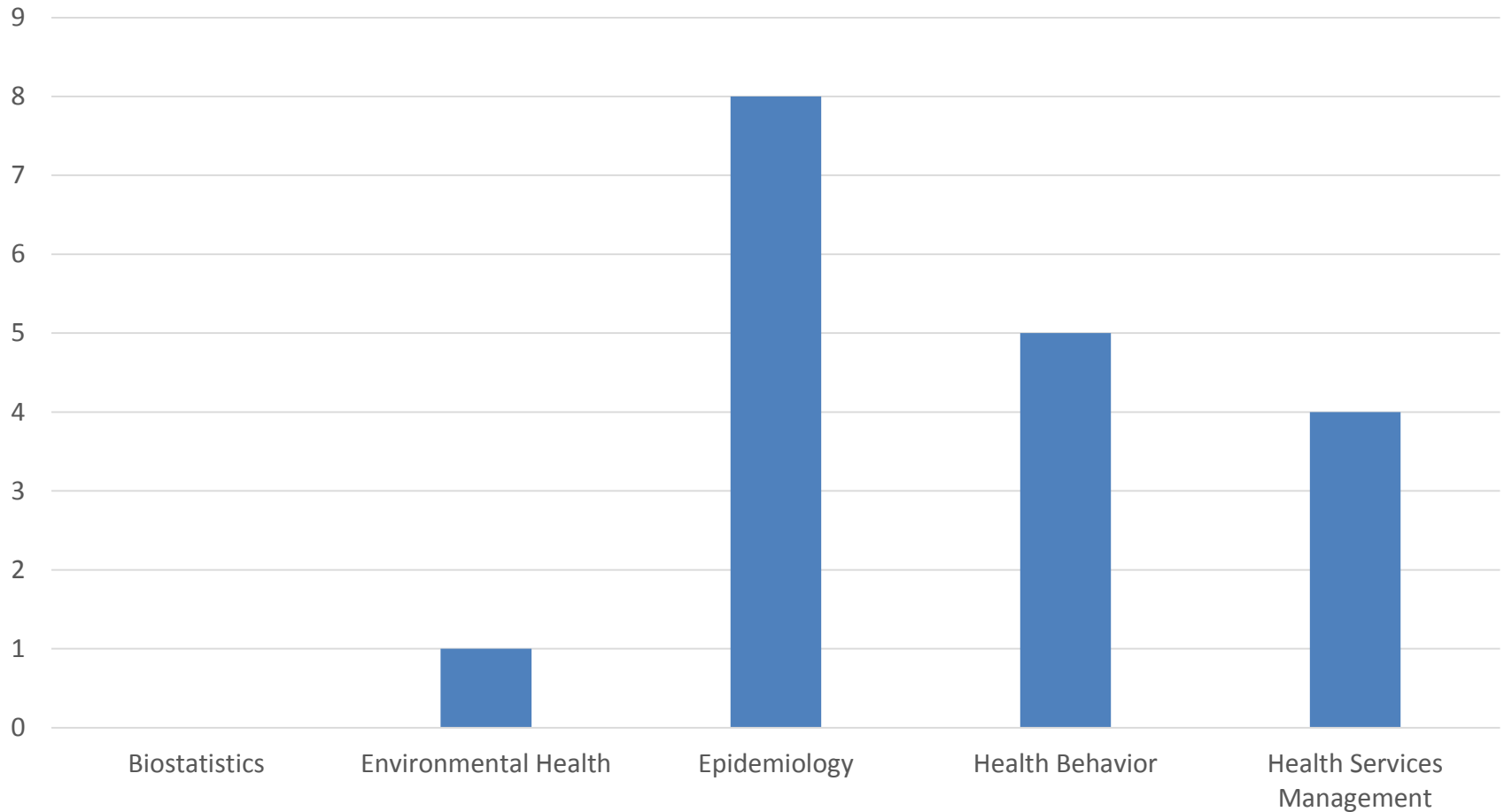
# RESULTS



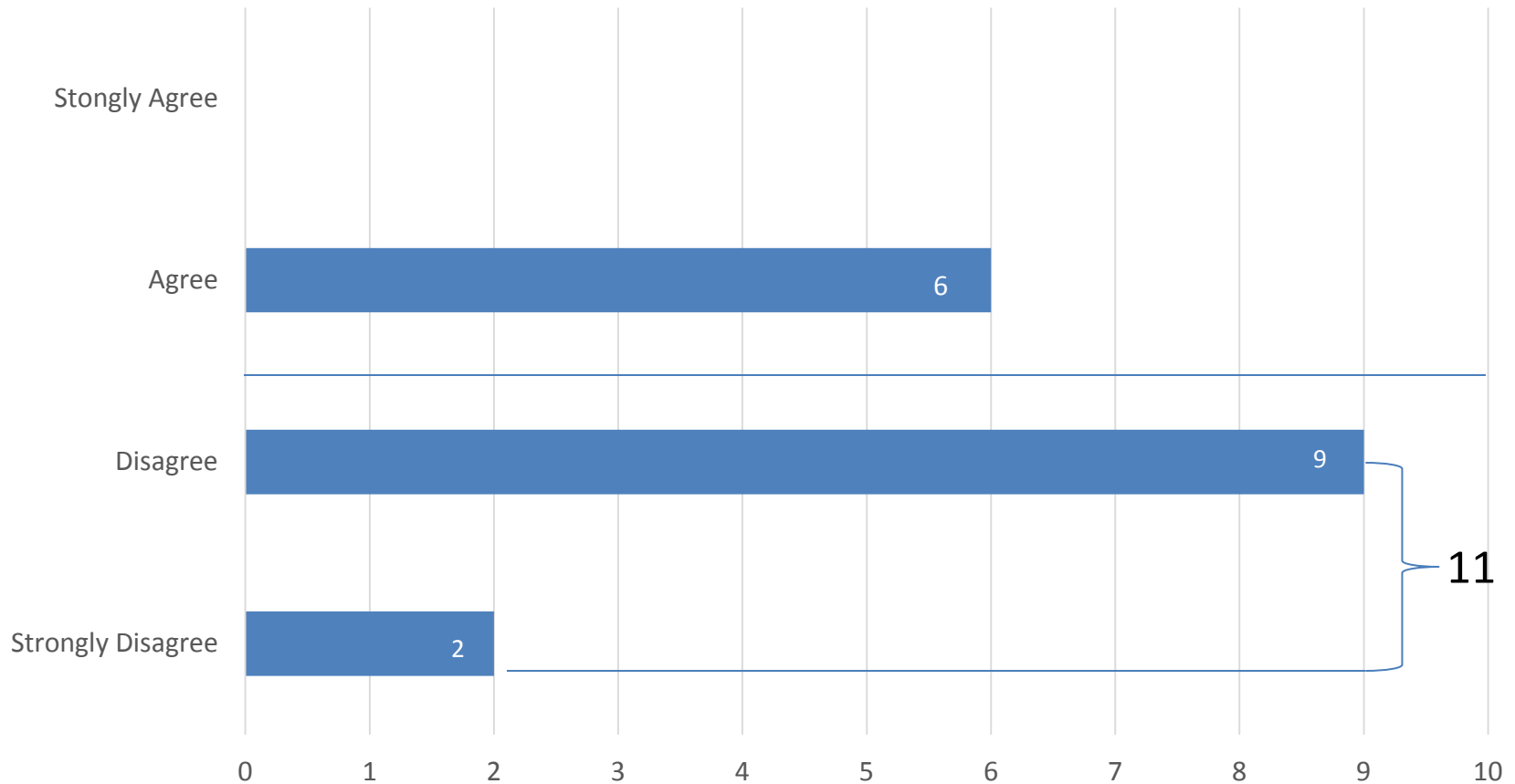
# Participation

- 23 individuals clicked on/started the survey but only 18 submitted it.

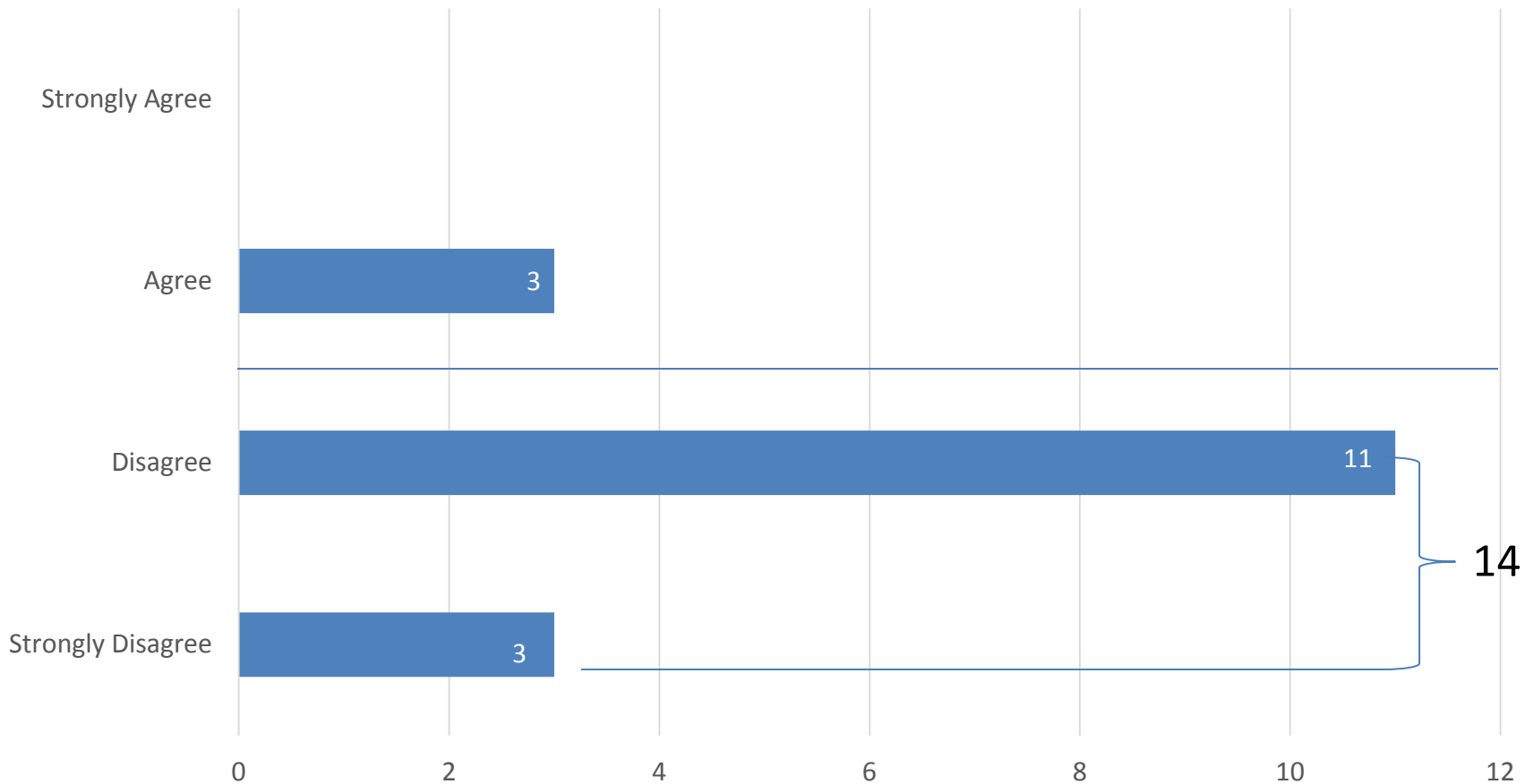
# “What was your area of concentration?”



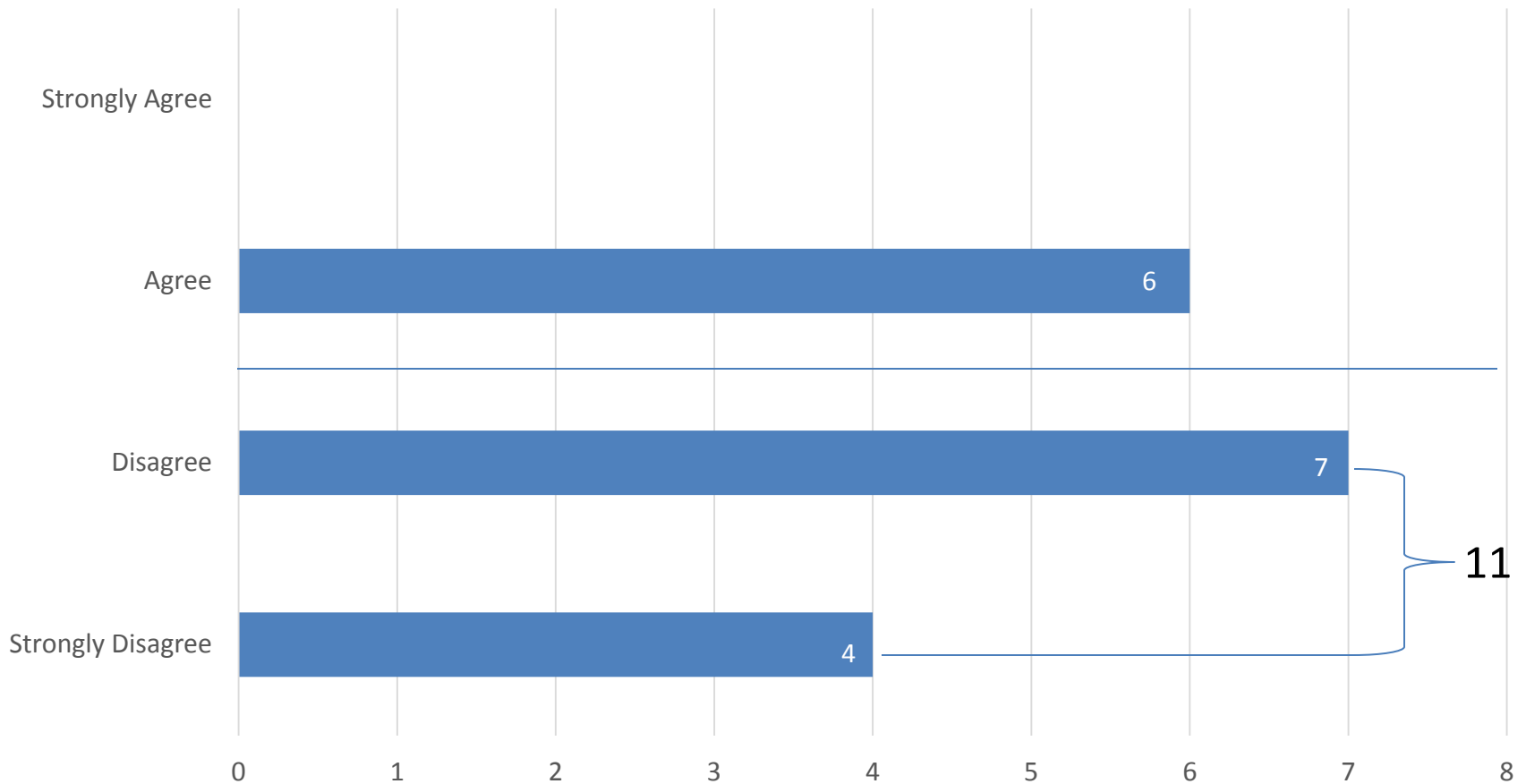
“Obtaining the CPH made me more marketable to potential employers.”



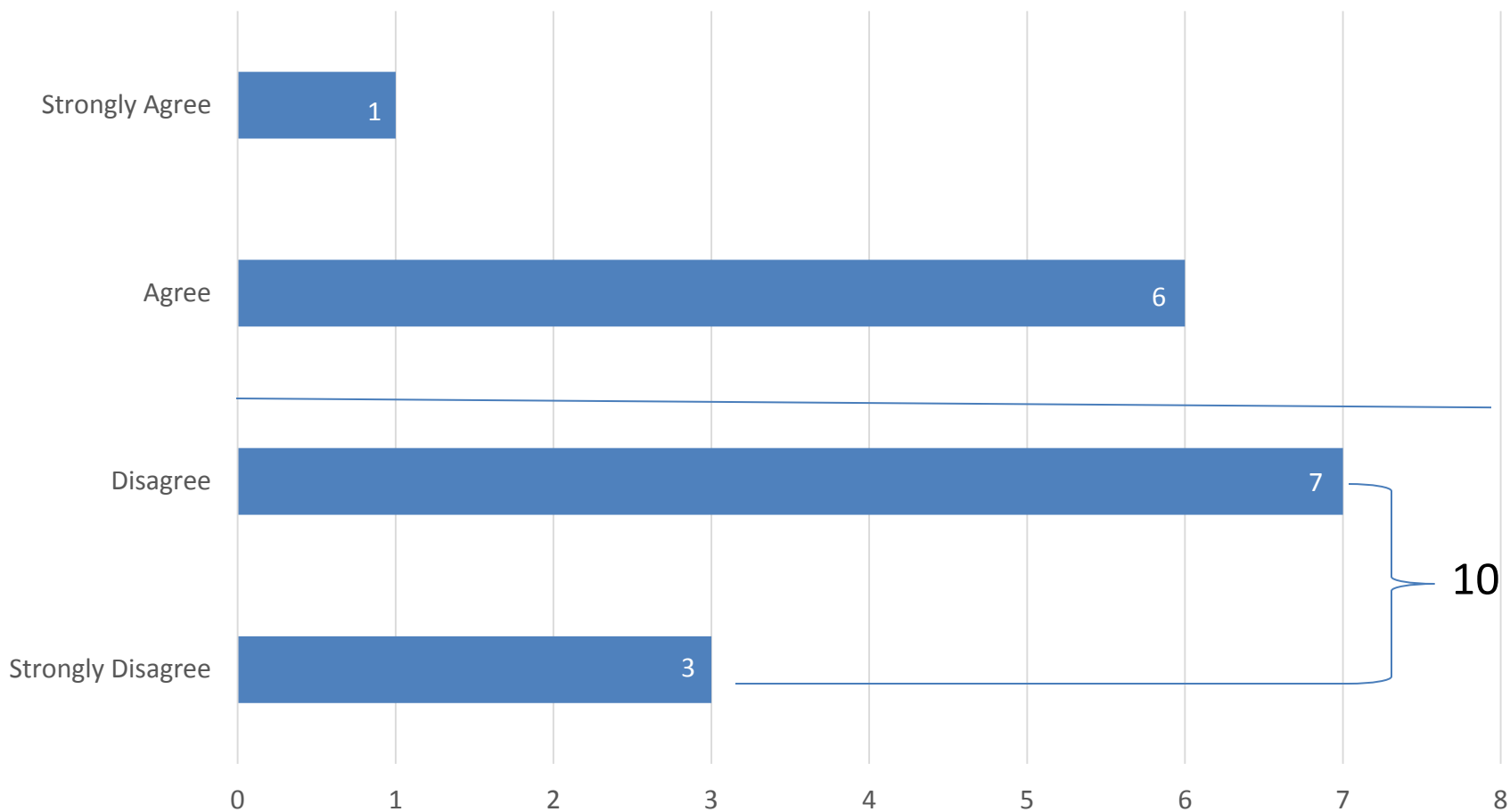
“The CPH credential gave me a competitive advantage over those who were not certified during my job search.”



# “Public Health employers value the CPH credential.”



# “Future graduates would benefit from obtaining the CPH credential.”



At the end of the survey, alumni were given one more opportunity to provide any other comments or feedback regarding the value of the CPH credential.

## COMMENTS

“I didn't bother to renew my CPH certification because the cost and requirements for maintaining the CPH certification were not practical at the time. The CPH certification should not expire in the first 2 years post exam. 5 or 10 years is reasonable, but the amount of CE credit and money that was required within 2 years of sitting the exam was not a reasonable request for a recent graduate. The CPH certification did not benefit me in any way during job searches. The MPH degree and internship experience were really all that mattered when it came to seeking employment.”

“The CPH certification has not helped me at all and was a total waste of my time and money.”



“I think that it is a valuable process (i.e. reviewing material from all core areas, etc), but I do not feel that it gives a competitive advantage (that is, to someone who already has a MPH). I'm not sure that it is a wise use of resources for UK to pay for students' exam fees, unless the CPH credential starts gaining more recognition by employers. Perhaps a 'splitting the cost' alternative would be better -- it would save UK money and would also encourage students to take the exam more seriously (i.e. study).”

“I was surprised to learn that employers were not familiar with the CPH credential. I believe that taking the exam confirmed my public health knowledge but it was not an advantage when it came to applying for jobs post graduation. Perhaps this credential will become more common and valuable in the future.”

“CPH credential is testing that an individual has a good command on skills learned during MPH. I believe what the employers are looking for are more of hands on experience. They are more interested in knowing what projects a candidate was involved in, what was their role, what they have accomplished, what they have learned, what skills they applied, what skills they have developed, which statistical software the candidate is good at, how are they communication and interpersonal skills. They want to know enthusiasm, willingness to listen and learn, adapt to the systems and be a good team player. I believe the MPH faculty have and should continue to bring real world experiences into class activity. That is the way to go.”

“I think that it helped in the job search a little, but now that I'm employed there's no real benefit. However if at some point in the future it becomes recommended or mandatory, I won't have to worry about taking the exam then. I do think in the future it will be more important to have CPH status, even though it's not important now.”

“The biggest benefit I have gotten from being CPH certified is access to mailing lists that have kept me up to date on trends, current research, job openings, etc. My employer (local health department) has never heard of the CPH. I am also CHES certified and have found that to be much more valuable, especially as far as job prospects go, and was also required by my employer. If students have to choose between one of the two, I would encourage them to become CHES certified over CPH. Overall I am satisfied with the CPH credential because my test fee was funded by UK. If I had paid for it myself, I would be unhappy with that choice.”

“Many fellowships, especially those sponsored by ASPPH, prefer to select candidates with the CPH credential.”

“Preparation for CPH examination expands one's knowledge of public health principles. It's a worthwhile investment.”

“I really don't think that the CPH gave me any advantage in the job search. Of course, it looks good on the resume but my educational background and experiences set me apart from candidates. The CPH was probably just the cherry on top. I have worked in the university setting and now the local health department and none of my colleagues knew what a CPH was. The only benefit to having the CPH is forcing yourself to keep current in public health competencies.”

# Initial Report





Last Modified: 12/02/2014

1. What year did you graduate from the MPH program?

Text Response
2008
2012
2010
2012
graduate of DrPH program 2014
2014
2012
2013
2013
2013
2012
DrPH - 2010
2009
2010
2014
2011
2012
2013

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	18

2. What was your area of concentration?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Biostatistics		0	0%
2	Environmental Health		1	6%
3	Epidemiology		8	44%
4	Health Behavior		5	28%
5	Health Services Management		4	22%
	Total		18	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	2
Max Value	5
Mean	3.67
Variance	0.82
Standard Deviation	0.91
Total Responses	18




3. When did you obtain your CPH certification?

Text Response	
2011	
2012	
2010	
2012?	
2013	
May 2014	
2012	
A couple of months prior to the May 2013 graduation	
2013	
2013	
I did not pass the examination	
2010	
2010	
2010	
Full status in May 2014	
2011	
2013	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	17




4. Obtaining the CPH credential made me more marketable to potential employers.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		2	12%
2	Disagree		9	53%
3	Agree		6	35%
4	Strongly Agree		0	0%
	Total		17	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.24
Variance	0.44
Standard Deviation	0.66
Total Responses	17






5. The CPH credential gave me a competitive advantage over those who were not certified during my job search.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		3	18%
2	Disagree		11	65%
3	Agree		3	18%
4	Strongly Agree		0	0%
	Total		17	





Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.00
Variance	0.38
Standard Deviation	0.61
Total Responses	17

6. Public Health employers value the CPH credential.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		4	24%
2	Disagree		7	41%
3	Agree		6	35%
4	Strongly Agree		0	0%
	Total		17	





Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.12
Variance	0.61
Standard Deviation	0.78
Total Responses	17

7. Because of its focus on life-long learning and professional development, having the CPH helps me stay current on best practices and education.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		3	18%
2	Disagree		5	29%
3	Agree		7	41%
4	Strongly Agree		2	12%
	Total		17	





Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.47
Variance	0.89
Standard Deviation	0.94
Total Responses	17

8. Overall, the investments I made to obtain the CPH (financial, time preparing for the exam, etc.) were worth it.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		2	12%
2	Disagree		5	29%
3	Agree		9	53%
4	Strongly Agree		1	6%
	Total		17	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.53
Variance	0.64
Standard Deviation	0.80
Total Responses	17

9. Future MPH graduates would benefit from obtaining the CPH credential.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree		3	18%
2	Disagree		7	41%
3	Agree		6	35%
4	Strongly Agree		1	6%
	Total		17	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.29
Variance	0.72
Standard Deviation	0.85
Total Responses	17

10. Please use the space below to provide any other comments or feedback regarding the value of the CPH credential:

**Text Response**

I didn't bother to renew my CPH certification because the cost and requirements for maintaining the CPH certification were not practical at the time. The CPH certification should not expire in the first 2 years post exam. 5 or 10 years is reasonable, but the amount of CE credit and money that was required within 2 years of sitting the exam was not a reasonable request for a recent graduate. The CPH certification did not benefit me in any way during job searches. The MPH degree and internship experience were really all that mattered when it came to seeking employment.

I think that it is a valuable process (i.e. reviewing material from all core areas, etc), but I do not feel that it gives a competitive advantage (that is, to someone who already has a MPH). I'm not sure that it is a wise use of resources for UK to pay for students' exam fees, unless the CPH credential starts gaining more recognition by employers. Perhaps a 'splitting the cost' alternative would be better -- it would save UK money and would also encourage students to take the exam more seriously (i.e. study).

The CPH certification has not helped me at all and was a total waste of my time and money.

The biggest benefit I have gotten from being CPH certified is access to mailing lists that have kept me up to date on trends, current research, job openings, etc. My employer (local health department) has never heard of the CPH. I am also CHES certified and have found that to be much more valuable, especially as far as job prospects go, and was also required by my employer. If students have to choose between one of the two, I would encourage them to become CHES certified over CPH. Overall I am satisfied with the CPH credential because my test fee was funded by UK. If I had paid for it myself, I would be unhappy with that choice.

I am still a graduate student and so the credential has not played a role in gaining my current position, however, I think it is important for public health practice and to have standardization within the field.

I was surprised to learn that employers were not familiar with the CPH credential. I believe that taking the exam confirmed my public health knowledge but it was not an advantage when it came to applying for jobs post graduation. Perhaps this credential will become more common and valuable in the future.

Preparation for CPH examination expands one's knowledge of public health principles. It's a worthwhile investment.

Many fellowships, especially those sponsored by ASPPH, prefer to select candidates with the CPH credential.

The survey is geared to MPH graduates who were also job seekers. That was not my situation so the survey really didn't fit me. You might consider adjusting the questions for doctoral graduates who were already employed when they graduated. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion!

CPH credential is testing that an individual has a good command on skills learned during MPH. I believe what the employers are looking for are more of hands on experience. They are more interested in knowing what projects a candidate was involved in, what was their role, what they have accomplished, what they have learned, what skills they applied, what skills they have developed, which statistical software the candidate is good at, how are they communication and interpersonal skills. They want to know enthusiasm, willingness to listen and learn, adapt to the systems and be a good team player. I believe the MPH faculty have and should continue to bring real world experiences into class activity. That is the way to go.

I think that it helped in the job search a little, but now that I'm employed there's no real benefit. However if at some point in the future it becomes recommended or mandatory, I won't have to worry about taking the exam then. I do think in the future it will be more important to have CPH status, even though it's not important now.

I really don't think that the CPH gave me any advantage in the job search. Of course, it looks good on the resume but my educational background and experiences set me apart from candidates. The CPH was probably just the cherry on top. I have worked in the university setting and now the local health department and none of my colleagues knew what a CPH was. The only benefit to having the CPH is forcing yourself to keep current in public health competencies.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	12