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THE CURRENT STATE AND PROSPECTS OF TRAINING EPIDEMIOLOGISTS IN UKRAINE

СУЧАСНИЙ СТАН ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ ПІДГОТОВКИ ЕПІДЕМІОЛОГІВ В УКРАЇНІ

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Introduction. A team of American researchers formulated five main tasks of epidemiology in public health practice: surveillance, field research, analytical research, evaluation and communication. A sixth task, policy development, has recently been added. [1]

Modern methods of epidemiological research require specialists to acquire a wide range of skills, knowledge and skills in research methodologies and statistics, in order to critically evaluate the literature during clinical decision-making. [2]

In modern conditions, in particular, emergency situations in the field of health care, the demand for both well-trained specialists in the field of public health and epidemiologists remains an urgent issue.

Methods. An overview of the regulatory and legal framework, analysis of modern official and scientific sources on the topic was carried out. The data of statistical reports on form No. 17 “Report on medical personnel for 20 year”, No. 46-health “Report on the staff of the sanitary-epidemiological station” were analyzed.

Results. According to the official statistical reports of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine since 2015, a clear trend towards a decrease in the number of individual epidemiologists working in sanitary-epidemiological institutions throughout Ukraine by 36.4% has been noted. The indicator of the supply of natural persons with epidemiologists working in sanitary and epidemiological institutions per 100,000 population decreased from 1.95 in 2015 to 1.27 in 2020. The staffing of epidemiologists working in sanitary-epidemiological institutions in Ukraine as a whole in 2020 was 57.8%. The total number of physical persons of epidemiologists working in medical and preventive institutions throughout Ukraine decreased by 25.9% during the period 2015–2020. The indicator of the supply of natural persons with epidemiologists working in medical and preventive institutions per 100,000 population decreased from 0.43 in 2016 to 0.32 in 2020. The staffing of epidemiologists working in medical and preventive institutions in Ukraine as a whole in 2020 was 47.57%.

In six medical universities of Ukraine (in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Dnipro, Donetsk) there were medical and preventive faculties [3]. The volume of state orders for the graduation of specialists at the educational and qualification level of a specialist in the field of knowledge “Medicine” in the specialty “medical and preventive affairs” has decreased over the past eight years from 415 people in 2015 to 4 people in 2018. In 2019–2020, no specialists were graduated, and in 2021, the graduation was resumed and consisted of 25 people.

In addition, the problem of staff turnover can be compounded by changes in public health priorities and the emergence of new threats that require constant training. [4]

At the same time, by order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine dated December 12, 2018 “On the approval of the standard of higher education in specialty 229 “Public health” for the (second) master’s level of higher education” defines a set of mandatory requirements for the content and results of the educational activities of institutions of higher education that train specialists in the field of public health. There are no requirements for a bachelor’s degree in “Health Care” for entrants.

It is important to train and increase the number of health professionals with disease prevention and response skills to combat the growing number of endemic, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases that are rapidly spreading across national borders and around the world [5; 6].

Conclusions. Further modernization of the medical education system in Ukraine is necessary. The difficult situation with the existing personnel deficit requires improvement and adjustment of the state personnel policy in the field of health care.

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