

2023 Certification in Infection Control Assessment Survey Findings

NACCHO provided funding to local health departments (LHDs) for staff to pursue the Certification in Infection Control (CIC®) and Associate – Infection Prevention and Control Certification (a-IPC). Funded LHDs were surveyed, and this summary represents key findings about the successes and challenges of obtaining the CIC and its impact on healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention and response activities.



LHD staff who received the certification reported **better collaborative relationships** with healthcare providers and peers due to gaining **deeper understanding** of infection prevention and control.

As a result of the CIC, LHDs reported:

- Improved **collaboration and communication** within agency.
- Increased **credibility and strengthened relationships** with healthcare facilities and other partners.
- Increased **capacity to develop procedures and policies** for healthcare associated infections (HAIs).
- **Training internal and external staff** on infection control and improved outbreak response.

As a result of the CIC, individuals reported:

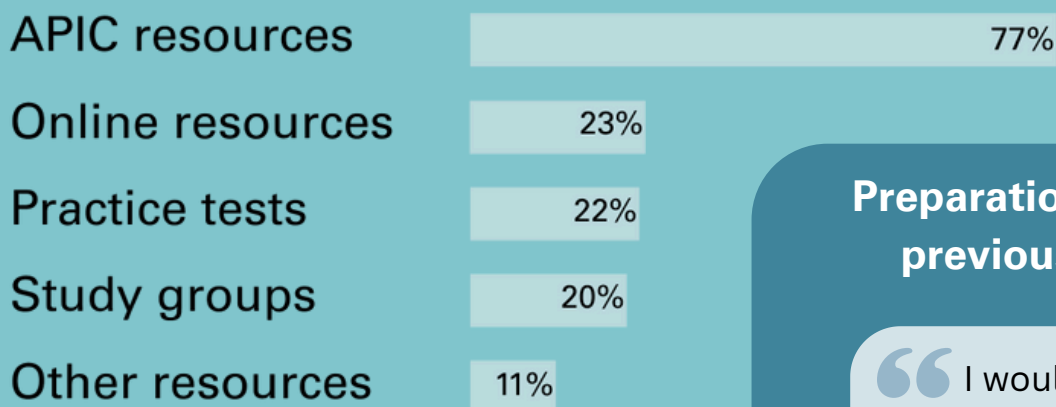
- **More confidence and knowledge** in infection control.
- **Career development** and growth opportunities.
- **Strengthened relationships** with healthcare facility staff and infection preventionists from improved shared language and understanding of infection prevention.



Preparing for the CIC Assessment isn't easy, but it pays off.

The most widely used study materials were those provided by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). Participants also used online **YouTube videos, practice tests, study groups**, and other resources such as **flashcards, hands-on practice, and recommended readings**.

Using these resources, health department staff recommended at least **six months** to study.



LHD Support is Key

LHDs can support staff by providing:

- Paid leave and flexible schedule** for staff to study and take the exam during working hours.
- Financial support** such as reimbursement or stipends.
- Study materials**
- Internal study groups** or encourage joining a **study group**

Preparation according to previous test-takers

“ I would recommend studying as a **group** regularly as well as taking **practice tests**. ”

“ It seems intimidating to prepare for an exam but **preparation through videos and other resources really help**. ”

“ This certification requires a lot of **hard work and dedication, but it is very rewarding**. ”