Environmental health professionals are essential to foodborne illness outbreak investigations, although many do not receive formal training in this area. This month's cover article, “Competencies for Environmental Health Professionals Who Detect, Investigate, and Respond to Foodborne Illness Outbreaks,” presents a competency framework that reflects the comprehensive set of skills desired for environmental health professionals at state and local health agencies. The study describes the findings of a web-based survey that assessed these competencies and identified training priorities among practicing environmental health professionals, as well as an environmental health competency training road map.

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