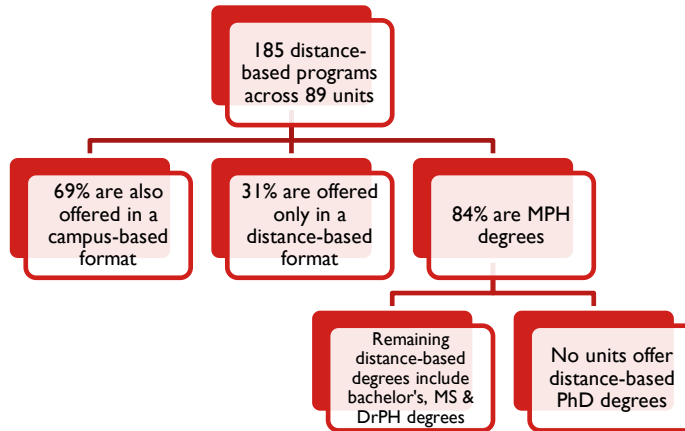


DISTANCE-BASED DEGREE TRENDS

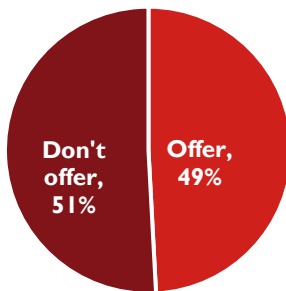
The 2016 Criteria maintain the same expectations for distance-based degrees as for campus-based degrees. In addition, the criteria require units to demonstrate that they have the necessary supports and policies that may be unique to distance-based degrees. As more students seek to earn degrees in distance-based formats and the technology to support these offerings improves, it is important for CEPH to monitor trends in delivery format.

The number of units offering distance-based degree programs increased during 2017-2019 from 60 units (29 SPH, 31 PHP, 0 SBP) to 89 units (33 SPH, 56 PHP, 0 SBP). Nine accredited PHP do not offer on-campus public health degree programs at all—all of their CEPH-accredited degree offerings are delivered via distance.

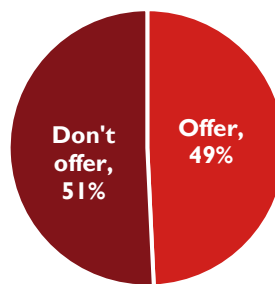


RELATIVE STABILITY IN SPH, EXPANSION IN PHP

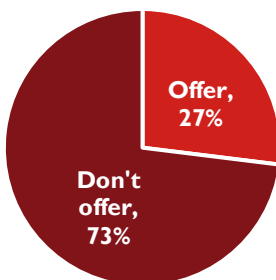
SPH 2017 (n=59)



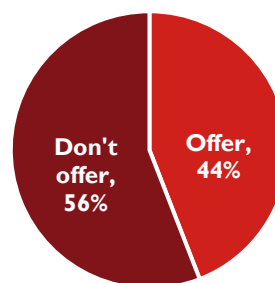
SPH 2019 (n=67)



PHP 2017 (n=115)



PHP 2019 (n=127)



DEFINING DISTANCE-BASED DEGREES

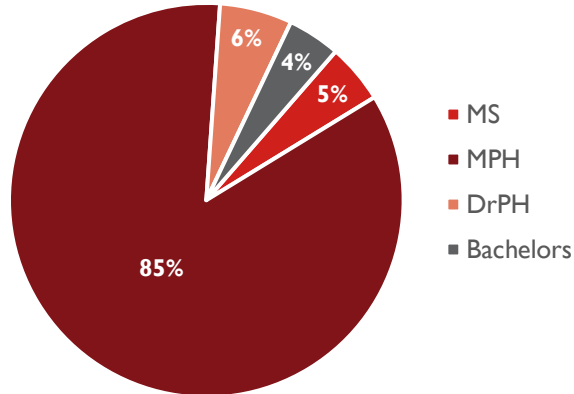
For accreditation purposes, CEPH classifies degrees as distance-based if they are designed in a manner that would allow a student to complete the degree program while residing outside of reasonable travel range to the campus.

Most CEPH-accredited units offer classes or portions of the curriculum using distance technology but design their degree offerings to be completed by students who will regularly travel to campus.

Distance-based degrees may require some minimal attendance on campus, e.g., for orientation; for limited, condensed on-site courses during the summer or on a weekend; or to present and/or defend final projects.

TYPES OF DISTANCE-BASED DEGREES

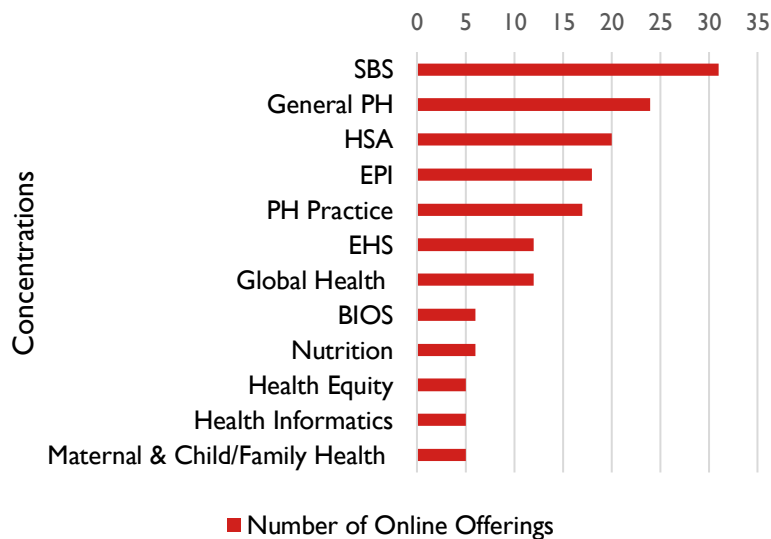
Distance offerings by degree, December 2019



DISTANCE-BASED MPH CONCENTRATIONS

MPH concentrations in SBS and general public health are the most prevalent distance-based offerings; this aligns with the fact that SBS is the most common concentration across all accredited MPH degrees, regardless of delivery method. See the [Background](#) document for a key to abbreviations.

MPH Distance-based Concentration Offerings, December 2019[^]



[^]10 MPH online offerings are counted in more than one concentration category, e.g., “biostatistics & epidemiology,” “global environmental health.”

Concentrations with fewer than five offerings are not presented. These include the following: clinical investigation, emergency preparedness, parks and recreation, dental public health, veterinary public health, and sustainable development.