

Explore HEALTH Careers.org

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Behavioral Science/Health Education

Overview

*In the wake of recent man-made and natural disasters, the US is placing a high priority on building up the nation's public health workforce. Since 2002, Federal funding has increased for public health preparedness, including scholarship and loan repayment programs, workforce development grants, and funding for bioterrorism preparedness. What does this mean for you? It means that with a degree in **public health**, you'll be in high demand - and on a career path filled with advancement opportunities.*

With a career in **Behavioral Science/Health Education** you help to improve public health by encouraging people to make healthy choices. For instance, you may develop community-wide education initiatives on health topics ranging from nutrition and fitness to injury and disease prevention.

If you pursue a career in this field, you may help to:

- stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, such as herpes and HIV/AIDS
- help young people recognize and avoid the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse
- reduce obesity and related health problems among children
- improve the quality of life for the growing population of seniors
- save more lives by promoting seatbelt use

Public health professionals in this field also research complex health issues, in order to help people make better use of health services, adopt self-care practices, and become more active participants in their community's health system.

Working Conditions

Working conditions in this profession vary by subspecialty.

NOTE: Salary ranges, as listed, are the actual salaries earned (adjusted for inflation using the national CPI - Bureau of Labor Statistics) within one year of graduation, as reported by the most recent nationwide survey of graduates conducted by the [Association of Schools of Public Health \(ASPH\)](http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=753) (<http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=753>).

Academic Requirements

The social and behavioral sciences of anthropology, psychology, political science, sociology, and health education are nationally recognized subspecialties in public health research, practice and education. If you concentrate on Behavioral Science/Health Education, your coursework is likely to include:

- mental health
- aging-related health issues
- health promotion and disease prevention
- public health practice
- health education and behavior change
- disability and health
- social research

NOTE: The [Schools of Public Health Application Service \(SOPHAS\)](http://www.sophas.org/GettingStarted.cfm) (<http://www.sophas.org/GettingStarted.cfm>) is the centralized online service for all students applying to an [accredited school of public health](http://www.sophas.org/participatingSchools.cfm) (<http://www.sophas.org/participatingSchools.cfm>).

Professional Associations

Association of Schools of Public Health (<http://www.asph.org/>)

American Public Health Association (<http://www.apha.org/>)

Funding Opportunities

Search for funding opportunities in this field (<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org>)

Enrichment Programs

Search for enrichment programs in this field (<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org>)

Source

www.asph.org

Learn more about this field:

Public Health (<http://www.explorehealthcareers.com/en/Field.11.aspx>)

Salary: \$33,000 - \$86,625

Years in school: 6 - 9 *

Job outlook: Excellent

* after high school graduation

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