

What is Public Health?

Public health is the science & art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health and efficiency through organized community efforts for:

- Improvement and maintenance of sanitation
- Control of communicable infections
- Education in self-care and lifestyle behaviors
- Organization of medical and nursing services

The key components of public health are:

- Health policy
- Epidemiology/Biostatistics
- Nutrition
- Occupational and environmental health
- Health education/health communication
- Control of communicable disease
- Health services administration
- Injury control and prevention

What to do with a MPH degree

Former U.S Surgeon General C. Everett Koop said it best: "Healthcare is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time." At the **University of Southern California (USC)**, the goal of the MPH program is to assist in creating healthy communities by preparing graduates to work with organized community efforts in a variety of settings, focusing on disease prevention and health promotion among diverse populations.

To pursue an MPH is to have a principal focus of promoting health and preventing disease, contrasting that of medical care, which focuses primarily on the treatment of specific illnesses or injuries. During the course of pursuing an MPH, students will be introduced to the fields of biostatistics, epidemiology, nutrition, health communication, health services, health education and behavior. Upon graduation students will have the capability to design, implement and evaluate public health programs. In addition, the program will also enable graduates to apply statistical methods to examine the distribution and determinants of injury and disease.

Career specializations in public health

Today's public health professionals enjoy a multitude of career options within a wide variety of settings: corporate wellness, academic institutions, research organizations, biotech firms, federal, state and local government agencies, managed care organizations and community based organizations.

- **Public Health Practice & Program Management** - Identifiable public health programs and activities: maternal & child health, aging, mental health, environmental health and professional disciplines
- **Biostatistics** - Application of statistical procedures, techniques and methodology to analyze biomedical research and clinical investigations data
- **Epidemiology** - Investigate the distribution and determinants of disease and disability in population groups
- **Environmental Sciences** - Identification/control of factors in the natural environment that affect health
- **Nutrition** - Assessment of the food and nourishment needs and available resources for individuals, groups and communities, providing consultation to prioritize nutritional care and service delivery within different segments of the community and various stages throughout the life span

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- **Biomedical and Laboratory Practice** - Bacteriologists, microbiologists who use lab techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the investigation of conditions which affect health status
- **Health Education/Health Communication-** Uses specific methods, and program strategies to help people adopt healthier lifestyles, to make efficient use of health services and engages in program design, implementation & evaluation activities
- **Occupational Safety** - Identification of health and safety hazards related to work and the work environment, as well as their prevention and control
- **Health Services Administration** - Planning, organization, policy formation and analysis, finance, economics and marketing
- **International Public Health** - Encompasses virtually all specializations in public health, particularly those which impact vulnerable populations throughout the world; Cross-cultural and language skills, along with programming experience

Salary Ranges of Public Health Professionals:

The salary ranges listed below are the actual salaries earned within one year of graduation from a school of public health and health services. The most recent (1999) nationwide survey of graduates was conducted by the Association of Schools of Public Health

Biostatistics:	\$33,000 - \$63,000
Epidemiology:	\$38,175 - \$136,237
Health Services Administration:	\$37,050 - \$61,400
Health Education/Behavioral Science:	\$33,000 - \$86,625
Occupational and Environmental Health:	\$44,550 - \$143,700
Nutrition:	\$31,500 - \$70, 875
Public Health Practice/Management:	\$41, 175 - \$102,000
Biomedical Laboratory:	\$31,500 - \$78,750
International Public Health	\$31,500 - \$86,625

Public Health Job Titles	Public Health Job Titles	Public Health Job Titles
<p>Behavioral Science Research Specialist Data Manager Health Education Specialist Research Scientist Director of Research Sanitarium Manager</p> <p>Biostatistics Biomedical Statistician Biostatistician Genetics Analyst Survey Statistician Health Statistician Health Data Manager Scientist (Chief of Unit) Web Programmer/Statistician II Research Data Coordinator Research Project Coordinator SAS Programmer/Analyst Data Manager Director of Biometrics Market Analyst</p> <p>Community Health Director of Community Health Services Director of Training for Community Health Programs Community Relations Director Assistant Planner for HIV/AIDS Services Project Coordinator School Health Coordinator Community Relations Manager Community Outreach Community Liaison Officer Coordinator Educator-Trainer Community Director for CARE</p> <p>Environmental Health Director, Environmental Health Environmental Health Scientist Health Education Consultant Epidemiologist Environmental Scientist State Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Specialist Radioactive Water Specialist Infection Control Officer Virologist Director Solid Waste Disposal Director Municipal Water Industrial Waste Director Radiation Safety Specialist</p> <p>Epidemiology Epidemiologist Chronic Disease Epidemiologist Epidemiologist II/III</p>	<p>Contractor Epidemiologist Clinical Trials Analyst Genetic Epidemiologist Infectious Disease Epidemiologist Veterinary Epidemiologist Public Health Epidemiologist HIV/AIDS Epidemiologist Director Epidemiology Program Director of Entomology Control Social Epidemiologist Director of Communicable Disease Control Services Research Scientist at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <p>Health Care Administration Coordinator of Epidemiology & Assessment Communication and Marketing Advisor Public Health Policy and Administration Faculty Chief of Provincial Health Services</p> <p>Health Care Consulting Data Analyst Healthcare Consultant Health Care Research Analyst</p> <p>Health Communication Director of Communications Media Relations and Promotions Health Communications Specialist</p> <p>Health Education & Health Promotion Health Educator Academic Programs Administrator Health Education Specialist Manager of Education and Technology Outreach HIV/AIDS/STI Director Project Associate Health Promotion Coordinator Program/Project Director Program/Project Manager Medical Clinic Director Chief Medical Officer</p> <p>Health Policy Manager of Public Health Affairs Policy Analyst Research Analyst I Health Policy Formulator</p>	<p>Chief of Provincial Health Services</p> <p>International Health Principal Public Administration Analyst Health Officer for United States Agency for International Development</p> <p>Laboratory Health Laboratory Director</p> <p>Maternal and Child Health City Medical Specialist Director of Special Projects/Program Analyst Programmer/Analyst Senior Advisor for Reproductive Health Executive Director of Planned Parenthood</p> <p>Nutrition Public Health Nutritionist</p> <p>Occupational Health Investigations of Occupational Health Hazards Occupational Epidemiologist Occupational Pathologist Director Labor Union Health Health Safety Officer Public Health Officer County Public Health Director Director of Certification & Compliance Ergonomics Specialist Hazardous Waste Scientist Water Quality Investigator Manager of Health & Safety Treatment Plant Radiation Safety Specialist Occupational Hygienist Director of Industrial Hygiene Sanitary Engineer</p> <p>Preventive Medicine Associate Director- Master of Public Health Programs</p> <p>Public Health Law Scholar-in-Residence – Bioterrorism Law and Policy</p> <p>Public Health Nursing Public Health Nurse</p>

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