CAREERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health is in the news everyday.

- U.S. HIV Cases Soaring Among Black Women
  Social Factors Make Group Vulnerable

- Task force urges older smokers get ultrasound

- Pentagon Boosts Plan For Anthrax Inoculations
  Emergency Provisions Invoked to Revive Use

- Accumulating River Sludge Threatens Bay
  Harford Dam Could Become Too Full to Confine Muck

- City wants lead-paint funding back

- Health Agency Warns of Fever After Tsunami

- New York Weighs Plans To Deliver Medicines After Terrorism Attack
Public Health protects you and keeps your loved ones safe and healthy.
How does Public Health protect us?

- Prevents the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

Centers for Disease Control
Careers in Public Health

- Where do public health professionals work?
  - Local, state, federal health departments
  - Hospitals
  - Insurance companies
  - Laboratories
  - Schools
  - Universities
Career areas in Public Health include

- Physician
- Biostatistician
- Community Health Educator
- Environmentalist
- Environmental and Occupational Health Specialists
- Health Administrator
- Mental Health Specialist
- Public Health Nurses
- Social Worker
- Nutritionist
- Epidemiologist
Careers in Public Health

- What kind of degree do you need to work in Public Health?
  - Medical field (LPN, RN, BSN, mid-level practitioner, MD)
  - Science field (environmental health, biology, epidemiology, food science)
  - Education (community health, health education)
  - Social science (social welfare)
Degrees in Public Health

- **Master of Public Health (MPH)**
  - Primary professional degree in Public Health
  - Provides general public health knowledge with specialization

- **Master of Science in Public Health**
  - Prepares practitioner in one specific aspect of public health rather than a more general focus

- **Doctoral**
  - Highest academic degree
  - Prepares professionals for teaching as college faculty members or research centers
Jackson County Health Department

Types of Public Health Professionals

- Nutritionist
- Social Worker
- Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner
- Health Educator
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Case Manager
- Administrator
- Support Staff
- Human Resources
- Fiscal Manager
- IT Coordinator
Top reasons to choose a career in Public Health

- Focused on serving others
- Opportunity to make a difference in community
- Opportunities to address various health issues
- Offers a wide array of job possibilities
- Potential to impact public policy
- Diverse and dynamic field
- Exciting and growing field of study
Jackson County Health Department staff report top reasons for career choice

- Opportunity to make a difference in the lives of clients
- Flexibility of hours
- Usually do not work on holidays
- Friendly, caring staff
- Competitive benefits
- Pleasant working atmosphere
Is Public Health the Right Career Choice for You?