



# 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**

**City wants lead-paint funding back**

**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*

**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?

