

## Where do public health professionals work?

- Public health professionals work in both the public and private sectors. Public health professionals work in the public sector in local, state, or federal health departments. Others jobs in health advocacy, policy, or research are available in non-profit organizations and businesses that focus on specific health issues. Those who work in public health professions have varying educational backgrounds and specialize in diverse fields, all working to protect the health of the public. They include:

*Emergency Responders*  
*Environmental Health Specialists*  
*Health Educators*  
*Public Policymakers*  
*Scientists and Researchers*  
*Physicians*  
*Nurses*  
*Occupational Health & Safety Professionals*  
*Social Workers*  
*Counselors*  
*Epidemiologists*  
*Nutritionists*  
*Community Planners*



## What We Do

### Harford County Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County  
Health Department**

Harford County Health Department is the local operating arm of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in Harford County. Staff in each of its nine major divisions perform a wide range of preventive health care, clinical services, and environmental health functions to address the needs of citizens living in Harford County.

Employing over 150 individuals, the Health Department provides an array of services at various locations throughout the county in Aberdeen, Bel Air, and Edgewood.

## Public Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Harford County  
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*“Healthy People in a Healthy Environment”*

## What is Public Health?

**Public Health** is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Public health professionals analyze the effect on health of genetics, personal choice and the environment in order to develop programs and services that protect the health of your family and community.



### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:**

- Save money and improve quality of life. A healthy public gets sick less frequently and spends less money on health care.
- Help children thrive and fulfill their potential. Healthy children become healthy adults.
- Educate people about the effects of lifestyle choices on their health that reduce human suffering and premature death.
- Help provide community infrastructure for emergency planning and prevention as well as disaster response and recovery.

## Why is Public Health Important?

### **Public Health core functions**

- Providing leadership on matters critical to the health of populations;
- Monitoring health issues, investigating and solving community health problems;
- Informing, educating and mobilizing partnerships that empower individuals and communities to improve health status;
- Developing policies and enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Providing and linking people to essential health services;
- Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Researching innovative and effective solutions to existing and emerging health problems.



*The dramatic achievements of Public Health in the 20th century have improved our quality of life, an increase in life expectancy, world wide reduction in infant and child mortality, and the elimination or reduction of many communicable diseases.*

## Why a Career in Public Health?

Public health engages professionals from many fields with the common purpose of protecting the health of a population.

- Public health is an exciting and growing field, challenging its professionals to confront complex and emerging health issues, such as improving access to health care, controlling infectious disease, and reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury.
- Public health is geared toward serving others. Public health professionals serve local, national, and international communities. They are leaders who meet the many exciting challenges of protecting, preserving and improving the public's health today and in the future.

