PUBLIC HEALTH

In 1900, overall life expectancy in the U.S. was 40 years. It has increased to approximately 79 years since then and much of the increase is due to relatively inexpensive public health prevention and health promotion measures. These include immunization programs, the eradication of smallpox, procedures for ensuring the safety of food and water supplies, and the safe disposal of various waste products.

Healthcare dynamics have changed rapidly and public health has necessarily emerged on a broader and more vital front. Today, professionals in the field take leadership roles in addressing national and international problems. Following their eradication of smallpox, public health professionals have implemented programs to eradicate polio and guinea worm disease. They work to contain the worldwide epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the re-emergence of TB in the U.S., and the Ebola virus epidemics in Africa. Community specialists conduct needs assessments of populations groups, and plan, implement, administer, and evaluate programs related to those needs. Public health professionals continue to be involved with food safety and food fortification programs that reduce the risk of nutrient deficiency diseases, such as pellagra, rickets, and goiter, which plagued us in the past.

Maternal and child health professionals design programs to improve pregnancy outcomes among African American women who are at greater risk of delivering pre-term babies than are their Hispanic and white counterparts. Health Promotion professionals work closely with school age populations on issues relating to teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, violence, and substance abuse. Public health professionals use their expertise in economic and policy issues to solve problems of cost containment, insurance coverage for the uninsured and the underinsured, and access to care for various populations. Specialists in the areas of occupational and environmental health deal with safety issues in workplace settings as varied as agriculture, computer manufacturing, and the petrochemical industry.

In spite of notable progress, however, low income populations in the U.S. lag behind some developing countries in immunization levels, and we are ranked 20th among industrialized nations in Infant Mortality Rates. Approximately 40 million U.S. citizens are either uninsured or underinsured for health care coverage. We have significant percentages of unwed mothers in all ethnic groups, lung cancer now surpasses breast cancer as a cause of death among women, and the spread of HIV/AIDS is increasing in the heterosexual population and among minorities.
Schools of Public Health address these complex problems. They differ from other health-related schools in that they are oriented toward community and prevention rather than toward the individual and treatment. Students are made aware of the necessity for interdisciplinary cooperation, and they develop the skills necessary to address today's complex health problems. This emphasis on interdisciplinary activity and cooperation presents opportunities for students from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Schools of public health offer a range of degree programs that generally include the Master of Public Health (MPH), the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Master of Science (MS), and PhD. The areas of specialty in the degree programs vary from school to school as do the GPA, GRE, TOEFL, and work experience requirements for admission, the thesis or non-thesis status, the minimum number of credit hours required for graduation, and the tuition and living costs. Many of the schools offer joint degree programs such as MD/MPH, JD/MPH, MSW/MPH, MSN/MPH, etc. and many also maintain degree programs on more than one campus.

The Association of Schools of Public Health website, www.asph.org, lists 40 accredited schools of public health. Three of the 40 schools are in Texas: Texas A & M School of Rural Public Health in College Station, the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health in Ft. Worth, and The University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. The website also lists 8 associate member schools that have the intention to become fully accredited schools. The list, location, and web address of accredited and associated schools of public health follows. Please consult the website of each school for details of its program and the Association of Schools of Public Health website for general information.

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www.hsc.unt.edu/education/sph
Accredited Schools of Public Health

Boston University School of Public Health
Boston, MA
http://sph.bu.edu

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
New York, NY
www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu

Drexel University School of Public Health
Philadelphia, PA
http://publichealth.drexel.edu

Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
Atlanta, GA
www.sph.emory.edu

Florida International University Robert Stempel School of Public Health
Miami, FL
http://ssph.fiu.edu

George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services
Washington, DC
www.gwumc.edu/sphhs

Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA
www.hsph.harvard.edu

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Baltimore, MD
www.jhsph.edu

Loma Linda University School of Public Health
Loma Linda, CA
www.llu.edu/llu/sph
National Institute for Public Health
Cuernavaca, Mor., Mexico
www.insp.mx

New York Medical College School of Public Health
Valhalla, NY
www.nymc.edu/sph

Ohio State University College of Public Health
Columbus, OH
http://cph.osu.edu

Saint Louis University School of Public Health
St. Louis, MO
http://publichealth.slu.edu

San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health
San Diego, CA
http://publichealth.sdsu.edu

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
New Orleans, LA
www.sph.tulane.edu

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health
Birmingham, AL
www.soph.uab.edu

University at Albany SUNY School of Public Health
Rensselaer, NY
www.albany.edu/sph

University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Tucson, AZ
www.publichealth.arizona.edu

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health
Little Rock, AR
www.uams.edu/coph

University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health
Berkley, CA
http://sph.berkeley.edu
University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health  
Los Angeles, CA  
www.ph.ucla.edu

University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health  
Chicago, IL  
www.uic.edu/sph/index.shtml

University of Iowa College of Public Health  
Iowa City, IA  
http://public-health.uiowa.edu

University of Kentucky College of Public Health  
Lexington, KY  
www.me.uky.edu/publichealth

University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences  
Louisville, KY  
www.louisville.edu/hsc/sphis

University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences  
Amherst, MA  
www.umass.edu/sphhs/index.html

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Public Health  
Piscataway, NJ  
http://sph.umdnj.edu

University of Michigan School of Public Health  
Ann Arbor, MI  
www.sph.umich.edu

University of Minnesota School of Public Health  
Minneapolis, MN  
www.sph.umn.edu

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health  
Chapel Hill, NC  
www.sph.unc.edu

University of Oklahoma College of Public Health  
Oklahoma City, OK  
www.ouhsc.edu
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
Pittsburgh, PA
www.publichealth.pitt.edu

University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health
San Juan, PR
www.rcm.upr.edu/PublicHealth

University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health
Columbia, SC
www.sph.sc.edu/

University of South Florida College of Public Health
Tampa, FL
http://publichealth.usf.edu

University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Seattle, WA
http://sphcm.washington.edu

Yale School of Public Health
New Haven, CT
http://publichealth.yale.edu

Associate Member Programs in Public Health

East Tennessee State University College of Public Health
Johnson City, TN
www.etsu.edu/coph

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Public Health
New Orleans, LA
http://publichealth.lsuhsce.edu

University of Buffalo SUNY School of Public Health and Health Professions
Buffalo, NY
http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/index.php

University of Connecticut Graduate Program in Public Health
Farmington, CT
http://publichealth.uconn.edu/acprgms_mph_overview.php