




Public Health Nurses

Population health focus, bridging the gap between clinical care and policy

What is Public Health Nursing?

Public Health Nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and Public Health sciences.

-  Advocate for social justice by promoting health equity in the population
-  Support and engage community members and stakeholders
-  Build public health capacity in medical settings

Public health nurses use advocacy, policy development, and planning to address issues of social justice.



Elements of Practice:

- A focus on the health needs of an entire population using comprehensive, systematic approach
- Attention to multiple determinates of health
- An emphasis on primary prevention
- Application of interventions at all levels — individuals, families, communities, and the systems that impact their health

Who are Public Health Nurses?

Public health nurses have knowledge and expertise to improve the health of communities by using Public Health frameworks.

What do Public Health Nurses do?

- **Provide** health education and clinical care
- **Manage** health programs
- **Respond** to emergencies
- **Prevent** communicable disease through monitoring occurrences, providing treatment, tracking outbreaks, and providing immunizations
- **Organize** educational outreach and preventive health screenings
- **Partner** with schools, businesses, health providers, and other agencies to improve health outcomes
- **Contribute** to research and policy development
- **Refer** people to community resources and services

Why work as a Public Health Nurse?

Public Health Nursing provides a unique opportunity to make a significant impact in the lives of people and communities. Public Health Nurses work to prevent diseases and injuries, promote healthy behaviors and environments, and protect people and populations from health threats through a variety of strategies and interventions.

Where do Public Health Nurses work?

Public Health Nurses work in diverse settings, including schools, clinics, hospitals, community organizations, and government agencies at the local, state, and national level.

Skills include:

- ✔ Clinical
- ✔ Communication
- ✔ Interpersonal
- ✔ Analytical
- ✔ Collaboration
- ✔ Problem-Solving
- ✔ Adaptability



Funding Statement:

This work is supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), National Center for STLT Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce, through OE22-2203: Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems grant. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.