

About:

The North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) is the leading professional association for people dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and environment of all North Carolinians.

- ❖ NCPHA works to improve the public's health through political advocacy, public awareness, professional development, and the interface between research and practice.
- ❖ NCPHA comprises 79 organizational members and over 1,300 professionals across the state, including community-based organizations, clinicians, state and local health departments, academics and recent graduates.
- ❖ NCPHA is the largest state affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA) – the national voice of public health.

What is Public Health?

Public health consists of organized efforts to protect and improve the health of families and communities. Every day, the public health field is working – often behind the scenes – to prevent hazards and keep people healthy. Examples of public health include:

Tracking disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, flu, pertussis, tuberculosis, syphilis and many more

Preventing foodborne illness and contamination of private drinking water wells

Responding to disasters such as fires, major floods, and hurricanes

Processing vital records such as birth, marriage and death

Offering health screenings for women and babies

Collecting and analyzing data for health trends

Developing school nutrition programs to ensure children have access to healthy foods

Why is it important?

Public health saves money, improves our quality of life, helps children thrive, and reduces human suffering. For North Carolina's 10.8 million people and growing, there are approximately 8,600 public health professionals in 86 district and local health departments (LHDs) working to provide essential public health services.



Every **\$1** invested in public health yields improved health outcomes equivalent to as much as **\$88** in expenditures saved by public health agencies

What does the future of public health look like?

It is critical that we protect and increase funding for public health programs at all levels. Moderate increases in public health funding – even a \$10 per capita increase – have been linked directly to improved health outcomes, such as reductions in low birth weight, foodborne illness, rates of sexually transmitted diseases, and overall mortality.

NCPHA recognizes that working with key decisionmakers is essential to shape public policy and ultimately, advance public health in North Carolina. The NCPHA Advocacy Committee represents all facets of the health field and works together with members, staff, and other organizations to advocate for public health at the Legislature.