

## Public health

Working in public health is about helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from threats to their health.

There are all sorts of roles and career opportunities within public health, from entry roles, right up to the most senior level.



### How can you make a difference?

Some areas within public health concentrate mostly on promoting healthy lifestyles such as:

- reducing harmful smoking
- reducing obesity and improving diet
- reducing harmful drinking

Other areas focus more on protecting people's health such as:

- promoting and administering vaccinations
- tackling the health effects of climate change in the UK
- reducing anti-microbial resistance
- improving mental health and tackling dementia

## What roles are available?

Here are the [core public health roles](#) [1] you can find out more about on this site:

- [health visitors](#) [2], [school nurses](#) [3] and other [public health nurses](#) [4]
- [environmental health professionals](#) [5]
- [practitioners](#) [6]
- [knowledge and intelligence professionals](#) [7]
- [academics](#) [8]
- [managers](#) [9], [directors](#) [10], [consultants and specialists](#) [11]

There are many more roles within the [wider public health workforce](#) [1] which may interest you.

All these roles can be found in a range of organisations, including national government, local government, higher education, the NHS, the armed forces, and the third sector. [Read more about the employers of the public health workforce](#) [12].

## Find out more

As well as the information on this page, this section of the website also provides a [useful set of FAQs](#) [13] and:

- [further details about public health and what it is](#) [14]
- [information about returning to a career in health visiting](#) [15]
- [our booklet on careers in public health](#) [16]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health%20>

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-public-health/public-health-workforce-explained>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/health-visitor>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/school-nurse>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-nurse>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/environmental-health-professional>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-practitioner>

- [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-knowledge-and-intelligence-professional>
- [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-academic>
- [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-manager>
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- [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/resources/careers-public-health>