

## Service Excellence

### Service Planning Areas (SPAs)



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## Public Health Nursing

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Healthy People in Healthy  
Communities



# Public Health Nursing in Los Angeles County

## Public Health Nursing

**Mission:** Public Health Nursing promotes the well-being of communities and seeks to promote health, prevent disease, disability and premature death among all residents in the County of Los Angeles. Public Health Nursing strives to improve the quality of neighborhood life by working in a partnership with community residents to create the conditions that promote healthy lives.

**Vision:** Public Health Nursing strives to promote healthy people in healthy communities.

Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are Registered Nurses who have a Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Nursing and a California Public Health Nurse Certificate.



Many PHNs who work for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health have a Master's Degree in Nursing, Public Health, Administration, or related specialties.

Through interaction with individuals, families, communities, and systems, the PHN may focus on a specific geographic area, called a Service Planning Area (SPA), or a population group with special needs.

## Families and Individuals

Public Health Nurses educate individuals, families, and groups to promote healthy behaviors focused on Healthy People 2010 health indicators:

Physical activity	Overweight & Obesity
Tobacco Use	Substance abuse
Mental Health	Injury and violence
Environmental quality	Immunization
Access to health care	Responsible sexual behavior

PHNs may provide additional assistance to individuals and families with concerns such as communicable diseases, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), lead poisoning, and pregnancy. Children with special needs and in foster care also receive support.



## Community

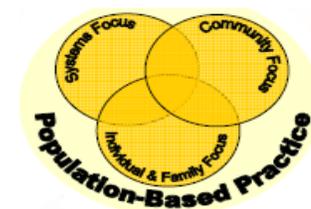
While using the core public health functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development, PHNs partner with local community agencies to ensure individuals and families receive needed preventive and healthcare services.

PHNs build on existing community strengths and resources in their actions. They work with members of the public health team in each SPA and community to address concerns affecting the quality of neighborhood life.

## Systems

Many aspects of improving health requires changes in organizations, laws, policies, and power structures. PHNs advocate for system level changes to promote, maintain, and restore health utilizing interventions directed at social justice for all.

Nurses empower cultural environments in systems through advocacy, performance monitoring and evaluation to improve policies, programs, and services for populations. PHNs assist the community in bringing its concerns to policy makers and organizations to improve the health of Los Angeles County.



## Population Based Practice

Public health nursing in Los Angeles County is population-based, focusing on entire populations possessing similar health concerns or characteristics.

The PHN uses a combination of sciences, skills, and beliefs in collaboration with other professions/organizations and the community on health promotion and disease prevention activities that affect the determinants of disease and influence the community's overall health profile.