**Public Libraries and Public Health: Partners for Community Health**

**Learner Guide**

Libraries are community hubs, including for health information and programming. As community health needs shift and grow, libraries are looking to support topics like consumer health literacy, healthy aging, mental health, food and nutrition, access to healthcare via telehealth, physical activity, and overcoming technological barriers to accessing health information. At the same time, the public health sector is learning that libraries are valuable partners in advancing local health priorities. Join this webinar for an introduction to public health, and hear how public health practitioners and library staff are partnering for success. Learn how to build library staff confidence in providing health information, assess community health needs, and build community partnerships that magnify the role public libraries play as key contributors to community health.

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/public-libraries-and-public-health-partners.html>

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Public Health and Public Libraries Intersect** | |
| Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. – American Public Health Association  Public health is everywhere! A day in the life of the public health professional may include everything from promoting access to clean water to providing support to parents. Just like public librarians, public health professionals wear many hats in communities. Public health professionals – just like public library staff – can’t do it all by themselves, and increasingly look to partner with community advocates, like public libraries.  The [sections of the American Public Health Association](https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections) include the categories on the following page. Look at this list, check those you already address in your library’s services and programming and circle those you’d like to prioritize in the future. Common overlaps between public health and public librarianship center around Mental Health, Social Work, Maternal and Child Health, and Food and Nutrition. But there are myriad opportunities for partnership! | |

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| * Aging and Public Health * Integrative, Complementary and Traditional Health Practices * Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs * International Health * Applied Public Health Statistics * Law * Chiropractic Health Care * Maternal and Child Health * Community Health Planning and Policy Development * Medical Care * Community Health Workers * Mental Health * Disability * Occupational Health and Safety * Environment * Oral Health |
| * Epidemiology * Pharmacy * Ethics * Physical Activity * Food and Nutrition * Public Health Education and Health Promotion * Foot and Ankle Health * Public Health Nursing * Health Administration * Public Health Social Work * Health Informatics Information Technology * School Health and Wellness * HIV/AIDS * Sexual and Reproductive Health * Injury Control and Emergency Health Services * Vision Care |

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| **Health Equity** |
| Supporting heath equity involves being intentional about racial equity and meeting the unique needs of specific populations. Explore the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention’s Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health](https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/state-local-programs/reach/) resources specific to better understand how to align your library’s efforts with health equity work in your communities.   * [Practitioner’s Guide for Advancing Health Equity](https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/state-local-programs/health-equity-guide/index.htm) * [Promoting Health Equity—A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health](https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/healthycommunitiesprogram/tools/pdf/sdoh-workbook.pdf) * [The Power to Reduce Health Disparities: Voices from REACH Communities](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/12109/cdc_12109_DS1.pdf) * [REACHing Across the Divide: Finding Solutions to Health Disparities](https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/12108/cdc_12108_DS1.pdf) |
| **Prioritizing Partnering** |
| Based on the information in this webinar, as you work to prioritize your next steps in partnering with public health in your community. Some action items may include the following:   * Facilitating conversations among your library staff, board, or Friends of the Library about public health, and the roles public libraries can play as partners in supporting community health needs. * Developing a better understanding of community health needs by drawing upon existing data and expertise, particularly as it exists in local health departments in Community Health Needs Assessments. * Assessing how your library may already support public health, and developing talking points unique to your library about how you see yourself as a public health partner. * Reaching out to new potential partners, including hospitals, local health departments, SNAP-Ed implementing agencies, cooperative extension agents, universities. |
| **Further learning** |
| Review the Midwestern Public Health Training Center’s Toolkit on [Bringing Public Health and Public Libraries Together](https://www.mphtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PHPL-Toolkit-1.pdf) and write down 2-3 things identified in the toolkit that you’d like to better understand as it relates to public health-public library partnerships.  1.  2.  3. |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |
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