



Webinar

The Future of Public Health: Where We're Headed and What It Will Take

May 12, 2026

countyhealthrankings.org



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Guidelines

1
Share
successes and
lessons learned

2
Offer
resources

3
Build
knowledge

4
Listen
for multiple
perspectives

2

 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps



Disclosures

- Views do not represent the University of Wisconsin Madison or the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Expertise of a CHR&R team of 30+ members is reflected and highly valued.
- Funding support from RWJF is appreciated.

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 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

We value



University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Courage
- Inclusion
- Excellence

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Join the conversation

Question and Answer

Welcome to Q&A
Questions you ask will show up here. Only host and panelists will be able to see all questions.

Where can I find strategies to address children in poverty?

Send anonymously

Who can see your questions?

Webinar Chat

Me to Everyone

JL Hi Everyone, I'm James, from Madison, WI.

Zoomhost CHRR to Everyone

Hello James and welcome to today's webinar.

Who can see your messages?

To: Everyone

Your text can be seen by panelists and other attendees

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Group agreements

1. Listen actively
2. Participate fully
3. Speak from your experience
4. Lead with curiosity
5. Be conscious of body language
6. Expect ambiguity
7. Be accountable

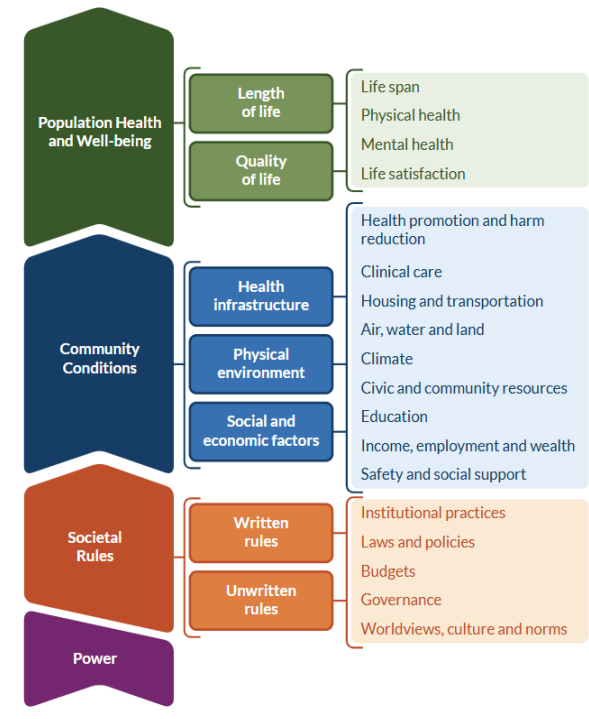
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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps


The Future of Public Health: How We Can Work Together so that Everyone Can Thrive

- ✔ Shifting policy, funding, and system dynamics
- ✔ Growing demands on the public health workforce
- ✔ Need for stronger cross-sector collaboration
- ✔ Opportunity to build a more equitable and thriving future




University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Model of Health © 2025

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps


Welcome



Angela McGowan
Senior Director
Alliance for the
Public's Health
American Public
Health Association



Antonia Lewis-Reese
Senior Director for
Strategic Initiatives
UI Chicago School of
Public Health



Rishi Manchanda
CEO
HealthBegins

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Position Overview

- Work with cross-functional teams
- Optimize stakeholder engagement
- Execute planning and change initiatives
 - Strategic planning
 - Accreditation
 - Special Projects (e.g., HiAP)



Antoniah Lewis-Reese, MBA
 Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives
 University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)
 School of Public Health (SPH)

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Areas of Contribution



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Academic Public Health

UIC SPH Mission (paraphrased):

Protect and improve health and well-being of populations in Chicago, Illinois, the nation, and the world.

EDUCATION | RESEARCH | SERVICE | PRACTICE

Thoughts for the Future of Public Health

Training qualified, thoughtful public health professionals

Generating knowledge to develop and improve health interventions

Improving capacity to close health gaps and address emerging challenges

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Public health at a critical inflection point

County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

May 12, 2026



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American Public Health Association

Championing optimal, equitable health and well-being **for all.**



- APHA serves as a convenor, catalyst and advocate to build capacity in the public health community.
- We champion optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. We promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. With our broad-based member community and 150-year perspective, we influence federal policy to improve the public's health.
- Learn more at www.apha.org.



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The Alliance for the Public's Health brings together organizations, leaders and the public around a shared goal:

Making sure everyone has what they need to be healthy and thrive.

We convene partners from many sectors to help people work together, share ideas and align around key issues such as the public health infrastructure, funding, communications and advocacy to support healthy communities.

For more info: apha.org/alliance



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APHA's Approach to These Times

- Make everyone follow the law
 - Force transparency
 - Inform the public of the impact of challenging or potentially harmful actions
 - Resist anticipatory obedience
-
- Don't accept redefining DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)
 - Maintain our core values and act on them
 - Have no fear – People only have the power they are given!

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2025-2026 | Defending the Public's Health

When public health infrastructure and science were challenged, APHA supported and engaged in action, including litigation to:

- **Challenge unlawful funding freezes and executive overreach** (*National Council of Nonprofits v. OMB*; *APHA v. DOGE*)
- **Defend science-based vaccine recommendations** (*AAP v. RFK Jr.*)
- **Push back on improper grant terminations and mass layoffs** (*APHA v. NIH*; *AFGE, AFL-CIO v. Trump*)
- **Challenge EPA's effort to overturn the Endangerment Finding** (*APHA v. EPA*)
- **Challenge EPA's proposal to overturn the 2024 Mercury and Air Toxics standards**



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Campaign for the Public's Health

The Campaign is bringing together partners and allies from every sector to stand up for healthy people and healthy communities. At a time when programs, policies, research, funding, and the very systems that keep our communities safe are under threat, we cannot afford to stand still. We must act—boldly and together—to protect essential services, defend equity, and rebuild a public health system that truly serves everyone.

[Join at APHA.org/Campaign.](https://www.apha.org/Campaign)

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The Elements of the Campaign

- Overarching Campaign Coordinator**
 - Leadership, Strategy, Fundraising
 - APHA/Alliance Staff & Support
- Advocacy - National, State, Local & Grassroots**
- Communications Capacity**
 - Crisis Communications
 - Story Collecting & Disseminating
 - Marketing & Advertising
- Legal and Litigation Strategy & Support**
- Partnership & Grassroots**
- Research & Analysis**
 - Data
 - Economics/ROI
 - Polling & focus groups



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Please Join Us!
For more information:



Alliance for the
Public's Health



Campaign for the
Public's Health



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APHA 2026
ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO

Save the Date!

Registration is now open!

In Arlington, VA and online
June 9-10, 2026
(with optional Hill Day June 11)

APHA.org/PAI

Nov. 1-4, 2026
San Antonio, TX

Registration and housing
open in June.

APHA.org/AnnualMeeting

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Critical Skills, Competencies, & Supports For The Public Health Workforce

Antoniah Lewis-Reese, MBA
Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO
School of Public Health

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Factors Impacting the Public Health Workforce

1 Structural Constraints

- 1 Chronic Underfunding & Unstable Funding**
Temporary, restricted, or inconsistent funding limits staffing stability
- 2 Recruitment & Retention Challenges**
Low pay, student debt, and private-sector competition make hiring and keeping staff difficult
- 3 Workforce Shortages & Skills Gaps**
Not enough workers in key roles and gaps in needed skills
- 4 Inefficient Hiring Systems**
Slow public-sector hiring processes cause agencies to lose candidates

2 Workplace Conditions

- 5 Burnout & Mental Health Strain**
High levels of burnout, stress, anxiety, and emotional exhaustion
- 6 Workforce Demographics & Turnover**
Retirements, short tenure, and loss of institutional knowledge

Public Health Workforce

3 External Pressures

- 7 Harassment, Politicization & Public Pressure**
Threats, bullying, and politicized public health decisions increase strain
- 8 Lingering COVID-19 Impacts**
Pandemic-driven workload, redeployment, and attrition continue to affect the workforce

What This Leads To

Higher Turnover

Lower Morale

Reduced Capacity

Greater Risk During Future Health Crises

UIC

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Public Health is a Profession!

The U.S. Department of Education proposed changes to the definition of “professional degrees” to exclude public health, subjecting students to student loan caps effective July 1st, 2026.



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Public Health Workforce, Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS)



Conducted by [de Beaumont Foundation](#) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ([ASTHO](#))



Surveys conducted in 2014, 2017, 2021, and 2024



PH WINS is the only nationally representative source of data on the state and local governmental public health workforce



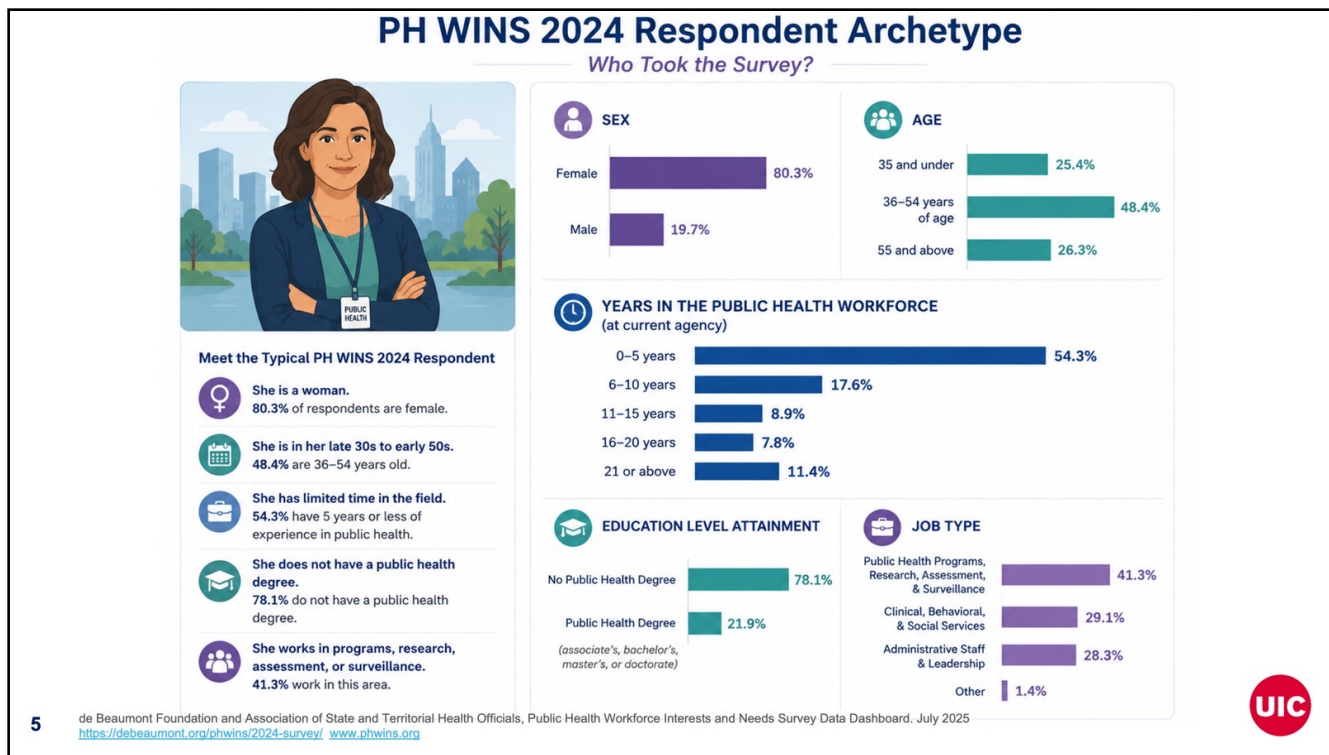
56,595 respondents, response rate 37% (2024)

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de Beaumont Foundation and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey Data Dashboard. July 2025
<https://debeaumont.org/phwins/2024-survey/> www.phwins.org



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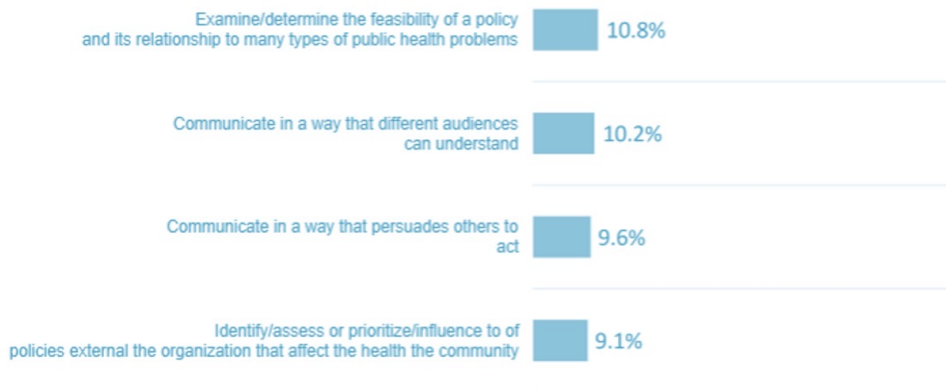


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PH WINS 2024: Policy & Communication Skill-Building Needs



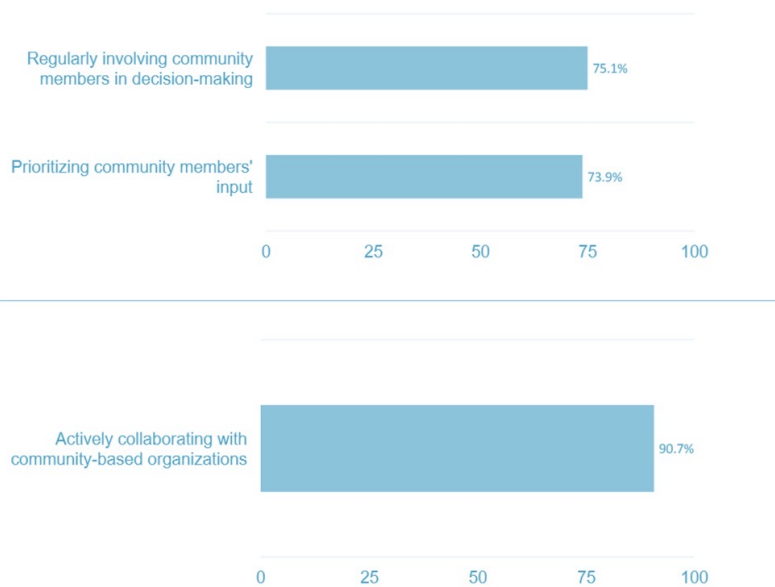
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PH WINS 2024: Community Engagement Approaches



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de Beaumont Foundation and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey Data Dashboard. July 2025
<https://debeaumont.org/phwins/2024-survey/> www.phwins.org



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What do public health leaders say?

Practice-ready skills for leading across systems, communities, and constraints

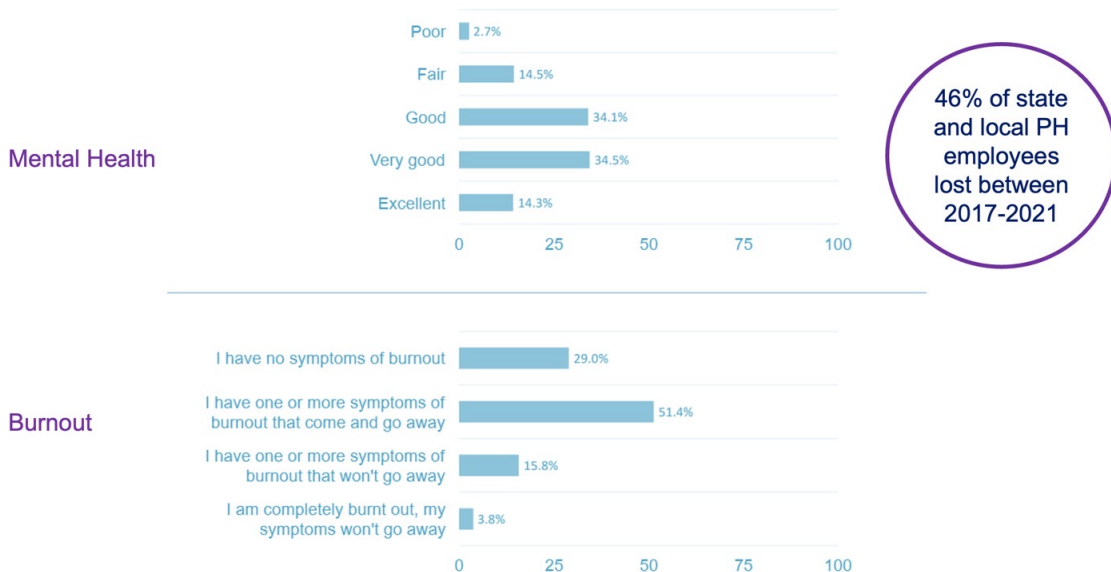


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PH WINS 2024: Mental Health & Burnout



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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Questions?



Photo by [Jason Thompson](#) on Unsplash

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Upcoming webinar:

June 16, 2026



Sophie Simon Ortiz

Organizing Project Director
Health in Partnership



Alana LeBron

Associate Professor
University of
California, Irvine



Rahsaad Abdur-Rahman

Director of State Strategies
Race Forward

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Webinar

Thank You!

countyhealthrankings.org



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