Together, WPHA and WALHDAB represent over 1,200 public health professionals in communities across Wisconsin, striving to prevent, promote, and protect the residents of the state.

About Public Health

Over the last century, public health advancements have dramatically increased life expectancy through vaccination, infectious disease control, and chronic disease prevention. Health outcomes are primarily driven by the social and economic conditions in which we live, work, play, pray, grow up, and grow old. That’s why public health is increasing its emphasis on education, income and employment, housing, and other “social determinants of health.”

Legislative Priorities

- Preserve public health statutory authority for control of communicable diseases and other public health threats.
- Build and retain public health infrastructure through increased and more flexible public health funding.
- Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Policy Priorities

- Criminal Justice Reform
  - Increase treatment alternatives and diversion program (TAD) funding for mental health and substance abuse issues.
  - Increase funding allocated to counties for juvenile justice services.
- Income Stability and Employment
  - Support and expand Paid Family Leave.
  - Increase Earned Income Tax Credit and move from one-time to monthly payments.
  - Establish tax credit for family caregivers.
  - Increase workforce training/transitional jobs.
- Early Childhood
  - Fully fund School Breakfast Program.
- Housing
  - Expand low-income housing tax credits for developers and rental assistance vouchers for renters.
  - Fund abatement for lead paint, soil and pipes.

Support Best Practice Public Health Policy and Effective Programming

Each local health department in Wisconsin is charged to identify its community’s health priorities. Planning processes include representatives from healthcare, for-profit businesses, community-based non-profit organizations, other community groups, and intergovernmental departments. Specific priorities vary across the state (e.g. soil contaminants, alcohol, tobacco or other drug prevention, preventable injury, mental health, etc.), but there is also much common ground across the state. Support public health to effectively address these priorities accomplish these goals.

About WPHA

The Wisconsin Public Health Association is the largest statewide association of public health professionals in Wisconsin. Established in 1948, WPHA exists to improve, promote and protect health in Wisconsin. WPHA strives to be diverse in its constituency, rich in partnerships and valued for its policy recommendations and best practices. WPHA is the collective voice for public health in Wisconsin.

About WALHDAB

The Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards is the statewide leader and voice for local governmental public health. WALHDAB was founded in 1991 to serve local health departments and boards of health.