



#HealthierMO

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

Missouri's Public Health Constellation

The Public Health Accreditation Board defines the public health system as “the constellation of governmental and nongovernmental organizations that contribute to the performance of essential public health services for a defined community or population.” Here in Missouri our sky is filled with stars! We have many organizations, initiatives, and foundations “grouped” around public health.

Our [state health department](#) employs more than 2,000 Missourians who provide public health services across the state to 6 million Missouri residents. The Department hosts 35 bureaus, offices, sections, and units and is organized under three program areas.

We have 115 autonomous [local public health agencies](#) (LPHAs), serving single counties, multi-counties, or city/counties. Eighty-nine are governed by an elected, local board of directors and funded primarily through local property taxes. The others are charter counties or are governed by and funded through their local county commission.

Missouri's public health system includes professional organizations, such as:

[Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies](#) is a voluntary association of LPHAs that supports communication among all levels of health agencies, advocates for the health of Missouri residents, and provides educational and networking opportunities for the LPHA workforce.

[Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence](#) is dedicated to improving public health services in Missouri by advocating for experienced public health leadership at the local level, a well-trained workforce, and collaboration that creates a strong health system.

[Missouri Institute for Community Health](#) provides MICH accreditation for LPHAs and consulting services for: PHAB accreditation readiness, community health assessments, strategic planning, quality improvement/performance management, and health improvement planning.

[Missouri Public Health Association](#) identifies public health needs and problems across the state and collaborates with other organizations to support improvement actions.

The public health system in Missouri also includes a number of public, private, local, regional, and state partners with a vested interest in public health. We're all working hard on public health in Missouri, but we have great opportunity to improve. We lack a systematic, coordinated approach, scope, and funding. The US Department of Health and Human Services defines public health as “what we do together as a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy.” The #HealthierMO initiative seeks to engage all stakeholders in the public health system to identify a solution that will transform the future of public health in Missouri and offer every resident the opportunity for a healthier life.

The Missouri Public Health Association is leading the #HealthierMO initiative in partnership with Support KC. Funding for the first phase of this multi-year initiative was provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. To learn more, visit www.HealthierMO.org.