The field of public health studies the factors that influence a population’s health in order to determine the actions necessary to improve it.

The process builds upon a diagnosis, which identifies a public health problem, a proposed treatment plan including the implementation of the actions, and finally observation, which ensures that the effectiveness of the actions is monitored. The tools used are multidisciplinary and consider a range of data from research in a variety of fields including demographics, economics, medical technology, and epidemiology. A public health program therefore integrates project management on different scales (regional, national, and international), teamwork and human resource management, health administration, patient safety and environmental risks, assessment, strategy, and forecasting. A health monitoring system tracks vaccinations, chronic illnesses, and travel-related illnesses in the population that is the object of research and public health training programs.

### INTERNATIONAL

The École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP) holds the presidency of the European Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) and was the driving force behind the creation of the European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA), a forum for exchanges and opinions for educational institutions in the field of global health, which it co-chairs with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The EHESP was also a founding member and president of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Regions (ASPHER), and in 2010, it created the international journal Public Health Reviews. It also organized the European Public Health Conference in Paris (2008), Brussels (2009), Amsterdam (2010), Copenhagen (2011), and Malta (2012).

### RELATED FIELDS

- Administration  •  nutrition  •  biostatistics  •  demography  •  law  •  economics  •  education  •  environment  •  epidemiology  •  ethics  •  gerontology  •  engineering  •  management  •  medicine  •  healthcare  •  transportation

### SUB-FIELDS

- Personal care  •  project management  •  criminology  •  biomedical equipment  •  healthcare evaluation  •  hospital management  •  social gerontology  •  disability  •  hygiene  •  medical technology  •  logistics  •  medico-social services  •  health organizations  •  public policy  •  human resources  •  health risks  •  health and social care  •  environmental health  •  population health  •  international health  •  food safety  •  healthcare technology  •  health monitoring systems

### BY THE NUMBERS

- €243 billion spent on healthcare: 12% of GDP (2012)
- €183.6 billion
- 75.5% of consumption of healthcare and medical goods is covered by Social Security
- 414,375 hospital beds (2010)
- 21,939 pharmacies, 3,888 laboratories (2012)
- 2,701 public and private institutions (2010)
- 333 doctors per 100,000 residents (medical density, 2013)
- 33 regional hospitals (2010)

Sources: INSEE - www.insee.fr

### USEFUL LINKS

- Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Regions (ASPHER): www.aspher.org
- Aviesan, French National Alliance for the Life Sciences and Health: www.aviesan.fr
- European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA): www.eagha.org
- European Masters in Public Health: www.europubhealth.org
- Institut de Recherche sur la Santé, l’Environnement, et le Travail: www.isre.org
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: www.sante.gouv.fr
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.euro.who.int
- Université de Lorraine, École de santé publique: www.sante-pub.u-nancy.fr/esp
- Université de Paris-Sud, École de santé publique: www.ecole-sante-publique-psud.fr
- Université de Bordeaux Segalen, Institut de Santé Publique, d’Épidémiologie, et de Développement (ISPED): www.isped.u-bordeaux2.fr

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MASTER'S DEGREE 1
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- An inter-university degree offered at the master’s 1 level in clinical and epidemiological research (distance learning) along with university diplomas in: research in public health (distance learning); health promotion projects (distance learning); quality control in health and social institutions (on-site and distance learning). Université de Lorraine, École de Santé Publique: www.sante-pub.u-nancy.fr/esp
- The Institut de Santé Publique, d’Épidémiologie, et de Développement (ISPED) at the Université de Bordeaux Segalen also offers on-site and online university diplomas in methodology, epidemiology, social gerontology, and hospital hygiene: www.isped.u-bordeaux2.fr

MASTER'S DEGREE 2 (INTERNATIONAL)
(HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA / BACCALAUREATE + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2)
- Europubhealth is a European public health master’s program established in 7 universities and partner schools belonging to a consortium coordinated by the École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP). In France, the program offers 4 specializations at the master’s 2 level: environmental health and health at work; advanced biostatistics and epidemiology; law, health, and ethics; and public health policy and program management: www.europubhealth.org
- The École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP) offers master’s programs in partnership with other universities, a master’s in engineering with a concentration in health engineering, and institutional diplomas in healthcare management, health technology engineering and management, environmental risks, and biomedical equipment) as well as an Executive Health MBA: www.ehesp.fr

BEYOND THE MASTER LEVEL

POST-MASTER'S
(HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA / BACCALAUREATE + 6 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION)

At the post-master’s level, post-graduate medical degrees in the field of public health are offered in 24 university departments of medicine or medical science in France. At the end of the fourth and final year of the second cycle of medical studies, a nationwide competitive examination allows for the continuation of studies during residency and the choice of public health among 11 specializations.