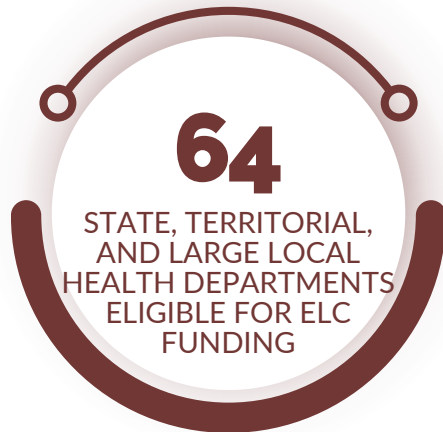


WHAT EXACTLY IS A HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANYWAY?

Health departments (HDs) are the public health entities in the U.S. that implement wastewater surveillance programs and use the data generated by those programs. HDs are often categorized by whether they are a state, territorial, local, or tribal organization. Larger HDs are eligible for funding through CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC), while smaller, local health departments are the front line of public health.



What do state and territorial health departments tend to do?

- ~ Plan ~ Set policies and standards ~
- ~ Assure equitable healthcare access ~
- ~ Respond to health crises ~
- ~ Collect and analyze health statistics ~
- ~ Support local health departments ~

What do local and tribal health departments tend to do?

- ~ Conduct communicable disease control programs ~
- ~ Provide screening and immunizations ~
- ~ Collect health statistics ~
- ~ Run school health programs ~
- ~ Conduct sanitation inspections ~

> 250,000

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WORK IN HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE U.S. AS:

biostatisticians, communications, specialists, computer technicians, data scientists, dentists, engineers, epidemiologists, health educators, laboratory specialists, nurse practitioners, nurses, nutritionists, physicians, planners, social workers, and veterinarians

Abbreviations: CDC = US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; ELC = Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement; HD = health department; NWSS = National Wastewater Surveillance System

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/elc/elc-overview.html>; <https://debeaumont.org/phwins/2021-findings/>; <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>