Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Although the field of public health is highly varied and encompasses many academic disciplines, the following are core areas:

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**Core Public Health Disciplines**

**Behavioral Science/Health Education**
Focuses on ways to encourage people to make healthy choices, and includes the development of community-wide education programs that range from promoting healthy lifestyles in order to prevent disease and injury, to researching complex health issues. Examples of careers in this field are: health education program coordinator, school health educator, behavior scientist.

**Biostatistics**
Biostatistics is the application of statistical procedures, techniques, and methodology to identify health trends. Biostatistics are an integral part of public health as it forecasts scenarios, identifies health trends within the community, explains biological phenomena, and determines the cause(s) of disease and injury. Examples of careers in this field are: survey statistician, health data analyst, research data coordinator, biostatistician.

**Environmental Health**
Environmental health improves public health through identifying and addressing environmental risk factors. Settings include: air quality, food protection, radiation protection, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, water quality, noise control, environmental control of recreational areas, housing quality, and vector control. Examples of careers in this field are: ecologists, environmental consultant, oceanographer.

**Epidemiology**
Taking into account various hereditary, behavioral, environmental, and health care factors, epidemiology is the study and control of disease or injury patterns in human populations. Epidemiology focuses on determining the cause(s) of disease or injury, the risks, who is at risk, and how to prevent further incidences. Examples of careers in this field are: communicable disease epidemiologist, public health officer, health data analyst.

**Health Services Administration/Management**
Health Services Administration combines politics, business, and science in managing human and fiscal resources needed to deliver effective public health services. Specialties include: planning, organization, policy formulation and analysis, finance, economics, or marketing. Examples of careers in this field are: director of strategic planning, medical care administrator, gerontology coordinator.

Other public health disciplines and programs include, but are not limited to: clinical research, chronic disease, emergency medical services, food safety, global emergency preparedness and response, health disparities, health economics/finance, health law, health policy, infectious disease, international/global health, laboratory practice, maternal and child health, mental health, nutrition/dietetics, occupational health and safety, toxicology, and women’s health.