

through the end of the decade. This is a growth that is faster than the average for all other occupations over the same period. Health educators are going to be in greater demand because of the growing importance of preventative health care. The importance of primary care will be shifted to health education and promotion as more insurance companies and governmental agencies start to realize the cost effectiveness of preventative health measures.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association
800 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-3710
Phone: (202) 777-2742
Web: www.apha.org

Society for Public Health Education
750 First Street, NE-Suite 910
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Phone: (202) 408-9804
Web: www.sophe.org

Mississippi Public Health
Association
PO Box 4834
Jackson, MS 39296-4834
Phone: (601) 576-7950
Web: www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha/

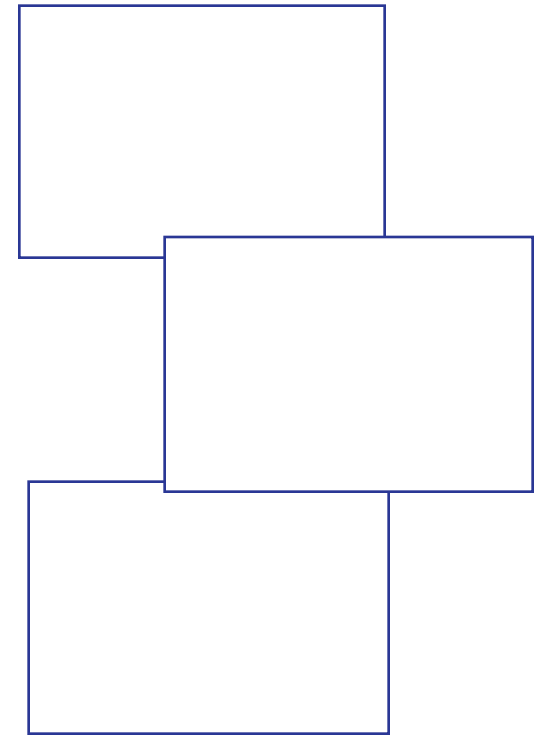


MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)
P.O. Box 16444
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444
PHONE (601) 982-3251
FAX (601) 368-3200

WWW.MSHEALTHCAREERS.COM

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*Promoting Health
Careers in Mississippi*

A division of Mississippi Hospital Association

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Health educators are an integral part of community health education programs. They provide information to individuals and communities in an effort to promote, maintain, and improve healthy lifestyles. Some of the issues that are of importance include substance abuse, safety, HIV/STDs, nutrition, high blood pressure, smoking, pregnancy, and diabetes. Health educators are also responsible for collecting and analyzing data for the purpose of researching, designing, and presenting preventative health care programs. These individuals must be able to inform and organize community coalitions in order to address concerns and issues that effect the health of communities. Health educators are often responsible for writing educational material, newsletters, public information reports, and grant proposals. They may specialize in various areas that include clinical health, public health, community health, industrial health, and school health. The main objective for a health educator is to prevent disease and promote healthy lifestyles through knowledge and behavior change. Anyone interested in health education must enjoy working with a variety of people, have good oral and written communication skills, and have a desire to help people.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Health educators typically work in health departments, community organizations, corporations/worksites, volunteer organizations, schools, colleges, and governmental organizations.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a health educator should take courses in biology, English, public speaking, algebra, geometry, behavioral sciences, social sciences, computer skills, writing, and health occupations/medical professions education.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in health education must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. To become certified as a health educator, students must first receive a bachelor's degree in health education/promotion, public health, or community health. They must then pass a comprehensive written exam given by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. Once the student has passed the exam, they will be recognized as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Health educators may further their education

with a master of public health degree. Students interested in health education should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The University of Southern Mississippi
College of Health and Human Sciences
Department of Public Health
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5024
Phone: (601) 266-5437

Mississippi University for Women
PO Box W-1614
Columbus, MS 39701
Phone: (662) 329-4750

Belhaven College
1500 Peachtree Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: (601) 968-5933

SALARY RANGE

Average Annual Salary--\$34,200
Salary Range--\$25,600-\$41,100

CAREER OUTLOOK

The job outlook for health educators is expected to be very good. The US Department of Labor predicts a job market growth between 21% and 35%