

Health Educator

Health Educators teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities.

Duties

Health Educators typically do the following:

- Assess the health needs of the people and communities they serve
- Develop programs, materials, and events to teach people about health topics
- Teach people how to manage existing health conditions
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and educational materials
- Help people find health services or information
- Provide training programs for community health workers or other health professionals
- Supervise staff who implement health education programs
- Collect and analyze data to learn about a particular community and improve programs and services
- Advocate for improved health resources and policies that promote health

Work Environment

Health Educators have different duties depending on their work setting. Most work in healthcare facilities, colleges, public health departments, nonprofits, and private businesses.

The following are descriptions of duties for Health Educators, by work setting:

- In **healthcare facilities**, Health Educators may work one-on-one with patients or with their families. They teach patients about their diagnoses and about any necessary treatments or procedures. They lead hospital efforts in developing and administering surveys to identify major health issues and concerns of the surrounding communities and developing programs to meet those needs. Health Educators also help organize health screenings, such as blood pressure checks, and classes on topics such as installing a car seat correctly. They also create programs to train medical staff to interact more effectively with patients.
- In **colleges**, Health Educators create programs and materials on topics that affect young adults, such as smoking and alcohol use. They may train students to be peer educators and supervise the students' delivery of health information in person or through social media. Health Educators also advocate for campus wide policies to promote health.
- In **public health departments**, Health Educators administer public health campaigns on topics such as emergency preparedness, immunizations, proper nutrition, or stress management. They develop materials to be used by other public health officials. During emergencies, they may

provide safety information to the public and the media. Some Health Educators work with other professionals to create public policies that support healthy behaviors and environments. They may also oversee grants and grant-funded programs to improve the health of the public. Some participate in statewide and local committees dealing with topics such as aging.

- In **nonprofits**, Health Educators create programs and materials about health issues faced by the community that they serve. They help organizations obtain funding and other resources. They educate policymakers about ways to improve public health and work on securing grant funding for programs to promote health and disease awareness. Many nonprofits focus on a particular disease or audience, so Health Educators in these organizations limit programs to that specific topic or audience.
- In **private businesses**, Health Educators identify common health problems among employees and create programs to improve health. They work to develop incentives for employees to adopt healthy behaviors, such as losing weight or controlling cholesterol. Health Educators recommend changes in the workplace to improve employee health, such as creating smoke-free areas.

Watch a video about being a Health Educator

Top Local Employers: Anthem, County of Santa Clara, Clinical Management Consultants, American Heart Association

Median Pay

\$68,877

Job Growth (2020-2025)

10%

Education and Training

Health Educators need at least bachelor's degree in health education or health promotion. Some employers require the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential. Some Health Educator positions require candidates to have a master's or doctoral degree.

Local Education:

[San Jose State University](#)

For More Information:

[Society for Public Health Education](#)

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)



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