MISSION:
To improve health in Illinois through leadership in advocacy, education and collaboration.

The Voice of Public Health in Illinois
www.ipha.com

Founded in 1940, the Illinois Public Health Association, an affiliate of the American Public Health Association, is Illinois’ oldest and largest voluntary organization devoted exclusively to matters of public health. As a professional society for those engaged or interested in public health, the Association is committed to improving the health of Illinois residents through its mission.

IPHA has more than 7,000 members who represent all aspects of public health practice, including local health departments, state government agencies, hospitals, clinics, academia and other health related settings. Members are offered opportunities to improve their professional skills and expertise through high quality and affordable conferences, workshops and seminars. Communications from the Association to its membership provides information about legislative initiatives, major organizational and staff changes in the public health system, educational and research advances, program developments, continuing education offerings, employment opportunities and more.

Leadership and networking opportunities abound through contact with peers and professionals in the field. Sections, organized around the various disciplines and areas of special interest in public health, serve as an important forum for collegial interaction, professional development and Association policy formation.

IPHA members are encouraged to take part in the promotion and protection of public health interests, participate in assuring representation of the Association’s interests before elected officials, affiliate agencies and allied state and national associations.

The Association’s consortium of over 100 public health agencies throughout the state can take advantage of discounted prices on various products such as influenza vaccines, health education literature, and other health products.

In support of the public health system in Illinois, IPHA also manages various federal, state and local grants to provide programming for HIV/AIDS, health equity, local health department billing and coding, immunizations and other health services.

The Illinois Public Health Association is a well-known and respected health organization seen as an innovator in the field of public health. The Association continues to experience growth both in number of agency and individual members and as a force in Illinois dedicated to promoting health and preventing disease.
Illinois Public Health Association
Member Section Descriptions

ACADEMIA
Promotes increased linkages and collaboration between the public health academic and practice communities. Academic public health presentations and sessions at IPHA meetings will be promoted as well as involvement in IPHA activities by health professions students in the state of Illinois.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
The purpose of this Section is to promote awareness of the link between physical and mental health; to increase collaboration among public health and behavioral health entities; to reduce the incidence of substance abuse; and, to initiate or further holistic health policies to strengthen communities and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

BOARDS OF HEALTH
Created to broaden the Association’s membership base, introduce the membership to local policy-making and lend to IPHA an extensive and effective grassroots information network.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
Through regular meetings and ongoing communication, this Section supports the exchanges of ideas, develops position statements, coordinates education opportunities, and works to strengthen relationships at the local, regional and state level to advance the field of emergency preparedness and response.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
The purpose of this Section is to support the exchange of ideas, encourage the application of these to public health problems and programs, to consider current, emerging and foreseeable community health issues at the local, regional, state and national levels, and the development, coordination, extension and evaluation of local and regional public health programs.

EPIDEMIOLOGY
Allows for the exchange of ideas, promotes the incorporation of epidemiologic principles to public health problems and programs, fosters the development and use of epidemiologists, provides expert consultation to the IPHA on pertinent issues, and assists in the implementation of Association policy where applicable.

FAMILY PLANNING
Works to promote the information and means to exercise personal choice in determining the number and spacing of children. Services to be promoted include: information, education and counseling services and a comprehensive range of confidential, acceptable and effective family planning methods and services.

FOOD AND NUTRITION
Enables the staff of public health programs to network, learn and advocate. The Section develops continuing education programs, holds business meetings and regularly communicates with members to exchange ideas and provide updates on pertinent issues.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
Committed to the implementation of the Association’s state policy; to develop, analyze and implement the expansion of the public health service delivery system in the state; to develop, support and expand the knowledge and skill among IPHA members; to work to upgrade the quality of services to our membership; and to work and coordinate with the Association and its other sections in improving our legislative, professional and public educational activities.

HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION
Committed to developing, supporting and facilitating health education and health promotion as viable and dynamic entities within the scope of public health in Illinois.

HEALTH EQUITY
Aims to increase awareness about health disparities gaps, and promotes the formulation of public health strategies, policies and research that improve access to a healthy living and quality of life. The Section fosters the enhancement of data that recognizes emerging concerning trends and successful outcomes through the utilization of a broad range of communication and health education strategies.

HIV/AIDS
Promotes the development of public health efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV, achieve the goals of the National and Illinois HIV/AIDS Strategies, and enhance the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois.

INJURY CONTROL
Serves as a focal point for activities within the state of Illinois to design and implement strategies for injury prevention in the pre-injury phase and minimalization of the injury phase. This section will focus its activities on serving as the forum for public health minded individuals whose major emphasis is in the area of injury prevention (including suicide and violence prevention) and emergency medical services.

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
The purpose of this section is to support the exchange of ideas, develop positions on maternal and child health issues and further the dissemination of those positions, and contribute to the development, coordination and extension of maternal and child health programs at the local, regional and state level.

NURSE ADMINISTRATORS
The purpose of this Section is to promote quality public health nursing services in the State of Illinois through communication and information exchanges; participation in planning and decision making for public health services; educational activities; and advocating for public health nursing in Illinois.

NURSING
Advances the cause of public health nursing in Illinois, to support the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills among members and to support the increase of membership and participation in the IPHA.

ORAL HEALTH
The purpose of this Section is to prevent and control dental disease and promote dental health through organized community effort. Programs in dental public health are concerned with dental health education programs, the administration of dental care programs for special population groups, water fluoridation and supplemental fluoride programs, dental sealant programs, applied dental research and prevention and control of dental diseases on a community basis. This section holds meetings on a regular basis, hosts an annual conference and coordinates the toothbrush consortium project.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
Provides career and personal development for section members. They strive, through cohesive implementation, to support public health issues and enhance the delivery of services. Members of this section are afforded opportunities for networking with other health professionals, and for professional development, through section activities and continuing education programs.

SENIOR HEALTH
Provides more opportunities and incentives for interaction, coordinated planning and joint projects among professionals in the health and aging field. This section focuses on the development of more effective mechanisms for assuring coordination and cooperation among all agencies which serve older persons.

STUDENT
The goal of this Section is to further the development of students, the next generation of professionals in public health and health-related disciplines. This Section represents and serves students of public health and other health-related disciplines by connecting individuals who are interested in working together on public health and student-related issues.