



OUR SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADS MARYLAND AND PARTNERS ACROSS THE GLOBE IN EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND ACHIEVING OPTIMAL AND EQUITABLE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL.



PILLAR 1: WE REIMAGINE LEARNING

- **Empowering future public health leaders with cutting-edge skillsets:** SPH faculty successfully launched the first public health course in artificial intelligence (AI), equipping students with skills to analyze large, complex public health datasets using AI. (EPIB)
- **Training interdisciplinary changemakers:** SPH's new Department of Global, Environmental, and Occupational Health (GEOH) launched a new undergraduate major in global health, the first program of its kind in Maryland. Students engage in interdisciplinary experiential training and research across a range of fields to prepare them to develop innovative, holistic solutions to the complex global health challenges of our time.
- **Setting all students up for success:** Our new, donor-funded Catalyst Initiative program is reducing barriers for aspiring health professionals by offering the mentorship and practical experience needed to achieve success in healthcare careers. (PHSC)



- **Making sense of timely issues:** An SPH doctoral class created a comprehensive, objective guide to key issues of the 2024 election, sharing factual information at a crucial time.

PILLAR 2: WE TAKE ON HUMANITY'S GRAND CHALLENGES

- **Understanding cancer risk:** With funding from the National Institutes of Health, SPH researchers are collaborating with other academic partners to investigate neighborhood-level influences – such as health care access – on cancer-related behaviors, including screening and tobacco use. (BCH)
- **Advancing research to support healthy aging:** In the HPM-led Center on Aging, which marked its 50th anniversary, a legacy of positive, productive research continues, with results showing links between childhood factors and aging, analysis of how new technology can improve care for Alzheimer's and other conditions and much more. The Center unites faculty and students across SPH and the UMD campus. (HPM, KNES, BCH, EPIB)
- **Leveraging AI to predict health threats of climate change:** Amid the increasing number of extreme weather events and related health risks, SPH researchers are employing AI to develop early warning systems to help communities prepare against disease outbreaks exacerbated by climate change. (EPIB)
- **Preventing infectious disease at the source:** SPH faculty and student researchers investigated occupational risks of avian influenza infection in Vietnam's live bird markets, preventing airborne infection with ventilation and germ-killing lights, and the near-total effectiveness of N95 and other types of masks at preventing COVID-19 particles from being released into the air. (GEOH)
- **Illuminating the benefits of exercise:** Experts in kinesiology are deepening understanding of the positive effects of exercise, including on cognition as people age. (KNES)

PILLAR 3: WE INVEST IN PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

- **Helping faculty researchers grow, thrive and contribute:** SPH provides professional development opportunities and hands-on pre-award review and submission assistance to help faculty secure research funding.
- **Expanding our community's global reach – and local collaboration:** With a State Department grant, SPH faculty of color and students from underrepresented groups, from both UMD and nearby HBCU Bowie State University, will enhance their global public health teaching and education during a study abroad trip to Rwanda.
- **Using AI for public health good:** SPH faculty and students are working with UMD computer scientists, using AI in developing a community simulator, aiming to help students and practitioners better understand and alleviate public health challenges. (O-PHPCE)



SPH UNIT KEY

Department of Behavioral and Community Health **(BCH)**

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics **(EPIB)**

Department of Family Science **(FMSC)**

Department of Global, Environmental, and Occupational Health **(GEOH)**

Department of Health Policy and Management **(HPM)**

Department of Kinesiology **(KNES)**

Public Health Science program **(PHSC)**

Office of Public Health Practice & Community Engagement **(O-PHPCE)**

PILLAR 4: WE PARTNER TO ADVANCE THE PUBLIC GOOD

- **Shaping the future of public health in Maryland:** More than 20 members of the SPH community are part of the Maryland Commission on Public Health and its workgroups. Led by Commission Co-chair Dean Boris Lushniak, the group – now halfway through the two-year project – will assess and make recommendations to improve state public health infrastructure and services.
- **Sharing life skills through physical activity:** LiFEsports, a first-in-Maryland program hosted by SPH in partnership with local Prince George's County agencies, taught life skills and leadership via sports in a free summer camp for underserved youth. (KNES)



- **Helping students statewide to curb substance use and promote mental health:** The Maryland Collaborative provides training, technical assistance and resources to 19 campuses in Maryland to promote the success of college students by addressing substance use and mental health issues. (BCH)
- **Creating space to heal families and our community:** SPH's Center for Healthy Families provides both clinical training for Couple and Family Therapy graduate students and a source of affordable therapeutic services for about 400 couples and families in the surrounding community. (FMSC)
- **Strengthening international partnerships:** With global education, practice and research opportunities, SPH's collaborations span seven continents and include community partners and universities. For example, through the U21 Health Research Exchange, we're connected to institutions worldwide, and our HPM-led efforts made us a featured team in the latest U21 Impact Report.

SPH FAST FACTS

TOP-TIER ACADEMICS

#22

National Ranking for
Schools of Public Health

#13

Among publicly funded
Schools of Public Health

Source: U.S. News and World Report, 2025

CUTTING-EDGE LEARNING ACROSS PUBLIC HEALTH

5

Undergraduate
majors

25

Graduate degrees
and certificates

\$22m+

Annual research funding

STUDENTS & FACULTY

~2,100

Undergraduates

~500

Graduate students

250+

Faculty and staff

WELCOMING AND EXPANSIVE COMMUNITY

61%

Students of color

28%

First generation college students

5 miles

to Washington, D.C., with research,
learning and collaboration opportunities
around the region and the world

HELP US FURTHER OUR MISSION. Contact Associate
Dean for Strategic Initiatives Amelia Arria at aarria@umd.edu.