Our department focuses on individual and community lifestyle behaviors and aspects of the social environment that affect our health. Practitioners and researchers in this field use theory and evidence-based practices to seek out ways to encourage people to make healthy choices. We prepare graduates to improve the health of communities through health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. By understanding the different aspects of behavioral and community health, students are able to actively engage with communities to develop approaches and solutions to everyday health issues.

Behavioral and community health also seeks to improve the public’s health through the application of social and behavioral sciences. Through studying behavior, graduates are able to not just understand disease, but also to modify the incidence, prevalence and mortality rates of many diseases that affect the communities in which we live. Additionally, community health specialists promote more efficient use of health services, the adoption of self-care practices, and participate actively in the design and implementation of health programs.

Our department works to establish community relationships that inform community interventions. Our faculty and students promote and foster active collaboration with researchers and community partners from many different specialties and institutions. By working with University of Maryland colleagues, we have established several partnerships and research and service centers that work to actively engage the community in health promotion activities.

Anagha Sridhara
BS ’14, MPH ’17
Project Coordinator,
University of Maryland
School of Public Health

“Behavioral and community health was a great fit for me because of the variety in its program. I have always been interested in many topics under the health umbrella—program planning, policy, health communications—and I got it all here.”
Graduate Degrees Offered

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Option for in-person or online degree (online option starts Fall 2019)

The MPH in Behavioral and Community Health program is designed to promote the development of behavioral and community health professionals who understand the science, theory, and practice of public health and can apply this knowledge toward the enhancement of health status in communities. Graduates in this 45-credit degree program, which can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, will participate in both academic and applied training in program planning and implementation, program evaluation, public policy analysis, research and management.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Doctoral candidates in Behavioral and Community Health will develop research skills essential to contributing to the scientific and professional literature in behavioral and community health. Additionally, students will learn how to evaluate the health needs of various populations and then go on to develop and evaluate interventions using a socioecological framework. This degree program emphasizes training in specific research skills and the ability to implement theoretical knowledge.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Behavioral and Community Health MPH and PhD graduates are being sought in the field of public health, especially in the area of behavioral science. Career opportunities abound in both the private and public sectors—in public health agencies, volunteer programs, in business and in industry.

SPH AT A GLANCE

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55% STUDENTS OF COLOR  
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