The Profession: Community Health and Human Services

School of Education
Department of Human Studies
Community Health and Human Services Program
Health education in the U.S. dates back to late 19th century with establishment of the first academic programs preparing school health educators.

Today 250+ academic programs in colleges and universities prepare health educators at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
Health educators promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health by assisting individuals and communities to adopt healthy behaviors, collect and analyze data to identify community needs prior to planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies, and environments.

Health educators serve as a resource to assist individuals, other professionals, or the community, and may administer fiscal resources for health education programs.
According to the BLS

- 5 out of 10 health educators work in health care and social assistance and an additional 2 out of 10 work in state and local government.

- Bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for entry level jobs, but many employers prefer to hire workers with a master's degree.

- Rapid job growth is expected, but the relatively small number of jobs in this occupation will limit the number of job openings.
Sample Job Titles

- Certified Diabetes Educator, Child Development Specialist, Clinical Instructor, Clinical Nurse Educator, Community Health Consultant, Community Health Education Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Health Educator, Health Promotion Specialist, Public Health Educator

- Community Health Program Representative (Community Health Program Rep), Community Health Promoter, Community Health Worker (CHW), Community Nutrition Educator, HIV CTS Specialist (HIV Counseling and Testing Services Specialist)

For more information:
www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm
**Human Services**

- Meets human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention as well as remediation of problems, and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations

- Promotes improved service delivery systems by addressing not only the quality of direct services, but also by seeking to improve accessibility, accountability, and coordination among professionals and agencies in service delivery
Social and human service assistants:

• Determine what type of help their clients need
• Work with clients and other professionals to develop a treatment plan
• Help clients get help with daily activities, such as eating and bathing
• Coordinate services provided to clients by their own or other organizations
• Research services available to their clients in their communities
• Help clients complete paperwork to apply for assistance programs
• Monitor clients to ensure that services are provided appropriately
According to the BLS

• Employment is projected to grow 22% from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.

• 2 out of 10 workers in human service and social assistance will work in individual and family services, an additional 2 out of 10 work in state and local government.

• Social and human service assistants held about 372,700 jobs in 2012

• Social and human service assistants help people get through difficult times or get additional support.
Sample Job Titles

Advocate, Caseworker, Community Coordinator, Family Support Worker, Home-based Assistant, Human Services Program Specialist, Mental Health Technician, Outreach Specialist, Social Services Assistant, Social Work Associate

For more information

For more information

Contact:

Dr Retta Evans, Program Coordinator
rrevans@uab.edu, 205-996-2701

http://www.uab.edu/education/humanstudies/chhs