

TPHA SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

Communicable Disease Section is a perfect fit for those who are concerned about reducing the spread of disease in our communities. Membership usually includes Disease Intervention Specialists, Public Health Reps, STD/HIV Program Managers, CDC Program Directors, HIV/AIDS Case Managers, Immunization Program Personnel, Tuberculosis Program Personnel, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Personnel and Arboviral Surveillance Program Personnel. At the annual TPHA meetings the section gives an up-to-date view for each region in the state of concerns with new programs, hot topics, new outreach programs, morbidity and success stories. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other communicable disease professionals, helpful advice for strategies on locating patients and dealing with disease burden and hints and quick tips on utilizing different programs to stop the progression of disease. No annual dues are required to be a member of the section.

Dental Section focuses on the prevention and control of oral diseases and recommends policy direction for oral health issues to meet the challenge to improve the oral health of all Tennesseans. The Dental Section is committed to promotion of effective efforts in disease prevention, health promotion, and service delivery; education of the public, health professionals, and decision-makers regarding the importance of oral health to total well-being; and expansion of the knowledge base of dental public health and promoting competency in its practice. Although members are primarily dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, membership is open to all individuals concerned with improving the oral health of the public. Membership provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and continuing education credit is available at the annual meeting. There are no annual section membership dues.

The Emergency Preparedness Section is open to those who are interested in promoting public health emergency planning and response. This includes but is not limited to:

- planning for response to disease outbreaks or acts of bioterrorism
- mass dispensing of antibiotics/vaccine
- response to natural disasters, including mass casualty planning
- public education regarding emergency planning
- planning for special needs populations
- continuity of operations in public health regions

As the scope of public health emergency preparedness has grown, so have the facets of planning. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Act, signed into law in December 2006, tasks public health, hospitals, emergency medical systems, and other entities with the improvement of public health security at the state and local level. As Tennessee moves forward with the responsibilities laid out in the act, the Emergency Preparedness Section will strive to have a positive impact on public health systems across the state by encouraging the development of strong all-hazards planning and support at all governmental and agency levels.

The Environmental Section is open to those who are involved or interested in promoting environmental health and safety in the areas of food safety, and other facilities used by the public such as hotels, swimming pools, bed and breakfast establishments, campgrounds, day care centers, and tattoo and body piercing studios. Members include environmental health specialists and other environmental professionals. The section provides speakers at the annual TPHA meetings, gives opportunities for Registered Environmental Health Specialists to earn CEU's, and presents the Lynn B. Heard Award for the "Environmentalist of the Year." The membership benefits include opportunities to network with other environmental health specialists and environmental industry professionals.

Epidemiology and Biostatistics Section, or computers and statistics section supports those TPHA members who serve the Public Health needs in Tennessee through statistical and information technology means. This includes those persons who work with health statistics and related data, epidemiological data, research, and health and information systems data and development--the 'numbers nerds' in the field of public health. Its purpose is to help keep section members aware of the latest development and issues in the health data area and to provide a means for those working in this area to network and interact with others doing the same. This section is open to anyone with an interest in the statistical, research, and informational aspects of public health work.

Health Administration Section. Membership in this section of the Tennessee Public Health Association includes those with leadership roles, and those who function in administrative capacities in support of leaders, at the local, regional or state-wide levels whose decision-making directly impacts the public health mission to promote, protect and improve the health of people and their communities. The primary objective is to create opportunities for improved decision-making through the exchange of professional views and experiences. The section is currently involved in long-range planning to create a road map for its future growth and success. Now is an ideal time to join this progressive group.

Health Promotion Section is open to those who are engaged or interested in promoting health in their local communities. Membership includes (but is not limited to) health educators, health promotion coordinators, community services directors, health council coordinators, wellness coordinators, social workers, collegiate faculty, and public school teachers. The section hosts speakers at annual TPHA meetings, and presents a "Public Health Educator of the Year" Award. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other health educators, leadership development opportunities, and a collective voice for legislative action. TPHA provides CEUs and/or Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) credits for attending this meeting.

Nursing Section is open to nursing personnel who are engaged in public health practice, in teaching and research in the field of health, or other nursing personnel who have demonstrated a genuine interest in the field of Public Health Nursing. Each year the nursing section recognizes outstanding nurses who excel in their work by presenting awards for "Excellence in Public Health Nursing Administration/Supervision/Management", "Excellence in Direct Public Health Nursing Service, and "Nursing Assistant of the Year". The section also awards an annual scholarship to help a nurse further his/her education. Membership in the nursing section is an excellent way to advocate for nursing and for the health of Tennessee's citizens. It is also a great forum to get to know your colleagues from across the great state of Tennessee.

Nutrition Section is open to those who are engaged or interested in promoting optimal nutrition as an integral part of better health. Membership includes registered dietitians, nutrition educators, breastfeeding counselors and WIC personnel. The section brings in speakers at annual TPHA meetings, provides CEUs for dietitians, and presents a "Public Health Nutritionist of the Year" award. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other nutrition professionals, a collective voice for legislative action, and leadership development opportunities. Annual dues are \$5.

Physician Section seeks to bring a public health and preventive medicine focus to the practice of medicine. The Section meets at least annually (during the annual TPHA conference), during which CME is provided. The Section invites any physician to participate who is interested in increasing knowledge and performance related to public health and preventive medicine practice. This invitation extends to other doctoral-level providers - such as veterinarians - who may not otherwise have a section home within TPHA.

Public Health Academics Section's mission is to provide a forum for those members of TPHA who are primarily involved with educating the next generation of public health and related-health professionals. The Academic Section will provide a venue for academicians to think collaboratively about best practices in education and teaching; to identify and support unique attributes of academic programs; to facilitate pathways to assure the translation of research and knowledge to practice; and, to facilitate networking opportunities for purposes of collaborative teaching, service, and research. Membership in the Academic Section will require

TPHA membership, and will primarily target members who are in academic positions in public health and related academic disciplines, including, but not limited to, nursing, medicine, and allied health.

The Vision Care Section is a new TPHA section sanctioned in 2014. The Vision Care Section welcomes those who are involved in or interested in promoting health and well-being with a specific emphasis on vision and eye health. Many worthy organizations continue to promote vision but the Vision Care Section is a chance to participate in a multi-disciplinary “public health” forum. Public health professionals such as individuals associated with charitable vision care organizations, school health providers, etc. as well as optometrists and ophthalmologists are encouraged to join the TPHA Vision Care Section. The Vision Care Section plans to serve as an advocate to support and endorse equality in, and access to, quality vision and eye health care, and to ensure that vision and eye health concerns are addressed and included in Tennessee public health policy. As a new section, opportunities abound for enthusiastic TPHA members to assume Section leadership positions and to help guide and direct the policies and goals of the new Vision Care Section as the Section establishes itself as a potential difference maker in the TPHA community and the Tennessee public health arena.