

Red White & Blue Jobs

Public Health Jobs

Using Your Health Sciences Skills
to Build a Stronger America



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

www.calltoserve.org



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Partnership for Public Service is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing public service through a campaign of educational efforts, policy research, public-private partnerships and legislative advocacy. By improving public understanding of and confidence in government, particularly among young people, the Partnership mission fills a critical and unique role by helping to recruit and retain excellence in the federal workforce.

Call to Serve is a national initiative, co-sponsored by the Partnership and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, that seeks to educate young people about the promise and potential of careers in public service. Its national network includes more than 500 colleges and universities, 60 federal agencies and 10 youth-oriented organizations.

Visit www.calltoserve.org to learn more about the opportunities available in the federal government.

Red, White and Blue Public Health Jobs: Using Your Skills to Ensure the Nation's Health

In 2003, a team of American genetics experts and other scientists from around the world completed a 13-year project that identified the location of all the genes that make us tick. That same year, U.S. Army medical researchers developed a new vaccine to fight the Ebola virus. What did these scientists have in common? They were employed by the federal government.

Federal employees such as biomedical researchers, public health specialists, nurses, physicians, dentists and many others bear a great deal of the responsibility for ensuring the health of the American public. Their contributions can have dramatic effects on the nation's health. Without our corps of federal health workers, hundreds of scientific breakthroughs that have occurred in public laboratories and hospitals across the country may never have come about. These are just some of their accomplishments on behalf of the American people:

- ◆ Identified the HIV virus in cooperation with French scientists.
- ◆ Conducted the first liver transplant in the world.
- ◆ Discovered the genes responsible for many cases of colon cancer, breast cancer and the most common type of kidney cancer.
- ◆ Eradicated smallpox.
- ◆ Proved that people suffering from heart disease can benefit from lowering their cholesterol.

★ Did You Know...

By 2010, the demand for biologists is expected to rise 20 percent.

"The most satisfying part has been the opportunity to take on responsibility and have a measurable impact on the groups we serve."

- MARISA DUARTE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Marisa Duarte
Health Insurance Specialist
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Marisa Duarte has used her Master's of Public Health degree to develop key partnerships with community-based organizations that serve those reliant on Medicare, the government's health insurance program for senior citizens. "I enjoy the many opportunities I have to engage the community and work on behalf of the underserved populations."

More than 143,000 individuals look out for and improve the collective health of the American public every day as doctors, nurses, epidemiologists, and public health workers for the federal government. To find out where they work and what they do, take a look at the graph below.

Top Agencies with Health Careers

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| VETERANS AFFAIRS | 97,385 |
| DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE | 22,064 |
| U.S. ARMY | 14,362 |
| U.S. NAVY | 4,524 |
| U.S. AIR FORCE | 3,078 |
| HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | 16,968 |
| INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE | 7,077 |
| FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION | 3,541 |
| NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH | 2,794 |
| CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL | 2,431 |
| DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | 3,039 |
| FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE | 1,271 |
| DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | 2,011 |
| BUREAU OF PRISONS | 1,949 |

(FULL-TIME PERMANENT POSITIONS AS OF JUNE 2003, FEDSCOPE)

★ Did You Know...

Through its laboratories or research it funds, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) carries out more medical research than any other federal agency. In its 27 Institutes and Centers, NIH employs nearly 15,000 people, including 900 tenured faculty and nearly 3,000 postdoctoral fellows.

“CDC controls assets that can save millions of lives. This is by far the most important work I’ve ever done in my life.”

– KEN ARCHER



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

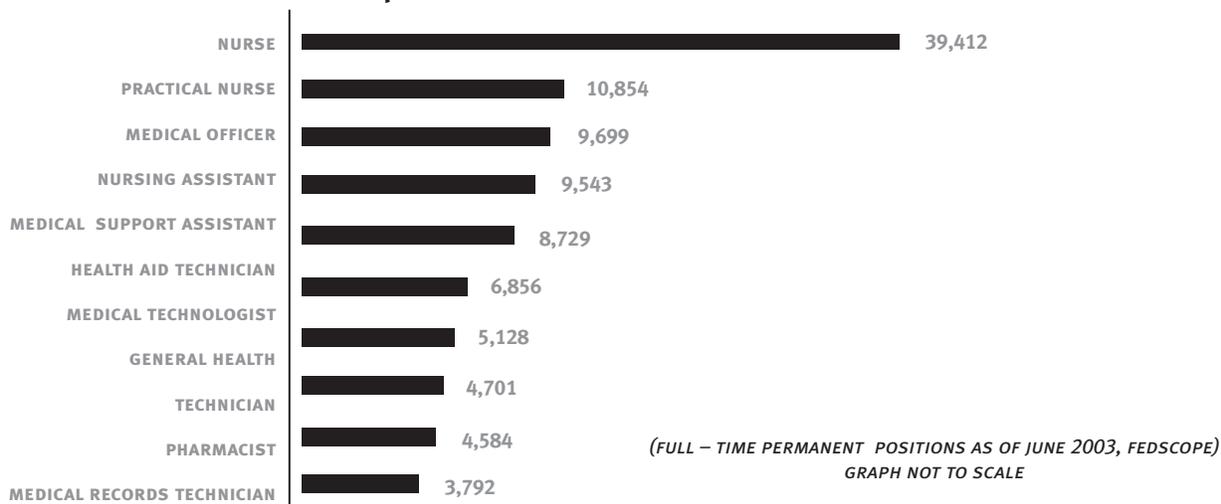
Ken Archer

Public Health Advisor, National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control

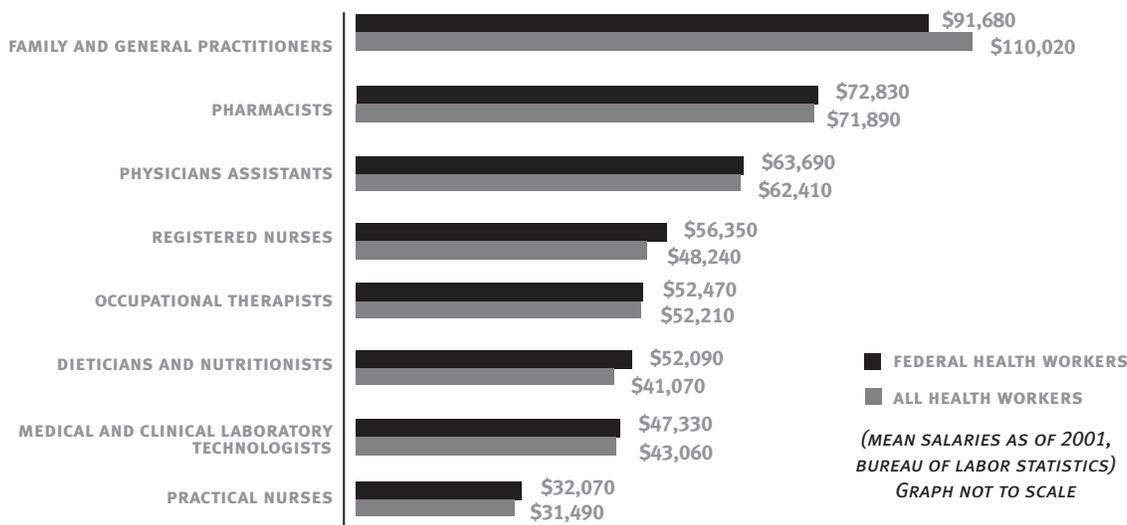
At 4:15 p.m. on September 11, 2001, Ken Archer was on the only non-military aircraft in U.S. airspace, guiding a 50-ton “push package” of life-saving pharmaceuticals, antidotes and other medical supplies and equipment from a top-secret National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) warehouse to New York City.

Archer was among the first CDC logistics experts, pharmacists and emergency responders deployed to New York City on 9/11. He worked closely with the New York City Emergency Management Agency, which had lost its entire operations center in the World Trade Center attacks.

Top Ten Health Careers in Government



What Do Health Care Workers in the Federal Government Earn?



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Gina Capra
*Operations Director, Boston Regional Office
 Health Resources and Services Administration*

Gina Capra entered federal service through the two-year Presidential Management Intern Program. She has applied her training in public administration and public health at HRSA, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services that works to make quality health care available to low income, uninsured, isolated, vulnerable and special needs populations. As Operations Director, she provides direct assistance to federally-funded community health centers and maternal and child health programs.

"It is energizing to work in partnership with the local community organizations and state agencies that are federally funded to provide top-quality, comprehensive and affordable healthcare to those who need services the most."

-GINA CAPRA

GETTING YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR

Internship, Fellowship and Scholarship Programs

Working part-time during the school year or during summers with a federal agency is a great way to explore a possible career path. Not only do you get a glimpse at what the work is like and have the chance to learn from a mentor, but, in many instances, having had that internship makes it much easier to get a full time job with the same organization after you graduate.



FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Your internship search should begin at www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.asp, but don't forget to check the Web sites of federal agencies that interest you. And of course, if you have a specific agency in mind but don't see an internship posted, call or visit the office to find out if they have internships – not all internships are publicized on the Internet!

The **Department of Veterans Affairs' Learning Opportunities Residency (VALOR)** offers clinical training for nursing students who have completed their junior year. The program lasts anywhere between three and 12 months. www.vacareers.com/l2_assistance.html

Junior or senior undergraduates of African American, Hispanic or Native American descent are eligible to apply for the **Center for Disease Control's Public Health Fellowship Program**. This eight week program allows students to learn about public health practices and attend seminars on pressing public health issues. www.cdc.gov/hrmo/train.htm

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds interested in biomedical or behavioral research can apply to the **NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program**. Each year, 15 recipients are provided up to \$20,000 over four years. Recipients must agree to accept a full-time position at the NIH after graduation. ugsp.info.nih.gov/

FOR UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES

One thousand high school, college and graduate students are selected each year (and paid a stipend) for the **National Institute of Health's Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research**. Most interns work for one of the NIH's centers at its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, but there are also laboratory positions available in Arizona, Montana and North Carolina. Past researchers have worked on issues such as hearing loss and childhood disease. www.training.nih.gov/student/internship/internship.asp

The new **Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program**, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, provides 100 award recipients with stipends and tuition for either a 2-year undergraduate scholarship or a 3-year graduate student fellowship. The program also includes internship opportunities and is open to students studying issues related to the United States' defense against terrorism, including psychology and science. www.orau.gov/dhsed

The **Department of Veterans Affairs' Research Experience Program** encourages undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs and faculty from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Native American-Serving Colleges to participate in ongoing VA health services research. hsrd.research.va.gov/about/professionaldevelopment.rep.cfm

★ Did You Know...

The Indian Health Service (IHS) provides health services to nearly 1.6 million American Indians and Alaskan Natives who belong to more than 557 federally recognized tribes in 35 states. The IHS mission is unique – to ensure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indians and Alaskan Natives while still protecting the sovereign rights of tribes.

FOR GRADUATES AND PROFESSIONALS

JRCOSTEP is a paid summer program that introduces students to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, which provides highly-trained and mobile health professionals in times of national or international emergencies. Students enrolled full-time in a professionally-accredited baccalaureate health related field such as dietetics, physician assistant training, nursing, pharmacology, therapy, as well as those in medical, dental or veterinary school may be eligible for JRCOSTEP. JRCOSTEP participants work in the health agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services or other federal agencies utilizing these health backgrounds.

www.usphs.gov/html/jrcostep.html

The **Intramural Research Training Award Fellowship** allows recent graduates to take one year off between college and medical school to conduct research with leading NIH scientists. Fellows must have already been accepted to a graduate or medical school and must have the ability to defer their enrollment. www.training.nih.gov/student/Pre-IRTA/irtamanualinterim.asp

Every year, 42 students from medical and dental schools participate in the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Scholars Program** and spend nine months to a year conducting biomedical research with senior NIH scientists. Scholars are also eligible for a scholarship financing their remaining year or two of medical or dental school.

www.hhmi.org/research/cloister/index.html

The **Department of Veterans Affairs** provides postdoctoral training programs at VA facilities around the country for those with an MD, PhD or MI (Medical Informatics) background.

www.hsrd.research.va.gov/about/professional_development/training_post_doc.cfm

These opportunities are just the tip of the iceberg.

For more information, visit www.calltoserve.org.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Denise Johnson

Deputy Branch Chief, Polio Eradication Branch

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The list of diseases modern medicine eradicated contains only one name: smallpox. By 2008, Denise Johnson hopes to add polio to that list.

Johnson has spent the past four years as deputy chief of the Polio Eradication Branch at the CDC, the most recent part of a 25-year career in public service. Her vast experience made her an ideal candidate for the position, where her resolve and leadership is helping to rid the world of the insidious polio virus.

Johnson has done work in some of the most challenging areas of the world, places like Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ethiopia and India. She manages staff in 17 different countries, all set on resolving this global health concern. Since approximately two thirds of polio's victims are children under two, Johnson's work is helping to safeguard the health of our future.

★ Did You Know...

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cares for more than 26 million veterans through a health care system made up of 163 hospitals. Nearly every state has one. The VA runs one of the largest health care systems in the world and manages the largest health professions training program in the United States.

A SAMPLING OF HEALTH JOBS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For federal jobs in the health professions, www.usajobs.opm.gov is a great place to begin your search. Because it's administered by the federal government's human resources agency (the U.S. Office of Personnel Management), the USAJOBS listing is frequently updated. It also includes a resume builder tool and can direct you to the federal jobs that best match your interests and training.

Next, visit the Web sites of the agencies that most interest you. There you can learn more about the array of recruitment and training programs that different agencies offer and look for current job openings that may not be posted on the USAJOBS site.

★ Did You Know...

On an average day, the Army Medical Department conducts 37,217 clinic visits, 6,400 dental visits, provides 5,462 immunizations and manages 63 births?

★ Did You Know...

Clinicians and researchers at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) currently conduct more than 10,000 research projects at 115 VA medical centers. The VA is also America's largest single employer of clinical psychologists and the largest training site for psychology interns.

The **Emerging Leaders Program** at the Department of Health and Human Services is a two-year opportunity for graduating students to work with government executives, researchers and policy makers. Applicants must be pursuing a career in science, public health, social sciences, information technology or administration. www.hhs.gov/jobs/elp/

Registered nurses with medical or surgical experience interested in oncology nursing can participate in the **Oncology Nursing Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health**. Nurses attend classes on topics such as chemotherapy and work directly with patients at the NIH Clinical Center. www.cc.nih.gov/nursing/profopp/educationtraining.html

At the **Bureau of Prisons**, candidates with a bachelor's degree in medical technology, physical therapy, nursing or another related health care occupation can serve as a physician's assistant. Physicians' assistants provide diagnostic and therapeutic medical care and services to inmates in Federal prisons. www.bop.gov/

The National Research Council places postdoctoral candidates in the **Research Associateship Program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research** as guest researchers. The main laboratory is located in Silver Spring, Maryland, though the Institute has facilities in Texas, Kenya and Thailand as well. wrair-www.army.mil/TrainingProgram/AssociateProgram.htm

The **Public Health Nurse Internship Program** allows nurses to travel the country working with different tribal groups while receiving specialized training. Over 2,500 nurses work in the clinics, hospitals and community outreach programs maintained by the IHS. www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Nursing/nursing-phn-intern.asp

The **Food and Drug Administration's Medical Officer Training Program** at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research gives participants insight into the Center's role in accomplishing its mission of food safety. Prior experience in public health is preferable to enter the program, but recent graduates are also eligible. www.fda.gov/cder/Offices/OPaSS/fellowship.htm

The Centers for Disease Control's **Public Health Prevention Service** is a 3-year service and training program for graduates with advanced degrees in public health or related fields. Prevention Specialists do rotations with the CDC, state or local health agencies. Those in the global track also travel and work with international partners. The PHPS provides the opportunity for hands-on work on public health issues such as immunization, HIV/AIDS prevention, and environmental health. www.cdc.gov/epo/dapht/phps.htm

Through the **Indian Health Services Pharmacy Residency Programs**, pharmacy students can spend a year working on a reservation in one of twelve community-based health programs. www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/pharmacy/Resident/resprgm.asp

The **Department of Veterans Affairs Special Fellowships Program** is a two-year opportunity for medical school graduates interested in innovative career paths. Fellows conduct research in advanced fields such as substance abuse treatment and Multiple Sclerosis research. www.va.gov/oaa/specfellow_default.asp

The **Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Fellows Program** recruits biologists, epidemiologists, risk assessment scientists and microbiologists for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. Fellows design and support scientific investigations, studies and projects in various fields related to food safety and public health. Two-year fellowships are awarded to recent doctoral graduates. www.fsis.usda.gov/OM/HRD/fellows/default.htm

The **Preventive Medicine Residency** provides training for young physicians to pursue future leadership roles in the government. Projects in the 12-month program range from evaluating public health programs to participating in community-based public health interventions. www.cdc.gov/epo/dapht/pmr.htm



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Marc Zerwic

Lead Psychologist

Department of Veterans Affairs, Chicago Healthcare System

Dr. Marc Zerwic manages 21 doctoral level psychologists who provide services at the two local centers and outpatient clinics. He also manages an Addictions Assessment Clinic that serves as the entry point for the treatment of alcohol and other drugs. His position offers him the opportunity to provide direct clinical services to patients with addictive disorders and other serious mental illnesses.

“The VA has been, and continues to be, my career direction, as it provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with world-class professionals to serve a special group of people – the veterans who stood in harm’s way so that all of us can live in a free society.”

- DR. MARC ZERWIC

Government Health Careers by Major

BIOLOGY

General Biological Scientists
Entomologists
Fishery Biologists
Microbiologists
Range Conservationists
Wildlife Biologists
Zoologists

CHEMISTRY

Chemical Engineers
Chemists
Consumer Safety Officers
Environmental Engineers
Food Technologists
Health Physicists
Intelligence Specialists
Toxicologists

DIETETICS AND NUTRITION

Dietitians
Food Technologists
Nutritionists

EDUCATION

Public Health Educators

ENGINEERING

Biomedical Engineers

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Environmental Health Technicians
General Health Scientists
Industrial Hygienists
Microbiologists

FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND SAFETY

Consumer Safety Inspectors
Consumer Safety Officers
Dietitian and Nutritionists
Food Assistance Program Specialists
Food Technologists
Toxicologists

HEALTH

Environmental Health Technicians
General Health Scientists
Health Physicists
Health System Administrators
Health System Specialists
Industrial Hygienists
Public Health Programs Specialists
Safety and Occupational Health Management Specialists

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Officers
Health System Administrators
Health System Specialists
Hospital Housekeepers
General Health Scientists
Public Health Programs Specialists
Miscellaneous Administration and Programs Specialists

MEDICAL SUPPORT

Diagnostic Radiological Technicians
Medical Instrument Technicians
Medical Record Technicians
Medical Technicians
Nuclear Medicine Technicians
Pathology Technicians
Therapeutic Radiological Technicians

NURSING

Nurses
Physician's Assistants

PHARMACY

Consumer Safety Inspectors
Consumer Safety Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacologists



PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental Health Technicians
Food Assistance Program Specialists
Food Inspectors
Health System Administrators
Health System Specialists
Industrial Hygienists
Public Health Program Specialists
Public Health Educators
Social Insurance Administrators
Veterans Claims Examiners

REHABILITATION THERAPY

Corrective Therapists
Manual Arts Therapists
Occupational Therapists
Physical Therapists
Prosthetic Representatives
Rehabilitation Therapy Assistants

★ Did You Know...

All NIH employees engaged in AIDS research are eligible to have up to \$20,000 of their loans repaid per year while continuing their research on AIDS development, therapies and possible vaccines.

★ Did You Know...

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has developed new Emergency Response Teams that can be ready to respond to public health emergencies on a 24/7 basis. In the past year, more than 500 CDC staff members have been trained in emergency response.

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Call to Serve has developed a collection of easy-to-use materials for job seekers and career services offices about job opportunities in the federal government. With information about federal government employers, the Red, White and Blue Jobs book will provide you with the how and why to work for Uncle Sam. Download the Red, White and Blue Jobs book and other resources or order a copy today at www.calltoserve.org.

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