

# Professional Public Health Associations in USA; an Overview

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**Abstract** This is a concise overview in a table format for the current membership-based Public Health Associations in USA. These Associations served several functions in the interests of practitioners and the people. Publishing periodicals and arranging conferences were possible because of the support of these societies. However, there is always a potential for improving the educational activities of these Associations. Researches are needed to investigate how these associations can serve the professionals and the community at the best level.

**Keywords:** association, education, public health

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Professional public health societies and associations play important roles for the professionals and the communities. They are also involved in making health policies and standards [1,2].

There are many professional public health associations in USA [3-8]. Some of these organizations have a broad or

comprehensive public health focus, like the American Public Health Association (APHA) (<https://www.apha.org/>), while others have been created to serve specialty areas, such as the Society of Public Health Educators (SOPHE) (<http://www.sophe.org/>). In Table 1, we listed selected Public health associations in USA.

**Table 1. Selected Professional Public Health Associations in USA (listed alphabetically):**

The Association	The year of Establishment	Current President	Website
Alabama Public Health Association (AIPHA)	1957	Tim Hatch	<a href="http://alphassoc.org/home/">http://alphassoc.org/home/</a>
Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA)	1978	Lisa Aquino	<a href="http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/">http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/</a>
Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA)	1928	Tracy Lenartz	<a href="http://www.azpha.org/">http://www.azpha.org/</a>
Arkansas Public Health Association	1947	Loy Bailey	<a href="http://www.arkpublichealth.org/">http://www.arkpublichealth.org/</a>
Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA)	1938	Burke Fishburn	<a href="http://www.coloradopublichealth.org/">http://www.coloradopublichealth.org/</a>
Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA)	1916	Brittany Allen	<a href="http://www.cpha.info/">http://www.cpha.info/</a>
Delaware Public Health Association (DPHA)	2013	Omar Khan	<a href="http://de-pha.org/">http://de-pha.org/</a>
Eastern District North Carolina Public Health Association	1960	Len Gilstrap	<a href="http://edncpha.com/">http://edncpha.com/</a>
Florida Public Health Association (FPHA)	1889	Gregory Danyluk	<a href="http://fpha.org/">http://fpha.org/</a>
Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA)	1945	Nancy S. Partika	<a href="http://www.hawaiipublichealth.org/">http://www.hawaiipublichealth.org/</a>
Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA)	1952	Conrad Colby	<a href="http://www.ipha.wildapricot.org/">http://www.ipha.wildapricot.org/</a>
Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA)	1925	Barbara Chadwick	<a href="http://www.iowapha.org/">http://www.iowapha.org/</a>
Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA)	1920	Mark Thompson	<a href="http://www.kpha.us/">http://www.kpha.us/</a>
Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA)	1949	Crissy Rowland	<a href="http://www.kpha-ky.org/">http://www.kpha-ky.org/</a>
Louisiana Public Health Association (LPHA)	1948	Takeisha Davis	<a href="http://www.lpha.org/">http://www.lpha.org/</a>
Maine Public Health Association (MPHA)	1984	Doug Michael	<a href="http://www.mainepublichealth.org/">http://www.mainepublichealth.org/</a>
Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)	1897	Hoai-An Truong	<a href="http://mdpha.org/">http://mdpha.org/</a>
Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)	1879	Deborah Dickerson	<a href="http://www.mphaweb.org/">http://www.mphaweb.org/</a>
Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA)	1919	Christi Demitz	<a href="https://www.mipha.org/">https://www.mipha.org/</a>

Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA)	1907	Kristen Godfrey Walters	<a href="http://www.mpha.net/">http://www.mpha.net/</a>
Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA)	1936	Ron Davis	<a href="http://www.mspha.org/">http://www.mspha.org/</a>
Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA)	1925	Linda Cooperstock	<a href="http://www.mopha.org/">http://www.mopha.org/</a>
New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA)	1990	Katie Robert	<a href="http://nhpha.org/">http://nhpha.org/</a>
New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA)	1875	Oliver Lontok	<a href="http://njpha.org/">http://njpha.org/</a>
New Mexico Public Health Association (NMPHA)	1917	David Broudy and Erin Engelbrecht	<a href="http://www.nmpa.org/">http://www.nmpa.org/</a>
New York State Public Health Association (NYSPHA)	1950	Michael Seserman	<a href="http://nyspha.roundtablelive.org/">http://nyspha.roundtablelive.org/</a>
North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies	1995	Jerry Parks	<a href="http://www.ncapha.org/">http://www.ncapha.org/</a>
North Carolina Public Health Association	1909	Lisa Harrison	<a href="https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/">https://ncpha.memberclicks.net/</a>
Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA)	1925	Claire Boettler	<a href="https://www.ohiopha.org/">https://www.ohiopha.org/</a>
Oklahoma Public Health Association (OPHA)	1939	Brenda Potts	<a href="http://www.opha.net/">http://www.opha.net/</a>
Oregon Public Health Association (OPHA)	1944	Lila Wickham	<a href="http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/">http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/</a>
Public Health nurses association of Colorado (PHNAC)	2000	Joni Reynolds	<a href="http://www.phnac.org/">http://www.phnac.org/</a>
South Dakota Public Health Association (SDPHA)	1939	Kimberly Wilson-Sweebe	<a href="http://sdpublichealth.org/">http://sdpublichealth.org/</a>
Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA)	1939	Matt McDaniel	<a href="http://www.tnpublichealth.org/">http://www.tnpublichealth.org/</a>
Texas Public Health Association (TPHA)	1923	James Swan	<a href="http://www.texaspha.org/">http://www.texaspha.org/</a>
Utah Public Health Association (UPHA)	1916	dexter pearce	<a href="https://www.upha.org/">https://www.upha.org/</a>
Vermont Public Health Association (VtPHA)	2002	Penrose Jackson	<a href="http://www.vtpha.org/">http://www.vtpha.org/</a>
Virginia Public Health Association (VAPHA)	1950	Dev Nair	<a href="http://vapha.org/">http://vapha.org/</a>
Washington State Public Health Association	1921	Jack Thompson	<a href="http://www.wspha.org/">http://www.wspha.org/</a>
Wyoming Public Health Association (WPHA)	1989	Joe Grandpre	<a href="http://www.wyomingpha.org/">http://www.wyomingpha.org/</a>

The objectives of Public health associations are many. But they concentrate on education and training of the professionals. These associations improve the health through leadership, collaboration, mentoring and advocacy. Public health associations are protecting the communities through disease surveillance, ensuring a safer environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

Formation of public health Associations in USA started from as early as eighteen centuries. All the states have their own public health association. All these associations are affiliated to APHA, with Vermont State the last to join.

APHA is one of the oldest and largest public health professional organizations, working to improve public health since 1872 [5,6,7,8]. APHA is the national voice of public health .APHA publishes the American Journal of Public Health and The Nation's Health, convenes an Annual Meeting and Exposition [5,6,7,8].

APHA claims over 50,000 members, from over 50 occupations of public health from throughout the world.

While APHA is the national voice on public health, it could not succeed without the complementary efforts of its Affiliates. Since 1918, APHA's 54 state and regional public health associations have championed the same goals as APHA to promote, protect and advocate for the public's health.

This manuscript is just an overview; however, there is an obvious need for more studies to evaluate the activities of these Associations and to find a better ways for these Associations to improve their performance.

Each Association has to find the best tools to encourage all the members to be active. Women and young doctors, in particular, should find a place in the executive committees of these societies.

Membership of these associations should not be limited to doctors and should be extended to health educators, vternians [9], nurses [10], community leaders and citizens committed to improving the health.

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