

California Department of Public Health General Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency

Fact Sheet

Mission

To develop public health physicians who can provide strong leadership in California public health agencies.

Program Background

The General Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency (GPM/PH) is a two-year program for physicians to gain knowledge, skill and experience in preventive medicine and public health under the direction of a practicing public health physician in California health departments.

GPM/PH was established in 1980 in response to the California Conference of Local Health Officers' recognition of the need for California-trained public health physicians.

GPM/PH is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to provide a post-graduate year (PGY) 2 that leads to a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and a PGY3 that provides public health experience and the opportunity to achieve the competencies needed by a public health physician.

For the current year, the preferred program for PGY2 Residents to complete their MPH coursework is the University of California, Davis. Placement of PGY 3 residents with experienced public health physician preceptors throughout the state provides the residents with practical public health experience. Upon completion of the training, physicians are eligible to obtain board certification in the specialty of General Preventive Medicine/Public Health. Graduates have found employment in public health departments, academic public health, and public health foundations.

Statistics

Between 1980 to 2013 timeframe:

- 109 graduates
- Two thirds work within the state of California*
 - 78% of those work in local or state public health agencies, public health institutes, community clinics serving underrepresented populations, or at academic institutions conducting research related to Preventive Medicine
- Four current California County Health Officers and one Assistant Local Health Officer
- 90% of graduates in the past five years have become board certified in preventive medicine or a related specialty.

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*Totals and percentages based on those graduates who have not retired or passed away.