Are you interested in pursuing a job in a health field? The federal government offers a variety of opportunities for individuals with knowledge and skills in nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy, veterinary science, dentistry and more. For example, physical therapists help wounded warriors regain their capabilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs, public health advisors coordinate responses to potential epidemics at the Centers for Disease Control and prevention and health scientists research the impact of pollution at the Environmental Protection Agency.

This guide will give you a glimpse of the type of medical and public health jobs available in the government. For more information about searching and applying for positions in the federal government, visit gogovernment.org

Medical and Public Health Positions by Region

Top Medical and Public Health Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Number of Current Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>61,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Officer</td>
<td>16,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Nurse</td>
<td>15,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Support Assistance</td>
<td>15,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistant</td>
<td>11,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Aid and Technician</td>
<td>10,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Health Science</td>
<td>7,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>6,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Technologist</td>
<td>5,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy Technician</td>
<td>5,202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: fedscope.opm.gov

Top Agencies with Employees in Medical and Public Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Number of Current Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>145,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>25,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health And Human Services</td>
<td>19,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>7,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>4,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>2,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>2,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: fedscope.opm.gov
SEARCH FOR MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH POSITIONS

With so many opportunities to use your medical and public health skills, it may be helpful to sort positions by job category. The most common categories are listed below. You can search USAJOBS.gov using these keywords or by using the job series code, a four-digit number corresponding to a government job category.

Job Categories

0601 General Health Science
0602 Medical Officer
0603 Physician’s Assistant
0610 Nurse
0621 Nursing Assistant
0633 Physical Therapist
0644 Medical Technologist
0660 Pharmacist
0665 Speech Pathology and Audiology
0680 Dental Officer
0685 Public Health Program Specialist
0701 Veterinary Medical Science

Search Tips

As the nation’s largest employer, the federal government has thousands of positions open at any one time. Here are our top tips for finding the right job announcements for you:

1. **Do Your Research.**
   Explore a variety of positions and agencies, then focus your search to a few that align best with your interests and skills.

2. **Visit Agency Websites.**
   Learn more about an agency’s mission, structure and current hiring on their website.

3. **Create an account on USAJOBS.gov**
   Save your job searches, build your resume and search for positions at USAJOBS.gov

Did You Know?

- Nearly 70 percent of federal employees in the medical and public health field work for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- In fiscal 2010, the federal government hired over 12,000 nurses and nursing assistants.
- The federal government employs more than 2,300 veterinarians and animal health technicians, 89 percent of whom work for the Department of Agriculture.

Examples of Job Positions

**Pharmacist (0660)**
Department: Department of the Army
Agency: Army Medical Command
Salary Range: $86,300–$104,400/year
Location: San Antonio, Texas

As a Pharmacist, you will:
- Provide authoritative instructions, advice and assistance to prescribing and dispensing officials on the effectiveness of available drugs
- Monitor the dispensing of all pharmaceuticals and analyze patterns and trends to determine appropriate, effective, and economical prescribing and dispensing of drugs
- Develop, with the attending physician, pharmacotherapeutic regimens for especially difficult or complex cases in the Emergency Department

**Medical Instrument Technician (0649)**
Department: Department of Veterans Affairs
Agency: Veterans Health Administration
Salary Range: $38,700–$61,600/year
Location: Lebanon, Pennsylvania

As a Medical Instrument Technician, you will:
- Perform patient instruction and education
- Perform tests and monitor multiple physiological data
- Troubleshoot polysomnographic recording equipment

Visit us online at gogovernment.org/health
Learn more about finding a government job or internship in health and about:

- The Application Process
- Federal Agencies
- Pay and Benefits
- Writing a Federal Resume
- Security Clearances
- Searching for Positions
- USAJOBS.gov
- Internships
- Employee Profiles