The Department of Public Health Sciences
Who we are... at the U.Va. School of Medicine

Committed to improving population health and clinical care

The Department of Public Health Sciences, established in 1995, brings a unique, interdisciplinary approach to population health and clinical research, and to the generation, management and interpretation of basic science, clinical and health-related information.

Department faculty collaborate on research with clinicians throughout the U.Va. Health System and serve as a bridge not only to faculty across the University but also to the community at large.

A robust education program offers two graduate and multiple dual professional degrees, as well as provides education in clinical and population research and public health to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

Transforming data into knowledge... action into measured outcomes

The Department has five sections of expertise that enhance intellectual exchange and collaboration among faculty and professional research staff:

- Outcomes Research, Comparative Effectiveness & Quality
- Population Health and Community Research
- Biostatistics
- Health Policy, Management & Regulation
- Data Science & Biomedical Informatics
What we do...

Fostering leadership and innovation

Championing collaborations with clinicians, researchers, communities, and policymakers to undertake innovative research, develop educational opportunities, and inform evidence-based, equitable decisions about clinical care and population health policy.

Advancing science across a wide spectrum of basic, clinical, translational, and population health research, from genetics and cancer to obesity and tobacco use prevention, and from women’s health promotion to the built environment.

population health research

Collaboration and consultation offered by Department faculty provide expertise in research methods to improve health outcomes for patient populations and the quality of health services, including risk assessment, modeling, clinical trials, large secondary database analyses as well as the following:

- Biostatistics
- Study design
- Data analysis
- Database development and data management
- Evaluation methods
- Health policy analysis
- Comparative effectiveness
- Cost effectiveness
- Qualitative research
- Software usability or task analysis
- Survey research
- Grant proposal writing
Nurturing interdisciplinary research

The Department of Public Health Sciences faculty provide leadership and often conduct much of their research through a number of affiliated centers and institutes that focus the intellectual energies of investigators and educators from numerous disciplines and perspectives on particular health-related issues:

- Cancer Center
- Center for Health Policy
- Center for Public Health Genomics
- Data Sciences Institute
- Center for Global Health
- Surgical Outcomes Research Center
- Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life
- Virginia Center for Translational and Regulatory Science
- Center for Biomedical Ethics

Realizing our vision with data

Department expertise on clinical outcomes analysis supports the University of Virginia Health System's value of: “Excellence, to work at the highest level of performance with a commitment to continuous quality improvement.”

- Clinical Data Repository is a web-accessible data warehouse. With more than 20 years of data, it provides direct access to detailed, flexible and rapid retrospective views of de-identified patient encounters at U.Va.’s Health System.
- Be Smart, a quality and performance improvement education program, provides training and academic coursework in collaboration with the UVA Be Safe initiative. Students work with dynamic, multidisciplinary healthcare teams to advance the science of patient safety and quality.
An interprofessional experience

Dual Degree Programs are offered by the Department with other top-ranked professional schools at the University.

- JD/MPH with the School of Law
- MBA/MPH with the Darden School of Business
- MD/MPH with the School of Medicine
- MPP/MPH with the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy

An accelerated degree program is offered to U.Va. undergraduates allowing them to complete two degrees in five years.

- 4 + 1 Undergraduate - MPH Program
Other educational programs

In addition to the degree programs, the Department of Public Health Sciences also collaborates on public health and health policy education with multiple U.Va. programs and students:

- **Undergraduate Medical Education** | Medical Students
- **Graduate Medical Education** | Residents and Fellows
- **Advanced Studies in Bioethics** | Graduate and Undergraduate Students; Residents and Fellows
- **Global Public Health Major in the Global Development Studies Program** | Undergraduate Students
- **Human Biology Major** | Undergraduate Students

Field partnerships

Department faculty, particularly through the MPH program, value and support collaborative community partnerships on public health projects, population health research, and community interventions.

Through field work and service, students gain practical experience by applying public health skills and knowledge in their placements at a wide variety of national and international organizations in the health sector.

Contact us

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