

## LEARNING ABOUT CAREERS

### USING AND ADAPTING TEXTS FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK



1. **SELECT THE MATERIAL FOR YOUR LEARNERS' LEVEL**
2. **REFLECT:** *Would this material be relevant to your learners? Why or why not?*
3. **Assuming the content is relevant:**
  - **What would you pre-teach?**
  
  - **What would you ask about the chart?**
  
  - **What could learners do with the chart?**
  
  - **What would you ask about the pictures?**
  
  - **What could learners do with the pictures?**
  
  - **How would you have learners attack the reading?**
  
  - **What type of follow up task could you imagine using?**

LEVEL A- BEGINNING MATERIALS

## HEALTH EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS



A health educator works with a patient.

Health Educators and Community Health Workers	
Salary	 <b>\$41,830 per year</b> <b>\$20.11 per hour</b>
Education	 <b>Bachelor's degree, certification</b>
Number of jobs in 2012	<b>99,400</b>
Number of jobs in 2022	<b>120,800</b>

**LEVEL B- LOW INTERMEDIATE MATERIAL**

**Quick Facts: Health Educators and Community Health Workers**

2012 Median Pay	<b>\$41,830 per year; \$20.11 per hour</b>
Entry-Level Education	<b>Bachelor's Degree, Certification</b>
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	<b>None</b>
On-the-job Training	<b>Brief period. Depends on setting.</b>
Number of Jobs, 2012	<b>99,400</b>
Job Outlook, 2012-22 Employment Change, 2012-22	<b>21% (Faster than average) 21,400</b>



**Health educators and community health workers teach people about the importance of healthy behaviors.**



**Health educators often work in hospitals. They help patients understand and adjust to their diagnosis.**

## LEVEL C- HIGH INTERMEDIATE MATERIALS

from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm#tab-1>

### What Health Educators and Community Health Workers Do

Health educators teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities. Community health workers collect data and discuss health concerns with members of specific populations or communities.



### Work Environment

Health educators and community health workers work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nonprofit organizations, government, doctors' offices, private businesses, and colleges. They generally work full time.



### How to Become a Health Educator or Community Health Worker

Health educators need a bachelor's degree. Many employers require the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential. Requirements for community health workers vary, although they typically have at least a high school diploma and must complete a brief period of on the job training. Some states have certification programs for community health workers.

### Pay

In May 2012, the median annual wage for health educators was \$48,790. The median annual wage for community health workers was \$34,620 in May 2012.

### Job Outlook

Employment of health educators and community health workers is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and to reduce healthcare costs by teaching people about healthy habits and behaviors and utilization of available health care services.

## LEVEL D AND E MATERIALS (ADVANCED ESL AND ASE)

From <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm#tab-2>

# What Health Educators and Community Health Workers Do

Health educators and community health workers educate people about the availability of healthcare services. Health educators teach people about behaviors that promote wellness. They develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities. Community health workers provide a link between the community and health educators and other healthcare workers and develop and implement strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities. They collect data and discuss health concerns with members of specific populations or communities. Although the two occupations often work together, responsibilities of health educators and community health workers are distinct.



### DUTIES

#### Health educators typically do the following:

- Assess the needs of the people and communities they serve
- Develop programs and events to teach people about health topics
- Teach people how to cope with or manage existing health conditions
- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and educational materials
- Help people find health services or information
- Provide training programs for other health professionals or community health workers
- Supervise staff who implement health education programs
- Collect and analyze data to learn about their audience and improve programs and services
- Advocate for improved health resources and policies that promote health.

#### Community health workers do the following:

- Provide outreach and discuss health care concerns with community members
- Educate people about the importance and availability of healthcare services, such as cancer screenings
- Collect data
- Report findings to health educators and other healthcare providers
- Provide informal counseling and social support
- Conduct outreach programs
- Ensure that people have access to the healthcare services they need
- Advocate for individual and community

The duties of health educators, who are sometimes called health education specialists, vary with their work settings. Most work in health care facilities, colleges, public health departments, nonprofits, and private businesses. Health educators who teach health classes in middle and high schools are considered teachers.

In *health care facilities*, health educators may work one-on-one with patients and their families. They teach patients about their diagnoses and about any necessary treatments or procedures. They may be called patient navigators because they help consumers find out about their health insurance options and direct people to outside resources, such as support groups and home health agencies. They lead hospital efforts in community health improvement. Health educators in health care facilities also help organize health screenings, such as blood pressure checks, and health classes on topics such as installing a car seat correctly. They also create programs to train medical staff to interact better with patients. For example, they may teach doctors how to explain complicated procedures to patients in simple language.

In *colleges*, health educators create programs and materials on topics that affect young adults, such as smoking and alcohol use. They may train students to be peer educators and supervise the students' delivery of health

information in person or through social media. Health educators also advocate for campus wide policies to promote health.

In *public health departments*, health educators administer public health campaigns on topics such as emergency preparedness, immunizations, proper nutrition or stress management. They develop materials to be used by other public health officials. During emergencies, they may provide safety information to the public and the media. Some health educators work with other professionals to create public policies that support healthy behaviors and environments. They may also oversee grants and grant funded programs to improve the health of the public. Some participate in statewide and local committees dealing with topics such as aging.

In *nonprofits* (including community health organizations), health educators create programs and materials about health issues for the community that their organization serves. They help organizations obtain funding and other resources. Many nonprofits focus on a particular disease or audience, so health educators in these organizations limit programs to that specific topic or audience. For example, a health educator may design a program to teach people with diabetes how to better manage their condition or a program for teen mothers on how to care for their newborns. In addition, health educators may educate policymakers about ways to improve public health and work on securing grant funding for programs to promote health and disease awareness.

In *private businesses*, health educators identify common health problems among employees and create programs to improve health. They work with management to develop incentives for employees to adopt healthy behaviors, such as losing weight or controlling cholesterol. Health educators recommend changes to the workplace, such as creating smoker free areas, to improve employee health.

Community health workers have an in-depth knowledge of the communities they serve. They identify health related issues that affect a community, they collect data, and they discuss health concerns with the people they serve. For example, they may help eligible residents of a neighborhood enroll in programs such as Medicaid or Medicare, explaining the benefits that these programs offer. Community health workers address any barriers to care and provide referrals for such needs as food, housing, education, and mental health services.

Community health workers report their findings to health educators and healthcare providers so that the educators can create new programs or adjust existing programs or events to better suit the demands of their audience. Community health workers also advocate for the health needs of community members. In addition, they conduct outreach to engage community residents, assist residents with health system navigation, and to improve care coordination.