

Public health genetics applies genetic and genomics information to improve public health and prevent disease.

Public Health Genetics Framework



Monitor health status to identify community health problems

Genetics examples:

Respond to public health emergencies (ie COVID-19 and telegenetics use)

Track relevant information to assess individuals at risk for genetic condition



Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

Genetics examples:

Identify genetic risk factors to increase opportunities for early intervention



Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

Genetics examples:

Educate patients and families on genetics (including family history)

Educate policymakers



Mobilize community partnerships at the state and local levels to identify and solve health problems

Genetics examples:

Engage community leaders when developing genetics policies



Develop policies and practices that support individual and community health efforts

Genetics examples:

Apply population-based genetics when developing policies



Carry out laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

Genetics examples:

Conduct newborn screening according to state laws and regulations

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)



Link people to health services, including genetics services, and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

Genetics examples:

Seven Regional Genetics Networks (RGNs)



Assure a public health and personal health care workforce competent in genetics

Genetics examples:

Educate primary care providers on genetic conditions



Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services, including genetics

Genetics examples:

Provide up-to-date genetics information



Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Genetics examples:

Consider social, ethical, and legal issues about integrating genetics practices into public health programs

Public Health Genetics Week

What is Public Health Genetics?

Learn More:

<https://phgw.org/what-is-public-health-genetics/>