



The Definition of Public Health Nursing

Public health nursing focuses on both individuals as well as communities. Its scope includes individuals and families at every life stage and health condition, as well as groups, organizations, and communities such as local regions.

The purpose of public health nursing is to enhance people's capacity to achieve better health, improve their surrounding environments, promote health maintenance and development, and advance quality of life. Guided by the principles of social justice, respect for human rights and autonomy, and the assurance of health and safety, public health nursing seeks to prevent illness and disability, support recovery, and contribute to the realization of an equitable society and the attainment of well-being.

Public health nursing practice exercises management functions and conducts systematic information collection and analysis to identify or predict health issues by linking individuals, families, and communities. With a life-oriented perspective, it provides support that reflects the realities of people's lives. Through collaboration with related organizations and stakeholders, development of social resources, system building, and the creation and utilization of evidence grounded in practice and knowledge, public health nursing works to build a society that supports health and quality of life for all.

*Community: According to the Framework of Public Health Nursing Science proposed by the Japan Academy of Public Health Nursing (2017), "community" refers to "a region, group, or organization in which people share or can share a sense of belonging or connectedness." Neighborhood associations, workplaces, schools, and other organized groups with defined structures and regulations are also regarded as communities. (Report of the Academic Practice Development Committee, 2017).

The Definition of Public Health Nursing Science

Public health nursing science is the academic field that includes the knowledge, skills, norms and theory building as well as associated developments that contribute to improving public health nursing practices.

The Definition of Public Health Nurses

Public health nurses are professionals who strive to achieve the purposes of public health nursing using their national license as public health nurses.

These definitions have been approved by the board of directors of the Japan Academy of Public Health Nursing (JAPHN) in December 2025. JAPHN recommends that the following three definitions should be used as a unit rather than using only one of the three. Since, all three definitions are related to each other.