

Samuel Durham, MPH, CHES, CPH

Systems-focused public health professional with experience designing and improving data processes, reporting systems, and workflows in regulatory and program environments. Applies quality improvement and systems-thinking principles to reduce inefficiencies, standardize workflows, and ensure systems support compliance, operations, and decision-making. Hands-on experience operating in regulatory inspection and enforcement environments with strict accuracy, documentation, and reporting timelines.

Professional Experience

Missouri Dept. of Health & Senior Services

Associate Epidemiologist | 2025 - Present

- Lead the evaluation and performance reporting systems for the Missouri Diabetes and Heart Disease Programs, ensuring high-quality data collection and reporting, in alignment with reporting requirements.
- Develop and refine the evaluation design to strengthen program monitoring and reporting accuracy.
- Interpret data, identify implementation gaps, and provide recommendations to inform program planning, evaluation, and quality improvement.
- Lead quality improvement projects to advance the Office of Epidemiology strategic objectives and goals.

Taney County Health Department

Environmental Public Health Specialist | 2024 - 2025

- Conducted 1,300+ health inspections across five environmental programs and enforced regulatory requirements.
- Conducted routine and non-routine unannounced investigations. About 15% were in response to publicly reported health hazards.
- Created and disseminated environmental risk communication materials to support emergency preparedness and public health education.
- Co-led PHAB accreditation readiness through policy reviews and quality improvement projects.
- Collaborated with local regulatory agencies to align inspection processes and enhance service efficiency.

Douglas County Health Department

Environmental Health Specialist - Program Manager | 2024

- Served as the subject matter expert for environmental health inquiries, including licensing standards and regulations for private wells, on-site wastewater, retail food, lodging, recreational water, and childcare.
- Built and launched a groundwater surveillance system integrating sampling workflows and GIS analysis to monitor water quality trends.
- Modernized workflows and digital inspection reporting using QI methods and new data collection tools.
- Provided public briefings and notices as necessary to fulfill the agency's emergency operations plan.

CONTACT

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Professional Certifications

- Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)
- Certified in Public Health (CPH)
- Lean Six Sigma Black Belt

Professional Skills

- Systems-Oriented Thinker
- Strategic Planner
- Cross-Sector Collaborator
- Clear & Adaptive Communicator
- Quality Improvement Leader
- Logical, Evidence-informed Decision-Maker

Technical Skills

- Data Stewardship, Management & Governance
- Data Cleaning, Validation, and Analysis
- Data Visualization
- Evaluation Design
- Performance Tracking, Interpretation, & Reporting
- Mapping & Spatial Analysis
- Process Automation

Jordan Valley Community Health Center (FQHC)

Lead Patient Health Navigator | 2023

- Designed and implemented the clinic's first Patient Navigator Model to improve time-to-care for pediatric and foster care clients.
- Managed care coordination for 203 clients across medical, behavioral health, dental, and vision services.
- Led quality improvement efforts to close care gaps, streamline referrals, and strengthen follow-up processes.
- Partnered with multi-sector stakeholders to improve scheduling, communication, and service delivery for foster families.

Outdoor Specialties, LLC — Small Business Owner | 2013–2019

Managed business operations, client coordination, and project workflows.

United States Army — Signals Intelligence Analyst | 2012–2013

Performed intelligence analysis supporting several national-level operations.

Education

Master of Public Health

Missouri State University, Springfield, MO | 2025

Graduate Certificates: Public Health Administration | Health Programming

Bachelor of Science in Health Services

Missouri State University, Springfield, MO | 2023

Undergraduate Certificates: Community Health | Interprofessional Education in Health Care

Associate of Science in Biological Clinical Science

Ozarks Technical Community College, Springfield, MO | 2021

Public Health Projects

Data Visualization Gallery & SharePoint Design — Project Lead

- Designing and implementing a SharePoint–Teams system for the Office of Epidemiology that will centralize data visualization products, standardize workflows, and increase collaboration, innovation, and resource sharing.
- Developed governance structures, metadata standards, and end-user training to support cross-program collaboration.

Douglas County Groundwater Surveillance Project — Project Lead

- Built a groundwater surveillance system that used countywide sampling and GIS analysis to identify environmental risks and improve water safety monitoring.

Software & Technical Skills

- Tableau, Power BI, M365
- R, SAS 9.4, SQL
- Qualtrics XM, ArcGIS, Power Automate

Community Contributions

- Volunteer, Night at the Penleigh - Recurring Community Engagement Event 2024-2025
- Volunteer, monthly at multiple food pantries – Springfield, MO 2020-2025

Public Health Service

- Member, Missouri DHSS Lean Six Sigma QI Team
- Organizer & Facilitator, Douglas County Free Private Well Water Testing Event
- Mentor, Health Services & Master of Public Health Programs, MSU
- Graduate Assistant Instructor, *Cultural Competency in Healthcare* – MSU
- Missouri State University-Master of Public Health Program Advisory Board Member (2024-Current)