Health Psychology

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD

Health Psychology focuses on how biological, social, and psychological factors influence health and illness. Health Psychologists study areas such as, how patients handle illness, why some people don’t follow medical advice, and the most effective ways to control pain or change poor health habits. They also develop health care strategies that foster emotional and physical well-being. Some may investigate and develop programs to address common health-related behaviors, such as smoking, poor diet, and sedentary behavior. Many of the programs are offered as tracks in Clinical programs. (Provided by American Psychological Association, Center for Psychology and Health)

CAREERS

Most entry level positions require a PhD

- Teaching and research within academic Psychology departments
- Faculty positions in medical colleges or nursing colleges
- Clinical practice (especially in group practices that include physicians and other health specialists)
- Local, state, and federal government policy advisors
- Research careers in private and public research institutes

RESOURCES

For more information, please visit the following websites:

American Psychological Association, Center for Psychology and Health

American Psychological Association, Society for Health Psychology, Division 38
http://www.health-psych.org/

Journal of Health Psychology
http://intl-hpq.sagepub.com/