

# Georgia Public Health Environmental Health Specialist

*Protecting the health of all Georgians every day and saving tax dollars*

## WHAT IS NEEDED? Increase salaries and provide a progressive career ladder

### The Workforce

Georgia Public Health District	EHS Positions		Retire by 2010
	Filled	Vacant	
Rome, 1-1	30	1	5
Dalton, 1-2	21	5	4
Gainesville, 2	37	9	1
Marietta, 3-1	25	7	3
Atlanta, 3-2	31	22	3
Morrow, 3-3	6	0	0
Lawrenceville, 3-4	27	11	1
Decatur, 3-5	27	5	1
LaGrange, 4	45	3	1
Dublin, 5-1	8	3	1
Macon, 5-2	32	10	4
Augusta, 6	20	2	1
Columbus, 7	17	8	1
Valdosta, 8-1	14	3	1
Albany, 8-2	28	2	2
Savannah, 9-1	29	4	2
Waycross, 9-2	24	10	6
Athens, 10	29	8	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>37</b>

### What They Do

- County-based resource that investigates, evaluates, and eliminates environmental conditions harmful to citizens and visitors of Georgia.
- Permit and inspect restaurants (28,404 permits and 61,432 inspections in 2007).
- Permit and inspect septic systems (40,680 permits and 40,142 inspections in 2007).
- Permit and inspect tourist accommodations, public swimming pools, and public institutions.
- Provide health and safety programs for:
  - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
  - Individual Water Wells
  - Mosquito and Rabies Control
  - Chemical Hazards
  - Indoor Air Quality
  - Illness Investigations
  - Body Art Studios
  - Pollution Prevention

### Required Credentials

- B.S. degree in Environmental Health or Biological, Physical or Natural Science
- Certification in food service, septic tank systems and swimming pool operation
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) standardization on Food Code

Turnover Rate: 25%

Starting Salary: \$26,672 (compared to \$35,630 private sector)

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, our starting salary is below the national starting salary average (\$35,630) of the median salary (\$58,380) for our job classification (19-2041).

For the Southeastern U.S., the numbers are similar: start avg. = \$32,581; median avg. = \$50,259.

### IMPACT OF LOSING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

- Increase in food borne illnesses, such as salmonella
- Decline in attendance and productivity at work and schools
- Decrease in profit margins for related industries and businesses
- Increase impairment of surface and ground water quality
- Loss of health and safety programs that keeps communities healthy
- Loss of emergency preparedness and response capacity

For more information, contact:

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