



Public Health 2026: Ready, Set, Action!

A Public Health Conference hosted by:

Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordinating Council (ACDCC)

Arkansas Society for Public Health Education (ARSOPHE)

Arkansas Public Health Association (ArkPHA)

April 9-10, 2026

North Little Rock Event Center, 120 N Main St., North Little Rock, AR 72114

Day 1: Thursday, April 9, 2026

8 – 8:30 am **Registration, Meet with Exhibitors, & Display Posters**

8:30 – 9 am Address from Secretary of Health Renee Mallory

Welcome & Conference Overview (ArkPHA, ARSOPHE, ACDCC)

9 – 10 am Keynote Address – Jennifer Folkenroth, Senior Director of Nationwide Tobacco Programs, American Lung Association

Topic: “Tobacco Use: New & Emerging Trends.”

10 – 10:45 am Breakout Sessions (1) – Pediatric Injury & Pediatric Disease Trends
A. Arkansas Children’s Annual Trauma Report (Hannah Branton)
B. Rates of RSV, Influenza, COVID-19, & Pneumonia among Children 0-4 in Arkansas (Aaron Wendelboe)

10:45 – 11 am **Break, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations**

11 – 11:45 am Breakout Sessions (2) – Immunization Systems & Coverage Gaps

A. Evaluation of the Vaccines for Children Program (Savanna Ledford)
B. Using Teach-Back to Improve Understanding & Promote Action (Katie Leath)

11:45 – 12:30 pm **Lunch, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations**

12:30 – 1:15 pm Breakout Sessions (3) – Public Health Surveillance: Emerging & Under-Recognized Conditions

A. Alpha-Gal Syndrome Surveillance in Arkansas (Katelyn Lazenby)
B. Surveillance for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) (Aaron Wendelboe)

1:15 – 2 pm Breakout Sessions (4) – Lung Cancer Screening: From System Mobilization to Implementation Supports

A. Ready, Set, Action: Mobilizing Public Health Systems to Advance Lung Cancer Screening (Kellie Lamb)
B. Multilevel Social Drivers of Health among Rural Cancer Survivors (Jaimi Allen)

2 – 2:15 pm **Break, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations**

2:15 – 3 pm Breakout Sessions (5) – Brain Health & Youth Risk Prevention Across the Lifespan

A. Building Brain-Healthy Habits & Advancing the Science (Jill Thompson)
B. Creating Clear Calls to Action in Written Health Materials (Katie Leath)

3 – 3:45 pm Closing Session – Building Pathways to a Healthier Future Through Academic & Community Partnerships (Chad Lairamore)

3:45 – 4 pm Evaluation & Dismissal

4 – 5:00 pm Business Meetings

Day 2: Friday, April 10, 2026

8 – 8:30 am	Registration, Meet with Exhibitors, & Display Posters
8:30 – 9 am	Address from State Health Director Jennifer Dillaha, MD Welcome & Q/A Panel & Reflection Session (ArkPHA, ARSOPHE, ACDCC)
9 – 10 am	Keynote Address – Craig Wilson, President & CEO, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) Topic: “Rural Health & Rural Transformation.”
10 – 10:45 am	Breakout Sessions (6) – Health IT, Data, & Digital Transformation A. Leveraging Health Information Technology to Advance Health Outcomes in Arkansas (Marico Howe) B. Statewide Digital Health Transformation: UAMS IDHI Telestroke Outcomes (Aliza Brown)
10:45 – 11 am	Break, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations
11 – 11:45 am	Breakout Sessions (7) – Mapping Inequity & Designing Place-Based Strategies A. Good Health Doesn’t Just Happen: Using GIS to Reveal How Place Shapes Health (Jade Zimpfer) B. Awareness Meets Action: Inclusive Strategies for Health (Amber Robinson)
11:45 – 12:30 pm	Lunch, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations
12:30 – 1:15 pm	Breakout Sessions (8) – Health Communication in Clinical & Community Settings A. Predictors of Childhood Immunization Coverage by Age Two in Arkansas (Christina Joshua) B. Beyond Our Walls: Building a Culture of Clinical & Community Teamwork (Rachel Spurr)
1:15 – 2 pm	Breakout Sessions (9) – Program Engagement & Chronic Disease Prevention A. Barriers & Enablers to Successful Participation in Diabetes Prevention & Management Programs (Jordan Simpson, Katie George, & Tarryn Harris) B. Vaping Presentation Public 2025 (Charles David Gibson)
2 – 2:15 pm	Break, Meet with Exhibitors, & Poster Presentations
2:15 – 3 pm	Breakout Sessions (10) – Behavioral Health, Safety, & Interpersonal Harm A. Turning Trends into Treatment: QI Approach to Behavioral Health Integration (Laida Egbosimba) B. Digital Control & Abuse: Cyber Intimate Partner Violence (Ruby Charak)
3 – 3:45 pm	Closing Session – Structuring Public Health Narratives to Motivate Behavior (Lance Brett Hall)
3:45 – 4 pm	Evaluation & Dismissal

Save The Date for Next Year’s Conference (April 8-9, 2027)

