The Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington (IU SPH-B) has a long, proud history of outstanding achievements across an array of academic fields related to health, wellness, and disease-prevention. Founded in 1946 as the first School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) in the world, HPER comprised four areas of study, and numbered 33 full-time faculty members, 12 part-time faculty members, and 14 graduate students.

Since 1946, the school has been an innovator in new approaches to health, community engagement, and quality of life. Implementing innovative research, service, and professional preparation programs in our health-related disciplines has been a hallmark of the school. The school's gradual and natural evolution toward its current public health identity began to take shape as early as 1970 when the school began to offer the MPH degree. More rapid transition began with the MPH program's first CEPH accreditation in 1997, with subsequent program-level accreditations in 2002 and most recently in 2010.

On May 5, 2009, IU President Michael A. McRobbie announced to the public that the school would begin its transition toward an accredited school of public health. Between 2009 and 2012, faculty, staff, students, and community constituents were heavily invested in the work of conceptualizing the transitioned school. In March 2010, the Department of Environmental Health was formed, while September 2011 saw the premiere of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In June 2012, CEPH approved the school as an applicant for accreditation in the school of public health category and the school became the Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington on September 28, 2012.

Fundamental to the school's mission is its focus on the improvement and promotion of healthy, active lifestyles. Currently the third largest school on the Bloomington campus, the School of Public Health focuses on the education of young professionals at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels, many of whom practice in their respective disciplines around the world.

Today the School's structure consists of five academic departments: Applied Health Science; Environmental Health; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Kinesiology; and Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies.

In addition to its academic departments, the school administers the Campus Division of Recreational Sports, which serves roughly 80 percent of the Indiana University Bloomington student body through various intramural, club sports, and individual sport opportunities. The school's alumni, numbering nearly 23,000, work in a wide array of settings to promote active living, behavioral change, agency and community development, cutting edge research, and campaigns to promote wellness and prevent disease, injuries, disabilities, and deaths that are the direct result of lifestyle choices.