

WASHINGTON STATE

John M. Wiesman, DrPH, MPH

ASTHO Secretary-Treasurer

Secretary of Health, Washington State Department of Health



John Wiesman was appointed secretary of health by Governor Jay Inslee and joined the Washington State Department of Health in April 2013. He is an accomplished transformational leader with more than 22 years of local public health experience.

Wiesman has been passionate about public health since reading a 1983 Time magazine article about disease detectives tracking Legionnaires' disease, toxic shock syndrome, and HIV. It was the impetus for him to enter the profession.

He has worked in four local public health departments in Washington and Connecticut. He started his public health career in Connecticut in 1986 and was in its first group trained to provide HIV counseling and testing. During his career Wiesman has:

- Transformed health departments from providing individual clinical services to implementing policy, system and environmental
- Transformed health departments into first responder organizations
- Helped lead Washington State's initiatives to transform the health delivery system to improve population health, known as [Healthier Washington](#)

Currently, Wiesman serves as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Health Policy and Management. He also serves as a clinical professor at the University of Washington, School of Public Health, and Department of Health Services.

He earned his Doctorate of Public Health in public health executive leadership in 2012 from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He received his Master of Public Health degree in chronic disease epidemiology from Yale University in 1987 and his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Lawrence University in Wisconsin in 1983.

Wiesman was born and raised in Wisconsin. He and his husband have lived in Washington State since 1989.