

Washington | Dennis Worsham

Secretary of Health

Washington State Department of Health

A lifelong Washingtonian raised in Eastern Washington, Secretary Dennis Worsham brings 32 years of distinguished service in Washington State's public health system to this critical role. His career began at the Snohomish Health District in the 1990s, where he discovered his passion for public health's mission and addressing systemic health inequities while working as health educator during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Most recently, he served as the first Director of the Snohomish County Health Department since January 2023. Secretary Worsham also brings a deep commitment to working collaboratively with all parts of the public health system including our Tribal, federal, state, local, community and healthcare partners.



He brings extensive leadership experience, having served as Interim Director of Public Health – Seattle & King County and Deputy Secretary for Health at the Washington State Department of Health. Over the years, his work has spanned a wide range of public health priorities, including communicable disease control, chronic disease prevention, policy development, and community engagement. A lifelong equity champion, he has played a key role in establishing leadership positions within agencies to advance organizational equity and health justice, and remains deeply engaged with public health partners across the state.

Secretary Worsham's unique perspective, shaped by firsthand experience in both rural communities and large urban systems, positions him as a leader who understands that public health affects all of us—regardless of where we live or who we are. His vision centers on the understanding that public health challenges don't recognize geographic boundaries, and neither should our solutions.