

Maternal and Child Health

Assignment Description:

The Fellow will work in FHW and PPA and perform job functions similar to an introductory level epidemiologist. S/he is expected to have strong data analytical skills and the potential for continued learning and improvement of those skills).

Day-to-Day Activities:

Depending on her/his interests and analytic skill level, and the project(s) s/he chooses to participate in, the Fellow's day-to-day activities may vary. However, the Fellow will, in general, perform the following activities under the supervisions of his/her mentors:

- Become familiar with chronic disease surveillance systems in Tennessee and understand available health data sources, such as vital data systems, state and nationwide health and risk factor surveys, and health services claims data.
- Become familiar with the ongoing projects occurring within PPA and FHW and identify the projects s/he will participate in.
- Compile SAS programs to clean data, perform descriptive and analytical statistical analysis, and output results.
- Write burden reports, fact sheets, or other forms of written communications to document health conditions and risk factors within the Tennessee population and sub-populations.
- Assess the TDH needs in the areas of chronic diseases epidemiology and surveillance, and identify and propose strategies for meeting these needs.
- Seek to improve existing disease surveillance systems and/or to initiate new systems.
- Write research articles or manuscripts for publication.
- Participate in other activities within FHW and PPA.
- Work interactively and effectively with FHW and PPA staff.

Potential Projects:

- Develop breastfeeding report card with outcome (intent, duration, exclusivity) and process (Baby-Friendly hospitals, supplementation rates, etc) indicators (Data Sources: Birth, WIC Data, CDC m-PINC survey)
- Review literature on preconception health indicators and create state-level preconception health indicators dashboard. Prepare county-level (or at least regional-level) preconception health reports. (Data Sources: Birth, BRFSS, PRAMS, Hospital Discharge Data)
- Develop "PRAMS-Gram" type report highlighting key PRAMS findings for stakeholders. (Data Sources: PRAMS).
- Develop state, regional, and county-level trend analyses for each MCH priority area. Develop fact sheet (state and regional) for each priority area appropriate for public distribution. (Data Sources: Birth, Death, Hospital Discharge, Population Estimates)
- Process incoming reports for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) cases and analyze reporting data. (Data Sources: NAS Reportable Data)
- Collaborate with Children's Special Services staff to perform program evaluation on implementation of Obesity Initiative. (Data Sources: CSS Program Data, Participant Surveys)
- Collaborate with the chronic disease program staff including chronic disease epidemiologist to perform program evaluation on implementation of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion State Plan. (Data Sources: Chronic Disease Program Data)

- Collaborate with Project Diabetes staff to develop and track outcome measures. (Data Sources: Project Diabetes Grantee Reports)
- Ensure BRFSS data needs are met. Analyze/ interpret BRFSS data and present to FHW Staff. (Data Sources: BRFSS)

Preparedness Role

While the daily duties of this fellow would not involve direct work in emergency preparedness, there would certainly be opportunities to participate in shared learning activities (ie emergency preparedness meetings). Additionally, if there was an event that required widespread mobilization, the CDC/CSTE fellow would be expected to participate in that response. We will work with the Division of Communicable and Environmental Disease and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP), under the direction of the state epidemiologist Dr. Tim Jones, to provide the incoming fellow the opportunity to get familiar with the operation of emergency preparedness in Tennessee.

Assignment Location: Nashville, TN

Primary Mentor: Lori Ferranti, PhD, MBA, MSN
Director of Policy, Planning, and Assessment
Tennessee Department of Health

Secondary Mentor: Michael Warren, MD, MPH
Director of Family Health and Wellness
Tennessee Department of Health