

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description:

The fellow will work with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Services unit to assess and analyze existing data sources and seek potential collaborations with other programs/division/agencies to provide the most comprehensive chronic disease data available.

The New Jersey Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Services Unit (CDPC) offers an Epidemiology Fellow the opportunity to work on data analysis projects that will allow CDPC to better document the burden of chronic disease in New Jersey. The Fellow will work with the staff Epidemiologist to produce burden reports and data briefs on the topics of Diabetes, Heart Disease, Stroke, Asthma and related risk factors. The Fellow will also be given the opportunity to work with program staff in various content areas within Chronic Disease to become well versed in the impact of disease in New Jersey. The Fellow should be versed in SAS and have strong data analysis and writing skills.

Day-to-Day Activities:

Day to day activities will include: data analysis, data interpretation, report writing, working with programmatic staff.

Potential Projects:

There is flexibility built into the program such that the Fellow will have the option of pursuing specific projects of interest. Primarily, the Fellow will work with the staff Epidemiologist to produce burden reports and data briefs on the topics of Diabetes, Heart Disease, Stroke, Asthma and related risk factors. Potential projects include: assessing the impact of the Chronic Disease Self Management Program, analyzing data from the BRFSS related to chronic disease, analyzing data in collaboration with PRAMS staff, working with existing epidemiologist and evaluator to identify data needs. The specific projects and data involved are as follows:

Assess the impact of the Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP). The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) was developed by Stanford University's Patient Education Resource Center and has been successfully implemented throughout the United States and around the world. The program is a fun and practical course that helps people with chronic conditions and/or their caregivers overcome daily challenges and maintain an active and fulfilling life. Participants attend peer-led workshops held for 2½ hours once a week for six weeks. The program is delivered in community settings such as recreation centers, libraries, health centers and senior centers. Workshops are offered in all 21 counties. Some workshops are held at a set time of year while others can be scheduled to accommodate demand.

Analyze and report on specific chronic conditions using the NJ BRFSS data. The New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Survey is a telephone survey that is partially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a component of the national Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFSS). The BRFSS monitors major behavioral risk factors and chronic conditions associated with disability and death among adults-- a youth version is available through the NJ Department of Education. A number of reports have been produced by the NJ Center for Health Statistics on cancer screening, physical activity and dietary intake, and AIDS/HIV.

Analyze and report on specific chronic conditions using the NJ PRAMS Data. New Jersey PRAMS is a joint research project of the Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

and the Bloustein Center for Survey Research at Rutgers University. Information from PRAMS is used to help plan better health programs for New Jersey mothers and infants and impact Maternal and Child Health policy and practice. PRAMS contains information on a variety of health topics including maternal smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy and vaccination.

Preparedness Role

Other areas of the Department, including the Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health (under the State Epidemiologist), has responded to a number of recent emergencies including the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and the 2012 Hurricane Sandy. In the event of similar emergencies, the Fellow would be integrated into the EEOH's response team.

The Fellow will be invited to participate in trainings, planning meetings, desktop or tabletop exercises, and other elements of New Jersey's emergency preparedness plans, depending on the Fellow's interests and/or needs.

Assignment Location:	Trenton, NJ
Primary Mentor:	Nancy Scotto Rosato, MA, PhD Research Scientist New Jersey Department of Health
Secondary Mentor:	Christina Tan, MD, MPH State Epidemiologist New Jersey Department of Health