

The Alaska Maternal-Child Epidemiology Unit has approximately 12 positions and four programs including the Maternal-Infant and Child Death Review, Alaska Birth Defects Registry, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Alaska Toddler's Survey, and the MCH Indicators Project. In addition to these ongoing original source data programs, we provide support to other MCH programs such as WIC, the Infant Learning Program, and Newborn Screening. Lastly, we conduct original studies on Maternal-Child Health issues of importance to the state. For example, we have conducted a 4-year randomized clinical trial of *H. pylori* eradication as a way to reduce iron deficiency among Alaska's indigenous population, an evaluation of vitamin D deficiency among attendees of WIC clinics, an evaluation of perinatal care regionalization in Alaska, and numerous others. We also work on pediatric and pregnancy related infections with the Section of Epidemiology and the Arctic Investigations Program of the US CDC. We currently have a CSTE fellow who has designed and implemented the Toddler's Survey, participated in field investigations in rural villages, and who currently manages data analysis for the Alaska Maternal-Infant and Child Death Review.

The fellow's day-to-day activities will include designing studies and programs, writing protocols, evaluating databases, writing reports and peer-reviewed manuscripts, attending meetings with stakeholders throughout the state, and responding to media and public inquiries.

Potential projects are almost limitless and determined primarily by the interests of the applicant. We have four programs that we hope to start within the next 1-2 years and the applicant could take charge of any of these: routine preterm birth surveillance for all infants born preterm in the state, including chart review; child abuse surveillance; a state asthma program; and an Alaska Native health disparities program. The applicant will also become involved in analyzing data from current systems including PRAMS (where we currently have little analytic capacity), the birth defects registry, and Medicaid. We have pioneered data linkage analysis and potential projects include linking PRAMS and child abuse data to evaluate risk factors for child abuse, linking birth defects and Medicaid data to identify prenatal prescription drug use associated with specific defects, and linking birth certificate data to infectious disease databases to identify risk groups. The applicant will be able to work with the Section of Epidemiology to conduct outbreak investigations and have the opportunity to work with the Arctic Investigations Program to evaluate infectious diseases of importance to maternal and child health in Alaska.

The applicant can choose to evaluate a variety of surveillance systems or programs to meet this requirement for CSTE fellow including the Alaska Birth Defects Registry, PRAMS, the Infant Learning Program, Newborn Metabolic Screening, WIC, and Breast and Cervical Cancer.

The applicant can be as involved as desired in Emergency Preparedness. Our current CSTE fellow, participated in several Emergency Preparedness meetings and exercises and the Maternal-Child Health Epidemiology Unit currently contributes to the pediatric component of Emergency Preparedness.

Finally, the applicant will have the opportunity to live in Alaska. Every imaginable outdoor activity exists including skiing, climbing, hiking, kayaking, sailing, rafting, hunting, fishing, snow machining, dog sledding all within a short distance of Anchorage. While small, Anchorage has more than its share of cultural activities including a large and well-supported performing arts center, a local opera company, numerous concert venues, and plenty of ethnic restaurants. Winters are moderate (average temperature in Anchorage is 20oF) and summers are sunny. We have had numerous fellows and EIS officers and most have chosen to remain in this magical place, including, we think, our current CSTE fellow.

Assignment Location:	Anchorage, AK
Primary Supervisor:	BRADFORD DAVID GESSNER, M.D., M.P.H. Director, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit, Alaska Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health.
Advanced Degrees:	M.D., University of Florida (1988) M.P.H., University of Washington (1997) Preventative Medicine Residency – University of Washington; 1995 – 1997 Epidemic Intelligence Service, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 1991-93 Pediatric Internship and Residency – University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; 1988-1991
Secondary Supervisor:	K. Janine Schoellhorn, M.S., M.P.H. MCH Epidemiologist Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Section of Maternal, Child and Family Health, Anchorage, Alaska
Advanced Degrees:	M.S., University of Hawaii (1987) M.P.H., University of Hawaii (1986)