

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description

The Public Health Information Group is a part of the Office of Public Health Practice and serves as the principal unit for health statistics and data reports for all of the major centers and offices within the Office of Public Health, as well as with key public health partners including the state's 58 local health departments, over 200 hospitals and the 14 schools/programs of public health in the state. The Public Health Information Group is interested in recruiting a CSTE fellow to participate in one or more public health data projects related to its major initiatives, which include:

1) Analyzing data from various statewide data systems such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalization records, birth and death records; communicable disease reports, and cancer incidence data to generate and disseminate health indicators for the following areas: physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, substance abuse, family planning, violent & abusive behaviors, unintentional injuries, oral health, maternal and infant health, child & adolescent health, heart disease & stroke, cancer, chronic diseases, HIV infection, sexually transmitted disease, immunization, infectious diseases, and occupational health. See website:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/index.htm>

2) Analyzing and tracking state and local progress in improving health outcomes and achieving the goals set in the State's Prevention Agenda toward the Healthiest State. NYSDOH is working with communities to address the ten public health priorities included in this agenda. See website:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/prevention_agenda/indicator_map.htm

3) Analyzing and providing asthma surveillance data (e.g. prevalence, ED visits, hospitalizations, and mortality) at state, county and ZIP code levels. See website:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/ny_asthma/index.htm

4) Leading evaluation efforts to assess the success of the NYS Asthma Control Program across the state.

5) Collecting, analyzing and disseminating the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data.

6) Performing community level analysis of racial/ethnic disparities for an array of health outcomes to support the state's efforts in reducing disparities in high risk communities in conjunction with the state's Minority Health Council.

7) Supporting local health departments in their Community Health Assessment activities and related data analysis activities, and analyzing community service plans submitted by the state's hospitals.

The Fellowship will provide a variety of practical, hands on experiences that will expand the Fellow's knowledge and skills in applied epidemiology and public health practice. This experience will help prepare the Fellow for a career with a state or local health department. The Fellow will be an active member of the Public Health Information Group and the Office of Public Health Practice. Our goal is to further the Fellow's professional growth and expand his/her access to public health practitioners and leaders. The proposed projects are collaborative and emphasize prevention in public health, the use of

data for decision making, evaluating programmatic outcomes, and building program capacity. The Public Health Information Group is involved in projects with other programs across the department and works closely with the following: the Asthma Control Program, the Bureau of Healthcom Network Systems Management, the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, and the Office of Minority Health. The Fellow will have an opportunity to develop and demonstrate core competencies in areas such as epidemiologic methods, communication, public health practice, and program evaluation. Opportunities exist for the Fellow to attend and present at public health meetings and to publish reports and peer reviewed journal articles.

Day-to- Day Activities

The Fellow will be an important member of the Public Health Information Group. He/she will participate in office meetings and will have the opportunity to collaborate with other team members on new and existing projects. The mentors at the Department of Health are committed to working with the Fellow to determine areas and skills of special interest and helping him/her strengthen them in the course of this assignment.

The first activity of the Fellow will be a thorough orientation to the Office of Public Health, the Office of Public Health Practice, the Public Health Information Group, and the NYS Asthma Control Program, the Bureau of Healthcom Network Systems Management and their collaborative partners. The Fellow will meet one on one with key public health leaders in these offices and programs to learn about current public health initiatives. All team members in the Public Health Information Group will orient the Fellow to their specific work.

Once oriented, the daily activities of the Fellow will depend on the projects the Fellow is working on at the time. The Fellow will meet frequently with mentors to ensure that the he/she has the support and guidance needed to successfully complete all projects. The Fellow will meet weekly with the primary Mentor on the projects that he/she is working on at the time and as often as needed with secondary Mentor or both Mentors.

Potential Projects

The Public Health Information Group is interested in recruiting a CSTE Fellow to participate in one or more of the public health data projects below:

- 1) The Fellow can have a major role in the assessment of risk factors for poor asthma control, poor asthma self-management, and high risk home environment for the asthma population using a new database, the New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Asthma Callback Survey (ACB) 2006-2009 data. This project will involve weighted descriptive, stratified and multivariate analyses of the NYS BRFSS ACB data.

2) The Fellow can have a major role in the implementation of the Asthma Strategic Evaluation Plan, developed to evaluate public health efforts to reduce the burden of asthma in NYS. The evaluation plan was developed during 2009-2010 to include the evaluation of the Asthma Partnership of New York, the evaluation of the NYS asthma surveillance system, and the evaluation of five interventions across the state that implement evidence-based strategies to reduce the burden of asthma in the schools and communities. The Fellow can choose to lead one or several evaluation efforts.

3) The Fellow can lead the revision of existing health indicators used by the Public Health Information Group to incorporate Healthy People 2020 goals and objectives into an updated set of indicators for future use in public health surveillance and community health assessment; and the State's Prevention Agenda.

4) The Fellow can play a major role in collaborating with the Bureau of Healthcom Network Systems Management to develop an interactive web-based data query system for multiple outcome measures using the statewide hospital data in a pilot project. This interactive query system will potentially include various types of data sets (e.g. vital records, ED visits, and survey data). The Fellow can participate in the development of this interactive web-based data query system. This involves extensive SAS programming and spatial analysis using geographic information system (GIS) software. It will offer the Fellow a great opportunity to achieve exceptional SAS programming and GIS knowledge and skills.

In addition, the Fellow will have an opportunity to work with Public Health Information Group staff to perform further epidemiological analyses using several statewide databases such as vital records (birth and deaths records), hospital records, ED records, Cancer Registry and BRFSS data. Under controlled conditions, subsets of these data bases can be made available to the Public Health Information Group for research purposes. With access to these large databases, the Fellow will have an opportunity for data mining using SAS programming and data analysis tailored to an area of special interest to the Fellow. There will be opportunities to collaborate with staff as well as develop an in-depth understanding of the data sets utilized for public health surveillance, health planning/health assessment and evaluation activities.

Preparedness Role

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with the Office of Health Emergency Preparedness on ongoing projects as they develop, including a project to identify measures to assess the preparedness of communities in New York State, one of the Prevention Agenda priorities.

Assignment Location:

Albany, New York State

Primary Mentor:

Trang Nguyen, MD, DrPH, MPH
Director, Public Health Information Group
NYS Department of Health

Secondary Mentor:

Guthrie Birkhead, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner
NYS Department of Health