

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description

The CSTE fellow will be placed within the Chronic Disease, Healthy Behaviors and Injury Epidemiology Section of the Georgia Department of Community Health. During the two-year assignment, the CSTE Fellow will learn principles of chronic disease and injury epidemiology; gain experience working with large datasets that are managed by the state health department, including vital statistics, hospital discharge data, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); develop expertise in chronic disease and injury epidemiology; and have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other epidemiologists. The fellow will also be able to participate in other CHIE Section activities, such as chronic disease and injury burden assessment; monitoring breast and cervical cancer screening; and the analysis and reporting of data from the cancer registry, the stroke registry, and the violent death registry. There will also be opportunities for short-term assignments working in infectious disease, maternal and child health, or STD epidemiology.

Day-to- Day Activities

The Fellow will design epidemiologic studies, conduct data analysis, manuscript and report preparation and disseminate study results through oral and poster presentations. The Fellow will also assist with data requests from internal and external partners, serve as on-call epidemiologist and engage in other activities within the section which will enhance skills in public health practice.

Potential Projects

The CSTE Fellow will have the opportunity to analyze trends in chronic disease and health behaviors among Georgia adults and youth using BRFSS and YRBS data. Potential projects include a study to evaluate and compare chronic disease risk factors among survey respondents from oversampled landline, traditionally sampled landline, and cell phone populations using data from the Georgia BRFSS. The CSTE Fellow will also have an opportunity to design and implement a study of the associations among socioeconomic status, health risk behaviors, and chronic disease in Georgia. The CSTE Fellow will gain experience conducting statistical analyses and presenting data geospatially using geographic information systems. The CSTE Fellow will have the opportunity to evaluate a surveillance system used in the Chronic Disease, Healthy Behaviors, and Injury Epidemiology Section. Examples of surveillance systems that could be evaluated by the fellow include a stroke registry, the Georgia Violent Death Reporting System, the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry, a trauma registry, the BRFSS, and the YRBS.

Preparedness Role

The CSTE Fellow will have an opportunity to work with the Deputy Director of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response, who works closely with the CHIE Director and supervises the Trauma Epidemiologist that is funded by Emergency Preparedness.

Assignment Location: Atlanta, GA

Primary Mentor: Suparna Bagchi, DrPH, MSPH
Behavioral Surveillance Team Lead

Georgia Department of Community Health

Secondary Mentor:

Lydia Clarkson, MPH

Chronic Disease Team Lead

Georgia Department of Community Health