

Chronic Disease

The Fellow would be assigned to the Adult Health and Chronic Disease branch within the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section. This Section is within the Division of Prevention and Preparedness Services at DSHS. Through the integrated mentoring approach, the CSTE Fellow will complete a very comprehensive learning program. This approach combined with a competency based training plan will help the fellow develop a complete set of core skills in chronic disease applied epidemiology. The Fellow will also have significant exposure to other leadership across sections, divisions, and agency.

Anticipated Day-to-Day Activities:

During the first month, the fellow will complete an agency and section orientation to include introductions to professional colleagues especially those who will be interacting with the fellow related to work responsibilities. The mentors will introduce the fellow to the various assignments and develop a mutually agreeable work plan guided in part by the Fellow's interests; follow and guide progress; offer advice and assistance; review completed assignments; and assist in opportunities to secure long term job placement after the Fellowship is completed.

The fellow will attend:

- a. the weekly statewide epidemiology conference call held on Mondays from 2-3 p.m.
- b. weekly staff meetings with the adult and chronic disease staff.
- c. various chronic disease councils, partnerships, committees, and coalitions, as appropriate.

Potential Projects:

Data Management, analysis, interpretation, and/or application:

- a. Update the "2008 Chronic Disease in Texas: A Surveillance Report of Disease Indicators"
- b. Based on the above updated chronic disease burden report, prepare a new PPT presentation including slide narratives.
- c. Develop and maintain a core series of PPT slides with current chronic disease data/trends that can be placed into public presentations.
- d. Prepare an "Obesity in Texas Burden Report".
- e. Data analysis, interpretation, application, and prepare manuscripts for peer review and publications regarding the trends in various chronic diseases including cancer in Texas and the

impact of behavior change and/treatment on outcomes to include health indicators, healthcare utilization, and costs.

f. The San Antonio Hb A1C pilot project – as one of only two pilot programs in the country, labs are required to report A1c lab values to San Antonio Metro Health. Data will be analyzed to diabetes trends and target programmatic efforts.

g. Chronic Kidney Disease Study- this study was authorized by the 2009 legislature with the goals to:

- to identify statistically significant subgroups who are at risk for CKD and
- identify any recent patterns of change within these subgroups;
- identify costs associated with kidney disease and its precursors, including projected costs over the next ten years; and
- develop public health policy hypotheses and conclusions.

h. The Stark Diabetes Center model of community based diabetes programs- Data collection and analysis will be conducted to demonstrate effectiveness of comprehensive community based diabetes programming.

g. Association between drinking and smoking:

Analyze epidemiology data to identify the risk factors and chronic disease co-morbidities of combined alcohol and tobacco use in the state of Texas.

h. Mental health as a chronic disease:

Analyze and identify risk factors and any association between physical and mental chronic disease conditions

Role in Emergency Preparedness:

The fellow will not have designated responsibilities in emergency preparedness. However, all employees of the Texas Department of State Health Services are available as needed to participate in any necessary response efforts related to their area of expertise.

Assignment Location: Austin, Texas

Primary Mentor: Lauri Kalanges, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Secondary Mentor: Lucina Suarez, PhD

Director, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries

