

Maternal and Child Health

The Office of Data Translation (ODT) serves as the internal information center for the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). ODT is interested in recruiting a CSTE fellow to participate in a variety of activities in perinatal, maternal and child health. ODT has multiple tools to conduct these activities in data collection, analyses, program evaluation, and surveillance.

The Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal (PELL) Data System is a unique maternally-linked longitudinal database created to utilize a broad range of public health data sources to examine the impact of the prenatal environment and experiences on postnatal child and maternal health. The Fellow would have the opportunity to conduct research using PELL, and many other datasets including PRAMS, to assess factors influencing the incidence of maternal morbidity, fetal/infant deaths, infant morbidity, and to evaluate MCH programs.

The Fellow will also have an opportunity to participate in the CDC MCH Epidemiology Program's Survey Analysis Course. There are also opportunities to conduct cross-cutting research with other divisions within the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition as well as with other bureaus (Vital Statistics, Communicable Disease Control). Boston also offers opportunity for collaboration with academic institutions such as Harvard School of Public Health and Boston University School of Public Health. The fellow would have the opportunity to present their work to programs within MDPH, at national meetings, and in peer-reviewed journals and government publications (MMWR).

Day To Day Activities:

The Fellow will be an important member of the Office of Data Translation. As such, 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 MDPH are committed to working with the Fellow to determine areas and skills of special interest and helping him/her strengthen those in the course of this assignment. The first activity of the Fellow will be a thorough orientation to the MDPH, the Office of Data Translations, and the programs it supports. The Fellow will meet one-on-one with key public health leaders in the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, including the Bureau Director, to learn about current public health initiatives at MDPH. All team members in the ODT 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 Fellow has the support and guidance needed to successfully complete all projects.

Potential Projects:

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- Perform community-level analysis of racial/ethnic disparities in perinatal outcomes and participate in the state's formulation of a strategic plan for reduction of disparities in high-risk communities.
- Analyze variations of fetal and infant mortality rates by geographic regions using perinatal periods of risk assessment (PPOR).
- Monitor maternal morbidity/mortality and identify factors that contribute to racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.
- Evaluate parental satisfaction and outcomes related to Children with Special Health Needs programs.
- Conduct analyses of the Massachusetts Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (MA PRAMS) to produce topic-specific fact sheets. 2007-2008 MA PRAMS data will be available for multivariate analysis.
- Design and implement a PRAMS follow-up survey about maternal postpartum health status including gestational diabetes follow-up as well as toddler health, growth and development.
- Examine inter-pregnancy intervals for annual MCH surveillance and target high risk communities for family planning needs assessment. Assess the influences of health care and insurance status on inter-pregnancy intervals.
- Collaborate with colleagues in the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control to lead an outbreak investigation.
- Assist in the development of a data collection system and the creation of a database to be used by the Growth and Nutrition program to evaluate clinic performance and identify best practices in serving children who are severely undernourished or show persistent failure to gain weight due to poor nutrition.

Emergency Preparedness Role:

The Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in MDPH emergency preparedness activities, with a particular focus on MCH populations including children and youth with special health needs.

Location:	Boston, Massachusetts
Primary Mentor:	Susan Manning, MD, MPH CDC MCH Epidemiology Assignee
Secondary Mentor:	Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH

Director, Office of Data Translation