

The Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch is the "lead agency" for injury prevention and surveillance in the California Department of Health Services. It consists of more than 30 staff working in injury surveillance and intervention programs. In California, researchers and policy makers are becoming more interested in aging and disability. There are programs, task forces, or projects in access to care for persons with disabilities, osteoporosis, arthritis, senior falls, older drivers, and older pedestrians. Available data on these topics is abundant, but most remains unanalyzed for lack of staff dedicated to emerging public health issues. Tremendous opportunities lie in analysis of existing data. Readily available to EPIC researchers are the following computerized files: death, multiple cause of death, excellent hospital abstracts, Supplementary Homicide Reports (linked with death files), California Health Interview Survey for 2002 (N = 55,000), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS, N = 4,000 respondents > age 17 years, annual), Woman's Health Survey (N = 4,000 women > age 17 years, annual). Excellent analyses could be accomplished by using available injury incident data or survey data on experiences and risk factors to do papers and reports in this area. California has active constituencies who would be pleased to collaborate in producing more analyses from available sources.

Annual opportunities to help develop and refine survey questions exist for the BRFSS, the California Woman's Health Survey, and the California Health Interview Survey. From past questions on injury, injury risks, falls, arthritis, osteoporosis, quality of life, and various indicators of disability, there are many opportunities for analysis of data and publication.

Very little is known about risk factors for falls and other injuries and their role on activities and quality of life. The fellow could existing data to analyze relationships between data sets to evaluate the quality of survey items now in use. Analytic reports on patterns of senior injuries due to pedestrian and motor vehicle passenger mishaps, as well as violence and suicide, would be valuable to EPIC and offer additional opportunities for evaluating validity of death and hospitalization data.

The Department's large Emergency Preparedness Office offers training and exercises to ensure preparedness for attack by biological, chemical, and radiological agents. The Primary Mentor is vaccinated for smallpox as part of a BT epidemiologist team. This training, and opportunities for participation, will be available to the fellow.

Assignment Location: Sacramento, CA

Primary Mentor: Roger B. Trent, PHD, MA
Chief, Injury Surveillance and Epidemiology Section (1990-present)
Acting Director, Office of Disability Prevention (1997-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Washington (1974)
MA, University of Washington (1969)

Secondary Mentor: Alex Kelter, MD
Chief, Epidemiology & Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch
(December 1989-present)

Advanced Degree: MD, University of Arizona College of Medicine (1973)

