

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. EPIC professionals work in downtown Sacramento, less than two hours from both San Francisco and Lake Tahoe. California's population is larger than that of 21 other states combined, and the complexity of its social, political, and public policy environment makes it an unsurpassed laboratory for the young epidemiologist. We wish to find applicants who seek unparalleled opportunities for publishing and shaping policy on injury topics relevant to public health, especially injury control and prevention. California's large population (37 million) and great diversity (almost 15 million Californians speak languages other than English at home) offer analytic possibilities unavailable elsewhere.

**Child abuse and neglect.** California's state-mandated Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Program includes: case reporting by local teams, a "reconciliation audit" involving multiple sources of health and justice data, a multi-disciplinary State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, and data and policy connections with other state agencies. The Program is also developing new methods of reporting by coroners via a highly sophisticated internet-based Electronic Death Registration System.

**Senior falls.** Activity in senior falls includes recent journal articles, an intervention study involving senior care nurses, collaboration with a foundation concerned with this issue, and collaboration with university scientists. EPIC also has a program in disability, and close ties to programs in healthy aging and osteoporosis/arthritis. In the coming months, California's new emergency department surveillance data will become available permitting researchers to study senior (age 50+ years) with exceedingly large numbers of cases. (Annual number of hospitalized senior falls is 160,000 and rising. Annual number of ED-treated falls will be about 300,000.) Numerous projects and publications are possible.

**Residential fires.** There are opportunities for surveillance of the effects of residential fires via California's excellent surveillance systems. An untapped source is the California Department Forestry and Fire Protection. EPIC studied the disastrous Berkeley-Oakland Hills fire (3,400 homes destroyed, 25 deaths) and laid the ground work for additional studies of large-scale wild fires, which occur every summer. Field studies of medical responses to these events are badly needed.

Tremendous opportunities for studying these and other injury topics 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 2001, 2003, 2005 (N=about 120,000 respondents in multiple languages), annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BFRSS, N = 4,000), and annual Woman's Health Survey (N = 4,000 women).

Collaboration with researchers at the University of California is encouraged. Fellows are encouraged to participate in California's many task forces, advisory committees, and multidisciplinary working groups.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response.** The Department's 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)