

Injury

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 opportunities for publishing and shaping policy on injury topics relevant to public health. 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. We have excellent data resources including: death files and multiple cause-of-death files; an electronic death registration system; excellent, accurately-coded data on all patients treated in hospitals and emergency departments; the nation's best Supplementary Homicide Reports; Child Abuse and Neglect death reports; the California Women's Health Survey (N=4,000/year); California Health Interview Survey for 2001, 2003, 2005 (N=about 120,000 respondents in multiple languages), and others.

Here are some of our programs with excellent project potential:

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.

California Violent Death Reporting System. As part of CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System, we are developing ways to collect data on homicides, suicides, and gunshot deaths that take advantage of our state's data resources. We have a particular interest in developing more information on suicides. We have a grant to develop better data acquisition methods, including our new Electronic Death Registration System.

Sexual Violence. We are home to the CDC block grant for sexual violence prevention. Sexual violence is notoriously under-reported and poorly understood. There is an opportunity to work with our sexual violence epidemiologist on developing surveillance (e.g., reports from rape crisis centers, surveys).

Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In cooperation with California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, we provide data to the state and to counties on consumption and consequences from a variety of information sources.

Other Surveillance and Study Issues. There are a number of issues for which data resources are either available or ready to develop. These areas are not part of projects underway but which are considered important and in need of more research: child passenger safety, teen and senior driving, senior falls, drowning, heat stress, motorcycle injuries, and heat stress.

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: Donald O. Lyman, MD, DTPH
Chief, Chronic Disease and Injury Control Division

Advanced Degrees: M.D., Yale University (1968)
D.T.P.H., London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine(1974)