

Injury

The Delaware Division of Public Health (one of 12 Divisions located within the Department of Health and Social Services or DHSS) is seeking a CSTE Fellow to engage in Injury Prevention Epidemiology research at the state level. The fellow will be jointly housed in the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) and the Family Health and Systems Management Section (FHSM) within the Center for Family Health Research and Epidemiology. The purpose of the fellow's assignment is to lead in injury prevention analytic projects, link various injury prevention databases, provide expertise and guidance on injury prevention priority committees, design evidence-based interventions for OEMS on injury-related topics, and contribute to annual injury reports and summaries required by the injury prevention program and grant.

In order to fully support a CSTE fellow position, OEMS and FHSM have partnered to recruit an experienced Master's or Doctoral-level fellow to provide guidance for the injury prevention program, and to provide epidemiologic mentoring and expertise for the selected fellow. Such a joint partnership allows the Division of Public Health to gain an expert in an area of need for the state (injury prevention) while also providing key mentoring and support for the professional development of that fellow through the senior epidemiologic leadership of the FHSM Center. The fellow will physically reside in the OEMS, but will attend weekly meetings with the FHSM Center's epidemiologists. The state epidemiologist will also provide direct mentoring of the fellow.

Day to day activities of the fellow include networking with other state agencies, conducting statistical analyses, implementing new methodologies to conduct analytic research, and working with local hospitals, the Vital Statistics group, and OEMS to link existing databases. The fellow is expected to merge the various databases utilized by OEMS including the Trauma Registry, Hospital Discharge, EMS data information network (EDIN), and Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) to conduct detailed analyses in the areas of motor vehicle crashes, falls, traumatic brain injuries, drownings, homicide/firearms, suicide, poisoning, dog bites, and fires. The fellow will provide demographic and surveillance analyses, and prioritize injury prevention efforts in Delaware using these data. This analysis will culminate in development of a Statewide Emergency Department Injury Database (SEDIP). The fellow will also be responsible for identifying any other existing separate databases for inclusion in SEDIP including the newly developed Delaware Health Information Network, Delaware Electronic Reporting and Surveillance System, and the Criminal and Highway Analysis Mapping for Public Safety. Additionally, the fellow will learn Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping techniques through the Division of Public Health to plot injury outcomes regionally.

The fellow will complete a zip code-specific analysis for 19802 inside Wilmington city limits for agencies focused on providing care and public education in that region. The fellow will provide recommendations based on analytic findings, to streamline current injury prevention services provided by the Delaware Coalition for Injury Prevention for that zip code. Finally, the fellow will conduct a retrospective cohort study of a sample of specific injuries and mortality prior to and following the implementation of the statewide Trauma System in 2000. The analysis will include test for trends and determination of changes in mortality after implementation of the database. The goal of this evaluation is to determine

whether outcomes have improved following the inception of the statewide system. Projects outlined in this application will be prioritized based on the level of experience of the fellow, and training will be implemented for areas in which the fellow does not hold expertise.

The fellow will also have opportunity to work on projects in partnership with the FHSM Center. Although the Center focuses on maternal and child health issues, incorporating injury prevention analysis would be of benefit to the section. Potential projects include examining traumatic brain injury in infants and adolescents, examining suffocation or co-sleeping deaths among infants, and examining suicide data among adolescents and young adults. These data findings may also be used in the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Needs Assessment due in early 2010. Finally, the fellow will have opportunity to work with the state epidemiologist on a project utilizing the Delaware Emergency Room Syndromic Surveillance System, and on an outbreak investigation in Delaware.

The State Emergency Preparedness Plan involves a strategic planning section. The fellow will actively represent and collaborate with OEMS and the Public Health Preparedness Section (PHPS) in modification and further development of this plan. If interested, the fellow may participate in practice exercises and responses during the assignment period.

Assignment Location:	Dover, Delaware
Primary Mentor:	Charlan Kroelinger, PhD Scientific Director, Center for Family Health Research and Epidemiology Family Health and Systems Management Section Delaware Division of Public Health
Advanced Degrees:	PhD, University of South Florida (2004) MA, University of Alabama (1997)
Secondary Mentor:	Paul Silverman, Dr.P.H. Associate Deputy Director for Health Information and Science Delaware Division of Public Health
Advanced Degrees:	Dr.P.H., University of Pittsburg (1982) MPH, University of Pittsburg (1978)