

Maternal and Child Health

Assignment Description

The Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) maternal and child health epidemiologist and the research analyst are jointly located in the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention/Bureaus of Family Health and Nutrition and Health Promotion. These Bureaus address a broad spectrum of maternal and child health issues and chronic disease issues of which the Fellow would play an integral part. Each Bureau has accessible and rich data sets for data analysis, evaluation, or surveillance projects. The relatively small size of the IDPH allows the Fellow many opportunities to participate in intra-bureau and inter-bureau activities including communicable disease investigation and environmental health. The fellow may also have the opportunity to serve as an adjunct faculty member at one of Iowa's colleges or universities.

Day-to- Day Activities

The Fellow's day-to-day activities will focus on selected IDPH priority projects that are of interest to the fellow.

Potential Projects

Examples of analytic and surveillance projects:

- Conduct a trend analysis using data from the 2000, 2005, and 2010 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Surveys. These surveys covers a broad array of health and well-being topics as well as family issues such as the effect of drug and alcohol use and gambling on children in the home. Topics for analysis include, but are not limited to Iowa children's health status, issues related to their nutritional status, obesity and physical activity, access to and use of health care, and access to and use of dental care.
- Examine the proportion of Medicaid claims files associated with a maternal delivery code that did not match to a live birth certificate. We propose that these claims file be examined with regard to the women's demographic characteristics, specifically race/ethnicity, education level, and county of residence. These results may provide insights into why we are not able to match the claims data to a certificate of live birth and help develop strategies to improve our match rate.
- Examine Medicaid claims files for pregnancy episodes, in addition to delivery codes in order to determine the extent to which these women are being under-represented in our current analysis. These results may provide insights into the women we may not be reaching during their pregnancies and guide us as we develop strategies to reach Iowa women of child-bearing age who may be at risk for adverse birth outcomes.
- Health Care Reform – In collaboration with the Medical Home Coordinator, identify capacity for primary care providers to become certified medical homes in accordance to Iowa Administrative Rule. Use the results to identify quality improvement measures, design a capacity-building plan and design implementation strategies for increasing benchmarks on the quality improvement measures.
- In collaboration with the Title X Family Planning Coordinator, develop a surveillance system to monitor the uptake and effectiveness of outreach strategies created to engage males in family planning decision making.
- IDPH data capacity building project: In collaboration with the primary mentor and the SSDI coordinator (State Systems Development Initiative) conduct the bi-annual MCH Data Capacity Assessment, use the results to identify data capacity needs, design a capacity-building plan, implement the plan, and evaluate the effect on MCH data capacity. Program Evaluation • In collaboration with the EHDI Coordinator, conduct an evaluation of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program to assist in data base development and system improvement activities. The EHDI program manages a statewide surveillance system to track the hearing

outcomes of children 0 – 3 years. This work will expand on current evaluation activities of the EHDI program including funding and sustainability and raising public awareness

- Design and initiate an evaluation of the Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting project. The Fellow would investigate the feasibility of currently available data source to determine project success in reaching high risk families and program effect, as well as determine data needs and data collection strategies.
- Evaluate the Nutrition & Physical Activity project. This ongoing CDC-funded 4-year intervention/control group project includes ongoing data collection from students in schools across the state, including the assessment of height and weight as well as surveys of teachers, students, school nurses, and parents concerning nutrition and physical activity. Topics include but are not limited to longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses of child BMI, physical activity patterns, impact of the USDA-funded fruit and vegetables program on childhood nutritional status, and the impact of school-level changes on student behaviors, as well as school-based project sustainability.
- Build on the existing BMI measurement project, evaluate the feasibility of creating an ongoing BMI surveillance project of school-aged children across the state, including exploring funding project options, collaborating with school nurses, and exploring viable strategies to share data at the community level to promote data to action activities.

Preparedness Role

Within the IDPH, the division of Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response provides support, technical assistance and consultation to local public health agencies, hospitals, emergency medical service programs, and local health care providers regarding infectious diseases, disease prevention and control, injury prevention and control and public health and healthcare emergency preparedness and response. The Fellow's primary mentor would facilitate the Fellow's participation in emergency preparedness activities as directed by the Fellow's interests and learning needs.

Assignment Location:	Des Moines, IA
Primary Mentor:	Debra Kane, PhD, MS MCH Epidemiologist Iowa Department of Public Health
Secondary Mentor:	Catherine Lillehoj, PhD Research Analyst Iowa Department of Public Health