

Chronic Disease

The Chronic Disease, Injury, and Environmental Epidemiology (CDIEE) Section is part of the Epidemiology Branch at the Georgia Division of Public Health. CDIEE assess burden of chronic disease and risk factors in Georgia, including analysis of data from death certificates, hospitalizations, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).

The CSTE fellowship will focus on student and school health surveys. The health of young people is critically linked to the health-related behaviors they choose to adopt. A limited number of behaviors contribute markedly to today's major killers. These behaviors, often established during youth, include tobacco use; unhealthy dietary behaviors; inadequate physical activity; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that may result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies; and behaviors that may result in violence and unintentional injuries (motor vehicle crashes).

The CSTE fellow will gain experience in a range of activities related to the YRBS including survey design, sampling, data collection, data analyses, data reporting, data dissemination, and surveillance system evaluation. The main datasets to be analyzed and evaluate will be the Georgia YRBS, which include middle and high school student information. Analyses will be conducted using SAS software. The YRBS data are essential to support planning and evaluation of several Division of Public Health programs: School Health, Obesity, Tobacco Use Prevention, Cardiovascular Health, and other programs at the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases. These data are also widely used by non-governmental organizations such as the Georgia Coalition for Physical Activity and Nutrition, Georgia Cancer Coalition, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society to advocate for policy changes.

The CSTE fellow will have the opportunity to take the lead role in an evaluation of the Georgia Violent Death Surveillance System (GVDRS), which is based in the CDIEE Section. With respect to the State Emergency Preparedness plan, the fellow will have opportunities to analyze and report on data from the Georgia Syndromic Surveillance Program, which monitors data sources such as hospital emergency department visits to detect clusters of symptoms or conditions that may signal disease outbreaks. The CSTE fellow may also participate in other CDIEE Section activities such as chronic disease and injury burden assessment, cancer registry, breast and cervical cancer screening, Coverdell stroke registry, violent death registry, and others. In addition, opportunities for short-term assignments in infectious disease, maternal and child

health, STD epidemiology can be easily arranged.

The CSTE fellow will have an office space in the Epidemiology Branch located in downtown Atlanta at 2 Peachtree St. on the 14th floor. Office space will include personal phone and high-speed personal computer and printer with E-mail, Internet, MS Office package software and statistical software (SAS). The CSTE fellow will enjoy the administrative and technical support provided to all staff and epidemiologists such as copiers and fax. The Epidemiology Branch has a highly skilled highly motivated staff of 60 professionals doing useful work in all aspects of epidemiology. All staff epidemiologists hold MPH or equivalent degree and have work experience ranging from one to eight years. Senior staff and Branch management are among the best in the country. They include physicians and veterinarians with graduate degrees in epidemiology and PhD epidemiologists. They are broadly trained and experienced in infectious disease, chronic disease, environmental, injury, and MCH epidemiology. Their applied epidemiology experience ranges from 8 to more than 35 years.

Assignment Location:	Atlanta, Georgia
Primary Mentor:	Dafna Kanny, PhD Chief, Behavioral, Policy, and Environmental Factors Surveillance Unit Chronic Disease, Injury, and Environmental Epidemiology Section (2001-present)
Advanced Degrees:	PhD, Bar Ilan University, Israel (1999) MA, Bar Ilan University, Israel (1995)
Secondary Mentor:	John Horan, MD, MPH Chief, Chronic Disease, Injury, and Environmental Epidemiology Section (2005-present)
Advanced Degrees:	MD, State University of New York at Syracuse (1974) MPH, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health (1984)