

The Office of Epidemiology and Food Protection (OEFPP) within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, comprises four epidemiologists (State Epidemiologist, Deputy State Epidemiologist, Career Epidemiology Field Officer, STD/HIV epidemiologist), two program administrators, and three support staff. The OEFPP's primary responsibilities include reportable diseases (see attached reportable disease list), epidemiologic aspects of health preparedness, and food safety. The OEFPP manages several CDC grants (i.e., ELC, Bioterrorism [Focus Area B and EWIDS], Tuberculosis Control, and HIV/AIDS Surveillance). The OEFPP contracts with Idaho's seven District Health Departments to provide a variety of epidemiologic services (e.g., disease investigation, epidemiology surveillance and response planning). The Fellow will interact with the Division's Bureau of Community and Environmental Health, which focuses on chronic disease prevention and houses the Division's environmental toxicologist, and the Division's Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics, which includes Idaho BRFSS coordination, Idaho mortality data, and the Health Preparedness Program. Collaboration with the Cancer Data Registry of Idaho (CDRI) is expected. The Fellow will participate in Idaho's Cluster Analysis Working Group, which meets as necessary to address concerns about possible clusters of disease, usually, but not limited to, cancer clusters. See <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/> for more information on IDHW programs.

Idaho's Division of Health is frequently requested to participate in health evaluations which include potential environmental exposures. Examples of inquiries in the last three months are requests to: 1) evaluate rates of multiple sclerosis and whether or not they are related to ionizing radiation due to Nevada test site releases in the 1950s, 2) evaluate a cluster of children with seizure disorders in a small neighborhood, 3) evaluate a cluster of brain cancer in a certain occupational group near a nuclear facility, 4) investigate complaints of bronchitis near a wood products company, and 5) report to the Governor on the health risks of acrylamide in food. The Fellow will participate in the initial determination by the Division of Health if there were cause to follow up on the concerns, and take the lead in responding to these concerns. The Fellow will be expected to take the lead in evaluating environmental data in coordination with health data. Because there is currently no epidemiologist on staff who has particular expertise in assessing environmental health issues, the Fellow will have the opportunity for a leadership role in these areas, and will be working in partnership with the other OEFPP epidemiologists and the Bureau of Community and Environmental Health.

The Fellow will evaluate our surveillance system for elevated blood lead. The Fellow will partner with IDHW Bureau of Laboratories in determining Idaho's response to invitations to participate in biomonitoring implementation with the Rocky Mountain Biomonitoring Consortium and Washington State Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, and may work with the IDHW Bureau of Laboratories, Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center, and Idaho State Department of Agriculture to develop a proposal for integrating chemical exposure data into a chemical exposure surveillance system.

The Fellow will be asked to review the radiologic and chemical preparedness components of the state emergency preparedness plan and work with the IDHW Bureau of Laboratories Chemical Terrorism Coordinator and the IDHW Health Preparedness Program to make recommendations on updates to address response to radiologic and chemical incidents. Currently, response plans to these two types of events are disjointed across various agencies and gaps exist.

Assignment Location: Boise, Idaho

Primary Supervisor: Kris Carter, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM
Lieutenant Commander, United States Public Health Service,
Career Epidemiology Field Officer, CDC, Idaho Department of Health and
Welfare (6/04-present)

Advanced Degrees: MPVM, University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine
(2001)
DVM, University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine
(1982)

Secondary Supervisor: Christine Hahn, MD
State Epidemiologist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (2/97-
present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine (1988)