

Maternal and Child Health

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Fellow's activities will focus on data associated with Illinois' maternal and child health (MCH) programs, for which the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Division of Community Health and Prevention/Office of Family Health (OFH) maintains primary responsibility. Through grants to local provider agencies, the OFH supports comprehensive services for men and women of childbearing age, new parents, infants, children and adolescents. The division's Associate Director for Family Health, Myrtis Sullivan, MD, is the lead administrator for Illinois' Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, authorized by Title V of the Social Security Act.

Currently the Title V Program is without a maternal and child health epidemiologist. The CSTE Fellow, working with the Title V Director, will strengthen maternal and child health epidemiology in Illinois by providing additional skills and concentrating efforts aimed at producing and facilitating high-level analyses and reporting that can inform MCH program and policy.

Daily activities to be assumed by the Fellow include: conducting high epidemiologic analyses using data that are already accessible and available; and providing leadership for proposed projects that require interagency cooperation and data system integration, developing analytic plans and facilitating the creation of datasets for analysis.

Examples of analyses that can be carried out with existing databases include:

- Expanding on preliminary work examining the impact of Illinois' WIC and Family Case Management (FCM) programs. This project uses an already existing dataset that includes population data (vital records) program data (WIC, FCM and Medicaid). The analyses will examine not only program participation per se, but program "dose", along with looking at the interrelationship of FCM, WIC, and prenatal care from a systems perspective.
- Using vital records data as well as data from Illinois' PRAMS to understand the impact of fetal death, early preterm delivery, and late preterm delivery on perinatal mortality in Illinois.
- Studying the extent of childhood obesity and factors associated with childhood obesity among Illinois children using the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH). To date, the NSCH has not been utilized by the Title V Program.

There are several other projects of interest to the Title V Program that would involve using PRAMS, the NSCH, or the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN), all rich data sources which due to resource constraints, the Title V Program has not been able to fully utilize.

Examples of potential innovative analyses requiring extensive planning and interagency coordination:

- Study the use of family planning methods and services in Illinois, including how family planning intersects with pregnancy intendedness, maternal morbidity, and perinatal outcomes. This project will work to synthesize Title X administrative data, Medicaid claims data, and PRAMS data.
- Further the study of childhood obesity in Illinois by developing an analysis plan that synthesizes WIC data, school health data, YRBS data, along with the data from the NSCH.
- Use the NSCH along with hospital discharge data to conduct a study of children's mental health in Illinois.
- Study extent of and factors associated with intentional injury, particularly handgun violence in children, adolescents and young adults. This analysis will require building a dataset that includes hospital discharge and vital records data.
- Use Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) claims; hospital admissions; Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH); child welfare; and juvenile justice data to examine child and adolescent health in Illinois.
- Plan and participate in the next statewide Maternal and Child Health needs assessment.

These more complex projects will include an evaluation of the ability of the surveillance systems to provide quality data for epidemiologic analysis. In addition, the challenges of integrating across surveillance systems will be assessed.

The activities of the fellow are aimed at moving the epidemiologic work of the Title V Program forward by focusing on topics and/or data sources that have either not been used previously or which have been used only minimally. This effort will help to institutionalize these types of projects by illustrating analytic approaches and reporting templates that can be modified or replicated.

The Emergency Preparedness Plan of the IDHS became effective on June 29, 2007. IDHS has an Emergency Operations Plan for responses to natural hazards such as tornadoes and floods, and to manmade disasters, such as hazardous material spills and acts of terrorism. The CDC/CSTE fellow will work with Primary and Secondary mentors and the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program and other State agencies to collaborate with the Illinois IDHS Preparedness Team to develop policies and procedures in accordance with guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to address the needs of families, particularly, mothers, infants, children, adolescents and children with special health care needs during emergencies, disasters and mass casualty events.

Assignment Location:	Chicago, Illinois
Primary Mentor:	Myrtis Sullivan, M.D., M.P.H. Associate Director, Office of Family Health & Title V Director
Advanced Degrees:	MD, University of Illinois, Chicago (1978) MPH, University of Illinois, Chicago (1982)
Secondary Mentor:	Craig S. Conover, MD, MPH Medical Director, Office of Health Protection
Advanced Degrees:	MD, University of Rochester School of Medicine (1986) MPH, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health (1994)