

Assignment Description

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology positions are jointly located in the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention/Bureau of Family Health (BFH) and the Division of Environmental Health/Bureau of Statistics (BHS). The CSTE fellow will have opportunities to participate in intra-bureau and inter-bureau activities that cover a broad spectrum of maternal and child health issues, as well as activities that build public health infrastructure for all Iowans.

Fellow's Anticipated Day-to-Day Activities

The fellow's day-to-day activities will focus on selected IDPH priority projects and projects that are of interest to the fellow. These projects may include analytic and surveillance projects, an MCH data capacity building project, and workforce development building projects.

Examples of analytic and surveillance projects:

- Participate in the Iowa Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (I-PRAMS) pilot project, a population-based surveillance project we will carry out in calendar year 2007, is to demonstrate our capacity to carry out PRAMS in the future. Participation would include data collection and data analysis regarding an array of maternal and newborn issues such as women's health behaviors, (tobacco and alcohol use), access to prenatal care, pregnancy intention, and early infant care.
- Analyze data from the 2005 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey. This survey 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. Data collection has been completed and preliminary data analysis is underway.
- Examine the relationship of access to dental care during pregnancy and birth outcomes among Medicaid recipients; examine use of dental care by pregnant women and factors that contribute to access to dental care during pregnancy among Medicaid recipients.
- Analyze the effectiveness of Medicaid prenatal case management to increase access to prenatal care and other services that may reduce adverse birth outcomes among women at increased risk for adverse birth outcomes.

- Evaluate the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking System, Surveillance, and Integration system based on the National EHDI performance indicators.

MCH data capacity building project:

- With regard to MCH data capacity, the fellow would have the opportunity to work in collaboration with the SSDI coordinator (State Systems Development Initiative) to examine MCH data capacity at a department level, to make recommendations to build data capacity, and to create and implement data capacity building projects and activities.

Redesigning public health in Iowa:

- The Iowa Department of Public Health is leading the state in “Redesigning Public Health in Iowa”, a partnership between state and local public health to redefine how public health is delivered in Iowa. At this time, standards for local public health agencies have been developed. The fellow could be a part of the next steps of the Redesign such as assessing the ability of local public health agencies to meet the competencies, developing and documenting best practices for the implementation of the competencies, or in training boards of health in the competencies.

Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans

- The fellow would be invited to participate and contribute to trainings and planned meetings of the Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans, a project designed to prepare individuals and the department in the event of an emergency or catastrophic event.

What Iowa Can Offer

Iowa offers opportunities for collaboration with academic institutions such as the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and Des Moines university and for collaboration with national organizations such as CityMatCH. The fellow would have opportunities to present their work to programs within IDPH, in state and national meetings, and peer-reviewed journals.

Des Moines, Iowa is a growing city known for its short commute times, affordable housing, and offers some of the nation’s best schools. Des Moines is the home of a number of private colleges including Drake University and Des Moines University. The city and the surrounding area have many recreational opportunities for those who love the outdoors, such as miles of biking and hiking trails. Those interested in the arts will find a number of venues for live music and theater. The city also has a new public library.

The Des Moines International Airport is easily accessible and just 5 miles from downtown. It provides direct flights to Atlanta, Chicago, Las Vegas, Milwaukee, Washington DC, and many other locations in the United States.

If you would like to learn more about Des Moines, Iowa, visit the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.seedesmoines.com.

Description of Supervision

Primary Mentor: Debra Kane, PhD, RN, APRN, BC
MCH Epidemiologist (2005-present)
Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Illinois @
Chicago (2003); MS, University of Wisconsin @
Madison (1994)

Secondary Mentor: M Jane Borst, MA, RN
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Family Health (1993-present)
Advanced Degrees: BA, Augustana College (1972);
MA, University of Iowa (1983)Chicago (2003); MS,
University of Wisconsin @ Madison (1994)