

Maternal and Child Health

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) maternal and child health epidemiology position and research analyst are jointly located in the Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention/Bureaus of Family Health and Nutrition and Health Promotion and the Division of Administration and Professional Licensure/Bureau of Statistics. The relatively small size of the IDPH allows the CSTE fellow many opportunities to participate in intra-bureau and inter-bureau activities that cover a broad spectrum of maternal and child health issues, chronic disease issues, communicable disease investigation, and environmental health, as well as activities that build public health infrastructure for all Iowans. The fellow may also have the opportunity to serve as an adjunct faculty member at one of Iowa's colleges or universities. The fellow's day-to-day activities will focus on selected IDPH priority projects that are of interest to the fellow.

Examples of analytic and surveillance projects:

- Analyze data from the Iowa Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (I-PRAMS) pilot project, a population-based surveillance project we conducted during calendar years 2007 and 2008. The data reflects 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 2000 and 2005 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.
- Evaluate the Iowa Early Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking System, Surveillance, and Integration system based on the National EHDI performance indicators.
- Conduct Phase 2 of the Periods of Perinatal Risk (PPOR) analysis. In the Phase 2 analysis, the PPOR map is used to explain why excess infant deaths occurred and to direct prevention efforts.
- Conduct a 5 year trend analysis of birth outcomes and access to prenatal care using the Medicaid claims data-birth certificate linked file.

IDPH data capacity building project:

- Work with the SSDI coordinator (State Systems Development Initiative) to 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.
- Participate in chronic disease data integration efforts within IDPH such as development of a set of common indicators from existing data sets, evaluation of data needs, and assessment of IDPH capacity to effect programmatic/analytic chronic disease integration activities

Comprehensive state-wide needs assessment:

- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of Iowa's EHD Program to inform and guide program development and public policy recommendations.
- Participate in the 2010 Title V Needs Assessment project. Components of this project would include developing a timeline for the needs assessment process, convening the steering committee to ensure statewide leadership, refining the prioritization process for determination of the state's needs, and researching infrastructure activities and emerging issues in other states

Program Evaluation

- Compare and contrast the data collected by the Barriers Questionnaire (a convenience sample) to the data collected by the Iowa Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (a pilot project using a random sample) for the purpose of determining the best data source for selected variables and to determine if IDPH should pursue a CDC funded PRAMS project.
- Evaluate the Nutrition & Physical Activity project. This ongoing CDC-funded 4-year intervention/control group project includes ongoing data collection from students in 12 elementary schools across the state, including the assessment of height and weight as well as surveys of teachers, students, 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 the Oral Health Bureau screening project, and exploring viable strategies to share data at the community level to promote data to action activities.

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 state and national meetings, and to submit their work to peer-reviewed journals.

Assignment Location: Des Moines, IA

Primary Mentor: Debra Kane, PhD

CDC Assignee/MCH Epidemiologist

Advanced Degrees: Ph.D., University of Illinois @Chicago (2003)

M.S., University of Wisconsin, Madison (1994)

Secondary Mentor: Catherine Lillehoj, PhD

Research Analyst

Advanced Degrees: Ph.D., Columbia University/New York, NY (1989)

M.S., City University of New York (1984)