

Louisiana Acuna.doc

Maternal and Child Health Program Fellow

Location:

Epidemiology Assessment and Evaluation Unit (EAE), MCH Program, Louisiana Office of Public Health, located in the city of New Orleans, LA.

Population: 4.5 million in Louisiana; 1.5 million in New Orleans Area.

Living environment and geographical assets: New Orleans is one of the five most visited cities in the US. The Office of Public Health is located in down town New Orleans, close to Canal Street and the French Quarter. The closeness of the Universities (Tulane and LSU) to LAOPH (1 block) provides a great scientific ambiance to the area, which is inserted into the New Orleans Cajun culture and heritage. Musical, theatrical, and sporting events are always available. Lakes, rivers, coast, public parks, and a city made for pedestrians (unlike Atlanta), provide world-class personal, cultural, and sportsman activities with superb quality of life (no-stressed people here!).

Supervisors:

Primary: Juan M. Acuña, M.D., MSc (Senior MCH Medical Epidemiologist/CDC Assignee; EIS =98)

Secondary supervisor: Tri Tran, M.D., MPH (MCH Epidemiologist, EAE program)

Work environment:

The EAE Unit is the core of MCH epidemiology activities at the LAOPH. It has 1 CDC senior MCH epidemiologist and 8 epidemiologists dedicated to MCH, Children with Special Health Services (CSHS), and the Louisiana's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (LAPRAMS). The EAE group has a strong relationship with Vital Records, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and the Tulane and LSU Schools of Public Health. Teaching opportunities are available for the EISO. We will provide secretarial support, state-of-the-art computer hardware and software and an ideal mix of CDC action, a southern state attitude, and lots of good humor. The exciting New Orleans culture is within walking distance from the office (try this almost elsewhere in the US!).

Suggested initial projects:

Louisiana has one of the highest rates in the US for perinatal death and other poor MCH outcomes. This represents a great opportunity to study and prevent poor outcomes in MCH.

Some projects include:

- 1) PRAMS analysis to investigate risk factors for maternal and infant health outcomes;
- 2) Using linked birth-death records to conduct longitudinal studies of birth outcomes;
- 3) Surveillance Evaluation: PRAMS, Lead Surveillance, Maternal Mortality Surveillance System, Newborn Hearing Screening Surveillance;
- 4) Monitoring and Evaluation: three large projects to decrease perinatal mortality in the state;
- 5) Analysis of perinatal mortality in the state;
- 6) Reproductive outcomes cluster investigation (miscarriages, birth defects, etc)

Range of opportunities:

Research areas include MCH, CSHS, Family Planning, lead, injury, and others. Field opportunities are widely available in communicable, occupational, or environmental diseases. Direct access to health statistics data facilitates research. Birth defects, hospital discharge data, infectious disease epidemiology, BRFSS, and maternal mortality surveillance are other potential areas for research. Creativity is encouraged to select and develop projects. Evaluation projects for program and surveillance system available (too large to list, but include BD, PRAMS, FIMR programs, etc).

Strengths of assignment:

- 1) Close CDC and academic ties;
- 2) Superb close supervision;
- 3) Availability of large, rich databases;
- 4) Wide-range of opportunities;
- 5) Freedom of choosing projects of interest;
- 6) Being in New Orleans and close to the many wonders the city has to offer
- 7) Spousal employment: Good opportunities.

Assignment Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Primary Supervisor: Juan Acuna, MD, MSc.
Maternal and Child Health Medical Epidemiologist, Louisiana Office of
Public Health (2000-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (1981)
MSc, Universidad Javeriana (1999)

Secondary Supervisor: Tri Tran, MD, MPH
MCH Epidemiologist, EAE program (2000-present)