

Maternal and Child Health

The Louisiana Office of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program, is seeking a master or doctoral level fellow to work with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology, Assessment, and Evaluation (EAE) Unit located in New Orleans, LA. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused extensive damage and displacement of residents across Southern Louisiana in 2005. As a result, there is great uncertainty about the current population size and demographic characteristics of those currently residing in Louisiana. The state population was 4.5 million prior to the hurricanes, with 1.5 million living in the New Orleans metro area. One recent report estimates about 670,000 residents in the metro area in 2006. With the ongoing recovery of the state of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans after the 2005 hurricanes, this position offers a unique opportunity to examine program and surveillance data collected during and after this historical natural disaster with an exciting opportunity to contribute to and guide public health change in a program dedicated to improving the health of our population. It is a challenging yet rewarding time to live in this historical city, with substantial improvements having been made in the past year and further improvements ongoing.

The MCH EAE Unit provides superior epidemiologic support for the Maternal and Child Health Program, and the Unit is currently staffed with two Senior MCH Epidemiologists (1 CDC assignee), a CSTE fellow, and four additional epidemiologists working in the MCH EAE Unit, Louisiana PRAMS, and Children's Special Health Services. The EAE Unit maintains strong relationships with CDC, through the MCH Epidemiology assignee and PRAMS, state infectious and chronic disease epidemiologists, faculty and students from the Tulane and LSU Schools of Public Health, as well as program and data staff from Louisiana Vital Records, Medicaid, WIC, and many other State programs. Ongoing agreements are in place with these and other state programs enabling great opportunity for data linkages and collaborative analyses.

The selected fellow will be located within the EAE Unit and down the hall from other state epidemiology units, including infectious disease, chronic disease, and environmental epidemiology. Appropriate office space and equipment will be provided, including a personal computer with statistical software. The fellow will be expected to attend weekly EAE staff meetings to address EAE unit updates as well as epidemiologic and analytical methods review and trainings. The fellow will also be encouraged to participate in lectures and trainings offered at nearby schools of public health and will have the opportunity to learn about the OPH and new MCH emergency preparedness plans and participate in the emergency protocol if desired. The major project will be selected and developed by the fellow and CSTE supervisors in accordance with program goals. It is encouraged that the fellow present appropriate analyses at local, state, and national meetings as well as prepare manuscripts for peer reviewed journal publication.

Potential Projects: Louisiana has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the US and consistently ranks poorly on many MCH outcomes. Suggested initial projects include: 1) data linkage and analysis of vital records with hospital discharge, Medicaid, STD, and HIV program data; 2) multilevel analysis of linked data to investigate complex factors associated with maternal and infant health outcomes, including but not limited to linkage with Census data; 3) spatial analysis of perinatal outcomes post-hurricanes 4) analysis of National child health data systems such as the National Survey of Children's Health and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey; 5) design and implementation of program evaluation for the State Child Health Injury Program and/or Fetal-Infant Mortality Review Program; 6)

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evaluation of the PRAMS, Birth Defects, Lead, and Maternal Mortality Surveillance programs and 7) research, design, and implement a child health surveillance system to meet the needs of state Child Health Program staff.

Assignment Location: New Orleans, LA

Primary Supervisor: Lyn Kieltyka, Ph.D
Senior Service Fellow in Louisiana Office of Public Health in the
Division of Reproductive Health

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Tulane University (2003)
MPH, Emory University (1998)

Secondary Supervisor: Tri Tran, MD, MPH
Senior Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist Supervisor

Advanced Degrees: MD, Hue University, Vietnam (1990)
MPH, Tulane University (2000)