

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Coordination Program (EHCP) within the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the principal environmental public health program in the state's public health system. It has three primary responsibilities: (1) environmental health surveillance; (2) control of environmental health hazards not otherwise regulated in the state; and (3) response and preparedness.

The Fellow will participate in all of these activities in a team that includes the director of the program, a biostatistician, informatics, and other program personnel. EHCP works very closely with environmental health agencies in each of Maryland's 24 local jurisdictions, as well as with the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Preparedness and Response and Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs. Typical daily activities for the fellow will include any or all of the following: (1) assistance in development of the state's Environmental Public Health Tracking program, which integrates environmental and health data in a GIS environment; (2) work with the state public health veterinarian or outbreak investigation team on GIS applications to environmental disease vectors; (3) assistance in cluster investigations with the Maryland Cancer Registry; or (4) work with the Office of Preparedness and Response on radiological preparedness issues.

Typical projects involving data analysis will include analysis of environmental and health data within the Environmental Public Health Tracking project, including development of community and county profiles of environmental issues, and the analysis and development of data display techniques for specific populations such as children's environmental health issues. There will also be an opportunity to participate in field investigations through local environmental health agencies across the state.

The opportunities for program or surveillance system evaluation will include the evaluation of applications residing or being considered for the environmental public health tracking program, as well as within a newly implemented data base related to environmental health agency performance measures.

The EHCP works closely with the Office of Preparedness and Response on a wide variety of preparedness issues, particularly involving radiological and chemical preparedness and response. The Fellow will participate in some of these activities, and may also spend several months working with the Office of Preparedness and Response on specific projects.

Assignment Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Primary Mentor: Clifford Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH

Director, Environmental Health Coordination and Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Programs, Community Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Advanced Degrees: MPH, Johns Hopkins (1991)

MD, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (1987)

MS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1981)

Secondary Mentor: David Blythe, MD, MPH

State Epidemiologist, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Principal Investigator, Maryland Emerging Infections Program

Advanced Degrees: MPH, University of Washington (1998)

MD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine (1992)