

Massachusetts – Letitia Davis, ScD

This position is located in the Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) of the Center for Health Information, Statistics, Research and Evaluation, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). The overall mission of the Occupational Health Surveillance Program is to promote the health, safety and quality of life of working people in Massachusetts. The program has a broad array of projects that encompass data analysis, program evaluation, and intervention activities, including:

- Development of protocols and systems for using statewide case mix data (hospital discharge, emergency department, and outpatient observation data) for occupational injury surveillance. Data for analysis will be available in 2005 from all three sources for multiple years.
- Analysis of workers' compensation data. A large multi-year data set will be available for analysis in 2005. A project to merge these data with case mix data to investigate surveillance system capture rates for occupational injuries will commence this year.
- Analysis of data from a survey of asthma and respiratory symptoms in public elementary school staff. Collaboration and data sharing with the Center for Environmental Health will allow comparison of school staff and student asthma rates with environmental measurements conducted in schools.
- Active participation in the Massachusetts Asthma Planning Collaborative Initiative (MAPCI). MAPCI is currently developing an asthma burden document as a basis for future research and intervention efforts.
- Collaboration with community health centers in Boston to develop protocols and informational materials to raise awareness and diagnosis of work-related asthma in minority and immigrant communities.

As an occupational epidemiologist at OHSP, the Fellow will serve as a member of the team conducting field investigations that are triggered by OHSP's routine sentinel event surveillance of work-related carbon monoxide poisoning, work-related burns, work-related asthma, teen injuries at work, and workplace fatalities. The Fellow will also collaborate with other programs in CHISRE of MDPH such as the Injury Surveillance Program and the Division of Research and Epidemiology. Work will be conducted under the direction of Phill Hunt, who is leading the "Massachusetts CORE Occupational Health Surveillance Project" aimed at developing a model occupational health surveillance program for other states.

The MDPH has the capacity and capability to identify infectious disease outbreaks, including outbreaks caused by the deliberate use of biological agents by terrorists. The Fellow will attend meetings of the Statewide Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program Advisory Committee and the Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee chaired by Alfred DeMaria, MD, Assistant Commissioner of MDPH. Specifically the Fellow will be trained in the Focus Area B: Epidemiology and Surveillance – disease

reporting, vulnerability assessments, exercise epidemiology response, broader definition of surveillance.

Assignment Location: Boston, MA

Primary Mentor: Letitia K. Davis, ScD, MS
Director, Occupational Health Surveillance Program
(1984-present)

Advanced Degrees: ScD, Harvard School of Public Health (1983)
MS, Harvard School of Public Health (1978)

Secondary Mentor: Phillip R. Hunt, MS
Senior Epidemiologist, Occupational Health Surveillance
Program (2004-present)

Advanced degrees: MS, New York University (1983)
ScD, University of Massachusetts Lowell, (2005 completion)