

Maternal and Child Health

The Office of Data Translation (ODT) serves as the internal information center for the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). ODT is interested in recruiting a CSTE fellow to participate in a variety of activities in perinatal, maternal and child health. Potential activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Perform community-level analysis of racial/ethnic disparities in perinatal outcomes and participate in the state's formulation of a strategic plan for reduction of disparities in high-risk communities.
- Analyze variations of fetal and infant mortality rates by geographic regions using perinatal periods of risk assessment (PPOR).
- Assist in the development of a health literacy campaign for the improvement of maternal health and prevention of preterm births.
- Monitor maternal morbidity/mortality and identify factors that contribute to racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.
- Evaluate parental satisfaction and outcomes related to Children with Special Health Needs programs.
- Participate in a collaborative project between MDPH and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to assess trends in diagnoses of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), evaluate continuity of service provision, and examine developmental and education outcomes for children with ASD.
- Conduct analyses of qualitative data gathered by the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) to report issues faced by new mothers in the early postpartum period.
- Design and implement a PRAMS follow-up survey about maternal postpartum health status including gestational diabetes follow-up as well as toddler health, growth and development.
- Examine inter-pregnancy intervals for annual MCH surveillance and target high risk communities for family planning needs assessment. Assess the influences of health care and insurance status on inter-pregnancy intervals.
- Collaborate with colleagues in the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control to lead an outbreak investigation.
- Participate in MDPH emergency preparedness activities, with a particular focus on MCH populations including children and youth with special health needs.

ODT has multiple tools to conduct these activities in data collection, analyses, program evaluation, and surveillance. The Massachusetts Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal Data (PELL) System is one of the few maternally-linked longitudinal databases in the country created to utilize a broad range of public

health datasets to examine the impact of the prenatal environment and experiences on postnatal child and maternal health. The Fellow would have the opportunity to conduct research using PELL, and many other datasets including PRAMS, to assess factors influencing the incidence of maternal morbidity, fetal/infant deaths, infant morbidity, and evaluate MCH programs linked to this population-based resource.

There are also opportunities to conduct cross-cutting research with other divisions within the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition as well as with other bureaus (Vital Statistics, Communicable Disease Control). Boston also offers opportunity for collaboration with academic institutions such as Harvard School of Public Health and Boston University School of Public Health. The fellow would have the opportunity to present their work to programs within MDPH, in national meetings, and peer-reviewed journals.

The fellow would evaluate at least one existing surveillance system using evaluation guidelines developed by the CDC. Potential systems to be evaluated include Birth Defects Surveillance, WIC, fetal death reporting, Early Intervention, and PRAMS.

Assignment Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Primary Mentor: Susan Manning, MD, MPH
CDC MCH Epidemiology Program Assignee

Advanced Degrees: MD, Dartmouth Medical School (1999)
MPH, Emory School of Public Health (2005)

Secondary Mentor: Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH
State MCH Epidemiologist
Director, Office of Data Translation

Advanced Degrees: MD , University of Conakry, Guinea (1990)
MPH , University of Hawaii School of Public Health (2000)