

Within the MDCH, all epidemiologists are housed in the Bureau of Epidemiology that consists of 4 Divisions. One is the Division of Epidemiology Services that includes MCH epidemiology. However, the MCH epidemiology work is unique due to its strong collaboration with the programs within the Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health.

The Bureau of Family and Maternal Child Health was created in August of 2003 under the leadership of Douglas Paterson. It comprises three Divisions: Women, Infants and Children Division (WIC), Division of Family and Community Health and Children's Special Health Care Services Division. MCH Epidemiology works closely with programs within each of the above-mentioned Divisions, conducting analysis and preparing reports depending on the programs' needs as well as participating in the planning process when required.

The State MCH Epidemiologist supervises the work of the entire MCH Epidemiology team. Each MCH epidemiologist is assigned to work for/with MCH programs: birth defects, PRAMS, oral health surveillance, CSHCS, WIC, and Title V. The current analytic projects include: children with special care needs (SLAITS) and the contribution of preterm to MI CSHCS program, racial disparities in maternal morbidity, maternal mortality by cause of death, perinatal indicators for women MI residents (covered by Medicaid vs. non Medicaid), perinatal indicators for Arab American women living in Michigan, oral health surveillance, WIC (PedNSS and PNSS trend analysis for 1995-2003, maternal characteristics of mothers of children with major birth defects recorded in MI Birth Defects Registry.

The MCH team has access to different data sets hosted in data warehouse or provided by programs, Vital Statistics office, Michigan Hospital Association. The objectives for our MCH epi team work fall into the following categories: 1) Improve and expand MCH epidemiology capacity; 2) Continue to promote epidemiological studies and research on MCH issues in Michigan; 3) Continue to work with MCH programs, offer epidemiological assistance and disseminate the data analysis findings; 3) Continue to improve the statewide surveillance systems for MCH-related issues, 4) Improve dissemination of data and results, 5) Improve collaborations inside and outside the Division of Public Health.

The fellow is expected to work as part of the MCH epi team and thus participate at every activity, meeting. The MCH epi team has monthly meeting as well as individual meeting with the supervisor whenever needed that allows a continue mentorship and supervision.

Some of the potential projects include: the access and referral to services of children with birth defects and special care needs by using the BD data linked to CSHCS program data; trend analysis of preterm births in MI and their use of the NICU beds by hospital; the analysis of hospital surveys planned to be conducted at Hospitals with NICU. The project will allow access to linked data sets, data management as well as analytical analysis.

Assignment Location: Lansing, MI

Primary Supervisor: Violanda Grigorescu, MD, MSPH

State Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist (August 2003-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi, Romania (1981)
MSPH, University of Louisville (2001)

Secondary Supervisor: Corinne Miller, PhD, DDS
State Chronic Disease Epidemiologist (12/2000 – Present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Minnesota (1993)
DDS, School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota