

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Epidemiology is offering a position for a chronic disease epidemiologist. The Bureau houses infectious disease, environmental and occupational, chronic disease and maternal and child health epidemiologists and thus offers a rich learning environment with many opportunities for collaboration. Over 170 individuals, including 5 physicians, 6 veterinarians, 10 nurses, 1 dentist, work in the Bureau. Twenty have PhDs, 65 have an MPH, MS or other master's degree, and 6 are former EIS Officers. Collectively, the Bureau has published more than 40 articles in the peer review literature and in the MMWR over the last three years. Several staff members have faculty appointments at UM School of Public Health or MSU Department of Epidemiology. The Bureau has sponsored training opportunities for summer interns, preventive medicine residents, and other fellows. Staff also hosts an epidemiology seminar to present findings from their work or that of academic partners.

The chronic disease epidemiologist will have access to several large data systems, including the cancer registry, hospital discharge data, the Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and death records. Other data systems or special surveys (e.g., birth defects registry, Medicaid data, data from a nutrition and physical activity survey) are also available. To introduce the Fellow to public health surveillance, the first project will be to evaluate a data system(s) used to track a high priority disease such as asthma. As their understanding of public health surveillance broadens, the individual will work, if they so desire, with other epidemiologists and program staff to develop surveillance plans for new initiatives such as surveillance to support a Healthy Aging Initiative or to identify better methods to track environments that support physical activity and nutrition.

Following the introduction to public health surveillance, and after familiarizing themselves with chronic disease program activities and needs, the Fellow will be given the opportunity to identify and develop an analytic project. Examples of the types of projects that could be conducted are: 1) assessing the burden of COPD in Michigan using hospital discharge and mortality files; 2) describing the burden of cancer among Native Americans in Michigan using linked cancer registry and Indian Health Service files; or 3) examining racial disparities in chronic disease using the NCHS Racial Disparities Index. Preference will be given to projects that focus on chronic disease program development or evaluation needs.

As the position is located in the Bureau of Epidemiology, opportunities for outbreak or cluster investigations abound. Bioterrorism preparedness and response training will be included in the fellowship through collaboration with the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness.

Assignment Location:	Lansing, Michigan
Primary Mentor:	Corinne Miller, PhD, DDS State Chronic Disease Epidemiologist (Dec. 2000-present)
Advanced Degrees	PhD, University of Minnesota (1993) DDS, School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota (1982)
Secondary Mentor:	Matthew Boulton, MD, MPH State Epidemiologist (October 1998-present)
Advanced Degrees	MD, University of Nevada School of Medicine (1987)

MPH, University of Michigan (1991)