

Michigan_Grigorescu
Joint MCH/chronic disease epi fellow

Within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), all epidemiologists are housed in the Bureau of Epidemiology that consists of 5 Divisions: Division of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunization, **Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease Epidemiology**, Division of Environmental Health, Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

The Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Section (MCH Epi Section) and Chronic Disease Epidemiology Sections are housed within the Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease Epidemiology (DGPHCDE). This Division offers the unique opportunity for interaction and collaborative work/projects among different epidemiologists providing support to birth defects follow up program, MCH and Chronic disease programs, NBS follow up program as well as Genomics. Furthermore and more important, there is strong collaboration with the MCH and Chronic Disease programs housed within the Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health and Bureau of Health Promotion and Disease Control.

The MCH Epidemiology Section currently has three full-time epidemiologists: one assigned to Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), one assigned to oral health and Children's Special Health Care Services and one to Newborn Screening Follow Up. Two other contract positions are being just posted: PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) coordinator/epidemiologist and EHDI/BD (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention/Birth Defects). The Chronic Disease Epidemiology currently has five staff epidemiologists assigned to: MI BRFS (Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey), asthma, diabetes/cardiovascular, stroke registry, lupus/arthritis.

Both Sections have access to different data sets hosted in data warehouse or provided by programs (i.e., Medicaid, CSHCS program data), the Vital Statistics office, or the Michigan Health and Hospital Association.

Each epidemiologist would take other assignments that may relate to their main responsibilities. For instance, the MCH epidemiologists would also work on infant mortality, Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance (MMMS), Title V, etc. The chronic epidemiologists will provide assistance to developing quality assurance measures or information on racial disparities as needed. The sharing and learning process led to productive interaction and thus better products.

Few example of analytic projects either in process or just finished: 1/ Hospitalization during pregnancy and resulting birth outcomes of women with diabetes mellitus, Michigan 1999-2004; 2/The Association Between Breastfeeding and Preschool Age Overweight in Children of Mothers With Gestational Diabetes in a Low Income Michigan Population; 3/Overweight in early childhood among term and pre-term WIC participants; 2/ The need and use of family planning and preconception health services (PRAMS); 4/Collaboration between Birth Defects Registry and Early Hearing Detection And Intervention program: Better case identification, reporting and referral services; 5/ Exploring the parental stress and medical home in children with special health care needs population; 6/ Assessing the risk factors for preterm births in ten counties with highest IMR in Michigan; 7/ SIDS decrease and changes in Infant Death Coding: is there a shift?; 8/ Perinatal survey: sharing the results and planning for future actions.

The mission of DGPHCDE is “To provide statewide leadership and expertise essential for integrating genomics and epidemiologic science into maternal, child health, chronic disease and other related public health programs.” Each of the two Sections, MCH and Chronic Epidemiology, provides epidemiological leadership & expertise to assure translation of research & evidence-based prevention strategies into public health policy & practice. The recent developed Division folder that offers a nice overview of our work/products is attached.

The Fellow is expected to work on projects related to MCH and Chronic Diseases and thus interact with all epidemiologists within the Division, participate at assigned meetings and activities and report directly to the Division Director that also serves as State MCH Epidemiologist.

Some of the potential projects for the CSTE Fellow include: 1/ Analyze trends of enrollment of children with certain conditions (i.e., either birth defects or asthma or cerebral palsy) in the Children with Special Health Care Needs program; 2/ Evaluate sensitivity of Chief Complaint data to identify asthma visits using existing emergency department discharge data from four hospitals to inform syndromic surveillance efforts; 3/ Assess the impact of gestational diabetes on subsequent pregnancy outcomes; 4/ Evaluate and compare asthma, tobacco, and infant mortality coalitions' structure, process, activities, and outcomes within one community; 5/ Analyze the trends of C-section in association with different maternal co-morbid conditions; 6/ Develop a case control design to further explore risk factors for asthma mortality among children enrolled in the Medicaid program

Each of the above projects will allow access to large data sets as well as linked files, data manipulation and management as well as statistical analysis. The fellow will be also encouraged to participate in developing surveys as well as new surveillance system in Michigan. Learning to conduct an outbreak investigation as well as gaining knowledge in bioterrorism preparedness will also be considered.

Assignment Location: Lansing, MI

Primary Supervisor: Violanda Grigorescu, MD, MSPH
State MCH Epidemiologist, Director,
Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease
Epidemiology

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

Secondary Supervisor: Sarah K. Lyon-Callo, MA, MS
Manager, Chronic Disease Epidemiology Section
(11/2004 – present)

Advanced Degrees: MS Public Health, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, June 1997
MA Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. June 1993