

Michigan\_Grigorescu

### Maternal and Child Health

Within the 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, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Division, Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

The Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Section (MCH Epi Section) is housed within the Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease Epidemiology and the staff works in collaboration with birth defects follow up program, chronic disease epidemiologists, NBS follow up program as well as Genomics staff. Furthermore and more important, the Section strongly collaborates with the programs housed within the Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health. This Bureau was created in August of 2003 under the leadership of Douglas Paterson and it comprises three Divisions: Women, Infants and Children Division (WIC), Division of Family and Community Health and Children's Special Health Care Services Division.

The State MCH Epidemiologist supervises and mentors the work of the entire MCH Epi Section that currently has three full-time epidemiologists; a MCH epi post-doctoral fellow assigned to Birth Defects (joined the Section in October 2005). There is another full-time position that will be soon filled. The MCH Epi Section conducts epidemiological studies, statistical analysis and prepares newsletters and reports depending on the programs' needs as well as participates in any program planning process when required. The MCH Epi Section has access to different data sets hosted in data warehouse or provided by MCH programs, the Vital Statistics office, or the Michigan Health and Hospital Association.

Each MCH epidemiologist is assigned to work for/with various MCH programs: infant mortality, Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance (MMMS), Birth Defects Registry (BD), PRAMS, Oral Health Surveillance, Children with Special Health Care Services (CSHCS), WIC, and Title V.

The current analytic projects include: 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; 4/ The need and use of family planning and preconception health services (PRAMS); 5/Collaboration between Birth Defects Registry and Early Hearing Detection And Intervention program: Better case identification, reporting and referral services; 6/ Exploring the parental stress and medical home in children with special health care needs population; 7/ Assessing the risk factors for preterm births in ten counties with highest IMR in Michigan; 8/ SIDS decrease and changes in Infant Death Coding: is there a shift?; 9/ Perinatal survey: sharing the results and planning for future actions.

The goals of our MCH Epi Section 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, offering

epidemiological assistance and disseminating the data analysis findings; 3) Continue to improve the statewide surveillance systems for MCH-related issues, 4) Improve dissemination of data and results, and 5) Improve collaborations inside and outside the Public Health Administration.

The Fellow is expected to work as part of the MCH Epi Section and thus participate in assigned meetings and activities. However, it will be a shared position with chronic disease epidemiology to thus work on projects that address the chronic health issues of the MCH population. Therefore, it is expected that the Fellow will interact with the chronic disease epidemiologists as well.

Some of the potential projects for the CSTE Fellow include: 1/ Analyze trends in asthma enrollment 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 associations between preterm birth and asthma outcomes; 4/ Evaluate and compare asthma, tobacco, and infant mortality coalitions' structure, process, activities, and outcomes within one community; 5/ Including associated diseases and source(s) of insurance coverage for those enrolled; 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  
Director, Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health and Chronic Disease  
Epidemiology (October 2006 – present; former State MCH  
Epidemiologist)

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,  
MA June 1997  
MA Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. June  
1993