

Within the MDCH, all epidemiologists are housed in the Bureau of Epidemiology that consists of 5 Divisions: Division of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunization, Epidemiology Services Division, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Division, Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

The Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Unit (MCH Epi Unit) is within the Epidemiology Services Division. However, this Unit 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 Unit that has four full-time epidemiologists. The MCH Epi Unit 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 Unit 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, 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/Binge drinking and pregnancy intention; 2/Multiple births and the risk for birth defects in Michigan; 3/Trend analysis of major birth defects in Michigan; 4/Early Medicaid dental utilization in a Michigan birth cohort; 5/Geographic distribution of children with special health care needs at enrollment in CSHCS program and their providers; 6/Impact of prenatal participation in Michigan WIC on birth outcome; 7/Effect of WIC participation on very low birth weight infants among Medicaid participants in Michigan; 8/Post-neonatal infant mortality among Medicaid WIC and non-WIC participants in Michigan.

The goals of our MCH Epi Unit 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 Unit and thus participate in assigned meetings and activities. Monthly meetings are held with the entire staff of the MCH Epi Unit as well as individual meetings with the supervisor whenever needed that allows a continue mentorship and supervision.

Some of the potential projects for the CSTE fellow include: 1/Access and referral to services of children with birth defects and special care needs by using the BD data linked to CSHCS program data; 2/Trend analysis of preterm births in Michigan; 3/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) utilization and costs associated with preterm births in Michigan; 4/Newborn morbidity by using the newly created newborn linked file of hospital discharge data with live births records; 5/ Maternal morbidity and its association with pregnancy outcomes by using the existing maternal linked file of hospital discharge data with live births records.

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.

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

Acting State Epidemiologist

Director Epidemiology Services Division (12/2000 – present)

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