

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 sponsors 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 Epidemiology Fellow will have access to several large data systems, including the cancer registry, hospital discharge data, 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 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 chronic obstructive lung disease initiative or an assessment of the sensitivity of chief complaint data in documenting burden of chronic disease-related visits to emergency departments. 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 and exploring associations with outdoor air quality data; 2) developing reporting on the chronic disease status of a racial/ethnic group not covered by routine surveillance sources (i.e., Arab American/Chaldean or Native American populations); and/or 3) identifying geographic variation and risk factors for poisoning, particularly alcohol or drug-related poisoning. Projects that focus on chronic disease program development or evaluation needs will be given preference.

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
Acting State Epidemiologist (Sept. 2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Minnesota (1993)
DDS, School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota (1982)

Secondary Mentor: Sarah Lyon-Callo, MA, MS
Manager, Chronic Disease Epidemiology (Nov. 2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: MA, University of Massachusetts Amherst (1993)
MS, University of Massachusetts Amherst (1997)