

This position would provide advanced epidemiological analysis to high priority MCH projects in the Division of Family Health at the Minnesota Department of Health. The fellow would work closely with experienced research and program staff in the following sections of the department (as well as with collaborating researchers at the University of Minnesota): Family Health, Environmental Health, Center for Health Statistics, Bioterrorism Preparedness and Surveillance.

The fellow's assignment would involve work on the following projects, to be chosen collaboratively by the fellow and his mentors:

1. **Analysis of PRAMS Data.** Minnesota is a new PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) state and will receive its 2002 data from CDC in late 2003. This fellow could be of great assistance in planning and implementing the initial PRAMS analyses and reports. This would involve reviewing other states' reports and working with an interdisciplinary PRAMS Data Subcommittee (with members from Family Health, the Center for Health Statistics, the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, the University of Minnesota, the Department of Human Services, and several community agencies). This fellow could also help investigate ways to increase the response rate to the PRAMS survey in the minority communities being oversampled. This would involve meeting with community groups to determine the best way to locate hard-to-reach mothers in the American Indian and African American populations.
2. **Birth Defects Pilot Projects.** Minnesota received a Birth Defects grant from CDC in 2001. The fellow would be of great assistance in developing and implementing active surveillance pilot projects. He/she would be valuable in helping to develop and evaluate tools and procedures to identify birth defects at selected facilities and to validate those results. The specific tasks would be to assist in case definitions, classification of birth defects, and evaluation of the ability to collect variables for research purposes. The fellow would also be involved in the overall design and evaluation of a final abstraction tool that would be used for an active surveillance system.
3. **Linking Perinatal Data Sets.** The fellow could help explore and evaluate various potential data linkages and the validity/accuracy of data from a number of existing perinatal data sets, including birth certificates, newborn screening, hospital discharge data, WIC, Medicaid, Minnesota Pregnancy Assessment Form, PRAMS, etc. There are several multidisciplinary teams working on data linkages, and this fellow could assist in those efforts.

Examples of additional potential activities include:

1. Secondary data analysis of the Minnesota SLAITS data in collaboration with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health;
2. Secondary data analysis of the Promoting Healthy Development Survey in collaboration with the Department of Human Services (Medicaid);
3. Involvement in the final analysis and reporting of the Title V MCH needs assessment; Participation in training for bioterrorism preparedness and surveillance and related activities.

Assignment Location: Minneapolis, MN

Primary Mentor: John W. Oswald, Jr., PhD, MPH
Director, Center for Health Statistics (September 1992-present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Minnesota (2000)
MPH, University of Minnesota (1984)

Secondary Mentor: Myron C. Falken, MS, MPH, PhD, RSRM
Principal Epidemiologist, Environmental Impact Analysis (May 1995-present)

Advanced Degrees: MS, South Dakota State University
PhD, University of Minnesota at Minneapolis
MPH, University of Minnesota at Minneapolis