

This Fellowship will provide the Fellow with experience in developing, evaluating and using occupational surveillance systems. Although one specific project is the development of occupational injury surveillance, there are a wide variety of other projects available according to the Fellow's interest. These include projects in environmental health and injury epidemiology such as environmental risk assessment, linking environmental monitoring and health event data, asthma prevention, waterborne disease surveillance, firearm injury surveillance and motor vehicle crash data. All areas include ample opportunity for original data analysis, publication and policy development.

The Office of Epidemiology has over 60 staff members and conducts epidemiologic investigations in infectious diseases (including HIV/AIDS), injury, environmental and occupational health, substance abuse and other behavioral health issues. This Fellowship would be jointly supervised by the heads of the Environmental and Occupational Health Epidemiology Unit and the Injury Epidemiology Unit.

**Occupational Health activities:** New Mexico received a Capacity-building grant from NIOSH in 2002 to begin developing surveillance for occupational illness and injuries. The activities are coordinated by the Environmental and Occupational Health Epidemiology Unit and conducted largely at the Program for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

**Injury Epidemiology activities:** The Injury Epidemiology conducts data collection and analysis and provides leadership in the following areas: Analysis of injury deaths, Non-fatal injury data collection using the Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data, Occupant Protection Survey, analysis of motor vehicle crash data.

**Environmental Health:** The Environmental and Occupational Health Epidemiology Unit has nine federal and state funded projects including EH capacity building, EH Tracking, Asthma, lead poisoning, and waterborne disease surveillance.

Anticipated day-to-day activities of the CSTE Fellow:

- Collaborate in workgroup to design and begin implementation of an emergency department data collection system for occupational injuries.
- Analyze existing data on occupational injuries from a variety of sources to create a descriptive analysis of injuries with regard to: industry, occupation, injury types, geographic distribution and demographic characteristics. Based on analysis of surveillance components identified in the descriptive analysis, the Fellow will prepare an evaluation of the overall surveillance system for occupational injuries.
- Investigate selected occupational injury categories or events to determine prevention opportunities
- Design injury components of the NM Occupational Health Registry.
- Participate in interdisciplinary planning and analysis of environmental, occupational or injury investigations and/or analysis.
- Develop sections of the New Mexico Emergency Operations Plan relating to protecting health and safety of emergency responders and health care workers during emergency response.

Potential projects might include:

- Identify target areas for further Occ/Env/Injury investigation
- Determining the relationship of occupational injuries to non-occupational injuries
- Assessing the impact of social and economic factors on occupational injuries

Assignment Location: Sante Fe, NM

Primary mentor: Ronald E. Voorhees, MD, MPH

Deputy State Epidemiologist (1992-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, University of New Mexico School of Medicine (1982)

MPH, The Johns Hopkins University of Hygiene and Public Health (1986)

Secondary Mentor: Barbara F. Chatterjee, MS

Program Manager, Injury Epidemiology Unit

Advanced Degree: MS, CWRU (1979)