

The Oklahoma State Department of Health's Chronic Disease Service incorporates several large programs including Cancer Control Programs (Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry, Oklahoma Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, & Comprehensive Cancer Control), Asthma, Obesity, Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke Prevention, Diabetes, and REACH 2010. With Oklahoma's unique American Indian population and extensive rural areas, many of the projects focus on disparities involving minority populations and rural vs. urban populations. Many of the following projects will involve opportunities to work with large state academic institutions, tribal governments, and the Indian Health Service.

There would be several projects available for a CSTE fellow to be involved with depending on personal interest and project availability.

- 1) The Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry has complete datasets available on all incident cancer cases in Oklahoma residents occurring between 1997-2003 and has been awarded Gold Certification by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). The fellow would have an opportunity to work with this extensive database and develop a project on a cancer site of interest to them. This would involve conducting an epidemiologic investigation with statistical analysis of the data utilizing SAS. Technical support will be provided by the surveillance and registry staff for extraction of data from the Rocky Mountain Cancer Data System (registry software). Focus of the project may be influenced by the Comprehensive Cancer Control program and the cancer sites they feel are of high priority for investigation.
- 2) The Comprehensive Cancer Control program will be moving into implementation shortly and projects will be available for a CSTE fellow in colorectal, prostate, skin &/or gynecologic cancers. Aspects of study include prevention, early detection & screening, diagnosis and treatment and/or quality of life. The members of the CCC program are interested specifically in identifying disparities, whether those be access, race, or geographic in nature. This project would involve analyzing data from the Oklahoma Central Cancer Registry as well as data from a survey of the medical facilities throughout the state and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
- 3) The fellow would have an opportunity to work with data from the 2003-2004 Oklahoma Minority Behavioral Risk Factor Survey. This survey is a telephone survey of racial/ethnic minority populations in Oklahoma that includes questions from the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFSS) as well as additional questions on topics such as racism, trust, and alternative medicine. The CSTE Fellow would have the opportunity to develop a secondary research question, analyze the data, and write a report and/or paper for publication.
- 4) As part of a statewide knowledge, attitude, and practice survey on physical activity and nutrition, self-reported, one-day food logs were collected from a random sample of Oklahoma adults and one child in the selected adult's household. The CSTE Fellow would work with the nutritionist for the Oklahoma Physical Activity and Nutrition Program to employ quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluating this data. The CSTE Fellow would work with the nutritionist and with other chronic disease epidemiologists to write a report the analysis results.

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All of the project descriptions listed above are intentionally general and the fellow would have opportunity to mold them more specifically as their interests and skills are identified. Each of the projects described above would also potentially involve the program manager, epidemiologist, health educator and any additional staff that are deemed appropriate. The fellow would need to be willing to work with a team and be flexible as the project develops in scope. For all of the projects, however, the fellow must be able to work with large databases and be capable of analyzing these databases and reporting the results as a scientific report.

Assignment location: Oklahoma City, OK

Primary Mentor: Janis Campbell, PhD

Surveillance Coordinator, Chronic Disease Epidemiology

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Oklahoma (1997)

MA, University of Oklahoma (1989)

Secondary Mentor: Anne Bliss, MPH

Epidemiologists for Cancer Programs, Chronic Disease Service

Advanced Degree: MPH, Yale University (2004)