

Injury

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's (PADOH, Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) is seeking a fellow to conduct injury-related studies in the state. A CSTE Fellow in Epidemiology would enhance the ability of PADOH to use its many data sources, to fully describe the impact of intentional and non-intentional injuries on human health, characterize the determinants of injury in sub-populations, and evaluate prevention efforts.

BOE directs multi-faceted public health surveillance and assessment programs in infectious and non-infectious diseases. Within BOE, the Division of Community Epidemiology supports activities for the Bureaus of Health Promotion & Risk Reduction, Family Health, Emergency Medical Services, and Drug and Alcohol Programs. These require data-driven decision-making that enhances the Department's ability to better; a) define the disease burden in the state, b) design interventions, and c) assess outcomes. Analyses are also performed on perceived clusters of specific non-communicable diseases for the purpose of identifying cause and effect relationships and providing direction on intervention strategies. Critical to these functions is the analysis of available morbidity and mortality data.

The Bureau of Health Promotion & Risk Reduction (BHPRR) is the organizational unit within PADOH that focuses on preventing diseases and injury and promoting wellness among targeted populations. The Bureau has the responsibility to manage the Preventive Health Services Block Grant among other state and federally funded programs.

Within the BHPRR is the Division of Health Risk Reduction, which houses the Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPPP) Section. The purpose of the VIPPP is to prevent deaths and disabilities from intentional and unintentional injury by assessing the incidence of injury and developing programs to reduce injury risks. Publicly-funded activities include sexual violence prevention and education, public health injury and surveillance capacity, and the Pennsylvania Injury Reporting and Intervention System (PIRIS). PIRIS is the only initiative in the country that couples a data acquisition system with a real-time, multi-system, intervention component. It serves as a pilot program to test our ability to collect and utilize information about firearm injuries to target activities, develop new programs, and evaluate current violence reduction efforts.

Potential projects-

Some of the potential projects include:

1. Monitor the frequency of injuries and describe the protective and risk factors by age, race, sex, and socio-economic status.

2. Describe trends in injury incidence and conduct cluster investigations.
3. Evaluate the relationship between adverse childhood experiences, unintentional injuries, and chronic diseases.
4. Evaluate the Pennsylvania Injury Prevention and Control Plan in relation to program implementation and injury trends.
5. Evaluate PIRIS and describe the populations served.
6. Evaluate available data to identify protective and risk factors among PIRIS populations.
7. Develop at least two innovative approaches to describe, examine, and evaluate

Pennsylvania injury data-

Such approaches include use of Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) records to conduct case/control studies of injury related risk factors; almost 40,000 records are available from BRFSS for the 2005-2007 time period. Another approach is to use claims data to describe injuries in Pennsylvania's Medicaid populations; more than 100 million Medicaid records are available for the 1997-2007 time period.

Assignment Location: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Primary Supervisor: Gregory Bogdan, Dr.PH, MS

Chronic Diseases Epidemiologist , Division of Community Epidemiology, Bureau of Epidemiology, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Advanced Degrees: DrPH, University of Texas (1982)

MSPH, University of Massachusetts (1974)

Secondary Supervisor: Ronald Tringali, PhD, MS

Community Health Epidemiologist, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Pittsburgh (2001)

MS, Boston University (1977)