

Maternal and Child Health

Assignment Description

The Office of Family Health (OFH) is the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) agency of the Oregon Public Health Division (PHD). Our office has many opportunities due to the breadth of programs and databases available: Maternal and Child Health, Adolescent Health, Women's & Reproductive Health, Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention, Oral Health, Genetics, Immunization, and the Nutrition & Health Screening for Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). The primary mentor for the fellow will be Dr. Ken Rosenberg, the MCH Epidemiologist for OFH. Dr. Katherine Bradley, the office administrator and Title V director will serve as the fellow's secondary mentor. They will develop a fellowship that addresses the CSTE program design and the professional interests of the fellow, and builds on the strengths of the Office and staff. Additional resources are Dr. Melvin Kohn, Administrator of the Oregon Public Health Division and Dr. Katrina Hedberg, State Epidemiologist and Administrator of the Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology. The partnerships within the Public Health Division provide unique access and support across multiple programs. Oregon has hosted four MCH Epidemiology Fellows since 2001. The MCH Epidemiology Fellow will be located in the Assessment and Evaluation (A&E) program of the MCH section of OFH and have the opportunity to work across all programs.

Day-to- Day Activities

Work will include learning about the complementary roles of state and local programs, surveillance systems in public health, program and surveillance system evaluation, survey design and methods, outbreak investigation, emergency preparedness, and study design and data analysis for presentations and publications. The Oregon Title V program has identified family violence, mental health, obesity prevention and oral health as among our priority needs. The Fellow will work on 3-5 projects at any particular time. Prioritization will be developed by the Fellow and supervisors in accordance with the needs of the the Fellow's education and the Title V program.

Potential Projects

The following are a list of potential projects reflecting the databases and program breadth available in Oregon:

- Needs Assessment: Oregon has transformed the HRSA Title V needs assessment into an ongoing process. The Fellow will work with the A&E staff as this transformation is put into place.
- Surveillance System Evaluation: Evaluate the PRAMS survey with particular emphasis on optimizing data quality and increasing response rate (especially among women of color).
- PRAMS: Oregon conducts both the PRAMS survey (with oversampling of 4 racial/ethnic minorities) and PRAMS-2, a follow-back survey that re-interviews PRAMS respondents when the child is 2 years old. The Fellow will join the PRAMS team, learn how the data are collected, analyze data from PRAMS and PRAMS-2, and learn how to use the data to communicate with both professional and lay audiences. PRAMS contains questions on oral health; PRAMS-2 contains questions on family violence, mental health and childhood obesity.
- Oral Health: Use oral health data from a variety of sources to help us understand early childhood caries and oral health of pregnant women.
- Family Violence: We have identified intimate partner violence and other family violence as a priority. Work with staff to explore anticipated program directions; find a develop data to help program development. Maternal Mental Health: We are working with state legislators to increase screening and treatment of pregnant and postpartum women with mental health problems, especially depression and anxiety. Explore data to help program development.
- National Survey of Children's Health: Explore Oregon data from the National Survey of Children's Health. Work with the MCH program to shape policy based on study this data.
- BRFSS: Design and carry out studies using data from Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System around women's health issues and family history. Child Health Record: We

collect client level data across multiple programs including home visiting, immunization and WIC. Explore data quality and use of data for surveillance. Evaluate impact of the Child Health Record on child health processes and outcomes.

- MCH Data Warehouse: The fellow will assist in the development of a maternal & child health data warehouse and in analysis of the data with emphasis on cross-program and cross-agency data.
- Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB): Work with NPAIHB to assist them in assessment and intervention programs. WIC: The WIC program has a database of client level nutritional interventions with prenatal women and their children. Evaluate effectiveness of program interventions such as proportion of clients taking multivitamins containing folic acid, or longitudinal review of BMI among WIC clients.
- Family Planning: Design and carry out longitudinal studies using client level data from the Family Planning database targeting health disparities. Outbreak Investigation: Participate with the Oregon Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention program in one or more outbreak investigations.
- Fact Sheets: Create policy fact sheets that assist in translating data to suggest directions for legislative and program action to improve perinatal health.
- Statewide Publications: Oregon has multiple publication vehicles for getting public health information out to local, state and public partners. Write for multiple audiences (health care providers, newspapers, etc) about new MCH developments.

Preparedness Role

The Fellow will: 1) work with Emergency Preparedness staff to incorporate the Maternal and Child Health focus into disaster planning and exercises; and 2) work with MCH staff to include an emergency preparedness awareness in existing programs, particularly case management and home visiting for perinatal women and young children. Among her emergency preparedness activities, our current MCH Epidemiology Fellow has, to date: (1) taken preparedness trainings; (2) worked with state Immunization Program to assist in shipment of the antiviral Tamiflu from state health department to local health departments; and (3) worked with state Immunization Program to develop a database for reporting on data regarding allocation, distribution and use of H1N1 vaccine, antivirals, and personal protective equipment.

Assignment Location:

Portland, OR

Primary Mentor:

Kenneth Rosenberg, MD, MPH
MCH Epidemiologist
Oregon Department of Health and Human Services

Secondary Mentor:

Katherine Bradley, PhD, RN
Administrator
Oregon Department of Health and Human Services