

Infectious Disease

Assignment Description:

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Services (SFSTD) is to maximize sexual and reproductive health in San Francisco. The goals of SFSTD are:

- To decrease new STDs and their complications
- To provide culturally proficient STD diagnosis and treatment
- To identify and decrease risk factors associated with poor sexual health
- To enhance awareness and provide up to date sexual health education and training for community members and health professionals
- To identify best practices and research new methods to assure sexual health to promote sexual and reproductive health, to provide STD diagnosis and treatment, to reduce STD incidence and complication, and to prevent transmission of STDs.

More information about SFSTD can be found at www.sfcityclinic.org.

The Fellow will work within the Epidemiology, Research, and Surveillance (Epi) Unit of SFSTD and will be involved in a broad range of activities that will provide hands-on experience in public health practice. The Epi Unit closely collaborates not only with other units within SFSTD, but also with the San Francisco Department of Health Office of AIDS, Hepatitis Prevention, local community based organizations, as well as state and federal agencies.

The Fellow will be involved in a variety of activities including:

1. Development of Interventions to Improve STD Screening among Adolescents

Adolescents bear a disproportionate burden of STD morbidity in San Francisco. Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea are significantly higher among adolescents compared to adults. Furthermore, African-American adolescents have rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea nearly seven times that of white adolescents. The Fellow will lead an effort to develop novel interventions targeting adolescents with the goals of increasing STD screening and timely treatment. He/She will produce and disseminate a review describing existing programs and services focused on adolescent reproductive health. The results of this analysis will be presented to SFSTD management and staff, the Adolescent Partners Group, in addition to local groups and organizations working with adolescent populations. The review will serve as the foundation for the development of innovative approaches to improve STD screening and treatment among adolescents. Based on the review of community needs and existing programs, the Fellow, with guidance from her/his supervisors, will develop and implement a pilot intervention designed to improve screening among adolescents in the southeastern sector and/or improve timely patient and partner treatment. The Fellow will be responsible for the design, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of the pilot intervention. The results of the pilot intervention will be documented in a final internal report, as well as in a publishable manuscript(s) and abstracts for presentation at local and national scientific meetings. Additionally, the Fellow will disseminate the findings of the pilot to local community partners.

2. Improving 3-month Re-screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in San Francisco

Given the high rates on re-infection, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all individuals diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea be re-screened three to four months following treatment. Data suggest that individuals infected multiple times with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea are at increased risk for adverse reproductive health outcomes as well as HIV infection. The Fellow will lead an effort to develop innovative models to improve re-screening among patients at City Clinic diagnosed with chlamydia and gonorrhea. While these activities will focus initially at City Clinic patients, the Fellow will also provide recommendations for how to scale-up these models to include chlamydia and gonorrhea diagnosed in local hospitals and private medical offices, jails, and other clinical sites. The Fellow, working with SFSTD epidemiologists, will evaluate the current proportion of City Clinic patients being re-screened. Additionally, this analysis will examine patient characteristics associated with successful re-screening. Using these data as a baseline, the Fellow will develop and implement a survey of City Clinic patients designed to explore the acceptability of several modes of re-screening reminders (phone calls, email, text messaging). Based on the epidemiologic and survey data, the Fellow will, under the guidance of her/his supervisors, develop a pilot intervention to improve three month re-screening at City Clinic. The Fellow will be responsible for the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the intervention.

2. Adolescent Health Team Epidemiologist

The Adolescent Health Team is a multidisciplinary group of clinicians, epidemiologists, health educators, field staff and outreach workers who meet regularly to monitor and track STDs among adolescents and to develop, implement, and evaluate novel interventions to increase STD screening and reduce STD morbidity among this population. The Fellow will act as the Team's epidemiologist and will be responsible for the production of regular reports for the Team meetings as well as ad hoc analyses that relate to Adolescent Health in San Francisco.

4. Infertility Prevention

The Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) funds chlamydia screening and treatment services for low-income, sexually active women attending family planning, STD, and other women's healthcare clinics. The Fellow would act as the primary epidemiologist for the SF IPP and be responsible for the technical assistance to the screening sites as well as data analysis and interpretation.

5. Other Activities

The Fellow will additionally be involved in other SFSTD activities. The Fellow will join the weekly STD journal club, which meets at the offices of STD Prevention and Control services, and have opportunities to present articles for discussion. Depending on her/his interests and abilities, the Fellow will have the opportunity to attend the regular Clinical Services, Partner Services, Syphilis Team and Sexual Health Promotion Team meetings. Additionally, the Fellow will assist in coordinating the Annual San Francisco STD Update, an annual meeting of STD service providers in San Francisco. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to join the Sexual Health Promotion Team in assisting with regular outreach and screening to adolescents and men who have sex with men. Additionally, the PHSP can also assist Sexual Health Promotion staff in

outreach during several of San Francisco's famous street fairs (Gay Pride, Folsom, Dore Alley, STD Awareness month, etc).

Additionally, the Fellow will have ample opportunity for training and development. STD Prevention and Control Services staff regularly attend seminars on relevant HIV/STD and sexual health topics given by local partners including the San Francisco Department of Public Health, HIV Prevention, HIV Surveillance, UCSF, Stanford, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and University of California, Berkeley. If interested, the Fellow can also audit a graduate level course entitled "Sexual Health Promotion and STD Control" offered at University of California, Berkeley. The Fellow will also attend the two-week summer course "Principles of STD/HIV Research" offered by the University of Washington.

San Francisco STD Prevention and Control Services has been an international leader in sexual health promotion and STD prevention. The section has an extensive history of successful collaboration at the local, regional, national, and international level. Additionally, San Francisco STD Prevention and Control has established collaborative research projects with the State of California, CDC, and NIH. Section staff come from diverse backgrounds and an integrative, multidisciplinary approach guides each project. The Section has extensive experience as a training site, having supervised several EIS officers, Fellow, medical and public health students, and a CSTE/CDC Applied Epidemiology Fellow. The Fellow will draw on this expansive knowledge base in applied STD epidemiology, evaluation, public health practice, health education, program management and clinical care in meeting the goals of his/her assignments.

Assignment Location: San Francisco, CA

Primary Mentor: Kyle Bernstein, PhD, ScM
Chief of Epidemiology, Research, and Surveillance
San Francisco STD Prevention and Control Section

Secondary Mentor: Susan Phillip, MD, MPH
Acting Director, San Francisco Dept of Public Health STD Prevention and Control Section
Deputy Health Officer for City and County of San Francisco