

Injury

Assignment Description:

Florida Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention: The Florida Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention (OIP) was formally established by Florida Statute in 2004. Its mission is to provide leadership to public and private partners dedicated to reducing Florida's injury burden. In 2003, OIP and its injury prevention stakeholders statewide developed the 2004-2008 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan, a 5-year road map for injury prevention activities in the state. A 13-member Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) and Goal Teams corresponding to each goal in the Strategic Plan were appointed in 2005 to assist OIP in implementing the Strategic Plan, and began meeting semi-annually in June 2005. In October 2007, FIPAC met to begin planning for the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. In 2008, Florida became the first state injury prevention program to complete the implementation of an existing five-year strategic plan while drafting a successor plan. OIP staff administers a five-year (2005-2010) Public Health Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program Grant funded by the CDC. This grant enhances Florida's injury prevention infrastructure by providing funding for: development and maintenance of the Florida Injury Surveillance System, Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council activities, staff career development, and strategic plan development, activities, and implementation. Florida Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse Program: The Florida Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse Program Office (SAPO) is the Single State Agency for SAMHSA substance abuse prevention and treatment funding. Since 1999 SAPO has funded the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, administered annually to middle and high school youth statewide. In even numbered years to survey sample is selected to be representative at the county level. The SAPO was a recipient of the five-year Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) in 2004. As required by the grant, Florida established a State Epidemiology Workgroup (SEW) to monitor substance abuse consequences, outcomes, prevalence, and risk factors. The SAPO made a decision to continue the SEW with SAMHSA block grant funds after the expiration of the SPF-SIG. The SEW is chaired by Hal Johnson, Managing Epidemiologist with the SAPO, and staffed by SAPO employees. The SEW, which meets face-to-face on a semi-annual basis, is composed of members with expertise in epidemiologic data and/or drug policy drawn from a wide variety of state agencies, universities, and community-based organizations. SEW members are consulted throughout the year as issues arise that are related to their special expertise. If this billet is approved, a Memorandum of Understanding will be executed between the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families to formalize the partnership. The two departments have a long and productive history of such agreements.

Day-to-Day Activities:

- o Conducts descriptive epidemiological analyses of injury and substance abuse consequence data and disseminates results to support program planning and evaluation.
- o Prepares surveillance reports, data summaries, and other written documentation of injury and substance abuse surveillance activities.
- o Conducts evaluations of statewide injury prevention programs in coordination with program staff.

- o As applicable, investigates injury hazards, risk factors, and clusters that require a timely response, epidemiological investigation, or field study.
- o Prepares and delivers presentations on injury and substance use surveillance topics to local, state, and national groups.
- o Attend and support internal and external data/program-oriented meetings, conference calls, and webinars.
- o Participate in statewide strategic planning and implementation projects.
- o Participate on the State drug Epidemiology Workgroup, and conduct special analyses of alcohol and drug prevalence and consequence data as requested.
- o Performs other duties as assigned, including providing assistance as needed in response to and recovery following natural and man-made disasters.

Potential Projects:

Mentors will work with the Fellow to choose projects that fit with the Fellow's interests, fulfill the competency areas, and provide solid broad-based experience in applied substance abuse and injury epidemiology. Projects provide opportunities to present at national conferences and submit manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. The Fellow will present work to state advisory boards and will be mentored in handling data/technical assistance requests (e.g., from public, legislators, and media). Projects in substance abuse or injury areas not mentioned below can easily be arranged.

- o Evaluate a linked death certificate-medical examiner surveillance system.
- o Injury/substance abuse epidemiology projects include: drug-related morbidity and mortality, newborn drug withdrawal, injury severity scores, alcohol-related injuries, and senior falls.
- o Writing a State Burden Report on one substance abuse, risk factor, or injury topic.
- o Work on a team to design and develop a comprehensive adult substance abuse and behavioral health survey to be conducted at the county level in 2011-12.
- o Evaluating the WaterproofFL Drowning Prevention Campaign to determine the reach, impact, and effectiveness of the program.
- o GIS projects include: geocoding drowning events, creating maps for leading causes of injury, spatial analysis of unintentional poisonings.

Preparedness Role:

The Fellow will take the department-required public health preparedness classes and provide assistance as needed in response to and recovery following natural and man-made disasters. The Fellow would be free to volunteer for preparedness activities if desired. The Office of Injury Prevention is located within the same division as the Bureau of Preparedness and Response so collaborative opportunities are available, but not routinely required.

Assignment Location: Tallahassee, FL

Primary Mentor: Youjie Huang, MBBS, MPH, DrPH
Chronic Disease Epidemiologist
Florida Department of Health

Secondary Mentor: Kyla Shelton, MPH
Injury Epidemiologist

Florida Department of Health