

Injury

PART A: ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

The Division for Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) is housed within the Office of Family Health Services (OFHS) at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). DIVP programs will provide an outstanding opportunity for an Applied Epidemiology Fellow to achieve and demonstrate competencies in the areas of epidemiologic methods, communication and public health practice. DIVP has a variety of programs that focus on unintentional, violent and self-inflicted injury prevention. These programs include: the Virginia Injury Prevention Project, as well as programs that address transportation safety, community-based and school-based injury prevention, sexual violence prevention, suicide prevention, and medical outreach-based violence prevention. (Additional information on DIVP programs can be found on our website: www.vahealth.org/civp.)

DIVP is committed to the use of data-driven processes in all of its programmatic activities, including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Currently, DIVP conducts statewide injury surveillance through the use of stand-alone secondary data sets including patient level hospital discharge data and vital records mortality data files. The primary mentor is actively engaged in a number of office-wide data linkage projects that will provide an opportunity for the Fellow to evaluate and enhance the current injury surveillance system using hospitalization, mortality, and linked birth-infant death files to inform, guide and evaluate DIVP's program activities.

In consultation with VDH mentors, the Fellow will be assigned to project(s) of mutual interest and benefit. Priority program areas include but are not limited to: fire prevention, falls in the elderly, and child maltreatment. The Fellow will also be encouraged to participate in one or more of the following planned activities:

- Linking existing individual level datasets to community level data sets for analyses of injury-related morbidity and mortality using the ecological model of health. Specialized analyses will be used to guide the Virginia Community Injury Prevention Planning Group who is responsible for completing a state-wide injury prevention plan during the upcoming year.
- Using linked data sets for risk/protective factor research on injury-related morbidity and mortality including the areas of fire, falls in the elderly and child maltreatment, with a special focus on disparities in the burden of injury.
- Creating and disseminating topical reports in areas of interest at the statewide, health district and locality levels using multiple sources of primary and secondary surveillance data. Reports could be created via collaboration with other divisions of VDH and would serve as templates for ongoing surveillance and reporting.
- Evaluating training programs in the violence prevention division.
- Performing a needs assessment for sexual violence prevention with a specific emphasis on involving males in prevention, provide recommendations and develop training or other program curricula in this area.

- Developing and conducting hospital best-practices for policies about intimate partner violence (IPV).

The Fellow will be invited to participate in weekly journal club meetings at Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Epidemiology and Community Health, monthly OFHS Epidemiology Workgroup meetings, and various project-specific workgroup meetings where he or she will have the opportunity to interact with research and program staff from the various divisions within VDH. Both the primary and secondary mentors have access to resources at Virginia Commonwealth University, including access to the medical library and e-journals.

PART B: DESCRIPTION OF SUPERVISION

Assignment Location: Richmond, VA

Primary Mentor: Derek A. Chapman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Epidemiology & Community Health
Virginia Commonwealth University

Maternal & Child Health Epidemiologist
Virginia Department of Health (Oct 2004-present)

Advanced Degrees: Ph.D., University of Miami (1999)
M.S., University of Miami (1998)

Secondary Mentor: Michelle White, MSW, ABD
PRAMS Coordinator (Sep 2006-present)
Injury Epidemiologist (2004-2006)

Advanced Degrees: ABD, Health Services Organization and Research, Virginia
Commonwealth University (expected Dec 2006)
Advanced Degree MSW, Virginia Commonwealth University (1997)

Primary Mentor:

Dr. Chapman will be the primary supervisor. He is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Community Health at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The Department is currently housed in the School of Medicine and is one of the five core departments in its emerging School of Public Health. Dr. Chapman also holds a collateral appointment in the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) where he serves as Virginia's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist. This dual appointment provides a unique opportunity for the Fellow. Dr. Chapman spends .80 FTE at the Health Department working on office-level data/research/surveillance initiatives. The remaining .20 FTE is spent on teaching and student advising activities at VCU. In the past two years Dr. Chapman has mentored three MCHB graduate student interns and one CSTE Fellow in addition to student advising at VCU.

As a faculty member, he will encourage the Fellow to communicate results of his or her public health activities to professional audiences by preparing a manuscript or a conference submission based on his or her work. Fellows will also have the opportunity to gain teaching experience at the graduate level through participation in the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology course taught each Fall by Dr. Chapman.

Dr. Chapman's primary research interests include: birth defects and developmental disabilities surveillance and data linkage methodology. Current activities at the Virginia Department of Health include: improving access and use of maternal and child health surveillance data for program planning and evaluation efforts and exploring new data linkages among health department data to follow infants and children longitudinally.

Selected publications:

Chapman, D.A., Scott, K.G., & Stanton-Chapman, T. L. (In Press). A public health approach to the study of mental retardation. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*.

Stanton-Chapman, T.L., & Chapman, D.A. (In Press). Using GIS to Investigate the Role of Recreation and Leisure Activities in the Prevention of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. *International Review of Research in Mental Retardation*, Vol. 33.

Stanton-Chapman, T. L., Chapman, D. A., & Kaiser, A. P. (In Press). Cumulative risk and low income children's language and behavioral development. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*.

Chapman, D. A., Scott, K. G., & Mason, C. A. (2002). Early risk factors for mental retardation: The role of maternal age and maternal education. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 107, 46-59.

Chapman, D. A. & Scott, K. G. (2001). Intergenerational Risk Factors and Child Development. *Developmental Review*, 21, 305-325.

Secondary Mentor:

Michelle White is the secondary mentor. Michelle served as the injury epidemiologist for DIVP for the past two years, where she was responsible for injury surveillance, data and research related activities, and program evaluations for the various programs areas. In September 2006, she moved into the PRAMS coordinator position within OFHS. DIVP is currently in the process of recruiting an injury epidemiologist. Michelle plans to continue working on DIVP surveillance-related issues since the PRAMS position is only .75 FTE.

Michelle has extensive experience utilizing large data sets, including hospital discharge data files, vital records data sets, BRFSS data and others. She is also experienced in survey research design and methodology and has established multiple primary data collection activities for DIVP.

Michelle is ABD in Health Services Organization and Research at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and holds an adjunct faculty appointment with Allied Health Services at the same university, teaching applied multivariate analyses to Ph.D. students. She is also a field instructor for 2nd year MSW students at VCU. Prior to this position, she was a research associate in the Office of Substance Abuse Services at the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Her primary research interest is the ecological assessment of childhood injury related mortality.

Selected Reports:

Intimate Partner Violence health Care Provider Survey Virginia 2006. Division of Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Department of Health. 2006.

Injury in Virginia 2004 A Report on Injury-Related Deaths and Hospitalizations. Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Department of Health. 2005.

PART C: SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Organizational location:

The Fellow will be housed in the Policy and Assessment Unit, which is part of the Office of Family Health Services within the Virginia Department of Health. Please see attached organizational/program charts.

Other Fellows:

Caroline Stampfel, CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow in Maternal and Child Health, began her Fellowship in September 2005 under the supervision of Dr. Chapman (primary) and Dr. Janice Hicks (secondary). Caroline is housed in the Policy and Assessment Unit of the Office of Family Health Services.

Other statistical support:

Technical and information technology support will be provided by the Office of Information Management. Statistical and data analysis support will be provided by both mentors. The Fellow will also participate in a monthly Office of Family Health Services Epidemiology Workgroup, where they will meet, interact, and receive feedback from epidemiology and data management staff from across the office.

Workplace support:

The Fellow will be provided an appropriate workspace, including: a desk, phone, office supplies, email, etc. A computer will also be provided including Microsoft Office, the Fellow's statistical software preference (SAS or SPSS). Access to network printers, fax machines and copiers will be provided.