

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) proposes placing a Fellow with the Office of Maternal and Child Health Assessment Section (MCHAS). This section provides epidemiologic and assessment services to programs in state and local health departments, external health-related organizations, and the public. MCHAS has approximately eleven staff that focus on issues related to maternal and child health. MCHAS conducts or coordinates several surveillance activities including the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), birth defects surveillance, Healthy Youth Survey, and maternal mortality surveillance.

The MCHAS section works closely with program sections within the Office of Maternal and Child Health (OMCH) including Maternal and Infant Health, Child and Adolescent Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Immunizations, Child Profile (immunization registry) and Genetic Services. OMCH has a number of initiatives that cross program lines. It has strong collaborative relationships with other programs in the Department of Health and with other agencies around the state. OMCH is committed to using data in its development of programs and policy recommendations. Staff in MCHAS work closely with program staff from many other programs and agencies to use data to drive these programs and policies.

Potential projects in 2005-2007 include:

- Develop and implement a surveillance protocol for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Cerebral Palsy and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
- Analyze and report on the National Survey for Children's Health for Washington residents and/or the National Survey for Children with Special Health Care Needs to be released in 2007
- Design and conduct evaluation of the Washington State PRAMS project including questionnaire development and sampling design for next phase
- Revise the Maternal Mortality Surveillance System
- Conduct evaluation of a grant funded projects in OMCH. Current projects include Genetic Services, CSHCN and Mental Health
- Participate in OMCH Data Integration project
- Conduct bias analysis for Healthy Youth Survey 2006 a bi-annual survey of students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.
- Participate in quality improvement projects related to birth defects surveillance or preventive services for pregnant women
- Descriptive epidemiology of caesarian rates in Washington State
- Quality assurance of Perinatal HepB prevention
- Descriptive epidemiology of diabetes in pregnancy

Additionally, MCHAS collaborates with other epidemiology units in DOH including the Communicable Disease-Epidemiology (CD-Epi) and Office of Non-Infectious Conditions Epidemiology (NICE). These offices are responsible for infectious and non-infections epidemiologic responses, respectively. These offices will collaborate in providing mentoring for clusters or outbreaks involving MCH issues and populations.

Assignment Location: Olympia, WA

Primary Supervisor: Cathy Wasserman, PhD, MPH
Senior Epidemiologist (January 1997 - Present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley (1996)
MPH, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley (1990)

Secondary Supervisor: Riley Peters PhD, MS
Maternal and Child Health Assessment Manager (October 2002 – Present)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, University of Washington (1998)
MPA, University of Southern California (1977)