

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description

The Center for Policy, Planning & Evaluation is repository of vital records data, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Hospital Discharge data. It also has access to the Cancer Registry, and the Chronic Disease Program depends on the center for most of its data. CPPE is interested in recruiting a CSTE Fellow to participate in a variety of activities on chronic disease epidemiology. This will include epidemiologic studies, report preparation, evaluation of a surveillance system, production of GIS maps to determine the spatial distribution of risk behaviors, health outcomes and mortality in the District of Columbia. The assignment will also include the development of program plans for monitoring and evaluation.

Day-to- Day Activities

The Fellow will participate in office meetings and will have the opportunity to collaborate with other team members on new and existing projects. He/she will review journal articles and lead discussions at the CPPE monthly journal club meeting, and assist with development of training materials. The implementation of the Health People 2020 plan is an ongoing activity within CPPE and the Fellow will be engaged with other staff in monitoring the plan. He/she will meet frequently with mentors to discuss issues and priorities, as well as problems the fellow could encounter in carrying out his/her assignments. The Fellow will have the opportunity to present to programs within DCDOH, at national meetings, and publish project work in peer-reviewed journals including the CDC MMWR.

Potential Projects

Potential projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Determine the spatial distribution of cancer and produce an atlas of cancer in the District of Columbia.
- Investigate the spatial distribution of cardiovascular disease in obese individuals and identify pockets of need for directing appropriate resources.
- Determine the spatial epidemiology of asthma in the District of Columbia.
- Evaluate neighborhood socioeconomic status and obesity in older adults and impact on health behavior. Assist the Community Health Administration in setting up a database for childhood obesity and determine the state of obesity in children.
- Perform ward-level analysis of head and neck cancer disparities in the District of Columbia and determine the need for early screening and education for patients with risk of developing the disease.
- Conduct an evaluation of the Electronic Birth Reporting System (EBRS) using the CDC standard for evaluating surveillance system.
- Link environmental hazard exposure and chronic disease data to evaluate the effect of environmental exposures on various health outcomes.
- Assist in the development of data collection system and creation of a database for monitoring & evaluation of public health projects/programs.

Preparedness Role

The CSTE fellow will participate in emergency response training, exercises, and actual events based on the State Emergency Preparedness plan. He/she will also participate in emergency preparedness activities, disease surveillance and investigation. The Fellow will also conduct regular syndromic surveillance and produce reports.

Assignment Location:

Washington, DC

Primary Mentor:

John Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
DC Department of Health

Secondary Mentor:

George Siaway, PhD
Public Health Analyst
DC Department of Health