

This position is located in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services. Building epidemiological capacity constitutes a high priority by both Bureau management and staff. Activities of the five epidemiologists who work in Bureau include: epidemiology support for programs (such as The Wisconsin Well Women Program, cancer control, diabetes, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, tobacco); data development (for example, building surveillance systems in areas of cardiovascular disease, tobacco and diabetes); production of surveillance reports; and research. Epidemiologists in the Bureau utilize data from a broad range of sources; examples include vital records, survey data, program data (for example, data from Medicaid, Medicare, Well Woman, and diabetes), the Wisconsin State Cancer Registry, and other administrative data (such as in-patient hospitalizations). Data resources also include files created through linkage of files from multiple sources.

Epidemiology staff participate in networks that include public and private partners representing disciplines and interests across other Bureaus within the Division and Department, and external to the Department. Staff development occurs on an ongoing basis through collegial sharing, periodic training from experts within and external to the Department, and access to the consultation.

The proposed assignment includes two parts. The major work assignment consists of identification, development and implementation of an epidemiology project that corresponds to the principles and needs defined by the state health plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010* and the strategies contained in the corresponding implementation plan. Wisconsin's state health plan has won national recognition for strategic identification of five infrastructure priorities and eleven health status priorities. The breadth and depth of the state health plan offers considerable latitude for project definition, while assuring that the project addresses state priorities. Initially, the Fellow with support from the supervisors will undertake a reconnaissance of available resources, including the large number of databases available to Bureau epidemiologists.

At the end of the first three months, the Fellow will propose the project, including identification of specific objectives, methods for investigation and, resources needed, timelines and work plan, plan for analysis and dissemination of results. Criteria for reaching agreement between the Fellow and the supervisors on the project include: 1) the project and work plan specifically incorporate a significant number of the competencies identified by the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program in the areas of epidemiological methods, communication, practice, policy, and legal issues; 2) availability of needed resources; 3) feasibility of completion.

Preference for the substantive area will be given projects that focus on chronic disease, primary care, or access to care; project support teams may be developed from personnel both internal and external to the Bureau. Many opportunities exist to build chronic-disease specific surveillance systems making use of the various data systems available. An example of a project might focus on binge drinking in Wisconsin, making use of a new BRFSS module.

A second work assignment includes participation in one or two short-term projects that focus on emerging public health issues. Determination of these projects will be based on an early reconnaissance of the variety of epidemiology activities throughout the Division and the interests expressed by the Fellow. An example of a project is a field investigation undertaken by the Bureau of Communicable Disease. The fellow will be trained in bioterrorism preparedness and response.

Assignment Location: Madison, WI

Primary Mentor: Peter D. Rumm MD, MPH, FAAP
Chief Medical Officer, Division of Public Health, Chronic Disease and
Health Promotion (1999-present)

Advanced Degrees: MD, Medical College of Georgia (1986)
MPH, University of Washington School of Public Health and Community
Medicine (1997)

Secondary Mentor: Patricia A. Guhleman, MS
Research Scientist/Senior Chronic Disease Epidemiologist (January 2002-
present)

Advanced Degree: MS, University of Wisconsin (1978)