

The primary project of the Fellow assigned to the Maternal and Child Health Section will be a comprehensive, statewide injury assessment, focusing on injuries to children and youth age 24 and under. Unintentional injuries are the number one cause of mortality in children and youth in Wyoming, accounting for 50% of all deaths. Unintentional injuries also are a major cause of years of productive life lost (YPLL). Currently, the only information available to MCH is from the hospital discharge database that collects information on patients of Wyoming hospitals who have been admitted. It is difficult to collect information on patients sent out of state for care or on patients who are not admitted to the hospital, but rather seen in Emergency Departments or in walk-in clinics. MCH is required by Title V to provide information on unintentional injuries to youth and children and struggles to do so with very limited information. Additionally, MCH sponsors the Wyoming Help Me Grow - Safe Kids which would like to have more accurate data for program planning and evaluation. The Fellow would be responsible for designing a statewide injury surveillance system focusing on child and youth injuries as reported by Emergency Departments and Walk-in clinics. An evaluation plan will be included as part of the design.

Secondary assignments may include support with data analysis for the Wyoming Women's Reproductive Health Study (WRHS) and the MCH Needs Assessment, both of which will be starting in the fall of 2003. The WRHS will study approximately 1800 women of reproductive age at public and private clinics throughout the states. Participants will fill out a survey and provide a urine sample and vaginal swab for laboratory testing for cotinine, illicit drugs, gonorrhea, chlamydia and bacterial vaginosis. The Needs Assessment will be a combination of data collection, statewide focus groups and interviews and surveys. Further, there is a great need for assistance in evaluation of perinatal home visiting programs, the Wyoming Sex Can Wait program, and the Suicide Task Force initiatives.

The Fellow can participate in all bioterrorism trainings offered to WDH employees. Additionally, the Fellow will be responsible for collaborating with the bioterrorism program and local emergency departments and other agencies to develop evacuation plans for hospitalized and/or injured Wyoming children and especially for children with special health needs.

Assignment Location: Cheyenne, WY

Primary Mentor: Karl Musgrave, DVM, MPH
State Epidemiologist (1999-present)
Administrator, Preventive Health and Safety Division (2000-present)

Advanced Degrees: DVM, Colorado State University (1988)
MPH, Harvard School of Public Health (1989)

Secondary Mentor: Erin Chase Croughwell, MPH
Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist (October 2002-present)

Advanced Degree: MPH, Tulane University of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (1999)