

The CDC/CSTE fellow will be given a multi-disciplinary assignment in the Preventive Health and Safety Division of the Wyoming Department of Health. Due to the small population size of Wyoming (approximately 500,000 people – the smallest population state in the United States) and therefore the relatively small size of the health department, employees typically work on very broad-based, multidisciplinary projects. This will also hold true for the fellow. We anticipate that day-to-day activities will primarily consist of infectious disease epidemiology projects, but may also include environmental health and chronic disease epidemiology.

Although the population of Wyoming is small, the land area is large, thus monitoring the incidence of disease needs to be innovative. One of the proposed projects is integrating surveillance systems for animal diseases for use in predicting the human disease risk. The Wyoming Department of Health has investigated zoonotic cases of plague, tularemia, and Q fever among its residents. Currently, the State Veterinarian is implementing a reportable animal disease list. It is hoped that this list will be integrated into existing surveillance systems of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the University of Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, as well as the Wyoming Department of Health. Additionally, integration of the epidemiologic investigations and surveillance of the state health department with the two large local health departments and the public health nursing offices is needed.

With recent improvements in the public health infrastructure of the Division, epidemiologists continue to increasingly detect outbreaks in Wyoming, some of which are multi-state or national outbreaks. It is expected that the fellow will be involved in investigating these outbreaks, which could be infectious, environmental, or chronic in nature. In general, epidemiologists in Wyoming investigate the whole outbreak from initial detection to case finding and field investigation, to data analysis and publication.

The fellow will be expected to participate in the Epidemiology Working Group, a group of epidemiologists and surveillance coordinators from the department that meet to discuss epidemiology, current and future projects, data analysis, and educational opportunities.

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: Scott A. Seys, MPH
Deputy State Epidemiologist (2001-present)
Section Chief, Epidemiology Section (2000-present)

Advanced Degree: MPH, University of Minnesota (1999)