

Maternal and Child Health and Chronic Disease

The Wyoming Department of Health proposes mentoring a CDC/CSTE fellow through a collaboration of the Preventive Health and Safety (PHSD) and Community and Rural Health (CRHD) Divisions. PHSD houses the Chronic Disease Section, led by the Deputy State Epidemiologist, Dr. Joe Grandpre. The Chronic Disease Section includes the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, the Cancer Surveillance Program, the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program. CRHD houses the Epidemiology Section, which provides support to all division programs including Maternal and Family Health (MFH), the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Oral Health, Immunization, Telehealth, Rural Health, Public Health Nursing, and Multicultural Health. This assignment will allow a fellow to develop applied epidemiology competencies under the guidance of two experienced mentors. Projects will be cross-cutting in chronic disease and maternal and child health epidemiology.

The fellow will have dedicated space in CRHD with work space available in PHSD. The fellow's day-to-day activities will include routine interaction with epidemiology staff, MFH and chronic disease program staff and division leadership; routine work with several large databases including (but not limited to) PRAMS, cancer registry, and the hospital discharge data; evaluating databases; writing reports and peer-reviewed manuscripts; designing studies and programs; writing protocols; implementation of evaluation of special projects within program areas; attending meetings with stakeholders throughout the state; and responding to inquiries from the media, legislature and others.

Potential projects with opportunities for data analysis, field investigations and participation on a variety of interdisciplinary teams include, but are not limited to:

1. Compile a breast cancer report with GIS mapping.
2. Investigate risk factors associated with childhood cancer, including possible linkages with birth records.
3. Combine data from multiple sources to evaluate the burden of childhood obesity in the state of Wyoming, including an evaluation of school wellness policies.
4. Synthesize data from multiple sources on chronic disease and associated risk factors among Wyoming children.
5. Create a chronic disease surveillance report listing and characterizing current surveillance data. Assess gaps in chronic disease surveillance data, and provide recommendations for filling gaps.
6. Create a report describing injury in Wyoming among children and adults.
7. Use GIS mapping to describe chronic disease prevalence in the state of Wyoming. Describe the prevalence of chronic disease in the MCH population specifically.
8. Help to complete the most recent School Nurse Study of Asthma and Diabetes Prevalence in Wyoming Public School Children and analyze the data, paying special attention to disparities and trends.
9. Investigate the feasibility (including funding sources) of developing a statewide asthma surveillance program.

10. Investigate ways to improve coordination between WDH and Wyoming Department of Education in planning, conducting, analyzing and reporting the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
11. Provide a comprehensive report of child health for the state to identify disparities and to help inform program planning.

The mentors will work with the fellow to choose projects that best fit the fellow's interest and provide a solid broad-based experience in applied epidemiology. The projects will involve collaboration with staff from both divisions, including leadership.

There are several opportunities for program and/or surveillance system evaluation at WDH. Some possibilities include the newly developed perinatal home visiting program database, the cancer registry, the hospital discharge database and the diabetes quality care monitoring system. The fellow will have the opportunity to engage in at least one infectious epidemiology field investigation with the Preventive Health and Safety Division. The fellow will have the opportunity to attend Emergency Preparedness meetings and trainings.

Assignment Location:	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Primary Mentor:	Joseph Grandpre, PhD, MPH Deputy State Epidemiologist Section Chief- Chronic Disease Section Wyoming Department of Health
Advanced Degrees:	PhD, University of Arizona (1999) MPH, University of Arizona (1998) MA, University of Wyoming (1993)
Secondary Mentor:	Angela Crotsenberg, MS Community and Family Health Epidemiology Section Chief
Advanced Degrees:	MS, Colorado State University (2004)