

Graduate Student Internship Program

to promote training in MCH Epidemiology

“Analyzing quantitative and qualitative data in a real world setting has been very rewarding. It has allowed me to sharpen my data analysis skills while learning how to put data results into action. I believe that my project will aid in raising awareness about the challenges that still have to be faced in the fight to reduce infant mortality and morbidity rates.”

Real-World Experience

Data Analysis
and Monitoring

Needs
Assessment

Program
Evaluation



APPLY FOR 2008
www.mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/gsip

“This internship has only strengthened my desire to work in program evaluation. I think this it has been crucial in the development of my evaluation skills.”

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Florida – Duval County

Department/Agency: Duval County Health Department (DCHD)

Program: Maternal and Child Division

Location of Internship Site: Jacksonville, FL

Title of Internship Position: MCH Epidemiologist/Program Analyst

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Duval County Health Department is a large urban State agency located in NE Florida close to Georgia. The Department staff is multi-disciplinary and consists of over 900 employees with a budget of \$58 million. We offer a comprehensive approach to Public Health through a wide range of programs and services throughout the community. Some include but are not limited to Federal and State Healthy Start, WIC, Environmental Health, AmeriCorps, Family Health Centers, Chronic Disease Coalitions, School Health Nursing, Adolescent Medicine, Health Policy and Evaluation, Institutional Medicine, and Behavioral Health Services. The Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) delivers a wide array of service programs for residents throughout the life continuum: pre conceptual, prenatal and postpartum, infancy, childhood, adolescence and young adulthood.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Purpose: Since its implementation in Florida in 1991, the Healthy Start program has historically served all pregnant women and infants regardless of risk. During 2003-04, the DCHD Healthy Start program served over 11,000 participants and that figure increased to slightly over 12,000 participants in 2005-06. Case manager caseloads hovered above the 100 participants mark per case manager during the early years of implementation. Lastly, and most significant is the fact that the program served only 100 of the highest risk pregnant women and infants in 2005-06. In an effort to provide more meaningful contact and to reach those truly in need with existing resources, the program model was revised in July 2005. The transition to a moderate - high risk model has now been in place since July 2005. In 2006-07, the program served 590 highest risk prenatal women and infant families. The purpose of

this project is to analyze the following: 1.) Who is the DCHD highest risk participant? What risks does she carry into the pregnancy? Was she served in Healthy Start prior to this pregnancy? 2.) Are there commonalities among participants? 3.) How long did participants stay in the program? What was the level of intensity? 4.) What types of services did they receive? and, 5.) What were the birth outcomes of these prenatal participants? The outcome of this project will be useful in recommendations for future program planning.

Goal: To determine a profile of highest risk participants served, the type and length of service delivery (intensity), and, birth outcomes.

Objective: To conduct a data analysis of approximately 600 highest risk participant charts during the period, July –June 2006-07 and by utilizing relevant databases (State, Vital Statistics, etc.) and resources pertinent to the project.

Work products: a Process paper (describes the steps involved in the data analysis process to complete project) and a Final Project paper (analyzes the population under study to include answers to the questions cited in the Purpose section of this application). The Process paper will help establish a protocol for future data analyses. The Final paper will summarize the findings of the project and include recommendations. The findings will be presented via PowerPoint to at the MCH Division and one external partner.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

- Analyze charts of approximately 600 highest risk woman and infant participants for the time period July-June 2006-07. This will include confirmation of documentation between charts and the computerized state database.
- Analyze the state database of service delivery (HMS) to determine the length and scope of services provided.
- Analyze Vital Statistics database and HMS database to link birth data to prenatal participants.
- Create a database with an accompanying report on the risk profile including commonalities among participants (including demographics), service history, analysis of services by type and score, status of risk resolution, and birth outcome. Provide graphs and charts to accompany data.
- Conduct a statistical analysis of findings.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Excel, SPSS, Access, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, Vital Statistics analysis, Ability to analyze, interpret data and draw conclusions, Ability to complete statistical analyses, Ability to produce graphs and charts

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Primary: Carolyn Arnister, MA
DCHD/Maternal and Child Health,
Healthy Start Program Coordinator

Secondary: Carol Synkewecz, MPH
DCHD/Maternal and Child Health
Division Director

Representative
Vital Statistics Office

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

Fall 2008

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation.**

The Intern would be responsible for his/her housing accommodations, but we can offer information, resources, and advice if needed. Public transportation is limited to a bus system which has stops at the health department. Since the Jacksonville metropolitan area is geographically spread out, personal car is recommended.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Charlene Marsh (MCH Operations)

Mailing Address: Duval County Health Department (MC-25), 515 West 6th Street,
Jacksonville, FL 32206

Email Address: Charlene_Marsh@doh.state.fl.us

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Hawaii

Department/Agency: Department of Health

Program: Family Health Services Division

Location of Internship Site: Honolulu, HI

Title of Internship Position: Secondary data analyses of Maternal and Child Health Datasets in Hawaii

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Family Health Services Division (FHSD) is located in the Hawaii State Department of Health. The Division is responsible for several important data sets related to maternal and child health in Hawaii including the Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS), Women, infant, and Children (WIC), Birth defects registry, newborn metabolic and hearing screening, and interacts with the Office of Health Status and Monitoring to analyze vital statistics data related to issues important to maternal and child health (MCH) population.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

FHSD is seeking a student to work directly with the FHSD epidemiologist on secondary data analyses and translation of data to action while participating as a team member in the state agency. The intern would gain skill in conducting data analyses around important MCH issues using any of many potential data sets and will learn about MCH activities conducted at a small state agency through participation in meetings and presentations within the Department of Health. The intern may choose from one of the following projects:

- 1) A growing trend across the nation involves the increase use of c-section and accounts for approximately a quarter of all live births in Hawaii. Various studies demonstrate increased risk in adverse neonatal and maternal outcomes. Other outcomes including maternal morbidity, hospital costs, and long term infant outcomes are unclear and represent additional areas of concerns in Hawaii. To better evaluate this issue in Hawaii,

we are seeking a student to better inform various maternal and child health stakeholders and the Hawaii Department of Health. The student will conduct an analysis using PRAMS data to evaluate the type of delivery as an outcome (primary c-section, repeat c-section, vaginal birth after c-section, and spontaneous vaginal delivery) to assess for disparities in Hawaii's unique population. The project will also include discussion with clinicians, the Hawaii Medical Association, and other stakeholders with input into the development of a future survey to discuss the use of c-sections in Hawaii. Products anticipated from this practicum include the development of a fact sheet, abstract, and possible manuscript.

2) In Hawaii as across the nation, mothers are increasingly delaying child birth to later years and this has been reflected by the increases in mean age of births. Concurrently there has been a substantial increase in risk factors for as well as the development of chronic disease such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer. This increase in disease can influence maternal and child health outcomes. Further, about half of all pregnancies are unintended so it is important to emphasize clinical and public health programs to promote healthy pregnancies in those contemplating a pregnancy as well as those not currently anticipating one. Studies are needed to determine relationships between chronic disease, medication use, advancing maternal age, pregnancy intendedness, family planning, and receipt of appropriate clinical care. This highlights the increasing importance of preconception and inter-conception care for women of reproductive age. The Hawaii Department of Health is seeking a graduate student to evaluate the PRAMS Hawaii data set for relations between several of these indicators and how they relate to preconception and inter-conception care. This practicum will occur in a broader context to utilize current data and drive the development of and use of various data sets to inform the Department of Health and Maternal and Child Health stakeholders in Hawaii. This may include meeting with various clinical providers, medical training programs, and the Hawaii Medical Association. Products anticipated from this practicum include the development of a fact sheet, abstract, and a manuscript.

3) Hawaii is a very unique population. Some of this uniqueness is reflected in that the majority of all births in Hawaii can be considered multi-ethnic. The impact of this heterogeneity on outcomes is not known. The Department of Health seeks a graduate student to evaluate the birth certificate file for birth outcomes of Preterm delivery and Low birth-weight with a particular interest in changes depending on classification based on reported child's race, compared to mother's race, father's race, and both the father's and mother's race. This work will help inform the department on the use of ethnicity data for program purposes. Products anticipated from this practicum include the development of a fact sheet, abstract, and a manuscript.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Development of a topic prior to the start of the internship is strongly recommended and can be done over telephone and email discussion between intern and preceptor.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Knowledge of SAS is required, and experience with SUDAAN is recommended for analysis using data from PRAMS.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Don Hayes, MD, MPH will be the primary supervisor and is a CDC assigned epidemiologist to the state of Hawaii FHSD.

Loretta D. Fuddy, ACSW, MPH will be secondary supervisor and is the Chief of the FHSD

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

Flexible

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

There may be some difficulty in obtaining inexpensive housing for a 3 month period for those coming from out of state, but will attempt to provide some information. Prospective interns should be aware of the high cost of living in Hawaii and the stipend provided by this program may not cover all expenses for the duration of the assignment. The office is accessible by the city bus line.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Donald Hayes

Mailing Address: Family Health Services Division,

3652 Kilauea Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Email Address: Don.hayes@doh.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 733-8360 **Fax:** (808) 733-8369

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Maryland

Department/Agency: Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs

Program: Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (BDRIS)

Location of Internship Site: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 W. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Title of Internship Position: Data Manager

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (BDRIS) serves as a platform to identify infants with birth defects through passive ascertainment, that is birth facilities, largely hospitals are mandated by Maryland Health - General Article Annotated Code of Maryland 18-206 to report sentinel birth defects and urged to report all recognized or suspected birth defects. By identifying populations of children with selected birth anomalies and their associated special health care needs, developmental delays or disabilities and determining their geographic distribution, BDRIS can provide the information needed for the optimal allocation and placement of service resources and disseminate appropriate information to service providers and families with affected children, assisting them to access community resources. This internship offers an opportunity to work with public health data systems, including the Birth Defects Reporting and Information System's newly established free-standing MS Access database, Vital Statistics, and the Geographic Information System. The intern will work with the birth defects nurse, a pediatric geneticist, personnel from the Vital Statistics Administration, personnel from the Environmental Public Health Tracking project and in-house epidemiologists. The intern will assist in the acquisition of core health data and its compilation, display and analysis, learning the foundation and fundamentals of public health data usage.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The purpose of the BDRIS internship is to launch a new component of the Birth Defects database. The Birth Defects database now has the capability to electronically match birth defects reports with Vital Statistics records and identify non-matched or mismatched birth defects reports. Electronically matching the data in the birth defects reports with the data in Vital Statistics will enhance BDRIS's capacity to verify and reconcile data. The data will be used to determine birth prevalence rates and distributions in Maryland of selected birth defects. The intern would work with Robert Hayman, Ph.D. in the Vital Statistics Administration, on data matching, verification, and reconciliation. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is clearly the emerging technology of health data display. Jim Thomas, head GIS of the will provide support for projecting reconciled data with GIS system maps and using GIS analyses features. Susan R. Panny, MD, Director, Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs (OGCSHCN), and Anne D. Terry, RN, Nurse Consultant, BDRIS, will monitor and mentor the intern. The goal of the internship is to produce a BDRIS Annual Report.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The intern will work directly with Dr. Bob Hayman, of the Vital Statistics Administration to launch the electronic records matching and data verification functions of the new BDRIS database.* The Vital Statistics Administration captures medical data, specifically birth defect information, on birth certificates and fetal death certificates. The intern will work with designated personnel from the Geographic Information System Division to project data geographically. The intern will prepare the tables required for the annual report and analyze the data to test for significant variations from baseline rates. The intern will work with Susan R. Panny, MD, a pediatric geneticist, who will provide primary mentorship. The intern will work with Anne Terry, RN, who will provide full-time support and coordination with the other units involved in health information data management.

*The Vital Statistics Administration is relocating from the State Office Complex which houses the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to offices on Patterson Avenue. There is transportation point to point via the Metro Rail System with a station at the State Office Complex and a station at Reisterstown Road Plaza and Patterson Avenue.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies, data verification, and data reconciliation activities.)

The primary software application is Microsoft Access. The BDRIS database was designed and developed by John Spencer, Systems Analyst, from the Center for Health Program Development and Management (CHPDM) at the University of Maryland Baltimore County campus (UMBC). Mr. Spencer has provided a step-by-step operating handbook entitled *Integrating Birth Certificate Data into the BDRIS Database*, including

a section on *Introduction to the Problem*. In addition, Mr. Spencer has developed an *AD-HOC QUERY TOOL* manual available to the intern to further explore the application of data to needs assessment. Mr. Spencer will be available to answer questions on a limited basis. The intern should have an appreciation for database applications, and prior experience with MS Access would accelerate the intern's ability to focus on data management and data applications.

As an adjunct to the interns activities in data management, John T. Braggio, PhD, MPH, the Environmental Public Health Tracking Coordinator, is available on an as needed basis for brief consultations on data integrity.

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Direct supervision and support will be provided by Anne Terry, RN, the nurse consultant for BDRIS. Ms. Terry is responsible for capturing birth defect data in a timely manner from 38 hospitals throughout Maryland, medical coding using ICD-9-CM codes, and maintaining data entry into the MS Access database., Oversight and mentor activities will be provided by Susan R. Panny, MD, Director, Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs.

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

As early as possible

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

No.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Anne D. Terry, RN, Nurse Consultant, Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (BDRIS)

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Email Address: terrya@dnhm.state.md.us

Telephone: (410) 767-6625 **Fax:** (410) 333-7956

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Montana – Missoula City

Department/Agency: Missoula City-County Health Department

Program: Health Services – Breastfeeding Works

Location of Internship Site: Missoula, MT

Title of Internship Position: Breastfeeding Works Specialist

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

Our statewide initiative to increase initiation, duration and exclusivity of breastfeeding is gathering momentum. In 1999, Montana passed a law protecting the right of mothers to nurse in any location she and her baby are allowed to be. And this year, the second piece of legislation was passed, requiring all public employers (state, county, city, schools and the university system) to support breastfeeding by employees through 1) written policy 2) assurance of a private appropriate location to pump or nurse and 3) flexibility of break times for mothers to pump or nurse. This along with a concerted effort to train certified lactation counselors (CLC) and increase the numbers of Internationally Licensed Breastfeeding Certified Lactation Counselors (IBCLC) as members of public health MCH and WIC staff, has laid the groundwork for an effective breastfeeding promotion intervention in local communities across the state. We plan a public education campaign, coupled with issuance of “license to breastfeed” cards for all new mothers in our state during this next year. The license will include a brief description of the two MT laws supporting breastfeeding, plus the phone number of the Human Rights Commission where women with complaints may receive assistance. We are interested in determining what impact these policy changes have, if any, on enhancing our county breastfeeding rates.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Using existing data from PRAMS, CDC and the Ross Laboratories Mothers Survey, we want to compare breastfeeding initiation, duration and exclusivity rates prior to and following our

various intervention strategies. In addition, we plan to pilot a simple and efficient method of tracking the initiation, duration and exclusivity breastfeeding rates of mothers who participate in WIC and MCH programs in Missoula County. When mothers report the addition of formula, food or other beverages to the infant's diet, we will interview to determine what barriers to exclusive breastfeeding influenced the mother's decision to quit exclusively nursing. We are documenting the number of Missoula county worksites having written policies re breastfeeding, and assisting employers who express interest in becoming Breast Feeding Friendly worksites. We will work with area physicians, midwives, Nurse Practitioner's, Montana State Women Infant child Nutrition Program, and the Montana State University College of Nursing as partners in the promotion and support of breastfeeding. We are developing a Breastfeeding Task Force, with a broad membership and the goal of institutionalizing the process of community breastfeeding support in Missoula County.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Comparison and analysis of the data collected as outlined above. The Breastfeeding Works Specialist will assist in promotion of breastfeeding friendly worksite policies, and preparing and presenting results of the data collected through the WIC and MCH programs. The Breast Feeding Works Specialist will do a multivariate analysis of the following: Mothers who successfully breastfeed exclusively for 6 months:

- Are they on WIC?
- Do they have a home visiting PHN?
- Have they attended prenatal classes on breastfeeding?
- Have they utilized the breast feeding peer counselors?
- Have they used the breastfeeding hotline?
- Did they return to a Breastfeeding friendly workplace?

The control group will be those mothers who are not on WIC, do not have PHN services, but delivered in Missoula County and initiated breastfeeding. We want to determine what interventions are significant for exclusive 6 month breastfeeding for mothers.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Excel required: Access, SPSS, & End Note Software (preferred but not required).

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary Supervisor: Julie A. Serstad, RN, BSN, MSN, Director, Health Services, Missoula City-County Health Department.

Secondary Supervisor: Mary Pittaway, RD, Supervisor, Nutrition Services, Missoula City-County Health Department

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

June 2008

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

Yes, apartments, possible dorm living, but we don't have funding to support housing. Yes, we have public transportation and we are a bike friendly city.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Julie A. Serstad, RN, BSN, MSN, Director, Health Services, Missoula City-County Health Department

Mailing Address: 301 W. Alder, Missoula, MT 59802

Email Address: serstadj@ho.missoula.mt.us

Telephone: (406) 258-4986 **Fax:** (406) 258-4913

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Nebraska

Department/Agency: Health & Human Services

Program: Lifespan Health Services

Location of Internship Site: Lincoln, Nebraska

Title of Internship Position: MCH Data Intern

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

Lifespan Health Services (formerly Family Health) conducts the statewide MCH assessment, does planning, leads initiatives, develops policies, and administers programs to improve the health of men, women, infants, children, adolescents and families in Nebraska. Through the Title V/MCH Block Grant, Lifespan Health also supports community-based organizations, e.g., local health departments, community action programs, and programs administered within Native American Tribes, academic institutions, and hospitals. Programs within Lifespan Health Services are:

- 1) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC),
- 2) Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP),
- 3) Reproductive Health,
- 4) Immunization,
- 5) Perinatal, Child and Adolescent Health,
- 6) Newborn Screening,
- 7) MCH Epidemiology unit that includes the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (PRAMS) and the Child Death Review Team, and
- 8) Office of Women and Men's Health which administers the Every Woman Matters breast & cervical screening programs, a colorectal screening program, and other women's and men's health initiatives.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The Lifespan Health Services Unit (LHS) has several pending projects from which a GSIP intern could choose. Our first priority is a study of perinatal regionalization in Nebraska; our goal is to understand how/whether perinatal regionalization is working in the state and what improvements should and can be made. In the spring of 2007, an MPH student surveyed 73 state birthing hospitals, obtaining information about their perinatal services and transport agreements, and contrasting hospital's self-designated perinatal capacity 'Level' with their formal Level based on definitions from the AAP/ACOG Guidelines for Perinatal Care. The next phase of that project is to analyze birthing distributions and outcomes by Level. The final phase of the project would be to develop policy recommendations for improvements to the system.

A second desired project would be working with the state's Birth Defect Registry (BDR) and Birth Certificate databases. The two separate goals of this project would be to a) define the sensitivity and specificity of birth certificates in detecting birth defects using the BDR as the "gold standard," and b) produce a state-wide profile of demographic, spatial and temporal trends in birth defect occurrence.

Continuing down the wish list would be:

- producing a profile of WIC clients and outcomes by linking PRAMS to the WIC database, with a secondary goal of determining whether PRAMS subjects that report WIC participation are an unbiased subset of all WIC clients.
- conducting a formal analysis of maternal mortality, involving linking deaths to women of reproductive age with birth certificates, and assessing the sensitivity of our existing passive systems of detecting maternal mortality. Historically, this matching has involved a considerable amount of hand inspection of matches, although this would be easier now with the Linkage Wiz program. Analysis of individual medical charts may be possible.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Basic regression and descriptive statistics; linking datasets (we use Linkage Wiz); policy development.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

SAS, Excel, Word

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary Supervisor would be Dr. Debora Barnes-Josiah. She is an MCH Epidemiologist in LHS and has worked on numerous statewide data analyses, including birth outcomes, PRAMS, and linking BC to Medicaid data. She also coordinates the state's Child Death

Review Team and writes that annual report.

Secondary Supervisor would be Ms. Paula Eurek, LHS Administrator and Nebraska's Title V/MCH Director, who does not have an analytic background but does have a keen mind for understanding the goals and big picture of analytic projects.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

Flexible

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

DHHS is in the downtown area, close to many apartment and housing complexes. Campus dorm rooms may also be available, depending on the exact timing. Our previous interns have preferred to find apartments / rented rooms. The building is served by several major bus routes.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Debora Barnes-Josiah

Mailing Address: DHHS / Lifespan Health Services; 301 Centennial Mall So.; PO Box 95026; Lincoln, NE 68509-5026.

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Telephone: (402) 471-9048 **Fax:** (402) 471-7049

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Nevada

Department/Agency: Nevada State Health Division

Program: Bureau of Family Health Services

Location of Internship Site: Reno, Nevada

Title of Internship Position: Data Analyst

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

Nevada Bureau of Family Health Services is the State Maternal and Child Health agency. In order to assess Nevada MCH status indicators, the Bureau contracted with Nevada Center for Health Statistics and Informatics at University of Nevada, Reno to conduct a special module on MCH indicators through Nevada Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) project. The data collection activities on children's health care access, oral health and childhood immunization have started in 2007 and will continue on 2008. The internship position (data analyst) will join the research team for the data analysis and reporting on this project.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The purpose of the internship is the analysis and interpretation of data from the BRFSS on children's access to health and dental care. The data collection activities on children health care access, oral health and childhood immunization have started in 2007 and will continue on year 2008. The data cleansing and formatting for year 2007 data is ongoing. The internship position (data analyst) will join the research team and will focus on data analysis and reporting for the data collected in 2007. It is expected that 3500-3700 completed surveys will be analyzed.

Besides demographic information and other more than 70 questions from "Core" or other modules in Nevada BRFSS Project, there are 10 questions specially designed regarding Nevada children's healthcare, daycare, oral health and immunization. Questions include "Does this child have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid

plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare or Nevada Check Up?”, “Do you have one person you think of as this child’s personal doctor or health care provider?” “How long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason? (Include visits to dental specialists, such as orthodontists)”, “For this child, has there ever been a time when you have taken him/her to get vaccinations from the child’s usual source of medical care, but could not get them?”.

- 3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project? Will be part of data analysis team using weighted descriptive and multiple logistic regression and will play key roles in literature reviews and report writing.**

The internship position (data analyst) is expected to work closely with Dr. Yang and other epidemiologists and biostatisticians in the Nevada Center for Health Statistics and Informatics, to analyze and disseminate the data, and to present the results. SAS package will be used for weighted survey frequencies and weighted survey logistic models for checking the relationships between above mentioned indicators and other contributing factors. At least one peer reviewed publication could be produced by this internship position.

- 4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies). With based skill of SAS software;**

Understand the analytical results and be able to write analytical reports which should publishable as official agency report and peer reviewed publications.

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Dr. Wei Yang, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Health Informatics and Director of Nevada Center for Health Statistics and Informatics will be the advisor for this project. Dr. Wei Yang is a Professor in Health Informatics at School of Public Health. He is one of the co-principal investigator the project of Nevada Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Meanwhile, Dr. Yang is the P.I. who subcontracted with Nevada Bureau of Family Health Services to provide advanced analysis on Nevada MCH status indicators.

William Lee, Biostatistician II at the Center will be the daily basis supervisor .

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

Later May or Early June.

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

Campus dorms will be available during the summer semester. The Campus is near Reno Downtown and work site has public transportations.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Judy Wright, Chief of Bureau of Family Health Services and Dr. Wei Yang will be the person to contact for more information.

Mailing Address: School of Public Health / MS-274

Email Address: weiyang@unr.edu

Telephone: (775) 682-7094 **Fax:** (775) 784-1340

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Oregon

Department/Agency: Public Health Division

Program: Office of Family Health

Location of Internship Site: Portland, OR

Title of Internship Position: *Intern to choose one of the following. Please indicate preference on your application.*

A) Use of Folic Acid by Postpartum WIC clients

B) Breastfeeding Among Low Birth Weight Babies

C) Impact of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) on Initiation of Prenatal Care

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Office of Family Health is Oregon's Title V agency. It includes programs on Perinatal, Child, and Adolescent Health, School Health, Family Planning, Immunization, Oral Health and WIC. The intern will choose 1 of the following 3 internships: A) Use of Folic Acid by Postpartum WIC clients, B) Breastfeeding among Low Birth Weight Babies, and C) Impact of Deficit Reduction Act on Initiation Prenatal Care.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives (by project).

Project A: *Use of Folic Acid by Postpartum WIC clients*

Learning Objectives for the Graduate Student Intern:

By completing this internship the student will be able to:

- a. Increase proficiency in the use of statistical analysis software.
- b. Critique different statistical tests to determine which are most appropriate for the type of data and project goals.
- c. Develop an appreciation for mixing quantitative and qualitative techniques.
- d. Feel more comfortable with developing interview and focus group questions.
- e. Critically evaluate quantitative analysis results to determine the practical as well as statistical significance.

- f. See self as important link in communicating epidemiological data in a manner meaningful to program staff.
- g. Identify resources (publications, trainings, mentors) to continue learning after the internship.

Proposed Project to Support Student Learning Objectives:

Purpose: Previous work has shown that WIC clients are less likely to have taken periconceptual folic acid (PFA) than non-WIC clients. In 2002, the Oregon WIC program implemented a counseling protocol specific to promoting PFA. The purpose of this project is to determine whether this new counseling protocol has increased PFA intake among WIC mothers, strengthened local WIC staff's ability to counsel on PFA, and increased knowledge of the importance of PFA in WIC clients.

Goal: Increase the proportion of Oregon WIC mothers who consume a daily source of folic acid.

Objective: Utilize a mix of qualitative and quantitative techniques to develop a better understanding of WIC's current and potential impact on FA consumption among its postpartum clients.

Project B: *Breastfeeding among Low Birth Weight Babies*

Purpose: Assessment of breastfeeding among low birthweight infants. In the past, neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) generally gave infant formula to low birthweight infants; only in the past 10 years has it become clear that breastmilk is better than infant formula for low birthweight infants.

Goals: analyze Oregon PRAMS data; review literature.

Objectives: Assess whether NICUs need take steps to further encourage the use of breastmilk by low birthweight infants. Make recommendations to state health department about whether to provide additional resources to birthing hospitals (especially NICUs) to increase feeding breastmilk to low birthweight infants.

Project C: *Impact of Deficit Reduction Act on Initiation for Prenatal Care*

Purpose: Assessment of trends in prenatal care initiation resulting from changes required by the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) in Oregon. The DRA requires additional documentation (including birth certificates) before enrollment in state Medicaid programs. The DRA requirements were implemented in Oregon on September 1, 2006.

Goals: analyze Oregon birth certificate data; review literature.

Objectives: Assess whether DRA implementation was followed by a decrease in the proportion of women who began their prenatal care in the first trimester. Make recommendations to state health department about what can be done to decrease the

impact of the DRA for pregnant women.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project? (by project)

Project A: Use of Folic Acid by Postpartum WIC clients

- a. The intern will use data from the Oregon PRAMS survey (1998-2005) about use of periconceptional folic acid (PFA). Analyst will particularly look at new mothers who had a live birth less than 24 months before the index birth and were WIC clients after the birth of earlier baby. We are interested in looking at trends over time in PFA and in correlating WIC education about folic acid (FA) with women subsequently taking PFA. Other data sources (including WIC client data and BRFSS) will be explored.
- b. The intern will conduct a limited number of key informant interviews with WIC staff about current methods of educating post partum mothers about continuing daily folic acid intake. Staff will also be asked about perceived changes in folic acid education after the implementation of a specific counseling protocol in 2002.
- c. The intern will assist with developing either interview or focus groups questions for WIC mothers to further explore their knowledge about folic acid sources (foods and pills), health benefits of folic acid, sources of information/counseling on folic acid intake, perceived need to continue taking folic acid when no longer pregnant or breastfeeding, and barriers to daily folic acid consumption.
- d. The intern will summarize project findings for WIC and state health department program staff and make recommendations to the Oregon WIC program on how to increase the proportion of clients who get adequate FA daily.

Project B: Breastfeeding among Low Birth Weight Babies

- a. analyze data from the 2004 and 2005 Oregon PRAMS survey comparing intake of breast milk by normal and low birthweight infants.
- b. review literature and talk to people about breastfeeding of low birthweight infants.
- c. write up findings for the state breastfeeding program.
- d. summarize data for state and local health department program staff. Depending on the findings, perhaps prepare findings for presentation at national meetings and/or publication.

Project C: Impact of Deficit Reduction Act on Initiation for Prenatal Care

- a. analyze prenatal care initiation data from the 2005-2007 Oregon birth certificates to see whether implementation of DRA was followed by a decrease in first trimester initiation of prenatal care by Oregon women. Analysis will begin by looking at monthly trend data (1/05-12/06) to seek changes in first trimester initiation of prenatal care. The same monthly trend data will then be examined to identify whether some groups of women (e.g., by race/ethnicity, insurance status, maternal education, rurality) were more affected by others.

- b. review literature and talk to people about the effects of DRA.
- c. write up findings for the state public health department.
- d. summarize data for state and local health department program staff. Depending on the findings, perhaps prepare findings for presentation at national meetings and/or publication.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Some experience using SPSS or SAS is required. Experience or coursework in qualitative analysis is helpful but not required.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary supervisor will be Ken Rosenberg, MD, MPH, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiologist in the Office of Family Health. Secondary supervisor will be Julie Reeder, PhD, MPH, Oregon WIC epidemiologist in the Office of Family Health.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

Starting time could be any time from February to July 2008.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

We will be able to assist the student in locating and securing housing. Housing near the worksite is plentiful and inexpensive. Previous GSIP interns have found housing in private homes by responding to advertisements in the local daily newspaper. The worksite is easily accessible via public transportation from many neighborhoods.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Kenneth D. Rosenberg, MD, MPH

Mailing Address: 800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 850, Portland, OR 97232

Email Address: ken.d.rosenberg@state.or.us

Telephone: (971) 673-0237 **Fax:** (971) 673-0240

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Texas

Department/Agency: Texas Department of State Health Services

Program: Birth Defects Epidemiology & Surveillance/Texas Center for Birth Defects

Research & Prevention

Location of Internship Site: Austin, Texas

Title of Internship Position: Birth Defects Data Analyst

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Texas Birth Defects Epidemiology & Surveillance Branch (BDES) encompasses two major components: the Texas Birth Defects Registry (Registry) and the Texas Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention (Texas Center). In order to respond to community concerns about the occurrence of birth defects, the Texas Birth Defects Registry was established to identify and describe the patterns of birth defects in Texas through operation of an active surveillance system. It is now the largest birth defects registry of its kind in the world; one benefit of that is the ability to study the risk factors associated with relatively rare birth defects.

The Registry employs an active surveillance approach, which entails staff routinely visiting all hospitals and birthing centers where affected children are delivered or treated. Staff review logs to find potential cases, review medical records of potential cases to identify true cases, and abstract relevant information including birth defect diagnoses; medical tests and procedures; gestational age; delivery information; maternal illnesses, delivery complications, maternal exposures; and demographic information.

BDES is one of 10 state programs participating in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS), one of the largest case-control studies ever done on the causes of birth defects. For this study, interviews are conducted and biological samples are collected from case mothers (women who have had babies or pregnancies affected by birth defects) and control mothers (women who have had babies with no birth defects). The NBDPS began in 1997 and currently has 13,586 cases and 5,008 controls available for study which researchers are using to examine the causes of birth defects associated with socio-demographics (e.g. ethnicity), genetics, nutrition, and the environment factors.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including a) purpose, b) goals, and c) objectives.

Purpose:

State monitoring programs and registries provide researchers with basic information about rates of birth defects and can help identify trends and are particularly useful for generating hypotheses for further investigation or research. When combined with studies of genetics, molecular biology, etiologic investigations and environmental exposures, the information provided by birth defects registries has the potential to help uncover the causes of these conditions and prevent future cases (Trust for America's Health, 2002). With 18,594 completed interviews for cases and controls in the NBDPS data set, we are increasingly able to design and carry out rigorous studies of risk factors for specific birth defects. The primary purpose of this internship is to provide analytic support in the development of an existing study and to work with team members to develop at least one study.

Goals:

The primary goal of the internship is to provide analytic support for a major studies initiated by the Texas Center which has been approved by the NBDPS data sharing committee, *Maternal fish consumption during pregnancy and adverse outcomes in the NBDPS*. The intern will work closely with our NBDPS epidemiologist to analyze data, interpret the findings and present it in such a way as to elucidate answers to the study questions. The intern will also assist with literature review and writing of a manuscript.

Objectives:

At the completion of the internship, the candidate will lead and/or collaborate on analysis for at least one pending project and may also have the opportunity to present findings and/or to assist in manuscript development.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

- Conduct literature review of all known risks and benefits associated with fish consumption, pregnancy, and fetal development, as well as fish consumption patterns among women of childbearing age. Write a summary.
- Plan of the analytic approach.
- In collaboration with the NBDPS data analyst, review existing analytic SAS programs that will be required for this project. Adapt old and write new SAS programs as needed, and use them for analysis.
- For each defect or defect category:
 - Using univariate logistic regression, generate crude odds ratios with their 95% confidence intervals to compare individual maternal risk factors and exposures to the birth defects in question.
 - Identify potential confounders among a list of maternal risk factors and exposures during the pregnancy reported during the interviews.
 - Run multivariable logistic regression to generate adjusted odds ratios with their 95% confidence intervals and interpret the association between maternal risk factors and exposures to the birth defects in question.
- Produce charts, handouts, and tables summarizing the analysis.
Assist with writing manuscript including methods and results sections.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

- Skill in using SAS for data management and analysis (essential).
- Knowledge of how to calculate and interpret odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals.
- Skill in conducting regression analysis and interpreting the results. Logistic regression is preferred, but not necessary.
Skill in writing and presenting results of simple and complex analyses.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary Supervisor: Tunu Ramadhani, PhD, Epidemiologist. Dr. Ramadhani is an Epidemiologist, with the Texas Department of State Health Services, performing statistical data analyses from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Dr. Ramadhani have conducted analyses, summarized data, and provided interpretations of the findings, wrote and collaborated in writing several reports, manuscripts and published in peer reviewed Epidemiological journals. Examples of papers include “*Residential mobility patterns and exposure misclassification in epidemiologic studies of birth defects*”, “*Medical records vs. interview responses: a comparative analysis of selected variables for linked birth defect cases*” and “*Improved national prevalence estimates for 18 selected major birth defects- United States, 1999–2001*”. She was the primary supervisor for our 2007 MCH GSIP placement.

Secondary Supervisor: Mark Canfield, Ph.D., BDES Manager and Co-Principle Investigator of the Texas component of the NBDPS. Dr. Canfield has been involved in birth defects epidemiology and research for more than 12 years, and has authored numerous manuscripts from the NBDPS, including *Folic acid awareness and use among women with a history of a neural tube defect pregnancy - Texas, 2000-2001*, and *Maternal obesity, gestational diabetes, and central nervous system birth defects*.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

Open.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

We can provide advice about housing opportunities in the area, but no direct assistance. The Texas Department of State Health Services is located very near the University of Texas and therefore there are many rental properties within easy walking or biking distance. We are located on or very near several bus lines.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Amy P. Case, MAHS

Mailing Address: Texas Department of State Health Services

Birth Defects Epidemiology & Surveillance Branch,

1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756

Email address: amy.case@dshs.state.tx.us

Telephone: (512) 458-7232 **Fax:** (512) 485-7330

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Virginia

Department/Agency: Department of Health

Program: Office of Family Health Services Policy and Assessment Unit

Location of Internship Site: Richmond, Virginia

Title of Internship Position: Policy and Assessment research assistant

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Family Health Services (OFHS) has six divisions and a Policy and Assessment Unit (PAU). The PAU provides oversight and assistance with surveillance, research and evaluation to the OFHS divisions. Currently, the PAU houses two CDC-funded surveillance projects, the Virginia Behavioral Risk Surveillance System (VABRFSS) and the Virginia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (VA PRAMS).

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

This internship will strengthen Virginia's understanding of the health status of women of child bearing age (18 to 44 years old). The intern will analyze VA BRFSS data (2004-2006) and provide a well written comprehensive report. Information from the report will also be used for our next Virginia Title V needs assessment and will be used by our programs to better address the health needs of this population.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The primary data to be used for this internship is the Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (VABRFSS) 2004-2006. Activities will include accessing the data in SPSS or SAS format, reviewing the Virginia BRFSS 2004-2006 codebook to become familiar with the data set variables and to work with PAU staff to identify variables of interest for analyses.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

This internship will require the ability to work with a large dataset with a complex sampling design and the ability to use SPSS complex samples or SAS software and to perform univariate and bivariate analysis. In addition, this intern will need to be able to interpret data results and have excellent writing skills to prepare a report that will be distributed internally and externally to OFHS programs and other stakeholders.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Susan Kennedy Spain is the OFHS Evaluation Director and Virginia BRFSS Coordinator in the Policy and Assessment Unit within the Office of Family Health Services. Ms. Kennedy Spain has over 15 years of experience working on hundreds of research and evaluation projects as a senior research associate, data analyst and evaluation team member. Ms. Spain will serve as the primary supervisor and Dr. Janice Hicks will serve as a secondary supervisor. Dr. Hicks has 27 years of experience in research, evaluation and policy analysis that includes approximately thirteen years in the public health field. She holds adjunct faculty appointments in the Virginia Commonwealth University's Sociology Department and the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

May or June 2008. Dates are flexible.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Yes. Apartments are available in several locations convenient to downtown. The Greater Richmond Transit bus system is available and convenient to most residences in the City of Richmond. Bus stops are within a few blocks of the Virginia Department of Health.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Susan Kennedy Spain

Mailing Address: 109 Governor Street, 7th Floor

Email Address: SusanK.Spain@vdh.virginia.gov

Telephone: 804-864-7654 **Fax:** 804-864-7670

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Washington

Department/Agency: Department of Health

Program: Maternal and Child Health Assessment Section

Location of Internship Site: Olympia, WA

Title of Internship Position: Adolescent Fact Sheet Development
PRAMS Data Analysis

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The internship project will be housed in the Maternal Child Health (MCH) section of Community and Family Health, Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The MCH Program works to promote an environment that supports and encourages the optimal health of all women of childbearing age, infants, children, adolescents and their families. Maternal and Child Health has five major program areas: Children with Special Health Care Needs, Child and Adolescent Health, Maternal and Infant Health, Genetics, and Immunizations. The intern will be located within the MCH Assessment Section, which provides assessment services to all four areas. The primary project supervisor will be Cathy Wasserman, manager of the MCH Assessment Unit at the Washington State Department of Health.

The intern will choose between the 2 internships: A) Adolescent Fact Sheet Development B) PRAMS Data Analysis.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

**Project A: Adolescent Fact Sheet Development:
Updating Adolescent Health Fact Sheets**

Purpose: The purpose of this component is to provide updated data and information for DOH's Teen Health Fact Sheets which address key issues that adolescents face and target families, health providers, and teens. Topic areas for the 17 Fact Sheets include suicide and depression, physical health and development, drug and alcohol use, eating disorders, sexual health and others. The fact sheets include both data and interventions and resources and were last updated in 2002. The fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/adolescenthealth.htm> A primary data source for the fact sheets is the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS), which is a comprehensive school-based survey last implemented in 2006. This survey of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders focuses on health-risk behaviors related to death and injury such as unintentional and intentional injury behaviors, smoking, and substance use as well as risk and protective factors. Data from 2006 will be available in Spring 2007.

Goals: Update 5-10 Teen Health Fact Sheets

Objectives:

1. Analyze and interpret data on the health status and health behaviors of Washington state adolescents, using multiple data sources including the Healthy Youth Survey.
2. Work with adolescent program staff to develop messages for teens, families and providers for Teen health Fact Sheets.

Project B: PRAMS Data Analysis

Utilizing PRAMS data to improve the health of mothers and infants in Washington State.

This project will have two components:

1. PRAMS survey non-response bias analysis

Purpose: The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitory System (PRAMS) survey is joint research project with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is an on-going survey of women who have recently given birth. PRAMS collects information on maternal attitudes, experiences, and behaviors before, during, and after pregnancy. The purpose of PRAMS is to improve the health of mothers and infants. Recently, several states, including Washington, have seen a significant decline in response rates, particularly among American Indian and African American women. Due to these declining response rates, it is important to evaluate potential biases associated with non-response, as well as to understand how representative our sample is of Washington births. Additionally, we hope to be able to use the results of a bias analysis to work with partners around the state to increase response rates, particularly among women who have historically been hard to reach.

Goals: Complete a bias analysis of PRAMS Phase 5 (2004 to 2006).

Objectives:

1. Develop an analysis plan.
2. Conduct univariate analyses to understand potential differences between responders and nonresponders.
3. Examine predictors of non-response using logistic regression.
4. Summarize results in a report and present results to the PRAMS Coordinating Committee.

2. Data Report: Evaluation of maternal and infant morbidity in Washington

Purpose: The purpose of this component of the proposed internship is to utilize data from Washington PRAMS and the birth certificate to analyze factors associated with maternal and infant morbidity. Potential analyses include an evaluation of factors associated with maternal morbidities during pregnancy, intimate partner violence, preterm birth, infant sleep position, post-partum depression, and obesity and diabetes during pregnancy. The analysis will be utilized by the Maternal and Child Health Program to help guide program and policy decision making.

Goals: Complete one in-depth data report on an MCH priority issue

Objectives:

1. Work with Maternal and Child Health Assessment and Maternal and Infant Health to identify a priority issue for an MCH data report.
2. Conduct a literature review and complete a multivariate analysis looking at adverse maternal or infant outcomes.
3. Summarize and present results in a short data report.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project? (by project)

Project A: Adolescent Fact Sheet Development

The adolescent fact sheets project requires the development of an analytic plan and the analysis and interpretation of data from multiple sources, including the Healthy Youth survey, death certificate data, and hospitalization data. The intern will update at least 5 Teen Health Fact Sheets.

Project B: PRAMS Data Analysis

This project will involve the development of an analytic plan and the analysis and interpretation of data from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey and vital statistics. This project will involve descriptive analysis (chi-square, t-tests, etc.) and logistic regression analysis to identify predictors of non-response for the bias analysis. Additional analyses will also utilize logistic regression to identify factors associated with maternal and infant morbidity. The results of the projects will be presented in a written summary or report, and an oral presentation to DOH staff.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies). (both projects)

Ability to analyze and interpret data.

Graduate classes in epidemiology and statistics,

Basic skills in analytic software.

Software skills should include working with word processing, spreadsheets (like Microsoft Word and Excel) and working with statistical software such as Stata

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor. (by project)**

Project A: Adolescent Fact Sheet Development

The primary supervisor on this project will be Cathy Wasserman, PhD. Dr. Wasserman is an epidemiologist and former manager of the Maternal and Child Health Assessment Section. She has experience analyzing and interpreting vital statistics, birth defects surveillance and hospitalization data and developing reports to inform policy and program development. Dr. Wasserman has mentored staff, graduate student interns, and a CDC/CSTE fellow.

The secondary supervisor will be Diane Pilkey, RN MPH from the Assessment Section of the Washington State Department of Health Office of Maternal and Child Health. Ms. Pilkey is a graduate of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS). She has experience analyzing birth and death data, and survey data involving complex samples designs such as the Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey (PRAMS). Ms Pilkey is currently coordinating the assessment activities of the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey.

Project B: PRAMS Data Analysis

The primary supervisor on this project will be Cathy Wasserman, PhD. Dr. Wasserman is an epidemiologist and former manager of the Maternal and Child Health Assessment Section. She has experience analyzing and interpreting vital statistics, birth defects surveillance and hospitalization data and developing reports to inform policy and program development. Dr. Wasserman has mentored staff, graduate student interns, and a CDC/CSTE fellow.

The secondary supervisor on this project will be Katie Hutchinson, PhD, MSPH. Dr. Hutchinson is a CDC/CSTE fellow in the Maternal and Child Health Assessment Section. She received her Master's degree in Epidemiology from Emory University and her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hutchinson has experience with analyzing and interpretation of complex survey data, such as PRAMS, and vital records data. Dr. Hutchinson also works with the Birth Defects Surveillance System, and has experience with cluster investigations, evaluation, and survey development.

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

We are flexible on this; whatever works best for the intern.

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

There are many apartment complexes and housing options in Olympia and we can provide information to the intern. The worksite is accessible via public transportation.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Diane Pilkey

Mailing Address: Washington State Department of Health; PO Box 47835; Olympia
WA 98504

Email Address: diane.pilkey@doh.wa.gov

Telephone: (360) 236-3526 **Fax:** (360) 236-2323

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Washington – Seattle & King County

Department/Agency: Public Health – Seattle & King County

Program: Parent Child Health, Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation

Location of Internship Site: Seattle, WA

Title of Internship Position: Local (King County) Analysis of Pregnancy Risk
Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Data

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

Public Health-Seattle & King County's Parent/Child Health Program and Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit (EPE) will jointly house the internship project. These programs work collaboratively to identify and monitor trends and disparities in key indicators of maternal and child health. Rates of infant mortality in the African American and American Indian/Alaska Native communities of King County remain 2-3 times higher than the rate for whites. Staff from both programs participate in community-based efforts to reduce these disparities by analyzing and presenting data and encouraging communication about how to expand our thinking and develop strategies to eliminate these troubling disparities.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Recent data analyses show that it is important to focus on women's mental and physical health prior to pregnancy and in the interconception period in order to eliminate disparities in infant health. King County PRAMS data includes an oversample of African American and American Indian/Alaska Native mothers and provides a wealth of data that can be analyzed and used to focus intervention efforts. The internship will involve analysis of local PRAMS data to identify and analyze indicators to monitor that will provide more information on disparities and inform intervention/prevention efforts in King County. We are particularly interested in having the intern use the PRAMS data to investigate the level and types of preconception screening women in King County have received, look at factors that influence maternal infant bonding such as breastfeeding and maternal depression, and update analyses

examining disparities in maternal risk including exposure to stressful events and level of social support.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The project will involve becoming familiar with and analyzing the local PRAMS data with respect to the factors listed above. Once the data have been analyzed, the internship will involve generating reports and presentations that will summarize and illustrate the results.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

The internship requires the applicant to be comfortable and versatile in analyzing data and understand the mechanics of working with large datasets. The analytic software to be used would most likely include one of the following depending on the preference of the intern: STATA, SPSS or SAS, as well as Excel and PowerPoint.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Susan Barkan, PhD, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation, Public Health - Seattle & King County will be the primary supervisor of the intern. Dr. Barkan received her PhD in epidemiology in 1989 from Yale University's Epidemiology and Public Health program and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in family violence at Children's Hospital in Boston in 1992. Concentrating on how social forces give rise to disparities in illness, Dr. Barkan's work has focused on HIV/AIDS in women, racial and socioeconomic disparities in infant morbidity and mortality, early child development and school readiness. Working with Public Health - Seattle & King County since 1997, she currently works in the department's Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Unit monitoring and reporting on trends in child and family health indicators. She also collaborates with community based efforts aimed at eliminating disparities in infant mortality and conducts evaluation of local programs focused on strengthening early learning.

Kathy Carson, RN, BSN, Administrator of Public Health's Parent/Child Health program will function as a secondary supervisor of the intern.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

May or June, 2008 – as soon as the intern was available and wanted to begin

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

The worksite is located in downtown Seattle and is easily accessible via public transportation from many different locations. Summer sublets in apartments or shared housing would be available. We would be happy to provide guidance to the intern in finding a place to live during the 12 weeks.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Susan Barkan, PhD

Mailing Address: Public Health – Seattle & King County

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1300

Seattle, WA 98104

Email Address: susan.barkan@kingcounty.gov

Telephone: (206) 263-8786 **Fax:** (206) 296-0166

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Iowa

Department/Agency: Iowa Department of Public Health/Bureau of Family Health

Program: Iowa Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services

Location of Internship Site: Des Moines, IA

Title of Internship Position: Title V MCH Service Assessment Project

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The internship project will be housed in the Bureau of Family Health (BFH). In the BFH, the intern will be immersed in the hub of Iowa's MCH Title V activities. Namely, the intern will play an integral role in preparing the Bureau to conduct its 2010 MCH Block Grant Needs assessment by examining of services that Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) provide to the MCH Title V population. Through the "Title V MCH Service Assessment Project", the intern will take a leadership role in assessing and promoting evidence-based Title V MCH services. The intern will also have the opportunity to collaborate with the Bureaus of Oral Health and Health Statistics, as these Bureaus contribute to Title V MCH Services. The BFH has a long history of welcoming and mentoring interns and students. Many interns return to the BFH as full-time, permanent employees. Through the Title V grant the BFH provides services to over 150,000 pregnant women, infants, children, and families in Iowa. Title V services are based on Iowa's family health priorities and state and national performance measures. Other BFH programs include Perinatal and Maternal Health, Early Childhood Health, Child and Adolescent Health, Family Planning, Abstinence Education and Medicaid/SCHIP outreach.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The project is entitled "Title V MCH Service Assessment Project." The project's purpose is to examine the depth and the breadth to which LPHAs address the Title V MCH Service Block Grant national and state performance measures. The project's goal is to evaluate the ability of the LPHAs to address the national and state performance measures and to determine if the planned activities are based on empirical evidence and best practice. The project's goals are to 1) to compare and contrast LPHA planned activities with the Title V MCH Service Block Grant state and national performance measures, 2) to identify

strengths in addressing the performance measures, 3) to identify weaknesses in addressing the performance measures (i.e. not addressed or poorly addressed), 4) to make recommendations to assure that all performance measure are adequately addressed, 5) to prepare a synopsis for the Title V director, and (6) to prepare a report for the BFH, LPHA, and other stakeholders.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

In collaboration with the Title V Director, the Title V coordinator, and the MCH epidemiologist the intern will:

- **Review** Title V Maternal and Child Health services provided by local public health agencies (LPHA), through out the state of Iowa.
- **Document** which National (NPM) and State Performance Measures (SPM) are being addressed by the various LPHA
- **Document** which NPM and SPM are NOT being addressed by the various LPHA
- **Examine** which LPHA activities, addressing NPM or SPM, are derived from evidence-based practices.
- **Examine** whether the activities address the NPM or SPM that the LPHA believes they are addressing.
- **Build** a database/spread sheet to use for data entry, data analysis, and ongoing surveillance of Title V services.
- **Carry** out data entry
- **Conduct** analysis
- **Make** recommendations to guide LPHA to write activities that address NPM or SPM and that are evidence based.
- **Produce** a synopsis and **make** recommendations that will guide the Title V Director in comprehensive needs assessment and strategic planning
- **Prepare** a report to be shared with BFH staff, LPHA, and other stakeholders
- **Present** the results to internal Title V staff and stakeholders.
- **Prepare, submit, and present** the results to a relevant national or regional conference

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

The intern will produce primarily descriptive information as the result of this project. Therefore the intern will need to be comfortable examining and synthesizing information from a large cross-section of data sources. The intern will need to be comfortable creating and manipulating spread sheets in Excel.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Debra Kane, PhD, will be the intern's primary supervisor and will be available to guide and provide technical assistance to the intern. Dr. Kane is a Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention assignee to the IDPH, as an MCH Epidemiologist. Her role is to promote and improve the health and well-being of Iowa women, children, and families by building epidemiological and data capacity at the state level, to effectively use data to support public health action. She has over 15 years of public health experience at both the state and local level. In addition, she has over 5 years of experience in data analysis and interpretation, and data base management.

The intern's secondary supervisor will be Gretchen Hageman, MA. Ms. Hageman has worked at the Iowa Department of Public Health – Bureau of Family Health since 1999. She has served as the Title V coordinator for eight years and for the last five years has also served as the project director for Iowa's Early Childhood Comprehensive System project. As the Title V coordinator, she has been instrumental in promoting strategic planning and the promotion of Iowa's state and national performance at the department and local level.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

The start date is negotiable. We anticipate the project will take from 12-14 weeks to complete.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Yes, IDPH staff can assist the student in locating and securing housing. There are a variety of housing options available such as campus dorms and furnished apartments. The Lucas Building is accessible via public transportation.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Debra Kane

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Montana

Department/Agency: Montana Dept of Public Health and Human Services

Program: MCH Epidemiology Unit

Location of Internship Site: Helena, Montana, 1218 E. 6th Ave, Capitol Complex

Title of Internship Position: MCH Epidemiology Student Intern

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is the second largest government agency in Montana, housing public health, Medicaid, child protective services, and social services. The department is made up of 11 divisions, including the Public Health and Safety Division, which includes most of the public health programs and services. The Public Health and Safety Division is divided into 6 bureaus, including the Family and Community Health Bureau (FCHB), which has a staff of 34 and a budget of approximately \$21 million. The Bureau is primarily responsible for population-based services for families, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age, infants, children and adolescents. The programs administered in the Bureau include the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, WIC, Title X (Family Planning), oral health, fetal, infant and child mortality review (FICMR), Children's Special Health Services, and Public Health Home Visiting.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this assignment will be to assist Family and Community Health Bureau Epi and bureau staff to assess the availability and accessibility of data for use in the 2010 MCH Needs Assessment and to identify gaps and suggest/propose strategies for addressing gaps. The Five Year Needs assessment is a requirement for submission with the Maternal Child Health Block Grant. The previous (2005) needs assessment would provide the basis for the student work. The format for the needs assessment is prescribed in guidance from the Federal Maternal Child Health Bureau.

Goal

Analyze the availability and accessibility of data in anticipation of the development of the 2010 Montana MCH Needs Assessment.

Objectives of the project are to:

1. Review existing needs assessment.
2. Work with program staff to identify data collection activities that have occurred in the present assessment period.
3. Assess quality of the available data.
4. Identify gaps in data.
5. Develop strategies for addressing data gaps.
6. Inform bureau staff and advisory council of findings of needs assessment and gap analysis.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Available data are quantitative data, including numbers served, financial information, program-specific service and outcome data. Analysis would be primarily descriptive in nature. Narrative description of findings will be a responsibility of the student. Student will have the opportunity to present findings to the Family Health Advisory Council and have findings published on the bureau website. Materials developed by the student will be made available to staff and other stakeholders at the end of the internship. The student will be requested to translate and present the project results so that they are understandable to public health practitioners and other stakeholders who are not necessarily familiar with epidemiological methods or terminology. If appropriate, results may also be submitted for publication in "Prevention Activities under the Big Sky," Montana's public health prevention newsletter.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Students are expected to have basic analytic abilities and familiarity with at least one statistical software package. SPSS is the statistical analysis software currently used by the bureau. However, the data are available in formats that translate to most statistical analysis software, and SAS is used elsewhere in the department and may be available. Experience with Microsoft Access and Excel is helpful. Analysis will primarily be descriptive epidemiology and will use quantitative data from vital records and program reports.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary Supervisor: Dianna Frick, MPH. Ms. Frick is the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist for the Family and Community Health Bureau (FCHB). She was a Public Health Prevention Specialist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for three years, one year in Atlanta working with the Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)

Prevention where she analyzed STD data, conducted assessments, and developed and coordinated a nationwide survey of STD clinics, and two years in Montana with FCHB where she coordinated the 5-year MCH needs assessment and strategic planning for the Family and Community Health Bureau. She has also worked with international health programs, conducting analyses of reproductive health data, and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa. Ms. Frick has a bachelor of arts in international affairs from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and she earned a master of public health in maternal and child health with a minor in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Secondary Supervisor: Jo Ann Walsh Dotson, RN MSN. Ms. Dotson is the MCH Director for the state and is the Bureau Chief for the Family and Community Health Bureau. She has been with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for 16 years and previously managed the public health home visiting and primary care programs. Ms. Dotson is a former faculty member with the Montana State University College of Nursing where she taught nursing for seven years. She was also adjunct faculty at Carroll College School of Nursing in Helena from 1994 to 1998. Ms. Dotson has a bachelor of science in nursing from Baylor University, a master of science in maternal and child health nursing from the University of Texas, and is currently in the Ph.D. program through the School of Nursing at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

The start time is negotiable. May of 2007 would be ideal.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Yes. Montana has had student interns through the GSIP program and through arrangements with Emory University and other academic institutions over the last eight years. Helena, the state capitol and site of the proposed student placement, is located in the middle of Montana, with easy access to mountains and lakes. Helena is home to Carroll College, and short term rentals are available during summers in accordance with the academic year. Students have had good luck with finding apartments, houses or rooms to rent in the Helena community. The local newspaper, the Helena Independent Record (<http://www.helenair.com>), has housing listings in its online classifieds section. We would also be willing to solicit the 170+ Division staff for housing recommendations at the student's request. Housing in Helena is reasonably priced.

Helena has limited public transportation. There are buses that run on limited routes within the city limits – recent improvements (2007) have improved efficiency and access. Several students have completed a 10 week rotation with no car, using a bicycle. While a vehicle would be beneficial, especially in order to enjoy the beautiful state, it is not a requirement. Much of the housing within Helena city limits is within biking or walking distance of the internship site.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Dianna Frick, MPH

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Family and Community Health Bureau

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: New Mexico

Department/Agency: Department of Health, Public Health Division, Family Health Bureau, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program

Program: State of New Mexico Children's Medical Services, and the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology program

Location of Internship Site: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Title of Internship Position: Program Evaluator, Children's Medical Services

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The State of New Mexico Department of Health houses several divisions and bureaus. The Public Health Division houses the Family Health Bureau (FHB). There are several programs that operate within FHB including Children's Medical Services (CMS) and Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH Epi). The internship will be with CMS and MCH Epi.

CMS coordinates the newborn genetic and hearing screening programs, the family infant toddler program for children at risk for developmental disabilities, the birth defects prevention program, and the medical program for children and youth with special health care needs. These programs monitor health conditions of children, and provide case management for families whose children need continuing specialized medical care and for youth who need help with transitioning to independent adult life. MCH Epi has recently begun to work with CMS to improve data collection and analysis for their programs.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Purpose

To evaluate the CMS data collection process and conduct a data needs assessment.

Objectives:

- 1) create a comprehensive list of data sources,
- 2) create a list of programming and child health indicators that are necessary for CMS program monitoring and evaluation and MCH Epi reporting requirements,
- 3) determine which data needs are and are not being met using current data resources and collection methods,
- 4) explore both intra- and inter-departmental data sources that may be useful in fulfilling unmet data needs,
- 5) complete a comprehensive report of CMS data capacity, needs, and relevance to the child population in New Mexico that will be given to the State Secretary of Health and used to inform legislators.

The work done during the internship will help fulfill the following goals:

- 1) to contribute to the 2010 MCH Block Grant Needs Assessment,
- 2) to establish a sustainable single source of CMS data for use by MCH Epi and others for reporting and future monitoring and evaluation of CMS programs.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The intern will work with CMS and MCH Epi staff to create an evaluation plan to assess CMS data collection. This will include use of logic models and creation of indicators. These indicators will be generated through discussions with CMS and MCH Epi staff, and through literature searches by the intern. These discussions will yield a baseline assessment of 1) what questions CMS wishes to answer through its data collection 2) what questions existing data can answer, 3) what questions the data don't answer, 4) what other data sources can be used to enhance CMS/MCH Epi reporting, 5) how the process of data collection can be improved to meet the needs of CMS programming and MCH Epi reporting.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

The intern will need basic data analysis skills, and basic skills in program evaluation, both of which will be expanded through the internship experience.

Data skills: 1) Intermediate Knowledge of Microsoft EXCEL, 2) The ability to generate and interpret descriptive statistics.

Analytic skills, the ability to: 1) create a plan for process evaluation using logic modeling and other basic program evaluation techniques, 2) assess reporting requirements, 3) determine data needs based on reporting requirements, 4) create a work plan/time line for process evaluation, needs assessment, data compilation and report writing.

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Mary Overpeck, DrPH, MCH Epi program manager. Dr. Overpeck and her staff will guide the student with identifying data sources, creating a data base in which to integrate information from these various sources, and in creating the needs assessment and process evaluation plans. Dr. Overpeck will be the primary supervisor, and the student will work closely with Alexis Avery, MPH, who has extensive experience with program monitoring and evaluation, and is the Title V MCH Block Grant coordinator.

Lynn Christiansen, MSW, CMS program manager. Ms. Christiansen and her staff will familiarize the student with issues specific to the children with special health care needs population, and with CMS's programming goals and objectives that can be informed through improved data collection and organization.

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

May or June, 2008

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

The work site is available via public transportation. We will help find housing in an apartment, campus dorm, or room in a private home.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Alexis Avery, MPH

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Ohio

Department/Agency: Ohio Department of Health

Program: Division of Family and Community Health Services

Location of Internship Site: Columbus, OH

Title of Internship Position: Needs Assessment Enhancement for Ohio's Children with Special Health Care Needs

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Division of Family and Community Health Services (DFCHS) at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) administers programs and oversees data systems fundamental to maternal and child health (MCH). The division houses six program bureaus, representing the spectrum of MCH and other populations, and one research and evaluation bureau. The internship will be housed at the division level. However, the intern will have opportunities to work with the bureaus, especially the research and evaluation bureau and the two bureaus which house programs for children with special health care needs as these areas are vital to the proposed internship project.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The Ohio Department of Health engages in an ongoing needs assessment process for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. The last 5-year cycle of the needs assessment was completed in 2005 and the current cycle will end in 2010. The last needs assessment identified data gaps and questions, which, to answer, required in-depth analysis of existing data sources. Many of those questions relate to the identified priority needs specific to children with special health care needs. It was recognized that in the last 2 years of the cycle, in which intensive activity is focused on a planning process, time and resources were not available for the creation of new data-based information. The appropriate time for the generation of new data-based information from data collection or complex analyses is in the earlier stages of the needs assessment cycle, which is currently where Ohio finds itself.

Purpose

Provide data-based information on health needs and resources among children with special health care needs in Ohio, through analysis of existing databases, to inform later planning activities in Ohio's current MCH Title V Block Grant needs assessment cycle.

Goals are to provide more detailed information

- 1) on the quality of screening, disorder identification, interventions, care coordination, and medical home among CSHCN
- 2) on the access to comprehensive preventive and treatment services among Ohio's CSHCN. The goals will be accomplished using data from one or more of the following sources: The National Survey of Children's Health, The National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, and the Ohio Family Health Survey.

Objectives are to

- 1) develop an analysis plan informed by a literature review of the topic,
- 2) conduct appropriate and valid analyses given the data sources and research questions outlined in the plan,
- 3) summarize and interpret results of the analyses, and 4) draft a brief epidemiological report and present an oral presentation to ODH staff.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The project will require development of research questions; a literature review; writing of an analysis plan; identification of variables of interest (outcome variables, primary variables of interest, potential confounders and effect modifiers) within available databases; recoding of variables as necessary; application of appropriate analysis methods, and interpretation of results, summarizing results in a brief written report; and preparation and presentation of an oral presentation.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

The internship position requires basic SAS data and analytic skills, familiarity with multivariate regression techniques, and writing and communication skills. Familiarity with SUDAAN is preferred.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

The primary supervisor will be Elizabeth Conrey, MCH Epidemiologist and CDC field assignee, Division of Family and Community Health Services, Ohio Department of Health and Division of Reproductive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Conrey has a PhD in Community Nutrition with a minor in Epidemiology from Cornell University. She was an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer with CDC, assigned to the Maternal and Child Nutrition Branch. She is a registered dietitian. Dr. Conrey has experience analyzing public health data, writing reports, publishing peer reviewed journal articles, and supervising students and fellows conducting research activities.

The secondary supervisor will be Ruth Shrock, Title V MCH Block Grant coordinator, Division of Family and Community Health Services, Ohio Department of Health. Ruth has 24 years of experience in public health. She has a Master's degree in Nutrition and a MPH and is a registered dietitian. Ruth has extensive training and experience in needs assessment and coordinates the needs assessment activities for the MCH Block Grant. She frequently provides training in needs assessment to public health audiences in Ohio. Ruth also has 5 years of supervisory experience in public health research and evaluation. During her 18 years as Nutritionist Administrator in the DFCHS, she was preceptor for many students needing field experiences or internships. At the Ohio State University Nisonger Center, she provided nutrition services to children with developmental disabilities; and at Columbus Children's Hospital, she was project coordinator for an EPA-funded lead study.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

The timing of the internship position is flexible. Summer is preferred.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Yes, staff will be able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the internship period. The Ohio Department of Health is located in downtown Columbus, Ohio, with excellent access to public transportation. Several bus lines pass directly in front of the ODH building. Apartments, sublets and other housing available for short term lease exist nearby.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Dr. Elizabeth J. Conrey

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Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: CA – Los Angeles County

Department/Agency: County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health

Program: Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs

Location of Internship Site: Los Angeles County, CA

Title of Internship Position: MCAH Graduate Student Intern

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The intern will be housed in the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The intern will be assigned to the Research, Planning and Evaluation (REP) unit.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Los Angeles County (LAC) is the home of nearly 10 million residents and expands to an area of approximately 4,083 square miles. LAC with its large population and multicultural communities creates a unique environment and challenges in the provision of MCAH services. The LAC Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Programs strive to achieve optimal well being for all women, infants, children and adolescents and their families in LAC. To accomplish this mission, MCAH Programs conduct assessment, policy development and assurance activities on MCAH related issues, and provide leadership in planning, collaborate with public and private providers and community partners in developing and supporting comprehensive systems of preventive and primary care, and contracts with community based organizations (CBO).

The purpose of the internship is for the intern(s) to gain exposure and experience in MCAH research and evaluation related issues. The intern can choose one or more of the following tasks:

Los Angeles County Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Survey:

This survey studies over 6,500 new mothers who deliver live birth infants. The purpose of this survey is to identify potential factors, such as the lack of preconception/prenatal care, smoking, domestic violence, and others, which result in adverse birth outcomes

(low birth weight or pre-term birth). The intern will help review the survey tool, conduct phone interviews, manage/analyze data, prepare the abstracts, and discuss findings with community-stakeholders to develop effective strategies in improving birth outcomes.

L.A. Heath Overview of a Pregnant Event (HOPE) Survey:

This study studies over 500 new mothers who experience a fetal or infant loss. The purpose of this study is to identify potential factors related to fetal/infant deaths. The intern will help review the survey tool, maintain fetal/infant surveillance system, analyze data, prepare the abstracts, and discuss findings with community-stakeholders to develop effective strategies in reducing infant/fetal mortality.

Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) Approach:

In response to the high infant and fetal mortality rates among African Americans, the MCAH has been taking a new approach to improve birth outcomes for African Americans. This model, PPOR, emphasizes early community engagement to identify problems and develop prevention strategies. The intern will work closely with our Black Infant Health (BIH) Program to develop a specific project based on the PPOR approach for each of the existing five BIH contractors. These duties include: conducting PPOR analysis, assisting BIH contractors in implementing their PPOR projects, providing technical support, and attending local community based meetings.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Depending on the intern's skill, experience and interest, he or she may be involved in one or more of the following projects:

- assisting in LAMB/HOPE data management and analyses:
 - i. conduct data cleaning
 - ii. conduct univariate analysis
 - iii. conduct bivariate analysis (cross-tabulations, chi-square or t-tests)
 - iv. conduct multivariate analysis
 - v. Conduct multi-level analyses
- researching into best practices related to improving birth outcomes and other MCAH related health issues
- researching into available data to support MCAH evaluation activities

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

- Knowledge and ability to conceptualize and operationalize in developing a data collection system (e.g. Using Microsoft Excel, or Access);
- Skills in working with statistical packages (e.g. SAS, Epi-Info, SPSS, or others) such as generating frequency and cross-tabulation;
- Skills in data management;
- Skills in analyzing and interpreting data;
- Skills in analyzing and interpreting legislation; and
- Knowledge or experience in Geographic Information System (e.g. MapInfo, ArcView or others), - desired but not required.

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Diana Liu, the Epidemiologist for the MCAH Program, will provide mentoring and supervision for this position. Ms. Liu has received a Master degree in Public health and has been working as the epidemiologist for the MCAH Program for almost 10 years. She has in-depth training and knowledge in community needs assessment, program evaluation, MCAH program operations research design, and statistical analysis. For the past five summers, Ms. Liu has successfully worked with GSIP interns.

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

Although we would like to have the intern on board soon, the starting date is negotiable.

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

Rental assistance can be obtained by local real estate services. The MCAH program is located in a high security building and can be easily accessed by several bus lines and Los Angeles Metro Subway system.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Diana Liu

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Telephone: (213) 639-6468 **Fax:** (213) 639-1034

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Kentucky

Department/Agency: Public Health (DPH)/Division of Adult & Child Health Improvement (DACHI), Maternal and child Health Branch (MCH)

Program: Title V: Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program (FIMR)

Location of Internship Site: Department for Public Health, Adult and Child Health Improvement, 275 East Main St., HS2WA, Frankfort, KY 40621

Title of Internship Position: FIMR Intern Assistant

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring/ Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

DACHI within the Department for Public Health is under the direction of Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd, MD, FAAP, CPHQ and Title V Director. Dr. Shepherd possesses expertise in the area of epidemiology and provides strong leadership in the areas of data collection, data analysis, evaluation and quality improvement. She is highly committed to the FIMR program and to student education and she is available for ongoing leadership, planning and consultation to the program and student as needed.

The MCH Branch, DACHI houses the FIMR program. The MCH Branch administers the Title V Block Grant and various programs and special initiatives including Prematurity Prevention Initiative- Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait; Pregnancy and Smoking Prevention project; Preventive and Coordinated School Health services program; Child Fatality Review; Lead Poisoning Prevention; and, an array of Oral Health prevention programs. Under the leadership of Linda Lancaster, RN, MPA, the MCH team collaborates on various projects and will provide a rich infrastructure to support the intern through program knowledge sharing, consultation and technical assistance.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

The purpose of the internship is to assist in the further development and implementation of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program in greater Louisville/Jefferson county, Kentucky with the intention of taking FIMR statewide in the next 2 years. The FIMR program will collect county specific data on fetal and infant deaths as they relate to specific causes of death. This data and information will help determine programs and interventions aimed to decrease the incidence of fetal/infant death from 8.2/1,000 live births and fetal deaths to 7.3/1,000 live births and fetal deaths.

The goal of the internship is to promote general knowledge and experience of state public health agency activities and to participate in implementation of related components of a statewide FIMR program, particularly related to data management, analysis, evaluation, and reporting.

Objectives for the internship include 1) research/literature review of best practices of FIMR 2) implementation of a FIMR database; assist with data analysis and statewide FIMR report; 3) participation in agency partnership advisory meetings relative to policy development and general implementation of the FIMR program.

The project supervisor will be Tracey Jewell, MPH, BS, MCH Epidemiologist. The intern, Ms. Jewell and the FIMR program advisory committee will work together to refine all aspects of the program including development of a timeline to fulfill the overall goals and objectives. The intern will be assigned an office, computer and phone and will be provided all supplies needed to support and accomplish the internship activities.

Ms. Lancaster, RN, MPA, MCH Branch Manager will provide oversight for the internship assuring that the intern has opportunities and experiences to collaborate with public health colleagues and gain understanding and insight into public health systems.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Assist with implementation and communication about the FIMR program, assist with design, structure and implementation of a FIMR database, assist with analysis of Jefferson County FIMR data, and assist in the design of a County level Report Card on FIMR.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Familiar with Microsoft Access, and Excel, SAS a plus

Familiar with or have a desire to learn about Maternal and Child Health issues/data

Possess a basic understanding of research methodology and Access database development

Demonstrates excellent communication skills, both oral and written

Desires to learn more about surveillance projects and their usefulness in public health research

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Primary Supervisor: Tracey Jewell, MPH, BS, MCH Epidemiologist. Ms. Tracey Jewell, MPH, BS, Division MCH Epidemiologist will provide direct first line supervision for the internship. Ms Jewell has 8.5 years experience working with databases, data analysis, and developing state level reports and publications. Ms Jewell leads the division-wide Epidemiology team and works across Division lines in on-going support of program

interventions, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, Healthy Kentuckians 2010 and PRAMS projects.

Secondary Supervisor: Linda Lancaster, RN, MPA, Branch Manager, Maternal and Child Health Ms. Lancaster has worked in Title V and MCH programs for 19 years and will assist with general supervision to promote general knowledge and experiences with the Department for Public Health.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

Spring/Summer 2008

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? No. If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation? No

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Linda Lancaster

Mailing Address: MCH, 275 East Main St, HS2W-A, Frankfort, KY 40621

Email Address: Linda.lancaster@ky.gov

Telephone: (502) 564-2154 **Fax:** (502) 564-8389

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Louisiana

Department/Agency: Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health

Program: Maternal and Child Health

Location of Internship Site: 1450 L&A Road, Metairie, Louisiana

Title of Internship Position: Evaluation of a Statewide Parenting Newsletter

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program in the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals serves to assure access to primary and preventive health care services for pregnant women, women of childbearing age, infants, children, and youth in Louisiana. The Louisiana MCH Program strives to identify leading causes of death and illness among women and children in order to create targeted public health campaigns to educate people about prevention. The MCH Program supports a variety of educational services designed to prevent future infant deaths, accidental injuries, preterm births, and low birth weight outcomes, including a multicultural parenting newsletter designed to raise awareness of developmental issues pertinent to young children. The newsletter is available to all Louisiana parents free of charge and is funded in part by the Louisiana Title V Block Grant.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Beginning in the 1950s, the MCH program distributed Pierre the Pelican newsletter to all first time mothers in Louisiana. In 2002, evaluation results indicated that the newsletter was not meeting the needs of its target audience and was discontinued. Building upon a successful newsletter from Maine, a new, multicultural newsletter called Happy & Health Kids was introduced in Louisiana in 2005. Happy & Health Kids incorporates current knowledge of infant psycho-social and emotional development and is comprised of 28 newsletter issues covering developmental issues relevant to children ages 0-5 years.

The overarching purpose of this internship is to assist with evaluation of the Louisiana Happy and Healthy Kids parenting health education newsletter. Specific goals for the intern include:

- To learn about the fundamental concepts of program evaluation, data collection, data

analysis and interpretation;

- To apply theoretical program evaluation knowledge;
- To practice data manipulation and analysis skills in a real world setting;
- To draw conclusions and make recommendations regarding the future direction of the newsletter with respect to topic content, message effectiveness, and newsletter desirability;
- To advance writing and oral presentation skills through a summary report and oral presentation to stakeholders. A summary report for publication in a Public Health newsletter or journal may also be prepared.

Specific objectives include:

- Assessment of the quality of program evaluation data collected for the Happy and Healthy Kids newsletter evaluation. This will be done by calculating the response rate for surveys and analyzing the percent of missing data for key data variables.
- Analysis of program evaluation data. This will be done by calculating percents and/or means of survey variables in order to assess:
 - a) How useful and acceptable the newsletter is to the target audience?
 - b) Whether parents report changes in knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs based on newsletter contents?
 - c) Whether subscribers report changing their child rearing behaviors as a result of reading the newsletter?
- A written summary report and PowerPoint presentation for dissemination to MCH stakeholders.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

In March of 2008, a survey will be sent to a sample of about 300 parents who have been receiving the newsletter for at least one year. A database will be created and completed surveys will be entered by June 2008. The Graduate Student Intern will be responsible for exporting this database into a statistical software package, SPSS and SAS are available, in order to analyze the survey results.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

A successful intern will be proficient in Microsoft Access, Excel, and either SAS or SPSS. The primary skills required for this internship include advance proficiency in data manipulation, including recoding of existing data into meaningful categories and calculation of new variables. It is anticipated that data analysis will be limited to descriptive statistics, including percents and/or means, with some reporting by various subgroups. It is imperative that the intern have excellent verbal and written communication skills to prepare a final report of findings.

- 5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.**

Dr. Lyn Kieltyka, CDC MCH Epidemiology Assignee to the State of Louisiana and MCH Program Senior Epidemiologist, will be the primary supervisor and mentor for the intern. Dr. Kieltyka will oversee the evaluation by supervising all aspects of data manipulation and statistical analyses related to the evaluation. She will schedule weekly meetings with the intern to discuss progress and challenges as well as be available to answer questions and provide guidance as needed throughout the internship. Dr. Kieltyka has a PhD in epidemiology, a Masters in Public Health in Behavioral Science, and has worked in the Louisiana MCH program since 2003.

Kristie Bardell, MPH, will serve as the secondary supervisor. Ms. Bardell received her MPH in Community Health Sciences with an emphasis in Health Education/Communication from Tulane School of Public Health. She is the current MCH Health Education Coordinator and administrator of the parenting newsletter. She will assist with the program component of the project and planning the implementation of the evaluation. Karis Schoellmann, administrator of the statewide social marketing campaign, *Partners for Healthy Babies*, and professor at Tulane School of Public Health will also be available for consultation regarding the newsletter evaluation.

- 6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?**

Any time after May 15, 2008 is a suitable time to begin the internship.

- 7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?**

Temporary housing may be found through subletting from local university students; however, no guarantee for housing can be made at this time. A personal vehicle is required, as this worksite is not accessible via public transportation.

- 8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?**

Name: Dr. Lyn Kieltyka

Mailing Address: 1450 L&A Road, Metairie, LA 70001

Email Address: rlkielty@dhh.la.gov

Telephone: 504-219-4572 **Fax:** 504-219-4583



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Roxane A. Townsend, M
SECRETARY

November 14, 2007

Ms. Sherri Vodenichar
MCH IRC
1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Ms. Vodenichar,

On behalf of Tulane University School of Public Health I am in complete support of a GSIP intern working for the Louisiana MCH program. As a professor at Tulane and administrator of the Louisiana statewide social marketing campaign, *Partners for Healthy Babies*, this internship will serve as an experience to work in a real-world atmosphere while building upon ones program evaluation skills.

The opportunity to work within the infrastructure of the Louisiana MCH program and collaborate with stakeholders is invaluable. Shaping the direction of a program through evaluation information gathered is a transferable skill that this intern will carry with them throughout the course of their career.

Please contact me if I can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karis Schoellmann".

Karis Schoellmann
Project Director/
Clinical Assistant Professor

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: New Hampshire

Department/Agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Program: Maternal and Child Health

Location of Internship Site: Concord, NH

Title of Internship Position: Assessing the needs of hard to reach populations

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

The Maternal and Child Health Section (MCH), located within the Division of Public Health Services in the NH Department of Health and Human Services will house the internship project. MCH funds over 20 community-based health care agencies to deliver prenatal, family planning, primary care and child health services to low income families across the state. In addition, the MCH Section houses the following programs: Injury Prevention, Healthy Child Care New Hampshire, Home Visiting, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Preschool Vision and Hearing, Newborn Screening, Early Hearing Detection Intervention and a HRSA-funded State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) data linkage project.

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

Purpose: Evaluate poison prevention activities

Goal 1: Review and modify previously developed evaluation plan for programs targeting 1) teen and substance abuse and/or 2) refugee families and home safety.

Objective 1: Select hard-to-reach community.

Objective 2: Review current evaluation plan. Evaluation plan for the teen and substance abuse prevention programs would include analyzing secondary data from previous education presentations and trainings (pre and post surveys). The evaluation plan for the refugee families and home safety would include 10-15 question phone survey and/or focus group of a dozen or so volunteers who work with refugee

families; as well as, internal survey of call center staffs comfort with managing calls from non-English speaking populations.

Objective 3: Recommend modifications and revise evaluation plan.

Goal 2: Pilot the revised evaluation plan.

Objective 1: Implement evaluation plan developed in Goal 1.

Objective 2: Document any challenges or recommended changes to evaluation plan.

Goal 3: Summarize findings from pilot evaluation.

Objective 1: Write summary report of pilot evaluation.

Objective 2: Present findings from pilot evaluation to community partners and public health professionals.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

Knowledge of survey design; Use of evaluation methods/tools; Develop analysis design (e.g., percent change in knowledge, summarizing qualitative data, etc.) with assistance from epidemiology staff; Write a report of evaluation plan.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

- Intern must possess basic skills in descriptive epidemiology and graphic data presentations as well as an understanding of program evaluation. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

Melissa Heinen, RN, MPH

Education and Research Coordinator, NH DHHS, MCH Section

Data/Analytic background: MPH in Epidemiology with focus on injury. Previous employment as a Health Statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics.

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship? Flexible

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Temporary apartment rentals are available in the area. MCH can provide names of local realtors and apartment complexes to the student. The work site is accessible via limited

public transportation; however, it would be ideal if the student had his/her own transportation (car or bicycle).

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Shari Campbell, Program Assistant

Mailing Address: Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health Services,
NH Department of Health and Human Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH
03301

Email Address: dlcampbell@dhhs.state.nh.us

Telephone: (603) 271-4517 **Fax:** (603) 271-4519

Graduate Student Internship Program

Health Agency Internship Proposal

SUMMER 2008

State: Virginia – City of Alexandria

Department/Agency: Alexandria Health Department

Program: Child Assessment & Treatment Center for Health (CATCH)

Location of Internship Site: Alexandria

Title of Internship Position: CATCH Intern

Skill Area: Data Analysis and Monitoring
 Needs Assessment
 Program Evaluation

1. Please give a summary of the program, project, or agency that will house the internship project.

CATCH (Child Assessment and Treatment Center for Health) is an innovative initiative between multiple agencies within the City of Alexandria to provide comprehensive health, dental, developmental, and mental health evaluations for children who are at risk of abuse or neglect, in foster care, or who are homeless. In accordance with federal and state policies, CATCH integrates City and State services from the following agencies: Alexandria Health Department, Virginia Department of Health; Alexandria Community Services Board, Department of Mental Health; Alexandria Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services. CATCH was initiated in April of 2006 as an expanded response to the 2003 Child Abuse and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to provide comprehensive assessments of children 0-3 years of age who are at risk for out of home placement due to abuse or neglect or had already been placed in foster care. During the second year of operation, services have been expanded to homeless youth and children of all ages involved with the Child Welfare system. This collaborative effort aims to “Catch Kids Early” in order to have positive health, developmental and social outcomes for these highly vulnerable children. Ultimately key outcomes expected are: a) improved health and developmental status for these children, and b) improved familial relationships whether with biological parent(s) or foster parent(s).

2. In detail, please describe your proposed internship, including purpose, goals, and objectives.

This position will provide the graduate student-intern with experience in *Program Evaluation* for this novel Child Health Program that has much potential for expansion to other populations as well as replication in other settings. The end goal is for the student-intern to assist CATCH in the establishment of standardized methods to be used over the life of the program that measure the successful implementation of the program and the effectiveness of reaching key expected outcomes. The specific objectives include: a) assisting the CATCH Program Coordinator, Public Health Nursing Supervisor, and Early Intervention Coordinator with the identification of existing data collection tools as well as the development of new tools to gather physical and emotional health indicators for the population served, b) fine-tuning measurable outcomes and monitoring methods to evaluate program effectiveness, c) designing methods/tools to assess implementation of program interventions, and d) assisting the CATCH Team in the identification of barriers and essential components to successful program interventions.

3. What data or analytic tasks and activities will be involved in this project?

The primary task of the Graduate Student Intern will likely involve designing or working from existing data collection tools to assess program effectiveness. As such, detailed activities would include a) developing and/or selecting key health and developmental indicators that efficiently and correctly collect appropriate information for program assessment and evaluation, b) designing participant surveys for future implementation, c) determining feasible tracking methods for recommended follow-up services, and d) initiating development of techniques to assess the cross-disciplinary benefits of providing integrated services to this population compared with traditional service delivery methods.

4. What data or analytic skills does the internship require? (Include software applications and statistical/analytical competencies).

Basic familiarity with program evaluation, either through classroom exposure or work experience, is preferred. Both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analytic skills are recommended qualifications for this internship as well as familiarity with the multi-faceted determinants of physical and emotional health among populations of children at risk. Basic competencies in biostatistics are expected, as are skills to work with at least one of the following statistical analysis software packages: SAS, SPSS, or EpiInfo.

5. Who will supervise the student and be available for guidance and technical assistance? Please provide the name, position, department, and information related to specific data and/or analytic background for both a primary and a secondary supervisor.

The primary supervisor will be:
Joanna Hemmat, MSN, MPH
Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Alexandria Health Department

Ms. Hemmat provides nursing supervision and management of the following public health programs within the agency: High Risk Maternal/Child Case Management; Child Health Clinics, including CATCH clinics; Immunizations.

The secondary supervisor will be:

Peggy Stypula, MSW, LICSW
CATCH Program Coordinator
Department of Social Services

Technical assistance and guidance regarding epidemiological data management will be sought from two full-time Alexandria Health Department staff Epidemiologists:

Karen Fujii, MHS
District Epidemiologist
Alexandria Health Department

Lisa Guli, MPH
Epidemiologist
Alexandria Health Department

Further informational systems assistance may be obtained from:

Fatima Ast
Information Technician
Department of Human Services

6. When is the most suitable time to begin the internship?

The most suitable time to begin the internship will be in the summer of 2008, beginning in either May or June.

7. Are you able to assist the student in locating and securing housing during the period of the internship? If yes, what type of housing is available (e.g., campus dorms, nearby apartments, etc.)? Is the work site accessible via public transportation?

Yes, we are able to assist with arrangements for temporary housing. The Alexandria Health Department is located in the Washington, D.C. metro area, and nearby housing includes rooms for rent as well as apartments, which are all accessible via public transportation. The CATCH Program offices are located in the Alexandria Health Department which provides daily van service to and from nearby metro stops.

8. Who will be the contact person for logistics and other communications regarding this internship proposal?

Name: Joanna Hemmat, MSN, MPH, Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Mailing Address: 4480 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Email Address: Joanna.Hemmat@vdh.virginia.gov

Telephone: (703) 838-4400, ext 251 **Fax:** (703) 838-4038