

## **Research Associate – Public Health**

Description of organization: The Drug Control Program in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health promotes access to safe and effective pharmaceutical care services in Massachusetts and protects consumers against fraud, deception and unsafe practices in the distribution, handling and use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The Program has statutory responsibility to set standards for the control of prescribing, dispensing and administration of pharmaceuticals by health care providers as well as distribution of pharmaceuticals by health care facilities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, long-term care) and other entities (e.g. manufacturers, distributors, community-based programs). The Program undertakes initiatives to promote effective security and accountability measures and to prevent theft, tampering, misuse and abuse of drugs.

Job Type: Consultant

Related Areas: Public Health Research  
Epidemiology  
Biostatistics  
Injury Control and Prevention

Location: Boston, MA (United States)

Description of project: The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) collects prescribing and dispensing information on Massachusetts Schedule II controlled substances dispensed pursuant to a prescription. Schedule II consists of those prescription pharmaceuticals with the highest potential for abuse (e.g., narcotics, stimulants), and consequently, they are among those most sought for illicit and inappropriate (non-medical) use. The PMP utilizes the data collected to determine prescribing and dispensing trends; provide educational information to health care providers and the public; and provide case information to regulatory and law enforcement agencies concerning drug distribution and diversion. The Drug Control Program has received grants from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to enhance the PMP.

Description of position: The Research Associate will have responsibility for conducting data analyses using quantitative and qualitative methods to triangulate the prevalence and incidence of prescription drug abuse. This will involve using data from the PMP as well as national, state, and local levels of data (e.g. Census, Geographical Information System data, data from federal agencies such as SAMHSA, CDC, DEA, Bureau of Justice Statistics, etc.). She/he will work with closely other members of the project team to produce data analyses and reports regarding issues on prescription drug abuse within and around Massachusetts. These analyses and reports will be used to help prevent, treat, and interdict prescription drug abuse of prescription controlled substances. The Research Associate will be a consultant based in Boston, MA, with some in and out of state travel expected.

Qualifications: A masters degree or higher in public health, public policy, epidemiology or a related field or equivalent experience is preferred. Candidate must have strong quantitative data analysis skills. Experience with SAS, SPSS, ArcGIS, or other statistical software is required. Familiarity in working with national data sets from federal agencies such as the Census, DEA's ARCOS, CDC is helpful. Must be highly organized and detail-oriented, have

exceptional communication and writing skills and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Experience in technical/policy writing is helpful.

Compensation: Commensurate with education and experience.

Start date: Fall 2008

Application: To express interest in this opportunity, please submit a resume and cover letter by December 5, 2008 to:

Lee McDevitt  
HR Liaison  
Drug Control Program  
305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
[Lee.McDevitt@state.ma.us](mailto:Lee.McDevitt@state.ma.us)