Injury

University of Kentucky, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center
Lexington, Kentucky

Assignment Description
The fellow will be physically placed at the Kentucky Injury Prevention Program, located in Lexington, KY. KIPRC works with Kentucky communities and the state’s Department for Public Health to promote the reduction of injuries along with related disabilities and deaths. With federal and state funding, KIPRC activities include the state’s injury prevention program and core injury surveillance, as well as emergency preparedness and response training program and development and implementation of other CDC funded programs. The fellow may choose initiatives in the public health non-drug overdose injury field; these areas can include motor vehicle safety; child/adult maltreatment, violence, and neglect; falls; and/or traumatic brain injury among Kentuckians. The fellow is encouraged to develop a feasible project within one of these fields, which will be presented at one of the Kentucky Safety Prevention Alignment Network stakeholder/partner meetings, and continue supporting existing projects to inform policy. We hope this will allow to the fellow to develop experience in their interest areas and expand their epidemiological capacity continue supporting existing projects.

Day-to-Day Activities
The fellow’s day-to-day activities may include: receiving access and training on injury surveillance datasets; analyzing surveillance data; producing injury surveillance outputs; assisting in data visualization; increasing relevant data access to stakeholders; writing and preparing briefs, reports, and presentations to disseminate findings externally and internally; improve data dissemination practices; meet with staff/mentors regularly through scheduled meetings; participate in calls, trainings, and meetings with key stakeholders, CDC, CSTS, and other local/state agencies.

Potential Projects
Surveillance Activity Exploration of Risk and Protective Factors for Violence and Injury Surveillance
To provide a more complete picture of violence and injury across Kentucky, the fellow will utilize a risk and protective factor approach to assess injury data from population-based surveillance systems related to child/adult maltreatment, violence, and neglect, falls, motor vehicle safety, or traumatic brain injury outcomes. The fellow will assess research and knowledge gaps, develop an analysis plan to provide descriptive statistics and relationships, interpret and translate findings for practice and to guide programmatic activities, and present findings to stakeholders.
Surveillance Evaluation  
**Evaluation of Core State Violence Injury Prevention Program Projects**

Fellows will work with Core State Violence Injury Prevention Program to analyze ongoing interventions throughout the state related to teen motor vehicle safety, pediatric abusive head trauma, and other violence/injury projects. This will include literature reviews, data entry, analyses design, analyses, presentation of findings, programmatic recommendations, etc.

**Major Project  
Evaluation and Linkage of Motor Vehicle Crash Data Sources**

Fellow will evaluate motor vehicle traffic injuries and crashes across Kentucky, specifically examining related crash injury prevention and mitigation factors. The fellow is encouraged to use morbidity, mortality, and other data sources to assess one motor vehicle safety topic area from the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan: aggressive driving, distracted driving, impaired driving, occupant protection, roadway departure, and vulnerable road users. Fellow will assess data sources, identify and describe data quality issues, describe trends, and present findings to key stakeholders verbally or written reports. The fellow will then link, most likely using probabilistic matching, the often de-identified datasets using best practices to inform public health and transportation safety action.

**Additional Project  
Stakeholder Engagement**

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work with state and local government leaders to address violence and injury prevention and control. Fellows will need to engage with communities to develop relationships of trust and mutual respect. Fellows will attend Kentucky Safety Prevention Alignment Network Meetings, Safe Communities America calls, and other key partner meetings with local and state health departments. The fellow will work with communities to support health assessment and planning activities through injury surveillance. Additionally, the fellow will develop an online stakeholder assessment to examine the injury prevention and control community needs, future directions, and recommendations related to enhancing and sustaining injury prevention and control for Kentucky. The Fellow will share their findings and recommendations with leadership.

**Surveillance Activity  
Familiarization and Assessment of Injury Morbidity Surveillance Codes**

Fellow may choose to work with administrative billing data, which includes familiarizing oneself with the International Classification of Disease- Classification Manual 10 coding system for injury-related emergency department visits, and hospitalization, participating in CSTE Injury Surveillance Workgroup calls, and other relevant meetings/projects. Fellows are encouraged to assess injury mechanisms and their subgroups, such as Motor Vehicle Traffic, Motor Vehicle Non-Traffic, Other Transport, and Land Transport. Other injury mechanisms related to child/adult maltreatment, violence, and neglect, falls, motor vehicle safety, or traumatic brain injury outcomes are also choices for exploration and assessment.

Fellows will work to develop case definitions and/or groupings to be used for presenting such data to stakeholders.
Preparedness Role

Injuries, such as electrocutions, motor vehicle crashes, equipment, carbon monoxide poisonings, drownings, and burns, can occur after a disaster. The fellow may participate in the evaluation of injuries, fatal, traumatic, and nonfatal, after a disaster through available population-based surveillance systems. After assessment, the fellow would develop a profile of what emergency preparedness incidents to share with local and state communities and preparedness leaders.

The fellow may also choose to participate in the Kentucky Public Health Assistance and Support Team (K-PHAST) Program. Fellows electing to participate can participate in KDPH's one-day general concepts training that incorporates concepts of Incident Command Structure (ICS), survey design, Epi Info software, HIPAA issues, interviewing skills, and basic applied epidemiology. After the training, the fellow will be enrolled in the program and able to participate in responses if a request is made by KDPH, and the opportunity to help local health departments with local response issues (e.g., surge capacity for special projects and fielding data collection during actual responses). The fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in online Incident Command System trainings.

Additional Activities

- Investigate additional unintentional and intentional injuries that align with the State Injury Prevention Plan
- Assist in the development of website data tools for stakeholder use
- Assist in assessing injury indicators reports for statewide reporting
- Explore injury data examining vulnerable populations
- Assist in the development of community injury profiles that utilize multiple data sources
- Explore other injury topics of interest for the applicant

Mentors

Primary

Ashley Bush DrPH, MPH
Research Program Administrator, Practice Core Lead

Secondary

Doug Thoroughman PhD, MS
State Epidemiologist (Acting)