**ID: 76530977**
**Chronic Disease, Injury - Host Site Description**
**Tennessee Department of Health**

**Assignment Location**:    Nashville, US-TN
                            Tennessee Department of Health
                            Division of Population Health Assessment

**Primary Mentor:**         Generosa Kakoti, PhD MPH
                            Director, Office of Healthcare Statistics
                            Tennessee Department of Health

**Secondary Mentor:**       Lauren Kuzma, MPH
                            Director, Office of Population Health Surveillance
                            Tennessee Department of Health

**Work Environment**
Hybrid

**Assignment Description**

The selected Fellow will work in the Office of Healthcare Statistics (OHS) in the Division of Population Health Assessment (PHA). The Office of Healthcare Statistics houses four programs: the Hospital Discharge Data System; Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Data Systems; Outpatient Diagnostic Center Data Systems; and Birth Centers data. The Fellow will be predominantly working with programs in the Tennessee Department of Health to collect and disseminate data or novel analyses on Healthy Aging using program datasets which include but aren't limited to hospital discharge data, death data, and BRFSS data.

Day-to-day activities will include conducting initial planning research, reviewing different datasets, identifying/troubleshooting data quality issues, transforming data, and maintaining processes. The Fellow's activities will also include reviewing and creating reports, creating dashboards, tracking and trending data. The Fellow will respond to ad hoc data requests from internal and external requestors. Using statistical methods and computational tools in SAS, they will perform confirmatory cross check analysis of data to verify results of data estimates.

**Describe Statistical and Data Analysis Support, Such as Databases, Software, and Surveillance Systems Available to the Fellow**

The Fellow will have access to the Division databases that include Hospital Discharge Data Systems (HDDS) data, Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers data, Outpatient Diagnostic Centers data, Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, Tennessee Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) data and Linked PRAMS-HDDS datasets. They will also have access to TN Vital Statistics data.

We will provide the following software SAS, R, Tableau, ArcGIS, Microsoft SQL and RedCap. Training in the software is available through the Tennessee Department of Health training programs.

We have experienced epidemiologists and statisticians to provide data analysis support.

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## Projects

**Surveillance Activity Title: Establish a Healthy Aging Surveillance Program**

*Surveillance Activity Description:*
The Fellow will help establish health surveillance of the aging population in Tennessee by using existing health data collected by the state. This may include data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Hospital Discharge Data Systems (HDDS) database and Vital Statistics data. Data may also be collected from other federal and state sources.

The Fellow will conduct initial planning research, review the existing data(sets), and assist in setting parameters for the surveillance system.

*Surveillance Activity Objectives:*
The objective of the activity is to assist with compiling and maintaining data, as well as providing statistical information regarding the Healthy Aging Surveillance datasets.

The Fellow will assist with maintaining data and providing statistical information regarding the Healthy Aging Surveillance datasets. They would be required to perform statistical analysis of the data, assist in the creation of data dictionaries, and respond to requests for data and analysis both internally and externally. Project duties include identifying/troubleshooting data quality issues, transforming data into the Tennessee Department of Health's specified format, and maintaining processes.

*Surveillance Activity Impact:*
The Tennessee Department of Health will develop a surveillance system with data that can provide information on chronic conditions affecting the aging population in Tennessee. This system will expand support for the healthy aging activities in Tennessee.

**Surveillance System Evaluation Title: Evaluation of the Healthy Aging Surveillance Program**

*Surveillance System Evaluation Description:*
During the second year of the fellowship, the Fellow will conduct an evaluation of the Healthy Aging Surveillance Program to assess whether any changes or modifications are needed to improve program processes.

*Surveillance System Objectives:*
The objective of the activity is to evaluate the Healthy Aging Surveillance Program to assess whether any changes or modifications are needed to improve program processes.
The Fellow will provide a report on the Healthy Aging Surveillance Program procedures and ways to improve the processes. They will prepare a logic model of the processes to provide a better understanding of the surveillance system. Using different media, the Fellow will present the results of the evaluation to diverse audiences.

*Surveillance System Impact:*
This activity will help improve the quality and quantity of the data of the Healthy Aging Surveillance Program. The results may be used to expand support for the healthy aging activities.

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**Major Project Title: A report on the chronic conditions affecting the aging population in Tennessee.**

*Major Project Description:*
The Fellow will work with programs in the Division of Population Health Assessment, the Office of Healthy Aging, and other Tennessee Department of Health departments to create written documents in the form of fact sheets and a report documenting select disease burden pertaining to the aging population in the state of Tennessee. They will assist in researching and analysis of public health issues in Tennessee. This work may include data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Hospital Discharge Data Systems (HDDS) database and Vital Statistics data. Data may also be collected from other federal and state sources.

*Major Project Objectives:*
The objective of the activity is to produce a report on the chronic conditions affecting the aging population in Tennessee. The Fellow will provide a written report that will detail the contributing risk factors for chronic diseases affecting the aging population in Tennessee. It will include interpretation of the analyses (bullet points/talking points) and tabulations. Using different media, the Fellow will present the analyses to diverse audiences.

*Major Project Impact:*
The expected public health impact will be increased awareness and relevant policy- or community-level-changes regarding chronic health conditions in the aging population. The results may be used to expand support for the healthy aging activities.

**Additional Project #1 Title: An analysis of injuries affecting adults aged 65 and older in Tennessee.**
**Project #1 Type: Major Project**

*Project #1 Description:*
The Fellow will work with programs in the Division of Population Health Assessment, the Office of Healthy Aging, and other Tennessee Department of Health departments to investigate the injury burden pertaining to the aging population in the state of Tennessee. They will assist in researching and analysis of injuries in adults 65 and older. This work may include data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Hospital Discharge Data Systems (HDDS) database and Vital Statistics data. Data may also be collected from other federal and state sources.

*Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:*
The objective of the activity is to analyze and disseminate data on injuries affecting the aging population in Tennessee. The Fellow will provide a written report or abstract that will detail the type of injuries and contributing risk factors for injuries in adults aged 65 and older in Tennessee. It will include interpretation of the analyses (bullet points/talking points) and tabulations. Using different media, the Fellow will present the analyses to diverse audiences.

*Project #1 Impact:*
The expected public health impact will be increased awareness and relevant policy- or community-level-changes regarding injuries in the aging population. The results may be used to expand support for the healthy aging activities.

**Please Describe the Fellow's Anticipated Role in Preparedness and Response Efforts – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)**

The Fellow will provide statistical and data analysis support to preparedness and response efforts at Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) conducted by the Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP) department. The Fellow will work on community preparedness focusing on the aging population. Activities may include identifying the at-risk population and potential community partnerships.

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The Fellow will spend 20 hours a week over six months working with other TDH offices, including CEDEP and the Office of Healthy Aging.

**Please Describe the Fellow's Anticipated Role in Cluster and Outbreak Investigations – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)**

The Fellow will provide statistical and data analysis support to cancer cluster and outbreak investigation efforts at the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) conducted by the Tennessee Cancer Registry (TCR) in the Division of Population Health Assessment. The Fellow will work with staff from TCR focusing on cluster investigation. Activities may include identifying the at-risk population and conducting hotspot analysis.

The Fellow will spend 20 hours a week over six months working with TCR staff.