ID: 76135595
Maternal and Child Health, Injury - Host Site Description
Louisiana Department of Health

Assignment Location: New Orleans, US-LA
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health/Bureau of Family Health

Primary Mentor: Tri Tran, MD, MPH
Senior Epidemiologist
Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health

Secondary Mentor: Lauren Dyer, MPH
Morbidity and Mortality Epidemiology Manager
Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health

Work Environment
Hybrid

Assignment Description

The CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow will be placed within the Data to Action Team (DAT) of the Bureau of Family Health (BFH). The Senior Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist on the DAT team will serve as the Fellow's primary mentor.

BFH is responsible for improving the health of Louisiana's women, infants, children, adolescents, and families, including children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN). DAT conducts surveillance, data analysis, and program evaluation to inform policies and drive public health action.

Day-to-day activities will involve analyzing MCH data, preparing reports, participating in team meetings, and engaging with community and state partners. The Fellow will gain hands-on experience in public health surveillance, data-driven decision-making, and health equity research, contributing to impactful MCH initiatives in Louisiana.

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

The CSTE Fellow will have access to multiple databases and surveillance systems that are used across the Bureau of Family Health, including the Louisiana Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, the Louisiana Violent Death Reporting System, Louisiana Vital Records, and other data systems as identified for the proposed projects. The Bureau of Family Health epidemiologists primarily use SAS. For any online data visualizations, we can request a Tableau license through the OPH-Bureau of Health Informatics. Although not a primary software tool, the team is also identifying opportunities to incorporate R as an analytic and data visualization tool.

Analytic support will be provided by the project mentors primarily. There are also monthly Analytics, Evaluation, and Performance Improvement (AEPI) section meetings where peer-to-peer sharing and analytic support is provided. Project-specific data analysis support may also be requested from funders, such as the CDC for PRAMS and LAVDRS and HRSA for Title V.

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Projects

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Surveillance Activity Title: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Small Area Estimates

Surveillance Activity Description:
The CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) has developed a protocol and SAS code for analyzing Small Area Estimates (SAE) using PRAMS data. Louisiana participated in the pilot during which the protocol was developed and has received the data and coding. The Bureau of Family Health is working to review the protocol, check the SAS code, and identify how, if, and when to implement SAE analyses of PRAMS data as part of routine PRAMS data analysis. Additionally, the Bureau currently has not provided data to researchers that have intended to conduct their own SAE projects due to the lack of standardize protocol or confidentiality standards. Our team is seeking a CSTE Fellow to assist with exploratory PRAMS SAE analyses and to make recommendations to the Bureau on use and sharing of these data.

Surveillance Activity Objectives:
- Understand the CDC PRAMS SAE protocol and recommendations
- Conduct PRAMS SAE analyses to test the CDC protocol
- Recommend strategies for incorporating PRAMS SAE into routine reporting and needs assessment activities
- Assist the Senior Epidemiologist in developing data confidentiality guidelines when SAE data are requested by researchers

Surveillance Activity Impact:
The expected public health impact is to learn more about differences in experiences before, during, and after pregnancy in regions or parishes around the state for service and resource allocation.

Surveillance System Evaluation Title: Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) Surveillance Evaluation

Surveillance System Evaluation Description:
Louisiana's Bureau of Family Health (BFH) does not routinely conduct Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis. The last statewide analysis by region was conducted in 2019 to evaluate if implementation of Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) would be recommended in any of the 9 public health regions in the state based on the identified PPOR findings and interventions that are recommended based on the findings. At the time the PPOR analysis did not show that FIMR was an activity for which to allocate limited resources statewide or in any of the individual regions. Since 2022, BFH has conducted an annual PPOR analysis for the greater New Orleans area (Region 1) for the March of Dimes Collective Impact committee, but has not conducted any PPOR analysis outside of a response to a data request. Our team is seeking a CSTE Fellow for this evaluation, which would include conducting PPOR analyses for each region of the state, identifying if there is a value to analyzing and publishing these data and a recommended periodicity for that, and identifying if there are any regions where FIMR or other interventions for stillbirth prevention activities should be considered. This evaluation should also include recommendations for including PPOR analysis as part of the ongoing Title V Needs Assessment efforts.

Surveillance System Objectives:
- Assess the utility of conducting routine PPOR analysis and develop an evaluation and recommendation report for the Bureau of Family Health that outlines the findings and identifies recommendations related to the frequency, visibility (internal/external/both), and uses of PPOR data
- Create a presentation on the findings of the PPOR analysis and, if recommended, assist with the development of public-facing data products on the findings from the PPOR, such as data dashboards, manuscripts, maps, and data summary reports

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Surveillance System Impact:
The public health impact to be achieved is to ensure that the state is allocating resources to activities that will have the biggest impact on preventing fetal and infant mortality.

Major Project Title: Maternal and Child Health Data Dashboard

Major Project Description:
The Bureau of Family Health published its first data dashboard with Maternal and Child Health data indicators at the state, regional, and parish (county) level in the summer of 2024. Prior to this, this information was published as PDF files that could be downloaded from the state's website. The new, interactive dashboard was built in collaboration with the OPH Bureau of Health Informatics and allows users to select multiple locations and multiple time periods of data. It is presented in a simplistic table format. As other states roll out maternal and child health data dashboards with features including charts, trend lines, and the ability to download data files, the Bureau needs to identify ways to publicly present self-serve data on the web. Our team is seeking a CSTE Fellow to assess other state MCH dashboards and the needs of data seekers in Louisiana to develop data-informed recommendations for the development of a modernized, interactive, and user-friendly data dashboard using available software, such as Tableau. The CSTE Fellow would also help design and develop the dashboard after the final parameters are agreed upon and work with the other BFH epidemiologists to identify the data sources for the dashboard. The Fellow would also explore opportunities to use automations to update the dashboard and develop a data governance protocol for the maintenance and integrity of the dashboard.

Major Project Objectives:
* Learn how other states present MCH data on interactive dashboards
* Understand what data that partners and data seekers in Louisiana want to access and use to make data-informed decisions and learn about the MCH population
* Create a plan for developing an interactive, web-based data dashboard for MCH data in Louisiana that includes data sources, data governance protocols, and maintenance requirements
* Assist in the development of the dashboard

Major Project Impact:
The public health impact to be achieved is to provide reliable, complete, and accurate data to Louisiana data seekers to help them develop data-driven activities, policies, and actions to improve outcomes for Louisiana's MCH population.

Additional Project #1 Title: Louisiana Violent Death Reporting System Data Analysis
Project #1 Type: Major Project

Project #1 Description:
The Louisiana Violent Death Reporting System is a state-based surveillance system that links information from multiple data sources to create a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths, such as homicides, suicides, accidental firearm deaths, legal intervention deaths, and deaths of undetermined intent. Fatal and nonfatal suicides are also monitored by BFH for the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention grant for the purposes of identifying suicide risk factors and assessing gaps in existing programs and interventions. Our team is seeking a CSTE Fellow to assist with exploratory analyses of these datasets and the eventual synthesis of data products to share findings with stakeholders and researchers who are working to improve injury outcomes in Louisiana.

Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:
* Understand current efforts around injury surveillance and prevention
* Assist with analysis of violence and injury data

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- Assist with creation of data dissemination products, such as data dashboards, manuscripts, maps, and data summary reports
- Identify routine data to publish for the public, the frequency, and the format of those products
- Identify synergies with other funded surveillance systems, such as SUDORS

Project #1 Impact:
The public health impact is a contribution to ongoing violence surveillance and prevention interventions and to the current knowledge base around injury and violence prevention in Louisiana.

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

The CSTE Fellow will be assigned to review and update the Bureau of Family Health's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) which identifies the essential functions of the Bureau that must be maintained during an emergency. The Fellow will identify an appropriate format for the plan, develop a bi-annual process and standard operating procedure for keeping the COOP up to date for the Bureau before the beginning of Hurricane season and one other time each year. This will take approximately 2 weeks twice a year.

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

The CSTE Fellow will work with the Bureau of Infectious Disease and the State Epidemiologist to investigate any clusters or outbreaks identified in the state. After an outbreak or cluster is confirmed, the Fellow include work on data collection to understand the scope, affected population, timeline, geography, and characteristics of the affected population and may be asked to assist with field investigations, data collection, and data analysis. The time allocation will vary based on the severity of the event and in the event of an outbreak, this activity will be prioritized over the routine projects.