

ID: 76599967

Occupational Health, Injury - Host Site Description

Tennessee Department of Health

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

Primary Mentor: Lauren Kuzma, MPH
Director
Tennessee Department of Health

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

Work Environment

Hybrid

Assignment Description

The selected Fellow will be placed in the TDH's Division of Population Health Assessment, Office of Population Health Surveillance. The Office of Population Health Surveillance houses four programs: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Injury Surveillance Program (ISP), and Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSSP). This office is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data focused on the health and behaviors/experiences of various populations.

The Fellow will be predominantly working with the ISP and OHSSP to disseminate new data or novel analyses using the programs' several datasets, which include but aren't limited to: hospital discharge data, death data, TITAN Crash data, cancer registry data, weather data, and other occupational-health-related data such as Workers Compensation data. Additional surveillance, emergency-preparedness, and cluster/outbreak work will also be a part of the Fellow's role, as described in this application. The fellow will also have the option to work with BRFSS data, which the ISP and OHSSP also occasionally use.

Day-to-day activities will include those related to the main/secondary project (such as data analysis), attending programmatic meetings as they are held, and assisting with surveillance projects listed in this application.

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

The Fellow will be given access to the datasets used by Tennessee's ISP, OHSSP, and BRFSS programs; this includes vital records data, hospital discharge data, and TITAN data. The Fellow will be given access to SAS (the standard software used in Central Office), can be provided access to R if desired, and the Microsoft operating system via state-provided laptop. As a part of the Office of PHS, the Fellow will also have access to statistical and analytical support directly from PHS staff and (if needed) from staff contacts throughout Central Office.

We will provide the following software SAS, R, Tableau, ArcGIS, Microsoft SQL and REDcap. Training in the software is available through TDH training programs.

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Projects

Surveillance Activity Title: Exploring Tennessee's increase in occupational fatalities

Surveillance Activity Description:

Using OHSSP and BRFSS data, this project will involve examining occupational fatalities and, using BRFSS data, identifying any health disparities among adults within these occupations.

Surveillance Activity Objectives:

Objective: Identify any differences in health or health behaviors that may contribute to the increase in occupational fatalities.

Deliverable: Abstract, report, or factsheet.

Surveillance Activity Impact:

Results of this activity will result in additional policies and/or activities that increase the safety of occupations found to have health or behavioral disparities that contribute to the increase in occupational fatality.

Surveillance System Evaluation Title: Bridging Surveillance Gaps in Tennessee's Injury Surveillance Program

Surveillance System Evaluation Description:

This surveillance activity will involve working with the ISP manager to identify a gap in data linkage in the ISP and working to implement a reasonable solution for that gap, such as adapting coding or cleaning processes.

Surveillance System Objectives:

Objective: Identify a gap or weakness of the ISP's linkage process.

Deliverable: Modify data cleaning method or linkage process to improve quality and/or availability of data.

Surveillance System Impact:

This activity will help increase the quality and quantity of injury-related data available through ISP, ultimately strengthening the program overall, advancing the ability to identify and target injuries across the state, and protecting the health of Tennesseans.

Major Project Title: Understanding the effects of heat on those with chronic disease in labor-related industries

Major Project Description:

With rising temperatures due to climate change, it's known that prolonged exposure to heat causes heat-related illness/symptoms (e.g., dehydration, stroke, etc..). It is now known how heat might affect/exacerbate symptoms of those with chronic disease.

This project will involve using linked weather-HDDS data to define and identify "extreme heat events" and then examine the association among those events and patients (those who are in a labor-related workforce such as construction) presenting with complications of various chronic-disease-related conditions.

Major Project Objectives:

The objective of this project will be to publish any findings; they may be in the form of an abstract, manuscript, and/or for a general audience (i.e., factsheet).

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Major Project Impact:

The result of this activity will be increased awareness and relevant policy- or community-level-changes that protect those in the workforce with chronic disease who are exposed to extreme heat.

Additional Project #1 Title: Injuries among Rideshare Drivers

Project #1 Type: Major Project

Project #1 Description:

Rideshare ("gig") drivers are increasing in popularity as demand rises. Tennessee has been ranked among one of the most lucrative states for rideshare drivers. The purpose of this project is to use ISP's linked TITAN data to identify rideshare drivers, assess their rates of traffic-related injuries, and determine if they are at any greater risk of any and/or severe injuries compared to non-gig workers.

Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:

The purpose of this activity is to analyze and disseminate ISP data. Deliverables will include a report or abstract.

Project #1 Impact:

The expected health impact from this activity will be increased awareness of needed safety protocol for gig workers and a reduction in rate of injuries among this population.

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

The fellow will have the opportunity to work with the OHSSP programs (and collaborators, such as the TN Department of Labor) to develop preparedness plans and response efforts meant to protect the in the event of a pandemic. This work will involve provision of statistical and data analysis support to OHSSP to identify vulnerable populations in the workforce.

Time allocation: 30 hours over 6 months.

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

The fellow will have the opportunity to work with the TN Cancer Registry to conduct cluster/outbreak investigations as they arise. Similar to the EP activity, this work will involve provision of statistical and data analysis support to the Cancer Registry team to identify vulnerable populations in the workforce.

Time allocation: 30 hours over 6 months.