

ID: 84669154

Infectious Diseases - Host Site Description

New Jersey Department of Health

Assignment Location: Trenton, US-NJ
New Jersey Department of Health
Division of Syndemic and Substance Use Services

Primary Mentor: Dana Higgins, MPH
Research Scientists 3
New Jersey Department of Health

Secondary Mentor: Toby Levin, PhD, MPH
Director, STD services
New Jersey Department of Health

Work Environment

Hybrid

Assignment Description

The fellow will be working in the Division of HIV, STD and TB services in the STD program. The division is responsible for surveillance investigations and prevention of HIV, STD and TB cases. The fellow will be oriented to the STD program, learning about the surveillance system and data collection. The fellow will be expected to extract data from the surveillance system, review cases for completeness and accuracy, data cleaning and questionnaire/survey development. On a daily basis the fellow will make phone calls to providers and/or cases to collect data and run SAS programs to analyze the data.

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

The fellow will have access to SAS, MS Excel and the New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). Any training that is required will be provided by the supervisors or online trainings.

Projects

Surveillance Activity Title: DoxyPEP Surveillance

Surveillance Activity Description:

This surveillance project aims to assess healthcare providers' prescribing practices for Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (DoxyPEP) and evaluate patients' awareness of DoxyPEP through provider surveys and patient interviews, ensuring data confidentiality and privacy. Routine questions will be developed within the state surveillance system with input of the fellow. Upon findings, will update any tools that are in use for educating both providers and patients.

Surveillance Activity Objectives:

The objectives are to assess provider prescribing practices and patient awareness of DoxyPEP, identify trends and gaps and inform improvement strategies. The fellow will be expected to abstract and analyze the data pertaining to DoxyPEP.

Surveillance Activity Impact:

This project aims to improve DoxyPEP prescribing practices, enhance patient awareness, reduce infection rates, inform policy development, increase patient confidence, and strengthen provider-patient communication, ultimately leading to better public health outcomes.

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Surveillance System Evaluation Title: STD Dashboard Evaluation

Surveillance System Evaluation Description:

Evaluate a comprehensive dashboard for monitoring public health data on STDs. Key components include impact evaluation, evaluate effectiveness and usability, needs assessment, documentation, and sustainability planning.

Surveillance System Objectives:

Objectives include evaluating data completeness, evaluating effectiveness of the dashboard, creating comprehensive documentation, and ensuring sustainability.

Surveillance System Impact:

Expected outcomes include informed decision-making, increased user satisfaction, effective data utilization, and continuous improvement.

Major Project Title: Syndemic Surveillance: HIV, STD, and TB

Major Project Description:

This project aims to conduct comprehensive surveillance of HIV, STDs, and TB, identifying overlapping risk factors and promoting coordinated responses. It involves data collection, data matching, risk factor analysis, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and continuous evaluation to improve public health outcomes and reduce the syndemic impact.

Major Project Objectives:

Educate healthcare providers and the community, discuss risk factors and stigma reduction, and improve patient outcomes and inform policy makers through data-driven insights.

Expected deliverables would include presentation of the outcomes and quarterly reports.

Major Project Impact:

The public health impact improve surveillance, coordinate healthcare responses, reduce incidence and prevalence, increase community awareness, reduce stigma, improve patient outcomes, inform policy development, strengthen provider-patient communication, and enhance research, leading to significant public health improvements.

Additional Project #1 Title: Quality Improvement of Gonorrhea Cases

Project #1 Type: Other

Project #1 Description:

Gonorrhea is a reportable STI that requires attention. A main concern in the United States is the increase of gonorrhea antibiotic resistance.

Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:

- Review all treatment of gonorrhea cases to ensure that provider report is accurate and correct.
- Improve the data that is being reported to the health department through electronic case reporting.
- Expectation is to analyze specified variables in the records of the reported gonorrhea cases and work with the providers to ensure timeliness, completeness, accuracy and quality of data.

Project #1 Impact:

This review will allow the health department to determine the level of completeness in the electronic case reporting and identify missing variables such as race, ethnicity and gender which is needed to determine health equity and inclusion.

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

The fellow will collaborate with various divisions and units, focusing on data collection and documentation to strengthen our response capabilities. Key responsibilities will include gathering and analyzing data to inform preparedness plans, documenting response activities for future reference, and working alongside other teams to ensure a coordinated and effective response to public health threats. The fellow will play a vital role in enhancing our overall readiness and response to outbreaks and clusters.

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

The fellow will work closely with our HIV surveillance team and the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS). The fellow will play a crucial role in collecting and analyzing data during outbreaks or clusters, helping to determine the next steps of the investigation. Responsibilities will include data collection, analysis, reporting, and collaboration with DIS for intervention strategies. The time allocation for these activities will depend on the extent of the outbreak, ensuring a flexible and responsive approach to public health challenges.