

Title: Impact Internship-ADPH, Maternal & Child Health

Name of Agency: Alabama Department of Public Health

Location: Montgomery, AL

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of analyzing data collected as part of the Basic Screening Survey (BSS) of kindergarten and third-grade students in a representative sample of Alabama schools, conducted in FYs 2011-2012, in collaboration with ADPH's Oral Health Branch (OHB) and its partners. The BSS was developed by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), with technical assistance from CDC. BSS helps determine oral health status and dental care access of select populations in Alabama. The intern will compare key height and weight findings from the BSS implemented in FYs 2011-2012 to those from the BSS implemented in FYs 2006-2007. These findings should allow for preparation of a draft burden of childhood obesity document pertaining to oral health, diet, and nutrition.

Because diet and nutrition affect oral health in many ways, the BSS dataset is a rich resource for assessing childhood obesity and its associated ills in Alabama's nine dental districts. Findings from this dataset will be used to enhance public health services, specifically those in underserved areas. Currently, three school-based dental sealant delivery programs in Alabama provide sealants to children unlikely to receive them otherwise. School-based sealant programs are especially important for reaching children from low-income families who are less likely to receive private dental care. OHB's programs generally target schools by using the percentage of children eligible for federal free or reduced-cost lunch programs. Alabama continues, however, to be well below the benchmark for providing school-based sealants programs in at least 25% of schools with high enrollments of low income children. The work completed during this internship will support the translation of data to information that will be used to enhance public health dental services and promote nutrition in Alabama children and youth.

The goals of the proposed project are to: 1) produce salient information about oral health status and nutrition from BSS data for two survey periods and 2) utilize the information gained to promote dental homes for children identified as having urgent, unmet dental needs and no existing primary dentist. An overarching goal is to provide a work experience conducive to the intern's professional growth.

Preferred Skills (Please describe the skills that are required and/or preferred for a student working on the proposed project): The intern will need to bring the following skills and knowledge to the assignment:

1. Competence in performing basic calculations (percentages, rates, and ratios) and using Microsoft® Excel and Access.
2. Novice knowledge of SAS® 9.1 or higher, to run epidemiological analysis of BSS data.
3. The ability to interpret data for the purpose of providing descriptive and comparison analyses.

4. Skills and initiative required to familiarize oneself with BSS data, which may include meeting with program staff and/or external partners.
5. Ability to describe data, ideas and concepts clearly and concisely, orally and in writing, to prepare written documents.
6. Basic skills preparing graphical representation (tables, graphs, charts) of numerical data in order to communicate and facilitate understanding of data.
7. Ability to operate standard office equipment and maximize work time.
8. Excellent word-processing skills, preferably with Microsoft® Word.

Full-time (40 hours/week for 12 weeks) or part-time (20 hours a week for 12 weeks) intern? Full-time is preferred.

Students will receive a stipend in the amount of \$2,140 for a 240 hour internship or 4,280 for a 480 hour internship.