2025-26 Texas Public Health Fellowship

Fellowship Name: Severe Maternal Morbidity Surveillance and Analysis Fellowship

Fellowship Details

Host Site Organization Name: Texas Department of State Health Services

Host Site Division/Program: Community Health Improvement; Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Epidemiology Unit, Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Branch

Host Site/Fellowship Location: 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756

Host Site Workplace Setting: 100% remote/virtual

Workplace Setting Description: The Fellow may attend in-person events or meetings if desired and with adequate notice. Remote work practices include standing virtual meetings, communication via Microsoft Teams or e-mail, and tools for completing virtual tasks including SharePoint and SAS Viya.

Public Health Core Disciplines: Epidemiology; Biostatistics

Primary Fellowship Focus/Topics: Maternal and Child Health; Health Disparities

Fellowship Overview

Host Site Mission: The Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Epidemiology Branch collects and analyzes data on maternal mortality and morbidity outcomes in Texas to better inform programmatic operations aimed at preventing maternal death and severe pregnancy complications.

Fellowship Projects: The fellow will have three main projects.

- Conduct the 2024 Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) State Surveillance, for publication as dashboards on Texas Health Data.
- Complete an original analysis of SMM in Texas. The fellow will develop the research questions and methodology for this study with guidance from their mentor and assistance from other staff.
- Present their original analysis at the 2026 Texas Public Health Association Conference. The fellow will also have opportunities to participate in analysis for the TexasAIM Quality Improvement program.

Fellowship Deliverables:

- Produce one dashboard publication on Texas Health Data.
- Author one internal report of their original analysis of SMM in Texas.
- Create one conference presentation for their original analysis.

Fellowship Activities/Responsibilities: The fellow will attend regular one-on-one meetings with their mentor, branch-wide meetings with internal staff, and project-specific meetings with staff across other teams and units. They will familiarize themselves with the literature on SMM in Texas and nationwide. They will review and become an expert in statistical software code for SMM metrics and hospital discharge data, used to produce SMM rates. They will develop a research question, design a study, and present the results of that analysis through written and oral communication as well as data visualization. They will develop data outputs for input into a Tableau Dashboard. Through these tasks and responsibilities, the fellow will gain organizational knowledge of the branch, unit, division, and agency through meetings within and across teams, webinars, Grand Rounds, or other agency-wide events; substantive knowledge of MCH Epidemiology topics and SMM, through literature review, conference attendance, and interactions with other staff; and analytic knowledge of common epidemiological methods (data linkages, rate calculations) and software.

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Salary and Benefits
Annual Salary: Tier 3, $66, 150
All fellows will be eligible for DSHS employee benefits including health insurance and leave.

Travel
Percent Travel: 5%
Travel Description: The fellow will have the opportunity to travel to in-person, agency events related to Severe Maternal Morbidity and state or national conferences. Agency events will primarily be in Austin but may be in Dallas, Houston, or other parts of the state.

Required Applicant Qualifications
(The following qualifications are REQUIRED. Do NOT apply to this position unless you currently meet or plan to meet these requirements by the start of the Fellowship, June 1, 2025.)

Required certification/license:
No requirement

Ability to Speak in Spanish:
No Requirement

Ability to Write in Spanish:
No Requirement

Preferred Educational Qualifications
(The following preferences are guidelines provided by the Host Site. These are NOT requirements. Host Sites prefer that applicants have completed or are currently working toward these.)

Preferred Level of Education: Master's Degree

Preferred Specialized and Technical Skills
(The following skills will be a focus during this Fellowship position. If you have or are interested in developing data analysis skills or building technical skills in the software listed below, this could be a good Fellowship position for you.)

Data Analysis Skills:
Somewhat Skilled: has done Data Analysis in coursework, but not applied Data Analysis in the real world

Statistical Software Skills:
Somewhat proficient: has some experience using the software, but needs guidance or more training

Statistical Software:
SAS/SAS Viya; Python

Other Software:
Tableau