A two-year fellowship program that provides hands-on training in the field of applied epidemiology at a state or local health agency under the guidance of experienced mentors.
The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship was created in 2003 to strengthen the workforce in applied epidemiology at state and local health agencies. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), established the two-year Fellowship program to give recent graduates from schools of public health rigorous preparation and advanced training for successful careers as state or local applied epidemiologists.

Program Mission

To meet the nation’s ongoing need for applied epidemiology workforce capacity in state and local health departments through a national fellowship-training program. The fellowship focuses on balancing three key concepts:

- Providing service to the sponsoring agency.
- Creating and training a core group of public health workers.
- Strengthening capacity in applied epidemiology across public health institutions.
CSTE Fellowship

Training and Host Health Agency
Closely designed after the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program and using a mentorship model, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for graduates to acquire and develop epidemiologic skills during a high quality, on-the-job-training program in public health practice. Host health agencies have demonstrated capacity to provide an Applied Epidemiology Fellow with technical training, research opportunities, and practical experience in the application of epidemiologic methods at the state and local level.

Fellows are matched to a state or a local health agency based on their interests and available host site positions.

Program Areas Include:
- Chronic Diseases
- Environmental Health
- Infectious Diseases
- Injury
- Maternal and Child Health
- Occupational Health
- Substance Abuse

Eligibility
Applicants are required to have the following:

• An MPH, MSPH, MS in epidemiology, or an equivalent degree or advanced degree in a health related field (i.e. PhD in epidemiology, biostatistics, or other public health field; an MD degree; or a DVM degree).
• Completed at least three advanced graduate-level epidemiology courses and one graduate level biostatistics course.
• Desire to pursue a long-term career at the state or local level.
• United States citizenship.

Application Process
All applications that meet minimum requirements are formally evaluated by a review committee. The review committee includes representatives from CDC staff, ASPH affiliates, and persons with past or current experience working as an epidemiologist in a state or local health department. Criteria for evaluating the applications comprise the following:

• Academic achievement
• Writing skills
• Letters of Recommendation / transcripts
• Work/research experience
• Career goals
• Analytic skills
Danielle Abraham, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
**Host Site:** New York State Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Shelley Zansky, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Millicent Eidson, MA, DVM, DACVPM  

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides an excellent opportunity to gain experience in public health, while providing a built-in support network of experienced mentors. The support network is what makes the fellowship such a great stepping stone on the path from public health student to professional. The nature of the fellowship and its competencies allows one to work on multiple, diverse projects and pursue one’s interests. The fellowship also provides unprecedented networking and professional development opportunities.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship I would like to continue working in public health in an applied, government setting. I may also wish to pursue a PhD or DrPH to further extend my public health knowledge base and epidemiological skills.

Kate Altschaefl, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases- HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Sharon Balter, MD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Katherine Bornschlegel, MPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I wanted to get hands-on experience in a health department following my graduate program. This fellowship provides numerous opportunities for training as well as incredible access to resources and dedicated health professionals that will aid in my development as an epidemiologist. With the increasing frequency and seriousness of disease outbreaks, the study and control of diseases both in community and healthcare settings will only become more important, and I am excited to be a part of a program focusing on these areas.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship I hope to continue my public health work with a local or state level health department. I would like to work with health care associated infection and infectious disease programs in order to reduce infection rates and transmission.
Kelley Bemis, MPH

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases, Yale School of Public Health
Host Site: Connecticut Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Mark Lobato, MD
Secondary Mentor: Lynn Sosa, MD

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship: I chose to apply for the CSTE fellowship because it was the ideal opportunity to pursue a long-term career goal of mine: practicing epidemiology at the state level. In addition, the competency-based curriculum will allow me to be exposed to a wide variety of public health practice, from outbreak investigation to surveillance to intervention design. Furthermore, I will be able to learn these skills under the mentorship of two highly-skilled, experienced public health professionals. In doing so, I believe this fellowship will prepare me with the experience and education needed to be an asset to any public health department.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Upon completing the fellowship, I hope to continue pursuing a career in applied infectious disease epidemiology at the state or local level.

Ashley Borin, MPH

Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology-International Health, University of Michigan
Host Site: Multnomah County Health Department, Oregon
Primary Mentor: Amy Sullivan, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: James Guadino, MD, MS, MPH, FACPM

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship: I chose the CSTE fellowship because it was a great opportunity to apply the knowledge I obtained in graduate school to real life situations all while learning invaluable information from two experienced mentors in the field of maternal and child health. In addition, working in a county health department will provide me with the opportunity to explore other areas of public health practice in which I am also interested in. During my fellowship, I hope to master the CSTE core competencies and strengthen my skills as an epidemiologist. I am excited to have the opportunity to make an impact on a community through public health practice.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After my fellowship I plan to continue to make contributions to the field of maternal and child health and hope to do this at the local, state or federal level.
Miranda Chan, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Primary Mentor: Christina Tan, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, FACP

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
The CSTE fellowship is an invaluable experience that will help me build a strong foundation for a career in public health at the state and local level. By working side-by-side with leaders in the field, I will practice and refine the analytical skills I have acquired through my Master’s training. The fellowship also provides the guidance of experienced mentors and the opportunity to become immersed in hands-on projects to ensure intellectual growth and professional development.

Future plans after the fellowship:
I plan to practice applied epidemiology at the state or local level in the area of infectious disease. I will also continue to gain public health skills through educational trainings and participation in professional organizations. In the future, I hope to mentor newly aspiring public health professionals.

Zeshan Chisty, MPH, CPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University Of North Texas Health Science Center
Host Site: Hawaii State Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
Secondary Mentor: Myra Ching-Lee, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
As an epidemiologist in training, the CDC/CSTE fellowship is a great opportunity for me to transition from a student to a public health professional. This is achieved because this fellowship is conducted in a real-world setting and under the guidance of experienced epidemiologists, which allows me to practice my current set of skills and develop new ones. Furthermore, the fellowship’s importance on applied epidemiological competencies will ensure that two years from now I will begin a successful career as a public health professional.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship, I anticipate to pursue a PhD in epidemiology. In ten years, I see myself working as an epidemiologist in an infectious disease program or division at the state, local or federal level.
Jessie R. Clippard, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: Michigan Department of Community Health
Primary Mentor: Mary Grace Stobierski, MPH, DVM
Secondary Mentor: Kimberly Signs, DVM

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose this fellowship because it seemed like a perfect bridge between classroom work and practical application of public health. Having the opportunity to work with such talented and experienced mentors will help guide my future education and professional plans.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship concludes, I plan to either seek additional education or to enter directly into a state health department environment working with infectious diseases.

Kate Corvese, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases, Yale University
Host Site: Virginia Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Katie Kurkjian, DVM, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Dianne Woolard, PhD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I feel that participation in the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship is a logical next step for me after the completion of my MPH and that it will ultimately allow me to become a competent, fully trained member of the public health workforce. While most of my experience and interest lies in emergency preparedness and response activities, this Fellowship will give me the opportunity to both work on these issues at the state level and expand my knowledgebase to include a variety of other infectious disease concerns that face the population of Virginia. I am excited to explore these topics with two dedicated and knowledgeable mentors, as having people invested in my practical learning experience was one of the chief reasons that I chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship. I know that I can learn a lot from my mentors and new colleagues that will contribute significantly to my development as a public health practitioner.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the conclusion of the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a career in the disaster epidemiology field with a concentration in infectious disease threats and bioterrorism. I hope to be able to do this through government work at the federal, state or local level. As cooperation between all of these levels of government is essential, especially during a disaster, I believe that my CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship experience with Virginia will be beneficial, regardless of which level of government I pursue.
Anne DeMuth, MPH
Subject Area: Chronic Diseases and Injury
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of South Florida
Host Site: North Carolina Division of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Scott Proescholdbell, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
The CSTE fellowship seemed like the perfect way to transition from an academic setting to a career in applied epidemiology. I look forward to working with enthusiastic, experienced mentors to gain hands-on training in a state health agency and learn valuable skills for my future career.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After completing the fellowship, I would like to obtain a position as an epidemiologist at the state level, focusing on chronic disease epidemiology.

Stefanie DeVita, MPH, RN
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases- HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Host Site: Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Primary Mentor: Susan Manning, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Amy Robbins, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides the opportunity to practice public health alongside knowledgeable mentors. I felt the two year experience was a good medium to utilize the formal public health education I received by applying it in a practical and meaningful way. The fellowship will allow me to engage in a wide variety of epidemiologic activities. It will also prepare me with a wide range of epidemiologic skills that I can rely on during my career as a public health practitioner.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship I would like to continue at a state health department as an infectious disease epidemiologist with a focus on vaccine-preventable diseases.
Heather N. Fowler, VMD, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: VMD, Small/Large Animal Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
Host Site: Minnesota Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Joni Scheftel, DVM, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
Acquisition of my career goals would be nearly impossible without the training provided by the CSTE program. The experience I plan to gain from this program will directly complement and extend my education from both veterinary and graduate school by enabling me to apply principles learned in the classroom to real world topics. The majority of my time in this fellowship will be spent studying zoonotic diseases, though I hope to have the opportunity to explore other fields of interest to me. I look forward with great anticipation to the opportunity of identifying my niche in public health and contributing to the future of this field.

Future plans after the internship:
Upon completion of this fellowship I plan to acquire a position as a State Public Health Veterinarian. After several years in this position I hope to pay back CSTE by applying to be a mentor and train a future fellow. In my future position, I plan to make an impact in the field of veterinary public health.

Hannah Friedlander, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Host Site: Minnesota Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Richard Danila, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Melissa Kemperman, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides the unique combination of offering both training and mentorship in the field of applied epidemiology to recent graduates, an opportunity unmatched by any other training or fellowship program available. Under the guidance and supervision of experienced mentors, the fellowship’s core competencies give me the chance to strengthen my epidemiologic skills and methods while at the same time ensuring I gain experience in a variety of public health areas. I’m very excited to be working with such a dynamic and passionate team of individuals on projects that will have a strong impact on how vectorborne disease is understood in Minnesota, and believe the fellowship will prepare me to be a meaningful contributor to the field of public health in the future.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Upon completion of the fellowship, I plan to gain a few more years of work experience before pursuing doctoral training in epidemiology. Ultimately, I hope to have a career as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the state or federal level.
**Jessie Gleason, MSPH**

**Subject Area:** Environmental and Occupational Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MSPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
**Primary Mentor:** Jerald Fagliano, MPH, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Barbara Goun, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides an opportunity to gain experience in a state or local health department while encouraging the development of competency components in the area of applied epidemiology. Additionally, the mentorship structure of the fellowship provides support and guidance within an academic setting. I believe this fellowship will allow me to apply the skills I have learned at school in a direct and realistic manner, thereby preparing me for future work as an epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship I plan to work at the state level. I hope to one day return to school to pursue my doctorate in social epidemiology.

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**Cassandra Harrison, MSPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MSPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Sharon Balter, MD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Vasudha Reddy, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I was drawn to the CSTE Fellowship because of its focus on applied epidemiology at a state or local health department. My primary interest lies in infectious diseases, and I feel that training at the local level is the best way to gain experience in outbreak response and disease surveillance. In addition, the Fellowship allows me to further develop my epidemiology skills while working alongside knowledgeable mentors. I feel that this Fellowship is a perfect fit because I have the opportunity to grow professionally while also contributing to a field I am truly passionate about.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship, I hope to continue working as an infectious disease epidemiologist at either the local or state level.
Katie Lane, MA, MPH
Subject Area: Environmental Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Wendy McKelvey, PHD
Secondary Mentor: Katie Wheeler, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I was drawn to working at a state or local health department because they are on the front lines of improving public health. The mentorship offered by this fellowship will be a unique opportunity to learn from experts in applied epidemiology, and receive practical training in a complex discipline. Fulfilling the core competencies will give me well-rounded experience, ensure that I have skills needed by local health departments, and allow me to make more valuable contributions to solving public health problems.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship my goal is to work for a state or local health department and contribute to improving community health.

Jason Lempp, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: Arizona Department of Health Services
Primary Mentor: Cara Christ, MD
Secondary Mentor: Shoana Anderson, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
This fellowship program allows me to continue to develop my research epidemiology skills, while gaining new experience with practical and field epidemiology. In partnership with my host site, I have the opportunity to be exposed to an array of public health challenges, and participate in the efforts to meet and overcome them to impact community and patient health. CSTE’s program and the mentorship process also create an environment supportive of professional growth across many aspects in public health practice, with flexibility to my interests.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Building on my surveillance and infection control experience, I plan to continue working with infectious disease epidemiology in diagnostic health systems and outbreak response. Additionally, I plan to pursue further education and training, while working at a state or local health agency, to better support healthcare-associated infection research and prevention efforts for clinical and laboratory settings.
Natalie Levy, MPH  
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University  
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Primary Mentor: Shama Ahuja, PhD, MPH  
Secondary Mentor: Janelle Anderson, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because I believe that it offers the unique opportunity to build upon my previous academic training and gain practical experience by working at a local department of health. As a CSTE fellow, I will develop essential skills and be exposed to a wide variety of aspects of public health practice, while also helping to protect the health of New York City residents. Through CSTE, I believe that I will be prepared to become a successful practitioner of public health.

Future plans after the fellowship:
I intend to pursue a career working at a state or local department of health and hope to make contributions to better understanding and eliminating health disparities. I also hope to one day share my skills and findings with individuals and organizations internationally to help address the issues and circumstances that have formed the foundation of my commitment to public health.

Audrey Martyn, MPH  
Subject Area: Chronic Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
Host Site: Georgia Department of Public Health  
Primary Mentor: Suparna Bagchi, MSPH, DrPH  
Secondary Mentor: A. Rana Bayakly, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides me with the opportunity to implement the skills and knowledge I gained from my MPH program at Emory University. Focusing in Chronic Disease gives me the opportunity to learn about the health problems affecting Georgia. I am also exposed to other aspects of public health such as outbreak investigations and bioterrorism/emergency preparedness and response. With the guidance of my mentors I know I will be able to utilize their experience and knowledge to develop my skills as an epidemiologist. Ultimately, my goal is to improve the health of my community, and the experience I am gaining from the State Health Department allows me work towards this goal.

Future plans after the fellowship: After the fellowship, I hope to work as an epidemiologist at the local, state, or federal level. I would like my career to be dedicated to the prevention and understanding of disease.
James Matthias, MPH  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Georgia  
**Host Site:** Florida Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Danielle Stanek, DVM  

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it allows me to utilize the skills in Epidemiology that I learned in school in an organization where the knowledge, practice, and experience of my mentors will greatly improve my ability to work in public health. In addition the fellowship made it possible for me to continue working in infectious disease and more specifically emerging infectious, zoonotic, and vectorborne diseases. I believe this fellowship will create an opportunity for me to make an impact for public health programs in Florida and prepare me for future endeavors in public health.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship, I plan to continue working for public health organizations at the local, state, or federal levels. I would like to continue working and contributing to public health in infectious disease epidemiology.

Kelsey OYong, MPH  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, State University of New York at Albany  
**Host Site:** Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Dawn Terashita, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
The combination of pragmatism and mentorship led me to choose the CSTE Fellowship as the first step in my career as an epidemiologist. The fellowship will award me further applied epidemiologic training beyond that which I learned during the course of my previous internships and in the classroom. Because the position is multidisciplinary, it will strengthen my skills in a number of different areas of public health through completion of the core competencies. Further, the importance and positive influence of my mentors in shaping my project, career goals, and understanding of the field is a unique aspect of the program. This two year opportunity will help boost my knowledge base and create contacts with established epidemiologists in the field, specifically within CSTE and the CDC, calling upon their guidance and expertise to direct my career as it moves forward.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
Following the completion of the fellowship, I plan to continue in the field of infectious disease epidemiology and perhaps pursue further education.
Reed Sorensen, MPH  
**Subject Area:** Environmental Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** Washington State Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Juliet VanEenwyk, PhD, MS  
**Secondary Mentor:** Glen Patrick, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
For the last two years in my master’s program, I have learned an array of public health methods and tools. While that was an essential foundation for my career in public health practice, CSTE completes the picture in that it puts those methods and tools to work making a tangible difference to a specific community. It involves learning by doing, providing a multifaceted base of public health experience from which to draw in the future. The focus on local and state levels of government resonated with me, as it removes some degrees of separation when engaging with the community. I believe in an approach to public health that focuses on building relationships as much as scientific methodology, and I see CSTE sharing those values.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I plan to work for local/state governments, striving to incorporate more explicit considerations for underserved communities.

Laura Stadelmann, MPH  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Sarah Braunstein, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Colin Shepard, MD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE fellowship for the excellent opportunity to continue my public health training while gaining practical on-job experience. With a desire for an epidemiology career at the state or local level, the fellowship appeared to be a fitting next step in my training and career aspirations. The personal mentorship component of the fellowship, offering fellows experiences with practiced and skilled public health practitioners, was particularly compelling for me. I was also interested in the fact that core competencies are expected to be fulfilled during the fellowship tenure, allowing fellows the chance to be trained in the many varied aspects of epidemiology and public health. I look forward to expanding upon my current training, contributing to the daily functions of my host site, and becoming a part of the applied epidemiology workforce.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I plan to pursue a career in applied epidemiology at the local, state, or federal level.
**Andrew Thornton, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - Quarantine  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Global Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
San Diego Quarantine Station and the County of San Diego Office of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Stephen Waterman, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Michele Ginsberg, MD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE fellowship because I believe that it will be an excellent way to transition from academia into my career in public health. I think that the comprehensive, competency-based training will provide me with a skill set that I would not find in other entry level positions. Additionally, I am drawn by the content area of my particular host site. I am interested in infectious disease epidemiology and the intersection of international and domestic health. I believe that working in a border city with the San Diego Office of Public Health and the CDC Quarantine Station will be an excellent opportunity to contribute to work done in these fields.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After completing the CSTE fellowship I plan to continue working in infectious disease epidemiology and at the intersection of international and domestic health. Eventually, I would like to pursue either an MD or a PhD in epidemiology.

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**Laura Tomedi, PhD, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Chronic Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** PhD, Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh  
**Host Site:** New Mexico Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Susan Baum, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Libby Bruggeman, PhD, MA

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
The CSTE fellowship offers me an exciting opportunity to apply the skills I have learned in the academic arena to public health practice at the government level, while still receiving the support and guidance of a mentor. I was attracted to the prospect of exploring the many different aspects of applied public health and learning and honing skills that were not the focus of my previous training. I expect to leave the fellowship with a better understanding of the day-to-day tasks of a state or federal level epidemiologist and I hope to be more capable and prepared to meet these challenges.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After completing the fellowship, my plans include working in chronic disease epidemiology, to work with surveillance data collection and analysis to provide information to improve prevention and treatment interventions.
Lauren Torso, MPH

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Host Site: Pennsylvania Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Atmaram Nambiar, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Zeenat Rahman, MBBS, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I decided to pursue this fellowship to apply and expand upon epidemiologic skills I developed through my MPH program. As a graduate student, I found the state health department to be a professional setting uniquely connected to both academia and the public. Valuable mentorship will prepare me to make epidemiologic contributions to local or state health departments. This fellowship will also facilitate professional development specific to the epidemiology of healthcare associated infections while allowing me to collaborate on broader projects within the Bureau of Epidemiology.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Following the fellowship, I would like to contribute to the control of healthcare associated infections as an Epidemiologist within a state or local public health agency.

Sybil Wojcio, MPH

Subject Area: Environmental Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, State University of New York at Albany
Host Site: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: John Braggio, PhD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
As a new graduate eager to dive into the public health workforce, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offered a valuable opportunity to work under the guidance of an experienced mentor to build upon the skills acquired in graduate school. The fellowship provides the chance to gain hands on experience working with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the breadth of skills covered under the core competencies ensures that I will gain experience in a broad range of public health activities.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After completing the fellowship, I look forward to securing a position as an epidemiologist at a state health or local health department. I am confident that this Fellowship will help me to focus my professional goals and lead to a successful career as an epidemiologist. I hope to have the opportunity to make contributions to the field of public health particularly in the areas of occupational and environmental health.
Sarah Yoder, MS

Subject Area: Environmental Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MS, Environmental Health-Epidemiology, Colorado State University

Host Site: Alaska State Department of Health and Social Services

Primary Mentor: Paul Anderson, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Joseph McLaughlin, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I believe that this fellowship will be a great transition from academia to the field of applied epidemiology. I am excited to have the opportunity to be involved in the area of Health Impact Assessment, which I feel is a great fit with my interests in environmental health and determining the appropriateness of certain programs for a community. Through the completion of the core competencies and working closely with my mentors, I will have an excellent opportunity to develop skills in the methodologies of epidemiology and biostatistics. This fellowship will give me the skills to begin a successful career in the field of public health.

Future plans after the fellowship:
I hope to work in applied epidemiology at the state or federal level and remain involved in the field of environmental health. I would like to work in a position where I can make an impact mitigating health disparities and help develop culturally appropriate public health programs.
Applied Epidemiology Core Competencies

Fellows will develop a comprehensive set of core skills through competency-based training. These competencies are expected to be fulfilled during the two-year Fellowship:

**Epidemiologic methods**
- Design a surveillance system to assess health problems
- Evaluate an existing surveillance system
- Design data collection tools to address a health problem
- Collect health data and create databases
- Analyze and characterize epidemiologic data with statistical software
- Interpret data and findings and recommend control measures, prevention programs, or other public health interventions
- Understand types of study design and design an epidemiologic study
- Role in bioterrorism/emergency preparedness and response

**Communication**
- Write surveillance and field investigation reports
- Present epidemiologic data using graphic software
- Understand the basics of health risk communication and be able to communicate findings to the lay public
- Present research results in a scientific poster, report, or manuscript
- Present data orally using appropriate media

**Public Health Practice, Policy, and Legal Issues**
- Have a basic understanding of public health law
- Understand the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
- Distinguish between public health research and public health practice
- Understand policies designed for the protection of human subjects and the role of an Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Know the essential public health functions
- Understand the roles of local, state, and federal public health agencies
- Appreciate the diversity of epidemiology and how it is used in different program areas
- Effectively negotiate cultural sensitivity issues
Fellows participate in a variety of projects that offer an exceptional learning experience while providing valuable service to their host health agencies. Listed below are just a few examples of projects that current and former Fellows have led:

- Evaluating the impact of mandatory active surveillance for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in New Jersey Hospitals
- Evaluating outcomes and risk factors associated with pre-pregnancy BMI and weight gain during pregnancy
- Examining the validity of post-mortem blood alcohol testing for assessing alcohol involvement in fatal motor vehicle crashes
- Leading an investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Selenosis from consumption of a tainted nutritional supplement
- Serving as the lead epidemiologist on a new MRSA surveillance system that was mandated by the governor in Washington State
- Evaluating the surveillance of maternal behaviors prior to and during pregnancy and during the child’s early infancy using the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- Assessing the circumstances surrounding fatal fall injuries in the elderly
- Evaluating an HIV-exposure and partner notification surveillance system
- Conducting an analysis of exposure patterns after a release of methylmercury
- Conducting tuberculosis surveillance system for migrants (immigrants, refugees, and asylees)
- Conducting a seroprevalence and behavioral study of intravenous drug users
- Evaluating a childhood lead poisoning surveillance system
- Examining the relationship between socioeconomic and demographic factors and type of treatment for colon cancer
- Evaluating Michigan’s surveillance system and reporting for susceptible and drug-resistant invasive Streptococcus pneumonia
Current Fellow Projects
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• Comparing characteristics of hypertensive children from the Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) database with the health of adults
• Creating a Neonatal Herpes Simplex Virus surveillance system
• Evaluating voluntary school-based absenteeism and syndromic surveillance program in Wisconsin
• Assessing the exposure of commercial airline flight attendants to flame retardants
• Analyzing and assessing changes over time in low and high risk populations for coronary heart disease in North Carolina
• Creation of “real-time” field surveillance system for environmental health inspection information during Kentucky’s inaugural NASCAR Sprint Cup race
• Clark County’s comprehensive growth management plan update—incorporating a health element and using local data to explain current conditions of the built environment that impact human health.
• Incidence trends and characteristics of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli 0157 (STEC) and non-0157 STEC infections in Washington State, 2005-2010
• Evaluation of laboratory-confirmed influenza death reporting through the Public Health Issues Management System (PHIMS), Washington, 2009
• Evaluation of Massachusetts maternal smoking surveillance on MA PRAMS and MA birth certificates
• Evaluating reporting of amputations of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of occupational injuries and illness system in California