

Our Vision

A healthy Louisville where everyone and every community thrives.

Our Mission

To achieve health equity and improve the health and well-being of all Louisville residents and visitors.

Values

Collaboration, Grit, Innovative, Integrity, Quality

LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Fall 2021
Student Experiences Catalog*



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>

NOTE TO STUDENTS

Practicum and internship opportunities are available at the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW). Projects fall into a variety of public health concentration areas (epidemiology, health promotion, biostatistics, etc.). We have detailed a few specific projects that are currently available. Please refer to the division and project descriptions throughout and contact our academic health coordinator to discuss a project included here or an idea for one that is not featured in this catalogue at LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov.

You can find much more information on the department by visiting <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>. For further information on the types of data collected and monitored by LMPHW, please visit: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness/public-health-data-reports>.

LMPHW STUDENT EXPERIENCES OVERVIEW

The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) is an accredited independent health department under the leadership of Director/Chief Health Strategist Sarah Moyer, MD, MPH. We deliver programs and services primarily through two sections: Health Operations & Center for Health Equity (CHE). Health Operations includes the Clinical/Health Services Division, Environmental Health Division, Office of Emergency & Public Health Preparedness, Laboratory Services, and Leadership, Development, & Administration. The Center for Health Equity contains Partnerships, Performance, and Policy & Innovation. CHE aims to achieve equity in the social determinants of health throughout Metro Louisville using a “Health in All Policies” approach.

Students will have the opportunity to understand the functional and practical work of a Metropolitan Health Department serving a population of approximately 750,000. Distinctive populations have been identified as under served and divergent health outcomes are indicated in association with the social determinants of health. Students will earn practical experience through working alongside public health practitioners while they work on projects including the following:

- Public Health Administration
- Policy Development
- Strategic Planning
- Public Health Accreditation maintenance
- Results Framework
- Quality Improvement
- Maternal and Child Health
- Public Health Law – Food service and Public Facility Establishments
- Chronic Disease Prevention – Health Promotions
- Vital Statistics data analysis
- Disease Surveillance & Monitoring
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness
- Drug Addiction – HIV/STD

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have browsed this catalog and selected a project of interest, please send a cover letter and resume to the listed project supervisor and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

Title: Qualitative Research Study of Prenatal Care Practices and Access in Louisville/Jefferson County

Division: Center for Health Equity, Population Health

Concentration area(s): Maternal & Child Health, Data analysis, Qualitative Analysis, Policy Review

LMPHW Advisor: Trey Allen and Angela Graham

Contact: Trey.Allen@louisvilleky.gov and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Center for Health Equity (CHE) at the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) is partnering with the Ready 4 K Alliance (a part of Metro United Way) to conduct a qualitative research study of access to prenatal care among Black and immigrant/refugee mothers, and mothers who have experienced substance use disorder in Jefferson County. Prenatal care is a valuable resource and is important in helping to prevent negative birth outcomes such as low birth weight. Because of its importance in preventing negative birth outcomes, the Ready 4 K Alliance hopes to better understand the experiences of new mothers in Jefferson County in accessing prenatal care.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- The information gathered from this research study will be used to inform the local policies and practices of birthing hospitals and maternal-supporting community organizations to best provide greater access to prenatal care to all of Jefferson County.
- Students will
 - o Understand the longstanding and contemporary inequities among birthing mothers and newborns
 - o Analyze qualitative research data from surveys, focus groups, and interviews with recent mothers in Louisville/Jefferson County
 - o Conduct a review of supportive policies mothers seeking prenatal care
 - o Conclude and present the study findings

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Graduate students with an interest in qualitative research methods
- Basic understanding of epidemiology
- Familiarity with Maternal and Child Health terms, outcomes, literature
- Fair experience with data or content analysis
- Good understanding of Microsoft Office products for communicating, documenting and reporting results
- Familiar with any qualitative software (e.g. Dedoose, Atlas-Ti, etc.)

Number of students (min-max): 1-3

Estimated hours/week: 4-12

Estimated project duration: 3-6 months

Support needed (ie, specific software): Microsoft Office, (ability to learn) Dedoose

Title: Unfair Housing in Louisville Oral History Project: Analysis and Dissemination of Key Themes

Division: Center for Health Equity

Concentration area(s): Community engagement, research, facilitation support, and program coordination, health policy and management

LMPHW Advisor: Cathy Kuhn, PhD, Executive Director, Metropolitan Housing Coalition

Contact: ckuhn@metropolitanhousing.org and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Reducing evictions in Louisville through landlord engagement, the Metropolitan Housing Coalition is seeking student assistance with a project designed to reduce evictions in Louisville through landlord identification and engagement. The first stages of this project will include compiling a comprehensive list of large and small landlords and property management companies in Louisville. In addition, this project will review best practices for effective landlord engagement. This project will be utilized to support providers in their work to locate affordable housing for low income residents as well as to prevent loss of housing for those at risk of eviction. In addition, this project may serve as a precursor to a larger project designed to engage landlords in discussions about eviction-related decision making and just cause eviction processes

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition is seeking assistance with analysis and dissemination of a project focused on documenting the long-standing impacts of housing discrimination in Louisville. Scope of activities will include:

- Broad thematic analysis of qualitative data collected from interviews completed as a part of the Unfair Housing in Louisville Oral History project in collaboration with U of L Oral History Center
- Broad thematic analysis of qualitative data collected from one or more community listening sessions (approximately 10-20 hours)
- Production and implementation of tools to support dissemination of key themes from the Oral History Project to include a series of social media graphics, one-page summary of key findings, email blasts, web page design, etc.

Interested applicants can propose to complete one or all components of the project.

Compensation is as follows:

- Thematic Analysis: \$1500-\$2000
- Graphic Design: \$3000-\$3500
- Total for all activities: \$5000

Number of students (min-max): 1-3

Estimated hours/week: 8-10 hrs/week

Estimated project duration: 1-2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):
n/a

Title: Louisville Metro Suicide Prevention Project
Division: Center for Health Equity
Concentration area(s): Behavioral Health and Health Promotion

LMPHW Advisor: Chelsea Burton
Contact: Chelsea.Burton@louisvilleky.gov and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Center for Health Equity is seeking to build a more supportive suicide prevention infrastructure to prevent any further premature death in our community. COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented level of disruption to the normal fabric of life. Since March 2020, Louisville residents have faced uncertainty, social isolation, financial instability, and loss of family and friends. The trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic disruptions are likely to contribute to continued mental illness, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation. The Center for Health Equity is engaging in a Suicide Prevention project that includes (1) developing a citywide suicide prevention plan, (2) initiating a Suicide Fatality Review Board, (3) developing a suicide prevention communications campaign, and (4) developing a community mental health resource database.

Mental Health resources are available for Louisville residents but are not always readily identifiable. Service agencies in Louisville must be aware of all the available resources that residents might potentially need. Developing a community mental health resource database can help provide residents with efficient information and identifying services within the community.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

The goal of this project is to help identify community resources that will guide this work. Students will...

- Research and identify community mental/behavioral health resources
- Research national best practices for developing community resource databases
- Help to organize resources and manage database information

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Ability to do research including best practices
- Ability to analyze and synthesize information
- Fair knowledge about mental health and suicide prevention
- Strong writing skills
- Organized, dependable and responsible

Number of students (min-max): 1-2

Estimated hours/week: 6-10 hours

Estimated project duration: 1 semester

Support needed (ie, specific software):

n/a

Title: Outcomes analysis of MORE Center with emphasis on cost effective treatment for MOUD
Division: Clinical Services
Concentration area(s): harm reduction, behavioral sciences, health economics and policy, data management, biostatistics

LMPHW Advisor: Mark Jorrisch, MD and Seyed Karimi, PhD
Contact: Seyed.Karimi@louisvilleky.gov and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the past 30 years, our Medication Oriented Recovery and Enhancement (MORE) Center has been providing medically monitored addiction treatment (methadone) and counseling to patients who are addicted to opiates like heroin, fentanyl, morphine, OxyContin, Opana, and Dilaudid. Studies show that using both medicine and counseling is most successful. Our team is looking to complete a retrospective and prospective evaluation of outcomes at MORE to study retention in treatment, ability to remain drug free, employment, justice involvement, medical and mental health outcomes while in treatment.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Understand the longstanding outcomes from MORE practices
- Evaluate current practices at MORE and consider best measures for success in treatment
- Collecting data from patient records or via new patient surveys
- Organize and curate data
- Conduct cost-effectiveness analysis of current practices at MORE

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Basic understanding of MOUD (Medications for Opioid Use Disorder), harm reduction, and a health equity lens
- Fair experience with data analysis (the minimum requirement is proficiency in Microsoft Excel)
- Good understanding of Microsoft Office products for communicating, documenting, and reporting results
- Organized; Work autonomously with direction from supervisor

Number of students (min-max): 2-3

Estimated hours/week: 4-6

Estimated project duration: 1-2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):

n/a

Title: Identifying Lead Hazards in Louisville

Division: Environmental; Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Concentration area(s): Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Promotion

LMPHW Advisor: Nick Hart and Brian Guinn, PhD

Contact: Brian.Guinn@louisville.edu and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LMPHW conducts childhood lead poisoning surveillance for residents living within Jefferson County, KY. While this is a foundational component of public health, active lead remediation needs to occur to prevent childhood lead poisoning. But where should lead remediation take place? To answer this question, this project aims to find environmental lead hazards in at-risk communities. This project will collect and measure lead content from different environmental sources (e.g. topsoil, paint, and dust) within at-risk communities. Finding, quantifying, and spatially analyzing these lead hazards will establish the basis for an organized transdisciplinary approach to lead remediation in lead burdened communities. Protecting vulnerable populations from environmental lead hazards through primary prevention strategies is an important public health initiative for greater health equity.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Develop a geocoded database of environmental samples with associated lead values
- Develop a geocoded biobank of samples
- Create informative maps in ArcGis
- Create a statistical model that evaluates risk factors for lead contamination
- Report findings to community stakeholders
- Develop a Systems Thinking model for environmental lead remediation

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Basic understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office (i.e. PowerPoint, Word, Excel)
- Familiarity with or interest in finding and reviewing biomedical literature via PubMed.gov
- Familiarity with or interest in a statistical software (e.g. SAS, R, Stata, SPSS)
- Familiarity with or interest in learning how to make maps with ArcGIS
- Flexibility in schedule for on-site collection of environmental samples
- Ability to effectively communicate findings to different community stakeholders

Number of students (min-max): 1-3

Estimated hours/week: 4-8 hrs/week

Estimated project duration: 1-2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):
n/a

Title: Examining Louisville communities' awareness on reportable diseases

Division: Communicable Diseases

Concentration area(s): Epidemiology, Health Promotion

LMPHW Advisor: Carolyn Akakpo, PhD

Contact: carolyn.akakpo@louisvilleky.gov and cc LMPHWInterns@louisvilleky.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Among the many responsibilities of LMPHW is passive and active communicable diseases surveillance for prevention and control in Jefferson County. Covid-19 presented a pandemic in a magnitude that public health, at a global level had not felt in a very long time, if ever, because of its airborne mode of transmission. We know many health disparities were noted due to the differences in social determinants of health in Jefferson and the rest of the world. This put more populations at higher risks than others. Several companies worked hard to create vaccines to prevent the spread of Covid -19 and Kentucky has a noted high vaccine uptake rate.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Understanding the vaccine uptake together with other communicable disease staff
- Creating datasets from the vaccinations that were administered in Jefferson
- Mapping and geocoding covid-19 vaccine data and related factors
- Present findings of the study at LMPHW and other appropriate settings

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Data science/biostatistics
- Great experience with data extraction and cleaning
- Basic experience with GIS software like the ArcGIS

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: 4-12

Estimated project duration: 1-3 months

Support needed (ie, specific software):

Statistical software or background and related training