

LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2020 Student Experiences Catalog

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



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.

Please note these opportunities are unpaid, volunteer internships and will be completed virtually unless otherwise stated. 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>.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LMPHW STUDENT EXPERIENCES OVERVIEW	4
CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY	
Examining COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity in Louisville	5
Assessment of Health Status in Jefferson County, KY	6
Health Equity Report Researcher	7
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS	
Public Health Vulnerability Mapping and Assessment for Emergency Response Planning	8
HEALTH SERVICES	
Social Work Internship	9
COMMUNICATIONS	
COVID Communications researcher	10

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, please send a cover letter and resume (include project of interest title in your documents) to lmphwinterns@louisvilleky.gov.

Applications are now open through the end of October.

Please note that these opportunities are unpaid, volunteer internships, and students must provide their own transportation.

Title: Examining COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity in Louisville

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Center for Health Equity is responsible for monitoring trends in health conditions across the community and assessing the health-related needs of Louisville residents. The population health impact of COVID-19 has exposed longstanding inequities that have systematically undermined the physical, social, economic, and emotional health of racial and ethnic minority populations and other population groups that are bearing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19. Persistent health disparities combined with the accumulated burden of discriminatory housing patterns, work circumstances, and other factors have put members of some racial and ethnic minority populations at higher risk for COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death. As we continue to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 on the health of different populations, immediate action is critical to reduce growing COVID-19 disparities among the populations known to be at disproportionate risk.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Understanding the longstanding inequities among vulnerable populations
- Collecting data from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to: COVID-19 case management system, essential needs request system, American Community Survey
- Conduct epidemiological assessments on population health impact of COVID-19
- Geocoding and mapping COVID-19 data and related factors to understand geospatial characteristics and relationships (optional)
- Conclude and present the study findings

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Basic understanding of methodology of epidemiology, biostatistics, and health promotion
- Fair experience with data analysis
- Familiar with any statistical software (i.e. R, SPSS, SAS or STATA, etc.)
- Good understanding of Microsoft Office products for communicating, documenting and reporting results
- Optional: At least basic experience with GIS software such as ArcGIS

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

Estimated hours/week: 4-12

Estimated project duration: 1-2 months

Support needed from university: Statistical software or background and related training

Title: Assessment of Health Status in Jefferson County, KY

Concentration area(s): Epidemiology, Biostatistics

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Center for Health Equity is responsible for monitoring trends in health conditions across the community and assessing the health-related needs of Louisville residents. We use a variety of data sources to exam Louisville's health status and identify potential disparities across the city. This project is aimed to conduct epidemiological assessments on population health outcomes resulting in a comprehensive understanding of current health status.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Review 2017 Health Equity Report and 2013-2017 Birth and Death Trends, Jefferson County Kentucky Report to better understand the historical knowledge of assessment on population health
- Understand the Vital Statistics and the Health Claims data structures, and practice data analysis on health indicators of existing reports
- Perform geocoding on the most recent year of Vital Statistics data (optional)
- Conduct epidemiological assessments on population health outcomes with most recent year's data
- Develop a report and presentation based on findings

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Basic understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics methodology
- Fair experience with data analysis
- Familiar with any statistical software (i.e. R, SPSS, SAS or STATA, etc.)
- Good understanding of Microsoft Office products for communicating, documenting and reporting results
- Optional: Basic experience with GIS software such as ArcGIS

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

Estimated hours/week: 4-12

Estimated project duration: 3-6 months

Support needed from university: Statistical software or background and related training

Title: Health Equity Report Researcher

Concentration area(s): Behavioral sciences and health education, environmental health, epidemiology, health policy and management

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our 2021 Health Equity Report will be building on 3 previously published reports (see healthequityreport.com) from our Center for Health Equity. The goal of the report is to tie how inequities in health outcomes are linked to policies and practices that inequitably shape root causes of health such as housing, occupation or education. For this report we will be working with community via a Community Advisory Board and a community engagement grant to determine transformative visions for various root causes of health, and to identify specific policy, practice and funding practices that would support that vision. Students will be expected to research and contribute to the writing of the report keeping in mind our target audiences and overarching messaging.

Given the ongoing response to COVID-19 and the unpredictability of needs, students should also be prepared to support planning and research functions for the response which would include researching and developing briefs that can be used for decision-making and supporting the creation of plans.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Develop reports based on specific research and writing requirements including policy briefs, interpretations of data (qualitative and quantitative) and other narratives for the report
- Address health inequities and policy transformation

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Health equity lens & feel comfortable discussing equity issues and systemic change
- Ability to do research including best practices and policy solutions
- Ability to synthesize qualitative research and incorporate community voice
- Work autonomously with direction from supervisor
- Flexibility about research assignments
- Strong writing skills with ideas on how to best frame and communicate ideas

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

Estimated hours/week: 10-12

Estimated project duration: Fall & Spring Semester

Support needed (i.e. specific software):

Title: Public Health Vulnerability Mapping and Assessment for Emergency Response Planning

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a planning project with LMPHW Office of Emergency and Public Health Preparedness, where student(s) will primarily focus on developing Public Health Vulnerability Maps and Assessments of the Louisville Metro Population. Students will develop data profiles and geographic maps of the vulnerable populations in the Louisville Metro area. The population vulnerability assessment will assist Public Health planners in anticipating response requirements, as well as develop new and refine existing response plans. Students will review potential disasters and emergencies as well as the consequences upon the population's health. Potential disasters and emergencies include floods, tornadoes, disease epidemic and pandemics, mass casualty incidents including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive terrorist attacks, extreme heat and extreme cold scenarios and other health emergency's and disasters.

In working with LMPHW Environmental Health staff, students will collaborate with Louisville Emergency Management Services to collect and assess data to support population assessments. Students will identify relationships and patterns within the Louisville Metro vulnerable populations. Students should feel comfortable working in groups with Public Health partners and reaching out to community partners via telephone and email.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Collect and analyze population statistics and demographics within the Louisville Metro area
- Evaluate the influence of susceptibility within the vulnerable populations based on the most probable hazards

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Graduate students with an interest in medical GIS or spatial epidemiology
- Familiar with MS Office tools, including Word, Access, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Familiar with Public Health GIS and spatial analytic tools (ArcGIS, DYCAST)

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

Estimated hours/week: 6-12

Estimated project duration: 6-11 months

Support needed from university:

Title: Social Work Internship

Concentration area(s): Social Work, Harm Reduction

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Directly supervised by the Syringe Exchange Program staff, the Social Work Intern will provide sterile syringes, and other harm reduction supplies, written and verbal education, and referral information for the clients at the SEP main location. The social work intern may also provide intensive case management to a limited caseload identified by SEP staff.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Distributes sterile syringes and other safer injection equipment and promotes safe disposal, including collection and disposal of used syringes
- Provides information on and referral to other health services and treatment centers
- Provide information on and referral to food, clothing, and housing resources in the community
- Always follows universal safety precautions
- Treats all clients with dignity and respect
- May perform other related tasks that are a part of the program's operation

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Strong knowledge of Harm Reduction, SEP, HCV, and HIV
- Pursuing a master's or doctoral degree
- Organized, dependable and responsible; able to work with limited direct supervision
- Ability to follow verbal and written instructions
- Must pass a background check

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: min 12 hours

Estimated project duration: 2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):

Title: COVID Communications researcher

Concentration area(s): Public health communication

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This student will provide support to our communications team by conducting the following tasks:

- Researching national best practices and other cities communications strategies as well as existing sources of research on public health communications (PHRASES>org, CDC, Society for Health Communication, behavioral and social science research and methodologies
- Synthesizing results of research into a communications strategy guide that can be used to guide LMPHW's communications to the public and media
- Conducting a review of current resources and analyzing for health literacy, cultural competency, and accessibility
- Helping review materials and determine when they need to be updated

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

1. Keep COVID-19 messaging strategy up to date
2. Ensure public has appropriate information that is accessible and easy to understand

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Can research answers to questions and find information on campaigns with little feedback
- Ability to analyze and synthesize information
- Strong writing skills
- Ability to simply communicate complex topics

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

Estimated hours/week: 10 hours

Estimated project duration: September 2020-April 2021 (could also do by semester)

Support needed (ie, specific software):