



*Posting date:* 2\_2011

**Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) MPH Practicum Announcement**

**Name of Project/Practicum Experience:** Men's Health Needs Assessment

**General Focus:** Men's Health

**TCHD Division:** Epidemiology, Planning, and Communication (EPC)

**TCHD Office Location of project/practicum experience:** Administration Building

*Note: All practicums are unpaid, unless otherwise noted.*

**Type of Project/Practicum** (check all that apply):

- Epidemiology/ Biostatistics (projects involving study design, survey development and implementation, data analysis, surveillance of diseases, etc)
- Community/Behavioral Health (projects assessing community health needs and health disparities, health education, health communication and promotion, community health policy issues, planning and evaluation of public health programs/policies/interventions, etc)
- Environmental/Occupation Health (projects involving environmental risk assessments, control of environmental and occupational hazards, understanding regulatory issues and policies related to environmental/occupational health, etc)
- Health Care Systems, Management, Finance and Policy (projects assessing access to health care or utilization of health care, assessment of policy/legal issues related to public health practice or healthcare, etc)
- Emergency Preparedness (writing/updating plans and protocols related to emergency preparedness, building databases/systems/presentations and/or assisting with exercises that further TCHD preparedness, etc)
- Public Health Informatics (application of information and technology to public health practice, research, and learning)
- General Public Health/Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Project/Practicum timeline and student hours**

Approximate timeframe for project/practicum completion: Spring of 2011, starting as soon as February

Number of hours per week that student will be expected to work on project/practicum: 8-12

Estimate total number of student hours this project/practicum will require: 120-150



**Project/Practicum Description:** Nationwide, there is a lack of male-specific public health programs, yet discrepancies between men's and women's health are growing. In 1920, the life expectancy difference between men and women was one year but the difference has now increased to over five years. Men ages 18-64 are almost twice as likely as women to report having no usual source of healthcare, and a 2001 CDC report found that men were 100% less likely than women to receive preventive services and annual exams. Men are also less likely to have health insurance.

Given this growing problem, and the lack of public health initiatives that deal with it, TCHD would like to take a closer look at the health of men in our jurisdiction, focusing on men over the age of 40. This project will be a needs assessment of a target population of men over 40. The objective of the project will be to determine the public health needs of this target population through literature review, examination of existing data such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Census, etc., and key informant interviews and to synthesize gathered information into a conclusion that can lead to a list of recommendations for public health intervention in the target population.

TCHD currently offers very few services to men. This project, a needs assessment resulting in a list of public health recommendations, will be a first step to increasing TCHD's ability to provide outreach to men, seek grant funding for men's health initiatives, and provide more public health services to men.

**Student job duties:** Student will conduct a literature review on the topic of men's health issues with an emphasis on men over 40, search for evidence-based public health strategies, and examine existing data sources (BRFSS, Census, Vital Statistics, etc) for information on men in our area. The student would also try to identify policy leaders and healthcare providers focused on men's health issues, and conduct key informant interviews with these individuals. Student will develop a final report that summarizes findings to help guide the development of recommendations for public health intervention in the target population. The student will present findings to a designated group of TCHD staff who will use this information to develop a list of recommendations. Student may also be asked to present their findings using PowerPoint.

**Skills required for student to work on this project/practicum** (check all that apply):

- Basic computer skills (email/internet, typing, etc)
- Researching information (searching for and summarizing research articles, evidence-based model practices, etc)



- Writing Skills (creating reports, summaries, presentations, etc)
- Presentation Skills
- Interviewing/ Client-Relations Skills (talking to clients regularly, administering questionnaires, etc)
- Foreign Language Skills. If checked, specify language(s): Spanish preferred if student chooses to focus on Hispanic population.
- Clinical skills (i.e. giving vaccinations, drawing blood, anthropometrics (height, weight), etc). If checked, specify
- Data or geographic analysis/statistical skills. If checked, specify what types of software packages the student should have experience with (i.e. SAS, GIS, SPSS, etc): Basic familiarity with Excel may be useful when looking at some data sources
- Other software competence. If checked, specify type of software (i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, etc)
- Other skills (Please specify)