

In order to provide technical assistance to States and localities, and to provide a training opportunity for future MCH professionals, the MCHB has created the Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP). The GSIP was initiated in 1992 to promote a mutually beneficial experience for both students and State and local health agencies, and to create and strengthen ties between the academic community and State, county and city health agencies.

The GSIP provides MCH graduate students with the opportunity to address specific, defined data or analytic issues as part of States', counties' and cities' efforts to develop or enhance their MCH/ CSHCN information systems. The internship projects are focused in three critical areas of MCH epidemiology:

► **DATA ANALYSIS AND MONITORING**

**Data Analysis and Monitoring** Projects in this area involve monitoring of diseases, injuries, and health conditions for their frequency, risk factors, consequences, and health service requirements, and analysis of epidemiological data sets. For example, a 2004 GSIP intern with the Boston Public Health Commission determined the feasibility of putting together an asthma surveillance system in which people with asthma or other breathing difficulties would be notified through a public health alert when they were at high risk of an asthma attack.

► **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** Projects in this area include the systematic analysis, assessment, and projection of health needs and resources in a given population or community. For example, a 2004 GSIP intern with the New Mexico Department of Health conducted an assessment of the needs and issues involved with emergency preparedness and response planning for children and youth at the state and local levels.

► **PROGRAM EVALUATION** Projects in this area include the monitoring, collection, and analysis of data to determine the effectiveness or outcomes of a particular program or project. For example, a 2002 GSIP intern with the California Department of Health Services conducted an evaluation of the California Indian Health Program's American Indian Infant Health/Home Visitation Initiative to evaluate the initiative's effectiveness in decreasing health disparities among American Indian women and children.

The GSIP is coordinated by the Maternal and Child Health Information Resource Center (MCHIRC), which works to enhance the capacity of MCH agencies to collect, analyze, and use data for planning and policymaking. One of the MCHIRC's goals is to improve the epidemiologic capacity of State and local MCH/CSHCN programs.

Master's and doctoral degree candidates in U.S. schools of public health (accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health) in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs or in related programs that involve MCH studies, who are U.S. citizens or foreign nationals who possess a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S. may apply.

Selected state, county and city internship proposals will be compiled in a catalog and distributed to all schools of public health as well as posted on our web site (<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/gsip>) in January 2005. In the application process, students may indicate and rank up to three positions for which they are interested. Applications will be due in mid-February 2005. The GSIP Committee matches interns with the most appropriate internship opportunities regardless of student or internship location, and the committee will make every effort to honor the applicants ranked choices. Applicants will be informed of the committee's decisions in March 2005.

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND STIPEND**

The internship is to be completed over a 12 week period, to begin in May, June, or July 2005. Interns will receive a stipend of \$6000 to be disbursed over three months to cover travel to the internship site, housing, and daily living expenses. Approximately 20 internship opportunities will be available in 2005.

## EXPERIENCES

### Here's what students had to say about their GSIP experience...

"My internship allowed me to apply all of the concepts and theories I had learned in the first year of my public health program to real-world situations. I learned more over the course of the summer than I did over the entire first two semesters of my MPH degree."

*Amy Cornbleet  
Los Angeles County Health Department*

"It directly enhanced my academic training because it was hands on. The internship provided me a different perspective on epidemiology and how to collaborate with many team players in accomplishing a goal."

*Lisa Hepp  
Louisiana Office of Public Health MCH*

### Here's what preceptors had to say about their GSIP experience...

"[The intern] worked on the preparation of the PPCP annual statewide report which is going to be used by program staff here at the Department of Public Health (DPH) to look at prenatal care use among low income women in the state....By producing this report, we are now able to respond to data requests from the state legislature, program sites and other DPH programs interest in maternal and child health."

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health*

"The intern contributed to the ongoing work of our comprehensive Needs Assessment in a positive way. She also provided us with fresh insights and asked excellent questions. She left us with a completed draft project."

*Washington State Department of Health*

"In addition to contributing to the specific project, [the intern] was given the opportunity to interact with a variety of public health professionals and to participate in the work groups of an ongoing MCH Community Access Program."

*Chicago Department of Public Health*

**For more information about  
GSIP 2005, please contact:**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau

**MCH**  
Maternal and Child Health  
Information Resource Center

## SUMMER 2005 GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



To Promote Training in MCH  
Epidemiology

