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 and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), 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.

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
- Oral 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 four 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, ASPPH 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
Justin Albertson, MS

**Subject Area:** Environmental Health - Waterborne  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MS, Epidemiology, University of Iowa  
**Host Site:** Illinois Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Connie Austin, DVM, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Fredrick Echols, MD

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose to apply to this Fellowship because it presents a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and the needed experience to work as an epidemiologist. The Fellowship offers a variety of activities and training, and the fulfillment of each competency will help prepare me for a career in epidemiology. The guidance of two experienced and highly-trained mentors will also prove valuable as I seek to develop career skills. I am excited to be involved with a program that emphasizes the importance of state and local work, and I hope to have an impact in local communities and the state of Illinois.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After completing the Fellowship, I plan to continue working in infectious disease and waterborne disease epidemiology at the state or local level.

Andrew J. Beron, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Minnesota  
**Host Site:** Cook County Department of Public Health, Forest Park, IL  
**Primary Mentor:** Michael O. Vernon, DrPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Demian Christiansen, DSc, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I became interested in the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because of the unique opportunity it provides for hands-on training in a real-life public health setting. During this Fellowship, I hope to develop and hone my skills as an epidemiologist by pairing the knowledge I have gained through my MPH coursework with the practical experiences my host site will offer. I anticipate a successful and relevant career as an infectious disease epidemiologist and I know that my time as a CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow will give me the solid foundation I need to realize that goal.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I would like to continue working as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local, state, or federal level. Ultimately, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology so that I may reach my full potential as a public health practitioner.
**Dara Burris, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Environmental and Occupational Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
**Primary Mentor:** Mike Van Dyke, PhD, CIH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Meredith Towle, MPH

*Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:* The CSTE Fellowship offers exceptional opportunities to gain experience not only in my subject area, but in a wide variety of areas within public health. It provides hands-on training, and I receive support from both CSTE and my host site for training and professional development. The Fellowship also offers a great mentorship model where I will learn from top quality mentors who are experts in their fields. I am confident the Fellowship will provide me with a strong foundation for a long career in applied epidemiology.

*Future plans after the Fellowship:* Upon graduation from the Fellowship, I plan to either continue working in environmental and occupational health or pursue more advanced education to further my public health career.

**Whitney Clegg, MD, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MD, Rosalind Franklin University  
**Host Site:** Illinois Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Craig Conover, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Connie Austin, DVM, PhD, MPH

*Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:* I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provides a unique opportunity to receive on-the-job training and develop skills in the field of applied epidemiology. Through the diverse projects offered at my site that are tailored to fit my personal interests, I will gain a multitude of epidemiologic and communication skills that will further prepare me for my future career in public health. The CSTE Fellowship also provides training from two highly-skilled and experienced mentors who are leaders in their field and are motivated to teach their fellows. This program is an excellent training opportunity, and I look forward to the skills it provides me to further my goal of becoming a successful epidemiologist.

*Future plans after the Fellowship:* After completing the Fellowship, I hope to continue to work at the state or local level in infectious disease epidemiology and become a leader in the public health field.
Ashley Coatsworth, MPH, RN

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – Food Safety
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Florida
Host Site: Tennessee Department of Health
Primary Mentor: John Dunn, DVM, PhD
Secondary Mentor: Katie Garman, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose to pursue the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because I knew that it would equip me to be an exceptional epidemiologist. It would provide me with unforgettable opportunities and experiences, such as learning how to conduct outbreak investigations, apply epidemiologic study designs, and maintain surveillance of diseases in the community. Additionally, this Fellowship allows me to meet and work with numerous public health professionals and institutions, expanding my understanding of the infrastructure of our public health system.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After this Fellowship, I hope to serve in a national setting in infectious disease epidemiology, using epidemiological research to give back to our communities.

Sarah Conderino, MPH

Subject Area: Injury
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Jennifer Marcum, DrPH
Secondary Mentor: Catherine Stayton, DrPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it will allow me to continue my education in epidemiology while further developing key competencies for working in public health practice. In addition, I valued the strong mentorship component of this program, as well as the encouragement to participate in professional development opportunities. This Fellowship offers the ideal training for applied epidemiology at a local or state level.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I hope to pursue a career in applied epidemiology at the state or local level.
Christine Dobson, SD
Subject Area: Environmental and Occupational Health
Highest Degree Obtained: SD, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health
Host Site: California Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Robert Harrison, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Daniel Smith, MS, DrPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The Fellowship’s strong emphasis on mentorship and the opportunity to train in the applied public health setting at top-notch state public health agencies were the biggest motivating factors in my decision to apply for the Fellowship. In addition, I was excited about the support and encouragement that is offered by the program to continue training in areas of interest and expertise.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I hope that my two years in the Fellowship program will be the first of many years in the public sector promoting healthier living and work environments for communities and workers. I plan to also continue pursuing my research interests in environmental epidemiology.

Heather Dubendris, MSPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MSPH, Epidemiology, University of South Carolina
Host Site: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Primary Mentor: Jean-Marie Maillard, MD, MSc
Secondary Mentor: Jennifer MacFarquhar, RN, MPH, CIC

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CSTE Fellowship is a great way to transition from studying public health to working full time in a public health agency. The competency-based design provides a setting to strengthen my knowledge and skills and ensures my involvement in improving the public’s health via day-to-day activities such as outbreak investigations and surveillance as well as provides the opportunity to collect, analyze and interpret data. It offers an ideal environment to blend my epidemiological education and skill set with my background in community health and health education. Furthermore, the Fellowship allows for the development of mentoring and professional relationships with a group of highly successful public health professionals. These relationships, in addition to the experience gained tackling the unique challenges of current public health issues in the United States, will prepare me for a future in any public health department.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I plan to continue a career in Epidemiology at the state or local level. I would like to continue with an infectious disease focus and incorporate social epidemiology into my work.
Veronica Fialkowski, MPH

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health  
Host Site: Michigan Department of Community Health  
Primary Mentor: Kimberly Signs, DVM  
Secondary Mentor: Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The unique opportunity to gain practical, hands-on experience in a perfect venue to develop professionally and further my knowledge is why I chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship. It is an ideal transition from academia to a career in applied epidemiology because it offers a competency-based structure, as well as the mentorship provided. The Fellowship allows me to apply my recently acquired epidemiologic skills to a diverse array of infectious disease projects under the guidance and support of experienced mentors. I am confident that over the next two years I will strengthen my skills in the many facets of public health and grow as an epidemiologist.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Upon completion of the Fellowship, I plan to continue working in infectious disease epidemiology with a focus area in vector-borne diseases. Eventually, I hope to pursue a PhD in epidemiology.

Mary Figgatt, MPH

Subject Area: Environmental Health - Waterborne  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Drexel University  
Host Site: New York State Department of Health  
Primary Mentor: Lloyd Wilson, PhD, MA  
Secondary Mentor: David Dziewulski, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because the two-year program offers a wide realm of opportunity in environmental and infectious disease epidemiology, unlike any other programs currently available. It is the perfect way to transition from academia to government, while giving back to Americans in need. In addition, the mentorship model will help me build robust epidemiology skills while learning from experienced professionals in a hands-on environment. I will gain experience in all aspects of applied epidemiology, which I will be able to apply to my future career for years to come. The Fellowship will help to assist me in becoming a leader and a successful epidemiologist in order to increase health status and quality of life.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a career in epidemiology at the local, state, or federal level and potentially a PhD in epidemiology.
Brittni Frederiksen, PhD, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health
Host Site: Iowa Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Debra J. Kane, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC
Secondary Mentor: Elizabeth JD Richey, PhD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because I desired an opportunity to apply my epidemiological skills at the state level and see how epidemiology can be used to affect change in communities. The CSTE Fellowship is an excellent way to gain experience working at a state health department while receiving excellent mentorship and training.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I hope to continue to work at the state level as a MCH epidemiologist.

Crystal Gibson, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health
Host Site: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Primary Mentor: Angela Rohan, PhD
Secondary Mentor: Melissa Olson, MS

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CSTE Fellowship appealed to me because it will provide an opportunity to enhance my skills in epidemiologic methods under the guidance of experienced public health professionals. I was drawn to the mentorship model, which will allow me to pursue new techniques and methods that may fall outside of my area of expertise and comfort level. In addition, the Fellowship, through meeting diverse core competencies, builds collaborations with other program areas, which will certainly expand my understanding of applied epidemiology at the state level.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I hope to continue working in applied epidemiology at the state or local level following the Fellowship.
**Kelli Gruber, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Chronic Disease/Maternal and Child Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, General Epidemiology and Cancer Epidemiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
**Host Site:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
**Primary Mentor:** Renee Calanan, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Barbara Gabella, MSPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I applied to the CSTE Fellowship because the program is designed to increase applied epidemiology knowledge and skills across multiple disease and program areas, while allowing fellows to contribute to public health practice in meaningful ways. By successfully completing the competencies and working with experienced mentors and other public health professionals, the Fellowship will accelerate my understanding of public health practice and the valuable role of state epidemiologists. I am confident this experience will make me a well-rounded public health leader ready to take on current and future health challenges facing our communities.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Upon completion of the Fellowship, I plan to work as an epidemiologist at the local, state or federal level. In addition, I’m interested in pursuing a doctorate degree in epidemiology to further my knowledge in chronic disease and/or maternal and child health epidemiology. Ultimately, I aim to center my work on reducing health disparities and increasing the use of preventative services in communities.

---

**Lindsay Hamilton, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases – HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh  
**Host Site:** New Jersey Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Edward Lifshitz, MD, FACP  
**Secondary Mentor:** Rebecca Greeley, MPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I decided on the CSTE Fellowship in order to apply and expand the knowledge of epidemiological practices and methods that I developed during my MPH program. During that time, I worked in a local health department where I was able to experience the unique blending of clinical practices, academia, and serving the public. Invaluable mentors and many new experiences at the New Jersey Department of Health will allow me to contribute to this and future positions in health department settings. This Fellowship will facilitate professional development specific to healthcare associated infections while also permitting me to collaborate on boarder projects within the field of epidemiology.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Following the Fellowship, I would like to contribute to the control of healthcare associated or other infections in a state or local health department.
Shannon Harney, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases – HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Tennessee Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Marion Kainer, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Tim Jones, MD

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** The Applied Epidemiology Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to continue training in applied epidemiology at the state level, where I can interact with local, state, and federal public health partners. Within the state health department, I enjoy collaborating with public health professionals from across different disciplines and programs. The Fellowship ensures a high quality of experiences through mentoring, the competencies, and continued professional development. All of those features are important to building a solid foundation of technical and soft skills as an early career epidemiologist. In addition, I appreciate the opportunity to be involved in data collection and analysis, research projects that can inform policy, and community programming and outreach.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I would like to continue my career as an infectious disease epidemiologist with a governmental public health agency. I would seek out a position that offers the diversity of tasks described above, as well as working group and leadership opportunities in public health professional organizations.

Andrew Kuster Hennenfent, DVM, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois  
**Host Site:** District of Columbia Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** John Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Fern Johnson-Clarke, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** What attracted me to the CSTE Fellowship was the opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills gained through my experience as both a practicing veterinarian and public health graduate student into a single defined role. The Fellowship will provide me with the opportunity to impact both human and animal health concerns at the community level through assisting with both ongoing surveillance efforts and rapid outbreak response. In doing so and fulfilling the core competencies of the Fellowship, I will gain the skills to positively contribute to any public health agency in the future.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** My long-term professional goals are to pursue a career within a federal or local/state public health agency where I hope to improve health at the community level by working to implement control measures for both emerging and established infectious pathogens.
Abigail Holicky, MPH

Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology, University of Illinois  
Host Site: Florida Department of Health  
Primary Mentor: Ghasi Phillips, ScD, MS  
Secondary Mentor: Cheryl Clark, DrPH, RHIA

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provides an unparalleled learning experience for someone pursuing the field of applied epidemiology. I was attracted to the diverse and challenging competency-based curriculum accompanied by the combination of hands-on experience and mentoring. The skills and relationships that I will build as a result of the CSTE Fellowship will accompany me throughout my career in public health and allow me to be a competent addition to the field of Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology. Additionally, the CSTE Fellowship granted me the opportunity to practice public health in a new area of the country and to expand my view and understanding of public health systems.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I plan to continue working in the field of Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology at the state or local level and may pursue a higher degree.

Beth Isaac, MPH

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Columbia University  
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Primary Mentor: Jennifer Rosen, MD  
Secondary Mentor: Jane Zucker, MD, MSc

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose to apply to the CSTE Fellowship for its unparalleled ability to offer hands on experience contributing to the efforts of a health department, with opportunities to engage in both public health research and practice. The structure and requirements of the program will enable me to develop a wide breadth of skills while learning from experienced mentors.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I aim to work in applied epidemiology at the local or state level.
Rachel Jantz, MPH

**Subject Area:** Injury – Drug Overdose  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** Oklahoma State Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Kristy Bradley, DVM, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Sheryll Brown, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose to apply for the CSTE Fellowship because as a recent graduate, this program is a great jumpstart to my career as an epidemiologist. The Fellowship’s mentorship model will allow me to learn from two highly experienced epidemiologists in applying my academic knowledge to public health practice. Additionally, the focus on providing comprehensive training outside my subject area will strengthen my skill set so I can become an effective public health professional. I was particularly attracted to the Fellowship because of the training in drug overdose, an area in which I am passionate about and would like to make an impact.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After completing the Fellowship, I plan to continue pursuing a career as an epidemiologist focused on drug overdose and substance abuse at the state or local level.

Katherine Kendrick, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Global Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Florida Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Danielle Stanek, DVM

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** The CSTE Fellowship provides the perfect transition from graduate school to a full-time career in applied epidemiology at the state or local level. After a great experience interning at the Georgia Department of Public Health, I knew I wanted to continue working at the state level. I was particularly drawn to the Fellowship because of its focus on core competencies, which are flexible enough to allow for exploration of new topic areas and challenging enough to ensure I develop a wide range of skills. Under the guidance of my two experienced mentors, I am confident that the Fellowship will prepare me to reach my career goals.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After the Fellowship, I plan to continue working in infectious disease epidemiology at the state or federal level.
**Brian Lackey, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Texas  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Douglas Proops, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Jeanne Sullivan Meissner, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I applied to the CSTE Fellowship because it seemed to be the best way to transition from graduate school to the world of a working epidemiologist, while continuing my public health and epidemiology education. The Fellowship provides the opportunity to work under experienced mentors who are committed to the professional development of the fellows and opportunities to experience a broad range of public health issues that might not be found in another entry-level epidemiologist position.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After completion of the Fellowship, I plan to continue working as a tuberculosis epidemiologist at the state or local level, potentially pursuing further graduate education in the future.

---

**Rachael Lazar, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, General Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Sarah Braunstein, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Alan Neaigus, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it will allow me to apply my epidemiology training at a local health department and simultaneously develop a foundation in various professional skill areas, such as research, surveillance, and health communication. My hope is that the Fellowship will act as a bridge between obtaining my MPH degree and beginning a long-term career in public health practice. Additionally, the mentorship aspect is unique and an ideal situation for a recent graduate such as myself; the opportunity to learn directly from experts in my field of interest is a primary reason I elected to become a CSTE fellow.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I plan to continue to work in a health department setting in infectious diseases epidemiology.
Sarah Milligan, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Temple University
Host Site: Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, Houston, TX
Primary Mentor: Diana Martinez, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Sherry Jin, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it will allow me to easily transition from an academic setting into practical application under the guidance of two highly accomplished public health professionals. The rigorous competencies of the Fellowship will allow for extensive growth in the areas of personal and professional development while allowing me to pursue my infectious disease interests. The knowledge and experience that I will gain in the Fellowship will give me a solid foundation to begin my career as an epidemiologist in the public sector.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to continue my career as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the state or local level. Eventually, I would also like to continue my education through an epidemiology doctoral program.

Miranda Moore, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Washington
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Fabienne Laraque, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Katherine Bornschlegel, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it seems like the perfect fit with my public health interests and career goals. I have always been interested in working in infectious disease at a state or local health department. I also wanted to be able to apply the epidemiological skills I learned in the classroom to real-world situations. The CSTE program represented an excellent opportunity to do just that, with the added support of experienced mentors and competency-based trainings to further advance my skills in applied epidemiology. I believe this Fellowship will be an extremely valuable experience and prepare me for a successful career in applied epidemiology and public health practice.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan on continuing to work at a state or local health department and possibly pursue a PhD in epidemiology.
Janice O. Okeke, MPH
Program Area: Chronic Disease/Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University
Host Site: New Jersey Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Nancy Scotto Rosato, PhD, MA
Secondary Mentor: Melissa Santorelli, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it bridges the gap between my classroom instruction and real world, public health practice. While searching for fellowships and jobs during my second year of study, I knew I wanted to be immersed in an environment that would allow me to apply epidemiology to real world problems impacting the health of the public. CSTE provided such an environment with the Fellowship’s unique focus on applied epidemiology. I also chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provides invaluable mentorship that will allow me to develop my research skills while learning how to translate data into action. The Fellowship’s unique focus on obtaining core competencies during the two year Fellowship will assist me in building the skills that are necessary for me to become a future leader in public health epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship: At the conclusion of the Fellowship, I am confident that I will have garnered enough real world experience, as well as a competitive skill set, that will allow me to make significant contributions to the public health workforce. My immediate career plan is to continue working at a local/state health department for a few more years after completing CSTE. My future career goal is to further my health education (MD or PhD) so I can ultimately be in a leadership position that will allow me to improve health policies that affect the public.

Alexandra Pyan, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – Quarantine
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: CDC Honolulu Quarantine Station and Hawaii State Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Tai-Ho Chen, MD
Secondary Mentor: Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because of the unique opportunity it offers to apply my skills and knowledge with a strong focus on continued learning. The structure of the Fellowship will allow me valuable experiences that will enhance my career as an epidemiologist. I was also drawn to the flexibility of the program that gives me the day to day skills needed at a state health department while offering opportunities to pursue my own interests and projects. Additionally, the emphasis on strong mentorship will help guide me into becoming a leader in the field.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Following the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a PhD in epidemiology with the ultimate goal of returning to applied infectious disease epidemiology to work with underserved populations or in low-resource settings.
Caroline Stamatakis, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – Quarantine
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases, Tulane University
Host Site: CDC Atlanta Quarantine Station and Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness
Primary Mentor: Christa Hale, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Secondary Mentor: Matthew McKenna, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship because it offers an exceptional opportunity to transition from the academic environment into applied public health practice through the Fellowship’s competency and mentor based model. I am hoping to learn more about infectious disease epidemiology and engage in interdisciplinary epidemiological projects. The quarantine placement offers a unique perspective on the intersection of global migration and infectious disease epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I hope to continue a career in applied infectious disease epidemiology at the state or local level. Eventually I would like to pursue a PhD in epidemiology.

Sarah Lederberg Stone, PhD, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Epidemiology, Boston University
Host Site: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Susan E. Manning, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program because I wanted to put my academic training as an epidemiologist to work at the state level, using data to inform program decisions that improve the lives of mothers and their families. Working with two skilled and experienced mentors, the Fellowship provides the resources for me to learn to use my knowledge of epidemiologic methods and to apply this knowledge to a wide range of real-world situations including surveillance programs, needs-assessments and interventions. As a CSTE Fellow, I also will learn how the role of a state epidemiologist works within the broader framework of public health.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I would like to pursue a career in Maternal and Child Health at the local, state and national levels, working with translational data.
**Lisa Takeuchi, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases – HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
**Host Site:** Hawaii State Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Sarah Park, MD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Melissa Viray, MD  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** As a recent graduate, I felt that the CSTE Fellowship was the ideal next step in my journey towards becoming an epidemiologist. Through hands-on training and the guidance of experienced mentors, this Fellowship provides the best environment for me to adapt my academic knowledge into practical skills. It will allow me to pursue my interests in healthcare associated infections while at the same time gain a broad experience in applied epidemiology through its competency-based approach. I believe I will have invaluable opportunities as a fellow that will foster success in my career. I am fortunate to be able to address the specific needs of Hawai`i and look forward to contributing to the betterment of my community.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Following the Fellowship, I would like to pursue a career as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local, state, or federal level.

---

**Leigh Tyndall, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Environmental Health – Waterborne  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Global Environmental Health, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Michigan Department of Community Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Jevon McFadden, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose the CSTE Fellowship because I wanted to apply and build upon the knowledge and skills I learned in my MPH courses. Having academic and some federal experience, I also wanted the chance to experience public health at the state and local level. The CSTE Fellowship provides the ideal blend of skills, practice, networking, and challenges I am interested in, while also giving me the chance to usefully contribute to my community and ‘give back’ to those who are so gracious to mentor me and help me grow.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I hope to continue my career in environmental epidemiology at the state or federal level once I have completed the Fellowship, perhaps by way of a doctoral-level epidemiology program.
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:

- Oral Health Status of Wisconsin Adults - SHOW Data Analysis
- Minnesota residents’ knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of recreational water health effects
- Evaluation and Enhancement of Wisconsin’s Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Program Surveillance System
- An evaluation of central line blood stream infections (CLABSIs) in Los Angeles County among hospitals who have reported an outbreak versus those who have not using NHSN data from 2009 to 2013
- Vaccine Decision-Making in Marin County, California
- Health Effects of a Harmful Algal Bloom: A Community Health Assessment
- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Surveillance and Illness Prevention
- HIV Health Information Exchange (GAHIE)
- Shigella and Cryptosporidiosis Among MSM
- Meteoroological factors and association with Legionella
- Infectious disease health status of the foreign-born population in Maine
Current Fellow Projects
continued from previous page

- Optimizing Virginia Food Histories for Enteric Pathogens
- HPV immunization coverage among King County adolescents
- Determining patterns of HPV vaccine provider recommendations and patient uptake across Washington State
- Contextual factors associated with human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine administration and series completion
- Latent Tuberculosis Infections Among Young Children in New York City
- Rabies Awareness and Handling Animal Bites for Law Enforcement Professional
- Risk Factors for Hepatitis C Infection among Adolescent and Young Adult Inmates in Pennsylvania Correctional Facilities
- Long Term Sequelae in New York State HUS Case-Patients
- Using a Restaurant Review Website and a Social Networking Website to Identify Unreported Complaints of Foodborne Illness
- California Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Prevalence Survey
- Assessment of varicella susceptibility among Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees
- Responder Safety and Health Plan for the Virginia Department of Health
- Adverse Childhood Experiences and their Relationship to Health Status Indicators, Risk Behaviors, and Outcomes in Adulthood among North Carolinians: 2012
- The Occurrence of Chronic and Acute Stress and its Effects on Pregnancy Outcomes
- Evaluation of the Oregon Oral Health Surveillance System
- Ecological Analysis of Low Birth Weight Births in Virginia
- Rapid Assessment of Evidence-Based Smoking Cessation Program
- Hawaii Preconception Health Indicators Report
- Sunday Alcohol Sales and Traffic Crashes