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 Association (HRSA), and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), 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.

**Program Mission**

To meet the nation’s ongoing need for applied epidemiology workforce capacity in state and local health departments through a national fellowship-training program. The fellowship focuses on balancing three key concepts:

- Providing service to the sponsoring agency.
- Creating and training a core group of public health workers.
- Strengthening capacity in applied epidemiology across public health institutions.
CSTE Fellowship

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 are CDC and CSTE approved, with 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
- 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 three 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 at least two members of a review committee. Their review committee includes representatives from CDC staff, ASPH 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
Gaia Abell, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal & Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Social, Behavioral & Community Health and Epidemiology
State University of New York at Albany
Placement: Louisiana Office of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Lyn Kieltyka, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Tri Tran, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CDC/CSTE fellowship because I saw it as the perfect opportunity to continue my epidemiology training and build on the skills developed during my graduate studies in a professional setting. I look forward to further developing a strong foundation in epidemiologic methods and I believe the opportunity to work closely with a skilled and experienced mentor and get hands-on training in the field is invaluable. I also chose the fellowship because of its potential to collaborate with other established public health professionals and to begin taking on the challenges facing the health of our communities.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship, I plan to continue working as a public health practitioner at the state or local level in the field of applied epidemiology and also hope to incorporate aspects of health promotion and public health education. Additionally, I may return to graduate school for a doctoral degree in public health.

Steffany Cavallo, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
State University of New York at Albany
Placement: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Primary Mentor: Jodie Dionne-Odom, MD
Secondary Mentor: Elizabeth Daly, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it is the perfect opportunity to practice a broad range of epidemiology skills and learn from talented, highly experienced mentors. After some brief experience working in local health departments in a range of public health areas (public health preparedness, chronic disease prevention), I was looking for a way to use my epidemiology education more explicitly while still working ‘on the ground’ in a state or local health department. This, combined with the fellowship’s emphasis on professional development and mentorship made it a logical choice. I’m sure the fellowship will provide an excellent foundation for my career in epidemiology.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship I hope to seek employment as an epidemiologist. My ultimate goal is to work in a capacity that will inform public health policies and programs that directly impact the health of the public. To that end, I eventually hope to pursue a PhD in epidemiology.
**Teal R. Featherston-Wilkinson, MPH**
*Subject Area:* Infectious Diseases  
*Highest Degree Obtained:* MPH, Epidemiology  
*Saint Louis University School of Public Health*  
*Placement:* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine  
*Primary Mentor:* Nicole Cohen, MD, MS  
*Secondary Mentor:* Nina Marano, DVM

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program appealed to me because it is the ideal way to transition from the classroom to the real world of public health practice. With the guidance of two experienced mentors, I will gain relevant hands-on experience, further develop my epidemiologic skills, and be exposed to new areas of infectious disease epidemiology. In addition, having a set of core competencies that guide my experience will ensure I gain the essential skills to become a highly trained epidemiologist. I believe this is the perfect opportunity to begin my career in public health as an infectious disease epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
Upon completing the fellowship program I plan to obtain a job as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local, state or federal level.

**Alex Freiman, MPH**
*Subject Area:* Infectious Diseases - HAI  
*Highest Degree Obtained:* MPH, Epidemiology  
*University of Michigan*  
*Placement:* Kentucky Department for Public Health  
*Primary Mentor:* Robert Brawley, MD, MPH, FSHEA  
*Secondary Mentor:* Douglas Thoroughman, PhD, MS

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provides a fantastic opportunity to apply and develop public health principles in a real-world setting. The Fellowship’s emphasis on competency-based training will ensure that I am prepared to face a variety of public health challenges in the future. Additionally, working closely with knowledgeable mentors for two years will foster my professional development in ways unmatched by other opportunities. I am confident that the CSTE Fellowship will prepare me for a successful career in applied epidemiology.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a career within a local, state or federal health agency related to infectious disease epidemiology. I also intend to continue my health education by completing a doctoral program in epidemiology.
Gandarvaka Gray, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology
University of Illinois at Chicago
Placement: Virginia Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Derek Chapman, PhD, MS
Secondary Mentor: Caroline Stampfel, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose this fellowship because it will provide me with extensive experience in using applied epidemiology to address a state’s health needs. The core competencies ensure that I will be exposed to the range of activities epidemiologists perform in the field. The major project, on the other hand, will allow me to concentrate on an area of particular interest with the guidance and support of my mentors. Additionally, the opportunity to conduct analytic epidemiologic research studies, present at national conferences, and publish in scholarly journals will provide me with skills and credentials that are critical to achieving my future academic and career goals.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship, I plan to pursue doctoral studies in epidemiology in hopes of later contributing to the field of Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology at the state or national level.

Katherine Habicht, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases – HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
Saint Louis University
Placement: South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Primary Mentor: Dana Giurgiutiu, MD, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Dixie Roberts, APRN, MPH, BSN

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the Fellowship because it will provide a smooth transition from academia into the public health workforce, and allow me to build upon the knowledge and skills I have gained through my coursework. The Fellowship will also offer a wide range of experiences in infectious disease epidemiology, including hospital-acquired infections. The structure of the Fellowship, the requirement to fulfill specific core competencies, and the opportunity to work under the guidance of highly trained mentors is what I find most appealing about this program. I am confident that the knowledge and skills gained from this experience will prepare me for a long-term career in applied epidemiology.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After completing the Fellowship, I hope to secure a position as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the state or local level.
**Lizzie Harvey, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Maternal and Child Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Maternal and Child Health  
The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health  
**Placement:** Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Karen Downs, RN, MPH and Emily Lu, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
With the ultimate goal of improving the health of mothers and children, I want to use evidence-based research to inform policy recommendations. Starting my career in public health, I sought an environment to develop my methodological skills in research and data analysis. In the CSTE Fellowship, I found not only exciting opportunities to work directly with maternal and child health data but also professional training from mentors with extensive epidemiology experience.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
Committed to public service, I seek to continue serving vulnerable maternal and child health populations through the application of data at either the state or federal level.

**Kimberly Hekman, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Substance Abuse  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Michigan  
**Placement:** Michigan Department of Community Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Lorraine Cameron, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Corinne Miller, DDS, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because it will provide the ideal transition between the academic environment and long-term career placement. The fellowship offers the unique opportunity to strengthen my epidemiological methods, yet gain experience in different areas of public health under the supervision of two highly qualified mentors. I am excited to work on projects that can help reduce the burden of substance abuse at the population level as well as influence policy change.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After completing the fellowship, I would like to work as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department. I plan to use the skills and knowledge I've acquired as a base foundation to contribute as an active public health professional.
Julia Howland, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Maternal and Child Health  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Placement: 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 I believe that working at the state or local level is an effective and powerful place to practice public health. State and local health departments have the ability to respond to local conditions and needs while accessing powerful government programs and resources. Additionally, I wanted to utilize and develop my research and epidemiology skills. I chose the CSTE fellowship because it provides unprecedented opportunities for personal and professional development while allowing me to utilize the skills I learned in school to improve the public’s health.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship, I plan to continue working in infectious disease epidemiology in a state or local health department. I am also interested in pursuing a doctorate degree in epidemiology.

Lauren Joe, MPH
Subject Area: Environmental and Occupational Health  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology  
San Diego State University  
Placement: California Department of Public Health  
Primary Mentor: Robert Harrison, MD, MPH  
Secondary Mentor: Daniel Smith, DrPH, MSc

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I knew that after completing my graduate program, I would have a strong academic background in public health epidemiology but not much real world experience in state or local level public health practice. I chose the CSTE fellowship because I believe it will give me the opportunity to apply what I’ve learned to a professional setting, continue to learn from seasoned public health professionals, and make contributions to current public health work all at the same time. I have a growing passion for bringing about positive change in underserved communities through state and local epidemiology, and I am confident that after completing the fellowship, I will gain a better sense of how I can make lasting impact on public health issues within California.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the fellowship, I would like to obtain a position as an epidemiologist at the state or local level. While I am open to work with many different public health issues, I hope to investigate and address health disparities.
**Lindsey Jones, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Chronic Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Maryland, College Park  
**Placement:** Tennessee Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Yinmei Li, MD, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** David Law, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
The CSTE fellowship program provides the opportunity to help ground my interests within the broad field of public health. I am excited to learn more about epidemiological surveillance and be exposed to different state level data collection systems. I also chose this fellowship program because the mentorship encourages individual research interests within the structure of the CSTE competencies and the host agencies capacities.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After the fellowship I would like to translate the skills I have learned here in Tennessee to obtain a position as a state level epidemiologist. Ideally, I would like to continue to conduct state-level public health surveillance in the research area of chronic disease epidemiology.

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**Lee Karlsson, MSc**

**Subject Area:** Environmental Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MSc Public Health-Environment & Health  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  
**Placement:** Vermont Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Lori Cragin, PhD, MS  
**Secondary Mentor:** Austin Sumner, MD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
Through completion of diverse projects aimed to improve the environmental health of Vermonters, the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship will allow me to employ and augment the skills and knowledge that I acquired in graduate school. The fellowship will serve as an excellent transition from graduate school to a life-long career as an applied environmental epidemiologist. As a socially-concerned, practical scientist and problem-solver with an inquisitive, investigative mindset, I look forward to working with my mentors in fulfillment of the fellowship competencies and to building upon and enhancing my practical skills and theoretical understanding of applied epidemiology with which to better approach challenges in the future.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I aim to gain nuanced analytical skills through the practice of applied environmental epidemiology and to become an advocate for ideas, programs, and interventions that co-benefit health and the environment. At some point, I plan to continue my education by earning a PhD or DrPH to become better-equipped to investigate and solve the challenging environmental health issues of the present and future for the benefit of society.
Nicola Lancki, MPH

Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Placement: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
New York City Quarantine Station and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Primary Mentor: Paul Edelson, MD  
Secondary Mentor: Chrispin Kambili, MD  

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:  
I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it is a wonderful way to begin a career in public health. It is an excellent opportunity to learn from a knowledgeable mentors who can guide me in applying the skills I learned in my MPH program to collect, analyze, and synthesize health data that is used to improve the health of the public. The competencies we are required to fulfill ensure that I will have a well-rounded skill set that can be utilized to accomplish the goals and meet the needs of public health in the community.

Future plans after the fellowship:  
After the Fellowship, I would like to pursue a career as an Epidemiologist at the state or local level in Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

Jennifer Marcum, DrPH, MS

Subject Area: Injury  
Highest Degree Obtained: DrPH, Epidemiology  
University of Kentucky  
Placement: Nebraska Division of Public Health  
Primary Mentor: Tom Safranek, MD  
Secondary Mentor: Ming Qu, PhD  

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:  
I chose the CSTE fellowship because it offers an excellent opportunity in applying the skills and knowledge I gained from my public health education. I had four years of experience in public health research in academia and was eager to further this experience at the government level in public health practice. This fellowship offers the opportunity to become exposed to many different aspects of public health at the state level as well as providing the invaluable mentor, mentee relationship. The mentors provided by the fellowship will provide me with support and insight that would not otherwise be available. I anticipate leaving the fellowship in two years with skills, competencies, and contacts that will remain with me throughout my career in public health.

Future plans after the fellowship:  
I aim to continue to work in disease surveillance to improve data and data collection methods that will aid prevention efforts directed in the field of injury using all available technologies.
**Hilarie Martin, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Occupational and Environmental Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Minnesota  
**Placement:** Minnesota Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Allan Williams, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Jean Johnson, PhD, MS

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
As a graduate of the class of 2010, my entrance into the field of epidemiology coincided with the confluence of significant social factors – rising health care costs and escalating uninsurance rates, increasing awareness of the presence and effects of pollutants, rising obesity and its associated chronic ailments, and a growing realization of the importance of preventative health initiatives. Together this collection of factors creates a challenging, but very exciting setting for a budding epidemiologist. However, to be effective in addressing the issues of today, I knew that I needed to translate my knowledge of theoretical epidemiology into epidemiologic methods that can be applied practically. I wanted focused, guided, hands-on training. The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship provides graduates with that exact opportunity.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I believe that local public health plays a critical role not only in protecting and improving the overall well-being of a community, but also influencing large-scale public health phenomena. I would like to contribute to this effort by working as an epidemiologist in a local public health agency.

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**Jennifer Merte, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases & Environmental Health  
**Placement:** Clark County Health Department, Washington State  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Michigan  
**Primary Mentor:** Alan Melnick, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Jonnie Hyde, PhD

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose this Fellowship because it will provide great hands-on training in the area of applied epidemiology and the opportunity to work under the guidance of two experienced mentors. Completing the core competencies of the program such as working with surveillance systems and participating in field investigations will complement my graduate school education very well. This Fellowship also allows me the flexibility to pursue project areas that interest me while serving the needs of the health department and community. This is a unique opportunity to continue my education in a work setting and I am confident that it will provide me with the tools necessary to become a leader in the field and work as a highly qualified epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
Following the Fellowship, I plan to apply my epidemiologic skills at the local, state or federal level. I am confident that this Fellowship will focus my professional goals and lead to a rewarding and successful career as an epidemiologist. I also plan to take on a mentorship role and share my knowledge and experiences to guide new professionals entering the field of public health.
Jennifer Meyer, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
University of Pittsburgh
Placement: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Primary Mentor: Mei Lin, MD, MPH, MSc
Secondary Mentor: Venkata Garikapaty, PhD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
Working with a local health department during my graduate school training inspired me to pursue work in public health practice following graduation. The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship is a unique opportunity to gain valuable training while contributing to the health improvement of others. I was attracted to the competency-based approach of the fellowship as it promotes well-rounded training experiences in diverse areas of public health. Applying my formal education in a practical setting with the guidance of two experienced mentors will certainly be an asset to my professional development. The fellowship is an ideal way to start my professional career, and this training opportunity will be invaluable to my future work in maternal and child health.

Future plans after the fellowship:
While my experiences as a fellow will undoubtedly shape my professional goals, I plan to apply my skills and training to maternal and child health issues while working in a state or local level health department.

Katie Miller, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
George Washington University
Placement: Washington State Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Kathy Lofy, MD
Secondary Mentor: Tony Marfin, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
The CSTE Fellowship is an ideal platform to transition from my graduate-level training in epidemiology to a career at the state level. The rigorous training environment fosters the improvement and application of epidemiologic skills in a way most entry-level positions cannot provide. I chose this opportunity based on the dynamic, well-rounded assignments available within infectious disease epidemiology, and look forward to contributing to Washington’s public health infrastructure under the guidance of such experienced mentors.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Upon completion of the fellowship, I plan to continue a career in applied epidemiology at the state or federal level, focusing on communicable disease and surveillance. I would also like to pursue a PhD as my career evolves and requires additional training.
**Kailey Nelson, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Washington  
**Placement:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Minneapolis Quarantine Station and the Minnesota Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Karen Marienau, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Ann O’Fallon, RN, MA

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
As someone who went straight from getting my undergraduate degree to getting my MPH, this fellowship allows me to gain additional experience working in the field of public health. The CSTE fellowship provides an ideal transition from my experience as a student in epidemiology into my career as an epidemiologist. Getting to work with both the CDC Quarantine Station and the Minnesota Department of Health under the guidance of experienced mentors will allow me to utilize and expand on the skills I learned while obtaining my MPH.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
After this fellowship I would like to work as an epidemiologist specializing in infectious disease at either the local, state, or national level.

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**McKaylee Robertson, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Iowa  
**Placement:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Fabienne Laraque, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Heather Mavronicolas, PhD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
I chose this fellowship because it allows me to learn new epidemiologic methods and gain experience through real life public health challenges, while under the supervision of mentors. Because this fellowship requires a mastery of a core set of competencies, it offers an unparalleled opportunity to continue my education post-graduation and a unique transition from a structured MPH program into the workforce through its mentorship model. Moreover, the range and caliber of projects offered seems unmatched by any other program.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
Ultimately, I would like to work as a senior level epidemiologist at a state or local health department. After gaining more public health experience, I would like to pursue a doctoral degree, and I expect the fellowship will greatly help inform my next career choice.
**Jasmine Saadatmand, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
Columbia University  
**Placement:** San Francisco Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Kyle Bernstein, PhD, ScM  
**Secondary Mentor:** Susan Philip, MD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
As someone potentially interested in both clinical work and public health research, I felt this fellowship would offer the perfect opportunity to delve into a research area of interest while providing me with valuable experiences that will help shape my career path. I believe the training and myriad avenues for learning that the CSTE fellowship offers will be invaluable to anyone involved in the public health field. I know that this fellowship represents the ideal transition from graduate school to a public health career. The unique opportunity to have mentors so invested in our progress during this critical transition will help lay a sturdy foundation for our careers in public health.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I plan to pursue further graduate studies in either medicine or epidemiology. In an ideal scenario, I would ultimately be involved in medical practice and public health research throughout my career, working as a physician for a local health department or combining both public health and medical training in pursuit of a career in preventive medicine at the local health department level.

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**Jennifer Sears, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
State University of New York at Albany  
**Placement:** Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Claire Newbern, PhD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Ami Patel, PhD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**  
The CSTE fellowship is a well-designed program that will fully prepare me for the opportunities and challenges of a career in epidemiology. The fellowship provides training under the guidance of two experienced mentors, which will build confidence in applying the knowledge and skills I have learned in the classroom. Achieving the competencies of the fellowship will provide me with the experience and understanding of the core principles necessary to become a skilled epidemiologist. I am fortunate to be placed with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, allowing me to contribute to many areas of infectious disease control. The opportunity to aid the health department in achieving their goals, while progressing through a comprehensive learning experience, is an ideal way to begin a lifelong career in epidemiology.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**  
I hope to continue my career in epidemiology at a local or state health department after I complete the fellowship. My plans also include pursuing a higher level or clinical degree so that I may broaden the scope by which I can serve the community.
Jessica Seay, MPH
Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Washington  
Placement: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services  
Primary Mentor: Murray Katcher, MD, PhD  
Secondary Mentor: Mark Wegner, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
The fellowship will help me cultivate the knowledge and expertise needed to approach complex problems related to maternal and child health. I look forward to having the opportunity to integrate public health theory and practice, and to utilize epidemiologic methods to generate knowledge and inform change. Under the guidance of experienced mentors and with the aid of structured competencies, I believe that this program will enable me to become an effective member of the public health workforce.

Future plans after the fellowship:
I hope to continue working as an epidemiologist at the state level, specifically in the field of maternal and child health.

Erica Smith, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases  
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Placement: Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Primary Mentor: Maria Moll, PhD  
Secondary Mentor: Kristen Waller, MD

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I was drawn to the CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because of its focus on cross-cutting competency goals. Fulfilling these competencies will prepare me not only for work in my own subject area, but also for a well-rounded career in public health as a whole. I also see the Fellowship as the perfect transition from the “traditional,” classroom-based training of my MPH degree into an applied, mentorship training setting. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work and learn alongside experienced mentors and experts in the field of infectious disease epidemiology; building skills that, I’m sure, will serve me throughout my career as an epidemiologist.

Future plans after the fellowship:
Following completion of the Fellowship, I plan to gain a few more years of work experience before pursing doctoral training in applied infectious disease epidemiology, ultimately culminating in a public service career as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local, state or federal level.
Matthew Thomas, PhD, MS, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Epidemiology
University of Washington
Placement: Vermont Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Patsy Kelso, PhD
Secondary Mentor: Erica Berl, DVM, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I chose the CSTE fellowship because of my interest in public health practice. Having had training in epidemiology in an academic environment, I believe CSTE is a necessary continuation of that training in a practical environment. As a fellow at the Vermont Department of Health, I will have the opportunity to learn about the public health burden of hospital acquired infections and methods for surveillance and prevention. In addition, I will have the opportunity to explore other areas of interest including the health policy implications of this work. I believe this fellowship will provide me with the necessary experience and training in order to become a proficient public health epidemiologist.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After completion of the fellowship, I intend to pursue a career in epidemiology in a public health department. I hope to continue working in infectious diseases while exploring the intersection of epidemiology with health policy.

Laura Vonnahme, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology
University of Iowa
Placement: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Seattle Quarantine Station and the Washington State Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Peter Houck, MD
Secondary Mentor: Anthony Marfin, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:
I choose the CSTE fellowship because it is a great way to continue my education in a professional setting. Additionally, I will have the support of mentors that are experienced in the field of public health and I will be able to obtain invaluable experience. As a CSTE fellow I will be able to interact with other professionals and explore other projects that are taking place. This fellowship will prepare me for a career in public health, and will help me focus my area of interest.

Future plans after the fellowship:
After the CSTE fellowship, I would like to continue working at the national level and I hope to be contributing to the area of emerging infectious diseases on a global scale.
Lindsay Womack, MPH

**Subject Area:** Maternal and Child Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
University of Florida  
**Placement:** Florida Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** William M. Sappenfield, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Cheryl L. Clark, DrPH, RHIA

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**
The CSTE fellowship program provides a unique opportunity to enhance my academic background through practical skill development in a supportive environment. The mentorship provided through the fellowship is a valuable resource, empowering me to define my own professional goals, while giving me an opportunity to serve the state of Florida and address the maternal and child health needs within the state. Through this fellowship, I have many opportunities to grow as an epidemiologist across the entire field of public health that would not be available at an entry level position. I know my experiences as a fellow will give me opportunities to become a skilled leader in the public health workforce.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**
After the conclusion of my fellowship, I plan to continue to work towards improving maternal and child health through epidemiology at a public health agency. I also plan to pursue a doctoral degree in epidemiology, and use the practical skills I develop during my fellowship to become a leader within the field of maternal and child health epidemiology.

Rebecca Yau, MPH

**Subject Area:** Injury  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology  
Columbia University  
**Placement:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Laura DiGrande, DrPH, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Catherine Stayton, DrPH, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE fellowship:**
The CSTE fellowship offers me the opportunity to integrate what I have learned thus far in the classroom into a real-life setting. Since my public health training up until this point has been purely academic, application of what I have learned is very important. Additionally, this fellowship offers me the chance to work with experienced mentors and co-workers who have valuable insight to offer. Finally, I’ll have the chance to meet many like-minded people.

**Future plans after the fellowship:**
I would like to continue my work in applied epidemiology at either the local or state level.
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:

- Evaluating the impact of mandatory active surveillance for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in New Jersey Hospitals
- Evaluating outcomes and risk factors associated with pre-pregnancy BMI and weight gain during pregnancy
- Examining the validity of post-mortem blood alcohol testing for assessing alcohol involvement in fatal motor vehicle crashes
- Investigating the role of children in influenza transmission by designing a study using the Vaccine Safety Data Unit
- Leading an investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Selenosis from consumption of a tainted nutritional supplement
- Serving as the lead epidemiologist on a new MRSA surveillance system that was mandated by the governor in Washington State
- Assessing changes in the availability of obstetrical providers performing deliveries
- Evaluating the surveillance of maternal behaviors prior to and during pregnancy and during the child’s early infancy using the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- Evaluating the impact of family case management on low birth weight, very low birth weight, and infant mortality
- Assessing the circumstances surrounding fatal fall injuries in the elderly
- Evaluating an HIV-exposure and partner notification surveillance system
- Conducting an analysis of exposure patterns after a release of methylmercury
- Evaluating a poison control center to determine if the data can predict carbon monoxide poisonings
• Conducting surveillance of passengers arriving on international flights, goods, and other methods of conveyance to prevent the importation and spread of communicable diseases of public health significance
• Conducting tuberculosis surveillance system for migrants (immigrants, refugees, and asylees)
• Conducting a seroprevalence and behavioral study of intravenous drug users
• Evaluating a childhood lead poisoning surveillance system
• Examining the relationship between socioeconomic and demographic factors and type of treatment for colon cancer
• Comparing characteristics of hypertensive children from the Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) database with the health of adults
• Creating a Neonatal Herpes Simplex Virus surveillance system
• Evaluating infrared thermal detection systems as a fever screening tool
• Evaluating voluntary school-based absenteeism and syndromic surveillance program in Wisconsin
• Assessing the exposure of commercial airline flight attendants to flame retardants
• Evaluating Michigan’s surveillance system and reporting for susceptible and drug-resistant invasive Streptococcus pneumonia
• Analyzing and assessing changes over time in low and high risk populations for coronary heart disease in North Carolina