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.
CSTE Fellowship

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 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.

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
- 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 a review committee. The 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
Robert Arciuolo, MPH, CPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University at Albany School - SUNY
Host Site: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Jane Zucker, MD, MSc
Secondary Mentor: Jennifer Rosen, MD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:
I chose to pursue the CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because this unique competency-based training program provides an opportune transition from academia to the public health workforce. Having recently completed my MPH, I sought to enter a work environment that would foster professional development through hands-on experience at a state or local level. Under the guidance of two highly-experienced mentors and a supportive departmental staff, the CSTE Fellowship goes well beyond an entry-level position to ensure just such a setting for the development of my professional skill set. I am confident the program will provide me with a strong foundation and exceptional abilities necessary for a lengthy career in infectious disease epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship:
Upon completion of this Fellowship, I intend to continue my career in applied infectious disease epidemiology within a state or local health agency. I also intend to enroll in a PhD program as my career progresses.

Darlene Bhavnani, PhD
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases- Quarantine
Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Host Site: 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: Michelle Macaraig, DrPH, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:
As a recent graduate, I have developed a strong theoretical background in epidemiology, which I want to apply to current and emerging public health issues. The CSTE Fellowship is an ideal training program for me because it will allow me to address these emerging issues through surveillance activities, outbreak investigation and emergency response. With the excellent mentorship that this Fellowship affords, I hope to further develop my research skills while learning how to translate this research into action to prevent and control infectious disease. The CSTE Fellowship is a highly regarded and rigorous training program in public health practice, and from it emerges future leaders in public health. I aspire to be one of these leaders, trained to address current and emerging public health challenges.

Future plans after the Fellowship:
After completion of the Fellowship, I would like to conduct applied infectious disease epidemiology research in a public health practice setting.
Sarah P. Blackwell, MPH

Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health/Chronic Disease

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Tulane University

Host Site: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Primary Mentor: Angela Rohan, PhD

Secondary Mentor: Murray Katcher, MD PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it will serve as the ideal bridge between my graduate education in epidemiology and my desired career as a practitioner of applied epidemiology at the state level. The Fellowship will permit me to engage in a broad range of epidemiologic functions and competencies, which will further my education and mold me as a highly adaptable and capable epidemiologist. In addition, the guidance of experienced mentors will be invaluable in helping me to navigate the first two years of what I hope will be a long career in maternal and child health.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I hope to continue to work in maternal and child health epidemiology at the state level. At some point in my career, I plan to pursue a PhD.

Megan Christenson, MS, MPH

Subject Area: Environmental Health

Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Host Site: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Primary Mentor: Henry Anderson, MD

Secondary Mentor: Mark Werner, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because of the opportunity it provides to be exposed to a variety of epidemiological activities such as an outbreak investigation and a surveillance project. I was also drawn to the structure of the Fellowship because it offers guidance from mentors and the opportunity to present research findings at a conference. I look forward to working with collaborators at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and other state agencies on environmental health issues during the Fellowship.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Following the Fellowship, I hope to pursue a career in environmental health epidemiology at the local or state level.
MyDzung Chu, MSPH
Subject Area: Occupational Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MSPH, Environmental Occupational Health and Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Sangwoo Tak, ScD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Letitia Davis, ScD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: As a recent graduate, I want to hone and apply my epidemiology training at the state-level in occupational health. Such an opportunity was offered through CSTE/CDC’s Applied Epidemiology Fellowship. The Fellowship will train me in core competencies and skills that are directly applicable to the workforce. Additionally, I hope to be involved with community health outreach and occupational health policy within at-risk communities and develop skills in health surveillance research and program management at the state-level. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to being mentored by, and collaborating with, highly-skilled individuals.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I hope to continue at the MA Dept of Public Health and be involved with risk assessment of environmental exposures on workers’ health, specifically among women of reproductive age and within ethnic communities.

Rebecca Cohen, MPH
Subject Area: Environmental Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology and International Health, University of Michigan
Host Site: California Department of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Robert Harrison, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Daniel Smith, DrPH, MSc

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship provides the best transition between my Masters’ degree and a placement as an epidemiologist at a state or local health department. Focusing on environmental and occupational health allows me an opportunity to study a diverse range of diseases and health outcomes with one commonality: underlying social factors including a person’s environment and occupation determine the distribution of both risk factors and disease within the population. By working with two outstanding mentors, on a variety of projects, and fulfilling a wide array of competencies, this Fellowship will prepare me with the training and expertise necessary to be a leader in applied epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I hope to secure a position as an epidemiologist at the state or local level. In that capacity, I will actively promote the improvement of housing, sanitation, recreation, nutrition, economic and working conditions and other aspects of environmental and occupational health.
Kathleen Creppage, MPH, CPH
Subject Area: Substance Abuse
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh
Host Site: North Carolina Division of Public Health
Primary Mentor: Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Scott Proescholdbell, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I thought that the Fellowship offered a tremendous opportunity to transition from academia to government and gain further applied experience in the health department setting. It provides a unique learning environment that will continue to help me foster and build my analytical and communication skills as an epidemiologist. The Fellowship also allows me to explore a number of program areas under the guidance of outstanding mentors with opportunities for professional development and for getting more involved with local community projects.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I plan to continue to work at the state or federal level in epidemiology with the possibilities down the road of pursuing my PhD, applying to the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service Program, and teaching at the university level.

Kathryn DeYoung, MS
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MS in Public Health, Microbiology, & Emerging Infectious Diseases, George Washington University
Host Site: Denver Public Health Department, Colorado
Primary Mentor: Alia Al-Tayyib, PhD
Secondary Mentor: Arthur Davidson, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I pursued this Fellowship because I believe applied epidemiology is an ideal combination of thinking and doing. I enjoy identifying and quantifying trends and associations between exposures and outcomes, but I also want to do work with a tangible impact on real peoples’ lives. The CSTE/CDC Fellowship provides aspiring epidemiologists with challenging opportunities, training, mentorship, and real-life experience in applied epidemiology. I expect to complete my two years in the Fellowship with skills and experiences that will make me a valuable asset to a local or state health department.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I plan to go on being an applied epidemiologist with a focus on infectious diseases.
Sarah File, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Global Epidemiology, Emory University
Host Site: West Virginia Bureau for Public Health
Primary Mentor: Dee Bixler, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Loretta Haddy, PhD, MS

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I have been interested in applying for the CSTE Fellowship since I started an MPH program and decided to pursue a career in applied epidemiology. The Fellowship provides an unparalleled opportunity to apply the epidemiology skills I have been learning while gaining experience by working on a variety of projects at the state level. In addition, the opportunity to work under the guidance of experienced mentors will greatly increase my understanding of complex public health problems. After completing the Fellowship, I feel that I will have the training and experience needed to practice epidemiology at the state or local level.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I plan to continue to pursue a career in infectious disease epidemiology at the state level.

Tess Gallagher, MPH
Program Area: Chronic Diseases
Highest degree obtained: MPH, Occupational Environmental Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Host Site: Minnesota Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Jean Johnson, PhD
Secondary Mentor: Erik Zabel, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose to apply to the CSTE Fellowship because it can help me bridging that gap between academia and a public health career reach my professional goals. The Fellowship offers the opportunity to continue my Epidemiology training and build on skills developed in graduate school in a professional, real-world setting. The guidance of highly skilled and experienced mentors, along with the completion of core competencies in Epidemiology training, is central to my development as a public health professional. Through this experience I can collaborate and network with professionals to secure a long-term career at the state health level. Not only can I develop my current areas of expertise but I can explore other topics of interest and expand my knowledge and know-how.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After completing the Fellowship, I wish to pursue a long-term position at a state health department that broadens my experiences and skills in helping the public. I am interested in a position that interacts with the public and encompasses awareness of environmental justice issues.
Mark Gallivan, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of Washington  
**Host Site:** California Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Jennifer Flood, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Neha Shah, MD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:**
I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provides a unique opportunity to develop and strengthen skills needed for public health research and practice. The Fellowship’s set of core competencies and emphasis of rigorous training through an experienced mentorship model ensures the fellow furthers their ability in epidemiological analysis. Furthermore, the program allows me to work with a broad range of experienced public health professionals to prepare for a career in infectious disease epidemiology.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:**
After completing the CSTE Fellowship, I plan on continuing my career in applied infectious disease epidemiology at the local, state, or federal level. I also plan on furthering my public health education by completing an epidemiology doctoral program.

Rachel Gicquelais, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** Arkansas Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Dirk Haselow, MD, PhD, MS  
**Secondary Mentor:** Leonard Mukasa, MD, PhD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose the CSTE Fellowship because its mentored, competency-based design allows fellows to experience a variety of the fundamental epidemiological activities that occur in state and local health departments. The CSTE Fellowship also provides fellows with opportunities to network at conferences and supports the development of fellows into public health professionals. The Fellowship will provide experience in many areas within infectious disease epidemiology and public health, which will be valuable in developing my skills and refining my interests as an epidemiologist working in public health practice.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I plan to continue working at a state health department, possibly in epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections.
Michelle Housey, MPH

Subject Area: Chronic Diseases
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, General Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Host Site: Michigan Department of Community Health
Primary Mentor: Corinne Miller, PhD, DDS
Secondary Mentor: Sarah LyonCallo, PhD, MA, MS

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship because it provides the unique opportunity to apply and strengthen the epidemiological skills I learned in graduate school and expand upon them while receiving first-hand experience in a state public health department. In addition to working in chronic diseases, I will gain experience working in other areas of research such as infectious disease, bioterrorism, and emergency preparedness. Finally, this Fellowship allows me to receive direct supervision from two highly skilled mentors and to work closely with other experienced epidemiologists.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After the Fellowship, I hope to secure a position as a local or state epidemiologist focusing on chronic diseases and maternal and child health. In the future, I may pursue my PhD in Epidemiology to continue my education in public health.

Renata Howland, MPH

Subject Area: Maternal and Child Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia University
Host Site: New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene
Primary Mentor: Ann Madsen, PhD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Beth Begier, MD, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: As a graduate of the class of 2012, I am starting my career in epidemiology at a historic time for health care in the United States, where data collection, analysis, and translation are essential for improving programs and policies. The CSTE Fellowship provides the opportunity to develop these particular skills at a local health department and to integrate a theoretical knowledge of epidemiology with practical experience in an applied setting. This process is encouraged through structured projects that span the range of competencies, resources for professional growth, and mentoring from experienced public health professionals. Altogether, I believe this Fellowship will help foster the skills and leadership necessary to respond to the complex needs of our health care system.

Future plans after the Fellowship: My hope is that the CSTE Fellowship will prepare me for career in applied epidemiology as well as focus my research interests for further academic work.
**Nicholas Kalas, MPH**

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Host Site:** Iowa Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Patricia Quinlisk, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Ann Garvey, DVM, MPH, MA  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose the CSTE Fellowship for the opportunity to practice what I have learned in the classroom in an applied public health setting. Under the supervision of experienced mentors, I will get to perform a range of duties within the field of public health, granting me opportunities I would likely not have otherwise had. I feel this foundation of knowledge and experience will help accelerate my development as an infectious disease epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I plan to continue my career as an infectious disease epidemiologist at the local or state level.

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**Jillian Knorr, MPH**

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

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I chose to apply for the CSTE Fellowship because it will allow me the unique opportunity to work at a local health department, while still continuing to build skills in applied epidemiology. Further, one of the most appealing aspects of this Fellowship is the opportunity to learn more about the real world application of epidemiology alongside two highly knowledgeable and experienced mentors. I believe through the competency-based training, I will build the skills necessary to become a future leader in the field of epidemiology.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Ultimately, my future career goals include working for a state or local department of health and possibly pursuing a PhD.
Jennifer Kret, MPH

**Subject Area:** Chronic Diseases
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Nutritional Epidemiology, University of Minnesota
**Host Site:** District of Columbia Department of Health
**Primary Mentor:** John Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH
**Secondary Mentor:** George Siaway, PhD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose to apply for the CSTE Fellowship because it is an exciting opportunity to advance my training as an epidemiologist and gain a wide variety of skills for public health practice. Specifically, I want to develop expertise in using surveillance data and data analysis in an applied setting. I am eager to learn about the interaction of epidemiologic research with policy development and recommendations at the state and local levels. I believe this Fellowship will provide a unique structured learning environment, expose me to mentors who are enthusiastic about their work, and connect me to experts within the public health field.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Upon completing the Fellowship, I plan to continue pursuing a career in chronic disease epidemiology a state or local health agency.

Kristine Lynch, PhD

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - Food Safety
**Highest Degree Obtained:** PhD, Reproductive Epidemiology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
**Host Site:** Utah Department of Public Health
**Primary Mentor:** Robert Rolfs, MD
**Secondary Mentor:** Melissa Dimond, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I felt that the CSTE Fellowship would give me the on-the-job field training I needed to transition my career from academia to a state/local health department. The CSTE program will give me many the opportunities I have been unable to obtain at a university such as conducting field investigations, analyzing surveillance data, and interacting with state and local health officials. Moreover, the CSTE program will afford me the opportunity to extend my experiences and knowledge to other public health personnel to build a state’s capacity to effectively detect, prevent, and control conditions of public health significance.

Future plans after the Fellowship: I plan to pursue a permanent position at a state health department. Specifically, I hope to consolidate my past experiences as a reproductive epidemiologist with the new experiences I gain in infectious disease.
Michelle March, MPH

**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, General Epidemiology, University of Michigan  
**Host Site:** New York State Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Emily Lutterloh, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Valerie Haley, MS

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:**
The CSTE Fellowship appeared to be the perfect means to further develop my knowledge as an epidemiologist by allowing me the opportunity to take my “textbook” background and apply it to public health practice at the state level. Moreover, the competency-based curriculum and the guidance from two mentors in the field were enticing; specifically, they presented a unique opportunity to gain exposure to the various aspects of public health practice, ranging from partaking in an outbreak investigation to evaluating the effectiveness and accuracy of an active surveillance system. Lastly, a change in geographical location was also an added benefit to observe another, rather large, system in action at the New York State Department of Health. It is my goal to become a competent, hands-on researcher via the CSTE Fellowship. I hope to obtain the experience necessary to implement improved well-being pathways as well as to hone those skills that help the general public face the ongoing afflictions of our time.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Following the CSTE Fellowship, I would like to attend medical school where I hope to line up all the dots of my theoretical, applied, and clinical experience so I can use both my MPH and MD to become a state epidemiologist in the future.

Michelle Marchese, PhD, MPH

**Subject Area:** Environmental Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** PhD/MPH, Immunology and Epidemiology, Northwestern University  
**Host Site:** Michigan Department of Community Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Robert Wahl, DVM, MS  
**Secondary Mentor:** Lorri Cameron, PhD, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** The CSTE Fellowship offers the unique opportunity to train directly with the state department of public health. As a CSTE fellow, I am interacting daily with the top epidemiologists in the state, and I am able to contribute to the ongoing research and dissemination of information that influences state policy. Furthermore, the Fellowship offers many different venues for continuing my training in public health through travel and professional development stipends. Finally, through the CSTE Fellowship, I am able to network with my peers and leading members in the field. These contacts will enable me to launch a career in public health.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** I would like to become a senior scientist within the state department of health.
**Ellyn Marder, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - Food Safety  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Tennessee Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** John Dunn, DVM, PhD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Rand Carpenter, DVM  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:**  
I believe the CSTE Fellowship is the ideal venue to apply my graduate-level training while gaining applied epidemiology experience. After having worked at the national level of public health, I look forward to exploring public health at the state level under the guidance and leadership of highly-skilled mentors. The competency-based approach promises a well-rounded training that offers the best opportunity to hone my epidemiologic skills and begin my career as a state-level epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:**  
After completing my Fellowship, I plan to continue to work at the state level as an epidemiologist, primarily focusing on foodborne illness. I also hope to pursue a doctoral degree, using the skills gained during my Fellowship to become a leader in the field.

**Jason Mehr, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases - HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Drexel University  
**Host Site:** New Jersey Department of Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Edward Lifshitz, MD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Carol Genese, MBA  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:**  
I chose the CDC/CSTE Fellowship because it allows for large surveillance based projects while simultaneously taking part in the day-to-day activities at a state or local health department. The Fellowship’s core competencies ensure that I will further my skills as an epidemiologist and serving the community as a whole. Additionally, the opportunity to be mentored by two highly skilled public health professionals was also highly appealing. This Fellowship is an advantageous way to enter the public health workforce and I believe it will provide me with the knowledge and experience I need to work as a public health professional.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:**  
I would like to remain in the public sector while working in infectious disease epidemiology. To further my career I may wish to continue my education through clinical training.
**Catharine Prussing, MHS**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases- HAI  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MHS, Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University  
**Host Site:** New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
**Primary Mentor:** Sharon Balter, MD  
**Secondary Mentor:** Katherine Bornschlegel, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** I applied for the CSTE Fellowship to pursue my interests in applied and field epidemiology. After being exposed to the work done at state and local health departments during my master’s degree, I sought training in the more applied aspects of professional epidemiology and public health practice that were not covered in depth during my academic epidemiology courses. I saw the Fellowship as an opportunity to build and expand my epidemiology skill set, to be mentored by experienced public health practitioners, and to contribute to the work being done by these practitioners.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Upon completing this Fellowship, I aim to pursue my interest in applied epidemiology by working in a state or local health department as an infectious disease epidemiologist.

**Olivia Sappenfield, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Maternal and Child Health  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Global Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
**Primary Mentor:** Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Emily Lu, MPH

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** Being a CSTE fellow has always been touted to me as an incredible opportunity to effectively apply the skills and knowledge I learned during my MPH, acquire new skills as an epidemiologist, and network with local, state, and federal partners to serve my community. I chose CSTE because I wanted to take advantage of these opportunities. In addition, I hoped to learn how to ably serve at the state level from my two mentors. The various skills and mentoring provided by the CSTE Fellowship comprise a unique experience that will train me to be a good team player and a skilled epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After I complete the CSTE Fellowship I am contemplating either earning a doctoral degree, MD or PhD, or further pursuing a career in maternal and child health epidemiology.
Nathaniel Schafrick, MPH, MS
Subject Area: Environmental Health
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, General Epidemiology; MS, Environmental Policy, University of Michigan
Host Site: Vermont Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Lori Cragin, PhD, MS
Secondary Mentor: Elisabeth Wirsing, MPH

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: The CSTE Fellowship attracted me because of the opportunity to engage in a diverse array of projects with experienced mentors. It provides a fantastic transition from graduate training to applied public health practice. I am looking forward to the opportunity to hone my investigative and methodological skills, through which I can build upon my graduate research experiences and lay a strong foundation upon which I can establish my career.

Future plans after the Fellowship: While I know that my experiences in the Fellowship will ultimately shape my future decision making, I hope to continue working in state government on environmental health issues. I ultimately want to apply my skills towards developing state-level policies that serve to improve environmental health outcomes in pragmatic and innovative manners.

Kacie Seil, MPH
Subject Area: Injury
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Chronic Disease Epidemiology, Yale University
Host Site: 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: When I described my career goals to my mentor in my graduate program, he immediately suggested that I look into the CSTE Fellowship. After reading about the program, I determined that it was the optimal way to get additional real-world training in epidemiology, while also serving members of a specific community. The format of the Fellowship offers everything I hoped to experience during my first few years as a public health professional: supportive mentoring, diverse skill-building, and excellent networking. I feel completely confident that I will be well-prepared for whatever type of epidemiological work I pursue after the Fellowship.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Over the course of the next two years, I hope to assist and lead projects on a variety of injury-related topics, ideally narrowing in on an area of focus. After I complete the CSTE Fellowship, I plan to continue doing applied epidemiology work for a large, urban health department.
**Victoria Tsai, MPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MPH, Epidemiology, Columbia 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 the ideal opportunity to transition from graduate school to a professional setting. With the guidance of skilled public health professionals, I will gain invaluable hands-on experience in the field of applied epidemiology. The Fellowship allows me to explore a wide variety of topics within epidemiology, from routine surveillance to bioterrorism and emergency preparedness. By fulfilling the core competencies, I will continue to develop my epidemiological skills while building a strong foundation for my career in public health.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** Upon completing the Fellowship, I plan to pursue a career within a state or local health department as an infectious disease epidemiologist. In the future, I also hope to continue my education by completing a doctoral program in epidemiology.

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**Joshua Van Otterloo, MSPH**  
**Subject Area:** Infectious Diseases  
**Highest Degree Obtained:** MSPH, Epidemiology, Emory University  
**Host Site:** Clark County Health Department, Washington State  
**Primary Mentor:** Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH  
**Secondary Mentor:** Catherine Kroll, MPH, CPH  

**Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship:** The CSTE/CDC Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program appealed to me because it is an excellent opportunity to apply the skills learned in the classroom to real world public health practice. The Fellowship’s emphasis on competency-based training will ensure that I will have experience in many of the facets of public health practice with the guidance of experienced mentors. This Fellowship allows me the flexibility to pursue interesting project areas while also serving the needs of the health department and community. This is a unique opportunity to continue my education in an applied manner and will provide me with the tools necessary to become a highly qualified epidemiologist.

**Future plans after the Fellowship:** After the Fellowship I hope to continue working as an epidemiologist at the local, state or federal level.
Andrew Wiese, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - HAI
Highest Degree Obtained: MPH, Epidemiology, Saint Louis University
Host Site: Tennessee Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Marion Kainer, MD, MPH
Secondary Mentor: Timothy Jones, MD

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I chose the CSTE Fellowship because it provided the ideal opportunity to transition from the academic setting to the public health workforce. Although my direct work during the Fellowship will focus on infectious disease and healthcare-associated infections, the competency-based model of the Fellowship will provide the training and experience needed to address a wide range of public health problems. Completing the Fellowship under the guidance and support of two skilled and experienced mentors will also encourage my professional development and will help prepare me for a career in applied epidemiology.

Future plans after the Fellowship: Upon completion of the Fellowship, I intend to continue a career in infectious disease epidemiology and specialize in healthcare-associated infections at the local, state, or federal level.

Bonnie Young, PhD, MPH
Subject Area: Infectious Diseases - Quarantine
Highest Degree Obtained: PhD, Evolutionary Anthropology, University of New Mexico
Host Site: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hawaii Quarantine Station, and the Hawaii State Department of Health
Primary Mentor: Tai-Ho Chen, MD
Secondary Mentor: Richard Brostrom, MD, MS

Why you chose the CSTE Fellowship: I was drawn to the CSTE Fellowship because it offers the opportunity to broaden my skills in epidemiology, while integrating my background as an Anthropologist. This program promotes epidemiological practice in a culturally competent manner through hands-on training and professional mentorship. My field placement in Honolulu presents a unique setting to explore sociocultural and clinical characteristics related to infectious disease variation among diverse populations. Overall, the CSTE Fellowship’s competency-driven focus, including assessment, analysis, communication, and policy development, will spur my development to become an influential research scientist in public health.

Future plans after the Fellowship: After this Fellowship, I plan to pursue a career in applied epidemiology. I aim to examine the multi-level determinants of infectious diseases, particularly among immigrant populations. My long-term goal is to diminish health disparities by establishing population-specific interventions and informing public health policies.
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
- 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
- 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)
- 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
- 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
- Using antimicrobial susceptibility testing data to identify possible carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella Pneumoniae and Escherichia Coli in Hawaii, 2005-2010
- Evaluating Michigan’s surveillance system and reporting for susceptible and drug-resistant invasive Streptococcus pneumonia
• 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
• Associations between Ozone, PM2.5 (2.5 should be a subscript), pollen, traffic impacts and land use on emergency department pediatric asthma events in New Jersey
• Assessing the exposure of commercial airline flight attendants to flame retardants
• Analyzing and assessing changes over time in low and high risk populations for coronary heart disease in North Carolina

• Creation of “real-time” field surveillance system for environmental health inspection information during Kentucky’s inaugural NASCAR Sprint Cup race
• Incidence trends and characteristics of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli 0157 (STEC) and non-0157 STEC infections in Washington State, 2005-2010
• Evaluation of laboratory-confirmed influenza death reporting through the Public Health Issues Management System (PHIMS), Washington, 2009
• Evaluation of Massachusetts maternal smoking surveillance on MA PRAMS and MA birth certificates
• Evaluating reporting of amputations of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of occupational injuries and illness system in California