Professional Associate – Scientific
Statistician I Fellow
Division of Public Health

This is entry-level professional work providing a full range of services to state agencies in a variety of disciplines. Positions in this class are assigned less complex projects or problems, or are assigned segments of an overall larger and more complex project. Work assignments are characterized by defined objectives and specific guidelines, but require an overall understanding of project design and purpose. The Professional Associate classification is intended as a resource to attract entry-level talent in various fields to the State.

Project Description

Primary Purpose of the Organizational Unit

The purpose of the State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) is to collect and disseminate health data and to provide statistical and epidemiologic support to the Department of Health and Human Services and other users of public health information. The SCHS collects, processes, and analyzes data on births, deaths, fetal deaths, matched live birth/infant deaths, induced abortions, marriages, divorces, genetics services, cancer cases, birth defects, health risk factors and behaviors. SCHS statisticians also access and analyze North Carolina health data collected elsewhere, including data on communicable diseases, public health department services, hospital discharges, Medicaid eligibility and claims, and Medical Examiner's Office data. In addition, the SCHS is responsible for maintenance, certification, and issuance of vital events. The SCHS has a staff of approximately 135 individuals, including epidemiologists, statisticians, research assistants, field staff, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialists, processing assistants, and support staff. The staff has experience with data collection and entry, surveillance of health and vital events, survey design, epidemiologic and statistical analysis, GIS analysis, and customer service.

Central Cancer Registry:

The Central Cancer Registry unit (CCR) was established by legislative mandate (N.C. General Statute 130A-208) to compile, tabulate, and preserve statistical, clinical, and other reports relating to the incidence, treatment and cure of cancer. An additional mission is to support public health research and disease control programs within the state. The information contained in the CCR's database serves as the primary epidemiological tool to assess the overall impact of cancer on the state's population and to plan, implement, and evaluate programs and initiatives geared to cancer control. This unit produces two annual reports and 2-3 special studies per year. It also contributes to promoting cancer control programs and to facilitating research activities in the state. This unit is responsible for the training of local registrars in case identification and data abstracting procedures using pathology reports, discharge reports and other case-finding sources. Under federal guidelines (Public Law 102-515), as the only central cancer registry in the state, this unit is responsible for the timing, quality, and completeness of the cancer incidence data for the state. The CCR also provides data to national organizations (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries) for national estimates of cancer incidence.

This position is responsible for statistical data analysis and management of the Cancer Registry data. This position is also responsible for assisting with annual data submissions, which includes resolution of edits, duplicate records. The Statistician will also:

Support data requests from researchers, state agencies and citizens by disseminating relevant information and explaining the methodology and limitations of the Cancer Registry data as needed.

• Support grant applications and deliverables.

• Conduct data linkages with external data sources for analysis and case ascertainment, such as Social Security Death Index, National Death Index and the Breast and Cervical cancer data

• Respond to constituent's inquiries related to an elevated cancer incidence in a highly professional manner by following CDC/ATSDR Guidelines for examining unusual patterns of cancer and environmental concerns along with CCR's standard procedures and guidelines.

• Assist with annual and bi-annual publications and reports on cancer incidence and mortality.

• Collaborate with the state's Comprehensive Cancer Control program and participate in the Advisory Board on Cancer Coordination and Control (ACCCC) and their sub-committee meeting and work groups.

• Know and understand many data sources and be aware of the continually changing data standards and data management system.

Must be skilled at keeping abreast with all the coding and reporting changes by monitoring manuals and internet sites and must work with minimal supervision.

Manager Preference

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Experience working with health data, including data analysis and management.

• Experience using statistical, analytical, and other relevant software (e.g., SAS, SQL, Excel, Python & R).

• Experience writing reports and publications using Word and PowerPoint.

• Strong oral and written communication skills

Minimum Education

Bachelor's degree or higher in statistics, mathematics, data science, data analytics, psychometrics or measurement and evaluation from an appropriately credited institution