



Region IV Public Health Training Center

Region IV Public Health Training Center Pathways to Practice Scholar Field Placement Program Georgia – Summer Scholar Position

AGENCY: Georgia Department of Public Health Epidemiology Section

POSITION TITLE: Georgia Department of Public Health Intern

LOCATION: 200 Piedmont Avenue, SE Atlanta, GA 30334

AGENCY WEBSITES: <https://dph.georgia.gov>

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1 (Summer 2025)

DESIRED START DATES: May 2025

* Interested students should apply as soon as possible. Applications are reviewed and considered in the order they are received. Submit to Elizabeth Kidwell at elkidwell@emory.edu

Note: To apply to more than one posting, submit separate applications specifying the position title in the subject line. Please be specific in your email *and* cover letter.

DESCRIPTION:

The following position is offered as a field placement through the Region IV Public Health Training Center (<https://r4phtc.org/>).

Note: This placement will be conducted on a hybrid basis with some days in office and some days remote.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency in preventing disease, injury and disability; promoting health and well-being; and preparing for and responding to disasters from a health perspective. Operating across divisions, sections, programs, and offices at the state level, DPH collaborates with Georgia's 159 county health departments and 18 public health districts to ensure the vision of creating a safe and healthy Georgia. This position will be in the Epidemiology Section.

The Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an electronic database used to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. The PDMP provides prescribers and pharmacists with critical information regarding a patient's controlled substance prescription history. It can help eliminate duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances and protect patients at risk of misuse.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this project is to understand controlled substance prescribing patterns in patients diagnosed with HIV. To better understand risky prescribing, the student will learn how to identify the various metrics such as days supply, overlapping opioids, overlapping opioid/benzodiazepine prescriptions, and average daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME), and multiple provider episodes (MPE).

The student will be working on a comparison between people with HIV and without HIV in the PDMP using Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Insurance/Payment type, Level of Education & Prescription by drug class including Opioid, benzodiazepines and Stimulants.

The student will also be involved in the design of a data product (e.g., epidemiologic report, manuscript, fact sheet, presentation, and infographic), as well as conducting data analysis and interpretation of results. The student will have the opportunity to develop research questions; develop skills on critical review of existing literature and engage in analysis of public health data.

THE STUDENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

1. Develop a research question of interest
2. Complete a critical review of the literature with respect to the research question
3. Identify available data sets to analyze for data product
4. Identify the audience for data product
5. Assist in data requests
6. Develop data product plan and conduct statistical analysis under supervision of preceptor
7. Complete data product and present findings

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES/SKILLS STUDENT MAY STRENGTHEN DURING PLACEMENT:

1. Data Analytics/ Assessment/Data- based Decision Making
2. Problem Solving
3. Effective Communication

TRAVEL: No

POSITION TYPE: Region IV Public Health Training Center Field Placements (for MPH/MSPH students)

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

Preference will be given to masters or doctoral level public health graduate students. [Past recipients of the Pathways to Practice Award are not eligible to apply again.](#)

- Please include a cover letter with the following:
 - The semesters you are applying for (Summer 2025)
 - The title of the position you are applying to
 - Citizenship or permanent resident visa status
- Please include a resume with the following:
 - The name and department of your degree program
 - Year of study
 - Expected graduation date
- Please also include the following with your application:
 - Unofficial Transcript
 - Writing Sample

WORK AUTHORIZATION: U.S. Citizen, Permanent U.S. Resident

Citizenship statement: The Region IV Public Health Training Center is a federally-funded program which has a citizenship requirement. To be eligible to apply for this position, you must be either a U.S. citizen, a non-citizen U.S. national, or a foreign national having in your possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the U.S.

AWARD LEVEL: \$3,500 award

* Note: Travel costs will not be covered by the program beyond the total \$3,500 award.

APPROXIMATE HOURS PER WEEK & DURATION: Approximately 10-15 hours a week for 12-14 weeks.

**Students may be limited in the minimum or maximum number of hours they can work per semester based on their university, school or degree's policies. If this work will be also be used as a graduation requirement, the student should verify those requirements and abide by their university policies.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please read the “*Student Scholar Field Placement Guidebook*” for more details about the Pathways to Practice Scholars Program and requirements. It is located on the Field Placements page of the Region IV PHTC website: <https://r4phtc.org/field-placements/>

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the required documents following specifications above (**unofficial transcript, writing sample, resume, and cover letter indicating the agency name and citizenship/visa status**) to Elizabeth Kidwell, elkidwell@emory.edu with the subject line “**Summer 2025 Applicant: GA DPH Epi**”

*PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE AGENCY DIRECTLY