



The Epi Scholars Program

RESEARCH IN ACTION



**A Summer Internship Program at
The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, or
Public Health - Seattle & King County**

THE EPI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Epidemiology and surveillance research have contributed significantly to the many gains made in public health. Although these disciplines improve our ability to systematically collect, track and analyze data to identify trends in public health, allowing public health agencies to transform research into action, challenges still exist in reducing overall rates of disease and mortality.

As one program, in three sites, the Epi Scholars program is committed to expanding the research capacities of urban health departments to improve population health, while providing a training ground for future public health leaders.

Epi Scholars trained at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, or at Public Health - Seattle & King County, will have the opportunity to develop epidemiological research skills, in an urban setting under the close guidance of a senior researcher.

“**The skills I learned enhanced my academic training and the daily encounter with a city government agency has informed career decision-making for life after graduation.**”

— Keri Althoff, PhD, MPH
Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health
NYC Epi Scholar '07

THE EPI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Since 2007, and now with an expanded scope in three sites, Epi Scholars recruits top graduate epidemiology students interested in participating in an applied research experience at a participating local health department.

The Goals of the Program are to:

- Provide high-caliber research assistance for projects that advance the research agenda of the local health department.
- Fill unmet training needs of public health schools by providing students with substantive research experiences in epidemiology and/or surveillance.
- Cultivate future leaders in epidemiology and public health, particularly from under-represented communities.

Students in the Epi Scholars Program receive:

- An allowance to defray expenses for a full-time 10-12 week summer internship.
- Mentoring by some of the nation's leading epidemiologists and researchers.
- Enhanced academic opportunities and seminars in methods, theory, and public health practice.
- Practical experience in statistical analysis using programs such as SAS®, SPSS®, STATA®, or SUDAAN®.
- Opportunities to present project findings to senior epidemiologists, key stakeholders and their peers.

- Opportunities to interact and collaborate with Epi Scholars and senior public health professionals from across the country.
- The possibility of working on publishable reports and thesis support.

THE EPI SCHOLARS

The program is currently open to graduate-level epidemiology students (defined as having completed the equivalent of an academic year of graduate courses or more) from select universities. **For a list of eligible schools and additional information about the program, please visit us at: nyc.gov/health/epischolars.**

Candidates should have:

- Graduate level epidemiology and biostatistics coursework and experience analyzing data.
- Commitment and/or demonstrated interest in applied public health research.
- Potential for future leadership in the public health sector.
- An excellent record of academic achievement.

“**The most important skill I will take away from this experience is the ability to connect the research I have been doing to actionable public health interventions. I was constantly challenged to bridge the connection between research and action.**”

— Lillian Sie, MPH Candidate
LA Epi Scholar 2011

PAST PROJECTS

- **“STD Transmission Within MSM Partnerships: LA County 2005-2010”**
- **“Health Disparities in Emergency Department Utilization: Representativeness and Applicability for Syndromic Surveillance”**
- **“Evaluating the Combined Effects of the Three Components of Prenatal Care: Utilization, Content, and Satisfaction on Low Birth Weight”**
- **“Trends and Disparities in Mortality in New York City: A Comparison of Public Housing Residents with Other Residents of Low-Income Neighborhoods”**
- **“Food Insecurity and Receipt of Public Benefits (TANF): How Such Proxies for Low Socioeconomic Status Relate to Health among Low-Income NYC Residents”**

TO APPLY

Complete an application at:
nyc.gov/health/epischolars

All applications must include:

- Official transcripts
- Completed application
- Updated curriculum vitae/resume
- A personal statement/essay
- Academic reference

For further information, contact:

Email: Epischolars@health.nyc.gov,
EpiScholars@ph.lacounty.gov, or
Epischolars@kingcounty.gov.

The Epi Scholars Program is made possible in part by a generous grant from the de Beaumont Foundation and support from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and Public Health – Seattle & King County.