

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) invites residents and medical students to participate in an **elective in Public Health and Preventive Medicine**. The DOHMH is a dynamic environment where elective participants can experience a large local health department tackling urban public health issues.

Elective participants receive a broad overview of DOHMH responsibilities and functions through field visits, meetings and lectures. They will also learn about the clinician/health department partnership in order to better serve their patients and communities.

The elective provides a unique opportunity to work on a project with DOHMH professionals. By participating in the day-to-day work of the DOHMH, the trainee—whether future clinician or public health specialist—will experience a variety of measures employed to promote wellness and prevent illness in individuals, groups, and the population as a whole.

What kinds of elective projects have been conducted?

- Outbreak investigations
- TB cluster investigations
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- Pediatric obesity prevention
- Condom distribution program
- MRSA surveillance
- Fruit and vegetable promotion
- Physician education on arsenic
- Patient Navigators for colonoscopy access
- HPV vaccine campaign
- Investigation of decline in mammography
- Utilization of pharmacists in HT control
- Surveillance for human West Nile Virus

What other activities are available?

- Field visits:
 - Restaurant inspection
 - Lead poisoning investigation
 - Child care center inspection
 - Newborn home visit
- Grand Rounds
- Journal Clubs
- DOHMH seminars
- Board of Health meetings
- Meetings with community coalitions
- Meetings with DOHMH staff

Residents should be enrolled in an ACGME-accredited residency program. Residents training in programs outside the United States may also apply.

Medical students should be enrolled in an accredited medical school. It is helpful to have completed a basic medical school epidemiology course.

Elective participants are responsible for housing and financial support (accommodations are not provided and stipends are not available to assist with these expenses). Credit for the elective should be arranged by the participant through his or her residency or school.

The DOHMH Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency Program trains physicians to specialize in these fields. For more information, visit http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ph_mrp/phmrp.shtml or see reverse for contact information.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW YORK CITY

In April 2009, the first cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) were identified in NYC among high school students returning from Spring Break. Ultimately, 47 deaths and up to a million cases occurred in the next few months.

Action: The NYC Health Department conducted epidemiologic investigations, provided consultations to physicians, educated the public, and prepared for the subsequent flu season.

More than half the adults in NYC are overweight or obese, increasing their risk of cardiovascular disease (the #1 cause of death in NYC) and other conditions. Artificial trans fat in food, a risk factor for heart disease, is estimated to kill at least 500 New Yorkers each year, more than the number killed in motor vehicle crashes.

Action: In 2006, the Board of Health approved an amendment to the Health Code to phase out artificial trans fat in all NYC restaurants and other food service establishments. In 2008, the Board of Health required certain food service establishments to prominently post calorie information. The Health Department assisted restaurants in switching from artificial trans fat to healthier oils, educates the general public, and helps make fruits and vegetables more available to New Yorkers.

Preventable conditions cause hundreds of thousands of cases of illness and thousands of deaths in New York City each year. New York City is the nation's epicenter of HIV/AIDS and opiate dependence. Health disparities persist among racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic subpopulations.

Action: Take Care NY, an agenda of evidence-based actions to maximize health, was launched. The 10 Action Steps of the program are promoted to the public, health care providers, and policymakers via media campaigns, partner networks, educational materials and tools for health care providers. Indicators are used to measure progress. Take Care NY 2012 seeks to improve community influences on health, reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities, and strengthen the focus on children's health.

To schedule an elective, e-mail:

[**healthrp@health.nyc.gov**](mailto:healthrp@health.nyc.gov)

or contact:

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Elective in Public Health and Preventive Medicine

for Residents and Medical Students

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
and MENTAL HYGIENE**



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Mayor

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Commissioner