

PITTSBURGH SUMMER INSTITUTE (PSI) SUMMER 2025 PROJECTS

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REACH ArcGIS StoryMap Project



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	Samantha Scott	Phone	
Bureau	Health Department	Program	Data Reporting and Disease Control
Practicum Location	542 4th Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>This project will involve work on the CDC-funded Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant which aims to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk, or burden, of chronic disease. A coalition of 12 community-based partners was developed to increase access to healthy foods, physical activities, vaccines, and breastfeeding support. The goal of this project is to assist with the evaluation component of ongoing grant activities, including data collection from community partners, data analysis, and creating a publicly available ArcGIS StoryMap evaluation deliverable. The story map will be used beyond the scope of the student’s project to track evaluation progress annually. Hands-on instruction in ArcGIS Pro will be provided.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<p>PRIMARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REACH Coalition Database- data will be compiled from partner reports to create a comprehensive dataset of REACH coalition activity success and ongoing analysis Evaluation Story Map- Evaluation data will be used to create a story map to visualize and the progress and accomplishments of the coalition <p>SECONDARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to shadow coalition partners to generate success stories shared with the CDC Update or create original content for public awareness and engagement with REACH activities Present at partner meetings and/or engage with other programs within the health department 			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be able to commute to the office, most of the work is not remote Basic knowledge of excel and data entry GIS experience preferred but not necessary 			

Vector Control Project



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	J. Nicholas Baldauf	Phone	412-350-3893
Bureau	Housing & Community Environ.	Program	Vector Control
Practicum Location	Housing & Community Environment Office (3190 Sassafras Way, Strip District, 15201)		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>*THE VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM WILL TAKE <u>TWO STUDENTS</u> FOR THIS PROJECT.*</p> <p>This practicum opportunity is with ACHD’s Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program. The majority of the experience will be spent in the field trapping adult mosquitoes in Allegheny County to be tested for arboviruses such as West Nile Virus. For more information about mosquito surveillance in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania, visit www.depgis.state.pa.us/WNV/index.html.</p> <p>The interns must be available to work from May 5th – Sept. 26th, 2024, on Monday through Thursday for approximately 25-30 hours per week. There is a requirement for the interns to work until Sept. 27th therefore flexibility will be given around class schedule once the Fall Semester begins. A personal vehicle for field work and a valid driver’s license are a requirement (no exceptions). The Pittsburgh Summer Institute is sponsoring 300 hours for this practicum. After the initial 300 hours worked, the interns will be paid \$15/hour up to an additional 300 hours.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<p>PRIMARY ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito surveillance (using gravid & BG Sentinel traps to collect adults; larval dipping) • Sorting and preparing mosquitoes to be shipped for laboratory testing • Database entry of surveillance results • Maintaining the equipment used for surveillance <p>POTENTIAL SECONDARY ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to statewide Vector Academy, hosted by PA DEP Vector Control (2 day educational / training event) • Tick dragging to survey for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease • Public interaction & education (e.g. door-to-door neighborhood outreach, responding to mosquito complaint calls, treating mosquito breeding habitat, neighborhood clean-up activities, educational tabling events, etc.) • Mosquito controls • Revising/creating vector control pamphlets & educational materials • Any other mosquito study that the interns would like to use for graduate thesis/essay material <p>The interns will learn trapping locations from the preceptor for the first couple weeks, and then trap on their own for the remainder of the summer. The interns will assist the preceptor in meeting a weekly trap minimum as set in the 2025 Mosquito-borne Disease Control Grant provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection to ACHD.</p>			



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Specific Qualifications *[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].*

A valid driver's license and personal vehicle are mandatory to transport mosquito traps to and from the field. Mileage will be reimbursed at the Pennsylvania Mileage Reimbursement Rate (currently \$0.67/mile) for the entirety of the internship. The interns must be able to lift 50 pounds and be willing to haul traps in their personal vehicles that may get dirty and have an odor from the bait used to lure mosquitoes. The majority of time will be spent in the field therefore the interns must be physically able to conduct such work for the duration of the summer. A personal GPS device would be helpful when driving around to locate trap sites. The interns will be expected to represent the Vector Control Program with professionalism while conducting field work and interacting with the public. When necessary, the interns must be able to provide the public with information regarding the roles and responsibilities of the program.

HIV/STI Project



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	Jerone Stoner	Phone	412-578-8059
Bureau	Clinical Services	Program	HIV/STI
Practicum Location	1908 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) HIV/STI program provides on-site and off-site testing, prevention, and treatment services to the residents of Allegheny County. The ACHD Public Health Clinic is located in Pittsburgh's Hill District neighborhood. The clinic offers free, confidential HIV/STI testing and treatment by walk-in or appointment. ACHD Disease Intervention Specialists provide health education, linkage to care, and partner notification services to individuals who are newly diagnosed with one or more reportable STIs (HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia). Patients who are 13 and older may receive services regardless of parental consent, insurance, and immigration status.</p> <p>In addition to the services provided by the clinic, the HIV/STI program also provides prevention services via community health education and outreach. This includes distributing sexual health literature, condoms, and other resources at health fairs, giving presentations and leading community discussions around sexual health, and managing a county-wide condom distribution program. The HIV/STI program also develops tailored advertising and marketing for the prevention of HIV/STIs. Lastly, the HIV/STI program partners with other healthcare providers and community-based organizations who desire to increase their HIV/STI testing, prevention, and treatment efforts.</p> <p>The PSI student will have a cubicle in the office space and a laptop with access to the County server and resources. The specific role of the PSI student is to conduct community outreach, assist with managing the condom distribution program, and support the Health Educator with other on-going projects. The PSI student will work with the Health Educator to package requests for condoms from program partners, track the program's condom usage, and provide suggestions for quality improvement (e.g., new/existing partnerships, workflow, etc.).</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage condom supply through orders from PA DOH and Global Protect 2. Maintain the database of condoms ordered and delivered 3. Distribute condoms according to the MOU with ACHD 5. Attend health fairs and community events to provide HIV/STI education and distribute prevention resources 6. Develop monthly reports on condom usage and distribution 7. Provide quality improvement report(s), including suggestions for new partnerships, outreach strategies, etc. 			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfortable speaking to and engaging with the public in community settings 2. Ability to professionally represent ACHD during interactions with community partners 3. Comfortable discussing HIV/STIs transmission and prevention (e.g., condom use). Training will be provided. 4. Ability to enter data into a database and maintain accurate information 5. Must operate their own vehicle and possess a valid driver's license and insurance (Travel will be reimbursed). 			

Recovery Housing Education Project



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	Katie Wooten, MPH	Phone	412-208-0654
Bureau	Food, Housing, and Public Policy	Program	Overdose Prevention
Practicum Location	425 First Avenue (Hartley-Rose Building)		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_ YES <input type="checkbox"/> _NO		Do you have an available computer? <input type="checkbox"/> _YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_ NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>Recovery Housing Education Project (RHEP): The target populations for this project are (1) people with substance use disorder (SUD) and/or opioid use disorder (OUD) who need recovery housing, and (2) organizations and community groups who provide services to people with SUD/OUD.</p> <p>This project involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) researching and evaluating the recovery housing landscape in Allegheny County, (2) identifying evidence-based practices for recovery homes that improve health outcomes, and (3) developing recovery housing tools for implementation by the ACHD Overdose Prevention Program (OPP). <p>The intern will work under the direction of the Overdose Prevention Program Manager at the downtown office to complete the project. Some travel outside of downtown will be required.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a summary report describing recovery housing in Allegheny County. 2. Develop a fact sheet about Allegheny County recovery housing for public audiences, including people with OUD/SUD and service providers. 3. Develop a recovery housing checklist community members can use to evaluate recovery home options. 4. Develop a brief that describes recovery home evidence-based practices. 			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful completion of required first year coursework in the MPH in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences program 2. Ability to travel to different locations across Allegheny County to learn about recovery housing and/or meet with community leaders/experts 3. Sufficient oral and written communication skills 4. Experience with material development for public audiences 5. Prior experience with community outreach, health promotion, or education a plus 			

Environmental Justice



2025 Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health Practice Project Proposal



Preceptor Name	Vivian Feng	Phone	412-258-3502 (office)
Bureau	Health Department	Department	Data Reporting and Disease Control
Practicum Location	542 4th Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>This project will involve work on the EPA-funded Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) grant which aims to improve climate resilience and mitigate flooding in environmental justice (EJ) communities in the Mon Valley region. ACHD is partnering with Councils of Governments (COGs)—Steel Rivers and Turtle Creek Valley—the University of Pittsburgh School of Sustainable Engineering, Landforce, Allegheny CleanWays, and other departments within the County to: (1) develop 15 municipal-level climate resilience plans, (2) fund the design and implementation of 10 green stormwater infrastructure projects, and (3) fund 10 water-based cleanup projects to mitigate water contamination. The goal of this project is to contribute valuable information on health issues disproportionately impacting EJ communities by standardizing how we identify emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations related to climate change.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<p>PRIMARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research primary environmental issues and health effects related to climate change in the county, particularly those in EJ communities • Develop methodology for identifying emergency department visits (EpiCenter) and hospitalizations (PHC4) related to climate change (i.e. air quality, high heat, vehicle crashes due to winter weather, etc.) • ArcGIS StoryMap summarizing aggregate results (The results of this project may assist the future development of a dashboard similar to this one from WA, as an example.) <p>SECONDARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly check-in meetings • Opportunity to engage with grant and community partners to collect primary research on the priorities and needs of EJ communities • Update or create original content for social media or quarterly newsletter related to grant success stories or research results 			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you'd like for the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to commute to the office, most of the work is not remote • Basic knowledge of Excel and data entry • Statistical software (SAS, SPSS, R) experience strongly preferred but not required 			

Fall Related Injury Surveillance

Preceptor Name	Sierra Lookabill	Phone	412-258-3484
Bureau	Health Department	Department	Data Reporting and Disease Control
Practicum Location	542 4th Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>This project will assist the chronic disease epidemiology team in unintentional injury surveillance for fall related morbidity and mortality among Allegheny County older adults. For this project, the student will complete a descriptive data analysis using emergency department, inpatient hospitalization, and mortality data. This analysis will be used to create a data brief specific to fall-related injuries and social media posts for the health department's website and social media pages. The student will also collaborate with the team to create maps and visualizations in ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS StoryMaps to be included in a larger unintentional injury project. Hands-on instruction in ArcGIS Pro will be provided. Additionally, the student will provide data updates to relevant programs in the health department to inform their prevention work.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<p>PRIMARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive analysis of fall morbidity and mortality among Allegheny County older adults using multiple data sources and preferred statistical software • Data brief: compile key findings from the analysis, figures and graphics, and resources or info available to residents to prevent fall injuries <p>SECONDARY DELIVERABLES AND ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ArcGIS Online/ArcGIS StoryMaps to add falls data and geographic visualizations to existing unintentional injury StoryMap • Opportunities to be creative with designing data brief and social media posts for dissemination • Present data updates to injury prevention program 			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you'd like for the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge of SAS, SPSS, R, or other statistical analysis software • GIS experience preferred but not necessary • This is a hybrid position, so the student must be able to commute to the office 			

Public Health Policy



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	Tori Baker	Phone	NA
Bureau	Food, Housing & Policy	Program	Public Health Policy
Practicum Location	542 Fourth Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? X YES __NO		Do you have an available computer? X YES __NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>ACHD is committed to the promotion and enactment of policy that gives every resident of Allegheny County, particularly those most vulnerable, access to healthy choices and healthy communities. To do that we must: work in partnership with the Board of Health to make best use of the Department’s unique rulemaking responsibility under the law in Allegheny County; collaborate with our public health partners across the Commonwealth to ensure that policy decisions impacting the health of the community are informed by local public health; and support and empower municipalities to enact health policy at the local level.</p> <p>The focus of this internship is to enhance the Department’s public health policy work by assisting in the modernization of Department regulations and procedures. The intern will gain direct experience in the Department’s rulemaking process, supporting staff in the drafting of regulation revisions and in communicating new policies and procedures to both internal and external stakeholders. The intern will also research sustainable mechanisms to increase community member participation during the development and evaluation of policy, and work with relevant staff to plan for future implementation.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the policy activities of the Department by performing public health policy research and outlining findings to program managers and leadership. Example projects include briefs on the regulation and enforcement mechanisms of sister jurisdictions and reports on current best practice for increasing civic engagement, particularly from vulnerable populations. 2. Under the supervision of Public Health Policy Specialist, create policy communication tools for a variety of audiences, including area policymakers and the general public, that demonstrate the intersection of policy and health. 3. Assist in adapting existing health and policy materials to reflect changes in Department regulations and to better address local community concerns. 4. Strategize with the Public Policy team on methods to bring the work of the ACHD and public health generally to the attention of decision-makers and the public. 5. Collaborate with program managers, the Public Health Policy Specialist, and the Public Health Information Officer to present health policy communication materials to the public. 6. Other projects could be introduced depending on Department needs 			
Deliverables include policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations, health policy memos, and health policy communication materials.			



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2025 Project Request Form



Specific Qualifications *[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].*

The student should possess:

- A passion for promoting health equity and civic engagement
- Strong research and writing skills: both technical and plain language
- A basic knowledge of government and policy development
- An interest in health communications and in local and national politics
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team

Infectious Disease Epidemiology



Pittsburgh Summer Institute (PSI)

2025 Project Request Form



Preceptor Name	Jen Fiddner & Brandon Doumont	Phone	412-578-8002
Bureau	Data Reporting and Disease Control	Program	Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Practicum Location	542 4 th Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15219		
Do you have an available workspace? x <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Do you have an available computer? x <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Project Summary <i>[Enter summary of project. This may include information about the target population, nature and scope of work, overall project goals, and work environment.]</i>			
<p>This project involves comparing hospitalization and death data in PA-NEDSS with PHC4 hospitalization data and vital statistics for select reportable conditions. The goal of the project is to develop recommendations to guide what data is included in the IDE Program’s various public-facing infectious disease dashboards and other reports and describe differences between PA-NEDSS and other data sources by age group, race, and sex. The project is office based and will be conducted at the ACHD offices on 542 4th Avenue and will involve collaboration between the Infectious Disease and Chronic Disease Epidemiology Programs.</p>			
Primary Activities and Deliverables <i>[List the primary duties necessary to complete the project and any expected deliverables, such as a database, analysis report, presentation, educational materials, etc.]</i>			
<p>The intern will complete security and confidentiality training prior to accessing confidential disease report data. They will develop a SAS program to clean files, create new variables, and summarize descriptive statistics both before and after analyzing data from mortality files and deidentified hospitalization files. The SAS program(s) will also reformat PHC4 and vital stats datasets to remove PHI and enable efficient joins with our public facing dashboard datasets. They will develop table shells, conduct a literature review and compile a list of appropriate ICD codes prior to conducting the analyses. They will draft a summary report describing their methodology (in detail), findings, and recommendations. Finally, they will draft a brief presentation describing their methodology and findings to present to the IDE Program during a staff meeting.</p>			
Specific Qualifications <i>[List any specific skills or resources needed to complete the project, such as access to a vehicle or ability to use specific software. You may also list specific coursework that you would prefer the student to have completed prior to starting the internship].</i>			
<p>Applicants should have at least intermediate level SAS skills and should have completed an introduction to epidemiology course and at least one SAS course. They should have an interest in infectious diseases and be familiar with data management, analysis, drafting report outlines and completing reports.</p>			