



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Physical Activity: Policy Analysis, Health Impact Assessment, or Health Economics

The Physical Activity and Health Branch, Research and Development Team is seeking individuals with one or more of the following areas of interest and expertise; Policy Research, Health Economics or Health Impact Assessment.

The Physical Activity and Health Branch is composed of more than 20 behavioral, medical and social scientists, public health analysts and educators. The branch has three teams, one focusing on epidemiology and surveillance, and one on physical activity interventions that emphasize the translation of science for practical use by partners in state health departments, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other sectors. The Research and Development Team (R&D) is a talented and diverse team that includes the WHO-CDC collaborating center on physical activity which collaborates with international partners on research and training in public health approaches to promote physical activity. R&D members are also engaged in research on aging, mental health and physical activity, and project MOVE which is developing and refining methods for conducting health impact assessments, and cost effectiveness studies. The Active Community Environments (ACES) initiative conducts, sponsors and assists in research on how features of the built and natural environment serve to support or discourage leisure, transportation and household related physical activity. The ACES program has recently expanded its focus to include Policy Research and has just funded the Physical Activity Policy Research network, (PAPRN) a consortium of five universities that will conduct research on physical activity policy.

Examples of recent research in economics include a national and state based estimate of the direct medical costs of physical inactivity, the impact of financial incentives on the walking behavior of older adults (price elasticity) using Stated and Revealed Preferences methods, and the cost effectiveness of evidenced based physical activity interventions. The emerging HIA efforts include assessments of the health impact of improvements in roadway, pedestrian infrastructure and retail design along a busy Atlanta arterial (Buford Highway) and an HIA of a Walk-to-School program in children. Interests in policy research are wide ranging and conceive of physical activity policy as either the dependant or independent variable. Initial efforts of PAPRN include an inventory and analysis of policies that serve to promote or discourage physical activity in and around schools and a multiple case study of walking trail(s). R&D is also leading an expanded case study in Bogotá Columbia which will examine the effects of significant policy and infrastructure changes designed to discourage private automobile use and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transit.

Initial responsibilities for this position would include leading the development of a comparative case study of two walk/bike trails in the Atlanta region.

The ideal candidate would have training, interests and proven abilities in one or more of the three areas, training and experience in public health and physical activity research is desirable but not required. Also desirable is a proven record of research, publication and collaboration on interdisciplinary teams. The current position is a 2 year visiting position. Successful candidates for this position may later apply for full-time permanent CDC staff positions which may become available in the future. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience.

Interested parties should send a resume via email to John Davis at JM Davis@CDC.GOV . Paper copies may be addressed to: John Davis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCCDPHP, PAHB, 4770 Buford Highway Mail Stop K 46, Atlanta Ga. 30341 (770 488 5659)