

# Epidemiology Elective Program (EEP)

Through the Epidemiology Elective Program (EEP), medical and veterinary students are available to assist on applied epidemiology, public health, and global health projects. Through this public health service, student clinicians gain a public health perspective that influences their career choices and practice.

In 1975, CDC initiated EEP for senior medical students to increase awareness of and interest in public health and epidemiology. In 1982, the program added veterinary students. During **6- or 8-week rotations**, students help investigate real-world public health problems such as infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, chronic diseases, and poor access to healthcare. They collaborate with other public health professionals on these investigations, often working closely with **Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers**—CDC's "disease detectives."



## Our Services

- Introduce **medical and veterinary students** to applied epidemiology, public health, and global health.
- Develop skills through **hands-on experience**.
- Connect some students with experienced **CDC subject matter experts** as mentors to help them
  - ✓ Participate in surveillance of a disease, injury, or other health condition
  - ✓ Analyze health data to identify new risk factors for disease
  - ✓ Assist in the field to investigate an outbreak
  - ✓ Contribute to CDC publications and guidelines of major public health importance

EEP enrolls **medical and veterinary students**. The program is conducted in **collaboration** with

- CDC programs
- National Park Service
- Indian Health Service
- State and local health departments
- Schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, American Osteopathic Association, and American Veterinary Medical Association.

More than **1,950**  
**medical and veterinary students**  
have enrolled in EEP



## Our Work

- Arrange for **60 to 70 medical and veterinary students** each year to get hands-on experience working on a priority health problem in a CDC program, National Park Service, Indian Health Service, or state/local health department assignment.
- Complement and **work with other CDC fellowships**, especially EIS.
- Follow students after they graduate and **evaluate their contributions** to EIS, CDC, and public health.

## Our Impact

- **Graduates become our nation's health leaders.**  
Many EEP students go on to careers protecting the public's health. This career path may begin with their participation in the postdoctoral EIS fellowship. Many have become CDC Preventive Medicine Residents, certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

- **EEP sets an example for efficient use of training resources.** We begin the process of applied epidemiology training within CDC. Our students participate in short-term epidemiology projects, attend CDC presentations and EIS seminars, assist EIS officers in the field (including Epi-Aid investigations), and coauthor scientific articles. Some go on to more indepth training as EIS officers.

### EEP funnels young talent into the public health workforce



Since 1975, **226** graduates have joined **EIS**  
More than **60%** of them started **public health** careers  
More than **40%** of those joined the **CDC** workforce



*"I have been on the fence about whether I want to pursue EIS, and this elective has made me realize the EIS is definitely in my future."*  
~2015 EEP veterinary student

*"During my assignment, I worked alongside a variety of public health experts who were dedicated to public service and mentorship. [My EEP rotation] was an inspiring introduction to the world of applied epidemiology."*  
~2017 EEP medical student