Preventive Medicine Residency and Fellowship (PMR/F)

For more than 40 years, the PMR/F programs have developed public health leaders skilled in program evaluation and management, policy analysis and development, and community health improvement. The PMR/F service learning experiences strengthen participants’ abilities to bridge medicine and public health. Graduates are prepared to provide leadership in disease prevention and health promotion at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels, as well as internationally.

Our Work

- Develop the **leadership and management skills** necessary for population health leaders by coordinating the

  - **Preventive Medicine Residency (PMR),** established in 1972, which has a 24-month track for physicians without an MPH and a 12-month track for those with an MPH

  - **Preventive Medicine Fellowship (PMF),** a 12-month fellowship established in 1983 for nurses, veterinarians, and dentists with an MPH

  - **Population Health Training in Place Program,** established in 2015 for physicians and doctoral-level learners to develop leadership and management skills in population health practice while remaining in their jobs.

- Provide **training opportunities** that focus on growing and applying critical leadership skills needed for policy development, program evaluation, and community health improvement.

PMR/F learners include

- Selected Epidemic Intelligence Service graduates (physicians and veterinarians) and other comparably trained professionals

- Other health professionals—nurses, dentists, physician assistants, and international medical graduates.

To develop leaders in public and population health, PMR/F works in partnership with

- Federal, state, local, and tribal health departments

- Public and population health stakeholders

- Private and nongovernment organizations.
Our Expertise

- **Recruit and place** top applicants in public health, health care, and community health settings where they are mentored by experienced practitioners.

- **Maintain a high-quality curriculum** and supervised practical experience to expand leadership skills needed to develop efficient, effective, and sustained public and population health programs that improve community health.

- **Provide global leadership** in the field of preventive medicine education.

- **Collaborate with capacity development** initiatives at CDC and other organizations to strengthen the public and population health workforce.

Our Impact

- **We’re addressing a critical shortage of preventive medicine physicians.** A 2007 Institute of Medicine report found that the nation needs more trained public health workers, including public health and preventive medicine physicians. Through the PMR/F, CDC offers opportunities for health professionals to train in a high-demand specialty and provide a vitally needed service to communities and the nation.

- **We develop leaders in population health.** Residents and fellows learn to design, launch, and assess public health programs, develop or analyze health policy, or conduct a community health improvement project. Some work at CDC, while others play critical roles in state and local health departments, at universities, or in private sector agencies. In 2015, we launched a new professional development program—the Population Health Training in Place Program—for CDC staff to develop leadership and management capacity to improve health care, lower patient costs, and improve the health of populations.

- **Ours is the only nonmilitary federal-level preventive medicine residency.** We provide a unique training program for medical graduates who want to pursue careers in population health. The PMR meets the residency requirement of the American Board of Preventive Medicine for the public health and general preventive medicine specialty.

As part of his PMF experience, Ernie Sullivent was assigned to the Aerial Distribution of Rabies Vaccine for the Regional Rabies Control program in the Texas Department of State Health Services. He evaluated the agency’s oral rabies vaccination program in south, central, and west Texas. His evaluation showed that this program effectively eliminated rabies in the coyote and gray fox populations. This activity has prevented an estimated 2,600 cases of rabies in wild animals a year. There were two human deaths from rabies before the program began; there have been no cases of human rabies since.