Job Description: Research Assistant

Project: Developing Community Partnerships to Support Neighborhood Health Data

Funder: WUSTL Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS)

Partners: City of St Louis Dept of Health, St Louis County Dept of Public Health, Regional Health Commission, WUSM Infectious Disease, WUSTL Brown School, & Institute for Public Health, UMSL’s Regional Data Alliance

Details: August - November 2022, 20 hours a week, $15/hour

Background St. Louis is lacking an important tool to address health inequities: access to quality data that can accurately describe them. Our region suffers from high rates of violence, chronic disease, and sexually transmitted infections; yet we don’t know exactly where and to whom resources and interventions should be targeted. This data gap has been frustrating regional providers and researchers for years, but the Covid-19 pandemic showed the work could be done. We seek to build upon this collaborative momentum by establishing a regional health data platform, beginning with sexual health data, that places communities most affected by health inequities at the center, and is governed collaboratively.

Sharing patient data across institutions, and using it for public health & research purposes, requires a robust data governance strategy and framework. This kind of governance typically identifies a set of principles, standards, and practices for using data that accounts for all legal and regulatory requirements. Additional work to ensure the data asset is community-centered (e.g. partnerships, processes) must be undertaken.

Job Responsibilities

- Research legal strategies & frameworks from other cities for sharing and utilizing health data and integrated data systems for public health/community health. Examples and resources include:
  - https://camdenhealth.org/connecting-data/cross-sector-data/
  - https://iphd.rutgers.edu/data
  - https://dashconnect.org

- Summarize findings, capturing key features (including data sharing agreements, formalized partnerships, data hubs, and data access procedures) for each example and highlighting applicability to STI project

- Develop presentation materials for a November 2022 stakeholder meeting

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