



# Ohio Policy Evaluation Network

## Post-doctoral Researcher Announcement

We are pleased to announce a new post-doctoral research position with the Ohio Policy Evaluation Network (OPEN). OPEN conducts rigorous, impactful, and forward thinking social-science research on the reproductive health of Ohioans. Our program is comprised of multiple interdisciplinary research projects which assess reproductive health outcomes, equity, access, cost, and autonomy in the context of federal and state laws and policies. The team includes faculty, staff, and students from Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, Case Western Reserve University, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

### Details

We seek an exceptional scholar with a strong background and interest in reproductive health research, including infant and maternal mortality, policy, contraception, and abortion. This position will provide post-doctoral research training and support (per NIH postdoctoral fellow salary rates) for one year, renewable for a second year upon satisfactory performance. The position also includes funds for travel to conferences for research dissemination and professional development. Specifically, the OPEN post-doctoral researcher will work under the mentorship of two OPEN investigators and will make contributions to the OPEN research program, collecting and managing data, conducting analyses and collaborating on writing manuscripts. In addition, the post-doctoral researcher will be engaged with OPEN's activities in research dissemination and policy engagement, training, and building and expanding a network of scholars in Ohio and surrounding states.

The OPEN post-doctoral researcher will be based at Ohio State's main Columbus campus, and will divide their effort between two related projects within OPEN. *The distribution of abortion in Ohio* (led by Dr. Alison Norris) will examine past and present population-level shifts in abortion provision, with special attention to change over time, geographic variation, and groups of women who may be underserved using state-collected data as well as medical chart review. *Systems dynamic modeling of infant and maternal mortality* (led by Dr. Ayaz Hyder) will utilize a systems modeling approach to understand the impacts of contraception and access to contraception and reproductive health services on birth outcomes and infant and maternal mortality in Ohio.

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants are US citizens or permanent residents specializing substantively in reproductive health, who have earned a PhD or equivalent degree before the onset of this position. OPEN recognizes the strength that results from a diverse team, and applicants are encouraged to articulate which identities, backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences they will bring to our team. Candidates belonging to under-represented populations, which may include African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and individuals who come from rural areas or were first-generation college students, are especially encouraged to apply. In addition, preference will be given to candidates from Ohio with strong intentions to remain in or seek work in the region after training, as well as those

who plan to focus on reproductive health policy-relevant research. OPEN does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.

Required experience and characteristics include abilities to manage multiple sites or projects at once; excellent written and verbal communication skills; an ability to multi-task and function independently; good decision making and leadership qualities; strong networking and outreach skills; effective community relation skills; and a strong desire to advance public health knowledge in Ohio. Preferred experience and characteristics include having skills in medical data extraction including chart reviews, and using state and federal datasets from vital statistics and surveys (e.g., birth certificates, PRAMS). Additional preferred experience includes conducting group model building workshops or experience with similar types of collaborative model building exercises; knowledge of software for development and calibration of system dynamics models (e.g., Vensim, Forio, AnyLogic or R); knowledge of reproductive health and perinatal epidemiology concepts; experience in qualitative methods; basic knowledge of reproductive health landscape in Ohio or similar states; and experience with grant-funded projects. Training in systems science and modeling approaches will be provided to the selected candidate based on their level of expertise in systems science methods.

### **Process**

OPEN will accept applications between April 15 and May 15, 2018. The committee will invite select candidates to formal interviews in May 2018, with a final offer by the end of May (start date Summer/Fall 2018). Applications consist of: (1) a letter expressing specific interest in reproductive health research, details about training and work experiences to date, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) one writing sample, and (4) contact information for two academic references.

Beginning April 15, 2018 please send your application package to Dr. Abigail Norris Turner (ant@osumc.edu), Director of the OPEN Training Core. Dr. Turner will acknowledge receipt of all applications. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours of submission, please re-contact Dr. Turner to verify receipt.

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