



State Hygienic Laboratory

Intern/Practicum Project

Location: Coralville

Project Title: Regression analysis using SAS or R to describe the relationship between STD risk factors and multiple test results

Describe the project/work to be completed:

SHL tests for many different STDs for both screening and diagnostic purposes. Different test methods are run in different sections using different methods, from separate specimens and data collection. One of our test method collects a lot of information on various risk factors. Some of these same patients are tested for multiple other tests at the same time. We will be specifically looking at results from Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoea, Trichomonas vaginalis using Transcription Mediated Assay (TMA), Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) types 1 & 2 using PCR, Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV), and Syphilis tests-Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) and Treponema Pallidum Particle Agglutination Assay (TPPA).

We would like to see how these risk factors, facility location or type, correlate to other tests results, dual or possibly even multi-infections. This information could be used to determine better testing algorithms or the need for specific panels of tests.

Number of hours per week: 8-10

Desired Project Period: Summer or Fall

Type of position: Practicum

Desired Skills:

Working towards Masters in Public Health or equivalent and experience with SAS or R or current enrollment in a statistical analysis course.

Mentor:

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Additional Justification:

This project is suitable for a graduate level practicum or preceptorship, but could work for any student with experience using statistical analysis software. This project should produce a poster as well as a public health recommendation for testing or an improved public health testing algorithm.