Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Temporary (up to 2 years)
Epidemiologist (GS-0601(31) – 13)

POSITION LOCATION: Rockville, MD

About the Center

This position is in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ). SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

- Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ) is the lead Federal government agency for behavioral health data and research.
- CBHSQ coordinates an integrated data strategy, which includes collecting data each year on various forms of mental illness and substance use.
- CBHSQ promotes basic and applied research in behavioral health data systems and statistical methodology, designs and carries out special data collection and analytic projects to examine issues for SAMHSA and other federal agencies and participates with other federal agencies in developing national health statistics policy.
- CBHSQ is designated as a Federal Statistical Unit and complies with the November 2014 OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 1, and its data collection authority/mandate is from Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290).

More about the CBHSQ: https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/offices-centers/cbhsq
To learn more about CBHSQ responsibilities, please check out its latest data dissemination activities: https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect

About the job:

In 2009, 14 percent of admissions aged 12 years or older were for primary heroin use and the percent increased to 24 percent for primary heroin use in 2019[1]. About a third (between 30 and 36 percent) of all individuals who received mental health services in the 2014 through 2019 reporting periods were in the South[2]. These figures are reported from the data collected by

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[1] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS): 2019. Admissions to and Discharges from Publicly Funded Substance Use Treatment. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2021

[2] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. Mental Health Annual Report: 2014–2019. Use of Mental Health Services: National Client-Level Data. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2021.

CBHSQ. To function optimally within our role as the surveillance and statistical unit of SAMHSA, it is imperative to dive deep into our several data collection efforts to assist leadership in providing scientific evidence for appropriate policy implementation.

The purpose of this position is to serve as an epidemiologist responsible for carrying out a full range of complex epidemiologic and surveillance activities for CBHSQ. In addition, incumbent will have responsibility for providing technical consultation and assistance to CBHSQ concerning epidemiological projects for the data collection tools.

Major duties and responsibilities:

- Serves as the technical expert with respect to all phases of statistical interpretation relating to epidemiologic topics for mental health and substance use under consideration in CBHSQ.

- Uses established, modified, and newly developed scientific and technical methods and practices for epidemiologic analysis using CBHSQ's data as a surveillance activity.

- Provides advice and assistance in the development and methods and strategies for obtaining and using substance use and mental health data to identify areas and population at risk.

- Participates with statisticians, data analysts and public health advisors to advise and consult on various aspects of the mental health and substance use data collected by CBHSQ.

- Identifies and analyzes behavioral health issues and their impact on public policies to meet SAMHSA's priorities.

- Develops and coordinates the sharing of behavioral health related educational or informational materials so that scientific advice and assistance is shared.

- Assists in the writing of comprehensive statistical and analytic reports from major studies or continuing projects that require the use of behavioral health demographic, and/or epidemiologic analytic techniques and data evaluation.

- Collaborates with analysts and statisticians to develop joint analyses and publications.

- Prepares comprehensive reports of national mental health and substance use surveillance analyses which include discussion of substantive behavioral health issues and research objectives.

- Assesses the adequacy and quality of data used in the analyses; and explanation of the methodologies, results, and relevance to health issues as they relate to the epidemiological problem under study.

- Disseminates results of behavioral health projects in a wide range of venues including but not restricted to publications, peer reviewed journals, summaries, manuscripts, and special reports.

- Presents results to the scientific community at professional meetings and conferences.

Educational and experience requirements:

A master's degree with a focus in epidemiology, health geography, biostatistics or demography and 3+ years of experience in a public health agency.
OR
Ph.D. in epidemiology, health geography, biostatistics, or demography.
Advanced experience in SAS or R or STATA.
Intermediate to advanced experience in data visualization tools: ArcGIS (preferred) and/or Tableau.
Knowledge of behavioral health and behavioral health policies.
Strong communication skills (Written and oral).
Data analysis, and/or data visualization.
Ability to conceptualize, organize, and prioritize work.

This position is being filled through Direct Hire Authority for this occupation and is open to all US Citizens. As such, all applicants who meet the OPM Public Health Advisor requirements and the minimum specialized experience qualifications stated in this announcement will be referred to hiring managers for further consideration.

This is a temporary excepted service position at grade level GS-13. This appointment is for up to 2 years.
To be qualified for GS-13 the applicants must have at least one year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the GS-12 in the Federal service as defined in the next paragraph.
Specialized experience is experience which is directly related to the position which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) to successfully perform the duties of the position to include experience identifying and analyzing public health issues and their impact on public policies, scientific studies or surveys; and/or providing scientific advice and technical assistance to various public, private, and/or nonprofit health-related agencies. Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

Your qualifications will be evaluated on the following competencies (knowledge, skills, abilities and other characteristics).
Data Management, Analysis, and Interpretation, Epidemiological Knowledge,

Informatics, Oral Communication, Professional Communications, behavioral health research, Surveillance Systems, Written Communication.

Location: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
                  5600 Fishers Lane
                  Rockville, MD 20857

Telework/remote work is available/required depending on the status of the COVID 19 pandemic and the specific role being filled.

How to apply:

Please submit your resume, cover letter and a writing sample via email: Ms. Alison Gibson Alison.Gibson@SAMHSA.hhs.gov or Ms. Christal Cephas Christal.Cephas@SAMHSA.hhs.gov using subject line *"Epidemiologist Position: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA"* by Noon EST September 30, 2021.

In describing your work history, please clearly state all the relevant experience in your resume that should be taken into consideration. **Make sure your federal resume includes**: Dates, hours per week, level of experience and examples for each position held or work experience. Volunteer work and roles in community organizations. Numbers to highlight your accomplishments

Important requirement: For more information on how to develop a federal resume see: https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/application/documents/resume/what-to-include/.

We look forward to reviewing all resumes!