

Research Coordinator - Public Health and Community
Medicine, School of Medicine
Tufts University

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Posted Jan. 17, 2020, set to expire May 31, 2020

Job Title Research Coordinator - Public Health and Community
Medicine, School of Medicine

Department

Institution Tufts University
Boston, Massachusetts

Date Posted Jan. 17, 2020

Application Deadline Open until filled

Position Start Date Available immediately

Job Categories Research Scientist/Associate

Academic Field(s) Public Health/Biostatistics/Epidemiology

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Job Description

This is a limited term position with an end date of 2024. This is also a grant funded position and is not eligible for severance pay.

The Department of Public Health and Community Medicine is an academic department within the Tufts University School of Medicine located on the Health Sciences Campus in Boston. Technical and academic assets within the department provide a strong research support system for federally-funded research. Its 30 full-time faculty members hold advanced degrees in epidemiology, biostatistics, sociology, anthropology, law, medicine, nutrition, biology, engineering, health policy, economics, social policy, education, social work, and the behavioral sciences. Department research includes a focus on the following thematic areas: health equity, health communication, nutrition and infection, infectious disease epidemiology, health policy and health care delivery, environmental health, the opioid epidemic, and global health. Department faculty are methodologically strong and diverse, with expertise in biostatistics, survey research, program evaluation, qualitative methods, dietary

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assessment and spatial epidemiological analysis.

A major driver of the U.S opioid crisis is limited access to effective medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) that reduce overdose. Traditionally, jails and prisons in the U.S. do not initiate or maintain MOUD for inmates with OUD prior to their return to the community, which places them at high risk for fatal overdose. A 2018 law (“Chapter 208”) made Massachusetts (MA) the first state to mandate that five county jails deliver all FDA-approved MOUDs (extended-release naltrexone [XR-NTX] buprenorphine-naloxone [BUP-NX], and methadone). Chapter 208 establishes a 4-year pilot program to expand all FDA-approved forms of MOUD at five county jails; two more county jails in MA voluntarily joined this initiative. The law stipulates that MOUD be maintained in individuals receiving it prior to detention and initiated prior to release among sentenced inmates where appropriate. The seven jails must also facilitate continuation of the medication in the community on release. The Massachusetts Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network proposes to partner with these seven diverse jails and community treatment providers to conduct a Type 1 hybrid effectiveness-implementation study of Chapter 208. We will: (1) Perform a longitudinal treatment outcome study among inmates with OUD who receive XR-NTX, BUP-NX, methadone, or no MOUD in jail utilizing MA’s powerful and innovative Public Health Data Warehouse, a collection of over two dozen linked state administrative data sets, to examine post-release MOUD initiation, engagement and retention, as well as fatal and non-fatal overdose and recidivism. Propensity score methods will adjust for selection effects. (2) Conduct an implementation study that will incorporate qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand contextual factors that facilitate and impede delivery of MOUDs in jail and community care coordination, and best practice strategies that optimize MOUD delivery in jail and coordinated care with community partners. (3) Calculate the cost to the correctional system of implementing MOUD in jail, and conduct an economic evaluation from state-policymaker and societal perspectives to compare the value of MOUD prior to release from jail to no MOUD among matched controls. The Mass JCOIN team, in collaboration with the MA Department of Public Health, seven MA county jails and community treatment partners, has the experience and expertise to fulfill the study aims. The Chapter 208 initiative has important implications for future policy and practice in the justice and OUD treatment systems at the local, state, and national levels. This study’s insights into Chapter 208’s implementation will inform the efficient development of future strategies to address OUDs in jail populations nationwide.

Assists with data entry focused on MOUD initiation and adherence in Houses of Correction in Eastern Massachusetts: data extraction and data entry using study instruments provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH); data management; transfer of data from HOCs to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) with MDPH; assistance with ACASI surveys; collaboration with local HOC staff and leadership; regular meetings with the Study Coordinator and investigative team; and helping with other tasks as needed.

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Qualifications

Basic Requirements:

Bachelor's degree preferred.

Must be comfortable working in a secure, correctional environment.

Knowledge of prison systems and correctional facilities highly desired.

Solid computer skills and proficiency: Excel, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word.

Ability to work well with a study coordinator and local supervisor.

Must possess a valid driver's license and reliable transportation and be able and willing to travel throughout the state.

Ability to follow study protocols.

Ability to work successfully and patiently under pressure, understand and follow policies and procedures, and accommodate change.

Ability to take responsibility for assignments, work independently, and as part of a team.

Experience handling confidential materials with discretion.

Preferred Qualifications:

MPH in epidemiology, public health, biostatistics, or mixed methods preferred.

Training in public health or social sciences (e.g., sociology, anthropology, social work, criminal justice).

Experience working with community members with opioid use disorder (OUD).

Experience working with ACASI, REDCap, and Qualtrics programs desirable.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact