

Degree: MPH-65

Practicum Project Abstracts 2020

Field of Study: Environmental Health

Practice Organization	Project Title and Abstract
Maine Medical Center Research Institute	<p>Determinants of private well water testing for environmental contaminants in Maine</p> <p>Background: Drinking water standards remain unregulated for households using private wells in the United States. The onus of testing and remediation of the well water is on the homeowner. Half of all Mainers obtain drinking water from these private wells which may have high concentrations of environmental contaminants like arsenic that are linked to adverse health effects.</p> <p>Methods: We used data from the Maine - BRFSS for 2014-2017. Weighting methodology for BRFSS was applied to account for complex survey design and to pool multiple years of BRFSS survey data and account for non-response. We performed descriptive statistics (unweighted counts and weighted %) and chi-square tests to test the difference between those who tested vs those who did not.</p> <p>Results: Mainers who tested their private well water for environmental contaminants were likely to be older, higher income, more educated and with a child at home. Testing behavior did not significantly differ by sex, race and rurality.</p> <p>Conclusion: Interventions to improve rates of private well water testing should target younger, lower income, and less educated individuals. Future research should test reproducibility and generalizability in other regions in the US.</p>
McKinsey & Co	<p>Emergency Vaccine Readiness in Latin America</p> <p>N/A</p>
Urban Institute	<p>Implementation coaching for the High Line Network Equitable Impacts Framework Pilot</p> <p>The High Line Network Equitable Impacts Framework (EIF) Pilot engages with the practical ways in which nonprofits can act as stewards for more deeply democratic communities – specifically, how infrastructure reuse projects (e.g., Atlanta BeltLine; NYC High Line) can be used to reaffirm and grow connections between civic capacity, co-creation of public space, and broader shifts in community power and voice. In this practicum, I supported "implementation coaching" for the nine organizations involved in the Pilot, where we provided a range of technical support (research, facilitation calls, program evaluation and design, etc.)</p>