Available public health scientist position with the PATH Study Team at NIDA

We will have a contractor position available very soon for a public health scientist to provide epidemiologic leadership and technical expertise for the PATH Study team at NIDA. This individual will contribute to the PATH Study through study planning, decision-making, problem-solving, and strategic analysis. This person will also provide leadership on behalf of the NIDA PATH Study Team on various working groups to develop scientific research goals for the study as well as analytic strategies. In addition, this individual will be facilitating communications and collaborations with other NIH institutes and Department agencies. This position also provides opportunities for analyzing, interpreting, communicating, documenting, and presenting epidemiologic data and results to a variety of audiences and to advise senior project staff on scientific progress and study decisions.

We are seeking candidates with either a doctorate in Epidemiology or related health-science field with a minimum of two years of experience working on large-scale epidemiological research or an MPH in Epidemiology with minimum of seven years of related experience. Preference will be for candidates with analytic skills and experience using statistical software such as SAS, SPSS, Stata, R, and/or Mplus to analyze large and complex datasets. This individual will also have documented leadership role in conducting and/or managing epidemiologic research as well as a publication record commensurate with experience. To perform well with the team, the candidate is required to have strong interpersonal and communications skills, exceptional attention to details, the ability to work both independently and collaboratively, experience with collaborative and project management tools, and excellent writing skills.

This position is a full-time (40h/week), long-term contract position. While the study and team are based at the NIDA headquarters in Bethesda, MD, we also offer flexible working arrangements, including remote work.

The Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study is a nationally representative longitudinal study of tobacco use and health in the United States. A collaboration between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), the study was launched in 2011, started the first wave of data collection in 2013, and completed its sixth wave in late 2021.

By following study participants over time, the PATH Study helps scientists learn how and why people start using tobacco products, quit using them, and start using them again after they’ve quit, as well as how different tobacco products affect health outcomes over time. By monitoring and assessing behaviors, attitudes, biomarkers, and health outcomes associated with tobacco use in the United States, the PATH Study helps enhance the evidence base informing FDA’s regulatory activities related to tobacco.

Scientists at NIDA and the CTP are leading the PATH Study. Via a contract, they are currently working with Westat, a research company with expertise in survey design, questionnaire development, data collection, and analysis. Westat also manages a team of subject matter experts and consultants who provide expertise in various subject areas.

The NIDA PATH Study Team currently has a range of expertise that includes epidemiology, demography, neuroscience, environmental science, biostatistics, and data science in the fields of tobacco and other substance use research, oral health, mental health, biomarkers, and pregnancy outcomes.

If you have an interest in this position and joining a dynamic scientific team, please contact the PATH Study Director at NIH, Heather Kimmel, at heather.kimmel@nih.gov.