



**About the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts:**

The Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts (PHIWM) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to build measurably healthy communities with equitable opportunities and resources for all. PHIWM is committed to improving the public's health by fostering innovation, leveraging resources, and building partnerships across sectors, including government agencies, communities, the health care delivery system, media, and academia. Ensuring health equity and challenging institutional racism are core values integrated into PHIWM's services and initiatives. Through coalition building, community research and evaluation, and health policy advocacy, PHIWM works with and on behalf of communities that experience health disparities and inequities. Our work includes: use of data, research and evaluation to track and highlight health inequities and foster action in our region; developing and advocating for policy changes that will provide sustainable long lasting impact; building partnerships and coalitions to identify and address those structures and policies that allow for inequities and working with local residents and communities experiencing inequities to ensure meaningful participation in all of our work.

**Internships:** PHIWM is seeking interns for the practicum opportunities listed below. Interns will be required to complete the PHIWM internship application process to be considered for a position.

**Topic: Western Massachusetts Substance Use Disorder treatment accessibility assessment (particularly for women)**

Building off of work that is currently going on in Western MA, this practicum would assess the availability and accessibility of treatment beds and other levels of treatment for substance use disorder in Western MA. In particular we are concerned about the availability and accessibility of inpatient residential treatment beds for women in Western MA.

The assessment will include internet research, phone calls to providers and experts in the field (key informants) using a data collection tool you will design, and creation of a final report in the form of a written document and a presentation. There may be other data collection that you find you will need. The results of the assessment will provide more detail to what is already housed on the [413Cares](#) website and will also inform PHIWM about where significant gaps exist. The gap analysis will help PHIWM do program planning and advocacy around what is most needed.

This practicum will incorporate the public health skills of assessment, data collection tool design, report writing, presentation, and planning.

Primary Contact: Kim Gilhuly – [kgilhuly@publichealthwm.org](mailto:kgilhuly@publichealthwm.org)

**Topic: Springfield Youth Health Survey Initiative**

The practicum would involve creating materials summarizing results of the 2020 Springfield Youth Health Surveys as part of PHIWM's effort to disseminate this information to the community. It would include drafting topic-specific data briefs and creating a PowerPoint to visualize the results of the Youth Health Survey and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered to 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

PARTNERS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

The Springfield Youth Health Survey Initiative (conducted by the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield Department of Health and Human Services, and several community partners) focuses on the administration of youth health surveys every year in Springfield Public Schools to obtain Springfield-specific prevalence estimates of youth health behaviors. The Springfield Youth Health Survey (YHS) and the Springfield Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) have been administered biennially, alternating years with the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, since 2015. The PHIWM leads the implementation of YHS and YRBS, which was last administered in 2019. The surveys used are versions of those used at the state-level, which are then locally modified to reflect local priorities. PHIWM makes the data publicly available through frequency reports, summary reports, presentations, and an online data portal on the PHIWM website.

Primary Contact: Keleigh Waldner – [kwaldner@publichealthwm.org](mailto:kwaldner@publichealthwm.org)

### **Topic: 413CARES Online Community Resource Database**

The 413Cares.org is an online community resource database for Western MA. This project will involve communications and evaluation of the 413Cares.org platform. This practicum includes the following tasks: 1) work with a user group of frontline workers to gather feedback on key resources; 2) update key resource guides; 3) track data on site utilization and analytics, and 4) support communication to social service agencies, residents, and other users of the website.

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