

Research Assistants Needed for Cutting Edge Geospatial Health Data Project!

APPLICATIONS DUE: 12/5

Still accepting applications -
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PROJECT & POSITION DESCRIPTION

We are seeking to hire 4-6 research assistants (RA) to work on a short-term research project designed to assess the neighborhood-level determinants of menthol tobacco use and health among adults in Alameda and San Francisco Counties. The goals of this study, which is funded by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, are to: 1) introduce community residents to the Streetwyze app – an award-winning mobile, mapping, and SMS platform that collects local knowledge about how people are experiencing cities and services, and turns them into actionable analytics; 2) conduct interviews with neighborhood residents using cognitive mapping techniques that allow them to describe the features of their neighborhood relevant to tobacco use and health; and 3) collect environmental data in these same neighborhoods to identify features of neighborhoods that may contribute to or detract from overall health.

Although tobacco use has declined substantially in California, health disparities persist. In particular, the tobacco industry has long targeted communities of color and low income populations with menthol advertising and promotion. As a result, people of color and lower income use menthol tobacco at much higher rates than other populations, and those who use menthol have a more difficult time quitting. To address this disparity, cities like Berkeley, Hayward, Oakland, San Francisco and San Leandro have recently passed restrictions on the sales of flavored and menthol tobacco. In this pilot project we will ask residents of neighborhoods with higher menthol use rates about their environments using the Streetwyze app and through semi-structured interviews in order to ascertain information about the neighborhood characteristics, policies and triggers that may influence menthol use.

Streetwyze has been named as one of the top 10 health equity platforms by the Obama administration as well as PolicyLink. RAs and participants will be trained on how to use Streetwyze, and participants will provide data on their neighborhoods through the app. RAs will then review the information provided with participants to gain more in-depth understanding of their environmental exposures. RAs will also collect data separately in the selected neighborhoods and tobacco retail outlets to provide additional contextual information.

RAs hired for this study will be primarily responsible for data collection and may also be involved in pre-collection preparations and post-collection data entry, coding or analysis.

TIMELINE & COMPENSATION

Research assistants will be expected to work between 10-20 hours per week for a period of 4-8 weeks and will receive a \$1500 stipend. Mileage will also be reimbursed at the federal mileage rate of \$0.56/hour for any driving that occurs in the process of data collection.

We plan to recruit and interview candidates for these RA positions in November-December 2017 with an expected start date of January 3rd. The period of employment will be between January 2017-March 2018.

Work will take place on weekdays and weekends as well as some evenings if necessary. Once hired RAs will work out a regular schedule with the project manager.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Ability to work at least 10 hours/week
- Some previous research experience (in any field), especially in primary data collection (e.g. field data collection, qualitative interviews, surveys)
- Comfort using mobile devices and desktop web apps
- Availability to attend mandatory two-day training in early January (see application for possible dates)
- Ability to travel to project locations, i.e. neighborhoods in which data will be collected, Streetwyze offices in downtown Oakland, UCSF campus

PREFERRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Junior/Senior undergraduate or Masters student level of education
- Interest in health disparities, tobacco control or health geography and desire to gain field research experience
- Driver's license / access to car

COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THIS [RESEARCH ASSISTANT APPLICATION](#) TO

APPLY: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcryXHeEu0rDXnS6u9zVZ9umPissPPn1yk_UmPBRbqfSKdgA/viewform)

[e/1FAIpQLSfcryXHeEu0rDXnS6u9zVZ9umPissPPn1yk_UmPBRbqfSKdgA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcryXHeEu0rDXnS6u9zVZ9umPissPPn1yk_UmPBRbqfSKdgA/viewform)

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Contact [Louisa Holmes](mailto:lmholmes@binghamton.edu) (lmholmes@binghamton.edu) should you have any technical difficulties with the application.