



**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM  
PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS  
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND HEALTH PROMOTION**



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**



The overall goal of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program is to provide students with a base of knowledge and skills in public health that will enable them to pursue professional careers or doctoral studies. Health Promotion and Epidemiology are the two of five fields in the MPH program that have been highlighted in this report. More information about all five fields can be found at [www.dlsph.utoronto.ca](http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca)

The practicum component of the MPH program in Epidemiology and Health Promotion in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) at the University of Toronto is a key part of students' learning process. It's where students can gain skills in real health promotion practice settings, with the support of a field supervisor. It's a place where the theories and concepts taught in students' coursework intersect with application in practice.

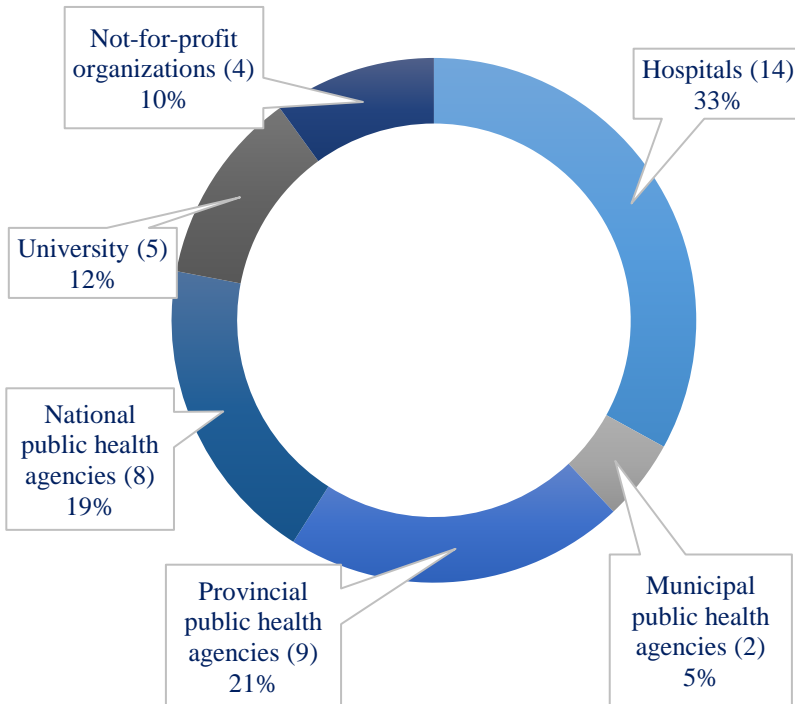
Professional careers in epidemiology would include jobs in applied public health settings, such as research associate positions in epidemiological research units, epidemiologist positions in public health departments, program monitoring and evaluation roles in non-governmental organizations.

The Health Promotion program takes an explicitly social science perspective in addressing issues related to the health of individuals, communities and populations. In particular, special attention is given to identifying, understanding and addressing the societal and personal determinants of health. Mutually reinforcing health promotion and public health strategies are covered such as health education and communications, community development, the role of organizational development and change, health advocacy, and the development of health promoting public policy.

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# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## MPH Epidemiology Student Placements for Summer 2017



### Examples of practicum sites:

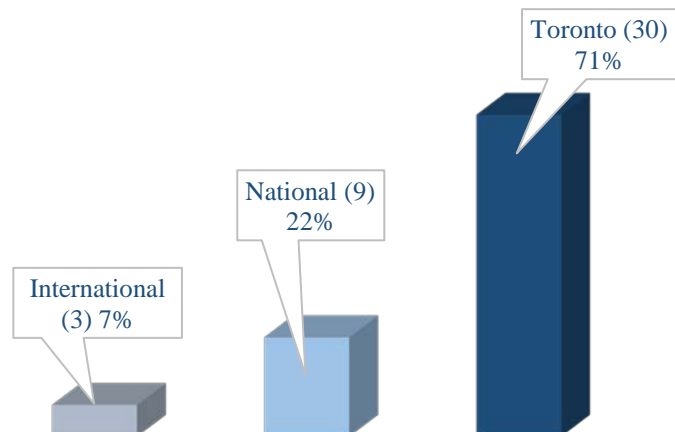
- SickKids (the Hospital for Sick Children)
- St. Michael's Hospital
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Toronto Western Hospital
- Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Toronto Public Health
- Public Health Ontario
- Cancer Care Ontario
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Health Canada
- Canadian Red Cross

### Examples of international practicum\*\* sites:

- World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare, Moi University, Kenya
- Population Council, Nigeria

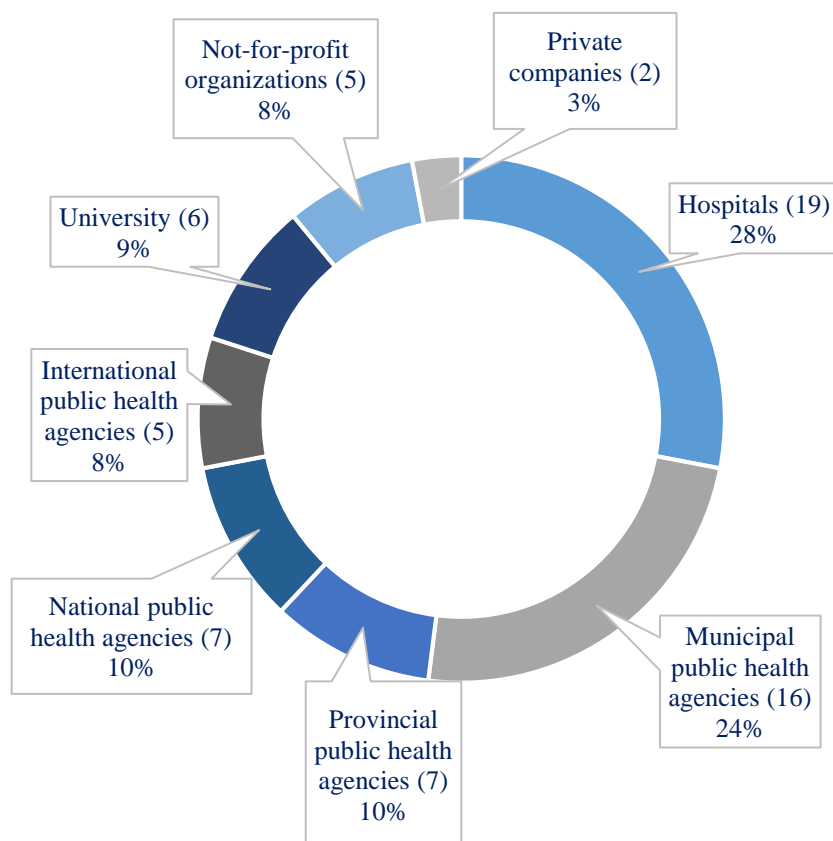
\*\*Only the Second Practicum can be done at an International site

## MPH Epidemiology Student Placements for Summer 2017



# HEALTH PROMOTION

## MPH Health Promotion Student Placements for Summer 2017



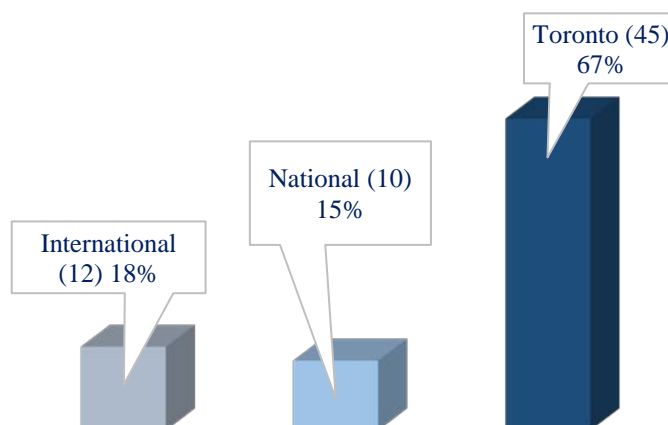
### Examples of practicum sites:

- SickKids (the Hospital for Sick Children)
- Women's College Hospital
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Toronto Public Health
- Public Health Ontario
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Diabetes Canada
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Ontario HIV Treatment Network

### Examples of international practicum sites:

- The University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
- Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia
- Shanghai Municipal Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
- Mahidol University, Thailand

## MPH Health Promotion Student Placements for Summer 2017

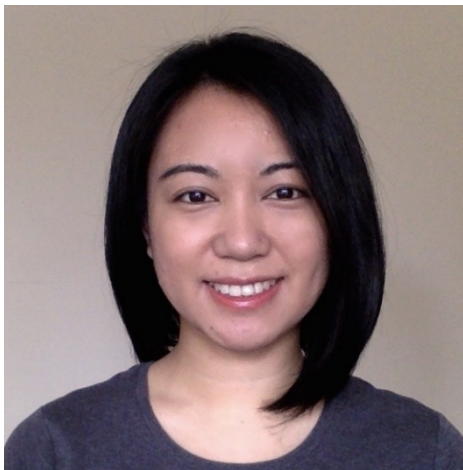


## Epidemiology student comments

“For my practicum at Public Health Ontario, I investigated trends of opioid morbidity and mortality in Ontario from 2003 to 2016 using three indicators of opioid-related harms: neonatal abstinence syndrome, opioid poisonings, and non-poisoning opioid-related events. I then examined the relationship between these indicators and neighborhood-level socioeconomic inequalities in Ontario. In order to complete this project, I was required to access, extract, analyze, and interpret data from multiple administrative data sources, culminating in the preparation of a manuscript for submission to an academic journal, an academic poster, and an oral presentation. Throughout the summer, Public Health Ontario provided ample learning opportunities in a broad range of public health related subject areas, which I felt really gave me and other students a better understanding of the roles public health plays at the provincial level.”



**Zoe Cairncross**  
**Public Health Ontario**



**Clarissa Encisa**  
**Cancer Care Ontario**

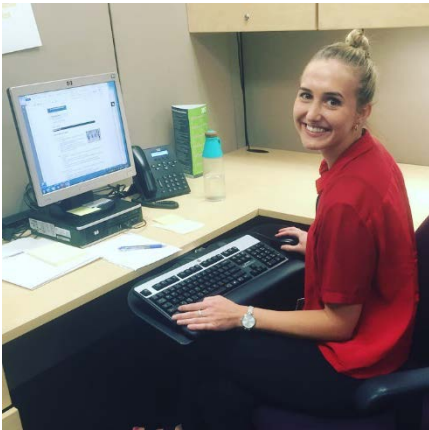
“My practicum took place at Cancer Care Ontario. I supported a Surveillance Research Scientist in conducting projects on Bayesian modelling of social determinants of health and chronic disease risk factors. As well, I contributed to providing geospatial assistance and health service mapping for departments with prevention and clinical portfolios. The practicum experience was a terrific opportunity to apply my graduate training in biostatistics, epidemiology, health surveillance and project management towards real-world initiatives. Through the practicum, I also gained hands-on experience in operating a geographic information system (e.g. ArcGIS), R statistical software, manipulating large databases (e.g. PCCF+, Census, Canadian Community Health Survey data) research strategic planning and knowledge translation activities. The practicum setting was an invaluable training ground to hone my competencies in public health.”

“My MPH placement with population council (Nigeria) allowed me to utilize my newly developed epidemiological skills in providing research support to projects in two key areas: Reproductive Health and HIV Strategies for Key Populations. In the former, I analyzed data from a ground-breaking landscape analysis of preeclampsia/eclampsia in Nigeria and developed my first scientific manuscript on the quality of antenatal care provided across the country. In the latter, I collaborated with a group of “key opinion leaders” in a community of men who have sex with men, to develop and implement protocols for studying the feasibility of HIV self-test kits in this high-risk population. I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to gain “on-the-ground” experience in public health research within a resource-constrained setting. Not only did my practicum placement allow me to grow as an academic and researcher, but it also challenged me to think and work creatively.”



**Angela Salomon**  
**Population Council**

## Health Promotion Student Comments



**Stephanie Elliott**  
**Toronto Public Health**

“My practicum placement was completed at Toronto Public Health (TPH), Healthy Public Policy Directorate which aims to enhance the health of Toronto residents through research, advocacy and policy development. Within the directorate I was placed on the Engagement and Knowledge Exchange team where I developed an evidence-based communication strategy for TPH's heat and air quality webpages. I used health communication theory, research and best practices to analyze TPH's current web communication strategy, conduct a jurisdictional scan of best practice messaging and create webpages that will better engage users and increase the uptake of health messages. The experience allowed me to develop and enhance my health promotion competency in planning and implementing health promotion action, health communication, partnership and collaboration. I also gained an in depth understanding of the structure and role of public health at the municipal level.”

“My experience at the World Health Organization, Department of Public Health, Environmental, and Social Determinants: I worked with the Social Determinants of Health Unit specifically, and was involved in monitoring action on the social determinants of health. I worked with WHO staff to identify indicators and data sources, and provide analyses for the upcoming report. This work is part of the broader advancement of monitoring action areas across the Rio Political Declaration to improve accountability for progress on the social determinants of health. My practicum was essential to building my skills in knowledge of social epidemiology, giving me insights into the importance and contributions of this field - and some its challenges at the global level - in my quest to address inequities in health. Additionally, being at WHO Headquarters allowed me to observe aspects of global health governance & policy-making, which was especially a highlight through attending and participating in aspects of the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly!”



**Afnan Naeem**  
**World Health Organization**



**Elizaveta Oulman**  
**Public Health Agency of Canada**

“During my practicum with the Public Health Agency of Canada, I worked with the Innovation Strategy, a national population health intervention research funding program aimed at improving population health and reducing health inequalities in Canada. My practicum projects involved collecting and analyzing evaluation data from funded interventions and co-writing of annual reports to describe the performance of these interventions. Working alongside the Innovation Strategy broadened my knowledge, skills and understanding of how to effectively design, monitor and evaluate interventions aimed at addressing complex public health issues and their underlying determinants of health. My MPH coursework was integral to my learning and success in this practicum, as my projects drew heavily on theories, concepts and principles I learned in courses such as program evaluation, health promotion and public health policy.”

## CONNECT

[www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/programs/mph-health-promotion-and-epidemiology-practicum](http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/programs/mph-health-promotion-and-epidemiology-practicum)

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