



Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth

Job Description: Epidemiologist and Data Guru
(Applied Epidemiologist)

Do you believe that every youth deserves the right to be happy and risk-free from alcohol, tobacco, and other drug addiction? Are you looking for an organization that believes that too? Are you looking for an opportunity where you work as part of a collaborative team to make a difference? At Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth, you will have that opportunity.

Organizational Overview: Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth (TxSDY) is looking for an Epidemiologist and Data Guru. Located in Austin, TxSDY is the statewide non-profit committed to putting an end to youth alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. When we see a gap that puts the health and safety of young people at risk, we fill it.

How does TxSDY pursue its mission? We use collective impact and civic engagement strategies to build capacity for communities to advance public policy through advocacy and effective prevention strategies. Simply put, we believe that community and corporate accountability are needed to prevent youth alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use.

We are a leader in advancing evidence-based strategies that not only unleash large scale community change but prevent youth from beginning deadly habits. We do this work in partnership with local coalitions, colleges, state agencies, stakeholders, and other organizations with similar missions. Within our matrix driven structure, our team is expected to work hard and operate in a highly collaborative manner.

Not all public health heroes wear capes or scrubs, some carry a notebook, pen, crunch numbers, and map out change. It isn't pretty or easy work, but because we are saving lives it is very rewarding. Just ask the people who have served alongside us for nearly 25 years.

Position Overview: We are looking for a passionate leader that will tie problems and solutions together with data. If you are someone that loves to both think and help - use data and work with advocates to address community problems - then this is the job for you. We need someone that enjoys working in a fast-paced, small-office environment that approaches their role with a positive attitude and enthusiasm. We rely on our epidemiologist to have exceptional communication (both written and oral), critical thinking, teaching, and math skills. Because this is community-based prevention work there are always gaps in data and too little funding, you'll have to be creative in getting the work done. The position requires you get the job done with exceptional skill and attention to detail – making the tasks look easy no matter the number of hoops you have to navigate.

In this position, you will support TxSDY's energetic staff and community partners by providing research and data analysis for the organization's programs. Working closely with all staff members and our partners this role requires a mix of attention to detail, organization, forward thinking, and decision making to ensure community and grant needs/demands are being met.

Is this job for you? Are you someone who:

- Asks questions and is naturally inquisitive
- Doesn't mind tackling a task first
- Is intrinsically motivated to do a quality and efficient job
- Is a strategic thinker
- Can think long term, as well as short term (and at the same time)
- Thrives in a fast-paced environment with multiple moving parts
- Is resilient
- Is approachable
- Enjoys working with, helping, and teaching people—and has experience doing so
- Creative—who has experience communicating research and data to non-research audiences
- Is agile and has adaptive thinking
- Likes traveling to and working with communities

Essential Job Duties

- Serves as a strategic thinker and works independently
- Integrates the Strategic Prevention Framework into epidemiological work
- Creates reports, fact sheets, issue briefs, maps, & online tools (e.g., Dashboards, databases)
- Uses GIS, including ArcGIS and StoryMaps, to bring data to life
- Aligns data from multiple sources and aspects to provide a comprehensive community picture
- Identifies disparities related to drug misuse, consequences, and prevention strategies
- Helps develop and monitor strategies for measuring success/progress towards goals
- Reviews research literature for effective and problem and culturally appropriate strategies
- Educates and trains staff, community partners, and general public
- Works with external evaluator
- Works with limited resources and small budgets
- Works within grant rules and deadlines

Want to get your resume to the top of the candidate stack? Here's the experience and skills required:

- Bachelor's degree, Master's degree preferred, in public health or similar field with formal epidemiological training or demonstrated equivalent epidemiological on-job training experience
- Minimum 3-years of experience as an applied epidemiologist or similar role
- Track record of working successfully with the public/communities
- Track record of surveillance, investigations, data collection using primary and secondary sources
- Proficient in SAS, ArcGIS, online technology systems, Word, Excel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with strong attention to detail
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of strategic planning, budgeting, and managing work
- Ability to simultaneously manage multiple, complex projects in varying stages of development under time constraints
- Track record in grant writing and completing grant reports
- Track record of writing and creating reports, documents, and/or materials for the public
- Ability to travel overnight for multiple days in a row
- Small non-profit experience highly preferred

- Must have a cell phone, driver's license, and personal vehicle with applicable insurance
- Must be able to lift 30 pounds
- Commitment to organizational mission and ideology in order to effectively promote and advance the goals of our organization

Things to Consider:

- This position reports to the Director of Research and Advocacy
- Salary: commensurate with experience, plus benefits
- Hours: full-time some nights and weekends

To Apply:

Please send a cover letter and resume to info@TxSDY.org.

We believe in a community where its members and corporate citizens share accountability for preventing youth substance use. We believe diversity and inclusion are key drivers of creativity and innovation. We welcome candidates who share our beliefs to apply for any role within our organization.