

HEALTH DATA ANALYST

Q What do you like best about your job?

A Working as a health data analyst (HDA) provides exposure to a diversity of disciplines, people, and projects. The workload is unpredictable, which provides an exciting, and ever changing working environment. As a HDA, you have the opportunity to look closely at regional data and learn about the growing, fascinating community we live in.

Q Describe your typical day

A Much of a typical day will be spent working independently on projects, but will also involve collaborating with others, both internally (e.g. epidemiologists, planners, information systems analysts) and externally (e.g. community groups, government ministries). Each day is spent responding and reacting to competing database design and information needs of the various programs within public health and to longer-term projects with well established timelines and deadlines.

Q How are you making a difference?

A The work of the HDA is widely used in the timely reporting of trends in the community. HDAs provide public health, community agencies, and decision makers with the evidence they need in order to make well-informed choices for their research, programs, and policies. That's largely what a HDA does, support others in their work. The role of the HDA is to provide their colleagues with the tools, data, and training that will enable them to do their work with greater certainty and more efficiency.

Q What do you like about working and living in Waterloo Region?

A Although the area is one of contrasts, the community remains united in several ways, such as a 'can do' spirit that permeates and unites everyone in the community, including those in public health. From farmers to CEOs of leading edge corporations to



"I've been working with Region of Waterloo Public Health as a Health Data Analyst since 2006."

"I have a Post-graduate diploma in Research Analysis from Georgian College and Master of Public Health from Lakehead University."



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researchers at globally renowned institutions, everyone in the community is always looking for innovative ways to make this a better community and provide Waterloo Region with an even greater influence around the globe.

Q Why did you choose to work for Region of Waterloo Public Health?

A The Region's reputation as a first-rate employer definitely helped make the decision easier. Having the opportunity to work with people within public health and across the Region that are provincially, nationally, and even internationally renowned was also influential. After working with and learning from my public health colleagues for over a year, it is obvious that their care, passion, and dedication to improving the community that they live, work, and play in, differentiates them from others.

Q What would you tell someone considering a career as a HDA?

A If you have a desire to use your specialized skills in advanced statistics and data analysis, are flexible, self-motivated, and thrive in an ever-changing environment, then this is a career for you. A typical day in the life of a HDA will require the use of several software applications so knowledge and proficiency in the latest versions of common statistical analysis packages (SPSS), office applications (Excel, Word, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher), and specialized software such as TeleForm and GIS is essential.



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For information about other careers with Region of Waterloo Public Health, please contact us at 519-883-2000 ext. 5354.

www.region.waterloo.on.ca/ph

Areas You Could Work In:

You would be a member of the Epidemiology and Data Support Program. This program works with all divisions and programs of public health.

Qualifications You Need:

- Masters Degree in a Health Science related to data analysis, statistics, environmental health, or computer programming, or a Bachelors Degree with a post graduate diploma in Research Analysis, and two years experience in database management and development
- Knowledge of relational database technology, data analysis
- Working knowledge of population health and how social, economic, and environmental issues affect health

Wage/Salary Range

\$54,600 - \$62, 025.60 (2008)