Length of time at this site: 4 weeks

The Public Health Department of Pierce County serves Pierce County citizens of all ages. Our mission is to assure the health of the public, prevent disease and injury, promote healthy behaviors, and protect against environmental hazards through assessment, treatment, education, rehabilitation, and policy development.

Nutrition Services are an integral component of most of the services provided by the Pierce County Public Health Department. Approximately 630 clients participate in the Women, Infant, and Children's Program, bringing in $77,130 revenue in 1995. The WIC program is well coordinated with other Public Health Department programs that serve Pierce County children: Immunizations, HealthCheck, Prenatal Care Coordination, Teaching Homemaker, and Birth to Three. In 1995 57 children were served by the Birth to Three program and 151 clients were enrolled in the Home Care Program. Nutrition assessment and education services are provided by a registered dietitian and are available to Public Health, Home Care, Reproductive Health, Birth to Three, HealthCheck, WIC, and Prenatal Care Coordination clients. Menus for the jail and Office on Aging are assessed quarterly. The major services provided by the 40 employees of the Public Health Department include health care, assessment, screening, education, counseling regarding health maintenance, including nutritional needs.

Interns will observe and interact with nutrition and other healthcare providers such as nursing, social services, mental health, child protection, and environmental health. Interns will conduct nutritional screening and assessment of clients in the Women, Infant, and Children's Program as well as other public health programs. Education, counseling, and documentation activities in included in the rotation. Interns will refer clients to intra and inter-agencies; thereby implementing follow-up care as well as becoming more familiar with various public health programs and agencies.