

Belize Fieldwork Placements for Community Health Majors

NOTE: With the exception of Cleopatra White Polyclinic, these agencies can only host one student per semester.

- Belize City, the largest city in Belize (approximately 60,000 people)
 - The Cleopatra White Polyclinic (CWP) is a government outpatient clinic. The clinic focuses on outpatient treatment, mental health, tuberculosis, HIV, and maternal and child health. Most of the work is at the clinic, but the nurses also do clinical outreach to nearby villages and local schools. They also go to the main hospital to vaccinate babies and to patients' homes to treat tuberculosis and mental illness. This clinic can host two students in the same semester; several Cortland students have done fieldwork at CWP. Recent projects have focused on the HPV vaccine, pap smears, breastfeeding, and chronic illness.
 - The Mercy Clinic and Mercy Kitchen are separate but partnered agencies. The Mercy Clinic is the only agency in Belize that is devoted exclusively to the healthcare of seniors. It is operated by the National Council of Aging, a non-governmental organization (see below). The clinic provides primary care via both clinic visits and house calls. Mercy Kitchen provides lunches to seniors who come to the kitchen as well as delivers meals to homebound seniors. A student could do fieldwork in just the clinic or possibly both agencies.
 - The Belize Cancer Society (BCS) is a small but dedicated non-governmental organization that works to improve the prevention and treatment of cancer in Belize. The BCS is part of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition and is currently working to address childhood obesity in Belize. Other activities include a support group for cancer survivors, free screening campaigns for the community, health fairs, and parent education about HPV. <http://www.belizecancersociety.org.bz/>
 - The Central Region's Public Health Department is a government agency that focuses on environmental health and infectious disease. The work encompasses community-based education on foodborne illnesses, mosquito-borne diseases, and personal hygiene, as well as food safety inspections of restaurants, food-prep sites, and cruise ships. The agency also handles food-handler training, water testing, and epidemiological investigations related to mosquito-borne diseases.
 - Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (KMH) is the largest hospital in Belize. It includes a small rehabilitation department that provides physical therapy. Note: At this time,

this placement would only be an option for one quarter (six weeks) during the summer.

- Ladyville, a suburb/village just north of Belize City (approximately 6,000 people)
 - Ladyville Clinic – A government-funded outpatient clinic like Cleopatra White Polyclinic (see above) but smaller.
- Belmopan, the national capital (approximately 17,000 people)
 - The National Council of Aging (NCA) is a small but dynamic NGO that uses evidence-based approaches to increase the country's capacity to support the needs of Belizean seniors. Their strategic plan focuses on updating national policy, developing a registry of older persons for disaster response, funding the cost of healthcare beyond the primary level, and improving the NCA's visibility. Their health programming includes a sexual health workshop for women 45-50 in March; community-based education on a wide range of aging-related health issues, such as dementia, stroke, and falls prevention; Elder Abuse Awareness Day; and the Adopt-a-Grandparent program. The NCA also supports advocacy and needs assessments conducted by seniors for seniors. <http://www.ncabz.org/>
 - The PALM Center is a residential facility in Belmopan for about 30 people with mental health issues. Students placed here may also be able to spend time every week at the Belmopan Hospital in the in-patient unit for mental health patients.
- Succotz, a Mayan village in western Belize (approximately 1,200 people; located close to San Ignacio, a community of about 18,000 people)
 - This placement is based in Succotz itself rather than a specific agency. One component of the placement is to accompany and assist the two community health workers, trained volunteers who provide health screenings, condoms, and contraception to villagers. Other components would be teaching school-based health education with support from the local Peace Corps volunteer and developing a comprehensive evidence-based approach to diabetes and obesity prevention for the whole village.