



Behavioral Health Surveillance

Monitoring and Reporting on Emerging Concerns

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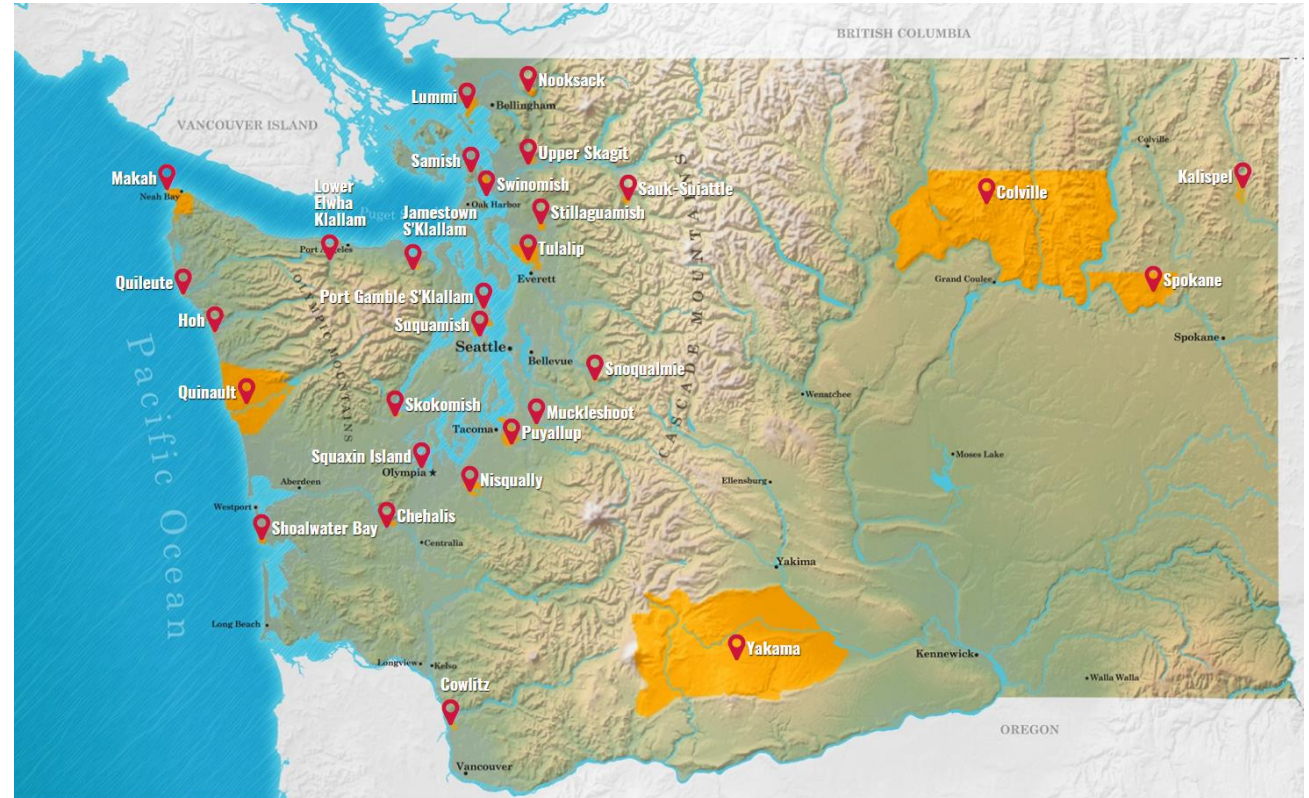
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CSTE National Disaster Epidemiology Workshop May 2021

Territorial Acknowledgement

Washington State syndromic surveillance data are gathered in the unceded territories of 29 federally recognized tribes, as well as that of the Duwamish Tribe, which is still fighting for federal recognition.

We thank our Tribal and Urban Indian health partners for their work and collaboration to support the health of Washington State.

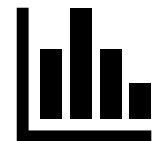
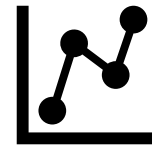
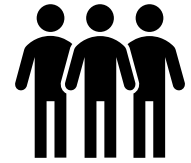




Background

Behavioral Health Group

- Overview
 - Formed in April/May 2020
 - Disaster psychologists, epidemiologists, health care systems strategists, communications specialists
- Purpose
 - Analyze “traditional” data (syndromic surveillance, surveys, telephonic support line activity)
 - Pair analysis with “novel” data (social media sentiment)
 - Disaggregate data for regions, LHJs, & Tribal Governments
 - Inform service demand & capacity
- Data products
 - Weekly situational reports
 - Monthly forecast documents
 - Ad hoc products





Weekly Situation Report

Syndromic Data Limitations

- Data is Visit based, not Patient based.
- Facility participation and ED visits can vary across weeks
- Results are in no way generalizable to facilities not within NSSP, nor are they necessarily generalizable to nearby counties who may not have facilities.
- Syndrome Definitions
 - May over or under estimate true ED visits for any given syndrome.
 - May not be capable of distinguishing intent (i.e. self-harm to suicide attempt).
 - May be seen as “concrete” and “wholly credible” by non-Epidemiologists.
- Data is appropriately lagged (~2 weeks) to compensate for incomplete data.
- Patient Demographics may be incomplete or misrepresented in data.

Weekly Situation Reports

- Syndromic surveillance indicators:
 - CDC Suicide Attempt v1
 - CDC Suicidal Ideation v1
 - CDC All-drug v1
 - CDC Alcohol v1
 - SDC Disaster-related Mental Health v1
- Process & production schedule
- Reports available here:



Week of May 3, 2021
COVID-19 Behavioral Health Impact
Situation Report

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/BehavioralHealthResources>



Data to Action

Recent examples

- Provider alerts
- County-specific maps
- Preventive strategies & future updates to statewide suicide prevention plans



Lessons Learned



- Know your audience
 - local health jurisdictions
 - behavioral health systems & hospital leadership
 - agency leadership
 - the press
- Provide tools for accurate interpretation of findings
 - acknowledge strengths & limitations of Sys
 - introduce basic epi concepts
- Beware of unintended consequences
 - incorrect data interpretation

Questions?

