

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description:

A CSTE Fellow at the UIHI would be assigned to work on projects addressing primarily chronic conditions (including surveillance) and secondarily Maternal and Child Health. For instance, the Fellow would be a member of the UIHI's surveillance team that tracks urban Indian health indicators of chronic disease and risk behaviors using vital statistics and data from the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS). The Fellow would also have an opportunity to work with the UIHI staff on designing research and interventions that integrate AI/AN culture as an essential component of project content.

Day-to-Day Activities:

We anticipate the following as characteristic of the Fellow's day-to-day activities:

- Surveillance work using vital statistics and other data sources
- Updates, as needed, to surveillance data systems
- Pulling surveillance data to assist with data requests
- Project-specific work related to projects of interest to the Fellow
- Designing culturally and scientifically appropriate primary data collection protocols for use in Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs)
- Working with the UIHI team to update and populate a template for urban Indian Community Health Profiles, including the addition of new indicators for Maternal and Child Health

Potential Projects:

- Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) Pilot: Determine the feasibility and sampling scheme for an urban AI/AN BRFSS that focuses primarily on indicators related to chronic disease and injury
- Community Health Profiles (CHP): Create an updated CHP for dissemination to UIHOs, considering revisions of prior formats (e.g., selecting new Chronic Disease and Maternal and Child Health indicators, analyzing data from multiple surveillance systems, describing data limitations, etc.)
- Conduct urban AI/AN health surveillance in the areas of mortality and natality (vital statistics) as well as risk factors (Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System)
- Follow record linkages to correct for racial misclassification, conduct analyses of public health and surveillance datasets and produce analysis reports for UIHOs' patient population
- Pull surveillance data to assist with data requests received from Urban Indian Health Organizations, non-profits, the media and others who seek data on the health of urban AI / ANs.
- Write statistical code to update surveillance data, such as the American Community Survey
- Participate in the design, fielding and analysis of the Urban Indian Health Organization Needs Assessment Survey
- Use the National Survey of Drug Use and Health to conduct an analysis of the association between mental health and diabetes
- Explore the availability of secondary data to describe urban AI/AN health and conduct analyses with these new data sources
- With guidance from UIHI staff, design a Maternal and Child Health research plan that collects data from Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs) to explore a Maternal and Child Health area of concern

Preparedness Role

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) training in Seattle or elsewhere will be part of the Fellow's emergency preparedness training. The Fellow will also be included in other emergency preparedness training opportunities as they arise. In addition to CASPER training, the Fellow would have the opportunity to participate in other trainings including one in outbreak response offered by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. The Fellow would also be included in discussions with the larger Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) detailing emergency response planning for specific threats.

Assignment Location: Seattle, WA

Primary Mentor: Leslie Phillips, PhD, SM
Scientific Director
Seattle Indian Health Board - Urban Indian Health Institute

Secondary Mentor: Crystal Tetrick, MPH
Director
Seattle Indian Health Board - Urban Indian Health Institute