

Chronic Disease

Assignment Description:

The fellow will work as an epidemiologist in the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center (ANEC), one of 12 tribal epidemiology centers in the United States, which is located in Anchorage, Alaska. ANEC serves Alaska Native/American Indian people throughout the state of Alaska, and is part of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), the largest and most comprehensive tribal health organization in the US. ANEC responds to data requests through data analysis, reports and presentations to tribal groups, and has ongoing collaborations with researchers from public health agencies in Anchorage and outside of Alaska. ANEC also provides epidemiologic services to health care providers, tribal health organizations, and others. Services include analyzing data for regional health status profiles of maternal and child health, chronic disease, injury, and health behaviors; providing technical assistance to the regions; and applied epidemiologic studies.

The fellow will have the opportunity to develop interests through analyses and interpretation of data, preparing reports or manuscripts, and delivering presentations. It is highly likely that the fellow will be able to travel within Alaska to collect data, provide technical assistance, deliver presentations, or for other purposes as opportunities arise. The fellow will be able to complete the fellowship requirements and develop the skills required in the core competencies within ANEC, ANTHC, or in collaboration with other organizations.

Anchorage is a community of approximately 300,000 people located on a stunningly beautiful coastline surrounded by several mountain ranges. The city and area parks offer many outdoor recreational opportunities including salmon fishing, skiing, biking, kayaking, camping and hiking. Working at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium provides an opportunity for learning about the rich and diverse culture of Alaska Native people, and of the particular challenges to improving the health status in this population. The fellow will benefit by interacting with the Alaska Native population and their supporters through presentations and meetings. This opportunity will attract fellows particularly interested in minority health and health disparities.

Day-to-Day Activities:

With the support of mentors and staff, the fellow will work as an epidemiologist alongside other ANEC personnel. The fellow will be given ample time to complete projects that are required as part of the fellowship. Day-to-day activities may include work on a choice of projects (listed below), data analysis, providing technical support to tribal health organizations and others, and working on various reports and/or peer-reviewed journal articles. Other duties could include conducting site visits, program evaluation, delivering presentations to tribal groups and other audiences, and participating in meetings and conferences.

Potential Projects:

- Evaluate surveillance systems housed at ANTHC such as the: Alaska Native Tumor Registry, the Alaska Native Immunization Registry, or the Local Environmental Observer Surveillance System;
- Complete and/or/update Regional Health Profiles or Health Status Reports for tribal health regions throughout Alaska;
- Deliver health status presentations to stakeholders, which include ANTHC Board of Directors, THOs, and other interested parties;
- Develop and use health literacy and health numeracy skills to create Fact sheets and other documents for lay audiences;

- Data Analysis project;
- Assist with the needs assessment and program evaluation of domestic violence/sexual violence resources provided by THOs and their surrounding communities;
- Train THOs and ANMC personnel in domestic violence/sexual violence screening practices;
- Participation in or leading investigations of outbreaks with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services;
- Publishing a State of Alaska Epidemiology bulletin;
- ANEC is flexible and supportive of ideas and project, and the fellow will have an opportunity to suggest and initiate projects that are timely and beneficial in consultation with their mentors.

Preparedness Role

A variety of hazards- earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, storms, wildfires, and epidemics have occurred in Alaska in recent years. In addition, Alaska's oil and natural gas industries are considered to be at risk from terrorist attack. The ANTHC Emergency Management Department partners with state, federal, military and other agencies to coordinate emergency response plans for Alaska. Depending on the fellow's interests, he or she may participate with either the ANTHC Emergency Management Department in emergency preparedness assistance and training programs in communities to help the Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS) prepare for disasters and emergencies, or with the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management workgroup.

Assignment Location:	Anchorage, AK
Primary Mentor:	Ellen Provost, DO, MPH Director Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Secondary Mentor:	Jessica Craig, MPH Program Manager/Epidemiologist Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium