

Chronic Disease and Environmental Health- Cross-Cutting

The focus of this position will be to provide epidemiological consultation and analysis of Department data sources regarding Native American populations in the state. This position will be stationed within the Office of Assessment and Evaluation in the Bureau of Women and Children's Health. This Bureau accesses several of the major data sets of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), including vital statistics (birth and death records), the statewide hospital discharge database (inpatient and emergency department), cancer and birth defects registry, and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance. For the project chosen by the fellow, he or she will be expected to extract a subset of data, clean the data fields chosen for analysis, and write a summary report with information helpful to understand disparities among Arizona's Native American populations.

Orientation

- Attend Department orientation and ethics class
- Attend ADHS epidemiologist orientation
- Attend training on Incident Command Structure
- Attend training on cultural sensitivity
- Attend training on outbreak investigations
- Cross train within the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Vector Borne/Zoonotic Disease Sections. Most reservation areas are rural and often have the highest incidence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, and Plague.
- Orient with a county health department for a few days

Day-to-day activities would include:

- Help coordinate implementation of data sharing agreements with tribes, tribal epidemiology centers and Indian Health Services
- With assistance of other staff epidemiologist, lead and participate on the Department's Native American Data Sharing and Analysis Committee
- Inventory the Department databases for tribe-specific data such as tribal affiliation
- Facilitate the provision of Department data and data dictionaries to tribes, tribal epidemiology centers and Indian Health Services as covered under existing data sharing agreements
- Assist tribes, tribal epidemiology centers and Indian Health Services in determining data needs from the Department
- Assist in county, tribal or IHS outbreaks as needed
- Assist in providing epidemiologic training as requested
- become a member of the Arizona State Epidemiology Team as a Tribal Epidemiologist (epidemiologists from the different bureaus within the Department) to increase the epidemiologic capacity of the Department, and participate in at least one of the four subcommittees: Technical and Policy Subcommittee, Research and Publications Subcommittee, Training and Education Subcommittee, Informatics Subcommittee or the GIS Subcommittee.
- Provide epidemiologic consultation to tribes and IHS on their emergency preparedness plans
- Participate in Department and tribal emergency preparedness exercises and drills
- In addition to reporting to the Native American Liaison, the fellow will work closely with the Department's tribal emergency preparedness coordinator, and

- Assist in training users from tribes and IHS on Arizona's Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance and Intelligence System (MEDSIS).

Potential projects that would be of specific help to the agency include:

- Extract child fatality data for the Navajo nation's service area in northeastern Arizona and prepare a personalized report.
- Conduct a needs assessment of a Native American tribal region in Arizona to identify the prevalence rates of various diseases and social problems (e.g., teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol use, etc.)
- Assessment of cancers of tribal concern occurring at higher rates (e.g., renal, cervix) or later stage (e.g., breast)
- Development of evidence-based recommendations for cancer screening and control;
- Field investigation of elevated gastroschisis rates;
- Combining Navajo Nation BRFSS data with New Mexico for use at the local level;
- Analyzing tribal death rates related to motor vehicle injuries; and
- As available, conduct geospatial data analysis at the reservation or tribal level.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of a chronic disease intervention program addressing Indian health.
- Assist the Native American Liaison in establishing a permanent tribal epidemiologist position and locating resources for its support
- In collaboration with a tribal health department or Indian Health Services, evaluate infectious disease surveillance in one location.

Assignment Location:

Phoenix, Arizona

Primary Mentor:

Paul Holley, PhD
Chief of the Office of Assessment and Evaluation
Bureau of Women and Children's Health
Arizona Department of Health Services

Advanced Degrees:

PhD, Arizona State University (2006)
MA, Arizona State University (2002)

Secondary Mentor:

Timothy Flood, MD
Deputy State Epidemiologist for Chronic Disease

Advanced Degree:

MD, University of Arizona (1978)

Secondary Mentor:

Michael T. Allison, MPH, MBA
Native American Liaison

Advanced Degrees:

MPH, University of Arizona (2003)
MBA, University of New Mexico (1974)

