

Chronic Disease

Description:

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) seeks a fellow to join our existing Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in order to assist in developing a robust and effective surveillance system for chronic disease, tobacco, and risk factors. The fellow will be responsible for the following, under the guidance of Dr. Middaugh:

- Provide analyses of chronic disease morbidity data and risk factor data and write technical summaries of disease trends and disparities.
- Analyze existing data on tobacco, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and risk factors to enable program evaluation, identify sub-populations to target outreach interventions, and design innovative intervention strategies.
- Analyze data on BMI of all students in the Clark County School District (N=315,000)
- Prepare Smoking Attributable Morbidity and Mortality Economic Cost (SAMMEC) information on the impact of tobacco on the District
- Develop innovative graphics to display data on tobacco, chronic diseases, and risk factors
- Explore use of Medicaid and Medicare data for clinical quality improvement
- Provide epidemiology expert consultation to existing epidemiology and chronic disease program staff.

Day-to-Day Activities:

Using existing data, analyze data on morbidity and mortality of chronic diseases and risk factors, identify disparities, and describe trends. Prepare technical papers and reports and publish major findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Participate in studies to evaluate adequacy of care for chronic disease such as asthma, congestive heart failure, and hypertension using Medicare and Medicaid data.

Collaborate with the Clark County School District to analyze BMI data on 315,000 students to identify the prevalence of obesity and overweight, and to establish on-going surveillance to track trends over time. Compare the findings of objective measurement of BMI with self-reported BMI from the YRBS.

Potential Projects:

Compare the finding of objective measured BMI data of high school students to results of from the YRBS of self-reported BMIs Conduct evaluations of adequacy of clinical care of children with asthmas using Medicaid data Prepare a SAMMEC analysis of tobacco impact on district residents Explore use of GIS Mapping to display chronic disease and risk factor data.

Emergency Prep Role:

The SNHD has extensive experience with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and is using the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage its response to the influenza A (H1N1) outbreak. The

district will support the fellow to receive ICS training and to participate in the districts ICS structure. The fellow will also be given the opportunity to assist the district in its participation and evaluation of the Biowatch program, depending on the interest of the fellow.

Assignment Location: Las Vegas, NV

Primary Mentor: John Middaugh, MD
Director, Division of Community Health
Southern Nevada Health District

Secondary Mentor: Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH
Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District