

Chronic Disease and Tribal

Assignment Description

This position will be stationed within the Bureau of Public Health Statistics. The focus of this position will be to provide epidemiologic consultation and analysis of Department data sources regarding Native American populations in the state. This Bureau is home to 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 will be an important component of the fellowship training and will include:

- 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

The fellow will help:

- Draft and coordinate implementation of data sharing agreements with tribes and tribal epidemiology centers.
- 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

Because this is a new area, potential projects will depend upon the interest of the Fellow. Some projects that would be of specific help to the agency include:

- Assessment of cancers of tribal concern occurring at higher rates (eg, renal, cervix) or later stage (eg, breast);
- Participation in outbreaks on tribal lands, if invited;
- Field investigation of elevated gastroschisis rates;
- Combining BRFS data to 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 chronic disease intervention programs addressing Indian health.
- Assist the Native American Liaison in establishing a tribal epidemiologist position and locating resources for its support.
- In collaboration with a tribal health department or Indian Health Services, evaluate infectious disease surveillance and reporting.
- Comparison of public health attributes of 638 facilities versus non 638 facilities.
- Inventory of the public health services offered on each reservation.

Preparedness Role

The fellow will participate in ICS training 100, 200, 700 courses. As mentioned above, assist tribes with preparedness deliverables related to epidemiology; As needed, after proper training, carry the on-call mobile telephone; As needed, the fellow will participate in the epidemiology branch of the Operations Section when the Health Emergency Operations Center is stood up; attend exercises, drills and tabletops, especially when they involve tribal entities; and provide epidemiology capacity or backup in the event of a public health emergency.

Assignment Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Primary Mentor: Timothy Flood, MD
Medical Director, Public Health Statistics
Arizona Department of Health Services

Secondary Mentor: Ken Komatsu, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Arizona Department of Health Services