

ID: 46261134

**Chronic Disease, Maternal and Child Health, Emergency Preparedness - Host Site Description
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

Assignment Location: Anchorage, US-AK
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Alaska Native Epidemiology Center

Primary Mentor: Carla Britton, PhD, MS
Lead Epidemiologist and Deputy Director
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Secondary Mentor: Ellen Provost, DO, MPH, MS
Director
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Work Environment

Hybrid

Assignment Description

Although Chronic Disease and Maternal Child Health are two broad areas we have selected for this application, we can design the objectives and projects to best meet the interests and needs of the Fellow as well as the needs of our programs.

The fellow will work as an epidemiologist in the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center (ANEC), one of 12 tribal epidemiology centers throughout the United States, which is located in Anchorage, Alaska. ANEC serves Alaska Native/American Indian people in 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 public health professionals and researchers from public health agencies in Anchorage, in Alaska, 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.

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.

The Fellow will have an opportunity to suggest and initiate projects that are timely and beneficial in consultation with their mentors.

Potential Projects

- Evaluate surveillance systems housed at ANTHC such as the: Tribal Syndromic Surveillance program; the Alaska Native Tumor Registry, a SEER registry, the Alaska Native Immunization Registry, or the Local Environmental Observer Surveillance System
- Participate in the evaluation of the Tribal Public Health infrastructure leading to recommendations to Tribal leadership
- Complete and/or/update Regional Health Profiles or Health Status Reports for tribal health regions throughout Alaska

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- Deliver health status presentations to stakeholders, which include ANTHC Board of Directors, THOs, and other interested parties
- Data Analysis project such as an AARDI analysis using CDC methodology
- Participation in or leading investigations of outbreaks with the CDC/AIP, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services or the Municipality of Anchorage
- Infectious disease or vaccine related project with CDC/AIP
- Participate in the planning and delivery of a statewide hybrid conference on Maternal, Child, Health and Immunizations in early 2024
- Publishing a State of Alaska Epidemiology bulletin or other publication.

Describe Statistical and Data Analysis Support, Such as Databases, Software, and Surveillance Systems Available to the Fellow

Within DCHS and within the EpiCenter there are several epidemiologists, statisticians, and researchers working in cancer education and cancer programs, tobacco cessation and research, injury prevention, environmental health, infectious disease, chronic disease prevention and control, as well as other areas. The Fellow would have their primary data analysis and support from the epidemiologists and statisticians within the EpiCenter along with the databases, software, and surveillance systems needed for their specific projects.

NOTE: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Arctic Investigations Program is located on our health campus. AIP works with ANEC on projects and infectious disease or vaccination projects with AIP are also potential projects. Adjacent to our campus is the CDC National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Alaska office which has supported injury and other prevention programs at ANTHC.

Databases/software: The SEER Alaska Native Tumor Registry, which is housed in the ANEC, is a database of all cancers diagnosed in Alaska Native people from 1969 to the present and contains over 8,000 diagnosed cases. ANEC also has access to data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Vital Statistics, the Alaska Trauma Registry, the U.S. Census, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), and other databases. Analyses are conducted at ANEC with SEER Stat, SAS, SPSS, R or other statistical software, which would be made available to the fellow with technical support from ANEC staff. ANEC also has ready access to a PhD level biostatistician.

Projects

Surveillance Activity Title: Participate in the evaluation of the Tribal Public Health infrastructure leading to recommendations to Tribal leadership

Surveillance Activity Description:

Work as part of a team with other EpiCenter staff to assess the Tribal Public Health infrastructure statewide

Surveillance Activity Objectives:

- Assess the gaps and opportunities for tribal public health infrastructure
- Get appropriate input from key partners including tribal leadership, state public health leadership, etc.
- Develop a report of findings
- Present report and recommendations to Tribal leadership

Surveillance Activity Impact:

Recommendation may lead to improvements to tribal public health infrastructure in Alaska as funding is available.

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Surveillance System Evaluation Title: Evaluation of Tribal Syndromic Surveillance

Surveillance System Evaluation Description:

ANTHC has been collaborating with the State of Alaska on improving Syndromic Surveillance participation within the State of Alaska including a demonstration project in one of Alaska's Tribal Health Regions which is now including outpatient visits in the syndromic surveillance.

Surveillance System Objectives:

- Evaluate the value of the inclusion of outpatient visits from outlying ambulatory care clinics in the syndromic surveillance system in Alaska
- Develop a presentation on the value of including outpatient visits
- Deliver this presentation

Surveillance System Impact:

This evaluation will help to determine the future of the inclusion of ambulatory care visits in the value of Syndromic Surveillance. Disseminating the potential value could improve the onboarding of more tribal health programs to syndromic surveillance.

Major Project Title: Answer an epidemiologic question in Chronic Disease or Maternal, Child, and Family Health

Major Project Description:

The Major Project will be determined to best fit the professional interests of the Fellow. The State of Alaska's EpiBulletin is distributed to all providers across the entire state and provides insights, new knowledge and/or recommendations.

Major Project Objectives:

1. Collaboration with leadership on epidemiologic questions of current concern in the areas of MCH or Chronic Disease
2. Acquire appropriate permissions and data access
3. Complete data analysis and interpretation with appropriate groups
4. Report on findings to the appropriate groups
2. Deliverable: Publication and presentation at a public health meeting

Major Project Impact:

1. Provide insights into a health topic of interest
2. Provide public health recommendations

Additional Project #1 Title: Develop an ANTHC Emergency Operations Plan in collaboration.

Project #1 Type: Presentation

Project #1 Description: Collaborate with ANTHC Emergency Preparedness Program in the Department of Community Health and Environment to develop an ANTHC Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:

1. Become familiar with interdepartmental collaboration
2. Develop, and/or assist with a ANTHC Emergency Operations Plan
3. Facilitate key stakeholder discussions and input
4. Develop and coordinate the final document
5. Present on the ANTHC EOP

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Project #1 Impact:

- Demonstrated capacity of CSTE Fellow to use best practices in emergency operations plans;
- Disseminate valuable information.

Please Describe the Fellow’s Anticipated Role in Preparedness and Response Efforts – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)

Infectious disease or vaccine related project which may be in collaboration with staff at ANTHC and/or at CDC/AIP. It is anticipated that this project will be 20% FTE.

Please Describe the Fellow’s Anticipated Role in Cluster and Outbreak Investigations – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)

The Fellow will participate in outbreak investigations with either the State of Alaska, the Municipality, or with a Tribal health organization, as requested.

Please Describe the Fellow’s Anticipated Role in the COVID-19 Response – Include Activities and Time Allocation

The Fellow will:

1. Understand ANTHC and State of Alaska's role in the COVID-19 pandemic response and how it has changed since March, 2020
2. Become familiar with the role of ANTHC in monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the Alaska Native/American Indian population in Alaska
3. Be familiar with the difference in the impact of COVID-19 among indigenous people in Alaska versus elsewhere
4. Consider recommendations from available After Action Reports and understand the system that monitors how those recommendations are being implemented
5. Find or design a system to monitor the implementation of public health improvements

Please Describe Opportunities for Fellows to Work in Health Equity as well as Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into their Work

By the nature of our organization and the peoples we serve, the Fellow would be addressing health equity, diversity, and inclusion. Special attention to this domain will be part of the assessment of the tribal public health infrastructure.