

ID: 46766781

**Infectious Diseases, Infectious Diseases - Host Site Description
Arizona Department of Health Services**

Assignment Location: Phoenix, US-AZ
Arizona Department of Health Services
Public Health Preparedness

Primary Mentor: Jillian Olderbak, Master's of Public Health
HIV Prevention Senior Epidemiologist
Arizona Department of Health Services

Secondary Mentor: Ricardo Fernandez, Master of Public Administration
Office Chief of Office of HIV & Hepatitis C Services
Arizona Department of Health Services

Work Environment

Hybrid

Assignment Description

The CSTE fellow will be placed within the HIV Prevention Program under the supervision of the HIV Prevention Senior Epidemiologist. The HIV Prevention program is housed in the Office of HIV and Hepatitis C Services, within the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Services, in the Division of Public Health Preparedness within the Arizona Department of Health Services. The Office of HIV & Hepatitis C Services is the primary focus of HIV, hepatitis C, and mpox surveillance, prevention, care, training, and planning services activities for the Arizona Department of Health Services and is responsible for integrated planning efforts among HIV, hep C and mpox programs.

The Program carries out a range of investigative and analytical epidemiological activities related to HIV prevention. Activities range from the collection and analysis of HIV epidemiological data, HIV testing data, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention, non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) for HIV Prevention, and cross cutting analysis of data between HIV Prevention, HIV Surveillance, and Ryan White Part B programs. The HIV Prevention team also provides data and support to the Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG), our state's HIV jurisdictional planning body, and coordinates with local community partners to boost HIV prevention efforts. In total there are sixteen (16) staff dedicated to these activities including: (1) epidemiology program manager, two (2) epidemiologists, two (2) program coordinators, ten (10) communicable disease investigators/navigators, and one (1) administrative specialist.

On a day-to-day basis, the fellow will work closely with the Senior HIV Prevention Epidemiologist to manage HIV prevention data within the state-wide electronic disease surveillance system, MEDSIS. They will assist with analysis of HIV prevention data and cross cutting analysis of other infectious disease data and HIV data from other programs. Our HIV programs are also beginning to work on predictive modeling and using those techniques and developing models for the HIV prevention program. The CSTE fellow will be closely involved in development of predictive modeling for PrEP and HIV care and will assist and support a planned National Institutes of Health grant with Emory University to model the effectiveness of different PrEP interventions to prevent the transmission of HIV.

The fellow will have a cubicle with an existing computer and epidemiologic software including, SAS. Additionally, in addition to their supervisor there are also an additional ten (10) epidemiologists within the office who can assist with cross-training and epidemiologic support.

The Arizona Department of Health Services will supply all necessary office and computer equipment for the fellow. The fellow will be invited to attend all conferences and training relating to infectious diseases. In addition, the fellow will be able to travel to and/or virtually attend meetings directly related to their specific activities or projects.

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

ADHS has an IT department that would be available to assist the fellow with computer and database issues. In addition to MS Office, Adobe Suite and Tableau software, the fellow would have access to SAS for statistical analysis. Epidemiologists within the Office routinely use the state-wide electronic disease surveillance system (MEDSIS), the state immunization registry (ASIIS), vital records datasets (birth and death data), and the hospital discharge database (HDD). In addition, the fellow can request access to several other databases, including population-based survey results, such as BRFSS, and HIV/STD data.

Projects

Surveillance Activity Title: HIV Testing and HIV Surveillance Data

Surveillance Activity Description:

Conduct an analysis of HIV Prevention, PRISM, and HIV Surveillance data to better understand clients that are at risk of acquiring HIV to determine clients most at risk that we need to focus interventions on to reduce HIV incidence.

Surveillance Activity Objectives:

- Analysis of PRISM data
- Analysis of MEDSIS Data
- Analysis of eHARS data
- Creation of a report identifying priority clients for linkage to HIV prevention
- Report of recommendations for linking the above at risk persons to PrEP

Surveillance Activity Impact:

Reduced incidence of new HIV cases if more at risk persons are linked to PrEP

Surveillance System Evaluation Title: The Evaluation of PrEP In MEDSIS HIV Prevention Database

Surveillance System Evaluation Description:

In Arizona, ADHS moved HIV Prevention data reporting to MEDSIS, our state's communicable disease database, and PrEP reporting for HIV Prevention moved into that system. This database now houses data from multiple HIV Prevention subrecipients. In preparation for the larger PrEP evaluation project the fellow will assist in evaluating MEDSIS data to determine the efficacy of PrEP navigation among subrecipients and share any recommendations to improve PrEP services with other groups across the state also looking to implement services. This information will assist the Arizona Department of Health Services in assessing the overall effectiveness of PrEP navigation services and the need for educational campaigns, or other interventions to encourage linkage to care and retainment.

Fellow Activities

- Review current literature on PrEP and patient navigation programs.
- Obtain access to all reports within the MEDSIS database and begin review.
- Conduct medical record reviews, when applicable to determine if patients within MEDSIS have received PrEP navigation
- Create a report summarizing findings of the evaluation and recommendations for implementing improvements.
- Develop a PrEP navigation collaborative to maintain info sharing among stakeholders across the state.

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Surveillance System Objectives:

Literature review on PrEP navigation
Development of recommendations for program improvement

Surveillance System Impact:

More individuals successfully linked to PrEP care through the provision of enhanced guidance and TA

Major Project Title: Predictive Modeling for HIV Prevention

Major Project Description:

In the State of Arizona, we have recently had a significant increase in HIV incident cases. From 2021 to 2022 we saw a 20% increase of new HIV incident cases statewide. This increase is concerning and partly points to gaps in our HIV prevention systems of care and our linkage services to HIV prevention services. While we have made many improvements in linking newly diagnoses persons to care we can see in AIDSvu and AHEAD data that the uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV is lower than it should be for Arizona to achieve our ending the HIV epidemic goals. ADHS is currently working on a partnership with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and Emory University to develop a plan to analyze and improve PrEP interventions in the State of Arizona. We would like to host a CSTE fellow so they could assist working on this project. This project will focus on identifying which PrEP interventions are working, what new interventions we can consider employing, and analyzing our diagnosing of HIV and linking persons negative for HIV to preventative treatment. The goal of this effort is to help Arizona improve HIV prevention service delivery so we can reduce the number of incident HIV cases in the state to meet our ending the epidemic goals.

Major Project Objectives:

Landscape Analysis of HIV Prevention PrEP Services
Evaluation Report of Effectiveness of PrEP Services
Report on Recommendations For New or Improved PrEP Services and Linkage to HIV Prevention Services
Analysis of integration of HIV Prevention with other healthcare services like STD clinics, emergency departments, vaccine clinics, and others.

Major Project Impact:

Improved understanding of HIV Prevention Services in Arizona and reduced incident cases of HIV in Arizona

Additional Project #1 Title: Cluster/Outbreak Investigation and Tabletop Exercise

Project #1 Type: Surveillance Activity

Project #1 Description:

The fellow will assist with the development, implementation and maintenance of the HIV outbreak plan. The plan will be finalized in Spring of 2024 at which time the fellow will help with outbreak investigations and surveillance activities to support cluster detection and monitoring with support from epidemiologists on the HIV team. ADHS is also planning a community tabletop outbreak exercise for HIV in fall 2024 and if the CSTE fellow has begun by this date they will participate in that tabletop exercise.

Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:

Participate in updating HIV outbreak plan and if able participate in outbreak tabletop exercise

Project #1 Impact:

Improved monitoring and public health response

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

The fellow will work in the Division of Public Health Preparedness, which is responsible for leading epidemiologic activities under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement. All staff in the Program are required to receive training on incident command structure and to attend training on the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC). The fellow will complete training on the HEOC Operational Plan and the following incident command systems (ICS) training: ICS-100, ICS -200, and ICS-700. However, it is not expected that the fellow will participate in the COVID-19 response.

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

Knowledge and training on HEOC and ICS but these can be provided by ADHS at the start of their fellowship.

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

It is highly unlikely that the fellow will be assigned to the COVID-19 public health response.

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

HIV intersects with a lot of areas that touch on health equity topics. A lot of our HIV programs work in particular to address health inequities among persons who use injection drugs and persons of color who are disproportionately impacted by HIV in Arizona.