



CDC/ATSDR
Regional Tribal Environmental
Health Summit Series
RESOURCE DOCUMENT

July - August 2023

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Executive Summary

In the summer of 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) partnered with the National Indian Health Board to host a series of Regional Tribal Environmental Health summits.

This document includes an overview of ATSDR and NCEH and resources and tools available to the public, including tribal communities. Hyperlinks to access the documents and information are included.

The information provided is only intended to be general summary information to the public. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

ATSDR Overview

ATSDR protects communities from harmful health effects related to exposure to natural and man-made hazardous substances by responding to environmental health emergencies; investigating emerging environmental health threats; conducting research on the health impacts of hazardous waste sites; and building capabilities of and providing actionable guidance to state and local health partners.

ATSDR Community Involvement

Here is how ATSDR involves communities in its work.

1. ATSDR's public health assessment process evaluates how chemicals at a site may reach and affect the health of people living, working, or playing nearby. Therefore, information and concerns provided by nearby community members is key to all ATSDR site work. ATSDR staff interact with communities through public meetings, public availability sessions, meetings with community groups, and one-on-one.
2. Members of the public may request or petition ATSDR to conduct an evaluation of exposures at a site. This is in addition to ATSDR site work mandated by Superfund law on sites that are on or proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) or requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); tribal, state, or local governments; or other federal agencies. For more information on ATSDR's petition process, please see <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/2021-annual-report/listening-responding-taking-action/atsdr-petition-process.html>.
3. The public has the opportunity to comment on many of ATSDR's reports and toxicological profiles through official public comment processes.

ATSDR Resources and Tools

- ❖ [ATSDR Community Stress Resource Center](#): The Resource Center provides guidance and tools for reducing stress and building resilience in communities during public health responses to environmental contamination. Use it to better understand and address each community's unique practical, informational, social, and emotional needs.
- ❖ [ATSDR Community Engagement Playbook](#): The Community Engagement Playbook was created to guide public health professionals and state, territorial, local, and tribal partners through the phases and activities of community engagement. The playbook describes four phases of community engagement: 1) Setting the stage, 2) Getting started, 3) Keeping it going, and 4) Wrapping up.
- ❖ [Environmental Justice Index \(EJI\)](#): The Environmental Justice Index uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, EPA, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and CDC to rank the cumulative effects of environmental injustice on health for people in every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census Bureau collects statistical data. The EJI ranks each tract on 36 environmental, social, and health factors and groups the results within those three overarching categories.

- ❖ [Public Health Assessment Guidance Manual](#): The Public Health Assessment Guidance Manual outlines methods and resources that environmental health professionals can use to evaluate environmental exposures associated with an industrial facility, commercial facility, or hazardous waste site. ATSDR follows this manual in producing site specific public health assessments or health consultations.
- ❖ [Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#): The Social Vulnerability Index helps identify and map communities at higher risk. CDC/ATSDR uses the SVI to prepare for and respond to emergency events, including collecting data that will aid in strategically directing resources to communities that are underserved.
- ❖ [Soil Screening, Health, Outreach, and Partnership \(soilSHOP\)](#): soilSHOP events provide community members with free lead screening of soil gathered from their gardens or outdoor play area(s). Through soilSHOPs, ATSDR and partner organizations provide health education and outreach to help people learn if their soil is contaminated and how to reduce exposures. ATSDR offers a five-part presentation [series](#) on its website that walks through the steps needed to plan a soilSHOP. The presentation series gives background and overview information, planning and preparation details, and procedures for sample login and registration, soil screening, and health education.
- ❖ [Toxicological Profiles](#): Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each peer-reviewed Toxicological Profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicological and epidemiological information on a substance.

ATSDR Educational/Training Opportunities

ATSDR provides educational and training opportunities on their [environmental education website](#). This webpage provides links to online education and training for medical providers, health assessors, and other public health and environmental professionals.

NCEH Overview

The [National Center for Environmental Health \(NCEH\)](#) protects people’s health from environmental hazards that can be in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the world that sustains us. NCEH does that by investigating the relationship between environmental factors and health, developing guidance, building partnerships to support healthy decision making, and by focusing on the following:

- ❖ Protecting children from the health risks of harmful exposures and conditions
- ❖ Identifying and addressing disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects in communities at higher risk and communities with racial and ethnic minority groups
- ❖ Bolstering the capacity of state, tribal, local, and territorial environmental health services to detect, prevent, and control environmental health hazards
- ❖ Harmonizing diverse data systems to optimize environmental health surveillance
- ❖ Providing unique laboratory science that improves the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental chemicals

NCEH Community Involvement

Here is how NCEH gets involved with communities that are having environmental health issues:

1. NCEH provides funding for which state, local, territorial, and tribal entities can apply. This funding is intended to strengthen capacity of state, local, territorial, and tribal environmental health services to detect, prevent, and control environmental health hazards.
2. When a natural or technological disaster or emergency occurs, NCEH works as a central coordination point for responding. By triaging and coordinating NCEH/ATSDR’s emergency response assets and unique expertise, NCEH helps federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial entities respond to environmental health emergencies. NCEH also addresses environmental public health consequences of natural and technological emergencies, terrorist events, and hazardous substance releases.
3. NCEH collaborates with other U.S. government agencies, state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments, academic institutions, community groups, philanthropy foundations, and international organizations to improve peoples’ health. NCEH develops laboratory methods to diagnose diseases, tests for exposure to harmful chemicals, helps other laboratories improve the quality of their tests, and responds to public health emergencies.

NCEH Resources and Tools by Environmental Health Topic

Asthma

- ❖ [EXHALE Technical Package](#): The EXHALE technical package represents a group of strategies, which, based on the best available evidence, can improve asthma control and reduce health care costs. It is intended as a resource to inform decision-making in communities, organizations, and states.
 - [Guides on Using EXHALE](#)
 - [Social Determinants of Health and EXHALE](#)

- ❖ [Home Assessment for Asthma Triggers](#): This training covers some of the most common asthma triggers found inside homes. By completing this training, users will be able to understand how exposure to common asthma triggers occurs in homes, and help residents find ways to identify, reduce, and remove triggers in their homes.

Climate Change

- ❖ [Building Resilience Against Climate Effects \(BRACE\) Framework](#): This framework is a five-step process that allows health officials to develop strategies and programs to help communities prepare for the health effects of climate change.
 - [Adaptation and Evaluation Plan](#)
- ❖ [Climate-Ready Tribes Initiative](#): This initiative currently has three primary activities: 1) funding tribes to conduct local climate health work or research, 2) highlighting tribal work and stories at the Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit, and 3) sharing materials through the Climate and Health Learning Community. Climate Ready Tribes is a part of the National Indian Health Bureau's nationally focused public health program and is funded by CDC.
- ❖ [Heat Related Illness \(HRI\) Prevention](#): This training teaches and reinforces awareness of heat-related illness among coaches, athletic trainers, students, school nurses, parents, and teachers.

Emergency Management and Natural Disasters

- ❖ [Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response \(CASPER\)](#): CASPER is designed to provide public health leaders and emergency managers information about a community so they can make informed decisions. CASPER is quick, relatively inexpensive, flexible, and uses a simple reporting format. It uses a valid sampling methodology to collect information at the household level and can be used in disaster or non-disaster settings.
- ❖ [Conducting Assessments](#): Environmental health practitioners perform many critical functions, such as conducting shelter assessments and evaluating public health and healthcare facilities. This website provides resources to help environmental health practitioners conduct assessments after an emergency response.
- ❖ [Disaster Epidemiology eLearning Modules](#): To aid in effective planning for disasters, NCEH has developed four modules that highlight the public health-related effects of disasters. The modules include 1) Public Health Impacts of Disasters, 2) Public Health Emergency Management, 3) Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response, and 4) Disaster Surveillance. These modules are designed to help the public health and emergency workforce better prepare for and respond to disasters.
- ❖ [Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response \(EHTER\)](#): Environmental health professionals perform many critical functions during emergency response and recovery. These functions include assessing shelters, testing drinking water supplies, performing food safety inspections, and controlling disease-causing vectors. EHTER prepares environmental health professionals such as sanitarians and environmental health specialists to respond to

emergencies. It provides them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health concerns that result from emergencies and disasters.

- ❖ [Radiation Emergency Training, Education, and Tools](#): This training and tools help preparedness professionals and communities to be ready for a radiation emergency.
- ❖ [Prepare for Tornadoes](#): Knowing what to do when you see a tornado, or when you hear a tornado warning, can help protect you and your loved ones. During a tornado, people face hazards from extremely high winds and risk being struck by flying and falling objects. After a tornado, the damage left behind poses additional injury risks. Although nothing can be done to prevent tornadoes, there are actions people can take to protect their health and safety.
- ❖ [Prepare for Wildfires](#): More and more people make their homes in areas that are prone to wildfires. They can take steps to be ready for a wildfire and prepare their home and landscaping to reduce fire risks. This website helps people learn how to protect themselves and their family from a wildfire, evacuate safely during a wildfire, and how to stay healthy when they return home.
- ❖ [Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke](#): When wildfires burn, they produce smoke that can reach many communities. Wildfire smoke is a mix of gases and fine particles from burning trees and plants, buildings, and other material. Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but emergency responders, children, people who are pregnant, and those with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or heart disease are especially at risk. This website has information to help people protect themselves against smoke and ash before, during, and after a wildfire.

Environmental Health Practice

- ❖ [Introduction to Public Health Informatics](#): Public health informatics is the systematic application of information, computer science, and technology to public health practice, research, and learning. These materials give an overview of the importance of public health informatics and its role in public health.
- ❖ [Environmental Public Health Online Courses \(EPHOC\)](#): EPHOC is an online, on-demand package of e-learning courses for environmental public health practitioners. The goal is to provide access to comprehensive, worthwhile, and affordable workforce development resources for practitioners in environmental public health. The 15 e-learning courses cover environmental health topics such as disaster sanitation, food protection, general environmental health, housing sanitation and safety, institutions and licensed establishments, potable water, solid and hazardous waste, swimming pools and recreational facilities, and more.
- ❖ [Using Informatics to Improve Environmental Health Practice](#): Environmental health programs collect data from inspections and other sources but might not always analyze it for trends or use it to inform timely public health decision-making. Standardizing how data are collected, shared, and used can support innovative approaches to improving environmental health practice.

Environmental Justice

- ❖ [Environmental Justice Dashboard](#): The Environmental Justice Dashboard allows users to explore data on environmental exposures, community characteristics, and health burden — factors important to understanding and addressing environmental justice issues.
 - [Working for Environmental Justice: Webinar about the Environmental Justice Dashboard](#)
- ❖ [Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(JEDI\) in Climate Adaptation Planning](#): This comprehensive, step-by-step resource is designed to supplement public health work and climate adaptation planning with a step-by-step playbook, frameworks, and strategies and to amplify the incorporation of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, or JEDI.
 - [Climate Change and Health Playbook: Adaption Planning for JEDI](#): This playbook is designed to support the work of state, local, territorial, and tribal health services across the nation in embedding justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into their climate and resilience initiatives, programs, and operations.
- ❖ [National Environmental Health Tracking Network](#): This dynamic, web-based data system allows CDC/ATSDR, its partners, and community members to monitor broad public health concerns that affect communities at higher risk across the nation. The multi-tiered system of data, tools, and services offers the ability to identify demographic factors, environmental burdens, socioeconomic conditions, and public health concerns directly related to environmental justice and health equity.

Healthy Housing

- ❖ [Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#): Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas. It is produced any time a fossil fuel is burned, and it can cause sudden illness and death. CDC works with national, state, local, and other partners to raise awareness about CO poisoning and to monitor CO-related illness and death surveillance data in the United States.
- ❖ [Childhood Lead Exposure Education for Communities](#): These videos give a brief overview of what lead is, where it is found, and why it is important to protect young children from its exposure. The information is designed for high school and general audiences.
- ❖ [Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters](#): This guide provides key messages for homeowners and renters on how to clean up mold and minimize health risks.
- ❖ [How to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Children](#): No safe level of lead in children has been identified. Even low levels of lead in blood can hurt a child's ability to learn, pay attention, and do well in school. The good news is that childhood lead poisoning is preventable. This fact sheet describes common sources of lead and steps to reduce children's risk for lead exposure.
- ❖ [Mold Cleanup and Remediation](#): This website provides fact sheets and other resources from CDC and EPA on mold cleanup, removal, and remediation.

- ❖ [Reduce your Exposure to Mold in your Home](#): After a hurricane or major flood, mold can start to grow in affected homes. The mold might last for weeks or even months. This website provides information on steps that can reduce exposure to mold in homes.
- ❖ [Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Levels](#): This website provides information about blood lead testing and a summary of recommendations for follow-up and case management for children exposed to lead.

Safe Drinking Water (Private Wells)

- ❖ [Groundwater Corrosivity and Lead in Private Wells](#): This website provides information about corrosive groundwater and what to do when private well owners find lead in their drinking water.
- ❖ [Private Wells After a Wildfire](#): After a wildfire, private wells can be contaminated and unsafe to use for drinking water and other purposes. Types of issues and solutions vary by geographic region. This website shares best practices compiled from state and local programs addressing private well safety.
- ❖ [Safe Water Program Improvement e-Learning Series \(SWPI\)](#): SWPI helps health department programs strengthen services to people who use wells, cisterns, springs, and other private drinking water systems not covered by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Oversight for these systems vary, but core elements of successful, sustainable programs are similar. SWPI walks through the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services and the Environmental Public Health Performance Standards frameworks. SWPI provides examples of using those resources to identify and fill gaps in these types of drinking water programs.

Legionella

- ❖ [Environmental Investigation Videos](#): These six videos were designed to help with the environmental aspects of Legionnaires' disease outbreak investigations. They include information on conducting environmental assessments, developing sample plans, and sampling different potential sources.
- ❖ [Legionella Environmental Assessment Form and Marking Guide](#): This website provides environmental assessment and sampling tools to assist in the environmental component of Legionnaires' disease outbreak investigations.
- ❖ [Legionella Control Toolkit](#): The Toolkit for Controlling *Legionella* in Common Sources of Exposure provides public health and building owners and operators with concise, actionable information on controlling *Legionella* in commonly implicated sources of Legionnaires' disease outbreaks. It helps focus and improve *Legionella* control efforts and protect the safety of a building's employees, visitors, and surrounding community.
- ❖ [PreventLD Training – A Training on Legionella Water Management Programs](#): This training covers creating a water management program to reduce risk for Legionnaires' disease.

PreventLD Training aligns with industry standards (ASHRAE 188) on managing risk for *Legionella* bacteria.

Vector Control

- ❖ [Vector Control for Environmental Health Professionals](#): This vector control online training curriculum is for environmental health professionals working in government agencies, tribal organizations, schools, and businesses. The training emphasizes the use of integrated pest management to address public health pests and vectors that spread pathogens, including Zika virus and others.
- ❖ [Vector Control Toolkit](#): Topics covered in the Vector Control Tools & Resources (VeCToR) Toolkit include monitoring; diagnosis and investigation; informing, educating, and empowering; mobilization; developing policy and plans; enforcing laws and regulations; linking and providing care; assuring a competent environmental health and vector control workforce; evaluation; and research.

Other CDC Information and Resources

- ❖ [American Indian and Alaska Native Worker Safety and Health Strategic Plan](#): This plan serves as a guide to develop research and outreach activities to prevent injuries, illnesses, and fatalities among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) workers. The plan should be viewed as a starting point to stimulate collaboration and activities to improve American Indian and Alaska Native worker safety and health.
- ❖ [CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee](#): The CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) plays an instrumental role in providing CDC/ATSDR with guidance on public health issues affecting AI/AN tribes. This website provides information about eligibility, selection criteria, and nomination procedures for the TAC.
- ❖ [CDC Tribal Health Website](#): This CDC/ATSDR website presents issues related to consultation, partnership, and support between CDC and tribes, and tribal serving organizations. It also has resources relevant to AI/AN communities. The Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances ([OTASA](#)) is the office within CDC that is the principal point of contact between CDC/ATSDR and the AI/AN tribes. Through affirming the government-to-government relationship, the office seeks to advance connections, provide expertise, and increase resources to improve tribal communities' public health; please contact OTASA at TribalSupport@cdc.gov.
- ❖ [Federal Grants Management Training Series](#): This free, self-guided, three-video training series is designed to provide federal grant recipients with the information needed to ensure the successful management of federal grants and cooperative agreements.
- ❖ [Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country](#): This website provides information and resources related to CDC/ATSDR's Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program. GHWIC is CDC/ATSDR's largest investment to improve AI/AN tribal health, focused on health promotion and chronic disease prevention. GHWIC allows tribal communities to take their health promotion and disease prevention programs into their own hands, using traditional knowledge, community engagement, and culturally relevant programs and materials.
- ❖ [Grant Writing Training for Tribal Applicants](#): The University of Washington School of Nursing has developed a series of online tribal training lectures focused on successful grant writing. Sessions include Writing the Successful Proposal; Organizing for Proposal Development; Writing Goals and Objectives and Linking to the Timeline; Statement of Need and Literature Review; Methods Proposal Development Training; and Preparing the Proposal Budget. New training sessions are being developed through a partnership with the Suquamish Tribe and will be posted when available.
- ❖ [Health Disparities-Related Data Resources for Tribes](#): This CDC/ATSDR website provides links to tribal health disparities information and resources available from CDC and other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services.

- ❖ [Public Health Training for Tribal Leaders](#): The National Indian Health Board created this e-course to educate tribal leaders and Tribal Advisory Committee members on public health topics and provide information, including best practices, to support consultation on public health.
- ❖ [Tribal Public Health Data](#): This CDC/ATSDR website provides information about CDC/ATSDR tribal health data, issues, tools, technical assistance, and training. It also has tribal data-related resources from public health partners.

National Policy Updates

- ❖ On April 21, 2023, President Biden signed a new executive order, [“Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All,”](#) to ensure that everyone in the United States can live in a safe and healthy environment, protected by the nation’s environmental and civil rights laws. The executive order directs all executive branch agencies to look for ways to protect burdened communities and improve collaboration and communication with state, tribal, territorial, and local governments on programs and activities to advance environmental justice. It directs them to better analyze cumulative effects and build a coordinated strategy for identifying gaps in data and research. It also expands interagency coordination through the establishment of an Office of Environmental Justice within the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The White House also announced the publication of the Council on Environmental Quality’s first [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#), a government-wide assessment of agency efforts to advance environmental justice, and expanded the number of agencies with programs covered by the [Justice40 initiative](#).
 - [Executive Order Fact Sheet](#)

- ❖ On November 15, 2021, President Biden issued a [memorandum](#) to all federal agencies to recognize Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) – a form of Indigenous Knowledge – as one of the many important bodies of knowledge that contributes to scientific, technical, social, and economic advancements of the United States and to our understanding of the natural world. ITEK is a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, practices, and beliefs that promote environmental sustainability and the responsible stewardship of natural resources through relationships between humans and environmental systems. This memo recognizes that the federal government should engage with ITEK only through relationships with tribal nations and indigenous communities and in a manner that respects the rights of knowledge holders to control access to their knowledge, to grant or withhold permission, and to dictate the terms of its application. Further, should tribal nations and indigenous communities decide to share ITEK and otherwise collaborate with the federal government, the federal government should ensure that the application of knowledge and complementary collaborative efforts benefit tribal nations, indigenous communities, the United States, and our planet. [Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge](#) was provided on November 30, 2022.

Workforce Development and Employment Opportunities

- ❖ [Careers at CDC](#): This website provides information about CDC/ATSDR job opportunities.
- ❖ [Epidemic Intelligence Service \(EIS\)](#): CDC/ATSDR's EIS officers serve on the front lines of public health, protecting U.S. residents and the global community, while training under the guidance of seasoned mentors. When disease outbreaks or other public health threats emerge, EIS officers investigate, identify the cause, rapidly implement control measures, and collect evidence to recommend preventive actions.
- ❖ [Indigenous Public Health Leaders Program](#): This program is a CDC-funded leadership training institute for emerging tribal public health professionals that are in entry to mid-level positions within tribal health or public health organizations or are otherwise serving tribal populations. The program is 6-months long and provides training in core public health competencies with a focus on key issues affecting tribal communities including mental health and resilience, emergency preparedness, and increased communication and collaboration.
- ❖ [National Environmental Public Health Internship Program \(NEPHIP\)](#): NEPHIP is a 400-hour internship opportunity linking environmental health undergraduate and graduate students with health departments.
- ❖ [Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education \(ORISE\) Research Participation Program](#): The ORISE program at CDC/ATSDR is an educational and training program designed to provide college students, recent graduates, and university faculty opportunities to connect with the unique resources of the CDC. With the support of an assigned mentor, participants have authentic research experiences at state-of-the-art facilities. These research experiences complement the educational nature of the programs and make participants aware of potential science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) employment opportunities at the sponsoring agency. Participants have access to unique research and training opportunities, top scientists and engineers, and state-of-the-art facilities and equipment.
- ❖ [Public Health Associate Program \(PHAP\)](#): PHAP is a competitive, two-year, paid training program with the CDC. Associates are assigned to state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies and nongovernmental organizations, and work alongside other professionals across a variety of public health settings.
- ❖ [Tribal Career Development Opportunities](#): This website provides information about CDC/ATSDR tribal career development opportunities.



National Association of County and City Health Officials' Resource List for the Environmental Health Tribal Summit

Introduction to Organization

- ❖ Mission: The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.
- ❖ Priorities: NACCHO's efforts include supporting health departments in their programmatic work; advocating on behalf of local public health; optimizing strategic alliances and partnerships; and encouraging NACCHO member engagement.

Programs and Activities

- ❖ Climate Change
 - Take Climate Action with NACCHO's Toolkit: NACCHO partnered with ecoAmerica to tailor their Climate for Health Ambassadors training program for local health departments. Users can access (free!) climate-focused on-demand training and resources to speak and act confidently on climate change. Learn more at <https://virtualcommunities.naccho.org/climateactiontoolkit/home>
 - Increasing Rural Resilience to Climate Change: A roundup of relevant resources to help rural local health departments start or build on climate change initiatives in their communities. View the blog: <https://naccho.org/blog/articles/increasing-rural-resilience-to-climate-change-a-primer-for-health-departments-2>
- ❖ Food Safety
 - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Retail Food Seminar, Safe Food Prep: It's in Your Hands, was held virtually in 2022. Hosted by NACCHO, this annual seminar provided an opportunity for the FDA to discuss retail food issues of mutual concern with our federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. The seminar had a focus on norovirus, including assessing employee health, investigating norovirus related foodborne illnesses, and implementing successful employee health intervention strategies. Learn more at <https://naccho.org/blog/articles/catching-up-with-the-2022-fda-retail-food-seminar>
 - Access recordings of all sessions and workshops on NACCHO's YouTube channel at https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIMrymKEFdbe_6bWQzqd7At6pgKGQk83F. Timestamps are included for easy access to specific chapters within each session.

- ❖ **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Preparedness/Wastewater Surveillance**
 - **Building Local Capacity for Wastewater Surveillance:** As wastewater surveillance becomes a more relevant and efficient monitoring method for health departments across the U.S., additional scientific research and development of tools, best practices, and resources are needed to support its effective implementation at the local level. See how NACCHO’s mentorship program is helping local health departments in this space: <https://bit.ly/WastewaterMentorshipReport>.
 - **Wastewater surveillance and COVID-19 Infographic:** NACCHO, supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developed an easy- to-read infographic describing the workings of wastewater surveillance for SARS- CoV-2, how this process can help local health departments stay ahead of the pandemic, and how to get involved with implementing this system. Download the infographic at <https://bit.ly/WastewaterSurveillanceInfographic>

- ❖ **Public Health Law and Policy**
 - **NativeDATA:** NACCHO collaborated with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create an online resource supporting public health collaboration that helps Tribes and Native-serving organizations gain access to correct health information, so that leaders can make informed health decisions that uplift the health of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. This resource provides guidance for obtaining and sharing health data in ways that honor Tribal sovereignty, data sovereignty, and public health authority. Access the resource: <https://natedata.npaihb.org/>

- ❖ **Tribal Opportunities**
 - **Public Health Law Practitioners Convening Steering Committee:** NACCHO is in the process of organizing its second Public Health Law Practitioners Convening, set to take place in 2024. This meeting is intended for law- and policy-focused professionals from state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions. Steering committee participants would participate in making decisions impacting topics of focus, speaker selection, abstract selection, and more. Opportunities to participate are limited. Look to <https://naccho.org/programs/public-health-infrastructure/law> on ways to engage.

Contact Information:

Connect with NACCHO’s team at environmentalhealth@naccho.org, or visit <https://naccho.org/programs/environmental-health> for more information.



Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

ASTHO Peer Groups

ASTHO has a long history of maintaining successful, long lasting peer groups which allow ASTHO members in similar roles to discuss shared challenges, best practices, tools, and resources, in order to improve public health services. Formalized peer groups provide ASTHO, and subsequently CDC, with critical information about the needs of State and Territorial Health Agencies (STHAs), opportunities for capacity building, as well as public health trends and emerging issues. ASTHO peer groups are often used as a sounding board to review and approve policy statements, gather feedback for public comment, communicate important information to State and Territorial Health Officials (STHOs), federal agencies, the Administration, and NGO-partners, and in general raise the profile of important program-specific work being done within STHAs.

State Tribal Liaisons Peer Group

ASTHOs State Tribal Liaisons (STL) peer group seeks to enhance relationships and communication between STLs, STHOs, and relevant Tribal-serving organizations (TSOs) and federal partners. The peer group is committed to the sharing of best practices, principles, and approaches that enhance the sovereignty and optimal health of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Peer group convenings serve as a forum for Liaisons to network and share information related to key public health issues impacting their Tribal communities and partners.

The formalization of the STL peer group is a critical first step for ASTHO to 1) better understand the role STHAs currently play in addressing the public health needs of AI/AN communities, 2) identify ways for STHAs to improve public health services offered to AI/AN communities, and 3) support STLs in their important work.

Mission

- The mission of the STL Peer Group is to advocate with STHAs to improve the delivery of health services to AI/AN communities. This is done by:
- Increasing STHO awareness and understanding of the federally- and state- recognized Tribal Nations within their jurisdictions and their public health needs.
- Identifying, promoting, and building partnerships between STHAs, TSOs, and federal agencies to address public health needs as identified by AI/AN communities.
- Serving as the subject matter experts for organizations interested in fostering STHA – Tribal relationships.
- Advocating for the inclusion of AI/AN public health goals and objectives in all STHAs.

Vision

Provide a platform and structure for developing and sustaining strong relationships between STHAs, Tribal Nations, TSOs, and federal partners that improves the health of AI/ANs, advances health equity, and eliminates health disparities.

Note

It is essential to acknowledge that STHAs, and therefore STLs, do not:

- Speak on behalf of Tribes/Tribal Leadership.
- Compel tribes to action or mandate activities.
- Serve as Tribe-specific subject matter experts.

Contact Information

For more information, visit <https://www.astho.org/topic/environmental-health/>.





Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)

CSTE Tribal Epidemiology and Environmental Epidemiology Programs

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) is the professional home for applied epidemiologists representing multiple levels of public health practice. CSTE works to establish more effective relationships among state and other health agencies. It also provides technical advice and assistance to partner organizations and federal public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Mission

The Tribal Epidemiology Subcommittee consists of epidemiologists and others working with American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in state, local, territorial, and tribal health agencies and tribal epidemiology centers. CSTE promotes partnership and data sharing to support tribal public health surveillance and data sovereignty.

The mission of the Tribal Epidemiology Subcommittee is to strengthen and advance CSTE members' service to Native people. The subcommittee is co-chaired between a state health department and Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) representative. Subcommittee strategic priorities include educating CSTE membership on issues and values related to Tribal sovereignty and epidemiology; developing policies, guidance, and resources to improve the health of AI/AN people; and promoting data sharing between states and Tribal health authorities.

Programs and Activities

The subcommittee holds bi-monthly calls to discuss current issues and topics related to AI/AN public health such as identifying surveillance priorities, discussing strategies for data release, and improving data quality. Members of the subcommittee work to develop educational materials, such as the CSTE Tribal Epidemiology Toolkit, and cross-collaborations with other CSTE subcommittees to amplify Tribal voices and positions on issues of public health importance.

Overview of Environmental Health at CSTE

CSTE is home to many subcommittees and workgroups in which environmental epidemiologists share information, discuss best practices, and work through ongoing challenges in the field. The Environmental Epidemiology Subcommittee engages in activities to support the epidemiology and surveillance of non-infectious health effects related to environmental exposures, hazards, and conditions.

The Climate, Health, and Equity Subcommittee provides a forum for epidemiologists and other public health professionals who work in the climate and health field at state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) levels to collaborate and participate in information sharing.

The Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee brings together epidemiologists from various subject disciplines to share best practices and collaborate on epidemiologic approaches towards improving all-hazard disaster preparedness and response capacities at local, state, tribal, regional, and national levels.

Get Involved

Join CSTE's Tribal Epidemiology, Environmental Epidemiology Subcommittee, and others to get involved! Active members support effective public health, develop standards for practice, and advocate for resources and scientifically based policy. Engaging with CSTE is also an opportunity to build and grow relationships with state and local health agencies.

CSTE also offers multiple fellowships and training programs for new and mid-career epidemiologists:

- [Applied Epidemiology Fellowship](#): a mentored, two-year on-the-job training program for recent public health graduates interested in public health practice.
- [Applied Public Health Informatics Fellowship](#): a two-year fellowship aimed at building informatics, data science, and laboratory capacity at health departments while training new graduates.
- The [Data Science Team Training Program](#) is a team-based, on-the job training program to promote data science upskilling at public health agencies. Learners in the 12-month program work collaboratively on a project that addresses a current agency need related to DMI.

Get In Touch With CSTE

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