



Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center News

Epidemiology Project of Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

Vol.8, No.4—Fall 2007

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

GLTEC provides epidemiological services to the Tribes in the Bemidji Area (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota). The services include training and technical assistance in many areas of public health, data management, program planning, and program evaluation.

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BEMIDJI AREA DIABETES COORDINATORS CONFERENCE 2007

The annual 2007 Bemidji Area Diabetes Coordinators Conference was held in Bloomington, MN on September 18-20. Sixty-seven Tribal Diabetes Program staff and nine speakers attended the conference.

The first day of the conference was geared to newer Diabetes Coordinators. Woody Deloria, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, presented Grant Writing 101 and Steve Rith-Najarian, Bemidji Area Diabetes Consultant, presented an overview of the IHS diabetes program.

On the second day, Alberta Becenti, IHS Health Promotion Disease Prevention, presented on community assessments, Lani Desaulniers, Albuquerque Indian Health Center, presented on the topic of Pregnancy and Diabetes, Charla Gordon, Sault Ste Marie Tribe, presented information on healthy eating habits for the family and Alex Adams, University of Wisconsin Medical School, finished the day with a presentation on Diabetes in Youth.

The third day of the conference was devoted to a presentation on engaging the community. Diane Pittman, Cass Lake IHS Hospital, presented on Positive Deviance, Lorelei DeCora, Seva Foundation, gave a presentation on Talking Circles, and Kristin Hill, Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center, wrapped up the conference with a skills building session on Focus Groups.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“Keeping Native Women & Families Healthy & Strong”

You are invited to submit an abstract proposal to conduct a brief breakout or poster session. Please submit a summary of 500 words or less describing activities, strategies or lessons learned within your community. Priority areas are: Special Needs; Supported Births; Healthy Lifestyles; Breastfeeding; and FIMR. Submit abstracts no later than November 16, 2007 for consideration.

The conference is being held at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center in Milwaukee, WI April 23-25, 2008. Submissions may be faxed to (715)588-3607, mailed to Epidemiology Center, PO Box 9, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538, or emailed to: EpidemiologyCenter@gmail.com. Selected abstracts will be notified by letter no later than January 18, 2008. Please include contact information with submission. Scholarships for travel, hotel, and per diem may be provided.



Monte Fox Recognized by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Monte Fox is the Diabetes Project Manager for White Earth Tribal Health in White Earth, Minnesota. As a Hidatsa member of the Three Affiliated Tribes growing up on a reservation in western North Dakota, Monte Fox personally witnessed the toll diabetes can take. Fox developed great respect for his native culture and the healing power of Native American beliefs and practices. These experiences fuel his passion and mission to help the White Earth people improve their health through diet and exercise. Fox has developed culturally sensitive programs to promote healthier lifestyles, such as a diabetes camp for adults, a summer survivor program for kids, and Diabetes Bingo and Honor the Beat, games focused on education and prevention of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Fox successfully negotiated for a podiatry clinic that in the last four years has saved more than 20 limbs from amputation.

We are honored to recognize and to be associated with such committed, courageous and creative people," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "The Community Health Leaders combine personal action and the ability to inspire others to draw upon and mobilize untapped strengths and assets in our communities. We value their ability to help us and others think outside the box and to engage all possible resources to meet the challenges and the opportunities for improving health and health care in the 21st century."

Terms of Epidemiology

Efficacy vs. Effectiveness vs. Efficiency

Efficacy

Does the agent or intervention “work” under ideal conditions? Efficacy is a measure in a situation in which all conditions are controlled to maximize the effect of the agent/intervention.

Effectiveness

If we administer the agent/intervention in a “real-life” situation, is it effective? Effectiveness is a measure in a “real-life” situation.

Efficiency

If an agent is shown to be effective, what is the cost-benefit ratio? Cost includes not only money, but also discomfort, pain, absenteeism, disability, and social stigma.

Application Tongue Twister:

Quite a bit of effort was put into developing a new pill that wasn’t effective. There was little point in looking at efficiency, for if it isn’t effective, the cheapest alternative is not using it. Of course, at times political and societal pressures drive a program even if it isn’t effective because it was shown to have efficacy, but if it doesn’t work in the “real-world” what’s the point?

Diabetes Conference continued from page 1

Overall, the conference was well attended and a successful event. The knowledge and expertise of the various invited speakers contributed to our mutual efforts to ensure quality diabetes data and health delivery improvement initiatives for the Native American communities in the Bemidji Area. The conference was made possible though the grant support from the IHS National Diabetes Program.

Strange Fact

With the cold and flu season around the corner, this fact is a reminder of how germs can be spread unintentionally. “A sneeze leaves your mouth at 100 miles per hour,” from Strange Facts website.

GREAT LAKES NARCH NEWS

PHASE III STUDENT INTERN PROJECT SUMMARY

Lesli Kiedrowski: University of Wisconsin-Madison, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research

The purpose is to participate in a project designed to understand how mammals respond to low levels of oxygen (also known as hypoxia). The objective of this study is to see how a protein known as HIF-3alpha plays a role in the response to low oxygen. To accomplish this, mice have been made that are lacking the gene encoding this protein. The inheritance of the null allele in mice will be tracked using both Southern blot analysis and polymerase chain reaction approaches. A data set will be produced that will allow for analysis to determine if the null allele is associated with lethality, disease, or pathology.

New Staff Member



Hau and Boozhoo,

As the newly hired Biostatistician at the Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Isaiah Brokenleg. I am an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Nation) and grew up in South Dakota.

From a cultural perspective, I believe that we are all related and, as such, we are all called to be, "good relatives" to one another. As a winkté, I believe that I am called to be a healer and move my communities in the direction of positive change. Along with my cultural role, I also bring a wide range of diverse life experiences, as well as values, that have shaped my interests and passions for parity in health, social justice, an end to structural oppression/violence, and working to build a holistically healthy society.

From an academic perspective, I have a B.A. from the University of Minnesota, Morris with majors in Multicultural Studies as well as applied Social Justice/Human Rights. I recently earned my Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health where I majored in Community Health Education. I was a G.L.I.T.C. N.A.R.C.H. intern during my graduate education at the American Indian Community Tobacco Project. My master's project looked at American Indian Youth and Tobacco Use/Abuse.

For fun, I enjoy photography, camping, canoeing, cooking, dancing, singing, karaoke, talking, listening, movies, activism, beadwork, and having a good laugh. It feels great to know that I can work in the American Indian community and that my work will make a difference in the lives of others. I hope to meet with all of you at some point so that we can learn from each other and work toward our common goals.

Isaiah Brokenleg

What's New With the Epidemiologists?

Kimmine Pierce
Chronic Disease

The Bemidji Area Diabetes Surveillance Program held their annual Diabetes Coordinators Conference in September. Dina Chapman and Nancy Bennett, MIS Analysts, continue on-site RPMS training in the DMS related packages and technical assistance. Kara Yaeger, Diabetes Consultant, continues to provide IHS Diabetes Education Recognition Program (IDERP) technical assistance. Look for future information on two new initiatives being implemented this year; the Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP) and the Dilated Eye Exam DVD Assessment.

In 2004, Cancer surpassed Heart Disease as the leading cause of death in Bemidji Area Native Americans. The Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center is currently working with Tribal, State, and Academic Partners to put together a proposal for a 3-state Great Lakes Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (GLCCCP).

For further information contact Kimmine Pierce Epidemiologist, kpierce@glitc.org

Allison La Pointe
MCH
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“Keeping Native Women & Families Healthy & Strong” Abstract Due Date: November 16, 2007 (see page 2 for details).

Olivia Byron-Cooper
Behavioral Health

A new project coordinator, Molli Huling, has been hired and began working on the SAMHSA grant in October. The strategic plan has been submitted and we are awaiting approval in order to release the remaining year one funds. I have been helping communities develop tools to be used for data collection and evaluation, pertaining to this grant, at each of the ten participating tribes.

Updating the profile report is an ongoing effort and improving data quality pertaining to behavioral health in our three state area is my main focus. If you have any questions, please contact: Olivia Byron-Cooper, (715)588-1032, or email at: ocooper@glitc.org



RPMS Questions or Training Needs?

Dina Chapman and Nancy Bennett can assist with RPMS Diabetes Management System questions, technical assistance or training. Please contact them at 1-800-472-7207 or by email: dchapman@glitc.org or nbennett@glitc.org.

Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center Mission: To support Tribal communities in their efforts to improve health by assisting with data needs through: Partnership Development, Community Based Research, Education, and Technical Assistance.

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