



Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center News

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

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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.

GLTEC Staff

Kristin Hill
Center Director
khill@glitc.org

Kimmine Pierce
Chronic Disease Epidemiologist
kpierce@glitc.org

Allison La Pointe
MCH Epidemiologist
alapointe@glitc.org

Olivia Byron-Cooper
Behavior Health Epidemiologist
oocooper@glitc.org

Dina Chapman
MIS Analyst
dchapman@glitc.org

Nancy Bennett
MIS Analyst
nbennett@glitc.org

E. Jean Koranda
Administrative Assistant
jkoranda@glitc.org

<http://www.glitc.org/epicenter/>

Bemidji Area Diabetes Surveillance Project (BADSP)

The Bemidji Area Diabetes Surveillance Project (BADSP) was developed to lay a foundation for quality diabetes surveillance. The central goal of this initiative is to build a sustainable infrastructure so that the Bemidji Area Indian health care programs will have on-going capacity to monitor and ultimately reduce death and disability from diabetes within their respective communities. BADSP was implemented in October 2002 to build and enhance the Bemidji Area diabetes surveillance systems (i.e., diabetes register) as well as to determine the infrastructure capacity to provide comprehensive and accurate information regarding patients with diabetes. A few of the BADSP activities are as follows:

Diabetes Audit and Technical Assistance

BADSP staff work with tribal diabetes programs to maximize the use of the registry and also to increase the number of sites that are able to generate electronic audits. The BADSP staff support the tribes with telephone, onsite technical assistance and the diabetes audit reports. The audit numbers paint a picture of diabetes health status in tribal communities. By looking at this information the diabetes care team can best target their resources for better management.

RPMS Diabetes Management System Training

Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center provides multiple RPMS Diabetes Management System (DMS) trainings for all the tribes in the Bemidji Area. Beginning and Advanced DMS training will be offered four times in 2007 (see Save the Dates). Dina Chapman and Nancy Bennett, MIS Analysts, offer on site DMS training in addition to the scheduled group trainings.

Program Evaluation

Using the IHS Integrated Diabetes Education and Clinical Standards, BADSP staff developed an evaluation strategy to measure the site capacities for all the programs to track, monitor, and report diabetes health information to determine where the programs are in comparison to the IHS standards. Based on this assessment, programs will be able to better understand how to utilize diabetes health information to support clinical Case Management, Prevention, and Screening activities

If you are interested in obtaining additional information about BADSP please contact Kimmine Pierce, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist at kpierce@glitc.org

BEMIDJI AREA MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Bemidji Area's Maternal and Child Health Advisory Committee met in Bemidji, MN on March 22nd, 2007. Members participated in the half-day meeting both in-person and via teleconference. Representation was from Wisconsin and Michigan Tribes, Indian Health Service, Healthy Start, Wisconsin and Minnesota State Health Departments, Health Services staff from Michigan Inter-Tribal Council, and various staff from Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Health Programs. Those in attendance provided updates on the various programs which they represented, and contributed to the discussion of how to further the Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center's commitment to most effectively utilize data as to inform and empower the Tribes and partner organizations to continue to improve the maternal and child health outcomes for American Indian communities in our three state Bemidji area.

Staff representing each of our three RFA awardees presented an overview of their progress to date on their MCH pilots. Tammy Keller from the Dental Division of the Menominee Tribal Clinic in Keshena, WI presented on her surveillance project concerning the use of xylitol products and outcomes within a pregnant and newborn (up to age 2) population. Rhonda Hunt from the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) in Minneapolis, MN presented on the coordination of prenatal patients participating in their Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder program. Ruth Keller from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Health Department in Baraga, MI, reported on the successes of their 'Healthier Weigh' program addressing healthy lifestyle choices for reproductive aged women.

The committee provided guidance on the dates and potential location for a culminating MCH and Women's Health Conference for the Bemidji Area were discussed. Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center staff agreed to examine the feasibility of the top two locations and report back to the advisory committee and the conference planning committee on their findings.

Priorities for the coming year include the online publication of a MCH data report for the Bemidji Area, the establishment of an MCH listserv, and an areawide MCH and Women's Health conference in April 2008.

For more information or involvement, contact Allison La Pointe at **800.472.7027** or email at: alapointe@glitc.org



What's New With the Epidemiologists?

Kimmine Pierce Chronic Disease

The Diabetes Coordinators and teams worked hard to complete the FY07 Diabetes audits in March. The Bemidji Area Diabetes Surveillance Program staff is compiling tribal-specific summary reports that describe the clinic's diabetes registry data over time. These reports are useful tools to use in quality improvement planning. Kimmine Pierce (kpierce@glitc.org) is available to present the diabetes data and work with diabetes teams on data quality improvement initiatives.

The GLNARCH cancer surveillance project is in its fifth year. Currently, data analysis is underway and an aggregate report is in process. The project staff will present the aggregate data to the Wisconsin Tribal Health Directors Association this summer. The process of using Community Based Participatory Research methodologies throughout the cancer surveillance project was presented at the WI Comprehensive Cancer Control Summit in April. In addition, an

abstract was accepted for presentation at the Indian Health Service Research Conference to be held in June in Albuquerque, NM.

Please feel free to contact Kimmine Pierce (Epidemiologist, kpierce@glitc.org)

Allison La Pointe MCH

SAVE THE DATE – April 23-25, 2008 (location TBD) has been selected as the dates for a Bemidji Area conference on American Indian Maternal, Child, and Women's Health. We are looking for input on content, speakers, and breakout sessions. We welcome your thoughts and ideas! Scholarships for travel, hotel, and per diem may be provided.

We want this to be a time to share and learn about all of the wonderful work going on in our area around the broad and important topics of Maternal, Child, and Women's Health.

Please contact Allison La Pointe, alapointe@glitc.org or

call our toll-free number: 800-472-7207, to share your thoughts and learn more about upcoming conference planning details.

Olivia Byron-Cooper Behavioral Health

I am continuing to work on improving data quality and quantity related to ATODA issues through the SPF-SIG grant awarded to Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council from SAMHSA. In order to better describe the cooperative nature of this project we have renamed it as the Wisconsin Tribal Cooperative Agreement Prevention Program (WITCAPP). In addition, projects including youth risk behavior surveys, violence prevention, and mental health are underway. I welcome any requests or suggestions at any time.

If you have questions, please contact: Olivia Byron-Cooper, MPH, (715)588-1032, or email at: ocooper@glitc.org



Dates of Interest

IHS DM and Obesity Data Conference, Tucson AZ (December)
IHS Research Conference, Albuquerque, NM (June)

GREAT LAKES NARCH NEWS



American Indian Health & Science Symposium

The symposium held March 23, 2007 continues its success and popularity with record attendance by tribal students and education staff. Representation from a majority of Wisconsin tribes, as well as groups from Michigan and Minnesota were welcomed by the UW Madison staff with the host site being the School of Pharmacy.



WIEA Annual Conference

“Aiming for the Stars in Indian Education” was held in Lac du Flambeau WI, April 12, 13, 14, 2007. This year’s theme was based on the two aspects of storytelling, one Native and the other through science, culminating in Friday night presentation “One Sky, Two Voices.” Next year’s conference will be held in Madison, WI. Conference details can be viewed at <http://www.wiea.org/>.



NARCH SAVE THE DATES

June 17-22 University of Stevens Point Wisconsin Youth Conference on Campus grades 9-12

July 15-21 University of Wisconsin Milwaukee American Indian Science Scholars Week on Campus grades 10-12 No Cost & Transportation



Training for 2007

Beginning Diabetes Management System: How to maneuver through the Diabetes Management System; Maintain the Diabetes Register; Update Diabetes Patient Data; View/ Print Diabetes, Health Summary; Diabetes Care Summary; and Electronic Diabetes Audits- Individual/Cumulative.

Advanced Diabetes Management System: Ability to create follow-up letters for Register patients; Ability to produce reports; Ability to use Q-man to retrieve data for patients in updating & maintaining the Register; Generation of Incidence and Prevalence and Body Mass Index Reports; and Edit Taxonomies for the Electronic Audit, Generating the Audit Report, Creating a Random sample of patients for diabetes audit.

If there is a need for group or individual DMS training, please contact either Dina Chapman or Nancy Bennett at 1-800-472-7207 or by email: dchapman@glitc.org or nbennett@glitc.org.

DMS Training Dates:

June 19-21: Mt. Pleasant, MI

July 24-26; Rhinelander, WI

August 7-9; Bloomington, MN



Terms of Epidemiology

Reliability and Validity

Reliability- is generally used to refer to the reproducibility of a measure, that is, how consistently a measurement can be repeated on the same subjects.

Validity- A valid measure is one which is measuring what it is supposed to measure. A valid measure must be reliable, but a reliable measure need not be valid.

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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Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center
 Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.
 PO Box 9
 2932 Hwy 47 North
 Lac du Flambeau WI 54538

