



Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board

Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center

Volume 1, Issue 2

Jan - Feb - Mar - Apr, 2009

AATCHB welcomes Dr. Don Warne



Dr. Don Warne MD, MPH,
AATCHB Executive Director

In August 2008, Dr. Donald Warne was selected as the new AATCHB Executive Director. Dr. Warne is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He received his MD from Stanford University in 1995 and his MPH from Harvard University in 2002.

Dr. Warne worked several years as a primary care and integrative medicine physician with the Gila

River Health Care Corporation in Arizona. He spent three years as a Staff Clinician with the National Institutes of Health in Phoenix where he conducted diabetes research and developed diabetes education and prevention programs in partnership with tribes. Most recently, he served as the Health Policy Research Director at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona.

Dr. Warne's vision for AATCHB focuses on continuing to expand current programs while capitalizing on opportunities in other areas, such as behavioral health, health education and training, and health policy initiatives. Among his top priorities is the development of the American

Indian Behavioral Health Center for Excellence aimed at reducing disparities in behavioral health.

Dr. Warne is honored to be here and is excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. He emphasizes that AATCHB will have a positive working relationship with the Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Daschle, as well as with the Obama Administration.

In closing, Dr. Warne acknowledges his friend, former AATCHB Executive Director, Carole Anne Heart and hopes to someday dedicate a Carole Anne Heart Health Services Building to commemorate her lifelong service to bettering Indian communities.

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Epidemiology 101 - What is Epidemiology?

Epidemiology is the study of how often a disease occurs in different groups and why. It identifies epidemics and it is the science behind public health. Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through organized community efforts.

What does this mean? Epidemiology is a science based on statistics and research methods. It is not limited to infectious diseases like measles, but also diabetes, cancer, alcohol and tobacco use, mental health, maternal and child health, and others. The purpose of epidemiology is to help identify public health interventions that can prevent and control health problems.

NPTEC Director Corner's - What to expect in 2009



Dr. Adeola Jaiyeola
MD, MHSc
NPTEC Director

Meth in Indian Country

The effects of Methamphetamine and Other Drug (MOD) use in AI/AN communities cuts across the individual, familial, legal, social, and community levels.

About 5% of the US population 12 years of age and older report lifetime use of meth; use in the past year is about 0.5%.

American Indians and Native Hawaiians report higher levels of meth use in studies of "past year meth use" (1.7% and 2.2%) compared to other races (whites 0.7%, Hispanics 0.5%, Asians 0.2% and African Americans 0.1%).

Info available at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/prescription/AppC.htm#TabC-5>. Office of Applied Studies, SAMHSA. (09/16/05). *Methamphetamine Use, Abuse and Dependence: 2002, 2003, and 2004. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report (NSDUH)*.

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to continue to bring you news about NPTEC's health programs, projects and activities. In this issue we are featuring our new Executive Director, Dr. Don Warne. We are really excited that he is here and his first few months have shown us that he is a dynamic leader who will continue to move AATCHB/NPTEC forward.

Despite the current economic condition of the country, 2009 holds a lot of promise for us. At NPTEC, we are hoping to continue to build on the foundation of work and partnerships that were forged in 2008. For example, our South Dakota Tribal PRAMS (SDT PRAMS) project will begin dissemination of the data back to tribes this spring. SDT PRAMS looks forward to working with tribes and assisting tribes in using the data for program planning and policy development. We will also continue work on our other projects such as the Northern Plains Tribal Cancer Data Initiative (NPTCDI), developing Tribe-

specific community health reports, Meth and Other Drug Use Project, Accessing STD/HIV Surveillance System, Native American Research Centers for Health, and the Northern Plains Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. In 2009, we will continue to develop the American Indian Behavioral Health Center of Excellence. We hope that this center will serve as a resource for training, research, data/statistics, prevention/education and networking. Also coming in 2009 is a new and improved NPTEC website. Our new website will be more user-friendly and will better serve our tribal partners.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff. Nicole Flom who came to NPTEC from Sioux San Hospital serves as the NPTCDI Coordinator. Brenda Molash, our new AATCHB Administrative Officer, came to us from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Adeola Jaiyeola MD, MHSc,
NPTEC Director

The STD/HIV Prevention & HIV Testing booth was a success at this year's Lakota Nation Invitational!

The STD/HIV Prevention & HIV Testing booth is a partnership between NPTEC and the Four Directions Clinic (Pine Ridge Service Unit). Other booth staff includes a Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal member, and a Yankton Sioux Tribal member working for the Wagner Indian Health Service Unit.

The Lakota Nation Invitational (LNI) Basketball Tournament is an annual event held in Rapid City, SD. It attracts American Indian youth from around the region. This year's LNI took place December 17-20, 2008 with nearly 14,000 in

attendance. The purpose of the booth was to disseminate STD/HIV educational materials and provide confidential Rapid HIV testing to individuals. NPTEC staff prepared and distributed 1,000 "snag bags" (a snag bag includes a condom, condom use instructions, and a tube of lubricant).

NPTEC estimates that 2,000 people visited the booth this year and 264 individuals took a Rapid HIV test. Individuals that took a test received a Mardi Gras necklace encased with a condom and were entered into a

drawing for a Pendleton blanket donated by Pine Ridge Oil.

Senator John Thune (R-SD) visited with booth staff and posed for pictures.



Senator John Thune & booth staff: (L to R) Mabel Granados, Lynn Big Eagle, Terry Friend, Angie Big Crow & Mike Horned Eagle (not pictured).

Many happenings for the Northern Plains NARCH in 2009

We are looking forward to a busy 2009 for the Northern Plains Native American Research Centers for Health (NP NARCH) Program. The overall mission of the NP NARCH is to conduct health research in tribal communities in collaboration with universities and to increase the number of AI/AN professionals and students in health research.

In our fourth year of funding, two of the research projects will come to an end, and we will be disseminating the study findings. *Predicting Insulin Resistance Among American Indian Youth*, conducted by Dr. Jennifer Larsen of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), aims to determine which biomarkers, such as BMI and Acanthosis Nigricans, best predict insulin resistance and states of pre-diabetes. *Screening for Asthma Among Children in Northern Plains Tribal Communities*, conducted by Dr. Kim Rodehorst, also from UNMC, is testing the feasibility and utility of conducting asthma screenings with questionnaires and spirometry in tribal schools. Our third research project, *Mood Disorder Assessment Validation with Northern Plains Indians*, conducted by Dr. Jacque Gray of the University of North Dakota, continues to collect data

to determine the best tools for assessing depression and anxiety among Northern Plains AI.

In addition to our research projects, NP NARCH provides scholarships to American Indian undergraduate and graduate students in the health field. Spring 2009 marks our fourth round of funding. We have provided more than 80 scholarships so far, and each year we are more impressed with the quality and number of students committed to pursuing health careers.

Finally, while we await funding notice for NARCH V, we will be developing and submitting the NARCH VI application to IHS in the Spring of 2009. This will include new research projects and student/faculty development programs to be conducted in collaboration with tribes and universities. This year, as we develop new projects and disseminate results on our current research, we hope to continue to strengthen our partnerships and bring new research opportunities to tribal communities.

For more information contact: Dr. Adeola Jaiyeola, PI at drjaiyeola@aatchb.org or Sayaka Kanade, Program Coordinator at epikanade@aatchb.org.

It's flu season! Here are some facts about the flu.

What is the flu? Influenza, or the flu, is a contagious illness caused by viruses that affect the respiratory system. Every year in the United States, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications and about 36,000 people die from flu. It is spread from person to person through coughs and sneezes, touching contaminated objects, or if a person touches a sick person and then touches his/her own mouth or nose.

What is the difference between a cold and the flu? Cold symptoms tend to be in the nose (stuffiness, sneezing, runny nose). With the flu, a

person feels sick all over. Symptoms include: high fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, muscle aches, and a multitude of stomach problems (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea).

What is the flu shot? The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed viruses) that is given in the arm with a needle. It contains three flu viruses which are representative of the flu strains recommended for that year. The viruses in the flu shot are killed, so you cannot get the flu from a flu shot.

Preventing the flu

To prevent the flu the following practices are recommended:

- Get the flu shot every year
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Avoid contact with sick people
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose
- If you do get sick, stay home - the flu is extremely contagious.

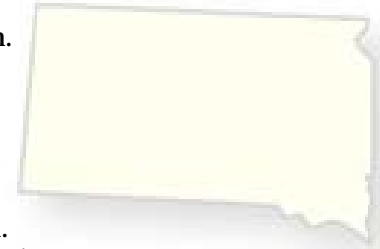
For more information on the flu, check out this website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

2008 Infectious Disease Summary for South Dakota

The 2008 data are *provisional*, some disease reports are still being processed and some cases have not yet been reported to SD Department of Health. Diseases are reported by region not county.

- Campylobacteriosis:** (258 cases) most cases in 4 years, highest rate in Central Region.
- Chlamydia:** (2949 cases) most cases ever reported, highest rate and most cases in West Region.
- Cryptosporidiosis:** (85 cases) less cases than last year, most cases in Northeast Region
- E. coli, shiga toxin-producing:** (51 cases) most cases since 2000, highest rate in Northeast Region
- Giardiasis:** (130 cases) most cases since 1999, highest rate in Southeast Region.
- Gonorrhea:** (371 cases) most cases since 1988, lowest rate in Northeast Region.
- Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome:** no cases in 2008.
- Hepatitis A:** (less than 15 cases) downward trending.
- HIV and AIDS:** (34 cases) more cases than last year, highest rate in West Region.
- MRSA, invasive:** (71 cases) fewer cases than last year.
- Pertussis:** (62 cases) most cases since 2005, highest rate in Northeast Region.
- Rabies, animal:** (24 cases) fewest cases in at least 48 years.
- Salmonellosis:** (151 cases) highest rate in Central Region.
- Shigellosis:** (76 cases) fewest cases since 2004, most cases in Central Region.
- Tuberculosis:** (16 cases) most cases since 2005, highest rate in Southeast region.
- Tularemia:** (less than 15 cases) most cases since 2000, highest rate in Central Region.
- West Nile:** (39 cases) fewest cases since 2002, highest rate in Central Region.



The full 2008 SD infectious disease report is posted at <http://doh.sd.gov/ID/MonthlyReport/Dec08.pdf>

Upcoming Events/Calendar (Jan - Feb - Mar - Apr)

2009 AMCHP Annual Conference; Feb. 21-25; Washington, DC; contact: AMCHP.org/Events or 202-266-3049

3rd International Mtg. on Indigenous Child Health: May Voice, One Song; Mar. 6-8; Albuquerque, NM;
For info: www.aap.org/nach or www.cps.org

Denver March Pow Wow; March 20-22; Denver, CO; For info: www.denvermarchpowwow.org

7th Annual American Indian Health Research Conference; March 27; Grand Forks, ND; contact: 701-777-0817 or kspeaker@medicine.nodak.edu

Protecting Our Children: National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect; April 19-22; Reno, NV; For info: www.nicwa.org/conference

Partnerships in Indian Education; April 17 - 19; Norman, OK; For info: www.indianeducation.org

Northern Plains Tobacco Control Institute: Building Excellence in Public Health Practice; April 21 & 22; Rapid City, SD; For info: 1-866-203-1039 or www.aatchb.org/nptpp

Job Openings in the Aberdeen Area

AATCHB; Position: Chief Financial Officer; Closing date: Feb. 1, 2009; For more info: visit online at www.aatchb.org or call 1-800-745-3466.

South Dakota March of Dimes; Position: Associate Director of Program Services (Part Time); Closing date: Jan. 30, 2009; Contact: John Ladd at jladd@marchofdimes.com

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To:

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Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center Newsletter

Ice on Pactola Lake -Black Hills, SD