Agency: Hawaii Department of Health

**Project Title:**

Improving Disaggregate Race and Ethnicity Data via Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) and Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) in Hawaii

**Project Description:**

Problem statement: The Hawaii Electronic Disease Surveillance System (HIEDSS) currently relies on case investigation to populate race and ethnicity data for COVID-19 and other reportable diseases and conditions. The HDOH in collaboration with community partners has identified the need for disaggregation of specific race/ethnicity data categories such as Asian and Pacific Islander. However, the current methodology is labor and resource intensive. An alternative approach is utilizing automated data processes such as electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) and electronic case reporting (eCR). Initial evaluation of race and ethnicity data in HIEDSS from ELR has shown a lack of data completeness and data quality. In a recent evaluation of one reportable disease from ELR data in HIEDSS, <1% had usable race data and <15% had usable ethnicity data.

Proposed methods: We propose a two-part project. The initial step is to systematically evaluate the intake of race and ethnicity data intake as it moves through the Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) and Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) pipelines. For example, leveraging an evaluation tool that identifies data completeness and origin allowing for open dialogue between Hawaii and external laboratories and providers. The goal of the evaluation is to identify where in the pipelines the race/ethnicity data is lost or never captured and determine a solution(s). Using the data evaluation tool, we hope to identify methods, such as an eCR database system, for the review of data completeness. The second component of the project will be to design and build a system workflow to address data integrity, mitigate data loss, and address any other related issues impacting race and ethnicity data quality. The proposed project is aligned with Accelerating Data for Action (i.e., additional data sources and promoting health equity) a key priority of the Data Modernization Initiative.

Expected outcomes: The HIEDSS race and ethnicity fields for COVID-19 and other reportable diseases and conditions are automatically populated from ELR and/or eCR data for more accurate and complete surveillance data. Accurate and complete disaggregated race and ethnicity data will improve both the representativeness and generalizability of health equity analyses and trends and better identify COVID-19 and other disease disparities among sub-populations. We strive to provide evidence-based recommendations to specific sub-populations, effectively target public health messaging, and work with partners and stakeholders to address and reduce health disparities in the State.