**Project Name:**

Wisconsin: Enhancement of Occupational Surveillance through Electronic Case Reporting and Data Capture

**Project Description:**

Problem statement: Many occupational diseases can only be identified through a clinical evaluation, and surveillance of these conditions relies exclusively upon clinician reporting. However, clinicians consistently underreport notifiable diseases, and this significantly limits the ability of public health to characterize the disease burden and implement prevention measures. As such, improvements in surveillance of occupational diseases is an important capacity need at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS). Proposed methods: The Wisconsin Occupational Health (OH) Program at WDHS has begun a project to enhance surveillance of occupational diseases through electronic case reporting (eCR). eCR will enable OH to comprehensively measure the burden of work-related morbidity and mortality in Wisconsin, characterize surveillance trends, and identify high-risk occupations, industries, and worker populations. Implementing eCR will be an important step in data modernization and will give OH and WDHS expanded opportunities to capture and analyze occupational health data. Our project objectives include: 1) implementing eCR for conditions with previously developed reportable condition trigger codes (RCTCs) and reporting specifications for CDC’s Reportable Conditions Knowledge Management System (RCKMS); 2) contributing to the development of new RCTCs and RCKMS reporting specifications for other notifiable diseases in Wisconsin (e.g., asbestosis, chemical pneumonitis); and 3) conducting a validation pilot of eCR for selected conditions to establish validation methods for all new eCR and RCKMS reporting. To meet these objectives, OH will leverage existing relationships with stakeholders and utilize a new team of epidemiologists. However, training for the epidemiological team is needed on eCR, automating data workflows, data retrieval, data analysis, and surveillance. As such, CSTE’s Data Science Team Training (DSTT) provides an excellent opportunity to meet these training needs and enhance capacity for WDHS to modernize data infrastructure in Wisconsin. Anticipated outcomes: This program will improve the ability of Wisconsin’s occupational health surveillance data systems to identify trends in incidence and prevalence of occupational injuries, deaths and exposures. This project is well aligned with CSTE’s Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) as it aims to improve data quality and timeliness and will integrate emerging technologies. It also seeks to improve coordination of data activities between systems and reduce burden on data partners. These improvements will help to establish annual priorities and develop recommendations for occupational health interventions to reduce the incidence of work-related injuries and illness in Wisconsin.

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