**Project Name:**

Establishing A Centralized Communicable Diseases Dashboard for the US Virgin Islands

**Project Description:**

There is a lack of accessible communicable disease data in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Available centralized sources do not include recent USVI data; therefore, current trends cannot be well understood by the community. The aim of this project is to make a communicable disease database publicly available, in real-time, for the community, research partners, and decision-makers. This addresses the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI), accelerate data for action by identifying data for the HIV epidemic priority public health need.

We aim to develop the data science skills needed to provide real-time communication of data and results to the community through our dashboard. Once we have established the HIV/AIDS dashboard, we may expand to include additional communicable diseases. COVID-19 data is currently reported daily; however, those data could be transitioned to a dashboard. We also aim to include agency partners such as the Vital Statistics Division.

In the USVI, HIV lab report data (~95 labs/month in 2021) is received through the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) Base System (NBS). HIV lab data is exported from NBS to an MS Excel line list, and manually entered into the Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS). In eHARS, analyses include viral suppression rate, number of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, new diagnoses per year, care pattern and unmet needs, and late diagnoses. These analyses allow us to understand the current HIV continuum of care in USVI. Analyses are conducted with SAS statistical program by the Communicable Disease Division (CDD) Surveillance Coordinator. CDD holds a current SAS license. Part of the aim of this team is to aid the CDD Surveillance Coordinator in enhancing HIV surveillance and reporting in USVI. This team will synergize 4 colleagues from the Epidemiology Division and 1 from the CDD to work together on this data modernization project.

For our dashboard, we would use SAS to extract public health laboratory data and RStudio to perform data wrangling and analysis. Data will be visualized with either Tableau, or an R visualization package such as Shiny. The main DMI goal of this project is to strengthen the data science workforce among the Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Divisions to build capacity to respond to emerging public health threats. We are fulfilling the DMI goals of coordinating people and systems by collaborating across Divisions within our agency. We are also hoping to bolster participation in HIV surveillance among our local partner organizations through this project.

**Team Members:**

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