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Introduction

The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD), with funding and support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administrative support from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), is conducting this Disease Intervention Professional Enumeration Study. This study is intended to enumerate the number of disease intervention professionals across infectious disease programs in the United States and better understand the geographic distribution of those disease intervention professionals.

This information is being collected to inform a CDC-led effort to develop a national certification program for disease intervention professionals. Your participation in this assessment is critical to the development of a certification program that meets the needs of disease intervention professionals, health departments, and other partners and stakeholders across the country. However, your participation in this assessment is completely voluntary.

This assessment is being conducted among a mix of state, territorial, tribal, and local health departments. The assessment should be completed for the jurisdiction your health department has responsibility for; the scope of the assessment is the entire state or territory. If a state is unable to estimate the number of disease intervention professionals and supervisors in the jurisdiction, this survey will be sent to local health departments for response.

Click the Next button to advance to the assessment instructions.

CDC estimates the average public reporting burden for this collection of information as 130 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data/information sources, gathering and maintaining the data/information needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden to CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0879).

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Instructions

Before you begin the assessment, please review the criteria for disease intervention professional enumeration. The assessment should take approximately 130 minutes to complete. Once you begin the assessment, you will be able to save and continue at a later time.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Sainato, Senior Manager of Program Evaluation, at esainato@ncsddc.org.

By clicking the Next button, you are providing your consent to voluntarily participate in this survey.

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Criteria for Enumeration

This enumeration will address disease intervention professionals across ALL infectious diseases, including COVID-19 (regardless of position description).

Disease intervention professional is defined as any public health professional who conducts disease intervention activities, including, but not limited to, the following: client-centered interviews, collection of enhanced surveillance and community assessment data, partner services to include contact tracing, directly observed therapy, field specimen collection, field investigation in outbreaks and in emergency preparedness, community outreach, collaboration with medical providers, and navigation of health care systems to ensure patient evaluation and treatment. Relevant program areas include STD, HIV, TB, and other communicable disease, outbreak investigation, and emergency preparedness and response. This survey asks that disease intervention professionals, supervisors, and federal assignees to be counted separately.

Inclusions and exclusions

- Include all disease intervention professionals that support your health department's infectious disease programs.
- Include the total number of positions/individuals who function as a disease intervention professional, not the total number of full-time equivalent employees (FTE).
- Include individuals regardless of their employment category (i.e., full-time, part-time (e.g. 20% of normal duties), contract).
- Include individuals regardless of the funding source(s) that supports the position.
- Include all filled and unfilled disease intervention professional positions, separately.
- Include all disease intervention professional positions as defined above, including those at the local, district, regional, and state level, as well as health department-funded disease intervention professional positions that work in a community health center or other setting (i.e., community-embedded disease intervention professional. Ideally, we would like to include disease intervention professionals contracted with a foundation, correctional facility staff, school or other employer settings who may be conducting disease intervention services if you are able to report that.

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Disease Intervention Professional Enumeration (excluding supervisors and federal assignees)

1. As of April 2023, what is the total number of disease intervention professional positions within your health department, including full-time, part-time, and contracted professionals (excluding supervisors and federal assignees)?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

2. Which infectious disease areas do these disease intervention professionals represent?

(Check all that apply)

☐ STD

☐ HIV

☐ TB

☐ Hepatitis C

☐ COVID-19

☐ Other infectious diseases (please specify)

3. Within health departments, a number of job titles and classifications are used for disease intervention professionals. From the list below, please select the three most commonly used titles or classifications for disease intervention professionals in your health department.

(Select up to three)

- ☐ Behavioral Intervention Specialist
- ☐ Care Specialist
- ☐ Communicable Disease Investigator
- ☐ Communicable Disease Representative
- ☐ Communicable Disease Specialist
- ☐ Disease Control Investigators
- ☐ Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)
- ☐ Disease Prevention Specialist
- ☐ Early Intervention Specialist
- ☐ Epidemiologist
- ☐ HIV/STD Counselor
- ☐ HIV/STD Program Manager
- ☐ Linkage to Care Coordinator
- ☐ Public Health Inspector
- ☐ Public Health Investigator
- ☐ Public Health Nurse
- ☐ Health Navigator
- ☐ Testing and Referral Coordinator
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. As of April 1, 2023, approximately how many disease intervention professional positions within your health department are currently filled?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

5. Are the numbers of disease intervention professional positions you provided (total positions and currently filled) based on actual health department records or your best estimate?

- ☐ Actual health department records
- ☐ Best estimate
- ☐ Both actual health department records and best estimate
- ☐ Other (please specify)

6. Over the past two years, approximately how many disease intervention professional positions has your health department hired?

(For the purposes of this question, you do not need to distinguish between hiring for vacant positions or for new positions. Please do not include COVID-19 contact tracers/case investigators. Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

7. Over the past two years, approximately how many of the disease intervention professional positions listed in question 6 has your health department hired through the use of CDC DIS Workforce Development Funding?

(For the purposes of this question, you do not need to distinguish between hiring for vacant positions or for new positions. Please do not include COVID-19 contact tracers/case investigators. Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

8. Over the past two years, approximately how many disease intervention professionals have vacated their positions?

(Please do not include COVID-19 contact tracers/case investigators. Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

9. Of the vacated positions, what was the average tenure of the disease intervention professional, in years?

(Please do not include COVID-19 contact tracers/case investigators. Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

☐ Not sure

Number:

10. Over the past two years, approximately how many COVID-19 contact tracers has your health department hired, regardless of funding (e.g., ELC, DIS Workforce)?

(For the purposes of this question, you do not need to distinguish between hiring for vacant positions or for new positions. Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

11. Over the past two years, approximately how many COVID-19 contact tracers have vacated their positions?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

12. If you would like to share additional information related to disease intervention professional hiring, turnover, and tenure, please do so in the space below.

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Disease Intervention Professional Supervisor Enumeration (excluding federal assignees)

13. As of April 1, 2023, what is the total number of disease intervention supervisor positions within your health department?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

14. Approximately how many disease intervention supervisor positions within your health department are currently filled?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

15. Are the numbers of disease intervention supervisor positions you provided (total positions and currently filled) based on actual health department records or your best estimate?

- ☐ Actual health department records
- ☐ Best estimate
- ☐ Both actual health department records and best estimate
- ☐ Other (please specify)

16. Is the total number of disease intervention supervisor positions in your health department sufficient to effectively manage the disease intervention professionals in the health department?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

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Federally Designated Disease Intervention Professional and Supervisor Enumeration

17. As of April 1, 2023, what is the total number of federal assignees (e.g., Public Health Advisors and Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) associates), in disease intervention roles within your health department?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

18. Is the number of federal assignees in disease intervention roles you provided based on actual health department records or your best estimate?

- ☐ Actual health department records
- ☐ Best estimate
- ☐ Both actual health department records and best estimate
- ☐ Other (please specify)

19. What is the total number of federal assignees in disease intervention professional supervisor roles within your health department?

(Please provide whole numbers only; no decimals, commas, or spaces)

20. If you would like to describe any limitations/barriers to your enumeration, please do so in the space below

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Disease Intervention Professional Capacity and Need

21. Is the size of your current disease intervention workforce sufficient to meet your program's needs or expectations for partner services and linkage to care?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

22. Would the size of the disease intervention workforce be sufficient to meet your program's needs or expectations for partner services and linkage to care if all currently unfilled disease intervention positions were filled?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

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Additional Information

23. Please use the space below if there is anything else you would like to share or go into greater detail about.

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Contact Information

24. Name

25. Jurisdiction represented

26. Email address

27. Job title

Please click the Submit button to record your responses.

Thank you for your participation in this assessment.

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Done