



# TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

*AN EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIAL PROJECT*



## **USET/USET SPF Impact Week 2024**

**Anna Garrett, MPH**

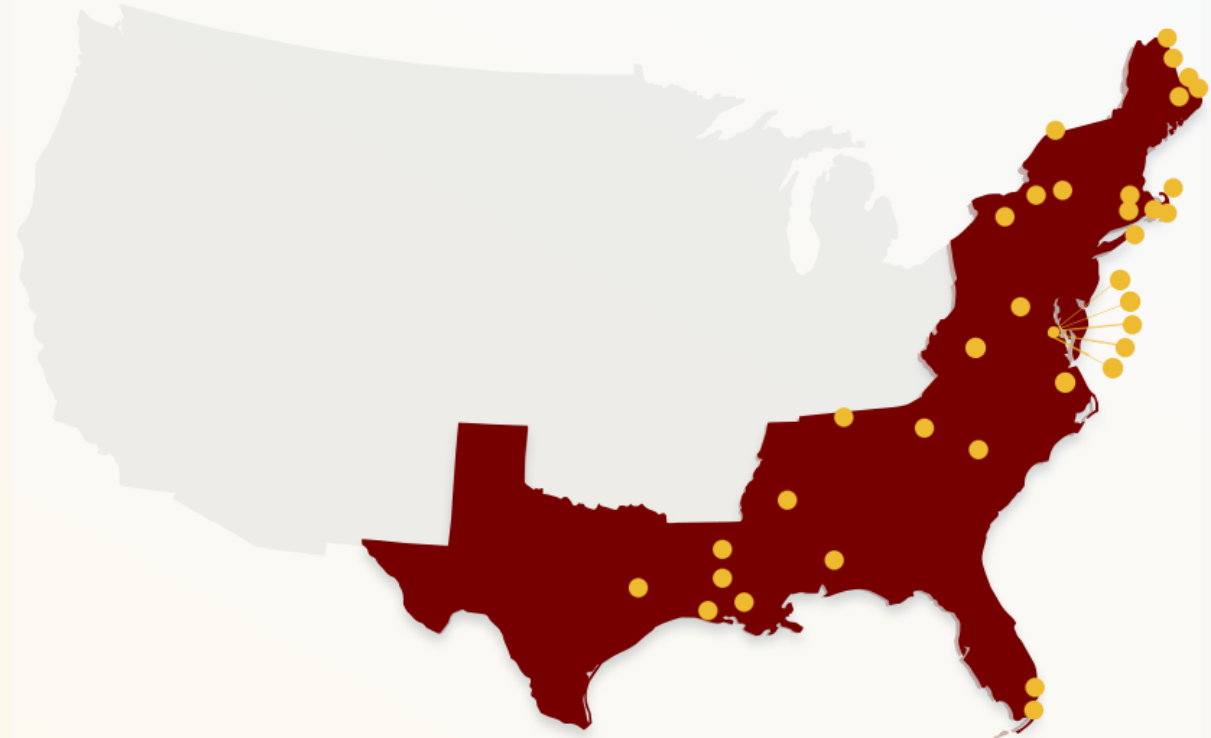
**USET Senior Epidemiologist**

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**USET Epidemiology Program Coordinator**

# United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET)

Established in 1969, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization serving thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Nations, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.



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# USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF)

Established in 2014, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.



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# USET Programmatic Departments



Office of Economic Development

Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM)

Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)



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# Tribal Health Program Support (THPS)

- Tribal Health Program Support (THPS), originally the Health Information Office (HIO), was created in 1995 through an Indian Self Determination Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA) P.L. 638 contract with the Indian Health Service (IHS) for the identified program, services, functions, and activities.
- Over the years, THPS has expanded to contract the Office of Tribal Activities, Diabetes Control Officer, Nutrition Program; and operates USET's Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC), Dental Support Center (DSC), and Diabetes Center.
- THPS provides up-to-date public health information, advocacy tools, policy analysis, and health promotion and disease prevention programming.
- THPS believes that elevating the health status of Tribal Citizens is integral in restoring and maintaining the heart, spirit, and soul common to every USET Tribal Nation.



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# What is a TEC?



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# The USET Epidemiology Team



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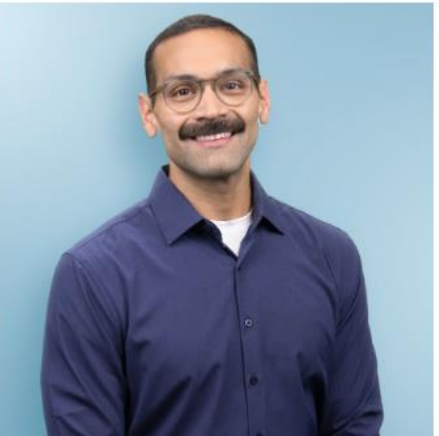
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# TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

*AN EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIAL PROJECT*





# Definitions

**Epidemiology:** The study and analysis of the patterns, causes, and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations. Epidemiology is the cornerstone of public health, and shapes policy decisions and evidence-based practice by identifying risk factors for disease and targets for preventive healthcare.

**Public health:** The science and art of promoting health, preventing disease and improving the quality of life of a population through organized efforts of society.

**Disaster epidemiology:** The epidemiologic analysis of disaster activities according to the different phases of disasters, and the short- and long-term adverse health effects of disasters on the population.

**Emergency preparedness:** Preparedness is defined by Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response." This cycle is one element of a broader National Preparedness System to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other disasters.



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**Public health emergency preparedness:** The capability of the public health and health care systems, communities, and individuals, to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, and recover from health emergencies, particularly those whose scale, timing, or unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities. Preparedness involves a coordinated and continuous process of planning and implementation that relies on measuring performance and taking corrective action. Public health preparedness uses the phases of emergency management to plan and implement interventions that aim to create the highest level of health for the greatest number of people.



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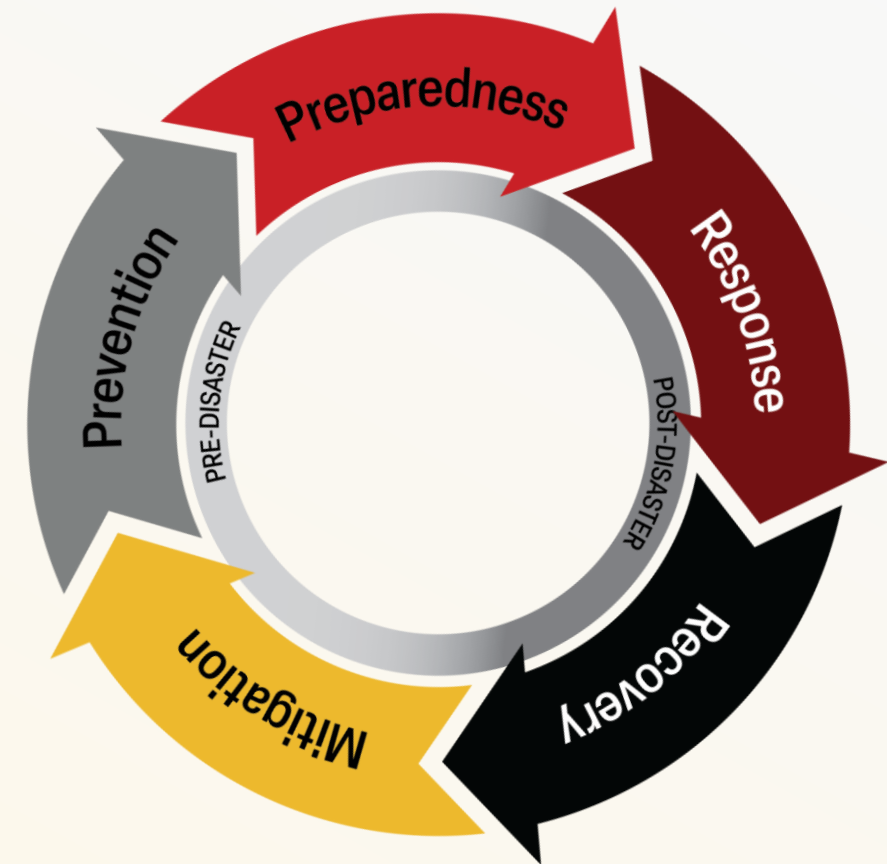
# Disaster phases

Disasters and emergency management has commonly followed the all-hazards model and divided a disaster or emergency into five phases: mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The first three phases (mitigation, prevention, preparedness) occur before a disaster or emergency event; the latter two (response and recovery) during or after the disaster.

**Mitigation** involves those activities and policies that are designed to prevent or lessen the effect of an emergency event and reduce the vulnerability of high-risk areas or groups.

**Prevention** focuses on preventing human hazards, primarily from potential natural disasters or terrorist (both physical and biological) attacks. Preventive measures are designed to provide more permanent protection from disasters; however, not all disasters can be prevented. The risk of loss of life and injury can be limited with good evacuation plans, environmental planning and design standards.

**Preparedness** is planning how to respond in an emergency and involves the development of system-level capacities for emergency response.

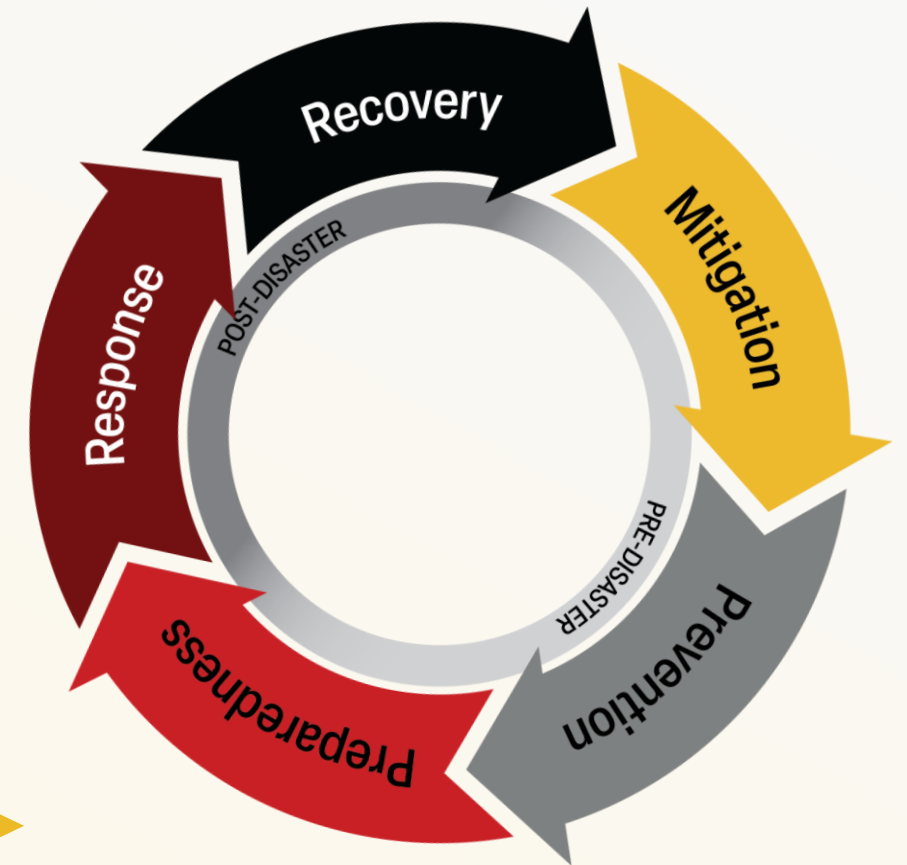


# Disaster phases

Disasters and emergency management has commonly followed the all-hazards model and divided a disaster or emergency into five phases: mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The first three phases (mitigation, prevention, preparedness) occur before a disaster or emergency event; the latter two (response and recovery) during or after the disaster.

**Response** is the immediate reaction to an emergency in which primary responders seek to save and safeguard lives, minimize property damage and improve the potential for better recovery.

**Recovery** involves the restoration of services, systems and livelihoods following the disaster. The recovery phase can be divided into short-term and long-term phases. Short-term recovery corresponds to, what is sometimes considered, the relief phase in which local community systems are being returned to a minimum level of operations. The long-term recovery phase corresponds to what can be considered the rehabilitation or reconstruction period. It can last for months to years as the disaster area begins to return to its previous condition. Depending on the severity, disasters may have irreversible permanent effects on populations and communities.



# Scope of Project

**A Tribally centered epidemiology approach to public health preparedness and resilience with the primary goal of strengthening the resilience of USET member Tribal Nations through public health strategies focused on the mitigation, prevention, and preparation phases of the disaster management cycle.**



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# BIA/IHS Federal Trust and Treaty Obligations

USET TEC will continue to partner with Indian Health Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure services are not duplicated and ensure they uphold their federal trust and treaty obligations.



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# Core Components for FY 2024 (September 2023 – October 2024)



**Epidemiological Assessment**

**Webpage and Educational Materials**





**Establish Tribal PHSR Task Force**



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# Epidemiological Assessment

**OBJECTIVE:** Gather data to use for public health interventions, advocacy/grants, and to advance Tribal Nations' capacity, understanding, and awareness of public health preparedness and resilience

-  Technical Assistance Requests
-  Community Health Assessments
-  Surveillance Reports
-  More to come...



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# Webpage and Educational Materials

**OBJECTIVE:** Produce educational materials for awareness and resource sharing



<https://www.usetinc.org/departments/thps/tribal-epidemiology-center/tribal-public-health-preparedness-and-resilience/>

- 🌀 **What is Public Health Preparedness and Resilience?**
- 🌀 **Contact List**
- 🌀 **Resource Library**
- 🌀 **Upcoming Events**
- 🌀 **Funding and Grant Opportunities**
- 🌀 **Advocacy**
- 🌀 **Resolutions**



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# Establish Tribal PHEPR Task Force

**OBJECTIVE:** Build relationships and align with USET member Tribal Nation goals

## Who Should Join?

- 🕒 Tribal Leaders / Tribal Council Members
- 🕒 Health Directors, Physicians / Medical Staff, Behavioral Health Professionals, Public Health Nurses
- 🕒 Emergency Response / Coordination Personnel, Homeland Security Personnel
- 🕒 Emergency Services Personnel, First Responders, Public Safety Personnel
- 🕒 Epidemiologists, Data Specialists
- 🕒 Risk Management Personnel, Community Planners
- 🕒 Environmental Health Staff, Public Works Personnel
- 🕒 Anyone interested in Public Health Preparedness and Resilience



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# You're Invited to the Tribal PHPR Task Force!

- 🌀 Join us to build relationships between Tribal Nations in the USET Region and the USET Epidemiology team!
- 🌀 The focus will be on building capacity in your priority areas and learning best practices from each other
- 🌀 Will meet monthly for ~1 hour
- 🌀 Survey sent out via email after Impact Week



Scan to sign up!

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# TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

## AN EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIAL PROJECT

A Tribally centered epidemiological approach to public health preparedness and resilience with the primary goal of strengthening the resilience of Tribal Nations in the USET region through public health strategies focused on the mitigation, prevention, and preparation phases of the disaster management cycle.

### **You're invited to the Tribal Public Health Preparedness and Resilience (PHPR) Task Force!**

Join us to build relationships between Tribal Nations in the USET region and the USET Epidemiology team!  
The focus will be on building capacity in your priority areas and learning best practices from each other.

### **Coming Soon!**

An epidemiological assessment to inform public health interventions and advance capacity, understanding, and awareness of public health preparedness and resilience.

### **Who Should Join?**

- Tribal Leaders and Tribal Council Members
- Health Directors, Physicians, Medical Staff, Behavioral Health Professionals, Public Health Nurses
- Emergency Response/Coordination Personnel, Homeland Security Personnel
- Emergency Services Personnel, First Responders, Public Safety Personnel
- Epidemiologists, Data Specialists
- Risk Management Personnel, Community Planners
- Environmental Health Staff, Public Works Personnel
- Anyone interested in Public Health Preparedness and Resilience

Scan the QR code  
to learn more  
about the project



Scan the QR  
code to sign up  
for the email list

# Requesting Technical Assistance (TA)

Under the Tribal PHSR Epidemiology Special Project, USET epidemiology team will be allowed to obtain permission from any Committee member designated by their Tribal Leader, Tribal Leaders, Health Directors, or anyone holding a Director level position within their Tribal Nation to authorize a Technical Assistance Request upon behalf of their Tribal Nation.

<https://www.usetinc.org/departments/thps/technical-assistance/>



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# USET Tribal PHPR Contacts

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# Learn More!

## USET Tribal PPHR Webpage



<https://www.usetinc.org/departments/thps/tribal-epidemiology-center/tribal-public-health-preparedness-and-resilience/>

## USET TEC Webpage



<https://www.usetinc.org/departments/thps/tribal-epidemiology-center/>



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# Discussion

What information or data would be most beneficial to your Tribal Nation?

What do you think the Tribal PHPR Task Force virtual meetings should be focused on?

Questions?



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