



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47820 ● Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 ● 711 Washington Relay Service

September 18, 2024

Re: Informative - DOH Pilot Project for Law Enforcement Involved Injuries, Fatal Encounters

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners & Professionals,

We are writing to inform you of the Department of Health's participation in a pilot project that measures Law Enforcement-Involved Injuries and Fatal Encounters (LEIFE) in Washington communities. This pilot program uses traditional and non-traditional data sources to identify LEIFE cases – including clinical datasets, public health data, and crowd-sourced databases. By studying these events, we hope to understand who is most affected by them and how we can work to prevent them from happening.

In alignment of guidelines of Chapter 43.376 RCW, the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, and the DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure, we will share updates with Tribal partners as the pilot continues. If LEIFE cases involve members of Tribal Nations or Tribal law enforcement agencies, we will seek guidance to portray these cases accurately and respectfully. The project will not name individual Tribes, Tribal organizations, or related information without formal approval. If additional contacts should be included in these communications or should be more involved in the next steps of the pilot, including interpreting the results, please send us their contact information so we can follow up with them directly.

We thank you in advance for your partnership and welcome your comments or questions at any time in the Center for Epidemiology Practice, Equity, and Assessment at CEPEA@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-4373. You are also welcome to contact Candice Wilson, Executive Director of Tribal Public Health and Relations, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett MD MPH".

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH
Chief Science Officer
Office of Health and Science

CC: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Public Health and Relations, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, WA-DOH
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, WA-DOH
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, WA-DOH