

2027-2028
Indian Health Service
Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP)
Fellowship Program

Program Summary

Applications due Sunday, December 13, 2026 (9:00 pm EST)



2027-2028 IHS IVP Fellowship Program Summary

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Fellowship Purpose and Objectives

The IHS Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) Fellowship provides practical knowledge and skills for injury and violence prevention practitioners working in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. The IVP Fellowship builds on learning obtained from IHS IVP Courses 1, 2, and 3, and the prior personal and professional experiences of the enrolled Fellows.

The 2027-2028 Fellowship will occur between January 2027 and June 2028. Fellowship objectives align with select [Core Competencies for Injury and Violence Prevention Practitioners](#). By the end of the Fellowship, participants will be able to:

1. Search and review published literature to summarize the burden, risk/protective factors, and/or potential strategies to prevent an AI/AN injury/violence problem
2. Plan an IVP project and manage the various activities and tasks
3. Prepare and submit requests and/or proposals to attain necessary approvals for the project (e.g., tribal, organizational, institutional review board (IRB))
4. Plan and conduct data collection
5. Manage project data (collection, secure storage, cleaning, and documentation)
6. Analyze data using appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to descriptively summarize the collected information
7. Disseminate project results by writing a project summary
8. Disseminate project results by developing a presentation

Prerequisites

The following prerequisites must be completed prior to submitting a completed application:

- At least 1 year of experience working in IVP, or at least 2 years of experience in public health
- Completion of the revised curriculum IHS IVP Courses 1, 2 and 3 offered since January 2021

Types of Projects

Fellowship participants are required to complete an IVP project (within the 18-month Fellowship). Projects can focus on unintentional injury or intentional injury (violence). There are three general project types:

1. **Problem Analysis:** Descriptively analyze data about one or more injury or violence problems, including the number, distribution, and trends of cases and/or the risk/protective factors for the problem. The project might compare an injury or violence problem's rates between two populations or geographic locations, or compare data from multiple injury or violence problems in order to help plan priorities.
2. **Needs assessment:** Assess the needs, interests, and/or capacity to address an injury or violence problem in a community or population. This will include analyzing secondary and/or collecting primary data about the injury/violence problem, its risk and protective factors, and/or the financial, organizational, and human resources (e.g., staff interests and skills) to help prevent the problem.
3. **Program Planning and Pilot-Testing:** Adapt and conduct a pilot-test of an evidence-based intervention (EBI) to change some of the risk and protective factors that could prevent an injury or violence outcome. For the pilot-test, the Fellow will develop a program plan, collect process evaluation, and document changes in risk/protective factors and/or outcomes.

Fellows should select a project of significant interest, that involves obtaining secondary data and/or collecting primary data (e.g., interviews, surveys, focus groups), represents a need in a community, and can be accomplished within the 18-month Fellowship. [Appendix A](#) provides project titles from previous Fellowships.



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Description of Fellowship Activities

The 2027-2028 Fellowship will include five phases (Table 1, and [Appendix B](#)) during which Fellows will:

- Participate in virtual classroom sessions, occurring
 - approximately twice per month (some months might have 3 sessions and others might have none)
 - for 3 hours which includes instruction and time to apply learning to your project
 - on Wednesday from 1-4 pm ET.
- Attend three in-person learning sessions (Field, CDC, Symposium) requiring a total of approximately 2.5 weeks away from their job sites
- Complete project tasks and submit interim deliverables (i.e., project summary draft sections)
- Participate in scheduled progress check-in meetings with mentor and/or Academic Advisor
- Develop a written project summary and presentation
- Deliver their presentation in Rockville, MD at the *IHS IVP Fellowship Symposium*, attended by IHS staff, injury prevention program consultants, and other guests.

Table 1. Fellowship Phases.

Phase A: IVP Issue/Problem (January to February 2027): Fellows use available search tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), to search and summarize IVP literature related to their project, including related risk and protective factors and/or evidence-based interventions. Fellows can use AI to draft a Background section for their project summary.
Phase B: Project Purpose and Planning (March 2027): Fellows develop a project purpose statement, identify information and data needed for their project, and identify how to protect human subjects when collecting, managing, analyzing, and reporting the data. Fellows also identify project implementation steps (i.e., work plan) and begin seeking approvals for their project, including IRB submission if needed.
Phase C: Data Collection (April to August 2027): Fellows plan for data collection by obtaining secondary data (as applicable) and/or drafting data collection instruments, developing a codebook, and creating a data entry process using MS Excel. Fellows attend in-person session 1 (Field Course) at a TBD IHS Area where they practice collecting and entering data to create a dataset. Fellows begin/complete their own project data collection during this phase.
Phase D: Data Management and Analysis (September 2027 to January 2028): Fellows complete their project data collection. Fellows learn about data management techniques (e.g., cleaning data, selecting appropriate statistical tests) and are introduced to both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods. Fellows attend in-person session 2 (CDC) in Atlanta, GA, to practice data management and analysis skills and learn about AI/AN focused injury/violence prevention occurring at the national level. Fellows also begin to analyze their project data and can use AI to draft a Methods section for their project summary.
Phase E: Project Results (February to June 2028): Fellows continue to analyze their project data, including using AI to conduct descriptive analysis and produce tables and figures of their analysis results. Fellows can use AI to draft the Results and Discussion sections for their project summary. They can also use AI to develop a presentation they deliver during the in-person Symposium to an audience assembled at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD.



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Participation Commitments

Multiple entities will provide support to the Fellows throughout the Fellowship experience. A detailed list of roles and responsibilities is provided in [Appendix C](#). Fellows, Mentors, Academic Advisors, and IHS Area IP Specialists (or IP Program Points of Contact) have overlapping commitments:

Fellows:

- Devote a minimum of 3 hours per week (when there are Zoom sessions) and longer depending on Fellowship project progression.
- Occasionally devote additional work or personal time to their project (e.g., when collecting data and analyzing and summarizing results in the project summary and presentation).
- Must complete their project, summary, and presentation within the 18 months of the Fellowship.
- Are expected to notify their mentor/Academic Advisors in a timely manner if/when they face project delays or challenges, and will receive guidance to reduce project scope if necessary.

Mentors:

- Can be an IHS IP Specialist (e.g., at the Area or District level) or another IHS or tribal employee who is a Fellowship graduate and/or has unique knowledge of the Fellowship Program.
- Should have a vested interest in and are able to support various aspects of a Fellow's project.
- Check in regularly with their Fellow regularly (e.g., weekly or bi-weekly).
- Assist Fellow in notifying the Academic Advisors of project delays or challenges.
- Assist a Fellow with obtaining necessary project approvals (e.g., to collect data, conduct activities, share their project summary, and share their project presentation).

Academic Advisors:

- Are located at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Health Behavior (Carolyn Crump PhD, Robert Letourneau MPH, and James Emery MPH).
- Work in consultation with the IHS Headquarters IP Program Manager to plan, implement, and evaluate the IVP Fellowship.
- Provide on-going support to Fellows as they develop, plan, implement, and complete their projects, helping Fellows adjust project purpose and scope as needed.

IHS Area (or District) IP Specialist or IP Program Point of Contact (POC):

- Serve as an early point of contact to develop ideas for the Fellow's project.
- Assist to identify a suitable Mentor, in consultation with the IHS Headquarters IP Program Manager.

Additional support will be provided to Fellows by stakeholders who assist with in-person Field Course sessions. The IHS Injury Prevention Program Manager Support will provide overall support to the IVP Fellowship Program, its participants, and via training support from the IHS Environmental Health Support Center.

Continuing Education Opportunity

As part of the Fellowship experience, Fellows have the option to participate in one of two types of optional continuing education:

- **Less-intensive option:** attend a conference during the Fellowship or after the Fellowship Symposium (must be completed by the end of 2028 calendar year), OR
- **More-intensive option:** enroll in a university-based course after the Fellowship Symposium (must be completed by end of 2028 calendar year).

The online application will provide a list of available opportunities and require applicants to identify (for budget planning purposes) if they plan to participate in a continuing education opportunity and which opportunity they want to attend.



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Financial Support and Equipment

Applicants can be employed by tribes, tribal organizations, and/or the Indian Health Service. Arrangements can also be made to accept participants from other federal, state, or local agencies (e.g., state or local health departments; urban Indian research centers; US Coast Guard; NIOSH). Applicants from tribes who have compacted under the Self-Governance provisions of *Public Law 93-638* will be considered along with those from non-compacting tribes.

IHS Area Offices will provide the funding for Fellows travel, per diem, and optional continuing education opportunity costs, with the exception of participants from self-governance compact tribes that have taken their training shares from IHS. These tribes are responsible for paying all travel, per diem, and tuition expenses for their participants. Financial arrangements for non-IHS candidates are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Because much of the Fellowship involves distance learning (via Zoom), all Fellows will need broadband Internet access at work and/or home. Fellows will also need to bring a laptop to all in-person sessions.

Application Process

Visit [this link](#) to follow application process steps, which include the following:

1. **Identify and discuss ideas for your project** with your IHS Area (or District) IP Specialist or IP POC, and/or your proposed Mentor. To guide your discussion, use the following questions (*you will be required to answer these questions in Step 2*):

- a. What IVP issue is of interest to you?
- b. What things do you want to learn or do about the IVP issue?
- c. Depending on the project type you want to conduct:
 - i. What information or data do you want to use to learn about an injury or violence problem? (Problem Analysis)
 - ii. What needs or resources do you want to assess to address an injury or violence problem? (Needs Assessment)
 - iii. What evidence-based intervention do you want to pilot (Program Planning and Pilot-Testing)?
- d. Who will benefit from your project, and how?

KEY DATES

- **By November 18, 2026:**
 - Answer a few questions about proposed Fellowship project
 - Conduct pre-application consultation with Academic Advisors to discuss project ideas
- **By December 13, 2026 (9:00 pm EST):**
 - Submit application

2. Use [this link](#) to complete a brief survey to provide answers to questions about your project ideas.

At the end of the survey, you will be provided a link to **schedule a required Pre-application Consultation** with the Academic Advisors and your IHS Area IP (or District) Specialist (or IP POC) and mentor (if identified). This consultation must be completed by November 18, 2026.

3. **Complete the Online Application**

- a. Application questions can be previewed in [Appendix D](#). Some sections require additional information (e.g., documentation of prerequisite courses, letters of support).
- b. The online application process will open by or before Nov 18, 2026 (IHS HQ will make announcement).
- c. If using the same computer AND browser, the application can be completed over multiple sessions.
- d. All questions must be answered and all supporting documentation (e.g., application questions, letters of support, proof of prerequisites) must be uploaded prior to clicking the 'complete my application' step on the last page of the application.



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Appendix A: Fellowship Project Examples

Prior Fellowship projects have focused on unintentional injury, intentional injury, and/or other topics, including:

Unintentional Injury Project Topics:

- Injuries caused by animals
- Athletic Injuries
- Bicycle Safety
- Carbon Monoxide
- Drowning
- Falls
- Fire/Burns
- Firearm
- Home Safety (general)
- Motor Vehicle
 - Child Passenger Safety
 - Cost
 - Crash Surveillance
 - Driving Under the Influence
 - Helmet Use
 - Law Enforcement
 - Livestock Control
 - Roadway Modification
 - Seat Belt Use

Unintentional Injury Project Topics (continued):

- Pedestrian
- Playground Safety
- Substance Use
- Workplace Injuries

Intentional Injury (Violence) Project Topics:

- Assault (general)
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Domestic Violence (general)
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Youth Violence

Other Injury Project Topics:

- Emergency/Medical Response
- Injury Prevention/Control (general)
- Injury Surveillance (Cost, Data Sources, Descriptive Studies)

List A-1. Example Unintentional Injury Fellowship Project Titles.

- **Falls**
 - Piloting Tai Chi Easy for Fall Prevention in the Navajo Nation
 - Assessing Interest in Tai Chi Easy as a Fall Prevention Activity in Navajo Senior Centers
 - Elder Fall Prevention Needs Assessment for a Southwest American Indian Tribe
 - Evaluating Interest in and Need for Tribal Elder Fall Prevention: Findings from a Staff Program Needs Assessment
 - Albuquerque Area Elder Fall Prevention: A Pilot Tribal Tai Chi Instructors Program
 - A Process Evaluation of Tai Chi Classes and Elder Fall Prevention Services
 - Yoga for Elder Fall Prevention: Pilot Study of a 10-week Program for Older Adults
 - A Home Safety Assessment to Reduce Fall Injuries
 - Medication Management for Falls Prevention
- **Motor Vehicle (Child Passenger Safety)**
 - Evaluation of a Curbside Car Seat Check in a Tribal Community
 - Developing a CPS Technician Management Plan
 - Sustaining a Community-Based Child Passenger Safety Program
 - Increasing Car Seat Use: Community Health Representative Role
 - Improving Child Passenger Safety Awareness and Training in Indian Country
- **Motor Vehicle (Driving Under the Influence)**
 - Developing a MADD Chapter: Challenges in Changing a Community Norm
 - DWI Interventions
 - Tribal Sobriety Check Point



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List A-1. Example Unintentional Injury Fellowship Project Titles (continued).

- **Motor Vehicle (Crash Surveillance)**
 - Assessment of School Bus Stop Safety on a Tribal Reservation
 - A Descriptive Study of Motor Vehicle Crashes and Potential Interventions
 - Creating a Toolkit on Distracted Driving for Tribal Colleges and Communities
 - ATV Fatalities and Injuries
 - Improve ATV Safety
 - The Motor Vehicle Crash Site Identification Project
 - Preventing Injuries and Saving Lives by Keeping Livestock Off Highways
 - Improving Traffic Law Enforcement: Cross-deputizing BIA and Tribal Police Officers
 - Increasing Awareness and Enforcement of a Tribal Seatbelt Law
 - A Crash Cluster Investigation: The Road to Road Safety Assessment and Remediation
 - Direct Medical Costs of Motor Vehicle Related Hospitalizations
- **Other**
 - Developing a “Path to Data” Framework for the IHS Nashville Area
 - The data that we collect means something. The reason I collect it is for my people: A Qualitative Analysis of Alaskan Substance Use Data Assets, Needs, and Opportunities
 - First Responders Use of a GIS Application and Naloxone to Respond to Opioid Overdose in the Shawnee Service Unit (SSU)
 - Attitudes, Knowledge, and Use of Snowmachine/All-terrain Vehicle Helmets in the Native Village of Koyuk, Alaska
 - Traumatic Brain Injury Interventions: Educating Providers
 - Commercial Fishing Income and Injury Rates
 - Workplace Safety Policies and Procedures
 - Improving Fire Safety
 - Firearm Storage Intervention
 - Helping EMS Locate Rural Homes

List A-2. Example Intentional Injury Fellowship Project Titles.

- **Assault**
 - Domestic Violence Support Services Among the Diné: An Exploratory Inquiry
 - Decreasing Repeat Assaults among Males 19-29
 - Police Policies and Procedures for Reducing Interpersonal Violence
- **Suicide**
 - Suicide Prevention at the Winnebago Community: Services, Gaps, and Opportunities
 - Restricting Access to Lethal Means for Suicide in a Native American Community
 - Youth Suicide Prevention: Identifying Resources
 - The Value of Medical Records in Exploring Risk Factors for Suicide
 - Suicide Intervention: An Evaluation of ASIST
 - Saving the Next Generation: A Life Skills Curriculum for Rural Youth
 - A Multifaceted Approach to Addressing Youth Suicide
- **Youth Violence**
 - Honoring Our Past, Respecting Our Future, Living Our Present: Bullying Zero Tolerance
 - Developing a “Youth In Action” Team
 - Taking Back our Communities: Gang Prevention Strategies for Tribal Communities



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Appendix B: Fellowship Program Timeline *(subject to changes)*

2026

Pre-Application and Application

By November 18, 2026

Pre-application consultations with
Academic Advisor team and Area IP Specialist

November 18 to December 13, 2026

Online application completion period

2027

Phase A: IVP Issue/Problem

January to February 2027

Phase B: Project Purpose and Planning

March 2027

Phase C: Data Collection

April to August 2027

May 2027

In-Person Session 1 (Field)

Phase D: Data Management and Analysis

September 2027 to January 2028

October 2028

In-Person Session 2 (CDC)

2028

Phase E: Project Results

February to June 2028

June 2028

In-Person Session 3
(Symposium)



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Appendix C: Entities Providing Support to Fellows

Entity	Specific Roles and Responsibilities
1. Academic Advisors	a. Develop and coordinate application process. b. Facilitate the development of project idea(s) by Fellow, Mentor, Area IP Specialist. c. Plan, coordinate, and deliver distance and in-person sessions. d. Plan and conduct progress check-in sessions with Fellows/Mentors during Fellowship. e. Provide technical/scientific guidance for project design, project management, analysis, interpretation, and reporting. f. Provide feedback on interim deliverables (e.g., structure, content, accuracy, writing style).
2. Mentors	a. Assist Fellow with development of project idea(s) and if possible, attend a pre-application consultation with the Academic Advisors.¹ b. Contribute to decisions about Fellow's project idea(s). c. Assist in obtaining necessary IHS, tribal, and/or state approvals for project, data collection/use, and sharing of project summary/presentation. d. Provide Fellow with consistent, on-going support and practical advice and encouragement for project, including referring Fellow to other resource persons when appropriate, e. Contact Fellow regularly to address questions, barriers, and next steps. f. Identify barriers and discuss with Fellow, Area Specialist, and/or Academic Advisors. g. Monitor/evaluate Fellow's project progress (e.g., adherence to timelines, project quality). h. Participate in progress check-in sessions with Academic Advisors, when requested. i. Review/provide feedback on Fellow's deliverables (e.g. project summary, presentation) prior to submission to Academic Advisors.
3. IHS Area IP Specialists	a. Assess commitment and plan for mentor assignments (during application process). b. Contribute to decisions about Fellow's project idea(s). c. Coordinate and approve travel orders, and arrange reimbursement for Fellowship expenses (travel expenses, PO's, course registration for continuing education opportunity). d. Provide logistical support or obtain needed resources (e.g., laptop, printing/photocopying, photography, other equipment).
4. Field/CDC Course Hosts	a. Coordinate with Academic Advisors to host in-person sessions 1 or 2 (e.g., logistics). b. Work with Academic Advisors to develop the learning experience c. Facilitate content presentations and learning modules identified by Academic Advisors. d. Identify issue/topic experts to share information with Fellows as requested.
5. IHS HQ Staff	a. Provide consultation on mentor selection. b. Work with Academic Advisor to finalize applicant selection. c. Plan/support Fellows and mentors throughout Program. d. Monitor contracting for Academic Advisors. e. Attend selected in-person and/or distance sessions. f. Share Fellowship results (presentations, project summaries).
6. ESHC staff	a. Coordinate logistics for in-person and/or distance sessions. b. Manage marketing, recruitment, and registration.

¹ To be determined if applicant is from a Tribe that has 638-contracted its EH/IP services.



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Appendix D: Preview of Fellowship Application Questions

The online application for the 2027-2028 IVP Fellowship Program will require you to provide the following information, by category:

A. Background Information about You

1. First and Last Name
2. Preferred Mailing Address (include street/PO, city, state, zip)
3. Telephone Numbers (work, cell)
4. Email Address
5. If you are an enrolled member of a tribe (and tribe name, if applicable)

B. Background Information about Your Education and Work

1. Highest level of formal education and field of study
2. Current educational courses or lengthy training/certification programs during Fellowship Program
3. Current employer
4. Current job title/position and length of time in current position
5. Your primary job responsibilities
6. If you work for a tribe, whether the tribe has compacted/contracted its Environmental Health Services

C. Background Information about Your IVP Experience and Training

1. How long you have worked (or volunteered) in injury and violence prevention
2. Your IVP activities on the job or as a volunteer
3. Names and dates of IVP trainings you have completed (or will complete by January 2027)
4. Upload a copy of your resume or CV

D. Project Description

1. Description of the injury or violence problem of interest to you
2. Summary of your project idea (you will answer a few questions about your idea)
3. Names and positions of people with whom you have discussed your project

E. Your Participation

1. Why you want to participate in the IHS IVP Fellowship (e.g., why you believe this advanced training is important to you, your job, and your community; what you want to accomplish; how you might apply what you learn in the future)
2. Your ability to commit at least 3 hours per week to complete the Fellowship
3. Your ability to travel a total of 2.5 weeks away from your job and household
4. If applicable, the optional continuing education opportunity you plan to pursue

F. Description of Your Project

G. Letters of Support (to be uploaded, template provided)

1. Mentor
2. Area IP Specialist/Point of Contact (if different from mentor) – see [IHS and Tribal Contacts](#)
3. Supervisor

H. Prerequisite Supporting Documentation (upload certificates of completion for three IHS IVP Courses)

I. Final Checklist and Submission

