



Concordance and Discordance of California Tribe-County Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing of Emergency Management Services

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Research Objective

This study examined whether California tribal and county governments reported concordant or discordant experiences in cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) of emergency management services and whether research participant profession, number of people in jurisdiction, geographic size of jurisdiction, or geographic location of jurisdiction were associated with concordant or discordant tribe-county CJS experiences.

Study Design

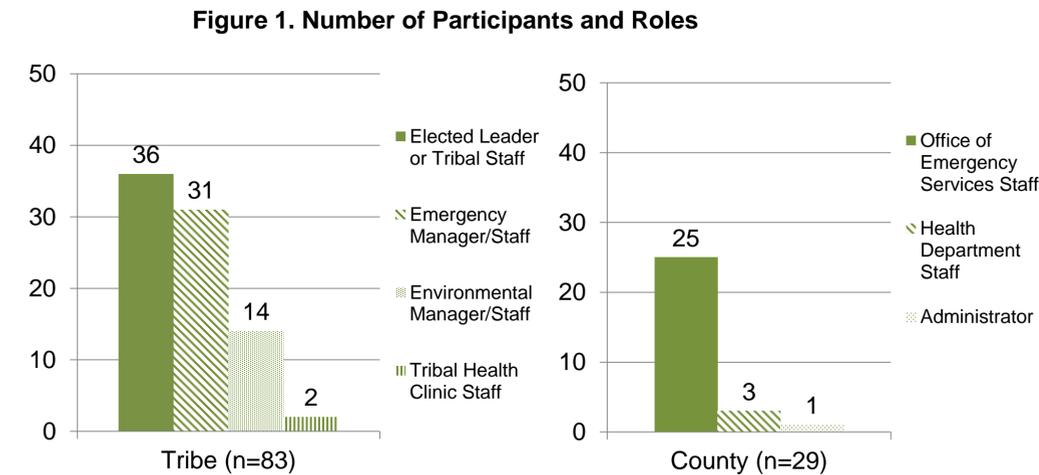
Tribal and county representatives completed a mixed-methods survey adapted from the Center for Sharing Public Health Services “Existing CJS Arrangement” survey instrument (CSPHS, 2014). Adaptations were made to survey text to narrow the focus to emergency management-related CJS arrangements and to increase the cultural appropriateness of the instrument (e.g., including tribal jurisdiction as response choice).

Survey responses were coded into dichotomous variables based on five CJS Spectrum categories represented by the survey (CSPHS, 2014), including whether jurisdictions had formal CJS arrangements, informal or customary CJS arrangements, service-related CJS arrangements (e.g., as-needed contracts and consultations before, during, or after an emergency), shared CJS functions with joint oversight, and/or regionalization (e.g., tribe and county becoming one department to serve both jurisdictions). Next, tribe-county CJS Spectrum data were compared to determine whether tribes and counties were in agreement about whether they did or did not have any CJS functions.

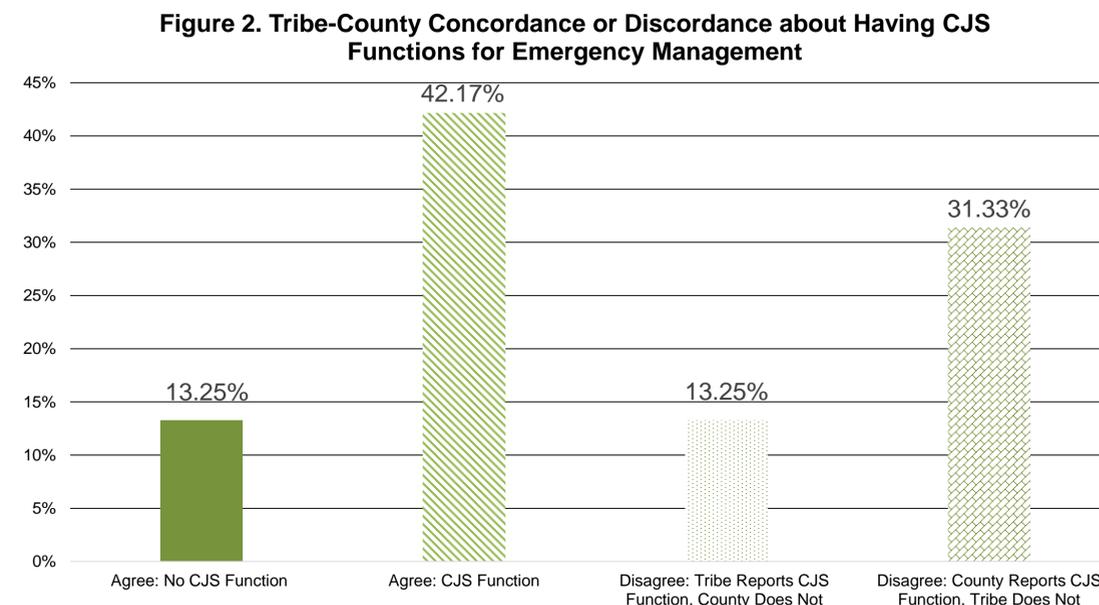
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Population Studied

Data were collected from representatives from 83 California tribal jurisdictions serving 0 (i.e., resident-less) to 84,000 people ($M = 1,651$) and representatives from 29 corresponding county jurisdictions serving 9,500 to 3.2 million people ($M = 468,191$). Tribal and county jurisdictions spanned northern (41 tribes and 14 corresponding counties), central (19 tribes and 10 corresponding counties), and southern (23 tribes and 5 corresponding counties) California. Figure 1 outlines the number of participants and their respective roles in the tribe or county.



Principal Findings



Approximately 55% of tribes were in agreement about having no or any CJS functions (see Figure 2).

Chi-square analyses indicated that concordance and discordance did not significantly differ by research participant profession, number of people in jurisdiction, geographic size of jurisdiction, or geographic location of jurisdiction.

Conclusions

Tribal leaders and emergency/environmental staff most frequently reported about CJS functions for tribes, while Office of Emergency Services staff most frequently reported for counties.

Nearly half of tribe-county dyads were in discordance about whether or not they have CJS functions.

Implications for Practice or Policy

Counties should consider that tribal leaders, rather than designated tribal emergency or environmental staff, may be involved in developing or sustaining CJS functions.

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Email cassandra.call@crihb.org with questions or comments.

Citation

Assessment Tool for Public Health Existing CJS Arrangements: Detailed Survey. Center for Sharing Public Health Services, 2014. Available at <http://www.phsharing.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/01/PDFAssessmentOfExistingServicesV1.pdf>.