

# Modernizing Public Health Practice: Building an Innovative and Inclusive Infrastructure for the Public Health of the Future

Thursday, April 3, 2025  
Desert Willow Conference Center  
Phoenix AZ

We'll have innovative thinkers, practitioners, and researchers to share insights and strategies that drive transformative changes in public health:

- Engaging Keynote Presentation from **Jyoti) Pathak, PhD - Inaugural Dean – ASU School of Technology for Public Health**
- **Sixteen (16) breakout sessions** with 30 participants in the areas of:

**Data Infrastructure and Informatics**  
**Public Health Workforce**  
**Using AI to enhance PH practice**

- Closing Panel Discussion: **Innovative Methods and Techniques in Public Health Implementation Science**

7:45	45min	<b>Registration, breakfast, and posters</b>
8:30	40 min	<b>Welcome, opening remarks &amp; Legislative Updates- Cottonwood</b>
9:10	50 min	<b>Plenary Keynote: Improving Perinatal Mental Health: <i>An Opportunity for Healthcare and Public Health to Collaborate</i></b> <b>Jyotishman (Jyoti) Pathak, PhD; Inaugural Dean – ASU School of Technology for Public Health</b>

10:00	30 min	<b>Break &amp; posters</b>
10:30	50 min	<b>Breakout #1</b>
Ocotillo	<p><b>Identifying and explaining suicide, homicide, and overdose hot spots in Arizona, plus an Arizona Violent Death Reporting System dashboard presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Charles Katz</b>, School of Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice, Arizona State University, Professor</li> <li>● <b>Jordan Batchelor</b>, Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona State University, Research Analyst</li> <li>● <b>Laura Lightfoot</b>, School of Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice, Arizona State University, Doctoral student</li> </ul>	
Cottonwood	<p><b>Leveraging AI to Standardize Housing Interventions: Advancing Public Health Infrastructure in Arizona's Continuum of Care Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kristin Ferguson</b>, Arizona State University School of Social Work Professor</li> <li>● <b>Natasha Mendoza</b>, Arizona State University School of Social Work, Associate Professor &amp; Research Director</li> <li>● <b>Cinthia Martinez</b>, ASU SIRC, Senior Program Manager, Community Engagement</li> </ul>	
Brittlebush	<p><b>Public Health Inclusion and Belonging and Employee-Driven Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sue Damiata</b>, Pinal County Public Health, Workforce Development Program Manager</li> </ul>	
Desert Star	<p><b>Enhancing Depression Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Through Data Visualization: Insights from the Arizona EQUIDEM Pilot Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Matt Martin</b>, Arizona State University, Clinical and Research Associate Professor</li> </ul>	
11:20	10 min	Transition
11:30	50 min	<b>Breakout 2</b>
Ocotillo	<p><b>The 2024 State Health Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Celia Nabor</b>, MPA, Arizona Department of Health Services, Assistant Director, Prevention Services</li> <li>● <b>Nicole DeWitt</b>, Arizona Department of Health Services, Assistant Deputy Director, Public Health Preparedness</li> </ul>	
Desert	<b>Merging Minds and Machines (M &amp; M's)   Re-envisioning Public Health</b>	

Star	<b>Innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deanna Lewis</b>, DrPH, MBA, PA-C, Forward Moving Concepts, llc, Consultant</li> </ul>	
Cottonwood	<b>Bridging the Gap: Cultivating Public Health Leaders Through Workforce Innovation and Experiential Learning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Diana Kinsfather</b> MS, RDN, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Applied Professional Experiences Supervisor (APEX)</li> <li>• <b>Lisa Polovin</b>, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Fellowship Coordinator</li> <li>• <b>Lisa Clarke</b>, MS, RD, CNSC, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Dietetic Internship Coordinator</li> <li>• <b>Tatiana Gleason</b>, MPA, Maricopa County Department of Public Health Public Health Internship Coordinator</li> </ul>	
Brittlebush	<b>Integrating Data to Action: Enhancing Overdose Surveillance and Response in Pima County</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Person</b>, Senior Program Manager, Pima County Health Department.</li> <li>• <b>Rachael Hinkel</b>, Epidemiologist, Pima County Health Department.</li> </ul>	
<b>12:20p</b>	<b>70 min</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; posters</b>
<b>1:30</b>	<b>50 min</b>	<b>Breakout 3</b>
Cottonwood	<b>Substance Use Data to Action: Development of the City of Phoenix Opioid Overdose Alert System Methodology and Program Framework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kelli Kostizak</b>, MPH, City of Phoenix, Special Projects Administrator</li> <li>• <b>Matt Miller</b>, PhD, ASU's REACH Institute &amp; SATRN Postdoctoral Fellow</li> <li>• <b>Nick Shively</b>, City of Phoenix Business Analyst</li> <li>• <b>Yanitza Soto</b>, MPH, City of Phoenix, Public Health Advisor</li> </ul>	
Ocotillo	<b>Leveraging AI for Smarter Public Health Decision-Making: Balancing Innovation with Cultural Responsiveness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prabhneet Girn</b>, MPH, Arize Care Consulting, Founder &amp; CEO</li> </ul>	
Desert Star	<b>Fostering Connection and Quality: Improving Behavioral Health Care Through Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Victoria Tewa</b> MS, LPC, The Alliance ACO/ NARBHA Institute, Director of Clinical Advancement</li> </ul>	
Brittlebush	<b>Tribal Healthcare Workforce Development: A Collaborative Approach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ernestine Nasingoetewa</b>, American Indian Health - Area Health Education, Center Grants Program Coordinator</li> </ul>	

2:20	15 min	<b>Break and transition</b>
2:35	50 min	<b>Breakout 4</b>
Cottonwood		<p><b>Data as a Driver of Action: Leveraging Wastewater Monitoring for H5 Detection and Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chelsi White</b>, MS, CIC Maricopa County Department of Public Health Senior Surveillance Epidemiologist</li> <li>● <b>Crystal M. Hepp</b> Ph.D, Translational Genomics Research Institute and Northern Arizona University Associate Professor</li> <li>● <b>Sarah Avalle</b>, MS, Arizona Department of Health Services Wastewater Surveillance Epidemiologist</li> </ul>
Desert Star		<p><b>The AI Co-Worker You Never Knew You Needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Carmen Batista</b>, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Division Administrator</li> <li>● <b>Nina Lindsey</b>, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Grant Unit Manager</li> </ul>
Brittlebush		<p><b>Building a Sustainable Mental Healthcare Workforce in Arizona: Provider Perspectives and Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Nathaniel Meitl</b>, Arizona State University College of Health Solutions, Undergraduate Researcher</li> </ul>
Ocotillo		<p><b>Building the Future: Strengthening the Public Health Workforce by Reimagining Graduate Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Abigail York</b>, Arizona State University, Professor</li> <li>● <b>Kristen Pogreba-Brown</b>, University of Arizona, Associate Professor</li> <li>● <b>Megan Jehn</b>, ASU, Professor</li> </ul>
3:25	15 min	<b>Break &amp; Transition</b>
3:40	50 min	<p><b>Closing Plenary Panel</b></p> <p><b>Innovative Methods and Techniques in Public Health Implementation Science – Panel Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Cameron Adams</b>, AHCCCS Program Administrator</li> <li>● <b>Taylor Vaughan</b>, MPH, ASU Data Science Specialist</li> <li>● <b>Samantha Basch, MS</b>, Research Project Coordinator, ASU Targeted Investments Program</li> <li>● <b>Nga Vu</b>, Student Researcher, ASU Targeted Investments Program</li> </ul>
4:30	5 min	<b>Closing Remarks and Evaluation</b>