



Prevalence and Scope of California Tribe-County Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing of Emergency Management Services

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Research Objective

This study examined the prevalence and scope of cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) between California tribal and county governments in emergency management (i.e., preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery) and whether number of people in a jurisdiction, geographic size, or geographic location of a jurisdiction were associated with having a higher number of CJS functions, including formal CJS arrangements for emergency management.

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).

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 ($M = 468,191$). See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Geographic Areas of Tribe and County Participants

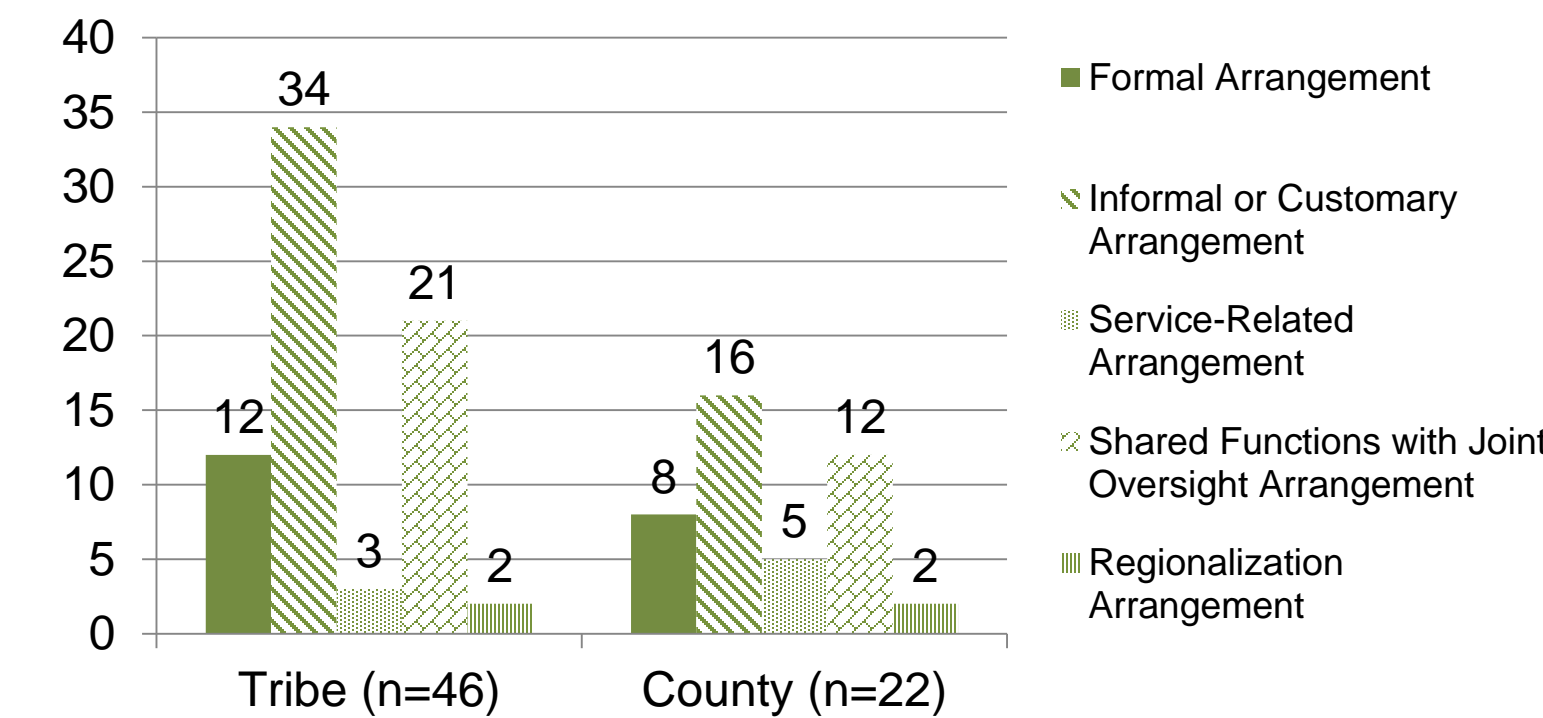


Principal Findings

A total of 45% of tribal representatives and 17% of county representatives reported having no CJS functions for emergency management, meaning that they did not report activities that fell anywhere on the CJS Spectrum.

Among those with any level of CJS functions (see Figure 2), tribes reported between 1 and 3 functions ($M(SD) = 0.87(.91)$), and counties reported between 1 and 4 functions ($M(SD)=1.48(1.02)$).

Figure 2. Types of CJS Arrangements



For tribes, there was a significant positive association between number of people in jurisdiction and having formal CJS arrangements ($r = .43, p = .02$).

Conclusions

- A greater percentage of tribal than county representatives reported having no CJS functions, while the reverse was reported for having formal CJS arrangements.
- Having a formal CJS arrangement was associated with number of people in jurisdiction for tribes only.

Implications for Practice or Policy

It is important for counties to understand that tribes' willingness to develop formal CJS arrangements may be associated with how many people are in the tribal jurisdiction.

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

Citations

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>.