



Emergencies Relevant to Tribes in California and the Prevalence of Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Between Tribes and Counties for Emergency Management

Michael Mudgett, M.P.H.¹, Cassandra Call, M.S.¹, Christine Smith, M.P.A.¹, and Maureen A. Wimsatt, Ph.D., M.S.W.¹

¹California Tribal Epidemiology Center, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc., Sacramento, CA



Research Objective

This study examined emergencies relevant to Tribes in California and the prevalence of cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) of emergency management services (i.e., preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery) between Tribal and county jurisdictions. Additionally, this study examined whether the two jurisdictions were in agreement or disagreement about having CJS functions with each other.

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 Tribal jurisdictions in California 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 ($M = 468,191$).

Principal Findings

Tribes were concerned about a variety of emergencies (See Table 1). Overall, informal arrangements were most prevalent among Tribes and counties, followed by shared functions with joint oversight and formal arrangements (See Figure 1). Approximately 55% of Tribes were in agreement about having no or any CJS functions (See Figure 2).

Table 1. Emergencies Relevant to Tribes in California

Natural	Non-Natural
Fires (wild fires, house fires)	Violence (physical, gun, and/or intimate partner violence)
Flooding and dam breaks	Bomb threats
Earthquakes	Terrorism and bioterrorism
Tsunamis	Behavioral health issues (substance abuse, mental illness, suicide)
Landslides/mudslides	Medical emergencies in a rural environment (drownings, car accidents, unintentional injuries)
Tornadoes	Bacterial infections
Volcanic eruptions	Viral infections (H1N1, Zika)
Drought	Epidemics and pandemics
Inclement weather (wind, snow, thunderstorms, lightning)	Environmental hazard
Weather phenomena (El Niño)	Evacuating/relocating
Heat and cold stress	Search and rescue operations
Algae bloom	Local and widespread electrical power outages
Tree mortality	Single access road closures
Low water levels	Shortage of medical supplies/medication
Poor air quality	Economic jeopardy
Harm to cultural and/or natural resources	Cyber crisis
	Lacking/reduced water rights
	Harm to cultural and/or natural resources

Figure 1. Types of CJS Arrangements

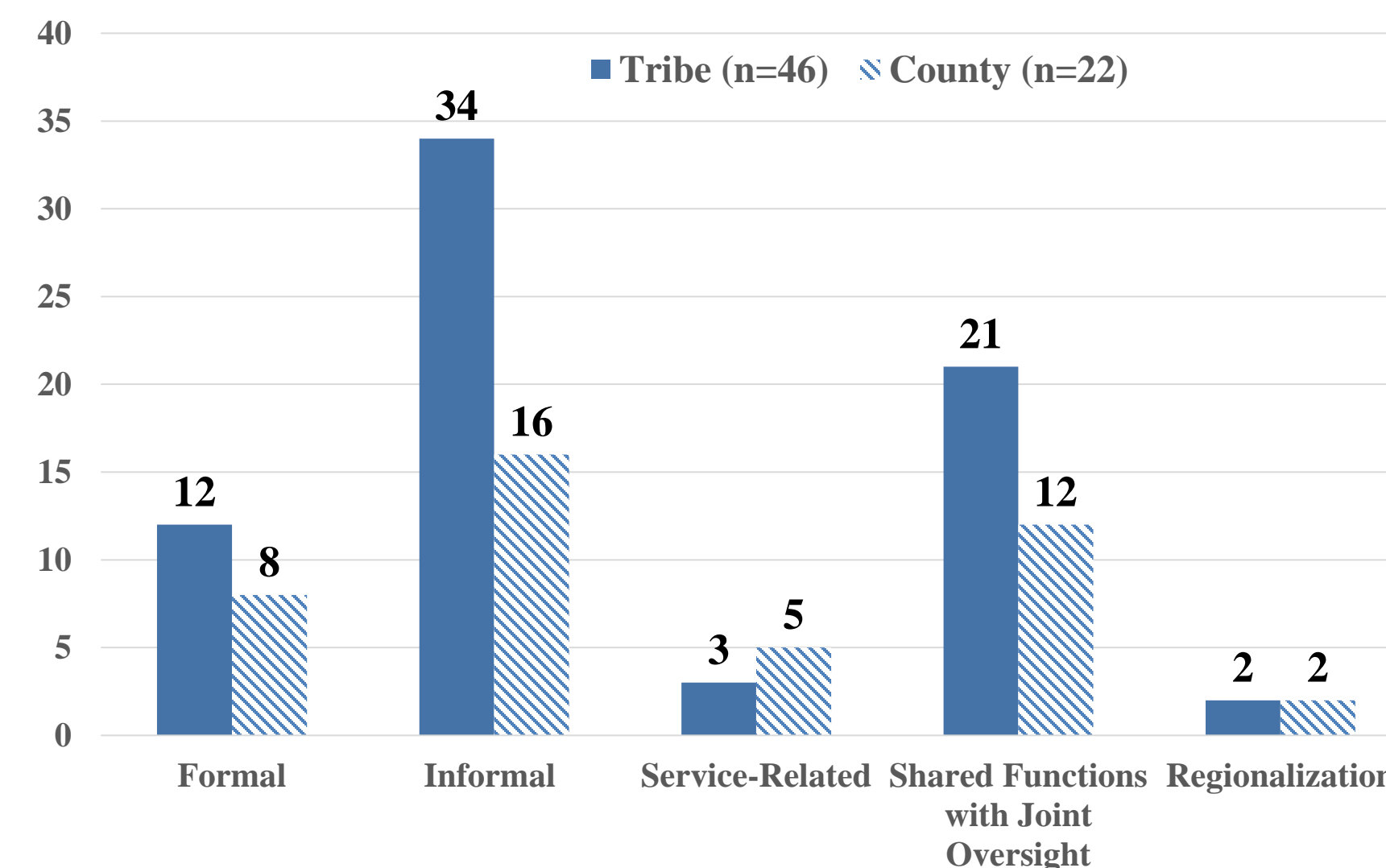
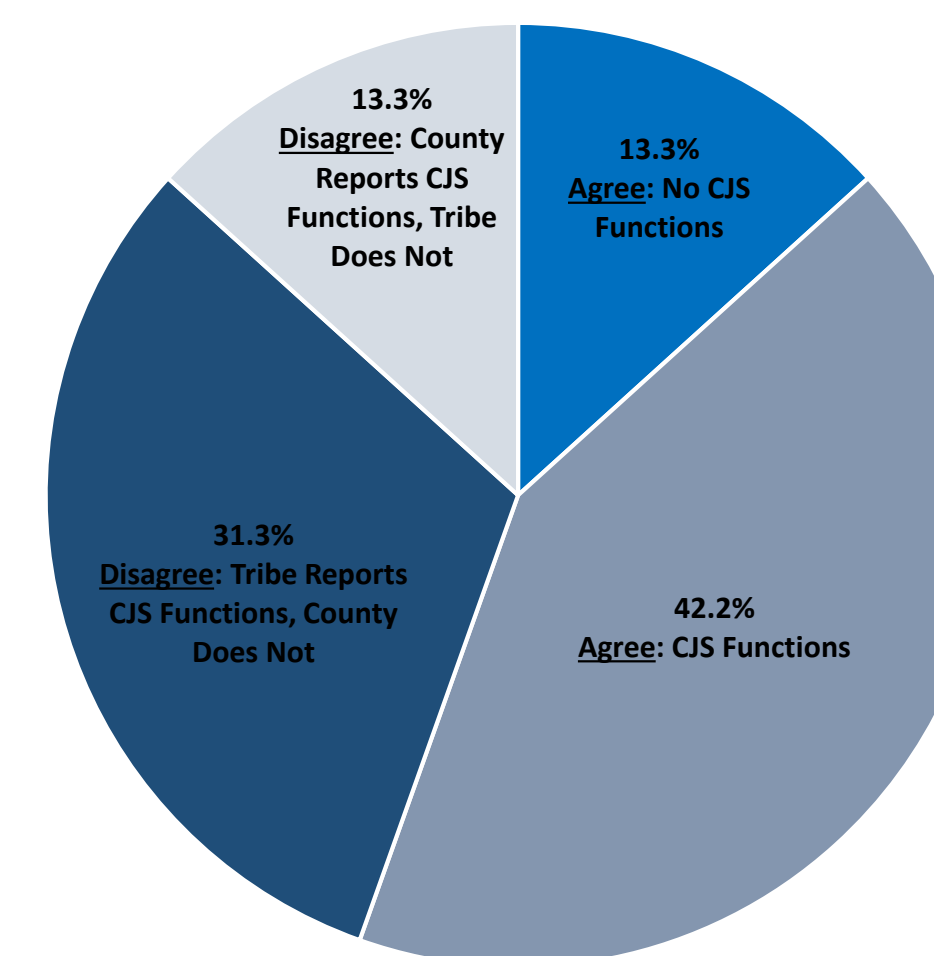


Figure 2. Tribe and County Agreement About CJS Functions



Conclusions

Findings provide novel information about emergencies relevant to Tribes and clarify potential areas of need related to emergency management.

Findings also describe the current state of CJS between Tribes and counties in California, for which there was limited information prior to this study.

Future research should focus on studying factors that lead to successful CJS collaboration with Tribal jurisdictions, including historical, cultural, and/or political-legal factors.

Implications for Practice or Policy

With increasing fiscal demands to share emergency management services, county jurisdictions should view Tribal jurisdictions as viable partners for CJS arrangements.

Policymakers should consider the various ways jurisdictions share services and understand CJS as a spectrum of methods to address public health needs.

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Contact: Michael.Mudgett@crihb.org

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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>.