CENTER UPDATES
by Donna Holland

I am happy to declare that the Center is active and engaged in research projects on campus and in the community. We are interested in collaborating and supporting more social science research projects. If you have a research project that you need assistance with, perhaps you could contract with the CSR for support services to facilitate your research projects. We have an engaging and enthusiastic staff who enjoy social science research.

In addition to conducting social science research, I aim to begin hosting and designing webinars and other training events to enhance research training on campus and in the community. If you are interested in being a presenter in the “Data analysis” series using SPSS and SAS, please contact me with your proposed presentation plan.

The newsletter highlights some local events and additional training and conference information that you might find helpful. We also highlight recent events in the area and information that I hope you find interesting.

CURRENT CENTER PROJECTS:

EAGLE ALASKA FLOOD REPORT

Eagle Alaska (pictured above) experienced a tragic and unprecedented flood in the summer of 2009. Donna Holland spent many weeks interviewing and collecting data from Eagle community members on how they dealt with and are still dealing with recovery. The report on her findings is being currently published.

DATA COLLECTION

The Center is working on collecting and analyzing data from recently conducted surveys. The data will be used to determine the effectiveness of current programs and the Center will be suggesting areas of improvement.

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Initial Hours of a Natural Disaster: A Look Back at Fort Wayne Wind Damage in 2012
Summary by Ann Cox

High winds in Fort Wayne resulted in widespread damage during the afternoon of June 29, 2012. As the thunderstorm which included hail moved through the city at a speed of 55 mph, various wind speeds occurred. 91 mph was the highest wind speed, which was reported by The Fort Wayne International Airport. As the storm ripped through the city, a large number of both utility poles and trees in the storm's path were knocked down. In addition to being non-functional, downed utility poles and wires further obstructed some roads that were blocked by downed trees. Power was limited at the VA Medical Center, which is located at the intersection of Randallia Drive and Lake Avenue. It was requested that veterans who had medical emergencies go to either Parkview Hospital or St. Joseph Hospital. Veterans who were not in Fort Wayne were supposed to seek medical care at the closest community hospital. Due to the storm's impact, some homeowners had property damage due to trees landing on their homes. Assistance was provided by police to individuals who needed help in getting out of damaged homes. By the time of this source's publication on day two of the disaster, no injuries had been reported, and 80,000 Indiana Michigan Power customers in the Fort Wayne area were affected by the power outage. Fort Wayne was left with widespread damage, due to powerful, destructive winds sweeping across the city.

Source: www.journalgazette.net, June 30, 2012, pp. 1A, 5A

Should Flu Vaccinations be Mandatory?
Summary by Sierra Grayson

Every morning newscast features some mention of this year's flu epidemic. But if the flu really is as ever-present as they say, why do so many fail to get vaccinated? Many states require vaccinations for hepatitis, polio, and other diseases but have little or no legislation for influenza vaccinations and many people believe the vaccinations have risks that outweigh the benefits.

Hopkins Medicine reports that only 15 states have current legislation dealing with flu vaccines, and within those states, only medical personnel are required to get vaccinated. However, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone of the age of six months get vaccinated before or during October, which often marks the start of the flu season. 36,000 people die annually from influenza, a preventable disease. Flu vaccines are customized every year to ensure their effectiveness. The CDC states the vaccine for the 2013-2014 season was customized to protect from H1N1, H3N2, and influenza B. Additionally, the vaccine may provide protection from other viruses unrelated to this year's flu strain, and many doctors believe that prevention is the best treatment for the disease.

Despite popular belief, it is a misconception that the flu vaccine causes the flu. It is true, however, that the vaccine may cause flu-like symptoms such as runny nose and mild fever. It is possible to contract the flu even after receiving the vaccine, but this phenomenon is rare and may be due to pre-vaccine contact with the virus. Age and health also play a factor in how effective the vaccine is, but the CDC claims that most people, even those who are pregnant and those with medical histories, should get vaccinated.

This most recent flu season has been especially wild and deadly with 20 pediatric deaths so far. Although most states have failed to make flu vaccinations mandatory, the rising death toll and full emergency rooms may force their hand. Preventative action should be taken in the face of influenza. Besides, who wants to waste their sick days in bed with the flu?