



**SEAL**  
Student Epidemic Action Leaders

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEAL TEAM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Since the Student Epidemic Action Leaders (SEAL) program began in 2015, we have trained **209 students** who have collectively deployed to **111 unique field assignments** across local, state, and international public health agencies. In January 2024, we welcomed our 9th cohort of SEALs!

## OUR 2024 SEAL COHORT

During Winter Quarter, the new SEALs completed our field epidemiology training course taught by SEAL Team Director, Dr. Janet Baseman. The course also featured guest speakers from the Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) and Public Health—Seattle and King County (PHSKC). After successful course completion, SEALs deployed to field assignments in the spring, summer, and fall. In addition to this year's virtual and Seattle-based field assignments, we were thrilled to send four students to north central Washington!

The SEALs returned to the classroom in the fall and received training on communication and data visualization in public health. They subsequently prepared and delivered presentations on their field work to their peers and instructors. We concluded the year with three group activities that provided SEALs with an opportunity to learn more about public health practice and consider related post-graduation options: an on-site tour of the WSDOH Public Health Laboratories, a meet-and-greet with local epidemiologists, and a panel session featuring SEAL alumni discussing their experiences in applied epidemiology fellowships.



**Tour of WSDOH Public Health Laboratories (Dec 2024)**

## NEW THIS YEAR!

In addition to our traditional SEAL activities, we also worked with colleagues in Colorado, California, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas to draft a manuscript describing our collective efforts working with student teams across states (e.g., we have a continuous SEAL field assignment with the California Department of Public Health in which SEALs provide remote capacity for enteric disease cluster investigation). Our manuscript, entitled “Innovative Interstate Academic–Public Health Agency Collaborations for Case Investigations and Outbreak Surge Capacity” was recently published in *Health Security*.

## 2024 FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

### DEPLOYED TO 6 PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES:

- Snohomish County Health Department
- Washington State Department of Health (including the Washington Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence)
- Grant County Health District
- California Department of Public Health
- Chelan-Douglas Health District
- Public Health—Seattle and King County

**17**

**UNIQUE FIELD  
ASSIGNMENTS**

**1,135**

**TOTAL HOURS SPENT ON  
FIELD WORK TO DATE**

### ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED:

- Vaccine Uptake Strategies Literature Review
- Zoonotic Case Report Forms Audit
- Communicable Disease Database Data Dictionary Development, Phase 1 & Phase 2
- Animal Sampling Methodologies: Summary of Techniques and Recommendations
- Environmental Health Inspector Vehicle Usage Summary
- Learning About Unpermitted Food Vendors
- Address Geocoding to Prepare for Electronic Record System Transition
- Enteric Disease Podcast Development (Phase 1) & Subsequent Transcript Review (Phase 2)
- Enteric Disease in Carceral Settings: Literature Review and Groundwork for Future Efforts
- Environmental Health Field Kit Prep
- Food Desert Assessment in Chelan and Douglas Counties
- Farm Workers Assessment in Grant County
- California Enteric Outbreak Interviews and Cluster Investigation
- Listeria Prevention in Dairy Production
- Assessing Homelessness Point in Time Count

We just welcomed our 10<sup>th</sup> SEAL cohort and training is currently underway! We are looking forward to the year ahead with our 24 new SEALs!



**Epidemiology wing of  
WSDOH Public Health  
Laboratories (Dec 2024)**

### 37 SEAL STUDENTS IN THE 2024 COHORT

- Representing 6 departments within the School of Public Health (Epidemiology, Global Health, Health Systems and Population Health, Biostatistics, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Metrics Sciences)
- Earning Master of Science (MS), Master of Public Health (MPH), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees



**Laboratory wing of  
WSDOH Public Health  
Laboratories (Dec 2024)**