

Dr. Catherine Hess has a long-standing interest in working with diverse and vulnerable populations beginning with her doctoral research using biospecimens to investigate how residential segregation impacted exposure to toxic metal pollution in urban Apartheid South Africa. Her interest in environmental exposures and social epidemiology led to postdoctoral fellowships at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and UC Berkeley. Dr. Hess joined the California Department of Public Health in 2017 where her work as an epidemiologist has focused on substance use including tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, and opioids. Currently, Dr. Hess is Chief of the Epidemiology and Evaluation Unit in the Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch. She has been a member of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects since 2021 and has a passion for research ethics and protecting the millions of individuals who participate in research projects for the advancement of science. Dr. Hess