

Epidemiology

The science that studies the patterns, causes, and effects of [health](#) and [disease](#) conditions in defined populations.

It is the cornerstone of public health and informs policy decisions and [evidence-based medicine](#) and practice by identifying [risk factors](#) for [disease](#) and targets for preventive [healthcare](#).

Epidemiologists help with study design, collection, and statistical analysis of [data](#), and interpretation and dissemination of results (including peer review and occasional systematic review). Epidemiology has helped develop methodology used in clinical research, public health studies, and, to a lesser extent, basic research in the biological sciences.

see [Incidence](#)

see [Prevalence](#)

Next section [Classification](#).

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