

Epidemiology

>> What is Epidemiology?

The term epidemiology is used to mean the study of diseases in populations. Epidemiology has three main aims: to describe disease patterns in human populations; to identify the causes of diseases (also known as aetiology); and, to provide data essential for the management, evaluation and planning of services for the prevention, control and treatment of disease. Professionals who work in the area of epidemiology are known as epidemiologists. Epidemiology combines the disciplines of medicine, health sciences, and social sciences on the one hand and statistics on the other and, to some extent detective work, to make an interesting and varied profession.

An epidemiologist is an investigator who studies the occurrence of disease of other health-related conditions or events in defined populations. The term epidemiology is used to mean the study of diseases in populations. It aims to describe disease patterns in human populations; identify the causes of diseases; and, to provide data for the management, evaluation and planning of services for the prevention, control and treatment of disease. Epidemiology combines the disciplines of medicine, health science and social science with statistics.

Where do Epidemiologists work in Tasmania?

Epidemiologists work in the public sector in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Primary Industry and Water. They also work in the University of Tasmania and the Menzies Research Institute.

How do Epidemiologists work in DHHS?

Epidemiologists are employed in Public Health including the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit and the Population Health epidemiology Unit.

What qualifications are required to practice?

A recognised tertiary qualification from a related field such as medicine, health science, science, psychology, sociology or a range of biomedical sciences followed by a masters degree or PhD in epidemiology, biostatistics or public health. Recognition as an epidemiologist is dependent on the completion of a piece of epidemiological research.

Useful links

<http://www.aea.asn.au>