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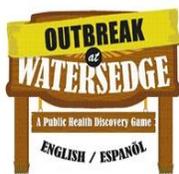
Epidemiology

Overview

*In the wake of recent man-made and natural disasters, the US is placing a high priority on building up the nation's public health workforce. Since 2002, Federal funding has increased for public health preparedness, including scholarship and loan repayment programs, workforce development grants, and funding for bioterrorism preparedness. What does this mean for you? It means that with a degree in **public health**, you'll be in high demand – and on a career path filled with advancement opportunities.*

When food poisoning or an influenza outbreak attacks a community, the "disease detectives" or epidemiologists are asked to investigate the cause of disease and control its spread. Epidemiologists do fieldwork to determine what causes disease or injury, what the risks are, who is at risk, and how to prevent further incidences. They understand the demographic and social trends upon disease and injury. The initial discovery and containment of an outbreak, such as **avian flu** or **mad cow disease**, often comes from epidemiologists.

Epidemiology is the study and control of disease or injury patterns in human populations. Professionals in this field use statistical analysis, but their approach and methods are distinctly different than what **biostatisticians** use. Epidemiologists must take into account various hereditary, behavioral, environmental, and health care factors; they also must make extensive use of the contributions of biological, clinical, and other sciences including techniques derived in biochemistry and molecular biology.



* **Note:** to help people understand just how important public health is in terms of emergency response, the University of Minnesota recently created an interactive online game called "**Outbreak at Watersedge.**"

To learn more, watch the [video profile of "Epidemiologists."](#)

Working Conditions

Due to a nationwide shortage, opportunities abound for epidemiologists.

Academic Requirements

Since this field is strongly interdisciplinary, students must learn not only quantitative skills (including biostatistics and computer applications), but also a broad array of methods for fostering health promotion, disease prevention, and assessing quality of health care.

To find accredited schools of public health that offer degree programs in epidemiology, see the [Association of Schools of Public Health](#) website.

NOTE: The [Schools of Public Health Application Service \(SOPHAS\)](#) is the centralized, online application service for all applicants applying to an accredited school of public health.

Professional Associations

- [Association of Schools of Public Health](#)
- [American Public Health Association](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Search for funding opportunities in this field](#)

Enrichment Programs

[Search for enrichment programs in this field](#)

Schools and Academic Programs

[Search for academic degree and certificate programs in this field](#)

Source

www.asph.org

Learn more about this field:

[Public Health](#)

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