

ASPH Education Committee
MPH Core Competency Development Project

III. Discipline-specific Competencies

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of patterns of disease and injury in human populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

Competencies:

Upon graduation a student with an MPH should be able to...

1. Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic and political discussion of health issues.
2. Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time and place.
3. Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology.
4. Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes.
5. Calculate basic epidemiology measures.
6. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports.
7. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data.
8. Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences.
9. Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of epidemiologic data.
10. Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs.