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EPIDEMIOLOGY





Epidemiology - Definition

- Some see epidemiology as science, others see it as a method.
- Generally seen as a scientific method to investigate disease
- Definition:** an investigative method used to detect the cause or source of diseases, disorders, syndromes, conditions, or perils that cause pain, injury illness, disability, or death in human populations or groups



Objectives of Epidemiology



- ❧ Objective 1. Define and discuss the following terms; compare and contrast the following methods and concepts of epidemiology related to community health
 1. descriptive epidemiology
 2. analytic epidemiology
- ❧ Objective 2. Define the following epidemiological concepts, including their identifying factors and interconnection in epidemiology and the disease process:
 - ❧ 1. epidemiological triangle
 - a. agent
 - b. host
 - c. environment



Objectives of Epidemiology



Objective 3. Define and differentiate, and be able to calculate, as well as discuss the implication of the following epidemiological rates:

- 1. attack rate
- 2. incidence rate
- 3. prevalence rate
- 4. age-adjusted rate
- 5. proportionate mortality rate



Objectives of Epidemiology



- ❧ Objective 4. Define and discuss the concepts of risk and risk factors as the two terms relate to the epidemiological process
- ❧ Objective 5. Define, discuss, and differentiate the concepts of screening and surveillance as they relate to the epidemiological process
- ❧ Objective 6. Define, discuss, and differentiate between the concepts of cross-sectional studies and retrospective studies.



Uses of Epidemiology



1. To study the history of the disease
 - ❧ Studies trends of a disease for the prediction of trends
 - ❧ Results of studies are useful in planning for health services and public health
2. Community diagnosis
 - ❧ What diseases, conditions, injuries, disorders, disabilities, defects causing illness, health problems, or death in a community or region
3. Look at risks of individuals as they affect populations
 - ❧ What are the risk factors, problems, behaviors that affect groups
4. Assessment, evaluation and research
 - ❧ How well do public health and health services meet the problems and needs of the population
 - ❧ Effectiveness; efficiency; quality; access; availability of services to treat, control or prevent disease



Uses of Epidemiology



5. Completing the clinical picture

- ❧ Identification and diagnostic process to establish that a condition exists or that a person has a specific disease

6. Identification of syndromes

- ❧ Help to establish and set criteria to define syndromes, some examples are: Down, fetal alcohol, sudden death in infants, etc.

7. Determine the causes and sources of diseases

- ❧ Findings allow for control prevention, and elimination of the causes of disease, conditions, injury, disability, or death

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