

Surveillance in Epidemiology

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1. Introduction

- Surveillance is the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data.
- Its purpose is to guide public health action.

2. Types of Surveillance

- **Passive surveillance:** health facilities routinely report cases. Cheap but may under-report.
- **Active surveillance:** health workers actively seek cases. More complete but resource-intensive.
- **Sentinel surveillance:** selected sites report data to represent a wider population.

3. Key Attributes of a Good System

- Simplicity, flexibility, acceptability, and timeliness.
- Sensitivity to detect cases and good data quality.

4. Uses of Surveillance

- Detecting outbreaks early.
- Monitoring trends and evaluating control programmes.
- Guiding resource allocation.

5. Summary

- Surveillance turns continuous health data into timely information for detecting, monitoring, and responding to disease.