

Epidemiology in Community Health

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1. Introduction

- Epidemiology provides the tools to assess and address health problems in communities.
- It links disease patterns to population-level interventions.

2. Core Functions

- Measures the burden of disease through incidence and prevalence.
- Identifies risk factors and vulnerable groups.
- Monitors trends to guide planning and evaluation.

3. Applications in the Community

- Surveillance detects outbreaks and emerging health threats.
- Needs assessments prioritize problems and allocate resources.
- Program evaluation measures the impact of interventions.

4. Key Measures

- **Rates:** standardize comparisons across populations of different sizes.
- **Risk factors:** characteristics that increase the likelihood of disease.

5. Significance

- Provides evidence for community health decision-making.
- Supports prevention strategies that reduce disease and promote equity.