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6 basic epidemiological methods and calculations learning objectives by the end of this chapter the learner will be able to introduce the most common methods of disease frequency in epidemiology list common epidemiological methods of disease frequency counts proportions ratios rates prevalence and incidence this course provides an overview of epidemiology including key terms sources of data and study design learners will calculate different rates of disease and go through the steps an epidemiologist takes to investigate a disease outbreak epidemiology is the foundation of public health and is defined as the study of the distribution and determinants of diseases or disorders within groups of people and the development of knowledge on how to prevent and control them 1 describe patterns of infection and disease occurrence in populations 2 identify outbreaks or unusual rates of disease occurrence 3 facilitate laboratory based efforts to identify infectious agents epidemiology is the study of how often diseases occur in different groups of people and why epidemiological information is used to plan and evaluate strategies to prevent illness and as a guide to the management of patients in whom disease has already developed epidemiology has been defined as the study of the occurrence and distribution of health related states and events in specified populations including the study of the determinants influencing such states and the application of this knowledge to control the health problems 11 p 95 1 what is epidemiology 2 measures of disease frequency 3 surveillance 4 introduction to 2 x 2 tables epidemiologic study design and measures of association 5 random error 6 bias 7 confounding 8 one goal of epidemiologic studies is to define the parameters of a disease including risk factors in order to develop the most effective measures for control this chapter includes a discussion of the chain of infection the three main epidemiologic methods and how to investigate an epidemic the essential role of epidemiology is to improve the health of populations this text book provides an introduction to the basic principles and methods of epidemiology this area provides training in the development and application of new methods in epidemiologic research students learn to use and justify classical epidemiologic methods in study design data analysis and interpretation of results here we aim to assess the extent that epidemiological methods as covered in contemporary standard textbooks provide tools that can assess the relative magnitude of public health problems and can be used to help rank and assess public health priorities epidemiology is the study and analysis of the distribution who when and where patterns and determinants of health and disease conditions in a defined population it is a cornerstone of public health and shapes policy decisions and evidence based practice by identifying risk factors for disease and targets for preventive healthcare book is largely based on a dictionary of epidemiology last 1995 the purpose of this book is to explain the principles of disease causation with particular emphasis on modifiable environmental factors encourage the application of epidemiology to the prevention of disease the definition includes the study of the populations of animals and plants for the first time based on what it has done in the last 150 years epidemiology will be defined here as the science and practice that describes and explains disease patterns in populations abstract the impact of study design on the results of medical research has long been an area of both substantial debate and a smaller body of empirical research examples come from many disciplines within clinical and public health research objectives after studying this lesson and answering the questions in the exercises you will be able to define epidemiology summarize the historical evolution of epidemiology

name some of the key uses of epidemiology identify the core epidemiology functions describe primary applications of epidemiology in public health practice understand the contribution of epidemiology to identifying and addressing public health issues know and apply key epidemiologic terminology and definitions calculate and interpret measures of disease occurrence methods epidemiology can be divided into descriptive analytical experimental and serological epidemiology the major analytic methods in use are the cohort prospective and case control retrospective this section will briefly present these concepts although epidemiologic research has become increasingly specialized over the past several decades there remains a great need in both practice and research settings for general epidemiologists with solid foundational knowledge in epidemiologic and statistical methods and a clear understanding of general principles of the dynamics of health and basic epidemiologic methods tend to rely on careful observation and use of valid comparison groups to assess whether what was observed such as the number of cases of disease in a particular area during a particular time period or the frequency of an exposure among persons with disease differs from what might be expected

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1 describe patterns of infection and disease occurrence in populations 2 identify outbreaks or unusual rates of disease occurrence 3 facilitate laboratory based efforts to identify infectious agents

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epidemiology is the study of how often diseases occur in different groups of people and why epidemiological information is used to plan and evaluate strategies to prevent illness and as a guide to the management of patients in whom disease has already developed

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one goal of epidemiologic studies is to define the parameters of a disease including risk factors in order to develop the most effective measures for control this chapter includes a discussion of the chain of infection the three main epidemiologic methods and how to investigate an epidemic

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this area provides training in the development and application of new methods in epidemiologic research students learn to use and justify classical epidemiologic methods in study design data analysis and interpretation of results

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