

Terminology in public health



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OBJECTIVES OF THE LECTURE:

By the end of this lecture students will be able to:

- “ Explain common definitions and terminology used in public health
- Apply these definitions in different situations.

1- Epidemiology:

Epidemiology is often described as the *basic science* of public health.

Epi: on or upon

Demos: people or population

Logos: study of

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations, and the application of this study to the control of health problems

(Last JM, editor. Dictionary of epidemiology. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press; 2001. p. 61.)

Epidemiology is the study of:

- “ distribution and
- “ determinants of
- “ disease/health-related events and application of this study
- “ to prevent and control health problems.

2- Health:

A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or other infirmity. (WHO1948)

3- Morbidity:

Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological or psychological well-being.

4- Infection:

It is the entry, development and multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of man or animal.

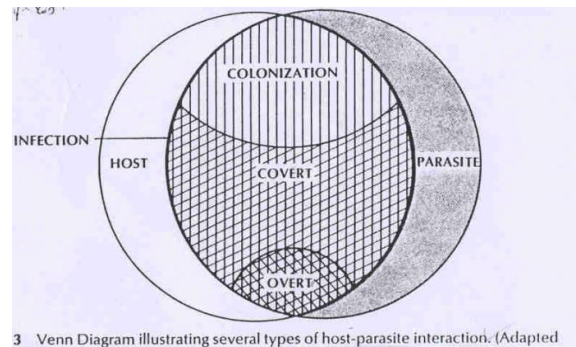
The result of infection may be inapparent or manifest.

5- Infectious disease:

A clinically manifest disease of man or animal resulting from infection.

6- Inapparent infection

The presence of infection in a host without occurrence of recognizable clinical signs or symptoms.



7- Communicable Disease:

An illness due to a specific infectious agent or its toxic products that arises through transmission of that agent from reservoir to susceptible host.

Communicable Disease: give examples....

Non- Communicable Disease: give examples...

8- Endemic Disease

The constant presence of a disease or infectious agent within a given geographic area or population group; may also refer to the usual prevalence of a given disease within such area or group.

e.g. Bilharziasis in Egypt.

9- Epidemic:

The occurrence of more cases of a disease than expected in a given area or among a specific group of people over a particular period of time.

10- Pandemic :

An epidemic occurring over a very wide area (several countries or continents) at the same time and usually affecting a large proportion of the population.

e.g. Influenza A H1N1 in 2009

11- Outbreak:

A more or less **localized** epidemic affecting large number of a group, in the community.

e.g. outbreak of **food poisoning** in an institution.

12- Sporadic:

Cases occur irregularly, haphazardly from time to time and generally infrequently.

Cases are few and separated widely in space and time showing no connection to each other.

13- Nosocomial infection :

(Hospital-acquired infection)

- An infection originating in a medical facility; e.g., occurring in a patient in a hospital or other health care facility in whom the infection was not present or incubating at the time of admission

14- Agent:

A factor, such as a microorganism, chemical substance, or form of radiation, whose presence, excessive presence, or (in deficiency diseases) relative absence is essential for the occurrence of a disease.

15- Pathogenicity:

“ The ability of an agent to cause disease after infection, measured as the proportion of persons infected by an agent who then experience clinical disease.

16- Virulence:

the ability of an infectious agent to cause severe disease, measured as the proportion of persons with the disease who become severely ill or die.

17- Reservoir of infection :

The reservoir of an agent is the habitat in which an infectious agent normally lives, grows, and multiplies.

Reservoirs include: Humans, animals, or the environment.

18- Zoonosis:

An infection or infectious disease transmissible under natural conditions from *vertebrate* animals to humans.

19- Zoonotic diseases include:

brucellosis (cows and pigs),

anthrax (sheep),

plague (rodents),

rabies (dogs, bats and other mammals).

20- Carrier:

A person or animal that harbors the infectious agent for a disease and can transmit it to others, but does not demonstrate signs of the disease.

21- Communicable period :

The time during which an infectious agent may be transmitted directly or indirectly from an infected person to another person or animal.

22- Incubation period :

The time interval from exposure to an infectious agent to the onset of symptoms of an infectious disease.

23- Pre-patent period:

The period in people between **time of exposure** to parasite and the time when the parasite can be **detected** in blood or stool. It is equivalent to the incubation period of microbial infections

24- Host:

A person or other living organism that are susceptible to (can be infected by) an infectious agent under natural conditions.

25- Risk Factor:

An aspect of personal behavior or lifestyle, an environmental exposure, or a hereditary characteristic that is associated with an increase in the occurrence of a particular disease, injury, or other health condition.

26- Chemoprophylaxis:

The administration of a chemical, including antibiotics, to prevent the development of an infection or to slow progression of the disease to a clinically manifest form.

27- Chemotherapy:

The use of a chemical to treat a clinically recognizable disease or to limit its further progress

Good Luck ^_^