



The global outbreaks such as Ebola and measles as well as the refugee problem show in a dramatic manner how a disease may spread in a population, how difficult it is to control outbreaks, especially pandemic ones and how the public and political response impact the measures that are taken. Some outbreaks can be prevented by vaccination where others cannot, but when vaccination is refused by certain groups in the society, the disease can break out and cause small epidemics.

The importance of epidemiology, the science that studies the patterns, causes, and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations is very obvious in our days. It is the cornerstone of public health, and informs policy decisions and evidence-based practice by identifying risk factors for disease and targets for preventive healthcare. Epidemiology does not solely deal with infectious diseases; environmental pollutants, radiation, toxic substances, food components, all can have an impact on human health and therefore fall within the realm of epidemiology. Major areas of epidemiological study thus include disease etiology, outbreak investigation, disease surveillance and screening, biomonitoring, and comparisons of treatment effects such as in clinical trials. Epidemiologists rely on other disciplines such as biology (to better understand disease processes), statistics (for appropriate use of data and draw appropriate conclusions), the social sciences (to understand proximate and distal causes) as well as other disciplines.

This [Summer Course in Epidemiology](#) will give a short introduction to the various aspects of epidemiology. These include infectious diseases but also environmental epidemiology and statistics. It involves practical exercises, literature research and presentations as well as regular lectures and guest-lectures.

Educational Objectives

Upon completion of the core courses in this short course program, individuals will have gained specialized knowledge and skills on the application of epidemiologic concepts and methods to public health problems, as follows:

- Understand the place of epidemiology in public health, specifically how epidemiology is used to identify causes of disease, identify populations at high risk for disease, develop preventative methods and evaluate public health strategies.
- Calculate and interpret basic epidemiologic measures of disease frequency, identify sources of data for measuring health outcomes, and identify key aspects of measurement problems,
- Identify distinguishing features of fundamental study designs, including randomized trials, cohort and case-control studies, birth cohort and ecologic studies, and pre-post and quasi-experimental studies.
- Interpret and make inferences from results of epidemiologic studies.



Introductory Course in Epidemiology

17 July 2017–21 July 2017
Course Director: A. Vantarakis, Assoc. Prof
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COURSE LIST

Time	Activity	Description
Monday 17 July		
09.00-10.00		Welcome
10.00-13.00	Lecture	Introduction to Basic Epidemiology
13.00-14.00		Lunch (offered by the course)
14.00-17.30	Practical course	Epidemiological exercises
18.00-20.30		Walking tour
Tuesday 18 July		
09.00-13.00	Lecture	Introduction to Statistics
13.00-14.00		Lunch (offered by the course)
14.00-17.30	Practical course	Statistics using SPSS
18.00-21.00		Social event (offered by the course)
Wednesday 19 July		
09.00-13.00	Lecture	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases
13.00-14.00		Lunch (offered by the course)
14.00-17.30	Practical course	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases
20.00		Official Dinner (offered by the course)
Thursday 20 July		
09.00-13.00	Lecture	Environmental Epidemiology
13.00-14.00		Lunch (offered by the course)
14.00-17.30	Practical Course	Epidemiology and Environment
18.00-21.00		Social event
Friday 21 July		
09.00-12.00	Group presentation	Group presentation and discussion
12.00-13.00	Closing	Handing out certificates and goodbye
13.00-14.00		Optional Lunch

Notes:

The information in this document can be subject to change

Summer School language: English

Course fees

- Early bird: Professionals 350 €
- Late registrations: 400 € (after 31 May 2017)
- Student registrations: 200 € for postgraduate students

Certificate: will be given at the end of the course

The Summer course will be organized if the number of participants is more than 20