

Basic Concepts in Data Analysis for Community Health Assessment

module 1

Overview of Public Health Data

module 2

Analysis and Interpretation of Public Health Data Part 1

module 3

Analysis and Interpretation of Public Health Data Part 2

module 4

Presenting Public Health Data

module 5

Data Available to Public Health Professionals

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Public health professionals who want to increase their familiarity with the basic concepts of epidemiology. Familiarity with material presented in *What is Epidemiology in Public Health?* will be helpful.

FORMAT

These online modules have audio narration and interactive exercises.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

Each module takes between 45 and 60 minutes.

MORE INFORMATION

See www.nwcp.org/data-analysis



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Hone your public health assessment skills with this series on data analysis. Module 1, **Overview of Public Health Data**, introduces types of data used in assessment activities. **Analysis and Interpretation of Public Health Data** (modules 2 and 3) show you how to use data to answer assessment questions. In module 4, **Presenting Public Health Data**, you will learn best practices for presenting tables and graphs. The last module, **Data Available to Public Health Professionals**, lists data sources and their strengths and limitations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of **module 1**, participants will be able to:

- Identify uses of data in public health core functions.
- List at least three common data sources used to characterize the health or disease status of the community.
- List five key attributes of data.
- List three elements to consider when assessing data quality.

By the end of **module 2**, participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of descriptive epidemiology and how it is used for assessment.
- Describe why rates are important in doing assessment.
- Name three kinds of rates.
- Describe the two types of summary measures.
- Explain the purpose of standardizing rates through age adjustment.

By the end of **module 3**, participants will be able to:

- List six measures commonly used in public health.
- Describe the difference between uses of incidence and prevalence rates.
- Explain different ways to measure statistically significant difference.
- Describe how to deal with the problems of unstable rates and small numbers.

By the end of **module 4**, participants will be able to:

- List the common ways to present data.
- Choose an appropriate format to present specific kinds of data.
- Identify good design practices for tables and charts.

By the end of **module 5**, participants will be able to:

- List the eight Washington data sources commonly used for public health assessment.
- Describe characteristics of each data set and how each set is used in assessment activities.
- Describe where to access each data source.

This series was developed by Washington State Department of Health in partnership with the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.