

Using Epidemiology to Address Community Health Concerns

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Introductory level course for professionals in public health. Also, a good refresher course for more experienced public health staff.

TEACHING FORMAT

Course is lecture format with the use of case studies to demonstrate application to situations that have been encountered. Participants are encouraged to submit issues from their own work experience that could be used in conjunction with the case studies.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

This course is designed as a two and one-half day residential training. However, the scope of the course can be modified to fit into a shorter time frame if desired.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

James L. Gale, MD, MS
Professor, Department of Epidemiology
University of Washington

Dr. Gale frequently recruits a local epidemiology specialist to be co-instructor of this course. This has been a successful format for illustrating key epidemiology concepts with local issues.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional course information is available at www.nwcp.org/edu. To discuss scheduling this course at your organization within the Northwest region, please contact NWCPHP.



**Northwest Center for Public Health
Practice**

University of Washington
School of Public Health & Community Medicine
www.nwcp.org • 206.685.1130

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on areas in public health practice where an understanding of epidemiological methods is critical to the assessment, analysis and interpretation of data on health and disease. These areas include planning, surveillance, surveys, screening, outbreak investigations, and communicating health information to the public.

An interactive, problem-solving approach is used to define, measure the magnitude, and identify the determinants in community health problems. Each area is examined in the context of a case study to provide exposure to situations that have actually been encountered. Approaches to identifying and developing prevention and intervention strategies based on community data and priorities will also be discussed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain epidemiology as it relates to different contexts, such as public health, clinical practice, and academic settings
- Describe key epidemiological concepts as they relate to community assessment
- Clarify the use of data to motivate communities to undertake prevention programs
- Use local data to prioritize health issues at the community level

PAST PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

“All instructors were knowledgeable and well-prepared.”

“Case studies were great, as well as the interaction between participants.”

About the Course Instructor

Jim Gale, MD, MS, is a Professor of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health & Community Medicine at the University of Washington. He is also the Health Officer for Kittitas County and former Director of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. His most recent research dealt with adverse affects of vaccines, especially pertussis vaccine. Dr. Gale serves as the principal investigator of the CDC Center for Public Health Preparedness at the NWCPHP.