

# Measuring Risk in Epidemiology

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

Public health professionals who want to increase their familiarity with the basic concepts of epidemiology. It is recommended that people be familiar with material presented in the following modules: What is Epidemiology in Public Health?, Data Interpretation for Public Health Professionals, and Study Types in Epidemiology.

## FORMAT

This online module has audio narration and interactive exercises.

## ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

The module takes approximately one hour to complete.

## LEAD COURSE DEVELOPER

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## CO-PROVIDER

This course is co-provided by the University of Washington School of Nursing.

The University of Washington School of Nursing is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Participants who successfully complete the course are eligible to receive a certificate for 0.5 contact hours for a processing fee of \$35.

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See <http://www.nwcphp.org/risk>



**Northwest Center for Public Health Practice**

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study reports that smokers face a relative risk of dying from lung cancer 24 times higher than non-smokers, and a relative risk of only 1.4 times of dying of heart disease. How important are these differences? If you have no idea, then the module Measuring Risk in Epidemiology is for you. The module introduces key measures of risk, shows how they're calculated, and discusses how to interpret them when you encounter them in reports and news stories.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Define risk as it is used in public health practice
- Identify measures of association as they are used in epidemiology
- Interpret relative risk and odds ratios, and be familiar with their calculation using 2x2 tables
- Interpret the following measures of risk differences: attributable risk, population attributable risk, and population attributable risk percent

## COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

This module provides an awareness level training in the following epidemiology competency and subcompetency developed by the University of Washington ([www.nwcphp.org/epi/competencies](http://www.nwcphp.org/epi/competencies)).

Competency	Subcompetency
Obtain, evaluate, and interpret public health information. (Competency 5)	A. Interpret epidemiology measures.

## About the Course Developer

Dr. Jim Gale is professor emeritus in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He spent 12 years as a local health officer in Kittitas County, Washington, and has also been a US Public Health Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. Dr. Gale has evaluated vaccine efficacy in Taiwan and the uses of national surveillance data at 15 local and state health jurisdictions in the western United States.