

Study Types 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? and Data Interpretation for Public Health Professionals.

FORMAT

This online module has audio narration and interactive exercises.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

The module takes approximately forty-five minutes to complete.

LEAD COURSE DEVELOPER

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Let's say you're reading a research report that notes that researchers used a case-control study. If you're not sure what that means, this module is for you. Epidemiologic activities are categorized as either descriptive or analytic, and in this module, the main elements of descriptive and analytic epidemiology and their associated study types are described briefly and clearly. You'll learn about case-control studies as well as eight other commonly used study types. By the end of the module, you will understand the basics of each type of study and how each is used.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- List the differences between descriptive and analytic epidemiology
- Describe the main types of epidemiologic studies and their uses
- Identify and provide examples of person, place, and time in descriptive studies
- Describe the main differences among case-control, cohort studies, and environmental studies

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).

Competency	Subcompetency
Obtain, evaluate, and interpret public health information. (Competency 5)	B. Design a study.



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About the Course Developer

Dr. John Kobayashi is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is also a foreign advisor with the Field Epidemiology Training Program in Japan. From 1982 to 2001, he was the State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases at the Washington State Department of Health.