

Social & Behavioral Epidemiology

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Branches of Epidemiology

- What is social epidemiology?
 - Discipline that studies the “social distribution and social determinants of states of health.”

Branches of Epidemiology (2)

- What is behavioral epidemiology?
 - “The study of the role of behavioral factors in health.”

Implications

- Epidemiological research in public health is useful in the design of interventions that can prevent illness.
- Understanding the risk factors through causal models can help to formulate public health policies that are tailored to the specific needs of various populations.

Key Concepts

- There are 2 key concepts that I will be discussing.
- Socioeconomic status (SES)
- Health Disparities

Key Concepts

- Socioeconomic status (SES)
 - Composite measure of a person’s income, education level, and type of occupation.
 - One of the strongest predictors of morbidity and premature mortality

Video

- Please Watch
- After you are done, proceed to the next slide.
- http://video.who.int/streaming/chronicdiseases/Mariam%27s_Journey.wmv

- Health Disparities
 - Differences in the occurrence of diseases and adverse health conditions in the population.

How does SES affect health?

- Limited Resources
- Psychosocial Stress
- Access To Care
- Health Behavior

Stress

- Stress- “physical , chemical, or emotional factor that causes bodily or mental tension and may be a factor in disease causation.”
- Social Support- “help from others while under stress”

Key Variables

- Predictor Variables
 - Socio/demographic characteristics
 - Behavioral Patterns
 - Social Environment Factors

Key Variables (2)

- Outcome Variables
 - Morbidity (sickness)
 - Mortality
 - Incidence
 - Prevalence
 - Life Expectancy

Summary

- SES
- Health Disparities
- Social Epidemiology
- Behavioral Epidemiology
- Stress