

Epidemiologist

With a number of dynamic, world class initiatives currently in progress, there has never been a better time to become an Epidemiologist with Queensland Health.

What do Epidemiologists do?

Epidemiology is the study of factors that affect the health of populations. Epidemiologists describe health and disease patterns, and identify the causes of diseases. They also provide data which is essential to the management, evaluation and planning of health services for the prevention, control and treatment of disease.

The work epidemiologists undertake serves as the foundation for public health intervention strategies. Duties may include:

- Disease investigation, including communicable disease & cancer clusters
- Identifying health risk factors causing chronic disease epidemics
- Identifying threats to the health of the community through surveillance
- Collecting, analyzing and interpreting information on the health of the population
- Designing and running evaluation programs to determine the effectiveness of interventions conducted
- Providing information about circulating strains of diseases like influenza, to inform vaccine development
- Interpreting and translating epidemiological data and literature for practitioners and policy makers

Epidemiology is a discipline that offers many areas of specialisation including chronic disease investigation and reporting, communicable disease epidemiology, clinical epidemiology and evaluation. The Queensland Health epidemiology workforce comprises both generalist and specialist epidemiologists.

Entry Level Qualification for Epidemiologists

Entry to the beginner practitioner level is via a tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification in:

- Science (Health Science) (major in Epidemiology or Biostatistics) or
- Bachelor of Public Health (major in Epidemiology)

Epidemiology is a recognised profession under the *Health Practitioner Enterprise Agreement (Queensland Health) 2007*.

Want to learn more?

Find out how you can make a real difference to the health of the community as an Epidemiologist. For more information on a rewarding and exciting career in Population Health visit us at:

www.health.qld.gov.au/phcareers