

# Epidemiologist



## What do they do?

Epidemiologists are public health professionals who investigate patterns and causes of disease and injury. They seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education, and health policy. Epidemiologists may come into contact with infectious disease, but the risk is minimal because they receive appropriate training and take extensive precautions before interacting with samples or patients.

## Where do they work?

Epidemiologists work in offices and laboratories, usually at health departments for state and local governments, in hospitals, and at colleges and universities. Epidemiologists are also employed in the federal government by agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for an Epidemiologist is \$69,660.



## Education:

Epidemiologists need at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university. Most epidemiologists have a master's degree in public health (MPH) or a related field, and some have completed a doctoral degree in epidemiology or medicine. Most graduates go on to complete a fellowship in their area of interest.

### Epidemiologist Programs in Madison:

UW-Madison Master and PhD of Epidemiology  
<https://pophealth.wisc.edu/grad/epidemiology>

High School students interested in becoming an Epidemiologist should take classes in biology, chemistry, physics, statistics, health and social science.

## Professional Associations:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
American Epidemiological Society  
American Public Health Association  
National Institutes of Health  
American College of Epidemiology  
Association for Professional Infection Control and Epidemiology



## Licensure:

Licensure of epidemiologists is voluntary and is offered by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC.htm>



## Areas of Emphasis or Specialization:

- Database Administrator
- Vaccine Researcher
- Disease Ecologist
- Biostatistics
- Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Management
- Environmental Health Science
- Global Health
- Cancer Epidemiology
- Infections Disease
- Chronic Diseases
- Maternal and Child Health
- Occupational Health
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Oral Health



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Epidemiologists is expected to grow 9 percent between 2016-2026, which is as fast as average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, Epidemiologist, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/epidemiologists.htm>

