

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC)

Glossary of Public Health Terms

Public Health Word	Everyday Meaning
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A

Acceptable Risk	The ideal that there is some level of risk that is considered acceptable since eliminating all risk is unachievable.
Accident	In public health, an unforeseen and unplanned event that results in injury or death such as poisoning, drowning, or a motor vehicle crash. Accidents are sometimes synonymous with unintentional injuries.
Accuracy	Degree of closeness of measurements of a quantity to that quantity's actual (true) value.
Adjustment	To change something so it can be used to make relevant comparisons.
Agent (of disease)	A factor (absent or present) that may be associated with increased risk of disease; an agent can be biological, chemical, physical, or nutritional.
Age-specific rate	A measure of how fast a disease is occurring for people in a particular age group.
Airborne Infection	A disease factor that is transmissible through particles disbursed in the air.
Alaska Native	A member or descendant of indigenous peoples of Alaska.
American Indian	A member or descendant of indigenous people of North America; this term is generally used for Native Americans belonging to tribes in all states except Alaska.
Analytical Study	An investigation that examines the relationships or association between exposures and outcome.

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Antibody (Ab)	A protein made by body that detects foreign substances. Recognizes antigen on foreign substances.
Antigen (Ag)	A substance that causes the body to have an immune response. Senses the presence of an antibody.
Applied Epidemiology	Using knowledge and methods to study the pattern, origin, or spread of diseases upon communities in order to address public health issues and prevent & control disease in the community.
Arbovirus	A virus primarily transmitted by arthropods (invertebrate animals).
Association	In epidemiology, a relationship between exposure and disease.
Asymptomatic	Disease or other medical condition that does not display or make signs of its presence in a person with the disease.
Attack Rate	Cumulative incidence of infection in a group of people over a period of time; associated with foodborne illness.
Average	<p>The measure of central tendency; adding values together and dividing by the total by the number of values added.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: 3, 5, 7, 19, 20</p> $3 + 5 + 7 + 19 + 20 = 54$ $54 / 5 = 10.8$ <p>The average is 10.8 in this example.</p>
Axis	Used to help measure and read coordinates on a graph. In most graphs, there will be a horizontal line (<i>x-axis</i>) and a vertical line (<i>y-axis</i>) that displays data.
B Bacteria	A microscopic life form which can be helpful and/or harmful to other life forms.
Bar Chart	A specific type of diagram that is used to present data that falls into specified categories.

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Baseline Data	Represent values from a time period before or at the beginning of a study and serves as a reference point for monitoring, evaluation, or comparison.
Behavioral Risk Factor	A characteristic or action that is associated with the likelihood of condition or disease occurrence.
Bias	In epidemiology, an error that results in an incorrect measurement of a variable; distortion of results. Common biases that occur are selection bias, observation bias, and misclassification bias.
Biostatistics	The application of a branch of mathematics that collects, summarizes, and analyzes data from health-related studies.
Birth Weight	A numerical value collected for vital record purposes upon a baby's emergence from the mother's womb.
Body Mass Index (BMI)	A number that expresses weight in relation to height. Displayed as weight categories: <18.5 is underweight, 18.5-24.9 is normal weight, 25-29.9 is overweight, and over 30 is considered obese.
C Cancer	A term for diseases in which an abnormal growth of cells develops in or on an organ or tissue and has the ability to spread to other parts of the body.
Cancer Epidemiology	A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on cancer-related topics.
Carrier	A life form that is the transmitter or transporter of an infectious agent. Most carriers are not aware they are infected, and/or do not show symptoms of the infectious disease.
Case	An occurrence of a particular disease, condition, or disorder that is found in a population.
Case-Control Study	A study design that compares persons with the disease to persons without the disease based upon exposure status or history.
Case Definition	The criteria used to set standards for identifying whether a person has the disease or health condition being studied.

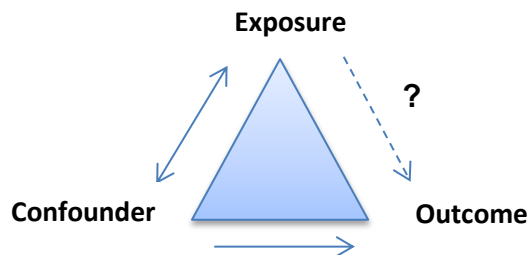
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Categorization	A form of organization that groups items together that have common characteristics.
Causality	In epidemiology it refers to a factor that directly or indirectly causes a disease. The stronger the association, the more likely the relation is causal.
Causation	The determination whether an observed association between a risk factor and disease is causal, meaning the exposure brings about development of disease.
Census	A count of a population.
Chart	A diagram which displays information in an easy to understand and read format.
Chronic	A health-related condition that is either prolonged or long-term.
Chronic Disease Epidemiology	A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on topics related to chronic conditions (i.e. heart disease, diabetes,) that have a major role in morbidity, mortality, and disability in populations.
Classification	A method of arranging items with common characteristics into an order that can be better interpreted.
Clinical Epidemiology	A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on clinical topics.
Coding	Assigning data into groups to prepare for data analysis.
Cohort	A group of people who share a common characteristic or experience within a defined period.
Cohort Study	A study, relating to development over a defined period, that follows a cohort that does not have the disease of interest and examines risk factors and exposures that may cause disease.
Commission on Cancer (CoC)	Accreditation program for cancer programs in the United States that focuses on addressing patient-centered needs of cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and monitoring comprehensive quality care.

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Communicable Disease	An illness or infection that can be transmitted easily between people.
Community Health Profile (CHP)	A report of community health status, or overall well-being.
Community Need Assessment	A process of identifying community needs so action can be taken to address or rectify the problem(s).
Comorbidity	The presence of two or more conditions, disorders, or disease in addition to a primary disease or disorder.
Confidence Interval (CI)	An estimated range of values which is likely to include the desired parameter (limiting factor); indicates the reliability (accuracy) of an estimate.
Confidence Limits	Boundaries, upper and lower, of a known range of values usually for confidence intervals.
Confidentiality	Obligation to not disclose information; Permission given in order to receive and interpret data, but limited by who will see and who will interpret the data.
Confounding	<p>A variable or factor that is associated with both a disease and an exposure.</p> <p>Hypothetical example: Using strong association of work environment (cofounder) that is associated with both malaria (disease risk/outcome) and male gender (exposure of interest)</p>



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Contact, Direct Transmission of infection between an infected host and an at-risk host due to a direct state of interaction; person to person.

Example: An infected person shaking hands with the at-risk individual.

Contact, Indirect Transmission of infection between an infected host and an at-risk host due to an indirect state of interaction; common shared spaces or items, air, or through a vector.

Example: An infected person touching a door handle and the at-risk person touching the same door handle.

Contact, Primary Individuals who had a high level of proximity (closeness) with the initially infected disease case.

Example: Persons who interacted with the infected individual.

Contact, Secondary Individuals who had a lesser level of proximity (closeness) to infected disease case.

Example: Persons who developed the initially infected individuals' condition and passed it on to others who had no contact with the initially infected individual.

Contagious Disease A disease that is easily transmitted through contact with the diseased person.

Example: Chicken pox is highly contagious – it can be transmitted through air and direct contact, it spreads quickly. Symptoms begin to show shortly after exposure.

Contract Health Services (CHS) Outsourcing of specialized health services that are not currently provided by IHS or a Tribe: services may include but are not limited to medical specialty services, surgeries, and tertiary care. If approved, referrals are paid for by the IHS CHS budget. Funding is limited and restricted to medical priorities and therefore not always available even if an individual qualifies for CHS.

Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA) A geographic area that IHS makes Contract Health Services available to members of an identified Indian community who reside in the area.

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Control Persons in a group used as a reference point for comparisons.

Count The number of disease, events, or other health-related occurrences.



Data Items of information expressed as measurements or statistics used to learn more about a disease or risk factor. Data are used for calculations, support of evidence, assessments, and often for decision making.

Database A set of related data that is stored and managed with computer software; allows for increased usability.

Data Cleaning Detecting, correcting, or removing inaccurate records from a dataset or database.

Death Certificate A vital record containing information regarding a deceased individual; these records are completed by licensed health workers.

Death Rate The number of people dying or that died during a period of time divided by the number of people in a population during the same period of time.

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths during specified period}}{\text{Total number of persons at risk during this period}} \times 10^n$$

Demographics Descriptive features of a population.

Demography The study of the descriptive features of a population such as age and gender.

Denominator The bottom portion of a fraction.

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

“2” is the demonimator in this example.

Descriptive Epidemiology Focuses on illustrating the amount of disease and risk factors within a population by looking at 3 main factors: person (who are the affected individuals), place (where exposure may have occurred), and time (when affected individuals became ill).

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Determinant A factor that affects the outcome of an event or condition.

Distribution In epidemiology, the pattern of health-related events or characteristics in a population.



Effect In epidemiology, the occurrence of disease or health condition that appears in a population as a result of a cause.

Environment Encompasses the physical, biological, social, cultural and/or spiritual factors that influence the health of individuals or populations.

Epidemic The classification given when there is a higher number of health-related illnesses occurring in a population than what is normally expected.

Epidemiologist A person in the public health field who studies the spread and causes of disease in a population in order to assess a community's health, and to help inform or suggest corrective measures.

Epidemiology A field of public health that studies the spread and causes of disease in a population in order to assess a community's health and help inform or suggest corrective measures.

Epi Info Free software developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for use by public health workers seeking to develop data collection tools such as survey creation, entry, and analysis.

Error An inaccurate measurement.

Estimate An approximation.

Ethics Codes or morals that guide individual actions. Health professionals are expected to uphold internal and external codes of ethics.

Ethnicity Relating to cultural factors such as a shared creation narrative, ancestry, language, and beliefs. A social group characterized by ethnic affiliation or distinctiveness. Ethnicity is largely self-identified.

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Evaluation An assessment to determine the impact and usefulness of activities, program, or project.

Expected Years of Life Lost A measure of time that likely would have been lived had the subject not perished earlier than expected when compared to others of the same age and population variables.

Experiment A method to examine the validity of a hypothesis.

Experimental Epidemiology A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on work that is considered new, untried, or unproven in respect to results.

Exploratory Study Research directed towards a problem that isn't clearly defined; May be lacking a fully developed hypothesis, too many hypotheses, or no hypothesis at all.

Exposed Refers to members of a group who are unprotected and therefore at risk of a disease, event, or condition.

Exposure Confirmed proximity (closeness) to and/or contact with a disease, event, or condition.

Field Epidemiology A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on work done in the community, very hands-on.

F

Focus Group A method of gathering information; a small selection of people who are meeting to discuss a topic or issue of interest. May be a form of preliminary data collection.

Follow-Up Further investigation or observation over time to observe changes in status or other variables.

G

Gender Social construct used to identify or label someone or something into broad categories: masculine, feminine, transgender, or neutral.

General Population Broad-spectrum of a group of persons inhabiting a certain area.

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Geographical Information System (GIS) A software system that uses digital mapping to examine and show patterns using data; used to reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in a variety of forms (i.e. maps, globes, reports, and charts).
Products of Esri include: ArcGIS, Esri Location Analytics, Esri data, and Developer tools.

Graph A visual representation of data that depicts a relationship between two or more variables.

Group Comparisons Looking at similarities and differences between populations.

Growth Rate of Population Measure of population growth.
$$\frac{\text{Live births during the year} - \text{deaths during the year}}{\text{Midyear population}} \times 1000$$



Health General well-being of physical, mental, social, and/or spiritual condition.

Health Behavior Attitudes and actions that affect and influence general well-being.

Health Care Services provided in relation to the maintenance of well-being.

Health Equity In public health, refers to concept of fairness in factors or situations.

Health Indicator A variable (or measurement) that reflects health of persons in a group or community.

Health Statistics Culmination of analyzed health-related data that describes and/or gives numerical evidence.

Health Status Level of health or well-being of an individual, group, or population.

Health Survey A sampling of health-related information gathered on a population.

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Hill’s Criteria of Causation or Hill’s Considerations for Causal Inference Standards used to determine if certain conditions are considered evidence of a cause and effect relationship; of Hill’s Criteria, the only criteria you have to have is that the exposure became before the disease.

Histology The study of the microscopic structure of human, animal, and plant tissues.

Host Refers to an organism on which another organism lives or feeds. Host can also refer to a person that is susceptible (or vulnerable) to an agent that is capable of causing disease. Host factors associated with increased risk of disease include age, sex, race, religion, and immune status.

Hypothesis A theory or assumption that is a proposed explanation for an event.



Incidence New cases of a disease, event, or health condition.

Incidence Rate The rate at which new cases of disease or health condition occurs in a population. The incidence rate is often calculated by the following formula in public health practice:

$$\frac{\text{Number of new cases in specified period}}{\text{Total number of persons at risk during this period}} \times 10^n$$

Indian Health Services (IHS) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded agency responsible for providing health services to federally-recognized Tribes of American Indians and Alaska Natives. The IHS provides health services for approximately 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to 564 federally recognized Tribes in 35 states. The IHS is divided into 12 geographic “Areas” of the United States: Alaska, Albuquerque, Aberdeen, Bemidji, Billings, California, Nashville, Navajo, Oklahoma, Phoenix, Portland, and Tucson.

Indicator See *HEALTH INDICATOR*

Infection Invasion of microorganism within bodily tissues that can grow or multiply and cause harm to the body.

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Infectious Disease Epidemiology	A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on the study of the distribution (who, where, when) and risk factors related to infectious disease topics.
Institutional Review Board (IRB)	Committees designated to ensure the proper ethical protocol of safety and well-being of human research subjects.
Instrument	Tool used to gather measurements such as a questionnaire, observation, focus group, etc.
International Classification of Diseases (ICD)	The arrangement of specific conditions and groups of conditions published periodically by the World Health Organization's international advisers.
International Classification of Diseases – Oncology (ICD-O)	The ICD specific to Oncology classifications.
Latent	Undeveloped or inactive presence or form.
Latent Infection	A lingering infection that may be dormant for a period of time and may become active under certain conditions.
Latency Period	The time or interval when a disease develops.
Life Expectancy	An average number of years that a person may live.
Likert Scale	Measuring the level of “agreement,” “no opinion,” or “disagreement” in response to statements or questions. Also called a rating scale.
Low Birth Weight	Birth weight of an infant less than 2500 grams regardless of gestational (fetal development) age.
Lymphocytes	White blood cells that work within the immune system to produce antibodies and attack harmful cells. These cells are important in determining the body's immune response to foreign substances and infectious microorganisms like cancer.

L

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Lymphoma Cancer of the lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell in the immune system.

M

Mean, Arithmetic Calculation of an average. Another term for *AVERAGE*.

Measurement Using a standard scale to find or show the standard amount of something.

Measurement Scale The range of what is being calculated.

Measure of Association In epidemiology, the calculated degree of relationship to or with other variables.

Median Numbers arranged numerically where upper and lower numbers are both removed until the middle point is found. A middle point; middle value.

Example: ~~3~~, ~~5~~, **7**, ~~19~~, ~~20~~

The median is 7 in this example

Metastasis The process in which cancer spreads from the primary cancer location to another location of the body.

Misclassification The incorrect assignment of a person, value, or item into a grouping which it should not be assigned.

Morbidity A diseased state of being or condition.

Mortality Rate The rate at which people in a population are dying in a certain range or period of time. Mortality rate is calculated by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths during a specified period}}{\text{Population at risk during the specified period}} \times 10^n$$

N

National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) A Commission on Cancer (CoC) nationwide archive that collects CoC-approved hospital-reported cancer cases which are tracked and analyzed from more than 1,500 programs in the United States and Puerto Rico.

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National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) Collects data on the occurrence of cancer; the type, extent, location of the cancer, and the type of initial treatment.

Needs Assessment A process that determines the extent of health-related challenges faced by a population.

Notifiable Disease A disease that is required to be reported to public health authorities within the jurisdiction of disease diagnosis.

Numerator The top portion of a fraction.

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

“1” is the numerator in this example.



Observational Epidemiology A sub-specialty of epidemiology that is primarily hands-off and draws on information obtained from surveillance (observations).

Occurrence Denotes the frequency of a disease or event in a population.

Odds Ratio A measure of the odds of disease development due to an exposure in epidemiologic studies.

$$\text{Odds Ratio} = \frac{a \times d}{b \times c} = \frac{\text{Odds an exposed person develops disease}}{\text{Odds a non-exposed person develops disease}}$$

- If Odds Ratio = 1
Exposure is not related to the disease
- If Odds Ratio > 1
Exposure is positively related to the disease
- If Odds Ratio < 1
Exposure is negatively related to the disease

Oncology A branch of medicine that focuses on the study, classification, and treatment of tumors; the study of cancer.

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Open-Ended Question	A written or spoken inquiry that allows the respondent to answer however they see fit because the inquiry is not limited by specific parameters.
Organism	A living thing such as an animal, plant, bacteria, etc.
Outbreak	The sudden occurrence or sudden and very noticeable spike of a disease within a population.
Outcomes	The acknowledged changes that result from the handling of a health condition or problem; end result of an event, condition, or disease.
Outliers	An observation that lies outside the range or does not match what the expected outcome or pattern suggests it would be; suggests error.
Pandemic	A classification given when widespread or worldwide health-related illnesses are occurring higher than what is normally expected.
Percentile	Numbers divided into a range of 0-100 that add up to equal 100. Example: 10 th percentile is shown as 10/100 or 10%
Person-Time	In epidemiology, lengths of time participants are considered disease-free within a cohort study. This number is then used as a denominator of the observed and disease-free.
Phoenix Service Area	The Phoenix Service Area is one of 12 geographic “Areas” within the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Phoenix Service Area serves the majority of its tri-state “Area” in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.
Pie Chart	A visual diagram of data displayed as a circular graph. Sections of selected data are cut into slices, much like a pie.
Population	Total number of people residing or occupying a defined geographic area or country.
Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL)	A measure of an estimated length of time that is taken due to an impact of diseases or other health conditions on populations or individuals.



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Poverty	A lack of resources to establish an adequate standard of living.
Prevalence	<p>The proportion of a population that is found to have a specified condition. This measure is often presented as a percentage, a fraction, or the number of cases per 10,000 or 100,000 people.</p> $\frac{\text{Number of new and existing cases in specified period}}{\text{Population during the same time period}} \times 10^n$
Prevention	Activities taken to educate individuals, counteract, block, and put a stop to a disease or health condition from occurring, or to delay the onset of further illness, complications, or death.
Primary Cancer Site	The organ or tissue in which a cancer starts. This is significant to know because it will help determine the best method of treatment options if attempting to remove the cancer before it spreads.
Primary Case	Refers to the person that introduces a disease into a population.
Privacy	Refers to a patient's right to be free from unwanted public attention, especially in regards to withholding medical information from people who are not allowed access to this type of sensitive information.
Probability	The mathematical likelihood of an event occurring.
Proportion	<p>A ratio that shows a relationship of a part of a whole amount.</p> <p>Examples: fraction (1/4); decimal (0.25); or percentage (25%)</p>
Public Health	The culminations of efforts to educate, change, and/or improve community well-being or quality of life by preventing and diminishing disease and health conditions.
P Value (probability)	A number tested to show the likelihood of a result occurring or not occurring due to chance. The value tells us whether a value is statistically significant.
Qualitative Data	<p>Includes non-number-based data</p> <p>Example: Feelings, thoughts, open-ended questions, etc.</p>

Q

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Quality of Life (QoL) General well-being of society or individuals. QoL indicators can include -- but are not limited to -- employment, education, physical and mental health, and wealth.

Quantitative Data Only includes number-based data expression.

Quarantine Confining persons or animals due to exposure to a potentially harmful or deadly infectious or contagious disease.

Questionnaire A tool which collects data from participants' answers to questions.



Race A social construct created to categorize human beings into very broad and generic groupings that are self-selected.

Random Sample A sample that is chosen by chance, without knowledge of how its results will affect the current study.

Rank An arranged position or order to determine a high or low range.

Ranking Scale A scale that puts together certain categories to determine a choice which is on a range of high to low.

Rate A measure of how fast a disease is occurring in the population. Rate is usually measured by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of events in specified period}}{\text{Total population during the same time period}} \times 10^n$$

Ratio The value obtained by dividing one quantity by another

Raw Data A set of data that has not been manipulated, cleaned, or analyzed.

Record Linkage Combines two or more similar records to obtain a more complete set of gathered information.

Recurrence The return or reappearance of a disease.

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Relative Risk (RR)

Measure of disease risk due to a particular exposure.

$$\text{Relative Risk} = \frac{\text{Incidence in exposed}}{\text{Incidence in non-exposed}}$$

- If RR = 1 (no association)
Risk in exposed equal to risk in unexposed
- If RR > 1 (positive association; possibly causal)
Risk in exposed greater than risk in unexposed
- If RR < 1 (negative association; possibly protective)
Risk in exposed less than risk in unexposed

Reliability

Accuracy of a measurement if the process is repeated by others.

Research

A formal study to obtain more knowledge on a specific topic.

Research Design

Describes, in detail, how a formal study was completed or will be completed on a specific topic.

Resilience

Ability to adapt or quickly recover from adversity (hardship).

Retrospective Study

A study design that reviews and examines events that have already taken place.

Risk

The probability that a specific outcome will occur following a specific exposure.

Risk Factor

Lifestyle or exposure associated with the disease or health condition.

Rounding

Representing a numerical value as a shorter or simpler number.

Example: $9/8 = 1.125$

If I rounded to two decimal points, $9/8 = \underline{1.13}$

If I round to one decimal point $9/8 = \underline{1.1}$

If I round to the nearest whole number $9/8 = \underline{1}$



Sample

In epidemiology, refers to a subset of a population.

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Sampling	The process of selecting a subset of a population.
Scale	A system for measuring standard categories; can be qualitative or quantitative.
Screening	The procedure of testing for the presence of or conditions that may lead to development of diseases or health conditions.
Sentinel Event	Occurrences of unexpected death or other events that signal the need for immediate investigation and preventative measure response. In public health, sentinel events are identified to help aid in assessing stability or change in health status of populations.
Sentinel Surveillance	Involves collection of data from a sample of reporting sites for a specified health condition or disease.
Significance, Clinical	Importance of care involved with patients; medical research or in medical settings.
Significance, Public Health	The importance placed on the culmination of efforts to educate, change, and/or improve community well-being or quality of life by preventing and diminishing disease and health conditions.
Significance, Statistical	A measure that determines if an occurrence is likely or unlikely to have occurred by chance or merely reflect a pattern.
Social Epidemiology	A sub-specialty of epidemiology that focuses on looking at the social aspect or societal influences on the role of health, diseases, and health conditions.
Socioeconomic Status (SES)	A term referring to economic or social factors that affect an individual or population's position in society, based on – but not limited to – education, income, occupation, etc.
Spot Map	A visual display (i.e. map) that shows the locations of disease or health condition occurrences relevant to a location being studied.
Standard	The widely used and accepted format or basis for what things are compared to.

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Standard Deviation	A measurement of the distribution that exists from the expected value or average.
Standard Error (of the mean)	A measurement of scattering around the mean; method used to estimate the standard deviation of sampling distribution.
Standard Population	A set population that is used to standardize age adjusted rates so rates in different populations are comparable.
Standardization	Refers to a technique used to remove differences by age in rates. This makes two or more population rates comparable to each other.
Statistics	The act of collecting, summarizing, and analyzing data.
Stratification	Process of separating samples into sub-samples of categories.
Surveillance	Systematic (orderly) and continuous collection, analysis and interpretation of data, along with the timely dissemination (distribution) of the results to those who have the right to know so that action can be taken.
Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER)	A program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that collects data from cancer registries in the United States. SEER obtains data on incidence, prevalence, and survival from specific geographic areas, and compiles reports on cancer mortality for the entire country.
Survey	Information gathered systematically, usually in the form of a questionnaire.
Survey Instrument	A tool that gathers and collects information.
Survival (cancer)	The proportion of patients alive at a defined point subsequent to the diagnosis of their cancer.
T Target Population	The people living in or occupying the area that was identified to be studied, observed, or targeted for intervention or investigation.
Test of Significance	See <i>P VALUE</i>

T

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Trend-Line	A demarcation (line) that follows the progression or changes in frequency seen in diseases or health conditions measured over time.
Tucson Service Area	The Tucson Service Area is one of 12 geographic “Areas” within the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Tucson IHS Area provides health care for two Tribes in Southern Arizona: the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.
U Underreporting	Underestimating; Stating an amount that is actually much smaller than what the number should be.
V Validity	The degree to which an assessment measures what it is supposed to measure.
Values	Refers to amounts of measurement; numerical quantities.
Vector	An organism that transmits (spreads) diseases.
Virus	An extremely small infectious agent – seen only with a microscope – that replicates inside of living cells of organisms.
Vital Record	Document(s) containing history or accounts of information like birth certificates, death records, licenses, etc. These documents are used to link data to people or populations and address health concerns.
Vital Statistics	Information from vital records such as birth and death records used for health surveillance or epidemiologic studies.
Y Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)	See <i>POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST (PYLL)</i>
Z Zoonosis	Diseases capable of being passed from animals to humans.

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