

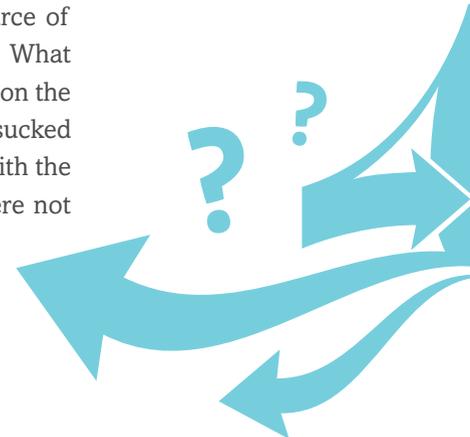
Epidemiology

Epidemiologists are health investigators who are not unlike detectives. Public Health Epidemiologists investigate the cause of disease in human or animal populations and seek to control its spread by identifying what the risks are, who is at risk, when and where they occur, and how to prevent future incidences. They take into account risk factors that cause disease and injury and look for patterns through statistical analysis to understand how they occur. For example, an epidemiologist might conduct research on the risk factors associated with ingesting insecticides that leak into nearby drinking water sources, or analyze the risk of injury related to not using helmets when bicycling.



DID YOU KNOW?

In October 2004, 108 cases of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (E. Coli) were reported to the North Carolina Division of Public Health. Alarmed by the numbers, Epidemiologists from the Division immediately began an investigation. After extensive research, they found that the source of the outbreak was the petting zoo at the state fair. What they learned was 1) Children that had fallen or sat on the ground and then used a “sippy” cup, pacifier, or sucked on their thumb were likely to come into contact with the contaminated manure, and 2) Hand sanitizers were not effective in preventing contamination!



Epidemiology

Specialization

chronic or communicable disease, environmental, genetic, reproductive, occupational, research, sociological, veterinarian and many more

Work Environment

Local, state, and federal public health departments, universities, research institutions, consulting firms, major health organizations and more

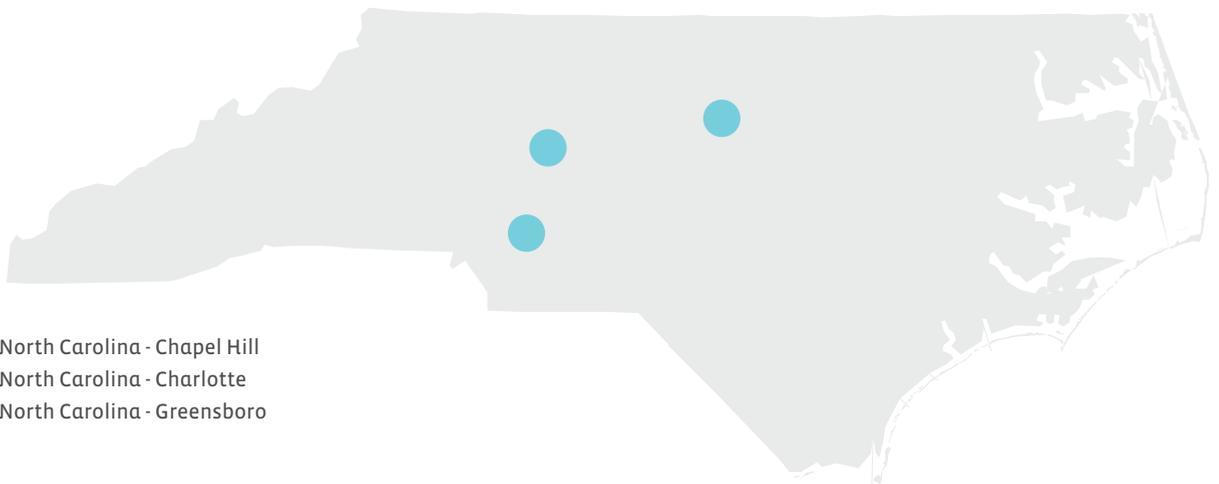
Education Requirements

A master's degree in public health or epidemiology is the minimum educational requirement. To best prepare for a graduate program in epidemiology, an undergraduate degree in health sciences, mathematics, biological or behavioral sciences is recommended. A doctoral or medical degree is strongly encouraged for the most opportunities in the field of epidemiology.

Potential Career Opportunities

State, Territorial or County Epidemiologist | Federal Epidemiologist | Professor | Researcher
Pharmacoepidemiologist | Environmental Epidemiologist | Health Data Analyst
Public Health Officer | Commissioner of Health | Veterinary Epidemiologist

Where can I go to study Epidemiology?



- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina - Charlotte
- University of North Carolina - Greensboro