

# Epidemiologist



## Overview

Are you interested in microscopic organisms? Do you want to know how and why diseases start, how they spread through a population, and how to mitigate their harmful impacts and prevent future outbreaks? Epidemiologists are scientists who study disease. They are critical in the protection and maintenance of public health and safety, and will be in greater demand as communicable diseases spread more rapidly and have increased strength on a warming planet.

## Roles and Responsibilities



Epidemiologists play an important role in the healthcare profession by studying diseases and providing insights and information on how to prevent an outbreak, or to impede a current outbreak. Oftentimes, diseases and the mediums that transmit them favour warmer weather. For example, mosquitoes, which transmit numerous diseases worldwide, prefer hotter climates. This means that a changing planet in which the global temperature rises is going to result in outbreaks that are stronger, deadlier, and will affect larger populations of people. Epidemiologists spend most of their day in the lab, running experiments and performing research on a host of bacterial and viral diseases.

**Skills:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Working in a Team, Research Report Writing

**Personal Interests:** Biology and Microbiology, Chemistry, Population Geography, Medicine/Pharmacology

**Salary:** starting is \$50,000/year, senior positions as high as \$110,000/year

**Work Environment:** Lab setting, working for either a government organization, pharmaceutical company, or a university. Must also attend applicable conferences, staying up-to-date on global research in epidemiology

**Education and Experience:** University degree in Microbiology, Human Biology, Pre-Med, or similar field of study. Masters or PhD may also be required.