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Appendix VI

Programme Outline
for the
Introductory Veterinary Epidemiology Course
April 12th – 17th, 1999
Dublin

Instructor

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An Introduction to Epidemiology for Laboratory and Field Scientists

Schedule---Topic Plan

Topic 1: Introduction to Epidemiology
- Roles of epidemiology in National disease-control programs
- Basic concepts/tenets of epidemiology
- Epidemiologic sequence of causal reasoning

Lab I: Introduction to data files and computer software SX, Excel, Epi-Info

Topic 2: Measuring Disease Frequency
- Morbidity: Prevalence, Incidence, Attack rates
- Mortality vs Case Fatality
- Calculating rates: Risk versus True Rates
  Numerators: Counts of Events
  Denominators I: Population at risk
  Denominators II: Animal-time
- Follow-up “Life” Tables

Measuring Production
- Distributional Statistics: Means, Variances, Percentiles

Lab II Measuring Health

Topic 3: Standardising Rates
Lab III Standardising Rates

Topic 4: Sampling: Surveys
- Examples of Surveys:
  Role of formal sampling methods to estimate means
- Sampling Methods: Simple, Systematic, Stratified, Cluster, Two-stage.
- How to select the sample
- How to calculate the estimate
- How variable is the estimate (Precision and its relationship to sampling design)
- How “big” a sample do I need

Lab IVa: Survey Sampling

Quality control methods to detect disease/infection
Lab IVb: Disease Detection

Topic 5: Screening Tests
- What is screening?
- When/what to screen?
- Sensitivity/Specificity
- Apparent/True prevalence
- Predictive value positive and negative
- Herd (groups of individuals) vs individual screening

Lab V: Screening for Disease

Topic 6: Sampling: Hypothesis Testing
- Hypothesis testing: Types I and II errors
- Cross-sectional, Cohort, and Case-Control
- Sampling methods and examples
• Sample size estimation
Lab VI: Analytical Study Sampling

Topic 7: Measures of Association
Lab VII: Measures of Association

Topic 8: Analytical Studies
• Design Details for Cross-Sectional, Cohort and Case-Control
Lab VIII: Project Lab

Topic 9: Confounding: What is it and how do we prevent it?
• Some analytical methods
  Mantel-Haenszel Odds ratios
• Interaction: What is it and what does it mean?
Lab IX: Mantel-Haenszel methods

Topic 10: Modeling Observational Data
Modeling associations using regression techniques
Lab X: Logistic Regression

Topic 11: Field/Clinical Trials
• The Basics: Design Features

Topic 12: Causation of Disease
• Rules of Inference
• Statistical vs Causal Associations
• Judgemental Criteria for causation
• Elaborating Mechanisms of causation
Lab XI: Least Squares Regression

Topic 13: Temporal Patterns of Disease

Topic 14: Disease Control Programs

Presentation of Projects

Course Evaluations

End of Course