Summary
Public health services play a key role in assuring the health and well-being of communities. The Ten Essential Services of Public Health, which can provide a supportive context for any public health priority in a community, are presented. Epidemiology is one critical component of public health. The function and practice of epidemiology are explained with practical details and examples. The sub-specialties of epidemiology are discussed, and the three key elements that epidemiologists consider when they enter into an outbreak investigation are explained. Epidemiology and public health are also put into context as being relevant to bioterrorism preparedness and response. Examples of epidemiology practice are given, including outbreak investigations in Indiana and Iowa and a natural disaster in Virginia.

Intended Audience
Non-epidemiologists who collaborate or work with epidemiologists

Running Time
Part 1: 25 minutes of lecture
   20 minutes for pre-test, post-test, and evaluation
Part 2: 25 minutes of lecture
   20 minutes for pre-test, post-test, and evaluation
Optional Discussion: 15 minutes (approximate)

Learning Objectives
• Define the Ten Essential Services of Public Health
• Explain the relevance of the specialty of epidemiology in the broader context of the Ten Essential Services of Public Health
• Identify the diverse specialties in the field of epidemiology
• Describe how epidemiological methods and state and district health professionals work

Recommended Readings