Fold each printed sheet in half lengthwise. The left side of the document will list the term and the right side will list the definition. Tape or staple the open edges of your flashcards. Cut out your flashcards on the solid lines indicated and fold them on the dotted lines.

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causing disease.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term Agent

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A component of the epidemiological triangle; may be a bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoan, helminth, or prion.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term Airborne spread

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

An efficient mode of transmission that may involve varying distances between the source and the host.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term Carrier

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A person who shows no recognizable signs or symptoms of a disease but is capable of spreading the disease to others.

A biological, physical, or chemical entity capable of

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Causative agent

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Section A: Epidemiology

TermChronic carriers

APIC CIC Learning System

Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term Cluster

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A group of persons with a given disease occurring in the same space and time but not epidemiologically linked. If an epidemiological link is made, may become an outbreak.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Community-acquired infection

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

An infection that is present on admission to a healthcare facility and has no association with a recent hospitalization.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Convalescent carriers

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Those who have recovered from a disease but still have organisms present that can be transmitted.

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology A mode of transmission that features person-to-person spread with actual physical contact occurring between a source and a susceptible host. **Term** • Direct contact © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology = A mode of transmission that occurs when the infectious agent spends only a brief period passing through the air and can be inhaled at that time. **Term** Droplet transmission APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 I • Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology = The usual incidence of a given disease within a geographical area during a specified time period. Term **Endemic**

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology A component of the epidemiological triangle; consists of all external factors associated with the host. Term Environment APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology An excess over the expected incidence of disease within a given geographical area during a specified time period. **Term Epidemic** © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology = The study of the distribution and determinants of disease and other conditions in human populations. **Term Epidemiology** APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology = The mechanical transfer of microorganisms by a vector, such as a fly on food.

Term External vector-borne transmission

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© 2025

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology **Term Fomite**

APIC CIC Learning System

An inanimate object on which organisms may exist for some period of time, for example, a contaminated piece of medical equipment.

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Healthcare-associated infection (HAI)

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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An infection that is not present at the time of admission to a healthcare facility but is temporally associated with admission to or a procedure performed in the facility; may also be related to a recent hospitalization.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Herd immunity

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The resistance of a group to invasion and spread of an infectious agent, based on the immunity of a high proportion of individual members of the group.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Host

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A component of the epidemiological triangle; refers to a human or other animal.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Incidence

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The number of new cases of a given disease in a given time period.

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Indirect contact

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A mode of transmission that occurs when a patient comes in contact with a contaminated intermediate object or fomite.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Infection—apparent, clinical, or symptomatic

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

An infection that results in clinical signs and symptoms of a recognizable disease process.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Infection—unapparent, asymptomatic, or subclinical

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

An infection that runs a course similar to that of clinical disease but below the threshold of discernible clinical symptoms.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Intermittent carriers

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Persons who periodically shed organisms.

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Internal vector-borne transmission

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Involves the transfer of infectious material directly from the vector into the new host, such as occurs with mosquitoes and malaria.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Mode of transmission

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The method by which an organism reaches a susceptible host.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Outbreak

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Synonymous with epidemic but often preferred when dealing with the public; in local settings, a group of people with the same disease who are epidemiologically linked.

Module 2

Section A: Epidemiology

Term

Pandemic

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

An epidemic spread over a wide geographical area, across countries or continents.

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology In the chain of infection, the means by which an infectious agent enters a susceptible host. **Term** Portal of entry © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology In the chain of infection, the path by which an infectious agent leaves the reservoir. **Term** Portal of exit APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology = The number of existent cases of a given disease at a given time. Term Prevalence

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

A place in which an infectious agent can survive but may or may not multiply, for example, Pseudomonas in nebulizers and hepatitis B on the surface of a hemodialysis machine.

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

© 2025

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology The probability or likelihood of an event occurring. **Term** Risk APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 . Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology A characteristic, behavior, or experience that increases the probability of developing a negative health status (e.g., disease, infection). **Term** Risk factor APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 ı Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time. Term Sustained carriers © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System

Module 2 Section A: Epidemiology		
Term Vector		In biology, a biting insect, tick, or other organism responsible for transmitting a disease, pathogen, or parasite between persons, animals, or plants.
APIC CIC Learning System	© 2025	

Section A: Epidemiology

Term Zoonosis

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A disease transmitted from animals to humans (e.g., cat scratch fever, psittacosis).

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Action plans

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Detail the steps necessary for reaching the goals and addressing the issues identified during surveillance.

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Active surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Surveillance that involves trained individuals (such as IPs) actively looking for healthcare-associated infections using standardized definitions and protocols.

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Outcome measure

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure that indicates the result of the performance (or nonperformance) of functions or processes.

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Passive surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Surveillance that relies on others (e.g., physicians, nurses, or the microbiology laboratory) who are not trained on surveillance methods or primarily responsible for surveillance activities to report healthcare-associated infections.

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Process measure

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure that focuses on a process or the steps in a process that lead to a specific outcome.

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A system for routine, ongoing, and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of surveillance data to identify infections (i.e., HAI and community-acquired), infection risks, communicable disease outbreaks, and to maintain or improve resident health status.

Module 2

Section B: Surveillance Design

Term

Surveillance plan

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The set of protocols and guidelines that will direct surveillance activities

Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term

Syndromic surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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The collection and analysis of pre-diagnostic and nonclinical disease indicators using preexisting electronic data.

Module 2

Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term

Targeted surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Focuses on a narrow selection of infections and pathogens; also known as "priority-directed" surveillance.

Module 2

Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term

Total surveillance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Measures and tracks all infections at a facility, across its entire population of residents and staff; also known as "comprehensive" or "whole house" surveillance.

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Concurrent data collection

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Collecting and referencing of data in real time, with a focus on new information as it comes in.

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Demographic data

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Data that is socio-economic in nature (e.g., age, sex, race).

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Event data

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Data related to high-volume, high-risk events within a facility (e.g., HAIs, immunization rates).

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Process data

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Data related to facility protocols and practices (e.g., standard precautions, environmental cleaning).

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Retrospective data collection

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Collating of data that has already been collected, with a focus on examining what has already happened.

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Surveillance criteria

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Specific conditions that qualify as infections for the purpose of surveillance data collection; they are also used in the calculation and reporting of infection rates.

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Time data

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Data bound by a unit of time (e.g., month, year).

Module 2

Section D: Data Collection and Management

Term

Validity

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The extent to which a measure accurately reflects the concept or construct that it is intended to measure. (The Joint Commission)

Module 2

Section E: Statistics

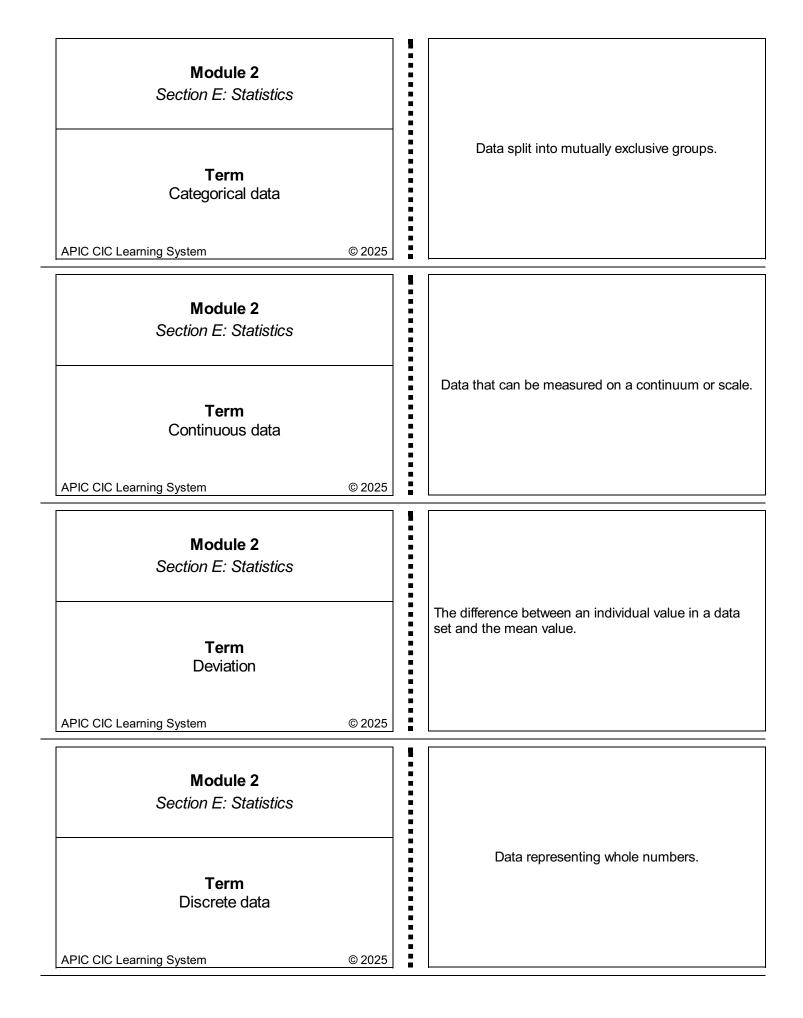
Term

Association

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The relationship between a risk factor and an outcome, such as a disease.



Module 2 Section E: Statistics The distribution of data around the mean. Term • Dispersion © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section E: Statistics The sum of all values divided by the total number of values. **Term** Mean APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 ı Module 2 Section E: Statistics Describe how observations cluster around a middle value and locate only the center of a distribution measure; include mean, median, and mode. Term Measures of central tendency APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 Module 2 Section E: Statistics The midpoint of a set of observations Term Median -

© 2025

Module 2 Section E: Statistics The observation that occurs most frequently in a data **Term** Mode © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section E: Statistics The probability of having a particular risk factor if a condition or disease is present divided by the probability of having the risk factor if the disease or condition is not present. Term Odds ratio (OR) APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 I • Module 2 Section E: Statistics = Data representing qualities or characteristics. Term = Qualitative data APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 ı Module 2 Section E: Statistics Data representing counts or values on a numeric scale. Term

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© 2025

Quantitative data

Module 2 Section E: Statistics . The difference between the smallest and largest values in a data set. Term • Range © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System = Module 2 Section E: Statistics The probability of developing a disease if the risk factor is present divided by the probability of developing the disease if the risk factor is not present. **Term** Relative risk (RR) © 2025 APIC CIC Learning System Module 2 Section E: Statistics = A measure that reflects the distribution of values around the mean; it is the average of all deviations in a data set and indicates how spread out the data are Term around the mean. Standard deviation = APIC CIC Learning System © 2025 Module 2 Section E: Statistics : The deviation around the mean of a distribution.

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© 2025

Term Variance

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Attack rate

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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The proportion of persons at risk who become infected over an entire period of exposure or a measure of the risk or probability of becoming a case.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term Bias

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A systematic error in study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or analysis that results in a mistaken estimate of the true population parameter. (NIH)

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Confounder

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

A variable that is an independent cause or predictor of the exposure and the outcome and is not on the path between the exposure and the outcome; also called a confounding variable.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Correlation

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Calculation of the direction and magnitude of a relationship between two variables.

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Incidence proportion

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A measure of the number of new cases or events within the population at risk during the identified time period.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Incidence rate

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Represents the proportion of new cases over a particular period of time.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Interval scale

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measurement in descriptive statistics in which the exact distance between any two ordinal scale observations is known and assumed to be equal but attributes measured have no real, rational zero point.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Mortality rate

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure of the frequency of death in a defined population during a specified time (usually a year).

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Nominal scale

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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The crudest level of measurement in descriptive statistics. Creates categorical data in which no order is implied by the classifications. Values cannot be measured mathematically (e.g., cannot be averaged), but frequency or percentage can be applied.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Ordinal scale

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measurement in descriptive statistics that applies ranking to categorical data on a relative scale so that each category is distinct and stands in some definite relationship to each of the other categories but does not indicate how much greater each level is than another.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Period prevalence

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Prevalence during a span of time (e.g., over the course of a given month).

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Point prevalence

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Prevalence at a specific point in time (e.g., on a given day).

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term Proportion

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A specific kind of ratio that compares a part to the whole.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Rate

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A specific kind of ratio that includes a unit of time, and provides information about how fast events are occurring.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Ratio

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The comparison of any two quantitative values.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Ratio scale

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The highest level of measurement in descriptive statistics; creates interval scale observations that have an absolute, real zero point, which allows for higher levels of statistical analysis.

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Regression

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A way to explain the relationship between a dependent variable (y) and one or more explanatory (or independent) variables (x).

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Standardization

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Used when one needs to compare the event rates of different groups, for example, if an IP wants to compare catheter-associated urinary tract infection rates for two facilities.

Module 2

Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term

Stratification

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The process by which the population in a dataset is separated into distinct categories.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

2 by 2 table

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A table with two outcome columns (e.g., disease and no disease) and two exposure rows (e.g., exposed and not exposed).

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Deviation

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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The difference between an individual value in a data set and the mean value.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Dispersion

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The distribution of data around the mean.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Level of significance

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The probability value arbitrarily chosen by the researcher as the desired level of probability at which one may feel secure in rejecting the null hypothesis; typically set at 0.05 or 0.01.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Mean

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The sum of all values divided by the total number of values.

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Measures of central tendency

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Describe how observations cluster around a middle value and locate only the center of a distribution measure; include mean, median, and mode.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Median

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The midpoint of a set of observations

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term Mode

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The observation that occurs most frequently in a data set.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Negative predictive value (NPV)

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure of the proportion of persons without a disease who test negative.

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Normal distribution

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A bell-shaped curve on a graph in which the distribution (spread) of the values is even on both sides of the mean (both halves are equal) and the mean, median, and mode are all equal.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Population

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The set of all observations of interest to the investigator (the universe).

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Positive predictive value (PPV)

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure of the proportion of persons with a positive test who have a disease.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Power

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The ability of a test to detect a specified difference.

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term Range

APIC CIC Learning System

The difference between the smallest and largest values in a data set.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Rejection region

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

© 2025

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The cutoff point for accepting or rejecting the null hypothesis. In a one-tailed test, this occupies just one end of the distribution (bell curve), but, in a two-tailed test, it takes up both ends of the distribution.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Reliability

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The ability of the indicator to accurately and consistently identify the events it was designed to identify across multiple healthcare settings. (The Joint Commission)

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Sample

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A group of observations selected from a population and chosen to represent the population as a whole.

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Sampling distribution

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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The distribution of samples taken.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Sensitivity

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure of the probability that a test correctly identifies as positive persons who have a disease.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Specificity

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure of the probability that a test correctly identifies persons without a disease as negative.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Standard deviation

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A measure that reflects the distribution of values around the mean; it is the average of all deviations in a data set and indicates how spread out the data are around the mean.

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Type I error

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Occurs when the null hypothesis is rejected when it is actually true or when significance is attributed when there actually is none.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Type II error

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Occurs when the null hypothesis is accepted when it is actually false or when significance is not attributed when it actually exists.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

Variance

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The deviation around the mean of a distribution.

Module 2

Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term

p value

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The probability of observing a sample in which the test statistic is greater than or equal to the test statistic for the sample that was actually observed.

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Area map

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Map that uses different shades of chosen colors to indicate different rates of infection (or other disease/health condition), with the darker shades indicating higher rates or an increasing disease burden.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Bar graph

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Presents data as side-by-side bars for an easy comparison of magnitudes, frequency distributions, and time-series data.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Chart

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A form of visual data presentation used when the magnitudes of different events is important or when one wants to compare parts of the bigger picture.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Histogram

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A graphic of frequency distribution that looks much like a bar graph but in which each bar represents a different time interval.

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Line chart

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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Chart used to display the same data over time, for example, the rate of ICU CLABSIs over a year; each time point is equidistant from the previous and next time points, with time running along the x axis.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Pie chart

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Shows the proportion that a group represents within the whole population.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Spot map

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A tool for illustrating the geographic distribution of cases; uses dots or other symbols to show where each case-patient lives or was exposed.

Module 2

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term

Statistical process control (SPC)

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A set of methods for improving systems, processes, and outcomes; the primary goal is to recognize and understand common and special cause variations that affect a process.

Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity
Results

Term Table

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A data set presented in rows and columns.

Module 2

Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term

All-hazards approach

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

An integrated approach to emergency preparedness planning that focuses on capacities and capabilities that are critical to preparedness for a full spectrum of emergencies or disasters; the approach is specific to the location of the provider or supplier and considers the particular types of hazards most likely to occur in their areas. (Federal Register)

Module 2

Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term

Bioterrorism attack

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

The deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. (CDC)

Module 2

Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term

Incident Command System (ICS)

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations. (FEMA)

Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term

Case definition

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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A set of uniformly applied criteria for determining whether a person should be identified as having a particular disease, injury, or other health condition; it usually specifies clinical, laboratory, and other diagnostic criteria.

Module 2

Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term

Control measures

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

Protocols designed to interrupt the transmission of and reduce or eliminate the occurrence of communicable diseases and infections.

Module 2

Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term

Epidemic curve

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A graph in which the cases of a disease that occur during an epidemic (outbreak) are plotted according to the time of onset of illness.

Module 2

Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term

Line list

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

A document that contains information related to patient symptoms (in case there is the possibility that it is a pseudo-outbreak), medications, procedures, consults, patient locations, contact with HCP, and host of other factors that might predispose the patients to the infection under investigation.