

An Introduction To Environmental Epidemiology

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An Introduction to the Institute of Environmental Epidemiology
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Committee on Environmental Epidemiology John R. Goldsmith Kyle Steenland Duncan C. Thomas
Institute of Environmental Epidemiology

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an introduction to environmental epidemiology covers the basics of environmental exposure health and disease written to be easily accessible to readers with no formal training in epidemiology or statistics this practical introduction is an ideal text reference for students and professionals in nursing medicine industrial hygiene occupational and environmental health and general environmental science it provides a target organ oriented presentation of environmental hazards with detailed discussions of selected exposures such as asbestos lead radon and indoor and outdoor air pollutants major topics covered include

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environmental epidemiology exposure and disease is a unique resource identifying priorities for public health research in selected areas of environmental epidemiology drawn from the proceedings of an international workshop on this topic the book is a compilation of the specialized knowledge and opinions of environmental epidemiology experts organized by the rome division of the world health organization who european centre for environment and health the goal of the 1993 workshop setting priorities in environmental epidemiology was to establish a consensus among the experts in the selected areas the chapters in environmental epidemiology exposure and disease cover environmental epidemiology from three different viewpoints environmental exposures major disease groups related to the environment and epidemiological methodology the environmental exposure categories examined for prioritizing are air contaminants water contaminants and ionizing and non ionizing radiation exposure from human caused disasters the major disease groups covered are neoplastic diseases lung cancer and non carcinogenic respiratory disease methods discussed in the book include small area studies use of biochemical markers exposure assessment and training to prioritize the authors utilized a set of criteria based on exposure conditions health effects and the feasibility of human studies within the complex and rapidly growing field of environmental epidemiology this compendium of international

expertise provides essential guidance for research emphasis and the allocation of financial and technical resources

the amount of hazardous waste in the united states has been estimated at 275 million metric tons in licensed sites alone is the health of americans at risk from exposure to this toxic material this volume the first of several on environmental epidemiology reviews the available evidence and makes recommendations for filling gaps in data and improving health assessments the book explores whether researchers can infer health hazards from available data the results of substantial state and federal programs on hazardous waste dangers the book presents the results of studies of hazardous wastes in the air water soil and food and examines the potential of biological markers in health risk assessment the data and recommendations in this volume will be of immediate use to toxicologists environmental health professionals epidemiologists and other biologists

environmental epidemiology plays a critical role in public health providing a scientific approach to understanding and describing the relationship between human health and the physical chemical biological and psychosocial factors in the environment information that is vitally important to public health planning policy and prevention strategies

determining the health risks to humans of exposure to toxic substances in the environment is made difficult by problems such as measuring the degree to which people have been exposed and determining causation whether observed health effects are due to exposure to a suspected toxicant building on the well received first volume environmental epidemiology hazardous wastes and public health this second volume continues the examination of ways to address these difficulties it describes effective epidemiological methods for analyzing data and focuses on errors that may occur in the course of analyses the book also investigates the utility of the gray literature in helping to identify the often elusive causative agent behind reported health effects although gray literature studies are often based on a study group that is quite small use inadequate measures of exposure and are not published many of the reports from about 20 states that were examined by the committee were judged to be publishable with some additional work the committee makes recommendations to improve the utility of the gray literature by enhancing quality and availability

the impact of the environment on human health is of growing concern to the public politicians and public health practitioners epidemiology offers a way of investigating and

measuring potential hazards from local sources of pollution to global climate changes it allows real effects to be distinguished from chance associations this book describes the methods available for public health practitioners to enable investigations to be carried out and how findings should be interpreted to ensure that the most appropriate policies are adopted the book examines air pollution clusters of cases of ill health radiation and hazardous waste water and health climate change contributors mike ahern ben armstrong araceli busby pat doyle shakoor hajjat sari kovats paul wilkinson

in this book thomas j smith and david kriebel assert that important advances in the quantification of environmental risks can only come through a true synthesis of the fields of environmental epidemiology and exposure assessment they have built a common biologic model of exposure physiologic response and disease a synthesis of the various existing models which serves to both simplify and improve the application of environmental epidemiology and exposure assessment to current and future environmental chemical risks

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essentials of environmental epidemiology for health protection guides front line public health practitioners through the decisions they are likely to face when dealing with environmental health problems it does this by showing how to integrate relevant aspects of environmental science communication sciences toxicology and most importantly environmental epidemiology skills to conduct initial investigations which encompass all relevant issues the book uses a problem orientated style using case studies to provide practical examples of

how to plan and carry out investigations or research projects it emphasises the scoping and planning stages of a study in order to avoid common pitfalls and includes discussions of the limitations of epidemiological studies how to communicate with the public and funders ethics and handling large datasets through the case studies the book also covers the practice of environmental public health in developed countries each chapter is written by knowledgeable practitioners in the topic making essentials of environmental epidemiology for health protection essential reading for all professionals in environmental public health in the uk and abroad

this completely updated edition of exposure assessment in environmental epidemiology offers a practical introduction to exposure assessment methodologies in environmental epidemiologic studies in addition to methods for traditional methods questionnaires biomonitoring this new edition is expanded to include geographic information systems modeling personal sensing remote sensing and omics technologies in addition each of these methods is contextualized within a recent epidemiology study maximizing illustration for students and those new to these techniques with clear writing and extensive illustration this book will be useful to anyone interested in exposure assessment regardless of background

environmental epidemiology and risk assessment addresses the historical development of environmental epidemiology touching on recent sensationalized environmental tragedies such as love canal and chernobyl understanding the importance that public opinion plays in the success or failure of any important regulatory decision involving human studies the authors elaborate the issue of communicating scientific findings to the public the authors have employed the material in this book while teaching graduate courses in epidemiology and in the application of field studies for environmentally related risk assessment environmental epidemiology and risk assessment is convenient for students to use in independent study while instructors can use it as a reference and background source for classroom lectures each chapter contains a list of specific learning objectives a detailed narrative including illustrations and case histories and instructive assignments the authors have also provided a list of recommended reading which complements the extensive bibliography and selected glossaries this comprehensive text provides state of the art instruction in the methodologic considerations with the design and conduct of environmental epidemiologic studies the authors discuss disease mechanisms the study of disease clusters and surveillance techniques as these topics relate to environmental epidemiology

environmental epidemiology and risk assessment is a compilation of over thirty years of practical experience university and public agency instruction federal agency experiences and community investigations bringing together disparate scientific disciplines and offering the most comprehensive compendium of information to be found on the subject although this book serves as a reference text for trained epidemiologists it places considerably more emphasis than is commonly found in epidemiologic texts on exposure monitoring the use of biomarkers in epidemiologic studies laboratory practices for environmental sampling risk assessment risk management and environmental law this how to book is an invaluable source for public health professionals with limited didactic training in epidemiology but with interests and professional responsibilities that require a working understanding of the discipline

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published in 1986 this book tells the story of how various persons and groups have successfully dealt with a type of problem which may threaten the lives and health of every group of humans every community the problem is that of a polluted environment

a comprehensive survey of the epidemiology of common environmental exposures this volume covers diet water particulates in outdoor air nitrogen dioxide ozone environmental tobacco smoke radon in homes electromagnetic fields and lead design and analysis issues risk assessment and meta analysis and future directions in environmental epidemiology are also discussed all chapters provide a review of the relevant literature as well as an overview of important methodologic issues particularly exposure assessment and statistical methods most of these exposures are widespread and low level and are thought to increase the risk of chronic diseases that have many causes even though the disease risks due to these exposures may be low the public health burden may be significant because

large numbers of people are exposed such exposures are inherently difficult to detect via observational epidemiology this book clarifies the problems and suggests ways to move forward it will be useful to students and practitioners of public health environmental health and epidemiology

a systematic treatment of the statistical challenges that arise in environmental health studies and the use epidemiologic data in formulating public policy at a level suitable for graduate students and epidemiologic researchers

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