

Question	Content
HOW ARE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH IDENTIFIED?	
<p>Define epidemiology</p> <p>What can epidemiology tell us?</p> <p>What are and who uses epidemiology measures?</p> <p>Does epidemiology measure everything about health?</p> <p>What are the current trends?</p>	<p>The study of disease in groups or populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mortality - Birth rate - Disease incidence and prevalence - Contact with health providers & hospital usage - Money spent on health care - Day absent from work <p>I.e. the general health status of a population</p> <p>Measures include mortality rates, infant mortality, morbidity and life expectancy.</p> <p>Used by government and health care professionals → target specific health issues, allocate resources & promote healthy lifestyle</p> <p>No, it doesn't:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Differentiate between subgroups (e.g. Aboriginals) - Address quality of life (e.g. handicap, mental health) - Explain "why" - Account for health determinants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy ↑ (79:84) - Death rate from heart disease ↓ - Lung cancer ↑ - Leading cause of DEATH = CVD - Leading cause of female death = CVD - Leading cause of male death = Cancer - Diabetes is increasing in prevalence; 2 new cases of diabetes type 1 each ay - Death rates in disadvantaged groups are 70% higher - ATSI: ↓ death rates, ↓ asthma hospitalisations, ↑ cancer survival, ↓ in smoking and drug use, ↑ contraception usage, ↑ diabetes, high mental disorders, road accidents and obesity, low physical activity and nutrition -
<p>How do we identify priority issues for Aus's health?</p>	<p>By using the criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority population groups → determine needs and promote equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Aboriginals ↑ death rate o Low SES ↑ incidence of disease o Rural ↑ death and morbidity o Men ↑ risk of certain diseases - Prevalence of condition - Potential for prevention and early intervention - Social justice principles

<p>What role do the principles of social justice play?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equity ○ Access ○ Participation ○ Rights - Costs to the individual and community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct: diagnosis, treatment, prevention ○ Indirect: value of output lost due to morbidity & mortality <p>Must follow the principles in order to determine subpopulations which need specific health improvements due to being neglected or discrimination.</p> <p>Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair allocation of resources without discrimination - Boosts the health of the whole Australian population <p>Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of health services, info and education - E.g. rural areas → less health services = ↑ morbidity & mortality <p>Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empowerment to get people actively involved in their own health - When people make their own decisions they are more likely to stick to them - Allows permanent lifestyle change → prevention over cure <p>Rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equitable opportunities to achieve good health - Interrelated to all other points
<p>Why is it important to prioritise?</p>	<p>In order to boost the health of a population, we need to boost the health of the tail end, then push the health status up as a whole – otherwise the tail end will always drag the health down. Further, AUS is a 'fair' and 'anti-discrimatory' country which means health needs of sub populations must be met.</p>