

Chapter 2.4: Databases and registers as tools for disaster epidemiology

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Further reading

1. Kreis IA, Busby A, Leonardi G, Meara J, Murray V, editors. *Essentials of Environmental Epidemiology for Health Protection: A Handbook for Field Professionals*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press. 2013.

Summary of this document: Environmental epidemiology helps front-line public health practitioners to make evidence-based decisions when dealing with environmental health problems.

This handbook provides contemporary epidemiological background and elucidation of some of the foundational concepts that are briefly introduced and used in Chapter 2.4 of the *WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management*. The handbook is an introductory text designed for front-line public health researchers. It describes various tools for assessing and scoping environmental health questions after disasters, including health registers. It also contains information on environmental epidemiology study design, problem analysis and special topics.

2. Webb P, Bain C, Page A, editors. *Essential Epidemiology: An Introduction for Students and Health Professionals* (4th edition). Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. 2020.

Summary of this document: An adequate description of the impact of disasters and other significant health events is important for responding to a specific event and for planning for future events. Epidemiological research describing the causes and consequences of disasters can help decision-makers to understand the impact of a disaster and plan for future ones.

This introductory textbook provides contemporary epidemiological background and elucidation of some of the foundational concepts briefly introduced and used in Chapter 2.4 of the *WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management*. The textbook is designed for use by undergraduate and postgraduate students. It includes chapters that introduce the field of epidemiology, along with information on study methods, limitations and frequently encountered concepts. It makes extensive use of case studies and exercises and includes guides on reading and drafting epidemiological papers.