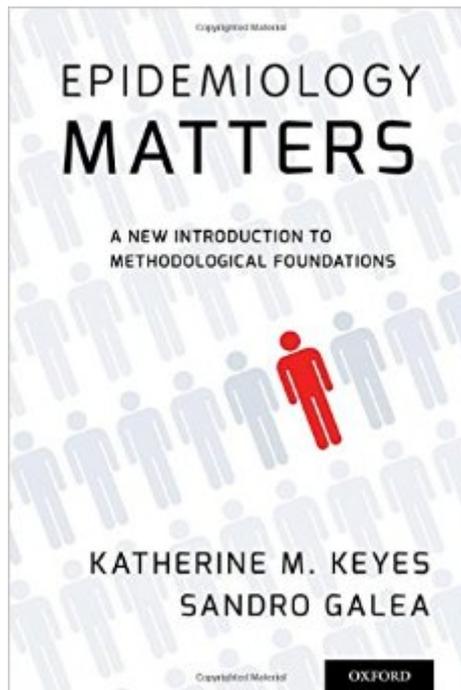


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# Epidemiology Matters: A New Introduction To Methodological Foundations



## Synopsis

Epidemiology Matters offers a new approach to understanding and identifying the causes of disease -- and with it, how to prevent disease and improve human health. Utilizing visual explanations and examples, this text provides an accessible, step-by-step introduction to the fundamentals of epidemiologic study, from design to analysis. Across fourteen chapters, Epidemiology Matters teaches the individual competencies that underlie the conduct of an epidemiologic study: identifying populations; measuring exposures and health indicators; taking a sample; estimating associations between exposures and health indicators; assessing evidence for causes working together; assessing internal and external validity of results. With its consequentialist approach -- designing epidemiologic studies that aim to inform our understanding, and therefore improve public health -- Epidemiology Matters is an introductory text for the next generation of students in medicine and public health.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While visually pleasing and easy to pack around, this text and accompanying materials are recommended, with some caveats:1) Read the subtitle carefully, as this is not a comprehensive introductory text for clinicians and public health professionals or the soon "to-be"s, instead this book makes a case for the critical usefulness of epidemiology in general and explains, in some detail through a particular stream of thought, the current controversies and trajectory/evolution of the discipline itself.2) In the free access online supplementary PowerPoint presentations, readers will

have an opportunity to review, again and again, the authors' "Seven Steps in Conducting an Epidemiological Study of Consequence," introduced in this text on page 4's Box 1.1 and carried throughout. These are quite useful as an introduction to study design and help to form a mental framework as to why this discipline, does indeed, matter. Readers engaging with this book and supplementary materials will not forget these steps! What you will need to get grounded in are the fundamentals of epidemiological study types, a handful of calculations and their respective interpretations. This may require outside study, depending on your desired use of these fundamental concepts.<sup>3</sup>) The authors' novel approach when combined with their "marble jar" analogy helps toward understanding key differences in making causal associations versus identifying known or suspected interactions. The marbles in the jar, however, are quite small on the page (and their tiny patterns important for) following the analogy through to where the authors' hope to guide readers. If the analogy works for you, the book becomes a bargain. If not, it's easy enough to find an alternate source to assist.

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