

Department of Epidemiology
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EPID 160

Principles of Epidemiology

Fall, 1967

Outline of Research Requirements for
Scientific Public Health Practice

Research Requirement:

Applied to Scientific Public
Health Practice

1. The perception of a meaningful problem and its statement in precise operational terms

Statement of the objective of the program in operational terms. (Differentiate statement of objective from statement of procedures). Requires answers to question:

What do we wish to accomplish and how will we know whether we have attained this goal.

Necessitates knowledge of:

- a) Extent of problem and indices to measure this by
 - b) Sorts of people at highest risk
2. Nature of the Conceptual Frame
 - a) What do we believe has to be changed in order to accomplish our objective?
 - b) What procedures or techniques can we employ to accomplish these changes
 3. What variables need to be studied
- Leads provided by answers to above questions
4. Collection tabulation and analysis of data.
- Initiation and development of the program. Methodical recording of data in a standardized fashion.
5. Interpretation of results
 - a) Have the changes postulated by the conceptual scheme as being necessary for our objective been brought about? (An indicator of the efficiency of our techniques)
 - b) If yes, has our original objective been attained? (An indicator of the validity of the conceptual scheme.)
 - c) Are any of the changes that have occurred a result of our efforts? (Need for control areas or "Natural experiments").