


Types of Studies

- Descriptive Epidemiology: Ecologic studies, case reports, case series, cross-sectional studies
- ➔ Analytic Epidemiology:
 - Observational: Case-control studies, **cohort studies**
 - Interventional: Clinical Trials (experimental)

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- Comparison is an essential component of epidemiology
 - Basic premise of analytic epidemiology is that disease does not occur randomly but rather in describable patterns that reflect the underlying etiology.
 - Methodology developed in 20th century as burden of disease shifted from acute to chronic disease

Study Designs – Observational Studies

- **Cohort Studies** – groups of exposed and non-exposed individuals selected and followed to see if disease develops
 - All subjects must be free of disease at time the exposure status is defined → temporal sequence between exposure and disease can be established
 - Well-suited for rare exposures
 - Allows for examination of multiple effects of a single exposure