

Epidemiological Milestones: Historical and Verified Events

Epidemiology · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which early epidemiologist meticulously documented the spread of cholera in London in the mid-19th century, famously identifying the Broad Street pump as a key source?

- A) Ignaz Semmelweis
- B) John Snow**
- C) William Farr
- D) Robert Koch

2. The concept of 'herd immunity' was first described and applied in the context of which infectious disease vaccination program?

- A) Smallpox
- B) Polio
- C) Measles
- D) Diphtheria**

3. During the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, which country's wartime censorship is widely believed to have suppressed early reporting and accurate statistics, contributing to the global misunderstanding of the outbreak's severity?

- A) United States**
- B) United Kingdom
- C) Germany
- D) France

4. The Framingham Heart Study, initiated in 1948, is a landmark longitudinal epidemiological study that has been crucial in identifying risk factors for which non-communicable disease?

- A) Diabetes Mellitus
- B) Stroke
- C) Coronary Heart Disease**
- D) Alzheimer's Disease

5. What critical epidemiological observation by the physician Percivall Pott in the late 18th century linked a specific environmental exposure to cancer?

- A) Exposure to arsenic in drinking water and skin cancer
- B) Exposure to coal soot and scrotal cancer in chimney sweeps**
- C) Exposure to lead paint and developmental delays
- D) Exposure to asbestos and lung disease

6. The discovery of the role of mosquitoes in transmitting yellow fever and malaria, pioneered by figures like Carlos Juan Finlay and Sir Ronald Ross, was a monumental achievement in understanding which mode of disease transmission?

- A) Fecal-oral route
- B) Airborne droplets
- C) Vector-borne transmission**
- D) Direct contact

7. Which historical public health intervention, widely implemented in the early 20th century, significantly reduced the incidence of goiter and cretinism by adding a specific element to common salt?

- A) Fluoridation
- B) Iodization**
- C) Chlorination
- D) Vitamin D fortification

8. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, a deeply unethical experiment conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service from 1932 to 1972, involved withholding treatment from African American men diagnosed with syphilis. Its exposure led to significant reforms in which area of research?

- A) Vaccine development
- B) Clinical trial methodology
- C) Informed consent and research ethics**
- D) Disease surveillance systems

9. The identification of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* as the causative agent of cholera by Robert Koch in the late 19th century revolutionized the understanding of infectious disease etiology and shifted the focus from miasma theory to:

- A) Genetic predisposition
- B) Environmental pollution
- C) Microbial agents**
- D) Behavioral risk factors

10. The Great Plague of London in 1665 provided early insights into the devastating impact of epidemic diseases on urban populations, influencing later public health responses and the development of systematic data collection for tracking disease patterns. What was a primary method used at the time to record and report deaths?

- A) Vital statistics compiled from hospital records
- B) Parish burial registers and bills of mortality**
- C) Newspaper advertisements and public announcements
- D) Government census data