

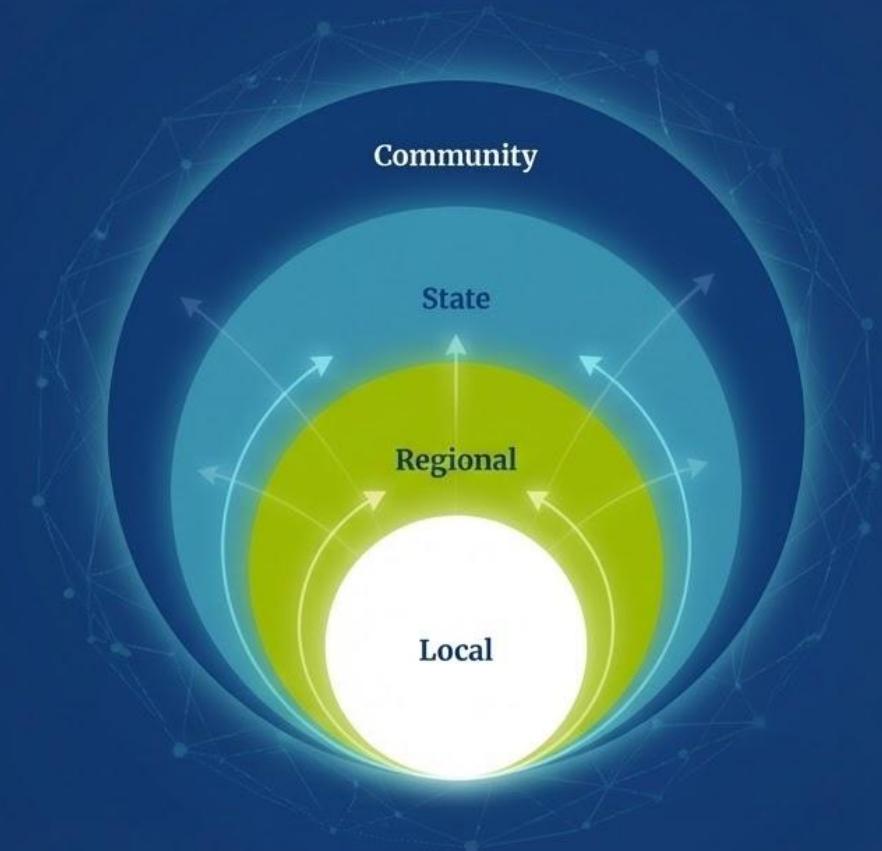


Epidemiologists in Action:

Your Local Health Department's Secret Weapon

The Massachusetts Epidemiology Collaborative (MEC)

-  Local, regional, and state epidemiologists
-  Local data users and public health partners
-  Meet every Monday at 10AM via Zoom
-  Focused on service, collaboration, and real-world impact



In today's webinar...

1. What is Epidemiology?
2. What do Epidemiologists do?
3. How do they contribute to local public health teams?
4. What are epidemiologists currently doing in Massachusetts local public health?

What is Epidemiology?

Epidemiology is the core science of public health. It uses data and research to understand health problems, investigate outbreaks, identify risks, and guide prevention and control strategies from infectious diseases like the flu to chronic conditions, lifestyle factors, and beyond.

- What is happening in our community?
- Why is it happening?
- What can we do about it?



What does an Epidemiologist do?

- ✓ Provide disease surveillance support to nurses
- ✓ Be a resource to provide population level guidance
- ✓ Collect and analyze data
- ✓ Lead research
- ✓ Create data visualizations, surveys
- ✓ Lead health education campaigns
- ✓ Identify, apply and provide research support for securing funding
- ✓ Translates data into clear, usable information
- ✓ Support health departments in making informed decisions



An Epidemiologist's Approach...

Epi's use a holistic approach to know what kind of data exists in every sector so that we can better understand

- WHO is in our communities
- WHAT the issues are
- WHO is being affected most

We do this so that we can provide ACTIONABLE solutions using data!

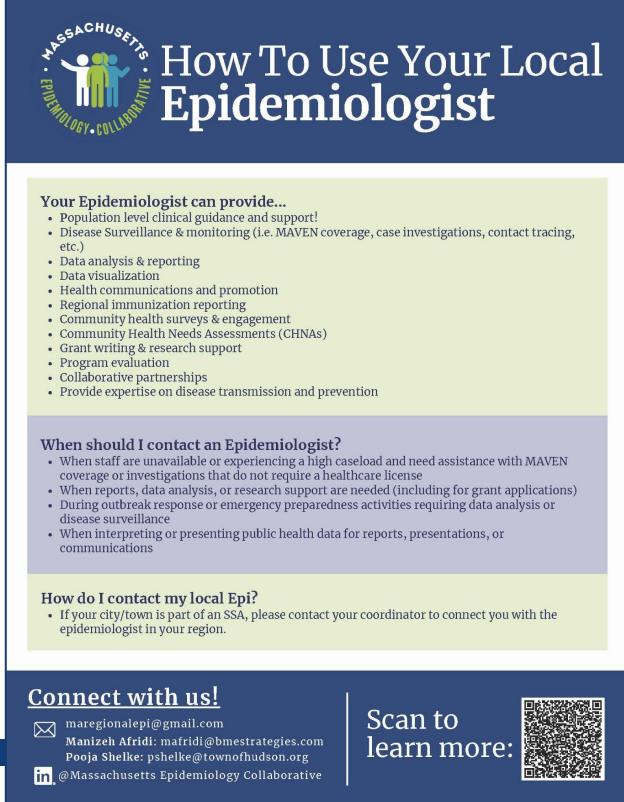
Data:



An Epi's Role in Supporting Local Public Health

Data = a tool for action and empowerment

- Focus resources
- Respond efficiently
- Meet the **REAL** needs of the community



How To Use Your Local Epidemiologist

MASSACHUSETTS EPIDEMIOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

Your Epidemiologist can provide...

- Population level clinical guidance and support!
- Disease Surveillance & monitoring (i.e. MAVEN coverage, case investigations, contact tracing, etc.)
- Data analysis & reporting
- Data visualization
- Health communications and promotion
- Regional immunization reporting
- Community health surveys & engagement
- Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs)
- Grant writing & research support
- Program evaluation
- Collaborative partnerships
- Provide expertise on disease transmission and prevention

When should I contact an Epidemiologist?

- When staff are unavailable or experiencing a high caseload and need assistance with MAVEN coverage or investigations that do not require a healthcare license
- When reports, data analysis, or research support are needed (including for grant applications)
- During outbreak response or emergency preparedness activities requiring data analysis or disease surveillance
- When interpreting or presenting public health data for reports, presentations, or communications

How do I contact my local Epi?

- If your city/town is part of an SSA, please contact your coordinator to connect you with the epidemiologist in your region.

Connect with us!

✉ maregionalepi@gmail.com
Manizeh Afzidi: mafzidi@bmestrategies.com
Pooja Shelle: pshelle@townofhudson.org

LinkedIn: [@Massachusetts Epidemiology Collaborative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-epidemiology-collaborative/)

Scan to learn more: 

What You'll Hear Today

Today's Speakers will share:

- Practical examples of epidemiology in action
- How data informs programs and policy
- Lessons learned from collaboration
- Opportunities to engage and partner
- How you can utilize data to communicate with your leadership and community partners

Today's Speakers:

1. **Ticked Off: From Surveillance to Solutions in a Community Facing a Tick Crisis**
Lea Hamner, MPH – Contract Epidemiologist, Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative
2. **Maternal and Child Health Dashboard: Improving Data Accessibility in Worcester**
Aimee Edmondo, MPH – Staff Epidemiologist, City of Worcester Division of Public Health
3. **Leveraging Epidemiology to Close the Postpartum Care Gap: Insights from NSMVP**
Steven Kahn, MPH & Laura Nash, MPH – Regional Epidemiologists, North Shore Public Health Collaborative
4. **Tobacco Retail Density in the South Coast Public Health Coalition**
Hannah Ragozzino, MPH – Regional Epidemiologist, South Coast Public Health Coalition
5. **Data Visualization and Community Reports**
Makayla Petty, MPH – Shared Service Coordinator / Regional Epidemiologist, Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health

Implication to Public Health Practice:

The Massachusetts Epi Collaborative offers a scalable model for strengthening local epidemiology through collaboration, shared resources, and standardized practices. *By embedding epidemiologists as core members of health departments, the collaborative advances modernization, promotes sustainability, and ensures communities have access to actionable data for informed decision-making.*



Thank you!

Contact us:

maregionalepi@gmail.com

Manizeh Afridi

mafriди@bmestrategies.com

Pooja Shelke

pshelke@townofhudson.org



Find us on LinkedIn:
[@MassachusettsEpidemiologyCollaborative](#)

Scan here to find out more!

