



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

**Course title:** PUBH7616 Burden of Disease Methods

**Course co-ordinator:** [Associate Professor Theo Vos](#)

**Mode:** Internal delivery as an intensive workshop; provisional dates: 30 November – 9 December 2009.

**Course introduction:**

This advanced course provides a working knowledge of the demographic and epidemiological principles underpinning measurement of the health of populations. You will be provided with detailed instruction and practical experience in conducting a national or sub-national burden of disease and injury study. The course emphasises acquisition of practical quantitative skills. You must already have knowledge of basic epidemiological and statistical methods, at the level of the core courses [PUBH7600 Introduction to Epidemiology](#) and [PUBH7630 Introduction to Biostatistics](#), as well as skills in *Excel* (entering formulas, use of arrays, making graphs).

**Course aims:**

The main aim of this course is for you to acquire the technical skills to critically examine and manipulate available mortality and morbidity data for a population and to summarise these findings using summary measures of population health.

**Course content**

This course is delivered via a combination of lectures, individual and group exercises. Specific topics include: summary measures of population health; basic demography; life tables; getting the mortality envelope right; causes of death; measuring and valuing health; non-fatal epidemiological estimates; disaggregating estimates for sub-national populations and health inequalities; Indigenous burden of disease estimates in Australia; attribution of disease burden to risk factors; presentation of results, application of burden of disease to priority setting and project management of a burden of disease study.

**Method of assessment**

Assessment comprises practical exercises and a take-home examination.

**Required text:**

Mathers CD, Vos T, Lopez AD, Salomon J, Ezzati M (ed.) (2001). *National burden of disease studies: a practical guide*. Edition 2.0. Global Program on Evidence for Health Policy. Geneva: World Health Organisation.

**Resources:**

**Study guide:** This contains the day-by-day learning materials for each module. These include learning objectives, the required reading, an introduction, a brief synopsis and key definitions, case studies, and then a series of practical exercises.

**Further details** are provided in the [Course Profile](#).

[http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course\\_code=PUBH7616](http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7616)