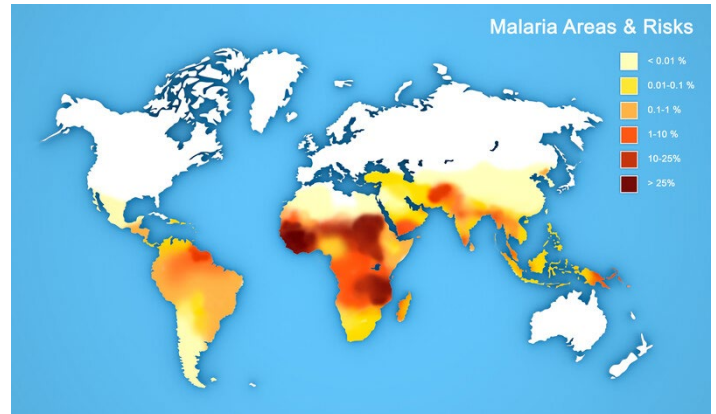


Word for Word

Incidence or prevalence?

The terms *incidence* and *prevalence* in the context of disease reporting are sometimes erroneously used interchangeably, but the two terms have distinct meanings.

Incidence refers to the number of new cases of a disease diagnosed during a specified period.¹ *Prevalence*, in contrast, is the proportion of a population living with a disease at a particular time, regardless of when it was diagnosed.²



Examples:

In City Z, which has a population of 50,000, approximately 1,000 cases of disease Y were diagnosed last year, for an incidence rate of 2%. Today, approximately 2500 residents of City Z have disease Y, indicating a prevalence of 5%.

According to SEER, an estimated 80,470 cases of bladder cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2019, reflecting an annual incidence rate of 20.1 cases per 100,000 people. The prevalence of bladder cancer in 2016 was 699,450.³

References

1. AMA Manual of Style, 10th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2007:872.
2. AMA Manual of Style, 10th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2007:887.
3. Cancer stat facts: bladder cancer. National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program.
<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/urinb.html>. Accessed July 2, 2019.

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