Epidemiology is the discipline for the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including diseases) in specified human populations, and the application of this study to the prevention and control of health problems. Epidemiology is the primary source of the knowledge that underlies public health policy and practice. As such, well-trained epidemiologists develop and evaluate hypotheses about the effects of various factors (risk factors) on human health and develop the knowledge basis for disease prevention and control programs.