

## Glossary

**age adjustment (or age standardization):** the statistical manipulation of aggregated data to remove the influence of age structure from mortality or morbidity rates

**age-specific mortality rates:** mortality rates for a specific age range within a population, as in infant mortality rate

**area (or neighborhood) effects:** the impact of a particular area on an individual or community's health and well-being

**cohort:** a group of study subjects who share some feature in common, such as time of birth or place of occupation

**collective efficacy:** the shared belief of individuals in a community that they can operate on behalf of the greater good and have the institutional capacity to act upon it

**correlation:** an association between two variables; if two variables increase or decrease together they are positively correlated, if they move in opposite directions they are negatively correlated

**crude (or raw) rates:** rates that are calculated without statistical manipulation to adjust for factors such as age structure; raw rates account only for population size

**Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY):** a measure of disease burden which takes into account the number of years of life lost as the consequence of disease or disability

**ecological fallacy:** the assumption that an association observed from aggregated data will necessarily apply at finer scales or to individuals

**excess deaths:** deaths beyond the number normally expected

**food insecurity:** lacking a stable and guaranteed supply of sufficient food

**health indicator:** an objective measure used to estimate the health of an individual or group of people; infant mortality is a common general health indicator

**incidence rate:** the number of *new* cases of a disease in a particular population over a specified time period per unit of that population, e.g., four diagnosed cases of tuberculosis per 1,000 people in 2011

**infant mortality rate:** the number of infants who die between birth and the age of one in a given year, usually reported per 1,000 live births

**landscapes of deprivation:** deprived areas, such as inner cities; the notion of a *landscape* of deprivation calls attention to the significance of the sense of place generated by these places

**life expectancy:** the average number of years an infant is expected to live, assuming that current mortality rates continue to apply

**maternal mortality rate:** the number of women who die within 42 days of childbirth (regardless of the cause) among women who bore a child in that particular year, usually reported per 100,000 live births

**morbidity:** poor health, disease

**mortality rate:** average number of deaths in a particular population per unit of that population (often per 1,000 or 100,000 people) over a specified time (typically one year)

**obesogenic:** characterized by factors that promote obesity

**prevalence:** the number of *existing* cases of a disease in a particular population per unit of that population, e.g., 14 percent of a specified population was obese in 2011

**rate:** the number of cases per unit of the population (often per 1,000 or per 100,000 people); rates are used to remove the influence of population size on figures

**risk environment:** the context in which risky behaviors occur; often used to emphasize the riskiness of places rather than the riskiness of behaviors

**sense of place:** the unique feeling or spirit of a particular place, associated with its social significance

**social capital:** social connections and networks that can serve to benefit both individuals and societies

**social cohesion:** the social bonds that hold a community together

**social determinants of health:** social, political, and economic conditions that influence the health status of individuals

**vulnerability:** the idea that underlying structural characteristics such as poverty, lack of political power, or exclusion from social networks put certain individuals at risk for health-compromising events