

# Paleoepidemiology: From bones to people

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Paleoepidemiology, a growing area of research, seeks to estimate disease prevalence in the past, the relative risk of dying for different segments of those societies, and the impact of trauma and disease on past communities. To date, researchers have focused on the first two topics, which involve taking into account challenges posed by dealing with mortality samples. Future work should also focus on the cost to past communities of disease or trauma-related disability and premature death, as measured through lost years of life. This workshop focuses on the concepts underlying paleoepidemiology, not specific analytical methods; highlights new developments that put the work on a solid quantitative and empirical footing; and points toward where this research should go to further our understanding of how people lived in the past.