Telling the Story of EIS, CDC, and Epidemiology

These products from science and popular culture focus on EIS, medical mysteries, disease outbreaks, CDC’s epidemiologic investigations, and public health milestones.

Articles

- CDC. Epidemiology and public health at CDC. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2006;55(Suppl No. 2):3-4. ([http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su5502a2.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su5502a2.htm) — Dr. Steve Thacker’s history of epidemiology at CDC.

Books (Fiction)

- *The Cobra Event* — Richard Preston — CDC sends an epidemiologist to investigate several deaths from what turns out to be a bioterror attempt. ([http://richardpreston.net/preston-books/the-cobra-event](http://richardpreston.net/preston-books/the-cobra-event))

Books (Nonfiction)

- *And the Band Played On* — Randy Shilts — Journalist chronicled the early history of the AIDS epidemic.
- *House on Fire: The Fight to Eradicate Smallpox* — William H. Foege, MD, MPH — EIS alum and former CDC Director gives an insider’s perspective on one of public health’s great achievements.
- *Smallpox* — *The Death of a Disease: The Inside Story of Eradicating a Worldwide Killer* — D.A. Henderson, MD, MPH — Noted epidemiologist and EIS alum tells the story of the surveillance and containment strategy that led to global eradication of smallpox.
- *Smallpox Zero* — Jonathan Roy — A global perspective of smallpox and epidemiology in action, presented with cartoon-like illustrations.

• *The Hot Zone* — Richard Preston — Delves into the origins of viral hemorrhagic fevers and an effort to stop an outbreak. ([http://www.richardpreston.net/books/hz.html](http://www.richardpreston.net/books/hz.html))

• *The Medical Detectives* — Berton Roueché — Collection of articles originally written for *The New Yorker* on 22 medical mysteries over a span of 30 years and the epidemiologic investigations that solved them.

**Movies and Television**

• *And the Band Played On* — HBO docudrama based on the book by Randy Shilts.

• *Contagion* — Action-thriller based on a global outbreak of a deadly viral disease. An international team of doctors and epidemiologists respond to a crisis. Stars Kate Winslet, Matt Damon, Jude Law, Marion Cotillard, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Laurence Fishburne.


• *Outbreak* — Two virologists from USAMRIID and CDC fight a virus in a small California community. Stars Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Donald Sutherland, and Kevin Spacey.

• *The Age of AIDS* — PBS Frontline interviews Dr. Jim Curran, who recounts the “shoe-leather epidemiology” that public health officials used to identify the new syndrome and ultimately the HIV virus. ([http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/interviews/curran.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/interviews/curran.html))

**Web Sites**

• CDC 24/7 — EIS is the core of CDC’s work. ([http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/?s_cid=24-7_013](http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/?s_cid=24-7_013))

• CDC Vital Signs — Offers recent data and calls to action for important public health issues. ([http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/))

• *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* — CDC’s primary vehicle for publishing epidemiologic investigations, useful public health information, and recommendations. ([http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/))

• The Importance of Epidemiology — Fast facts about the practice of epidemiology. ([http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/CDCFastFacts/epidemiology.html](http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/CDCFastFacts/epidemiology.html))