

Career Spotlight



CDC NERD Academy



Biostatistician

Biostatisticians provide consultation on data collection methods and analyze data to help answer health-related questions. They often use mathematics and statistical computer software programs to analyze large data sets and present findings. They prepare scientific reports using graphs and tables designed to make the data easier to understand. They also discuss limitations of analyses to prevent misconceptions about the data.

Who do they work with?

Biostatisticians often collaborate with epidemiologists and behavioral scientists to design and complete studies and evaluate public health programs and initiatives.

Where do they work?

Biostatisticians work in pharmaceutical companies, educational institutions, and research facilities. They also work in local and state health departments, and in federal and international public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

What skills do they use?

Biostatisticians use their strong math skills, critical-thinking skills and problem-solving skills to draw meaningful conclusions from data. They also need experience with computer programming and statistical software. They must also be able to communicate technical information verbally and in writing to technical and non-technical audiences.

What qualifications do they need?

Biostatisticians often have a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral-level degree in statistics, biostatistics, or a related field. It's helpful for them to have knowledge of analyses used in epidemiology to describe a disease in terms of person, place, and time (descriptive epidemiology) and of methods to study why and how a disease is occurring (analytic epidemiology).



Meet Bella,
a biostatistician

