EPIDAT 3.1

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
FROM TABULATED DATA

Developed by the Service of Epidemiology of the Dirección Xeral de Saúde Pública from the “Consellería de Sanidade” (Xunta de Galicia) in collaboration with the Unit of Health Analysis and Information Systems of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), on account of the Letter of Understanding existing between the “Consellería de Sanidade” and PAHO.

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Revision of the program features:

During the week comprised between September 16th and September 20th 2002, an introductory Workshop for the handling of Epidat 3.0 was carried out in the Instituto Nacional de Epidemiología of Mar del Plata (Argentina). Among its purposes were the presentation and collective appraisal of the program performance with the intention of improving it. The facilities given by those responsible from the Instituto Nacional de Epidemiología, as well as the enthusiasm and the participating attitude demonstrated by the assistants gave the definitive impulse to the conclusion of the program.

The participants in the Workshop, some of the authors and various Argentinean epidemiologists, were:

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PRESENTATION OF VERSION 3.0

Since in 1994 the first version of Epidat emerged in DOS format, our two institutions have been working and agglutinating around them a wide group of high qualified collaborators that have made possible this third version today pleases us to present. Epidat is already a known computer application among epidemiologists and other professionals from the Public Health field at an international level who have been using it during this last decade in different work scenarios, such as health services and health administration, and universities. Their work and the welcome received by the previous versions impelled us to continue with the eagerness initiated in 1991 and now we are able to offer a product that incorporates a great part of the most useful and modernized tools constituting the basis of epidemiologic analysis and its applications in technical environments as diverse as health surveillance, situational analysis, clinical epidemiology, demographic analysis and exploration of risks, among many others.

It is also necessary to highlight the example the project represents at the institutional level. During more than 10 years our organizations have collaborated through a specifically constituted working group scattered amid four countries. The modern communication technologies, as well as the zeal and perseverance of the technicians directly committed with the project, have made possible the birth of this tool that we endow today to all health professionals, as a modest contribution to their labor and, ultimately, with the hope of making a contribution to the health of the community.

Mirta Roses Periago 
Director 
PAHO

José María Hernández Cochón
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INTRODUCTION

Epidat is a free distribution program developed by public institutions and directed to epidemiologists and other health professionals, for the handling of tabulated data.

The project began in 1991 in the Dirección Xeral de Saúde Pública of the Xunta de Galicia as an answer to the necessity of having a calculator for basic statistical and epidemiologic consultations, due to the shortage and little accessibility to this type of programs. The development of Epidat was integrated within the frame of an agreement signed by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Consellería de Sanidade of the Xunta de Galicia with the aim of collaborating in research work within the health area.

The first Letter of Understanding, to renovate yearly, was signed in 1993 and in December of 1994 emerged version 1.0 which was a basic calculator for DOS environment. This first version of Epidat was distributed on demand and it had a wide distribution particularly in Brazil, after it was presented in a congress of the Latin American Society of Epidemiology held in Bahia in 1995.

Version 2.0, already presented in Windows environment, appeared in 1997, and in 1998 the multilingual 2.1 version began to be distributed. This version allows the selection among Catalan, Spanish, Galician, English and Portuguese.

In 2000 a 4 year multi annual agreement was signed between PAHO and the Consellería de Sanidade, giving shelter to the development of version 3.0. The workgroup of Epidat 3.0 is a multidisciplinary team with participation of epidemiologists, statisticians and computer scientists of Galicia, PAHO and Cuba, and which has followed a working protocol defined for the selection of tests, algorithms, programming and help issues.

In 2005, after a thorough revision process of Epidat 3.0, version 3.1 arose. This new version, besides corrections to errors and detected deficiencies, includes the option of choosing a language among Spanish, Galician, English and Portuguese.

Objectives

Epidat 3.0 and Epidat 3.1 operate in Windows environment (98SE or higher) and it continue to be predominantly oriented to the processing of tabulated data. In general, they attempt to satisfy the same objectives that the previous versions:

- To contribute with a tool of straightforward handling and useful for the analysis of tabulated data.
- To support and facilitate teaching Epidemiology, in the situation of technical cooperation as well as in the university.
- To strengthen the analytic capacity of health professionals throughout different countries.
- To provide a source for self-education in selected areas of Statistics applied to Epidemiology.
Novelties of version 3.0

In the third version of Epidat three basic characteristics must be highlighted: a substantial change in the environment which evolved toward the current standards of Windows, the incorporation of specific techniques which are not included in this type of software, and a much more explicit explanatory approach in the help issues, conceived with the desire of facilitating the understanding not only of the rules for the program operation but also of the conceptual essence of the techniques included in it.

In short, the novelties can be summarized this way:

- Microsoft Office usual environment is adopted, incorporating to the work area the bars of menus and tools.
- The help issues in hypertext, contained in the program, have been developed with a more didactic and more critical approach, including statistical and epidemiological basics.
- A general results window, which can be edited and saved in rtf format, has been included.
- In almost all modules the possibility of automatically import data from files with tables in Dbase, Access or Excel format has been included.
- Regarding the technical aspects, the contents of the program have been substantially increased with the integration of five new modules and some additional options within those modules that already existed in the previous version. The new modules are:
  - Demography: allows users to build population pyramids and mortality tables, to calculate potential years of life lost (PYLL), and to decompose the change in the expectation of life between two periods and find the years of life expectancy lost (YLEL).
  - Probability distributions: allows users to obtain distribution functions and their inverse ones for the main discrete and continuous distributions, as well as to represent them graphically. It also includes a sub module that generates random numbers according to the respective probability distribution on demand.
  - Bayesian analysis: a module of great interest given the growing demand for the Bayesian techniques and the virtual absence of a software to facilitate their application to basic problems, like the estimation and comparison of means and proportions.
  - Surveillance in public health: incorporates two options from the previous version, capture-recapture and cluster detection, included before in the Tables module. As a novelty, it contains a graphic method sub module allowing to detect the occurrence of a number of new cases of an illness above the expected one, and an option to estimate vaccination effectiveness.
  - Meta-analysis: provides the necessary statistical methods to carry out a synthesis of a group of studies, with results in text and graphics. It enables the user to calculate an effect measure for each study (OR, relative risk, risks differences or standardized mean differences) and a weighted global effect measure. It includes hypothesis testing complemented with graphics for evaluating the homogeneity of the studies and publication bias.
Novelties of version 3.1

Version 3.1 presents the following novelties with respect to version 3.0:

- The option of choosing the language among Spanish, Galician, English and Portuguese has been incorporated. The translation concerns the application and the general help issues, but not the help for the different modules.

- All the help topics of the program have been revised and improved. Furthermore, the help issue corresponding to the submodule of “Clusters Detection” within the module of “Surveillance in Public Health” has been added.

- The calculation of confidence intervals for the indicators evaluating diagnostic tests by means of the bootstrap method, has been newly implemented in the Diagnostic Tests module, Imperfect Test of Reference submodule with “known sensitivity and specificity” option.

- The errors detected in version 3.0 have been corrected. The detailed listing of errors can be requested from the web page of the “Dirección Xeral de Saúde Pública”. The listing is also available in pdf format (only in Spanish).

Program contents

Adjustment of rates
- Direct Method
- Indirect Method

Demography
- Pyramids and demographic indicators
- Abridged mortality tables
- PYLL
- Decomposition of the change in life expectancy
- Years of life expectancy lost

Sampling
- Sample size calculation
- Sample Selection
- Subjects assignment to treatment

Probability Distributions
- Distributions generation

Agreement and Consistency
- Observer agreement
  - Two observers, two or more categories
  - Three or more observers
  - Comparison of Kappa coefficients
- Consistency
  - Cronbach Alpha

Diagnostic tests
- Simple tests
- Multiple tests
- Imperfect Reference test
- ROC curve
- Lorenz curve
Contingency Tables
- Disease-exposure
- 2×2 tables
- 2×N tables
- General tables
- MxN tables
- Logistic Regression

Parameter inferences
- One population
- Two populations

Bayesian Analysis
- Proportions
- Means
- Contingency Tables
- Bayesian assessment of conventional tests

Surveillance in public health
- Capture-Recapture
- Clusters detection
- Graphs
- Follow-up waves
- Vaccination Effectiveness

Meta-analysis
- Odds Ratios
- Relative Risks
- Risk Differences
- Standardized mean Differences

Hierarchization
- Gini coefficient and Lorenz curve
- Concentration index and concentration curve
- Health need index
- Index of development in communitarian health
- Health inequity index
- Dissimilarity index
- Human development index
- Development index related to gender
INSTALLATION

WARNING: Epidat is a free distribution program. The members of the working group and the organizers who support them decline all responsibility derived from the inadequate use of the program.

Minimum configuration requirements

- IBM PC or compatible
- Processor at 200 MHz or higher
- RAM memory 32 Mb
- 10 Mb of free space in disk
- Operating system Windows98® SE or superior
- Screen Resolution of 800x600 pixels

Recommended configuration requirements

- IBM PC or compatible
- Processor at 500 MHz or superior
- RAM memory 128 Mb
- 10 Mb of free space in disk
- Operating system Windows2000® or WindowsXP®
- Screen Resolution of 1024x768 pixels

Installation process

- Execute the installation wizard (Epidat3.1.setup.exe) that will indicate you the steps throughout the installation process.
- Once the installation finished, you will be able to access the program from the Windows start menu. If it is not changed during the installation process the application will be available in Start\Programs\Epidat 3.1\Epidat or from C:\Program files\Epidat 3.1.

Additional tools (for computing operating systems other than Windows2000® or WindowsXP®)

For a correct operation Epidat 3.1 requires the installation of some additional tools. These tools are already included in the versions of Windows recommended for the execution of Epidat 3.1, Windows2000® or WindowsXP®, but not in the Windows98® SE. If your computer doesn't have these tools, the automatic loading of files will not work properly, thus it is necessary to check it.

In the web page of the Dirección Xeral de Saúde Pública [http://dxsp.sergas.es] you can find the necessary tools for the correct operation of Epidat, according to the installed version of Windows©. These tools should be installed before beginning the typical installation process of Epidat 3.1 in the next order:
1. Microsoft© DAO 2.6 or superior. It can be installed executing the file mdac_typ.exe.

2. Microsoft© Jet 4 Service Pack 5. It can be installed executing the file Jet40SP5_9xNT.exe.

If after the updating of these tools, Epidat 3.1 doesn't work properly it can be due to some deficiency in the installation of the operating system one of the PC. In these cases the user should update the Windows version to those recommended or revise the last versions of patches and service packs available in the Web of Microsoft© (http://www.microsoft.com/) for the version installed in the PC.

The installation of these tools does not guarantee the correct operation of Epidat 3.1 in versions previous to Windows98® SE, although the possibility exists that the program works with Windows95®, for instance, due to the libraries installed in the PC with other programs or applications.

**Help in pdf format**

The help files are also available in pdf format. They can be downloaded from the web page: http://dxsp.sergas.es.

Note. - The folder containing the files of the examples from the help topics will be installed by default in the folder “Examples” within the route where the application has been installed.
APPLICATION GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

The third version of Epidat, compared to the previous versions, presents an important difference in the application general environment, it has been adapted to the current standards of Windows with the incorporation of menus and tools bars.

The program presents a main screen, with access to the menu and to some options of the toolbar, as it is detailed in the description section of this bar; and a screen for general results, where all the results carried out during the work session with the different modules, are stored. The icon “Pre view” of the toolbar gives access to this latter screen.

From the main screen there is an access to the methods menu which contains the twelve modules included in this new version of Epidat. It is not possible to work with more than one module simultaneously, a module can only be opened up if there is no other module active.

**Toolbar**

When starting up Epidat many buttons will be viewed in this bar, all inactive, except the one for accessing the general results and the help windows. When a certain method is chosen and the data requested by the program are introduced, the calculator button becomes active; this button must be clicked for Epidat to carry out the calculations. The rest of the buttons are activated from the general results window.

Calculate: is activated once completed the data entry of the module we are working with and whenever those data fulfill the conditions of the corresponding method. After clicking the button, the program carries out the calculations, shows the results in the text pane of the active window and also shifts to the results window if requested.
Results window: Shows or hides the general results screen. In this screen all the results obtained during the work session with the different modules are stored.

Help: Shows the help file.

Active buttons in the results window and executing actions only in this window (except the “erase” button):

New file: Clean the outputs to begin registering them.

Open file: Opens the output file.

Save file: Saves the output file.

Cut: once selected a text, you can use this button to eliminate it, although it copies it to the clipboard of Windows©.

Copy: Copies the selected text to the clipboard of Windows©.

Paste: Copies to the output text whatever is in the clipboard of Windows©.

Erase: This button erases the selected text, if you are in the results window or it cleans the data and results if you are in one of the module screens.

Undo: Undoes the last modification in the results window.

Redo: Re-does the last job undone in the results window.

Direct printing: Prints the information contained in the results window using the default printer.

Menus bar

The menus bar includes the following options:

File: typical options for file handling.

Edition: basic options editing any application of Windows©.

Methods: Contains the different modules integrating the application.

Utilities: extra options (Language). You must restart the program for the language change to become effective.

Help: Shows the help issues.
Options of the File menu:

- **New**: Creates new output document.
- **Open**: Opens an output document.
- **Save**: Saves the output document.
- **Save as**: Saves the output document changing its name.
- **Print**: Prints the output document.
- **Configure printer**: Defines which printer will be used.
- **Exit**: Exits the application.

Four option lines are reserved where the names of the last four saved output documents are viewed and accessible.

The other menus comprise this same distribution typical of Windows©; those appearing inside the Methods are very diverse and can be viewed in the same program.

**Results window**

The results window stores all the results of the calculations carried out during the work session in the different modules. This window consists of two parts: on the right side, the text pane where the results are saved, on the left side, an index of all the carried out calculations, with the name of the corresponding method.

The text pane can be edited and saved as a file in rtf format. The indexes pane enables you to rapidly access each carried out calculation by clicking the corresponding number. If you erase one of the indexes the whole associated text in the right pane is also erased.
**Modules general handling**

One of the prominent novelties of Epidat 3 is the possibility of importing data tables from files in one of the following formats:

- Excel
- Access
- DBase and compatible formats
The automatic data loading is carried out in a similar way in all the modules or submodules allowing this possibility. In the screen of the module you can choose among manual or automatic data entry; when the latter is selected, a dialog box opens up allowing you to search the file in the directory where it was saved.

If the selected format is Excel, when you click the name of the wanted file in the left pane, in the right pane of the screen appears the list of the different spreadsheets contained in the Excel book. For the data loading to work correctly, it is necessary, to choose both the file and the spreadsheet, unless the Excel file contains a single spreadsheet, in which case it won't be necessary to mark it. The same applies to the different tables integrating Access databases.

The imported files cannot be visualized. The way to load the data consists on identifying, in the open table, each one of the fields needed for the calculations.

**General warnings**

**The button “calculate”:**

The windows of the different modules of Epidat 3.1 do not include a “calculate” button to indicate the program to carry out the calculations. This button is available in the toolbar and its icon is a calculator.

The button “calculate” appears initially disabled; it is activated once completed the data entry in the module you are working with and whenever those data fulfill the conditions of the corresponding method. When clicking the button, the program carries out the calculations, it shows the calculated results in the text pane of the active window and also in the results window.

**The general results window:**

All results generated by Epidat 3.1 during a work session are saved in a general window of results. The access to this window from the main screen is achieved clicking the “Preview” icon that also allows you to return to the main screen.

**The manual data entry:**

When the data entry is carried out in a manual way, to switch from one datum to the next one with the keyboard you use the tabulator, except in the tables, where advances are done with an “Enter.”

**The automatic data entry:**

When you select the option of automatic data entry, a dialog box opens up allowing to search the file in the directory where it is saved. If the elected format is Excel, when you click the name of the wanted file, in the right pane of the screen appears the listing of the different spreadsheets contained in the Excel book. It is indispensable, for the data load to work correctly, to choose the file and the spreadsheet as well, unless the Excel file contains a single spreadsheet, in which case it won't be necessary to mark it.
Saving results:

Each screen of Epidat 3.1 has a text pane where the results obtained are reproduced; however, this text is not editable neither can it be copied. To save the results you need to access the general results window which is editable and can be saved in rtf format for its later handling in a word processor.