

# Telling the Story of EIS, CDC, and Epidemiology

Share this list with prospective Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) candidates or anyone interested in public health as a career. 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. *Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2006;55(Suppl No. 2):3-4. (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su5502a2.htm>) — Dr. Steve Thacker's history of epidemiology at CDC
- Hinman AR, Orenstein WA, Schuchat A. Vaccine-preventable diseases, immunizations, and the Epidemic Intelligence Service. *Am J Epidemiol.* 2011; 174(11 Suppl.): S16-22. — Authors describe past and future role of EIS in epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization program implementation

## 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>)

## Books (Nonfiction)

- *And the Band Played On* — Randy Shilts — Journalist chronicled the early history of the AIDS epidemic.
- *Beating Back the Devil: On the Front Lines with the Disease Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service* — Maryn McKenna — Award-winning science journalist shadows the first EIS class after September 11, 2001. (<http://www.beatingbackthedevel.com/>)
- *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.
- *Inside the Outbreaks: The Elite Medical Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service* — Mark Pendergrast — A journalist's history of EIS and compilation of case studies. (<http://markpendergrast.com/inside-the-outbreaks>)
- *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 Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance* — Laurie Garrett — Award-winning science journalist's overview of epidemics references EIS. (<http://lauriegarrett.com/the-coming-plague/>)
- *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>)
- *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.
- *Ebola: The Plague Hunters* — PBS Nova documentary about the 1995 Ebola virus outbreak in Zaire.
- *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>)

## 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/>)
- *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/>)
- The Importance of Epidemiology — Fast facts about the practice of epidemiology. (<http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/CDCFastFacts/epidemiology.html>)