Note that when the risk ratio is less than unity, the relations above calculate the opposite bounds. The near 95% confidence bound (the lower bound if the risk ratio is greater than unity or the upper bound if the risk ratio is less than unity) provides a clear intuitive message about how close to the null value (RR=1.0) the results of any observational study could be. This is much more informative than simply saying that the associated probability of rejecting the null was 0.01.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC FORMS OF BIAS

There are three forms of systematic distortion or bias distinguished according to the logical flaw: selection bias, misclassification, and confounding. For detailed explanations of these concepts, see Freeman and McGowan[8,9,13] and Freeman, Goldmann, and McGowan.[17]

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CDC and SHEA Training Course in Hospital Epidemiology

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The CDC and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) will cosponsor a hospital epidemiology training course on May 18-21, 1996, in New York City. The course, designed for infectious disease fellows, new hospital epidemiologists, and infection control practitioners, provides hands-on exercises to improve skills in detection, investigation, and control of epidemiologic problems encountered in the hospital setting, as well as lectures on fundamental aspects of hospital epidemiology. Co-chairs of the course are Dr. William J. Martone, Dr. Timothy Lane, and Ms. Gina Pugliese. Additional information is available from the SHEA Meetings Department, 875 Kings Hwy, Suite 200, Woodbury NJ 08095-3172; telephone (609) 845-1720; fax: (609) 853-0411.