

# Modelling in Public Health

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# Background

Infectious diseases are a serious **burden** for human health

Results in **loss of QUALYs** and also money

WHO: **50,000 deaths per day** due to infectious diseases

Outbreaks vs endemic infection

Different chains of **transmission**:



# Outbreaks



## Influenza pandemic “swine flu”

Global, 2009-2010, 100,000 – 400,000 deaths

## Ebola

West Africa, 2014-2016, 11,000 deaths

DRC, since 2018, 1,900 deaths

## Zika Virus

Brazil, 2015-2016, ca. 215,000 cases (CHECK!) worldwide

## Measles

Europe, 2019, ca. 6,300 cases from Jan–Apr

Austria, 2019, more than 130 cases up to this week

# How can modellers help?

## Outbreak situations:

- Exploit all data

- Inform response team in real time

## Non outbreak situations:

- Evaluate health programmes (vaccination, WHO elimination targets)

- Find high impact and cost-effective interventions

- Allow evidence based decisions

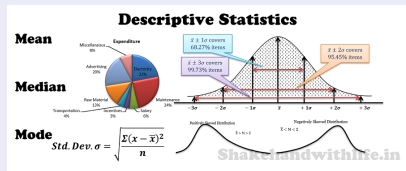
## Benefits of modelling:

- Cheap: Clinical trials are expensive and seldom large enough

- Often little or no data to analyse (new emerging diseases)

# Types of models

## Statistical



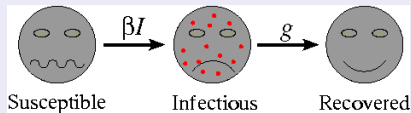
Descriptive

Regression

Bayesian statistics

Spatial models

## Mathematical



Dynamic, compartmental (SIR)

Stochastic - Markov chain

Deterministic

Agent-based

# Intervention effect - Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)

Caused by ***Streptococcus pneumoniae***

90 distinct pneumococcal serotypes

Highest burden: **infants** and **elderly**

Pneumococcal conjugate **vaccine** **introduced** in 2012 in AT for children



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**Vaccine effect? Direct? Indirect (elderly)?**



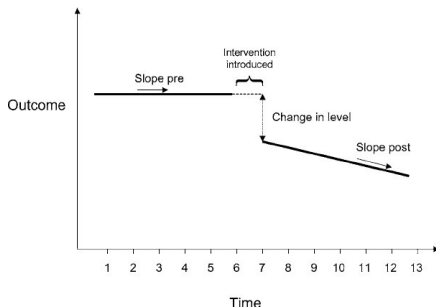
# Segmented Regression - The Model

## Serfling-like Model

$$\begin{aligned}\log(Y_t) = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 t + \beta_2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi t}{12}\right) + \beta_3 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{12}\right) \\ & + \beta_5 (t - t_0)^+ + \mathbb{1}_{t-t_0>0} \left[ \beta_4 + \beta_6 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi t}{12}\right) + \beta_7 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{12}\right) \right] \\ & + \log(pop_t)\end{aligned}$$

with

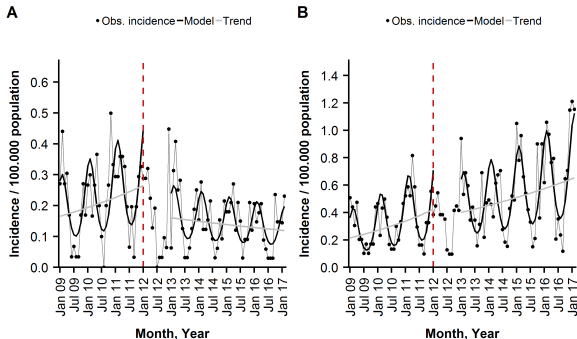
$$(x)^+ = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x > 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Richter et al., 2019

# IPD - Results

**Figure:** Monthly incidence of (A) **vaccine type IPD** (B) **non vaccine type IPD**, among the  $\geq 50$  years old, observed and modelled, Austria

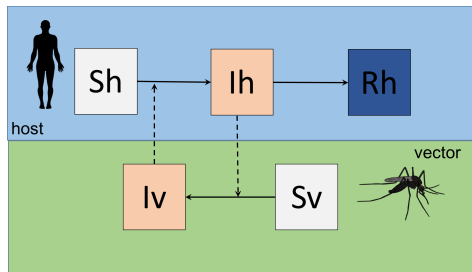


# Mathematical modelling - Zika Virus

Zika introduction

# Transmission model of Zika Virus

Vars	Description
$S_h$	Susceptible Humans
$I_h$	Infected/Infectious humans
$R_h$	Humans recovered from infection (with lifelong immunity)
$S_v$	Susceptible vectors
$E_v$	Exposed vectors



adapted from  
<https://www.reconlearn.org/> and Ferguson et al., 2016

# Transmission model of Zika Virus

## Humans/Host

$$\frac{dS_h}{dt} = \mu_h N_h - \frac{\beta_h b}{N_h} S_h I_v - \mu_h S_h$$

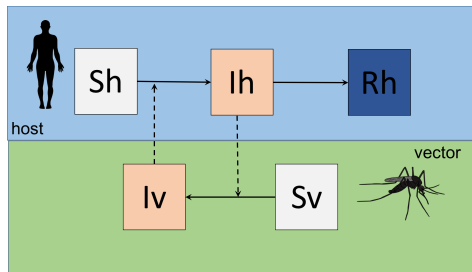
$$\frac{dI_h}{dt} = \frac{\beta_h b}{N_h} S_h I_v - (\gamma_h + \mu_h) I_h$$

$$\frac{dR_h}{dt} = \gamma_h I_h - \mu_h I_h$$

## Vectors

$$\frac{dS_v}{dt} = \mu_v N_v - \frac{\beta_v b}{N_h} I_h S_v - \mu_v S_v$$

$$\frac{dI_v}{dt} = \frac{\beta_v b}{N_h} I_h S_v - \mu_v I_v$$



adapted from  
<https://www.reconlearn.org/> and Ferguson et al., 2016

# Other Applications

Sexually transmitted  
infections (STI)

Ebola

Malaria

Influenza mortality

Foodborne outbreaks

Tuberculosis

Hepatitis C elimination

## Conclusion/Wrap up

We saw some examples of applied modelling

Modelling plays an increasingly important role in helping to guide the most high impact and cost-effective prevent disease

models can be critical tools in guiding public health action.

Always comes with limitations

Decision makers benefit - so do the affected people

still a lot to do - a number of challenges in achieving a successful interface between modelling and public health

[illegible]





# Any questions?

# References

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