

Glossary

THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

D

dose the amount of a harmful substance to which a person is exposed; the quantity of medicine that needs to be taken over a period of time

dose-response curve a graph that shows the relative effect of various doses of a drug or chemical on an organism or organisms

E

epidemiology (EP uh DEE me AHL uh jee) the study of the distribution of diseases in populations and the study of factors that influence the occurrence and spread of disease

H

host an organism from which a parasite takes food and shelter

P

particulates (pahR TIK yoo lits) fine particles that are suspended in the atmosphere and that are associated with air pollution

pathogen a virus, microorganism, or other substance that causes disease; an infectious agent

R

risk assessment the scientific assessment, study, and management of risk; a scientific estimation of the likelihood of negative effects that may result from exposure to a specific hazard

T

toxicology the study of toxic substances, including their nature, effects, detection, methods of treatment, and exposure control

V

vector in biology, any agent, such as a plasmid or a virus, that can incorporate foreign DNA and transfer that DNA from one organism to another; an intermediate host that transfers a pathogen or a parasite to another organism