What is Biostatistics?
Biostatistics is the branch of applied statistics that involves developing and applying statistical techniques to scientific research which is done in health-related fields, such as public health, medicine and epidemiology.

What do Biostatisticians do?

Research Question
Every study begins with a research question which needs to be answered using statistics, we help to answer this question.

Where can Biostatisticians work?
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Human Science Research Council (HSRC)
- Pharmaceutical industry (e.g. Quintiles, Paraxel)
- Health care and health insurance industry (Discovery)
- University medical schools e.g UKZN (Africa Centre & Centre for the AIDS program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA))

What do you need to become a Biostatistician?
- High School: Mathematics and Science
- Tertiary: Bachelor of Science Degree with Statistics and Mathematics as majors
- Post Graduate Degree: Honours and Masters in Statistics/Biostatistics
We provide statistical, methodological and data analysis support to medical and health researchers working within the MRC network, both nationally and internationally. The diagram below shows a few of the MRC research units that we are working with and the type of research questions that we helped them to answer:

**Drug & Alcohol Abuse**
Is there a relationship between taking drugs and high school drop-out?

**HIV & AIDS**
How many 15-24 year olds are HIV positive?

**Cancer**
Does smoking cause lung cancer?

**Genetics**
Is your body weight hereditary?

For more information, call (021) 938 0335 OR visit our website: [http://www.mrc.ac.za/biostatistics/biostatistics.htm](http://www.mrc.ac.za/biostatistics/biostatistics.htm)

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