

Difference Between Pandemic and Endemic

In the field of epidemiology, pandemic and endemic are two interrelated terms which are fundamentally different from each other.

A pandemic is a spread of disease over a large region that covers entire nations or even continents affecting a substantial part of the population

An infection is termed as endemic when it is maintained in a population at a baseline level of the geographic area without the help of any external sources.

This article will further elaborate upon the two terms within the context of the civil services examination.

The difference between a pandemic and endemic is given in the table below:

Difference Between Pandemic and Endemic	
Pandemic	Endemic
Pandemic is a term used to describe a situation when the spread of disease is global in nature	Endemic is used to describe a disease that is present permanently in a specific region or a group of people
A pandemic spreads at a faster rate affecting large swathes of the population and is usually caused by new strains of a virus that has been dormant for many years	An endemic disease is at times seasonal and spread of infection is dependent on factors such as geography and sanitation
The Spanish Flu of the early 20th century and the more recent COVID-19 are examples of a pandemic	Malaria is an example of an endemic disease that is common in Africa and in certain regions of Asia
A widespread endemic disease with a stable number of infected people is not a pandemic	Usually, in the event of an endemic spread, the number of infections is stable
A disease or condition is not a pandemic merely because it kills or infects many people; it must also be infectious and spread over a large area, specifically beyond the geographic confines of the original infected area	An infection that starts as an epidemic will eventually either die out or reach the endemic steady state, depending on a number of factors, including the virulence of the disease and its mode of transmission.
Pandemic is derived from the Greek word “ <i>pan</i> ” meaning all and “ <i>demos</i> ” meaning	Endemic is derived from the Greek word “ <i>en</i> ”

people

meaning in or within and "*demos*" meaning people