



**Institute for Epidemiology
and Prevention Research GmbH**

Mission-Statement

BIPS mission:

The population is at the centre of our research. As an epidemiological research institute, our mission is to discover causes of health problems and to develop new concepts for disease prevention. Our goals are to disseminate the research results in society, to inform the general public about health risks, and to contribute to a healthy living environment.

We pursue these goals with interdisciplinary teams of researchers and technical staff whose expertise covers a broad spectrum of methodologies from medicine, the natural sciences, and liberal arts.

We study the general public, high risk groups, and selected groups of patients. We describe the spread of diseases in the population, identify causes of illness, and name starting points for primary prevention. The emphasis is on the identification of harmful influences in the surroundings or at the work place, the investigation of drug safety, and the influence of lifestyle and individual predisposition on health.

The aetiological research provides the basis for the development of innovative strategies for prevention and health promotion. We investigate the effectiveness of these strategies in selective groups of the population. This scientific evaluation is the foundation for new intervention programmes with which we want to counter the advance of prevalent widespread diseases particularly in children and the elderly. Our service is the transfer of evidence-based programmes to society, politicians, and other institutions of the health sector.

We continuously refine the scientific methods and instruments of our research activities. The close interaction between our methodological research and the content-related tasks of the different research projects ensures the quality of our research and facilitates the optimisation of our methodological inventory for its respective purpose. We are committed to adhering to the "Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice"¹ of the DFG (German Research Foundation) and the "Good Epidemiological Practice"² of the German Society of Epidemiology (Gesellschaft für Epidemiologie, DGEpi).

As an epidemiological research institute we are closely linked to the University of Bremen and comply with its core values for research and education, social responsibility, equal rights, and a critical awareness for resources and would like to contribute to their development and sustainability. To us research in aetiology and prevention are integral parts of public health with clear connections to political and social matters. We are aware of the methodological and ethical obligations which result from our concept of public health. We assume this responsibility in dealing with colleagues, co-workers, students, and all those people who are involved in our studies and projects. Our communications and dealings are open and characterised by respect, acceptance, and integration.

¹ http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/dfg_im_profil/reden_stellungnahmen/download/empfehlung_wiss_praxis_0198.pdf

² <http://www.dgepi.de/pdf/infoboard/stellungnahme/GEP%20mit%20Ergaenzung.pdf>