Dose Response Encyclopedia Article

Dose Response

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Dose Response

Dose response is the relationship between the effect on living things and a stimulus from a physical, chemical, or biological source. Examples of stimuli include therapeutic drugs, pesticides, pathogens, and radiation. A quantal response occurs when the living thing either responds or does not respond to a stimulus of a given dose. Graded responses proportional to the size of the stimulus are also found in environmental applications. Some types of responses have a significant time effect. The Effective Dose for affecting 50% of a population of test subjects, ED_{50}, and the Lethal Dose for killing 50% of a population of test subjects, $\mathbf{LD_{50}}$, are commonly used parameters for reporting the toxicity of an environmental pollutant.

See Also

Pollution; Radiation Exposure; Toxic Substance