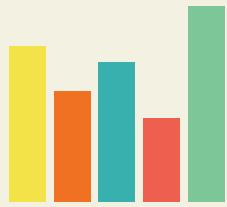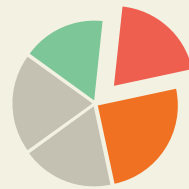# Prevalence VS Incidence

These disease statistics are used by healthcare leaders to make decisions regarding health priorities and resource allocation.
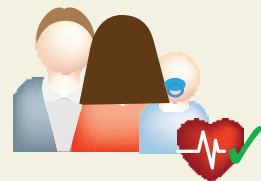
Prevalence refers to the total number of cases of a disease for a specific population at a specific point in time. Prevalence is a useful figure to evaluate how many individuals have a disease or condition, and this can be viewed as the overall impact of the disease.

Incidence is the number of NEW cases of a disease or condition in a population that occur during a specific time. This is an important figure in determining how rapidly a disease or condition is spreading. Incidence does not include cases of the disease or condition already existing within the population.

Incidence and prevalence are used to determine the severity and urgency of health issues. Knowledge of the spread and impact of diseases is used to make decisions about public health response, resource allocation, funding, and health promotion activities.

Incidence and prevalence are important for all kinds of diseases and conditions, such as:

- **Chronic diseases**
- **Obesity**
- **Genetic diseases**
- **Health risk factors**