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Text on Screen: Public Health Careers: Biostatistician

Simone: CDC Biostatistician Simone Gray, PhD, shares her story.

I'm a biostatistician. I like to translate data. What that means is that I like to find connections between illness and death and take those connections and explain to others what the data and the numbers show. I work in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, and I work with on cancer data trying to identify some causes to that particular illness.

And once we identify those causes, we can then come up with solutions to remove or protect people from that particular illness. I have an undergraduate degree in mathematics, and that was where I developed my love for numbers problem solving, analyzing data. From there, I went on to graduate school and got a degree in statistics. I have a master's and a Ph.D. in statistical science and biostatistics is simply just taking statistics and applying it to the field of public health.

So in addition to the analytical skills that you need to be a statistician, you also need specific skills that are applicable to many jobs, like listening, ability to write clearly, and your ability to communicate with others.

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