Diagrams Related to the Development of Disease and Infection

Figure 1. Pathogens and the Immune System

Pathogens and the immune system are in a constant tug-of-war. A reservoir of susceptible hosts allows the pathogen to persist. The immune system is always trying to elude pathogens.

Figure 2. Persistence

For a pathogen to persist, it must continually infect new hosts. If there are no susceptible hosts, the pathogen cannot survive. Varied habitats (the reservoir) of susceptible hosts allow pathogens to persist.