## Geocoding Public Health Data: The Next Generation

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ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Geospatial Research, Analysis and Services Program/Division of Health Studies

## **Presentation Overview**

Project Background
Data Acquisition
Methodological Issues
Next Steps



### 2500 BC Clay Tablet Map from Ga-Sur

http://www.henry-davis.com/MAPS/AncientWebPages/100mono.html





#### **Ortelius Atlas 1570**

## **Definitions**

- Geocoding is "the process by which an entity on the earth's surface, a household, for example, is given a label identifying its location with respect to some common point or frame of reference"<sup>1</sup>
- Address matching is "A specialized case of feature matching, strictly dealing with matching postal street addresses to features in the reference data source, usually TIGER type street segments or areal unit delineations (Census delineations, USPS ZIP Code de-lineations, etc.). "<sup>2</sup>

1(Goodchild, 1984, p. 33).

2 Goldberg DW: A Geocoding Best Practices Guide. Springfield, IL: North American Association of Central Cancer Registries; 2008.









## **Geocoding Systems Options**

### Geocoding options

- Commercial
- Open source
- Build your own



## **Geocoding Systems Options**

### What option is best?

- Number of records geocoding
- Level of expertise and technology support
- Cost







## **Previous Geocoding Systems Evaluations and Experiences**



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NAACCR -----

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- Previous research describing variability by geocoding software
- Limited nationally representative data
- Limited evaluation of match and error codes

## **Data Acquisition**

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- 2 Commercial
- 2 Open-source
- TeleAtlas 2008

## **Data Acquisition**

### Data for evaluation

- Public health focus
- Address level data
- EMS emergency responses to cardiac arrest events
- Residential and business addresses
- Cities across the United States

#### Element for comparison

Tax parcel polygons





















### **Next Steps**

- Larger dataset with greater tax parcel polygon and metadata
- Explore matching tax parcels with street addresses
- Evaluation of geocoded points to parcel centroids and/or centerline offsets, address ranges
- Utilization of orthoimagery

### CARES Project Team

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 Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program, ATSDR

#### GIS Offices

- Anchorage
- Columbus
- Denver
- Durham
- Fulton
- Houston
- Kansas City
- Las Vegas
- Richmond
- San Diego
- Sioux Falls
- Sterling Heights
- Suffolk
- Travis
- Wake
- Williamson
- Wilmington

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.