Abstract

Georeferencing Mortality Records: Approaches, Reliability, and Assessment of Bias
Track: Health and Human Services
Author(s): Frank Howell, Carl Haydel, Gregory Works

The geocoding of mortality records based upon coroner's death certificates in Mississippi is described as a didactic model for other health researchers using GIS for spatial modeling of mortality outcomes. Mortality records for the State of Mississippi during the period from 1980 to 2000 are georeferenced and aspects of what leads to successful or unsuccessful geocoding are summarized. A new approach to assessing the "bias" in this type of geocoding is presented in this paper as a means of assisting other health researchers to understand the appropriate uses and limitations of this type of data.

Frank Howell
Mississippi State University
Sociology
P.O. Box C
200 Bowen Hall, Hardy Road
Mississippi State University, MS 39762
USA
Phone: 662.325.7872
Fax: 662.325.4060
E-mail: fmh1@ra.msstate.edu

Carl Haydel
Mississippi Dept. of Health
Public Health Statistics
571 Stadium Drive
Jackson 39215
USA
Phone: 601.576.7966
Fax: 601.576.7505
E-mail: chaydel@msdh.state.ms.us

Gregory Works
private consultant
1265 Kendall Dr. #1614
San Bernardino 92407
USA
Phone: (909) 475-8053
E-mail: gaw2@ra.msstate.edu