

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Public Health

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Propositions

Boris Kauh

1. The use of GIS should be mandatory for demand-based planning and allocation of healthcare and targeted prevention strategies (this thesis)
2. The environment where people live in is more important for health outcomes than people`s behaviour (this thesis)
3. Detecting disease outbreaks in surveillance data without GIS leads to a waste of resources (this thesis)
4. Analysing diseases without acknowledging geographic aspects is a recipe for failure (this thesis)
5. GIS are most effective when they are implemented at the local level rather than national level (this thesis)
6. The structure of administrative data in Germany hinders comprehensive spatial epidemiological studies
7. Health insurance providers should be aware of the incredible value of geocoded health insurance claims to make best use of their available financial resources – and thus ultimately of the health insurance contributions of their members
8. Unless geographic aspects of health and disease are acknowledged and taught in public health, public health will only scratch on the surface
9. “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.” – Martin Luther King Jr.