GIS Quick Tips

Presented by CDC's Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention GIS Exchange

For more information visit the GIS Exchange website:

https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/maps/gisx/index.html

Workaround for Selecting Data 'Not Within'

You can also select by attribute from within the attribute table, which is the same selection method found under the selection tab on the ArcMap ribbon which uses a query to select data. Within the attribute table you have the option to 'switch selection'. This feature allows you to overcome a quirk with ArcMap in that you are only allowed to select data that are 'within' a selection range when what you really want are those data that are outside of a selection range.

Let's say you want all points that lie outside a quarter mile buffer of a feature. ArcMap will not allow you to select those points 'outside' the buffer, only those within. So, select the points within the buffer using the 'select by location' feature, and then switch the selection. Now, all points outside the buffer are selected.