

# GIS EXPRESS

## For Chronic Disease



A newsletter brought to you by  
CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

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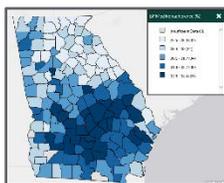
### The Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke features much more than heart disease and stroke data!

The Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention launched its first interactive county-level mapping application in 2006. The original application focused primarily on mortality and hospitalization data. Since then we have continued to update the content, methods, and tools available. The [current Atlas](#) has expanded to include data that impacts heart disease and stroke outcomes. This includes risk factors, social and economic data, health care delivery data, and cost of care, along with analytical tools such as hot spot analysis. Data can also be easily downloaded. Be sure to bookmark the *Atlas* in your browser for easy reference in the future.



We welcome your impressions and requests. You can reach us at [GISXmoderator@cdc.gov](mailto:GISXmoderator@cdc.gov)

The Small Area Analysis Team, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC



### The Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke Features a Wealth of County-Level Data Downloadable in Spreadsheet or Shapefile Format.

You can do more than simply view data and maps on the Atlas, you can download the Atlas data in multiple formats for use in your own analysis or map creation. GIS ready shapefiles, file geodatabase formats, as well as spreadsheets in .CSV format are available to you with the click of your mouse. Socioeconomic data are also available by census tract. [Visit the Atlas](#) to get the most current heart disease, stroke, cost of care, blood pressure medication adherence, and social demographic data that are available.



### Find Tips for Creating Public Health Maps on the GIS Exchange.

Are you new to creating maps for public health and feel like you could use some guidance? Perhaps you simply need a refresher if it has been a while since you created your last map. Either way, you can find the resources and guidance that you need on the Chronic Disease GIS Exchange. Our Tips for

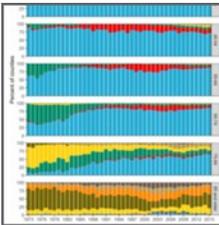
Creating Public Health Maps pages include a review of the different classification methods and their impact on data, a review of basic map elements, an overview of the types of thematic maps, and a downloadable .PDF of Cartographic Guidelines for Public Health. These resources will help you design and layout your next map to maximize its effectiveness. Visit the GIS Exchange and explore the resources available to help you make your next map your best map!



### **GIS Quick Tip: Visualizing Multiple Administrative Boundaries**

When your map contains several layers of administrative boundaries such as state, county, and census, vary the color value and width of the line such that the most important boundary is the darkest and widest and the least important boundary is lighter and thinner.

Find more Quick Tips with step by step instructions [on the Chronic Disease GIS Exchange](#)



### **New paper examines county-level differences in heart disease mortality by age, race, and gender.**

A study [recently published](#) in SSM-Population Health looked at 43 years of differences in heart disease mortality by age, race, and gender for counties across the United States. This paper found disparities that had not been observed at national levels, including many counties where black women had higher heart disease death rates than white men, especially in younger ages. These results suggest that there are instances when social determinants can offset biologic protections.



### **Environmental exposures and chronic disease: data and tools to aid public health responses**

The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network brings together data and information from a variety of sources into a single, dynamic system so that public health officials and others can respond quickly, often within hours, to community concerns. The Tracking Network has recently added a tool to assist public health practitioners and emergency responders identify populations at risk for exposure to wildfire smoke and make informed decisions before, during, and after wildfire smoke emergencies. The wildfire smoke tool uses predicted wildfire smoke data from the National Weather Service to show forecasted concentrations of wildfire smoke in a map display. Along with the smoke data, the Tracking Network supplies a selection of its county- and census tract-level data that highlight areas where people may be most affected by exposure to wildfire smoke. Give the Tracking Network's Data Explorer a try at <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/>.



## Upcoming Conferences and Events

[North Carolina GIS Annual Conference Feb. 27-Mar 1](#), Winston Salem, NC

[American Association of Geographers Annual Conference, April 3-7](#), Washington, D.C.

[Tennessee Geographic Information Council \(TNGIC\) April 23-35](#), Chattanooga, TN

[CalGIS, April 8-10](#), Fresno, CA

[Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, June 2-6](#), Raleigh, NC

[ESRI International User Conference, July 8-12](#), San Diego, CA

[Ohio GIS conference Sept. 23-25](#), Columbus, OH

[GIS-Pro , September 28 - October 2](#), New Orleans, LA

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Nov 2-6](#), Philadelphia, PA

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Have you had a paper accepted for publication, know of an upcoming and relevant webinar, or made a presentation where GIS was an integral part of the content? We invite you to share your news and content ideas by emailing [GISXmoderator@CDC.gov](mailto:GISXmoderator@CDC.gov)

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National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

