

# Course Reminders

## Important Dates:

- A4 due Sunday (11:59 PM)

## Notes:

- Office hours the same for Professor Ellis this week (M 3-5 PM & W 3-5 PM)
- No normal office hours *next* week
  - Mon = holiday
  - Wed = traveling
  - Office hours *next week* (wk 9): **Tuesday 1-3 PM**

# Geospatial Analysis

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• • •

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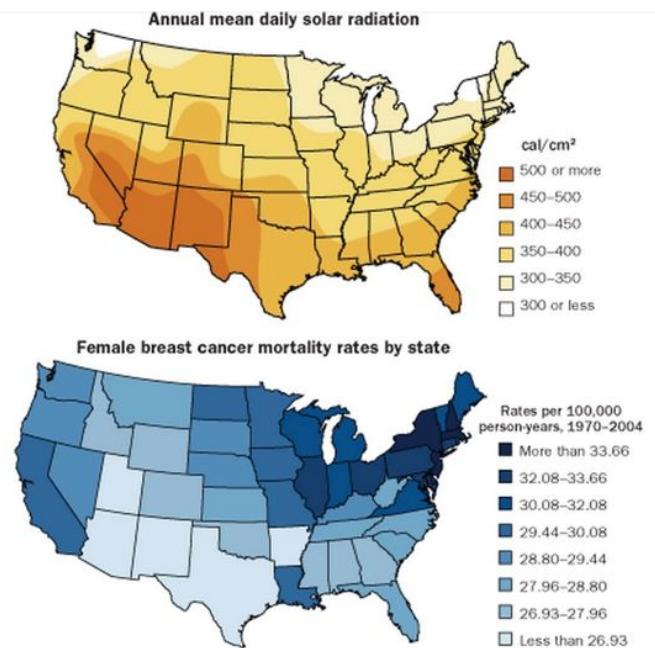
# Why Geospatial Analysis?

# Why Geospatial Analysis?

‘Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.’ -Tobler 1979

“...the purpose of geographic inquiry is to examine relationships between geographic features collectively and to use the relationships to describe the real-world phenomena that map features represent” -Clarke 2001

Clearly visualizes important differences in disease distribution



ON THE MAP Scientists who study vitamin D can't help but notice that a host of diseases seem to vary with latitude. Type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis and even some cancers appear to be more common in areas that get less sun -- meaning less opportunity for the body to produce vitamin D. The maps above illustrate the apparent link between solar radiation and breast cancer mortality rates.

SOURCE, FROM TOP: D. M. HARRIS AND V.L.W. GO // J. OF NUTRITION 2004; NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

adapted from Brad Voytek

# Multiple Sclerosis by Geography

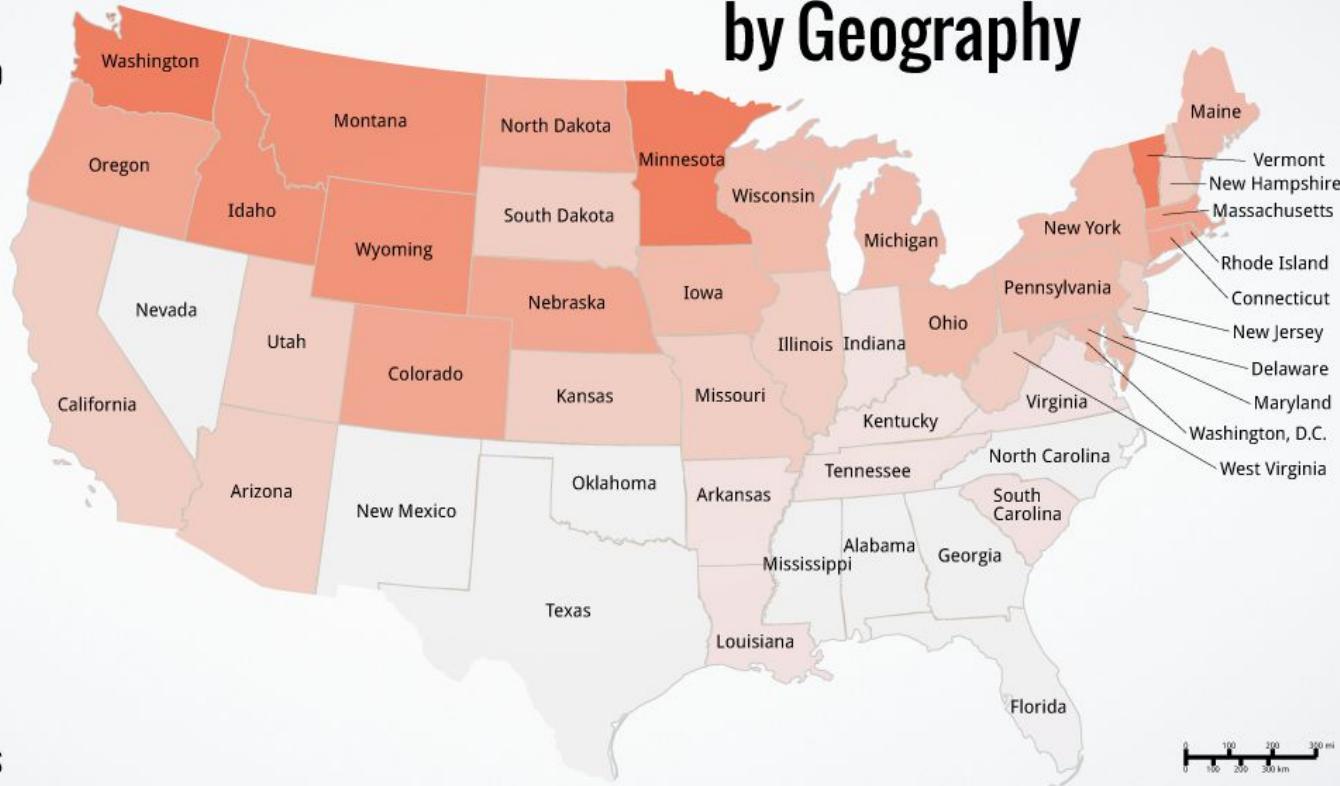
CASE-CONTROL RATIO OF MS

A higher ratio indicates greater prevalence

240

140

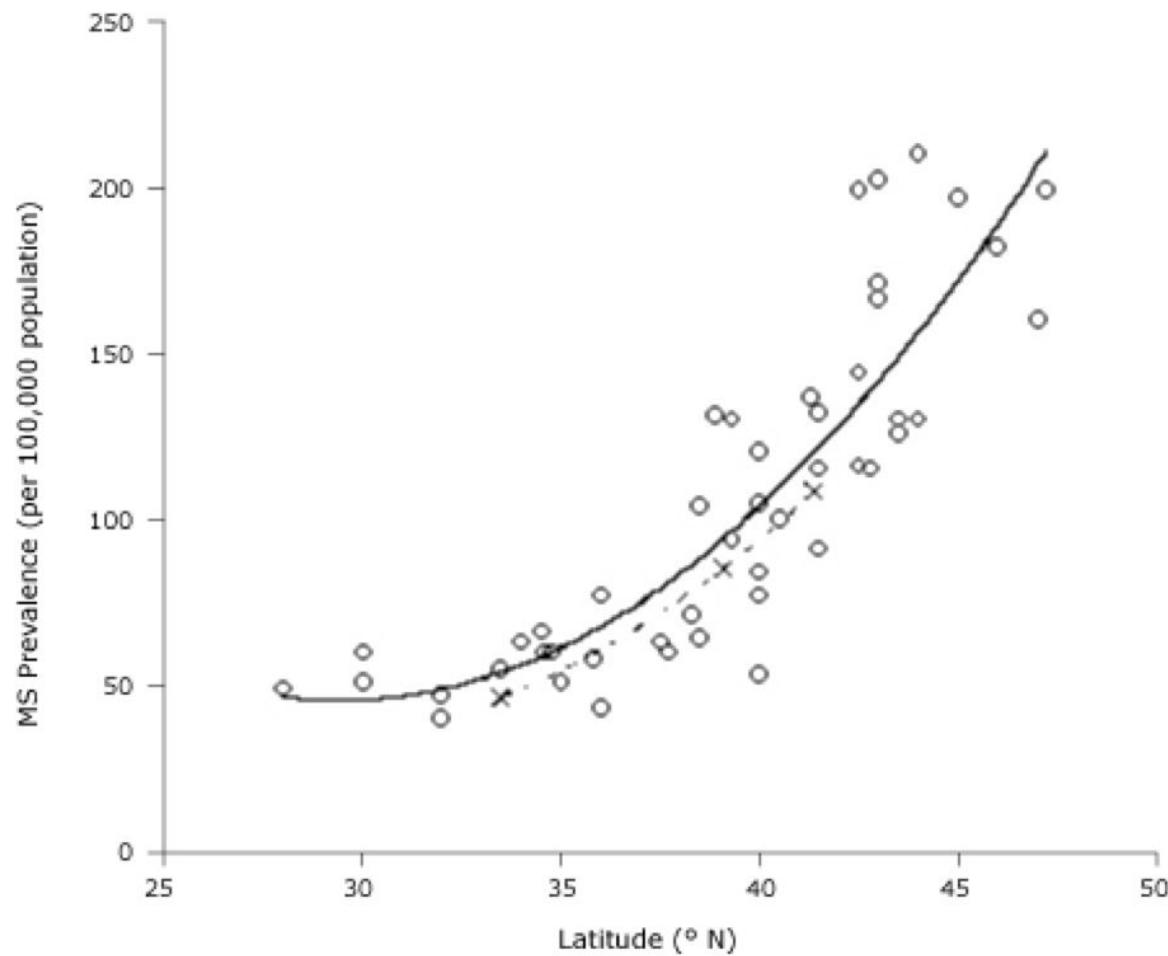
40



LEARN MORE AT  
[WWW.INVW.ORG/MS](http://WWW.INVW.ORG/MS)

PRODUCED BY: JASON ALCORN/INVESTIGATEWEST SOURCE: BERETICH AND BERETICH (2009)

adapted from Brad Voytek

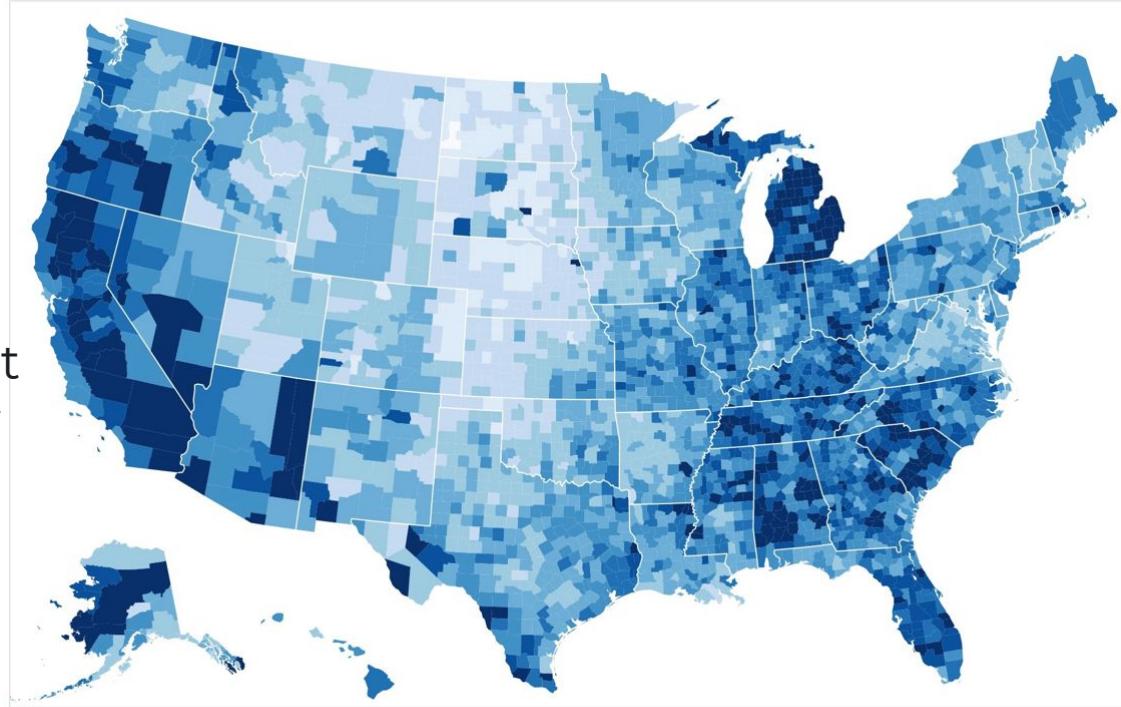


source: CDC

adapted from Brad Voytek

# Visualizing Geospatial Data

Unemployment  
rate by county  
(August 2016)



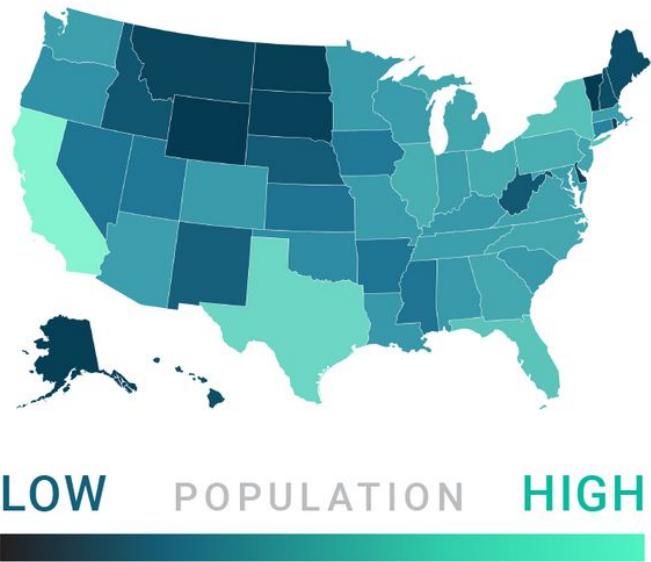
This choropleth encodes unemployment rates from 2008 with a [quantize scale](#) ranging from 0 to 15%. A [threshold scale](#) is a useful alternative for coloring arbitrary ranges.

[Open in a new window.](#)

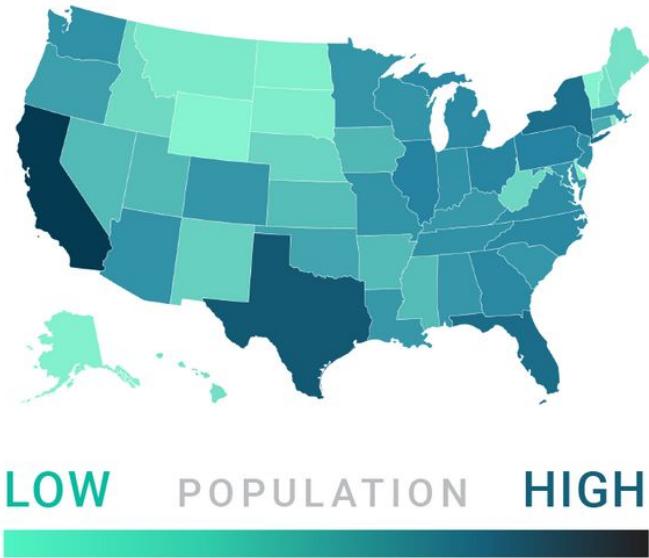
**Choropleth maps are useful for visualizing *clear regional patterns* in the data**

# Use light colors for low values. Dark colors for high values.

NOT IDEAL

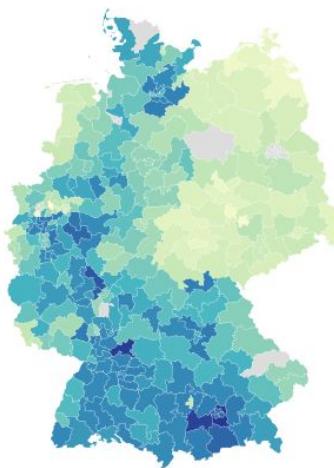


BETTER

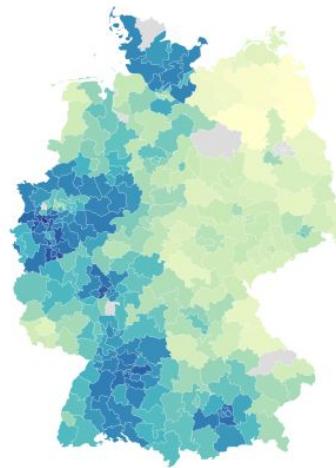


# Choropleth Maps shine when displaying a *single* variable

NOT IDEAL

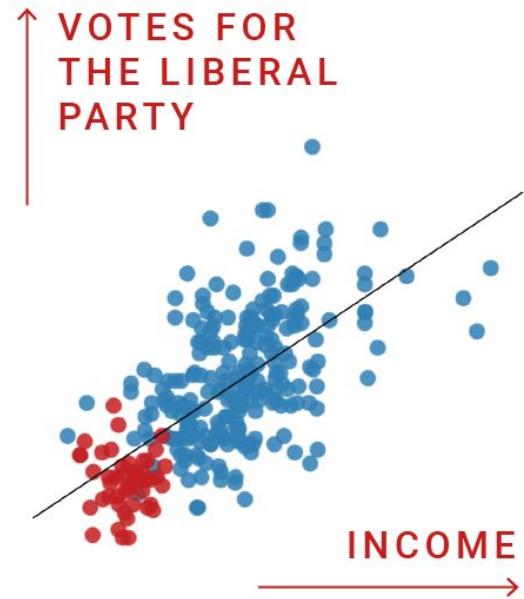


INCOME



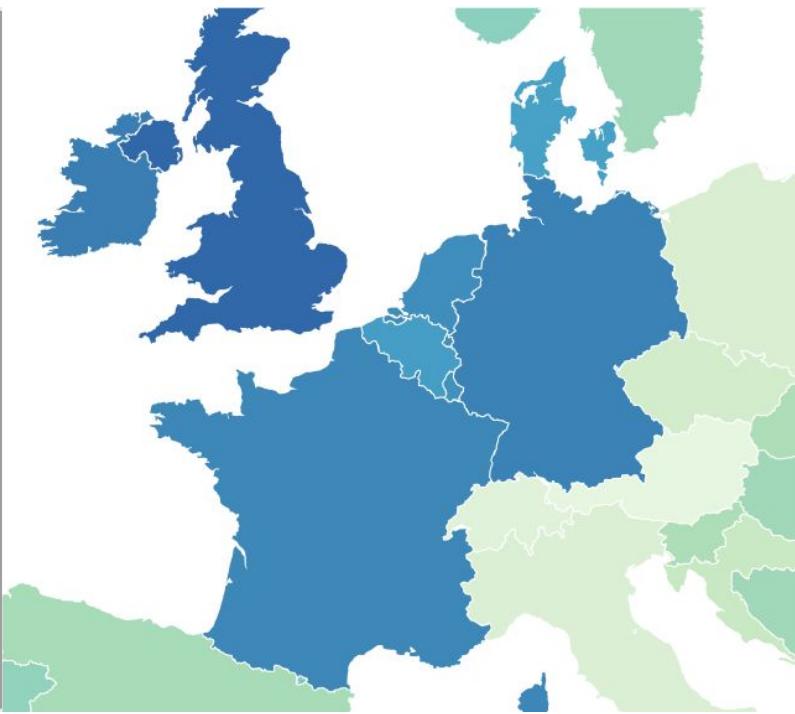
VOTES FOR THE  
LIBERAL PARTY

BETTER



# Choropleth excel at displaying the big picture, *not* subtle differences

NOT IDEAL



BETTER



MONACO

UK

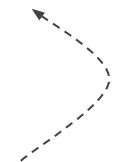
IRELAND

GERMANY

ITALY

SWITZERL.

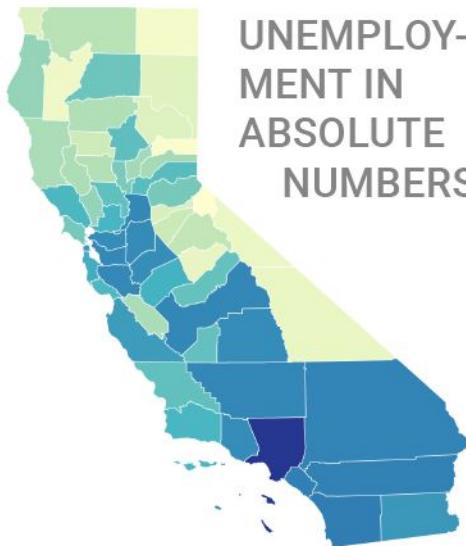
AUSTRIA



If your goal is to point out the numeric differences between regions, choose something other than a choropleth

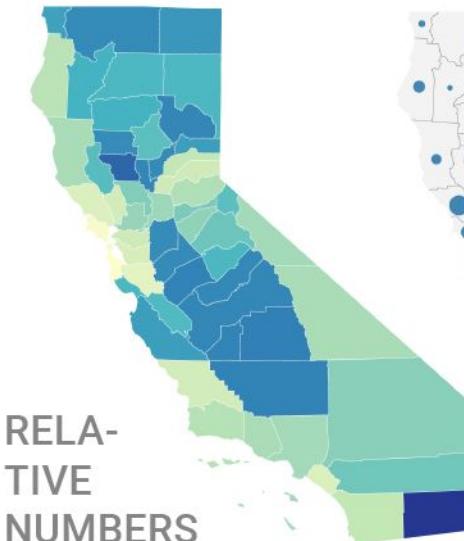
# Choropleth should display relative differences, *not* absolute numbers

NOT IDEAL

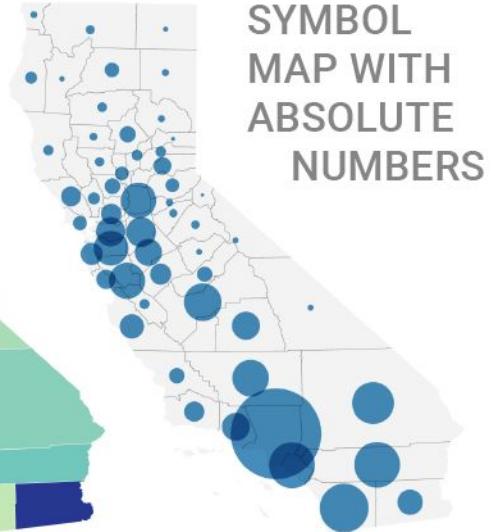


UNEMPLOY-  
MENT IN  
ABSOLUTE  
NUMBERS

BETTER



RELA-  
TIVE  
NUMBERS

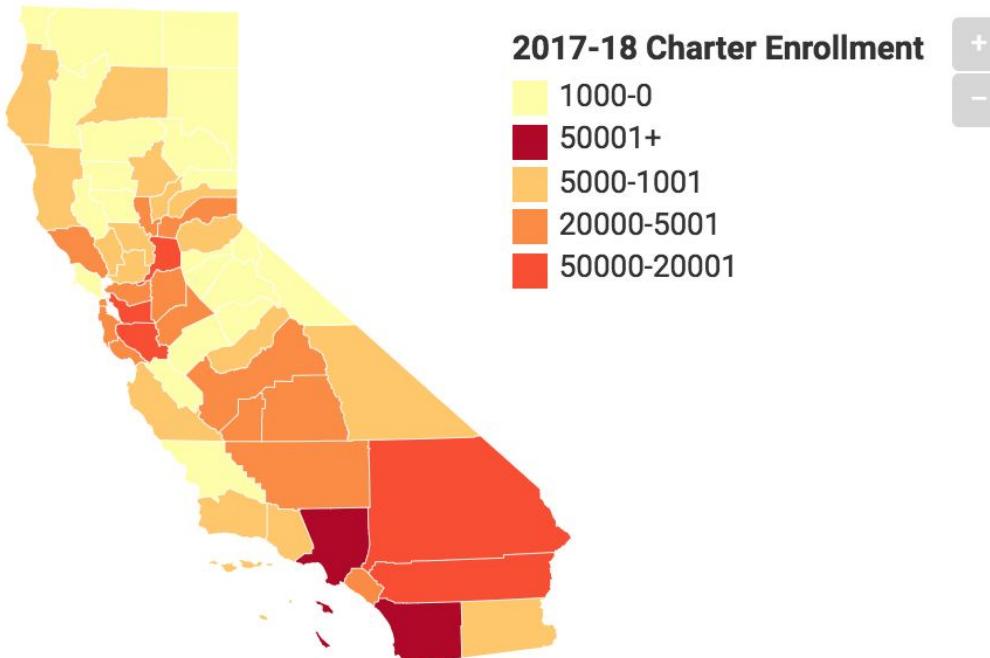


SYMBOL  
MAP WITH  
ABSOLUTE  
NUMBERS

# Map: Where Are Students Attending Charter Schools?

The majority of California's charter school student population is concentrated in Los Angeles, San Diego and Bay Area counties. Hover through the counties on each map for more information on their charter school growth.

Think about this map.  
What does it tell us?  
What is good about  
it? How could it  
improve?

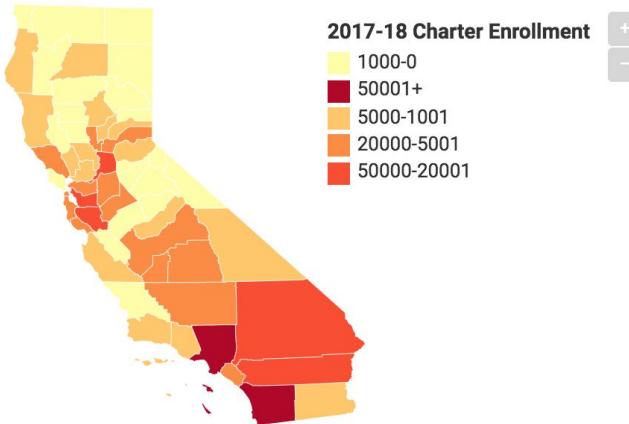


Map: Ricardo Cano • Source: California Department of Education • [Get the data](#) • Created with Datawrapper



## Map: Where Are Students Attending Charter Schools?

The majority of California's charter school student population is concentrated in Los Angeles, San Diego and Bay Area counties. Hover through the counties on each map for more information on their charter school growth.



Map: Ricardo Cano • Source: California Department of Education • [Get the data](#) • Created with Datawrapper

# How do you feel about this map?

A

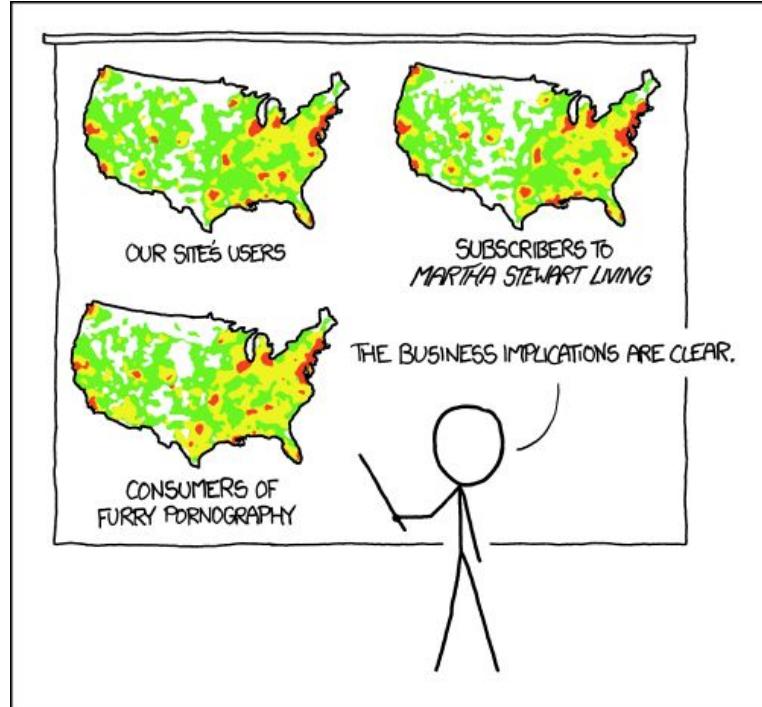
Great map!

B

Needs  
Improvement!

C

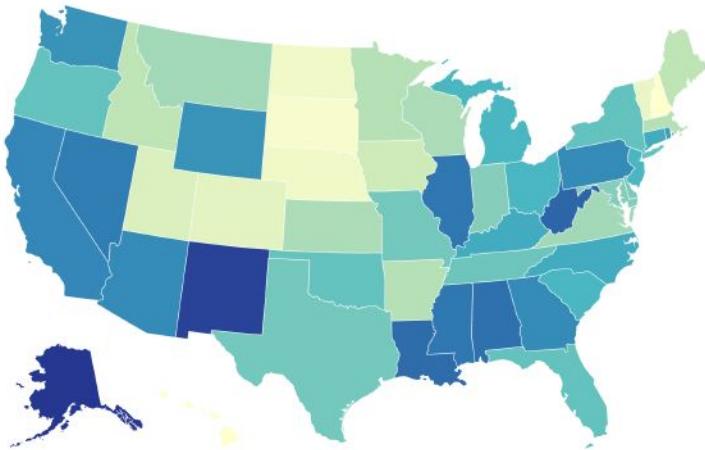
Complete  
Trash!



PET PEEVE #208:  
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE  
BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

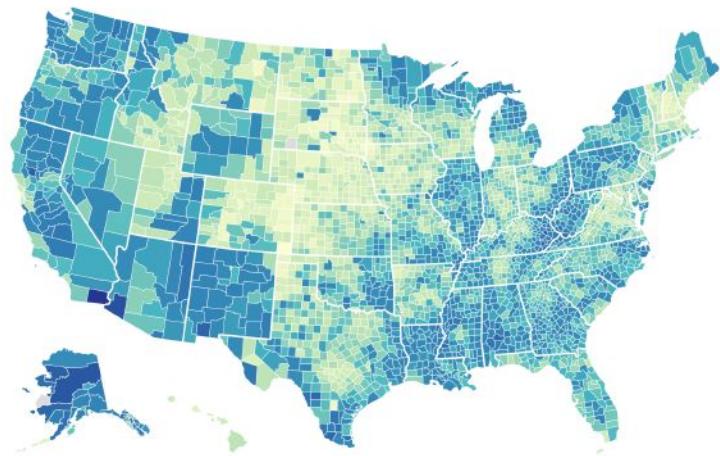
**Choropleth maps can be misleading**

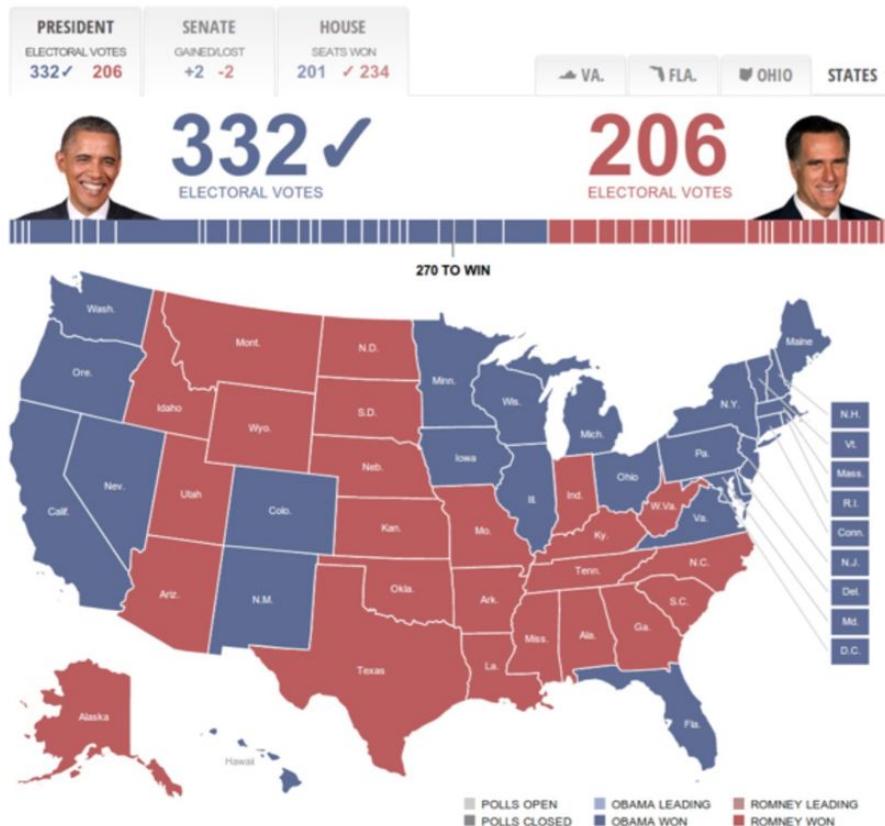
NOT IDEAL



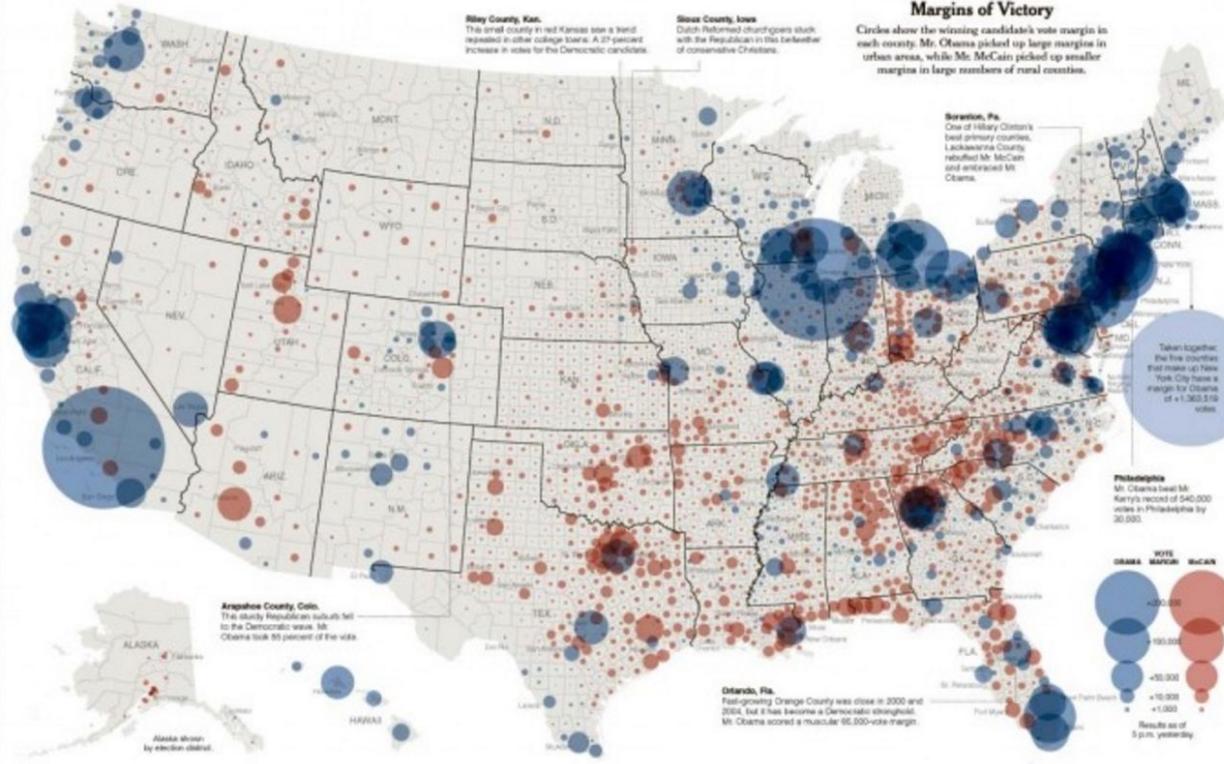
Consider using the smallest unit possible  
(but there are exceptions!)

BETTER





Sometimes summarizing at the state level is ok...



This **bubble graph** more accurately tells the full story, since the size of the bubbles is reflective of the population.

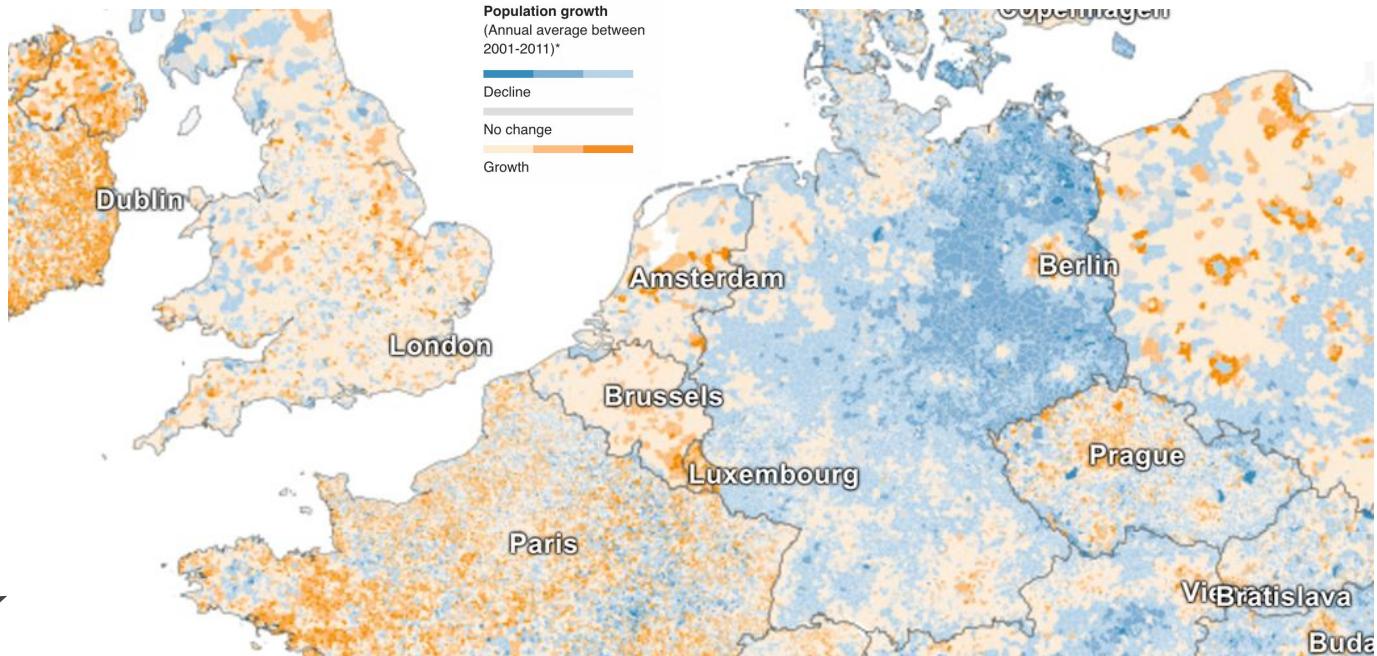
...but same data *can* be displayed more effectively and informatively.

Source: <http://www.thefunctionalart.com/2012/11/when-choropleth-maps-deceive.html>

adapted from Brad Voytek

# The decisions you make can alter what viewers conclude

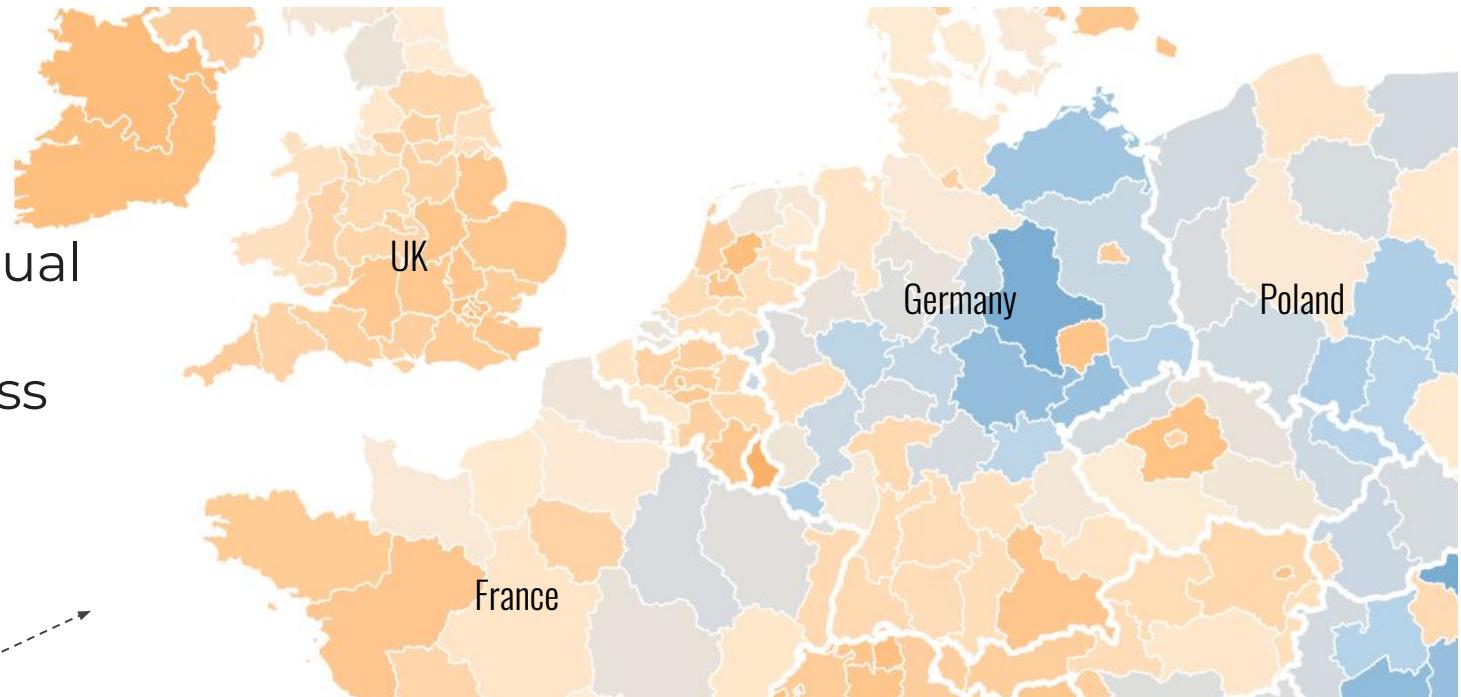
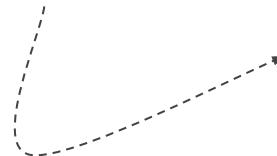
average  
annual  
population  
growth in **all**  
**European**  
**municipalities**



In Germany and Poland, cities are the lone orange wolves. France and UK seem like a mixed bag.

# The decisions you make can alter what viewers conclude

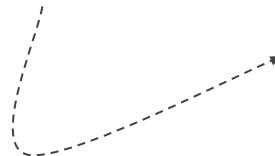
average annual  
population  
growth across  
**European  
regions**



Berlin is a lone wolf again. In Poland, the cities disappear. France now more orange.

# The decisions you make can alter what viewers conclude

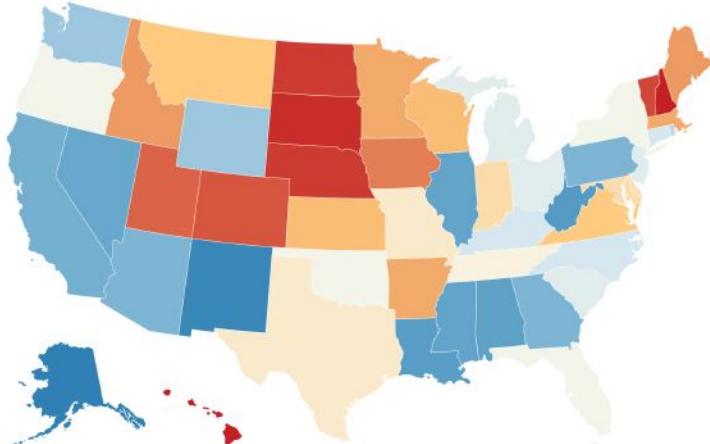
average annual  
population  
growth across  
**European  
COUNTRIES**



"Aaand all the nuance is gone. Only Ireland and Luxembourg stand out. However, this is the only map that shows us if a country population has increased or decreased in the last two decades."

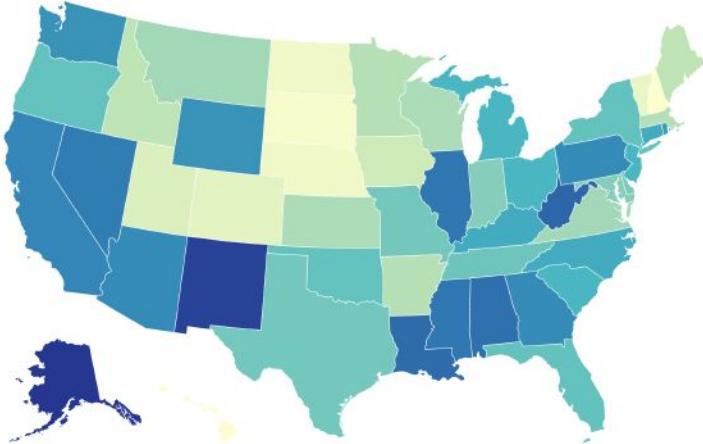
# Color choice matters

NOT IDEAL



0% 50% 100%

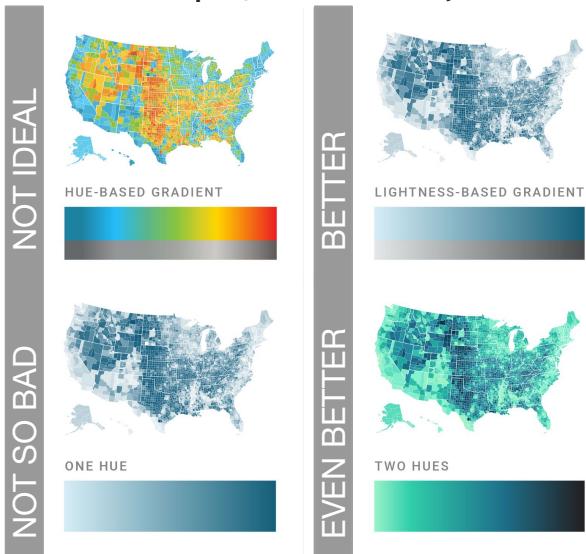
BETTER



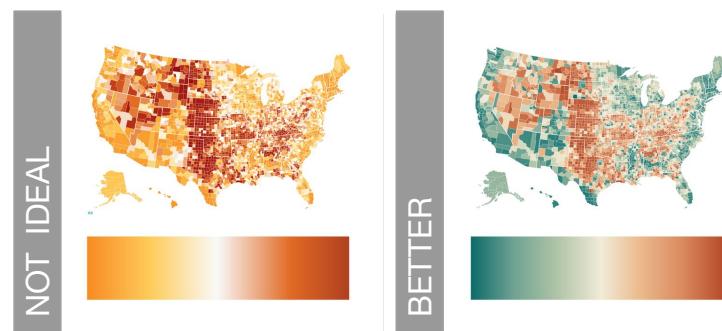
0% 50% 100%

# Color choice matters

**Sequential/Gradient** (e.g. from bright blue to dark blue) - drive the attention to the *high values* (e.g. unemployment rates.)

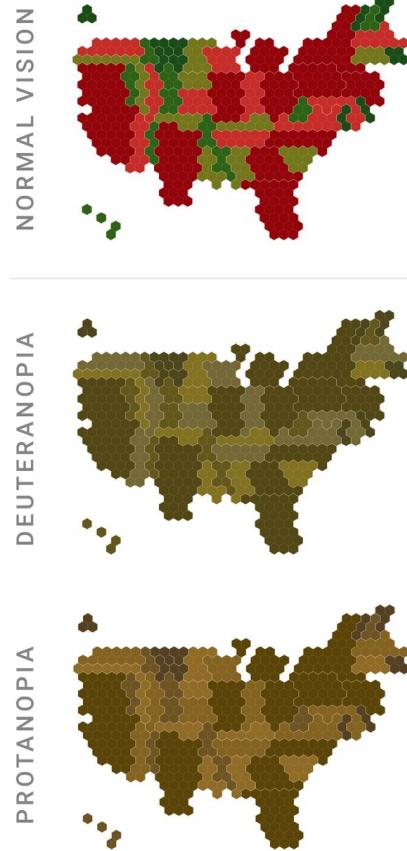


**Diverging** (e.g. from red via white to blue) - drive the attention to *both extremes* of the scale (e.g. difference in votes between two competing parties)

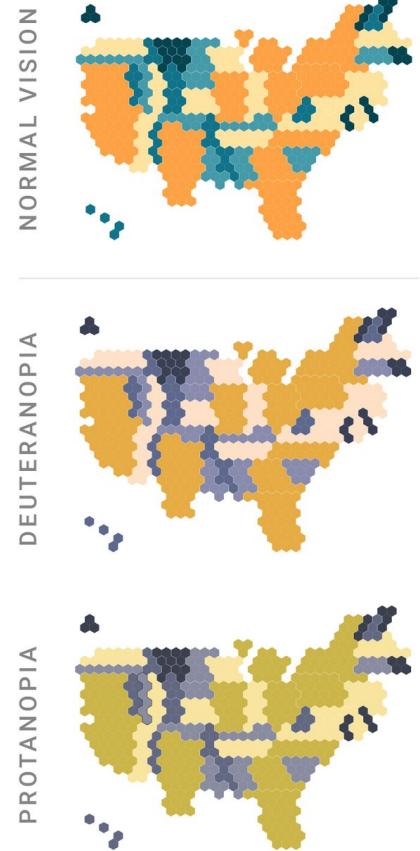


**Always consider  
color blindness  
when choosing  
colors**

**NOT IDEAL**

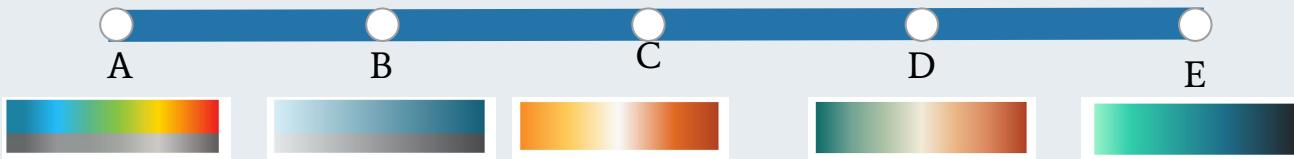


**BETTER**





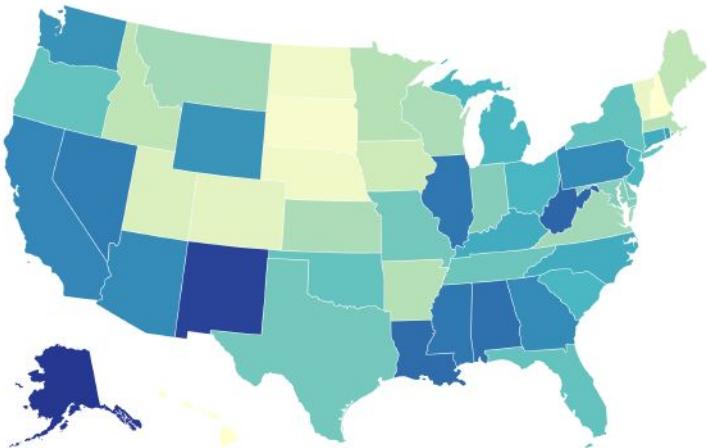
# To visualize disease rates, which color scale is best?



# Visualization Choices

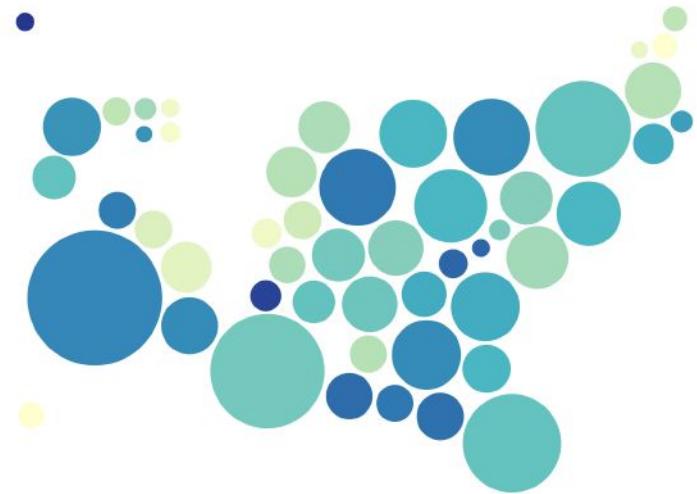
# Cartograms should be considered when displaying how many people were affected

NOT IDEAL



Choropleths answer “How much area was affected?”

BETTER

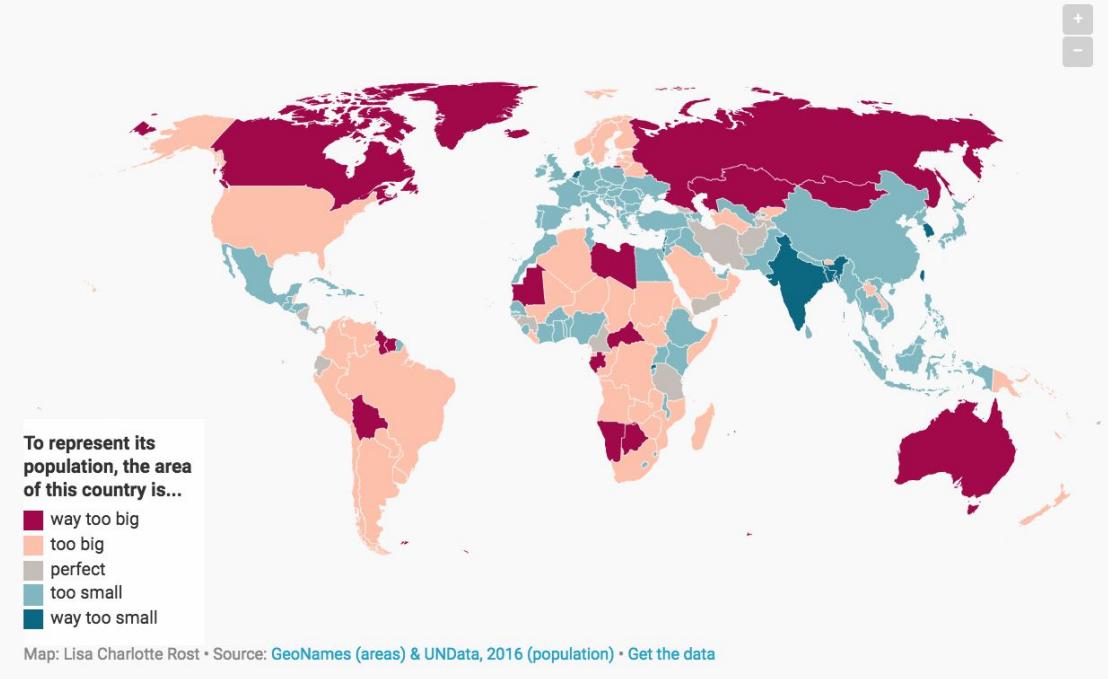


Cartograms answer “How many people were affected?”

# If geographical space and population were correlated, this wouldn't be an issue

One pixel for the same number of people:  
Which countries are too big?

How big would countries need to be on a map so that every pixel represented the same number of citizens? For example, Canada would need to be ten times smaller to represent its 36m citizens; India would need to be seven times bigger.



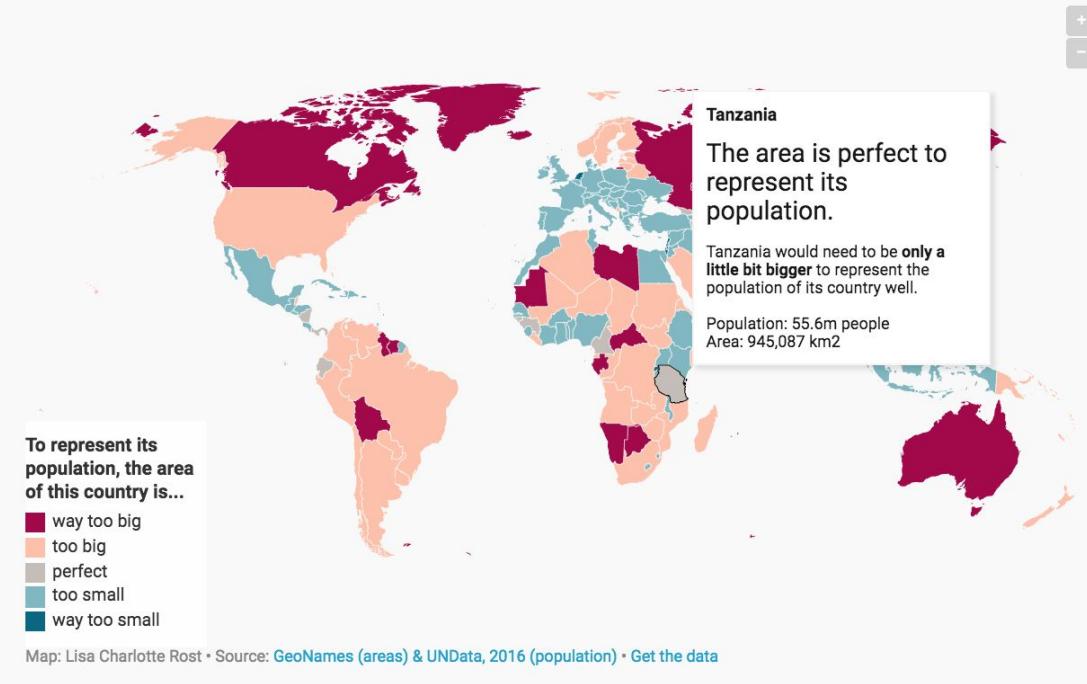
**Note:** This is a choropleth demonstrating why we need cartograms.

# If geographical space and population were correlated, this wouldn't be an issue

## One pixel for the same number of people: Which countries are too big?

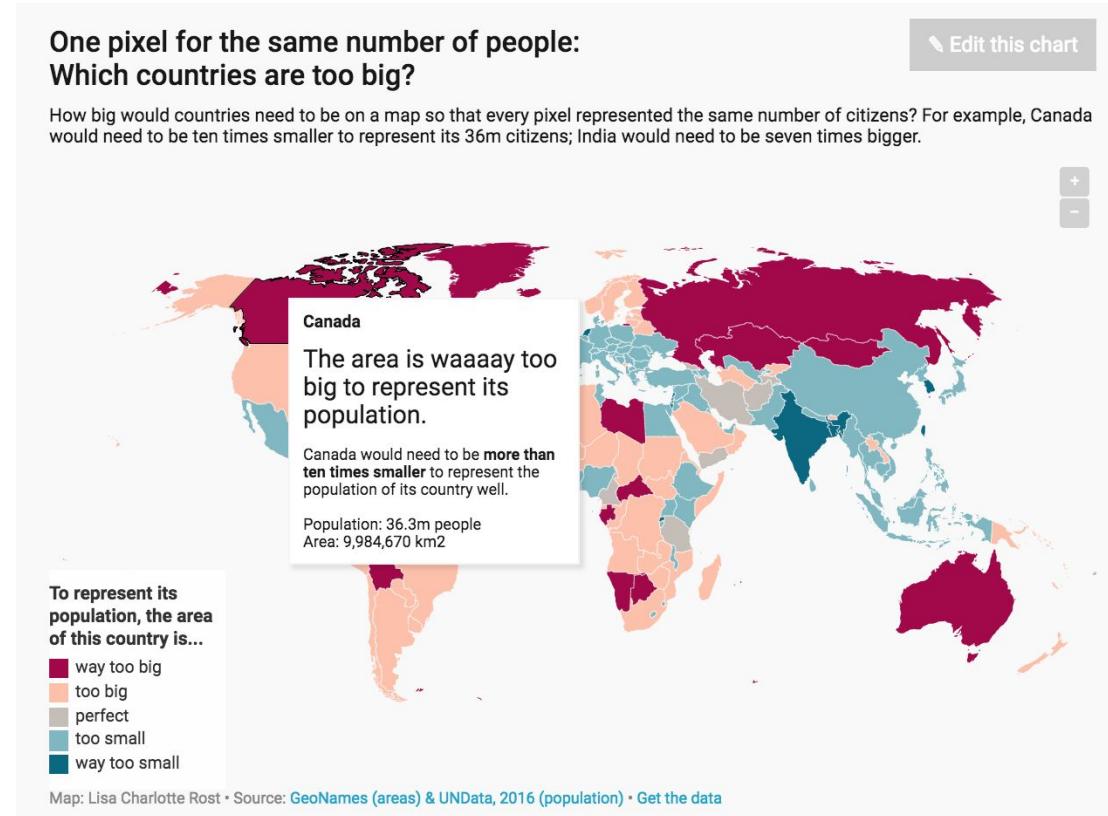
Edit this chart

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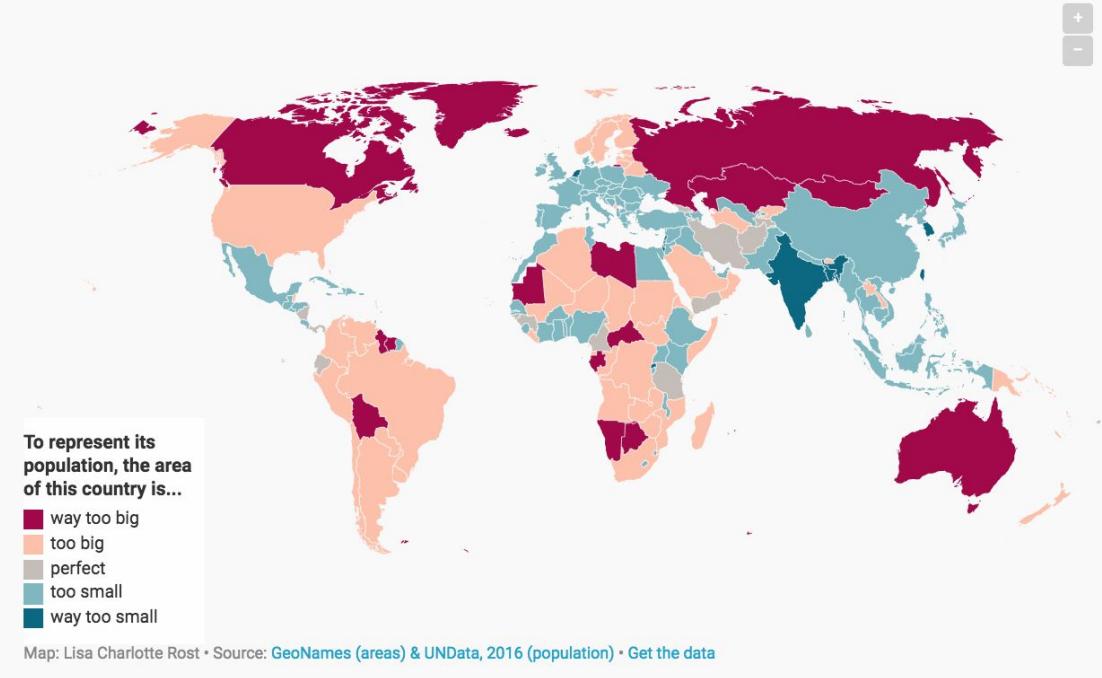


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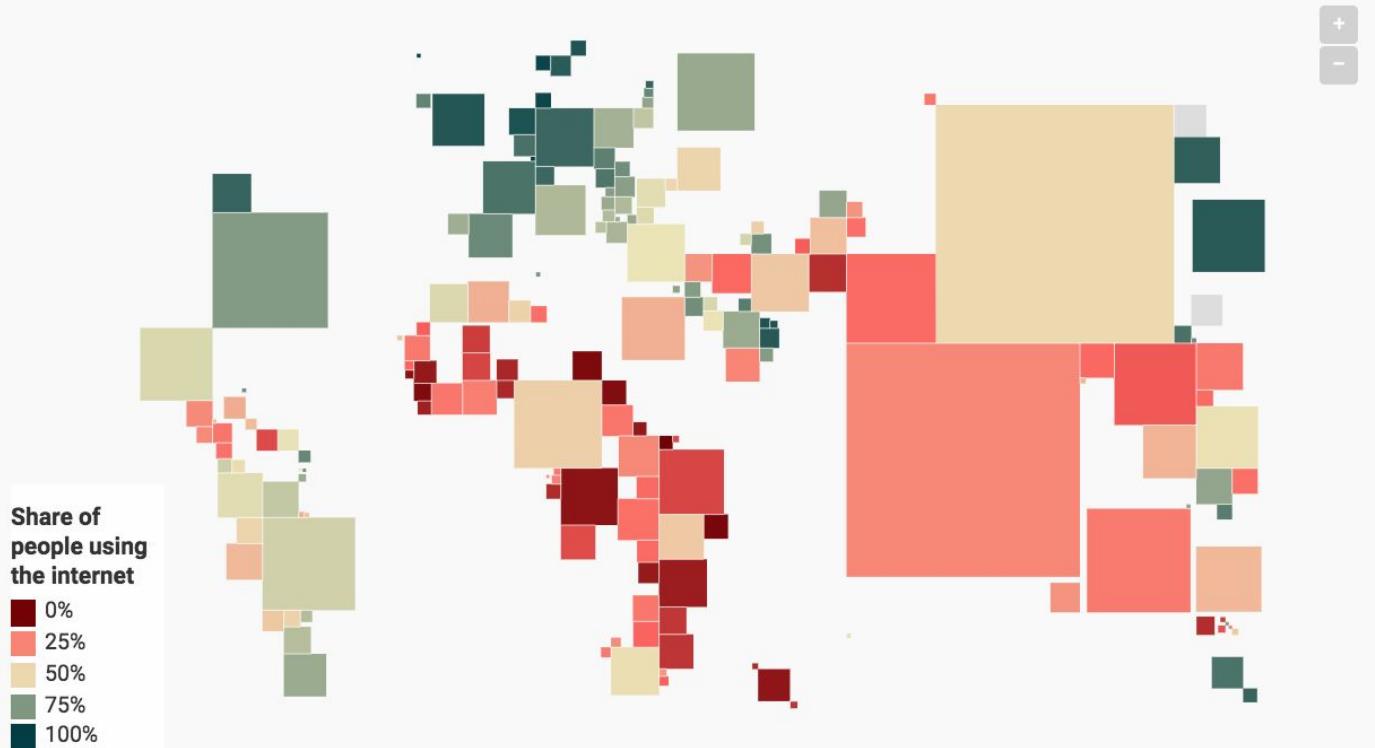
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**Note:** This is a choropleth demonstrating why we need cartograms.

# Share of individuals using the internet, 2015

Share of individuals using the internet, measured as the percentage of the population. Internet users are individuals who have used the Internet (from any location) in the last 3 months. The Internet can be used via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV etc.

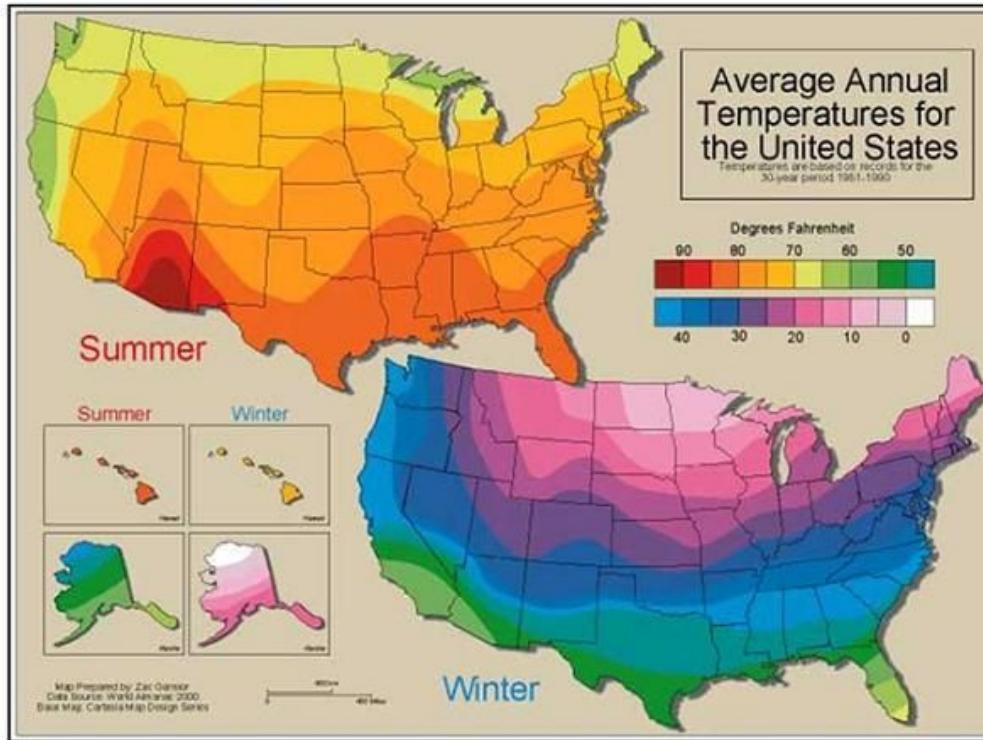


Source: [Our World in Data](#) • Get the data

# Tradeoffs should be carefully considered

Comparison of different cartogram types. The more filled bubbles they are, the better.				
Contiguous cartograms	● ● ○	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Grid/Tile cartograms	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Dorling cartograms	● ○ ○	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Geographical map				
Easy recognition by <b>position</b> ?	● ● ○	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Easy recognition by <b>size</b> ?	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Easy recognition by <b>shape</b> ?	● ○ ○	● ○ ○	○ ○ ○	● ● ●
Easy to compare the shape sizes?	● ○ ○	● ● ○	● ● ●	
Accurate?	● ● ○	● ● ○	● ● ●	

# Isarithmic maps demonstrate smooth, continuous phenomena (temperature, elevation, rainfall, etc.)





# Visualizing Geospatial Data

You want to visualize how many people were affected by the flu this past flu season in the US.

Best approach to visualize these data?

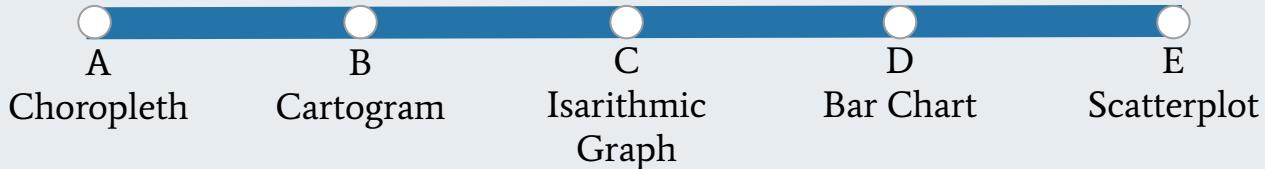
- A Choropleth
- B Cartogram
- C Isarithmic Graph
- D Bar Chart
- E Scatterplot



# Visualizing Geospatial Data

You want to visualize terrain across the US.

Best approach to visualize these data?





# Visualizing Geospatial Data

You want to visualize the relationship between income and years in school.

Best approach to visualize these data?

- A Choropleth
- B Cartogram
- C Isarithmic Graph
- D Bar Chart
- E Scatterplot



# Visualizing Geospatial Data

You want to visualize unemployment rates in the US.

Best approach to visualize these data?

- A Choropleth
- B Cartogram
- C Isarithmic Graph
- D Bar Chart
- E Scatterplot

# Spatial Statistics : The Why

# Spatial Statistics

The statistical techniques we've discussed so far don't work well when considering spatial distributions...

# Spatial Statistics

The statistical techniques we've discussed so far don't work well when considering spatial distributions...

...which means we have a chance to take a look at data and the relationship between the data in new and interesting ways  
(distance, adjacency, interaction, and neighbor)

# Spatial data violate conventional statistics:

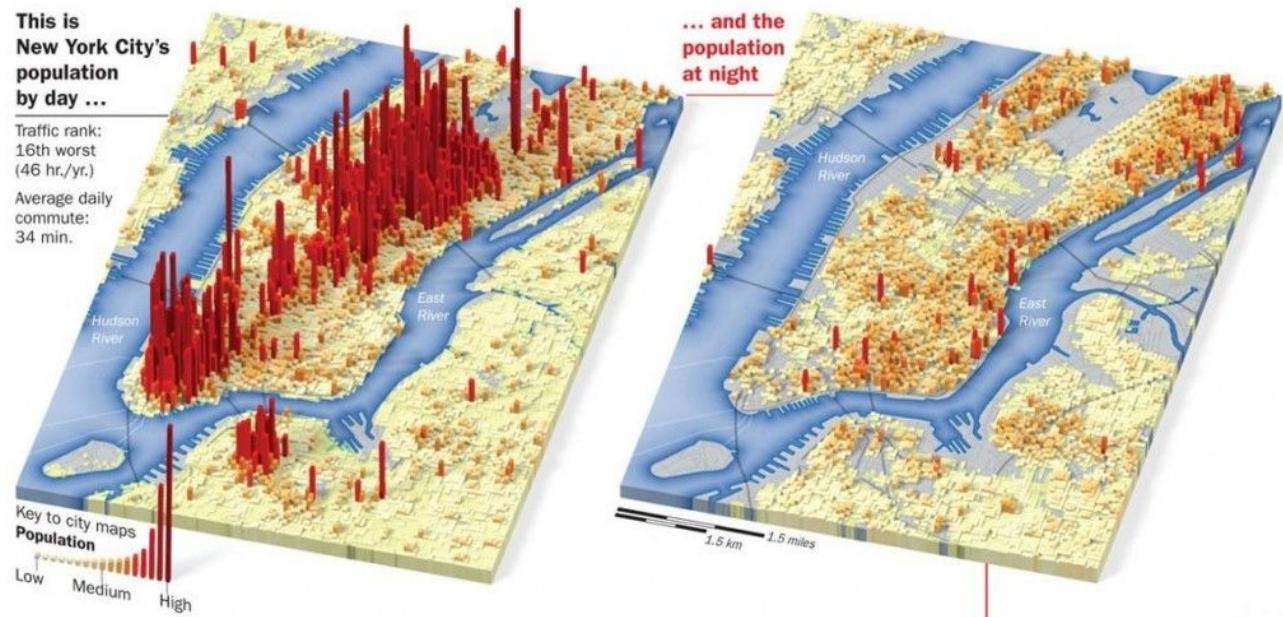
Violations of conventional statistics:

- Spatial autocorrelation
- Modifiable areal unit problem (MAUP)
- Edge effects (Boundary problem)
- Ecology fallacy
- Nonuniformity of space

# Spatial Autocorrelation

Data from locations near one another in space are more likely to be similar than data from locations remote from one another:

- Housing market
- Elevation change
- Temperature



adapted from Brad Voytek

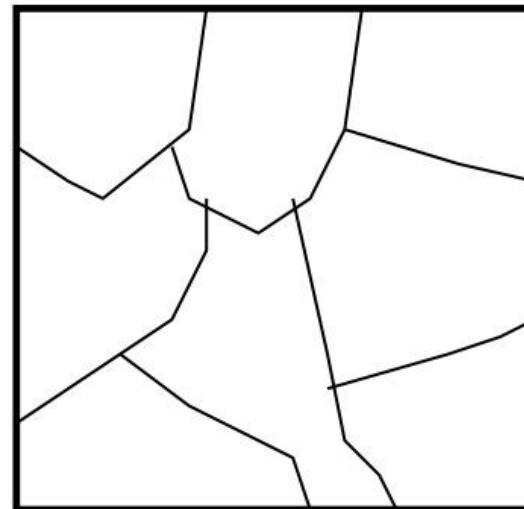
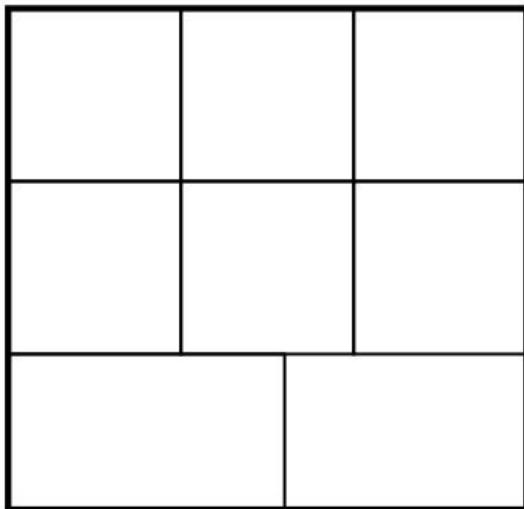
# Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)

The aggregation units used are arbitrary with respect to the phenomena under investigation, yet the aggregation units used will affect statistics determined on the basis of data reported in this way.

If the spatial units in a particular study were specified differently, we might observe very different patterns and relationships.

# Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)

modifiable area: Units are arbitrary defined and different organization of the units may create different analytical results.



# Multiple Sclerosis by Geography

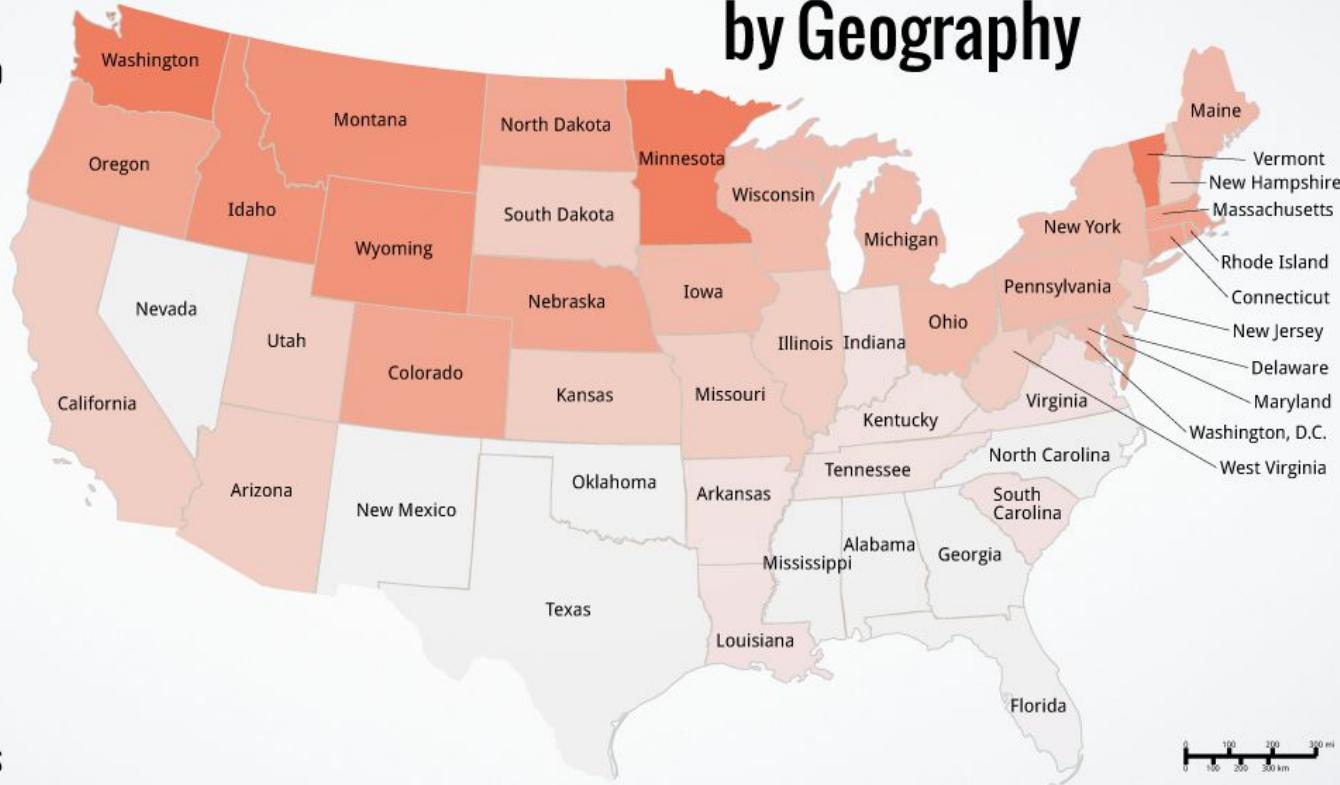
CASE-CONTROL RATIO OF MS

A higher ratio indicates greater prevalence

240

140

40



LEARN MORE AT  
[WWW.INVW.ORG/MS](http://WWW.INVW.ORG/MS)

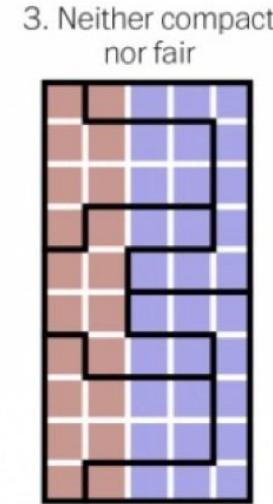
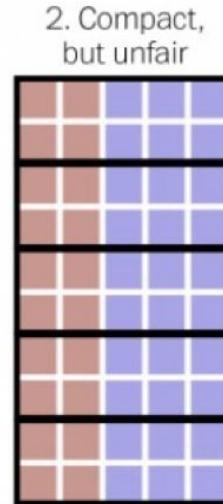
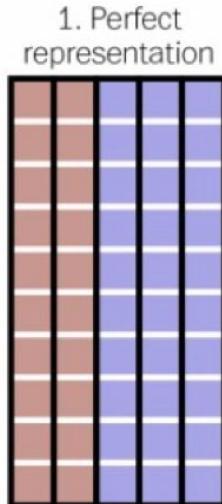
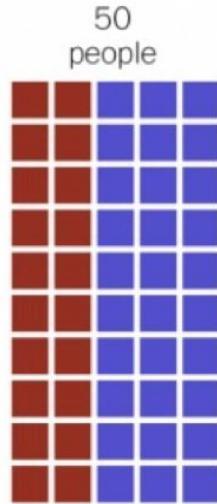
PRODUCED BY: JASON ALCORN/INVESTIGATEWEST SOURCE: BERETICH AND BERETICH (2009)

adapted from Brad Voytek

# For example...gerrymandering

## Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



BLUE WINS

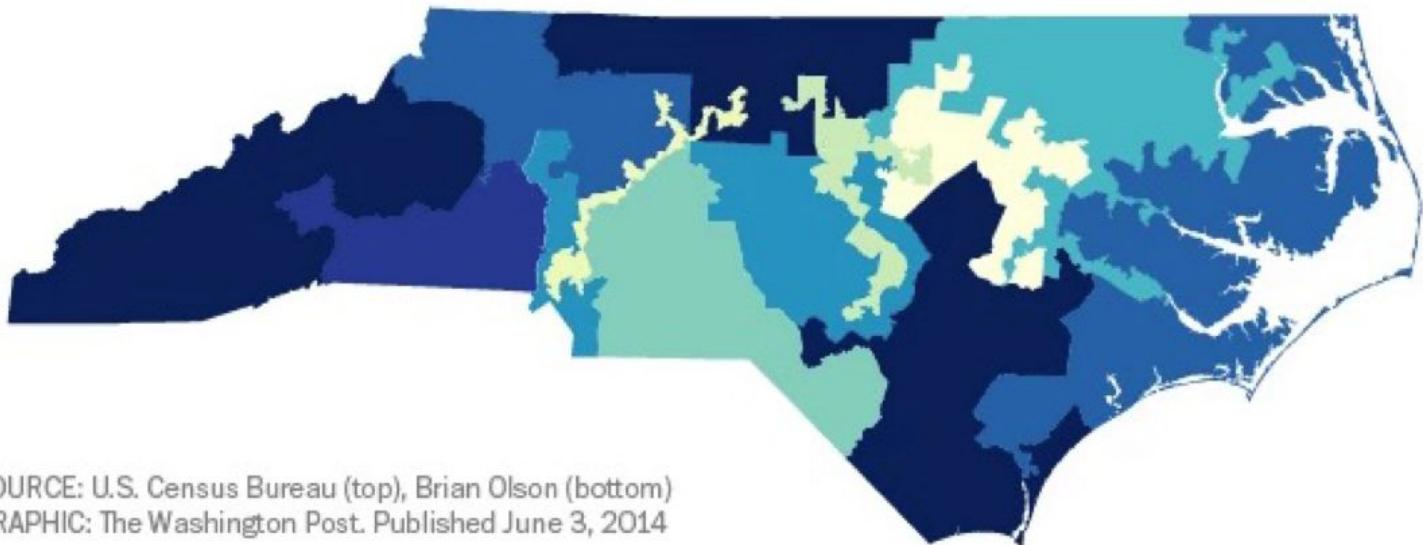
BLUE WINS

RED WINS

# For example...gerrymandering

## North Carolina

CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (top), Brian Olson (bottom)  
GRAPHIC: The Washington Post. Published June 3, 2014

adapted from Brad Voytek

# For example...gerrymandering

## North Carolina

DISTRICTS REDRAWN TO OPTIMIZE COMPACTNESS



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (top), Brian Olson (bottom)  
GRAPHIC: The Washington Post. Published June 3, 2014

adapted from Brad Voytek

# Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)

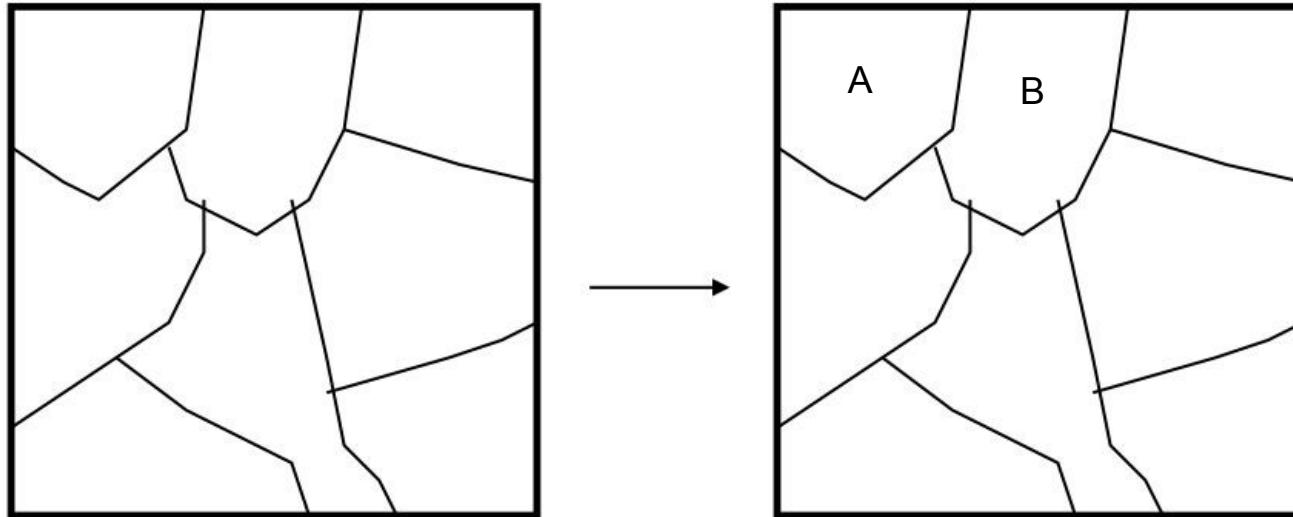
Potential problems in almost every field that utilizes spatial data.

In the 2000 U.S. presidential election, Al Gore, with more of the population vote than George Bush, but failed to become president. (Same in 2016)

A different aggregation of U.S. counties into states could have produced a different outcome (switch just one northern Florida county to Georgia or Alabama would have produced a different outcome).

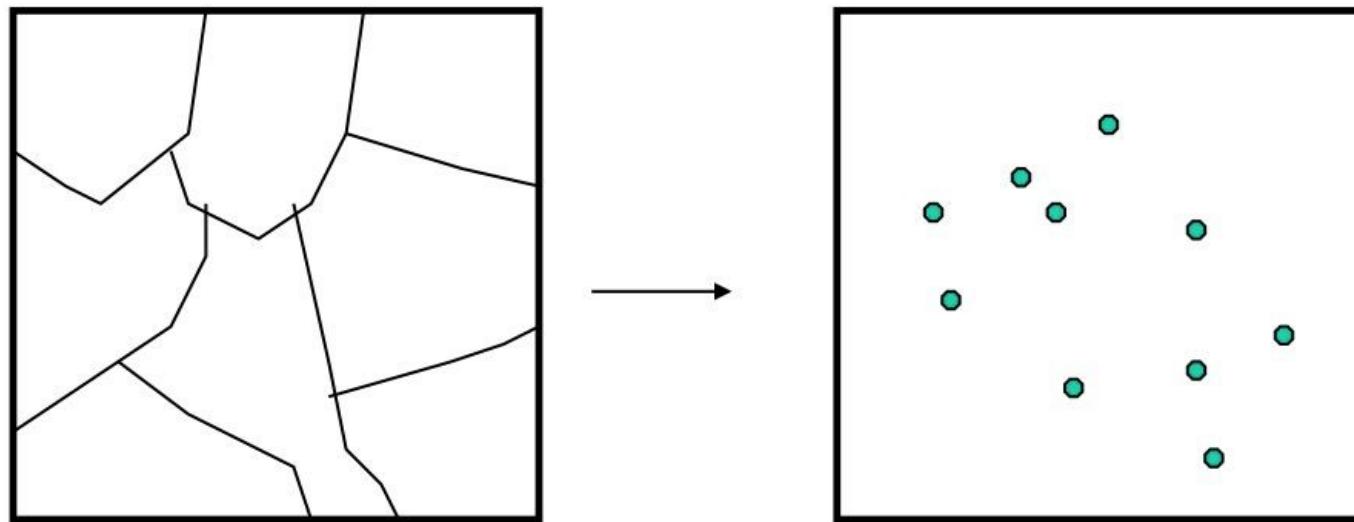
# Edge Effects (The Boundary Problem)

Analyzing A vs B ignores similarities between the two based on their shared boundary



# Ecological Fallacy

The Ecological Fallacy is a situation that can occur when a researcher or analyst makes an inference about an individual based on aggregate data for a group.



adapted from Brad Voytek

# Ecological Fallacy

Example: we might observe a *strong relationship between income and crime at the county level*, with lower-income areas being associated with higher crime rate.

## Conclusion:

- Lower-income persons are more likely to commit crime
- Lower-income areas are associated with higher crime rates
- Lower-income counties tend to experience higher crime rates

# Ecological Fallacy

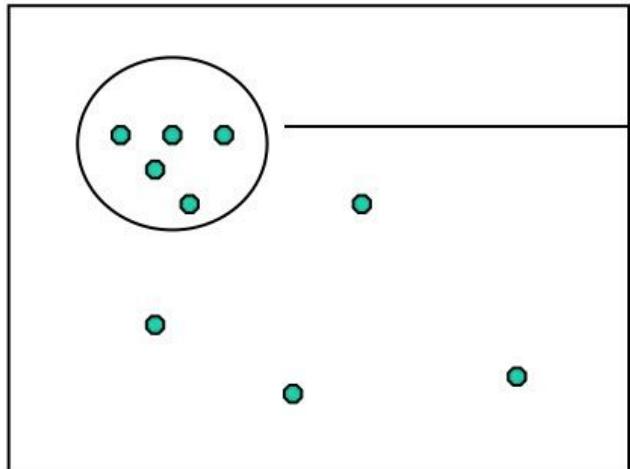
## Issues:

Inferences drawn about associations between the characteristics of an aggregate population and the characteristics of sub-units within the population are wrong. That is: *results from aggregated data (e.g. counties) cannot be applied to individual people*

## What should we do?

Be aware of the process of aggregating or disaggregating data may conceal the variations that are not visible at the larger aggregate level

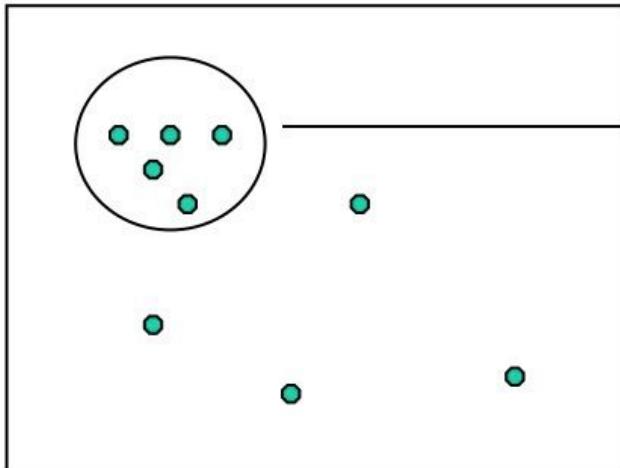
# Nonuniformity



Area with high crime rates?

Crime locations

# Nonuniformity



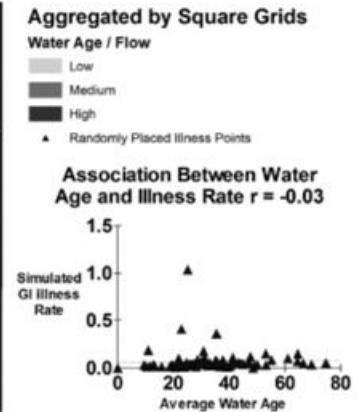
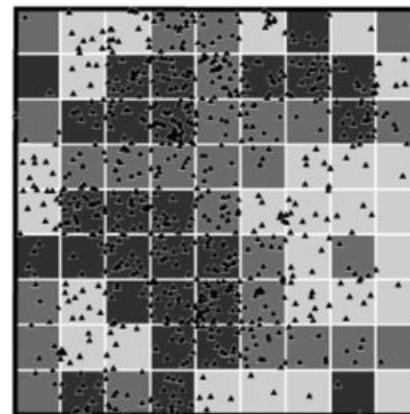
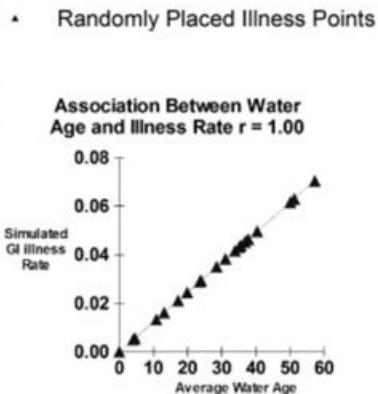
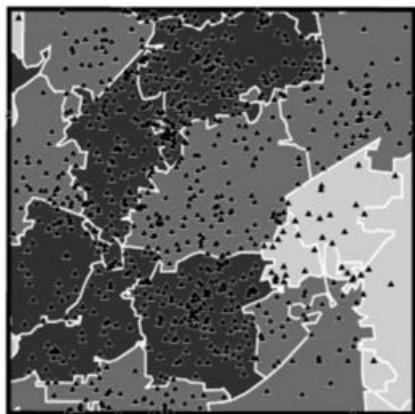
Area with high crime rates?

Crime locations

Conclusion: Bank robberies are clustered  
....but only because banks are clustered!



# Spatial Statistics



What explains what's going on here?

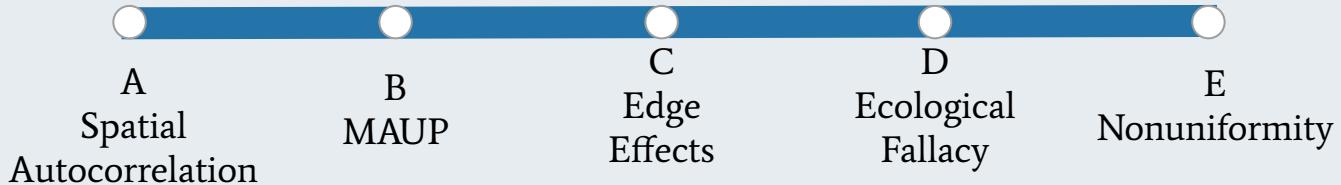
- A Spatial Autocorrelation
- B MAUP
- C Edge Effects
- D Ecological Fallacy
- E Nonuniformity



# Spatial Statistics

In Baltimore City, police spend more time in a few neighborhoods. Crime rates are higher in those neighborhoods.

What explains what's going on here?

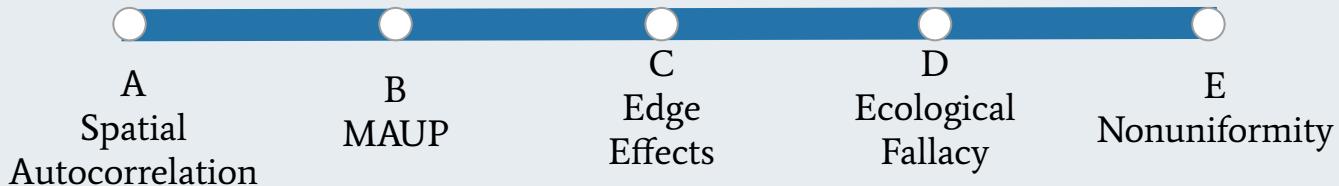




# Spatial Statistics

A Trader Joe's just opened in a new neighborhood.  
Nearby homes are now worth more money.

What explains what's going on here?



# Spatial Statistics : The Basics

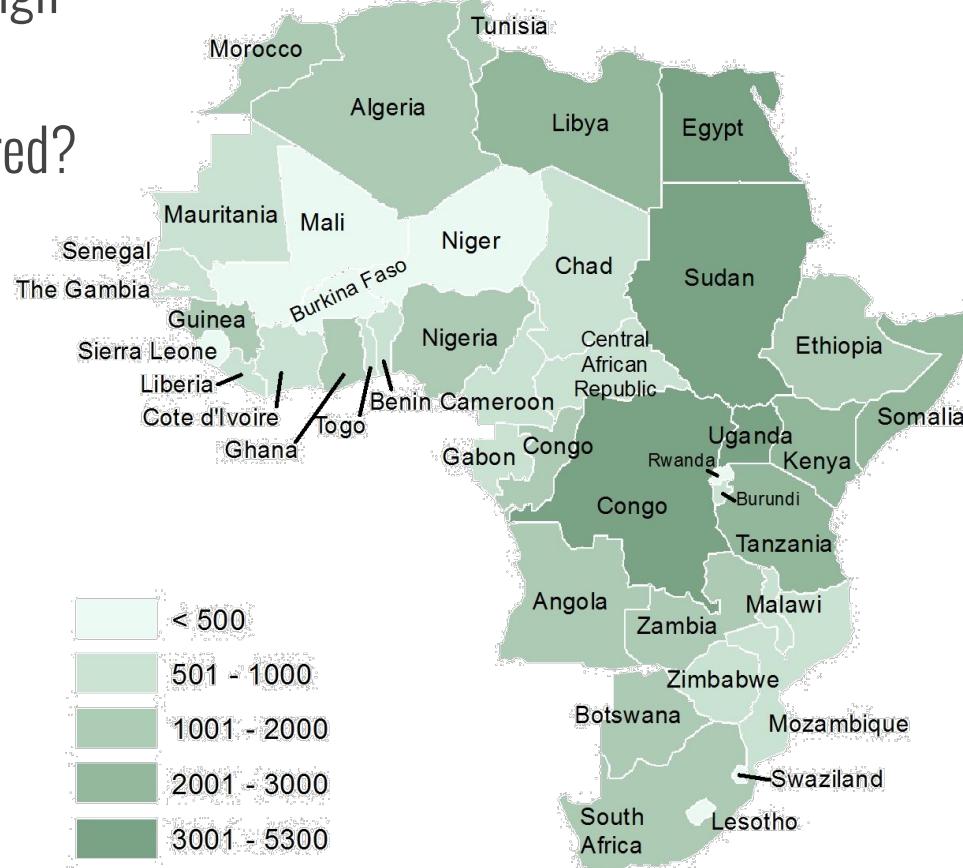
Table 1.1: Index of total African conflict for the 1966-78 period (Anselin and O'Loughlin 1992).

Country	Conflicts	Country	Conflicts
EGYPT	5246	LIBERIA	980
SUDAN	4751	SENEGAL	933
UGANDA	3134	CHAD	895
ZAIRE	3087	TOGO	848
TANZANIA	2881	GABON	824
LIBYA	2355	MAURITANIA	811
KENYA	2273	ZIMBABWE	795
SOMALIA	2122	MOZAMBIQUE	792
ETHIOPIA	1878	IVORY COAST	758
SOUTH AFRICA	1875	MALAWI	629
MOROCCO	1861	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	618
ZAMBIA	1554	CAMEROON	604

Data source: Anselin, L. and John O'Loughlin. 1992. *Geography of international conflict and cooperation: spatial dependence and regional context in Africa*. In *The New Geopolitics*, ed. M. Ward, pp. 39-75.

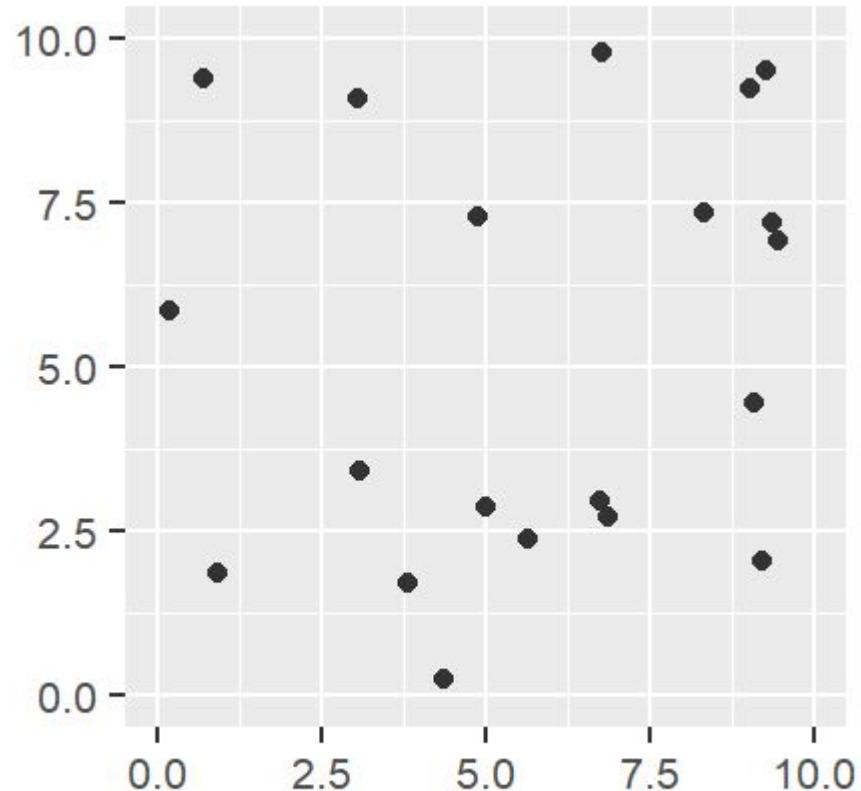
Are countries with a high conflict index score geographically clustered?

# Are countries with a high conflict index score geographically clustered?



# Global Point Density

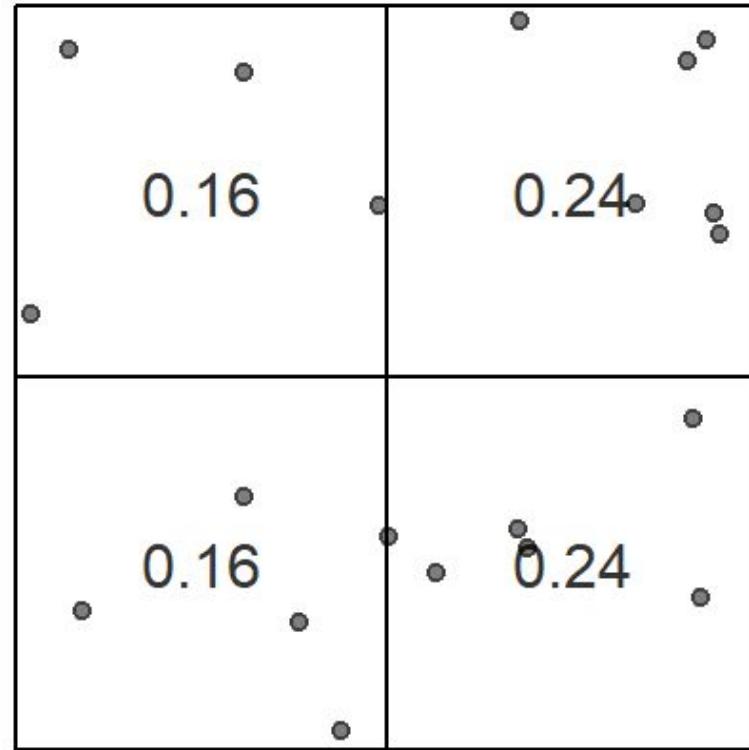
the ratio of observed number of points to the study region's surface area



# Quadrat Density (local)

Surface is divided and then point density is calculated within quadrat

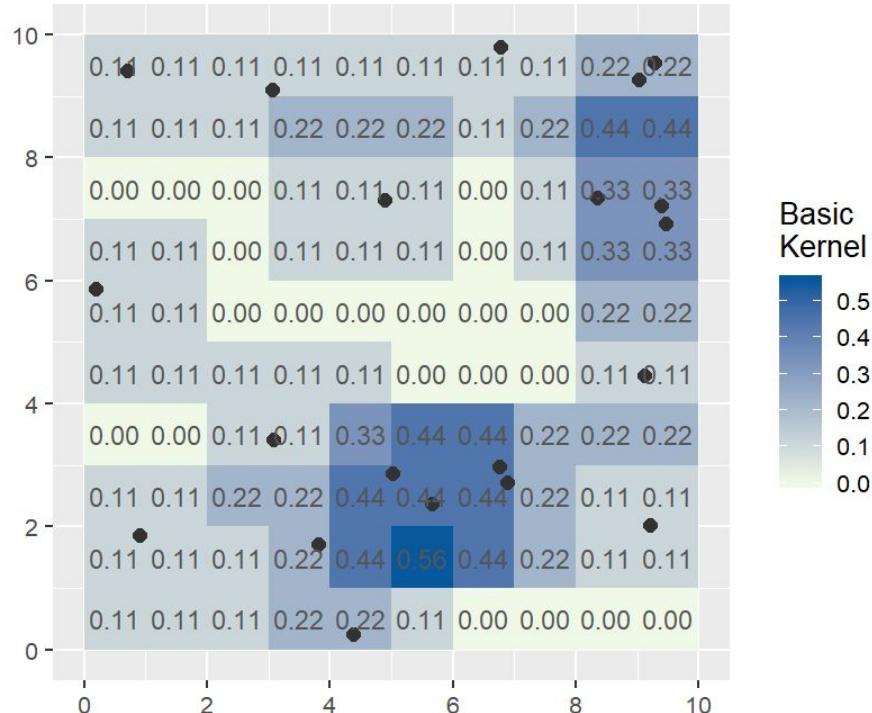
Note: quadrat number and shape will affect measurement estimate.  
Suffers from MAUP.



# Kernel Density (local)

Point density is calculated within sliding windows (window size = kernel)

Note: kernel will affect measurement estimate, but this is less susceptible to MAUP.



# Modeling these data: Poisson Point Process

(Density-based Methods - - how the points are distributed relative to the study space)

$$\lambda(i) = e^{\alpha + \beta Z(i)}$$

$\lambda(i)$  is the modeled intensity at location  $i$

$e^\alpha$  is the base intensity when the covariate is *zero*

$e^\beta$  is the multiplier by which the intensity increases (or decreases) for each 1 unit increase in the covariate

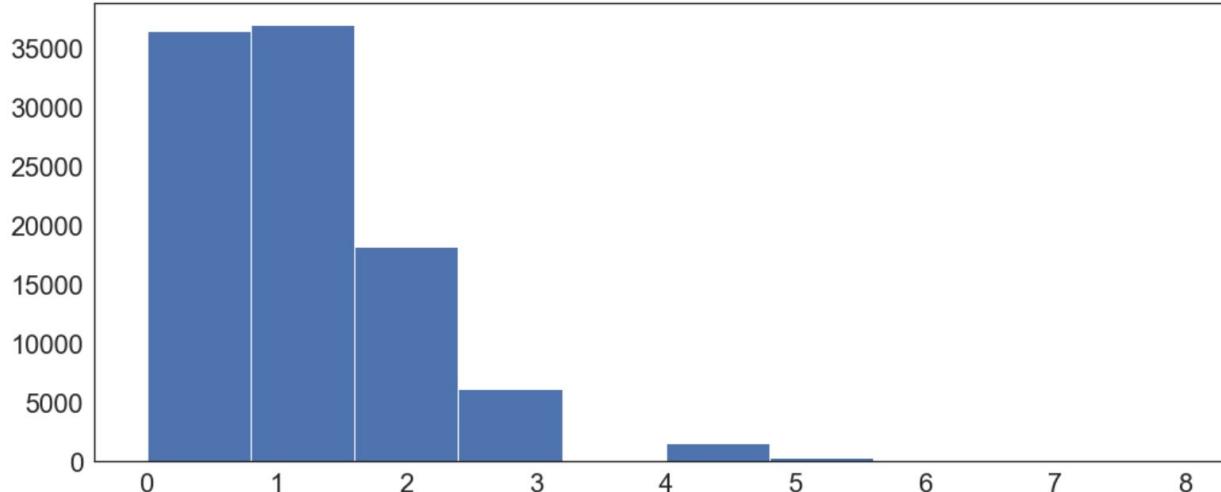
## Poisson Distribution

The Poisson Distribution models events in fixed intervals of time, given a known average rate (and independent occurrences).

In [55]:

Slide Type Fragment

```
dat = poisson.rvs(mu=1, size=100000)  
plt.hist(dat);
```

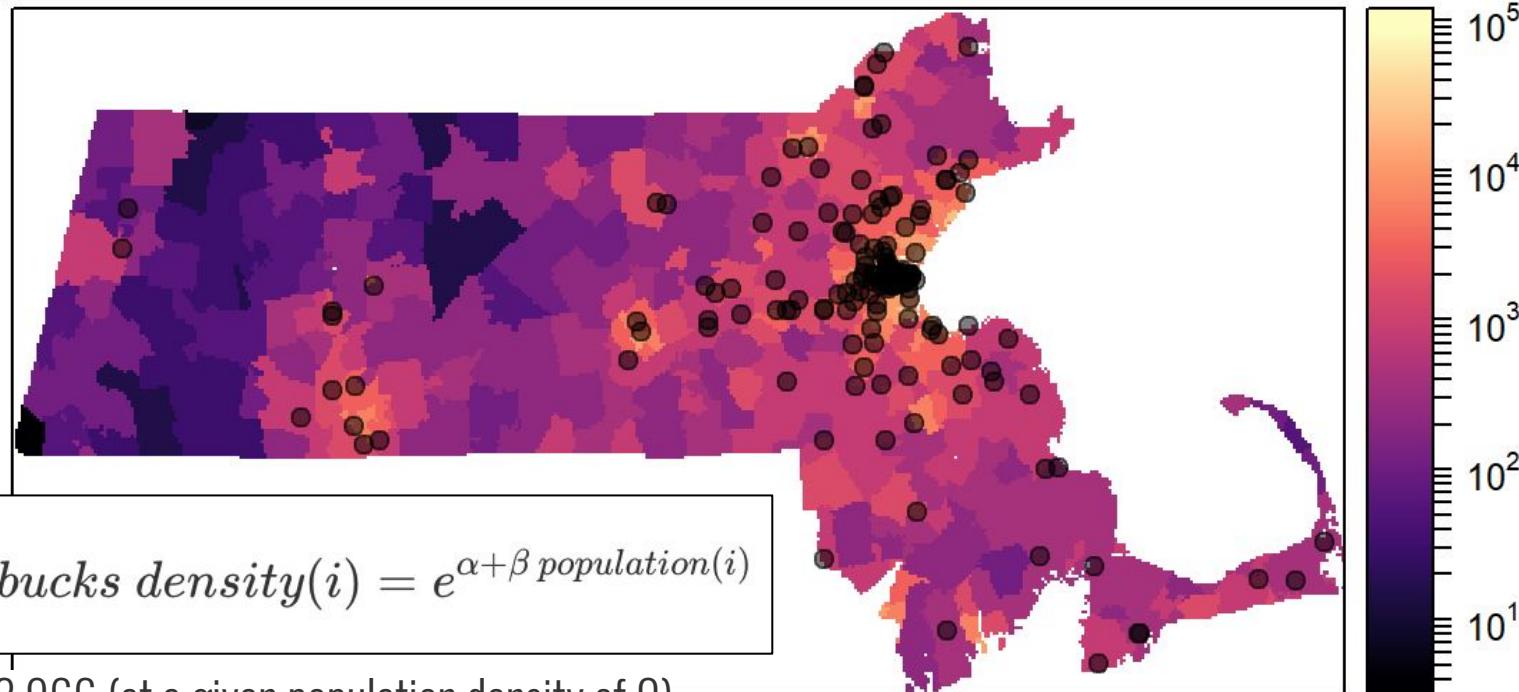


Slide Type Fragment

The **number of visitors a fast food drive-through gets each minute** follows a Poisson distribution. In this case, maybe the average is 3, but there's some variability around that number.

A Poisson distribution can help calculate the probability of various events related to customers going through the drive-through at a restaurant. It will predict lulls (0 customers) and flurry of activity (5+ customers), allowing staff to plan and schedule more precisely.

# Location of Starbucks relative to population density in MA

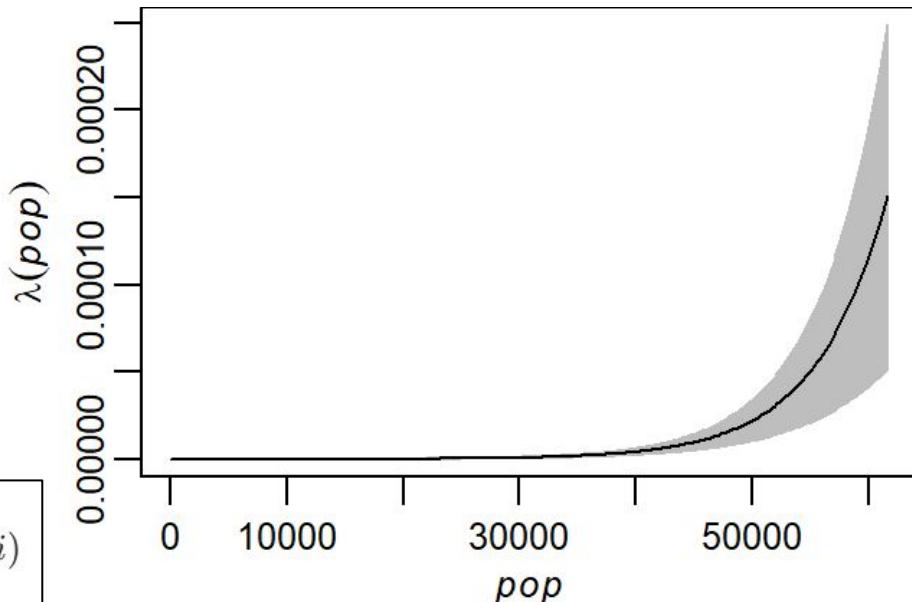


$\alpha = -18.966$  (at a given population density of 0)

$e^{-18.966} = 5.80 \times 10^{-9}$  cafes per square meter

$\beta = 0.00017$ ;  $e^{0.00017}$  or 1.00017

# Location of Starbucks relative to population density in MA



$$\text{Starbucks density}(i) = e^{\alpha + \beta \text{population}(i)}$$

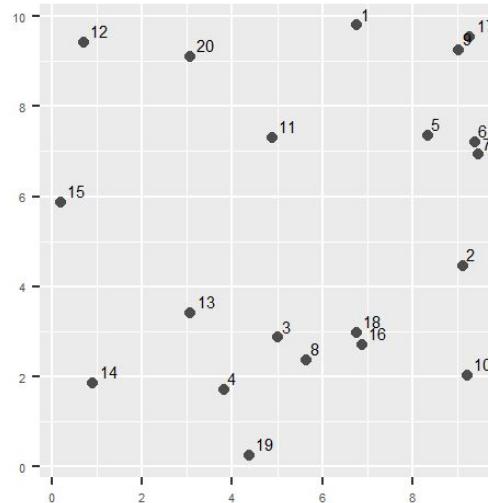
**$\alpha$**  = -18.966 (at a given population density of 0)

$e^{-18.966} = 5.80 \times 10^{-9}$  cafes per square meter

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# Modeling these data: Average Nearest Neighbor

(Distance-based Methods - how the points are distributed relative to one another)



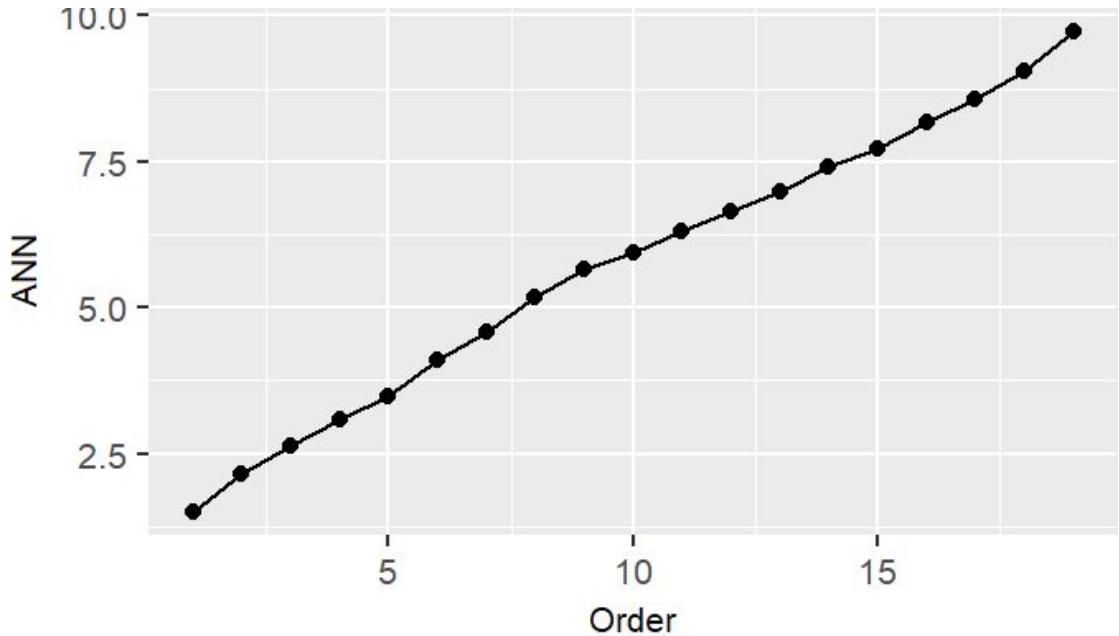
From	To	Distance	From	To	Distance
1	9	2.32	11	20	2.55
2	10	2.43	12	20	2.39
3	8	0.81	13	4	1.85
4	19	1.56	14	13	2.67
5	6	1.05	15	12	3.58
6	7	0.3	16	18	0.29
7	6	0.3	17	9	0.37
8	3	0.81	18	16	0.29
9	17	0.37	19	4	1.56
10	2	2.43	20	12	2.39

ANN = 1.52 units

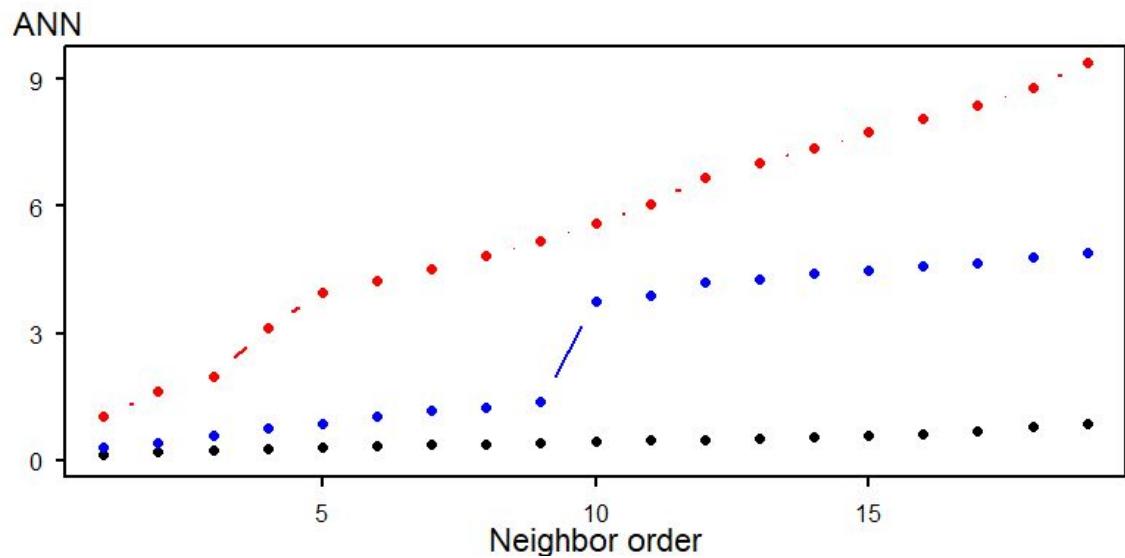
# Modeling these data: Average Nearest Neighbor

(Distance-based Methods - how the points are distributed relative to one another)

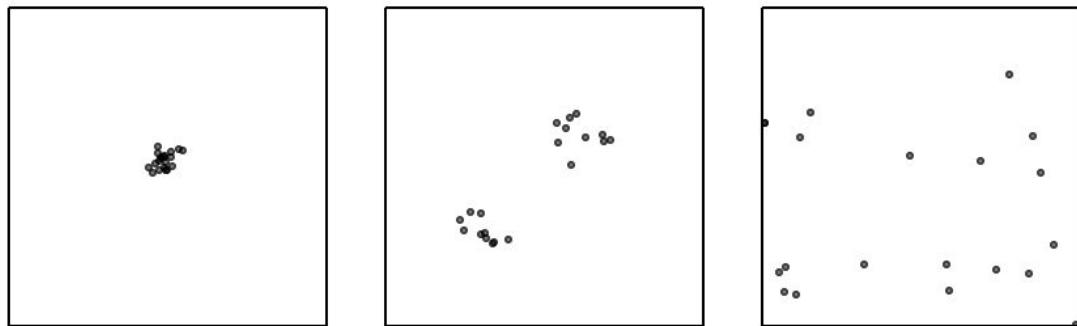
plot the ANN values for different order neighbors, that is for the first closest point, then the second closest point, and so forth.



ANN vs neighbor order offers insight into underlying spatial relationship



Note: study space definition affects this measure



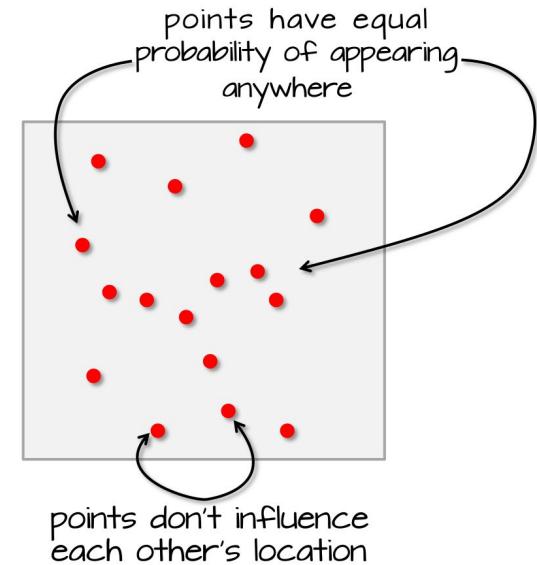
# Hypothesis Testing: CSR/IPR

(Distance-based Methods - how the points are distributed relative to one another)

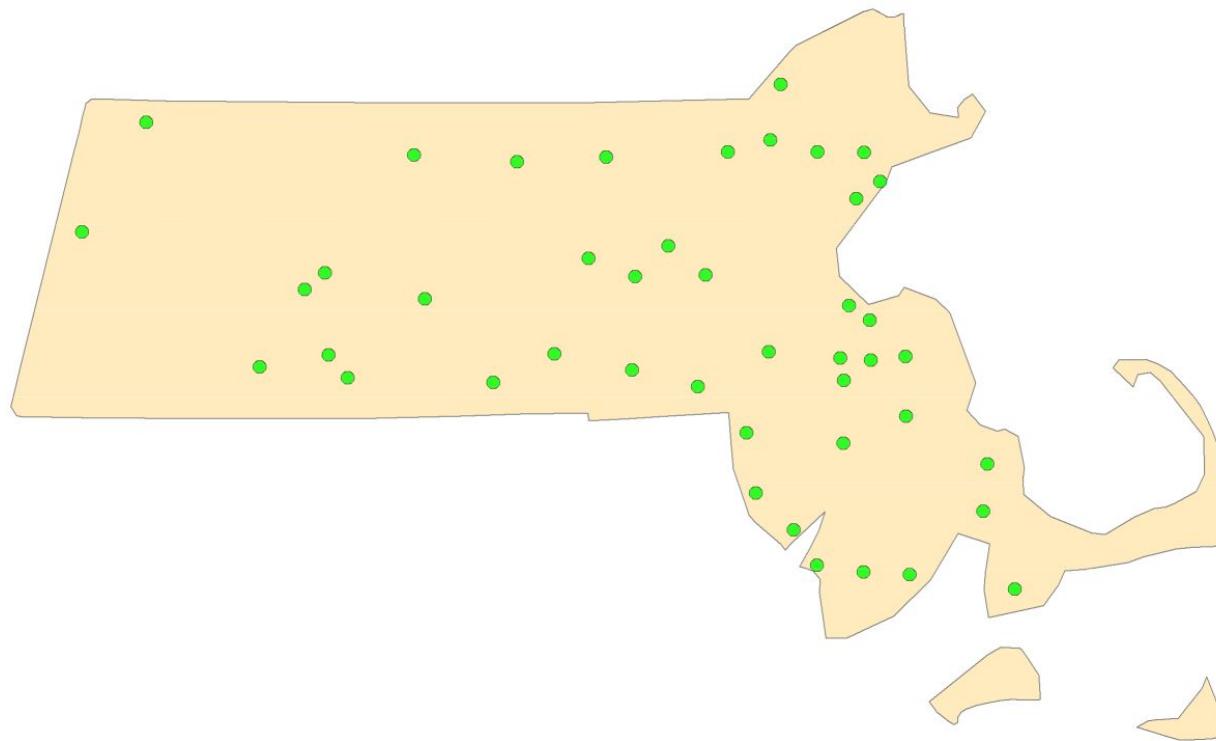
Compare observed point patterns to ones generated by an **independent random process (IRP)**, aka **complete spatial randomness (CSR)**.

CSR/IPR satisfy two conditions:

1. Any event has equal probability of being in any location, a 1st order effect.
2. The location of one event is independent of the location of another event, a 2nd order effect



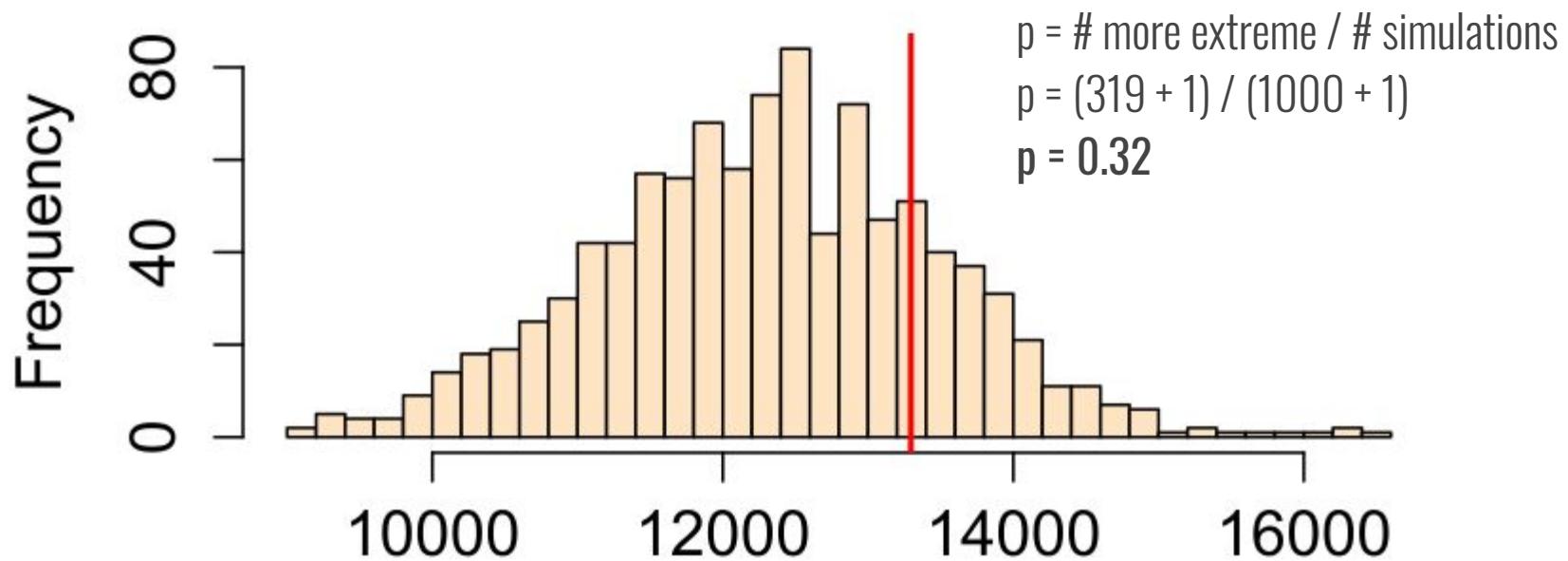
# Is this distribution of Walmarts in MA the result of a CRP?



# Hypothesis Testing: A Monte Carlo Test

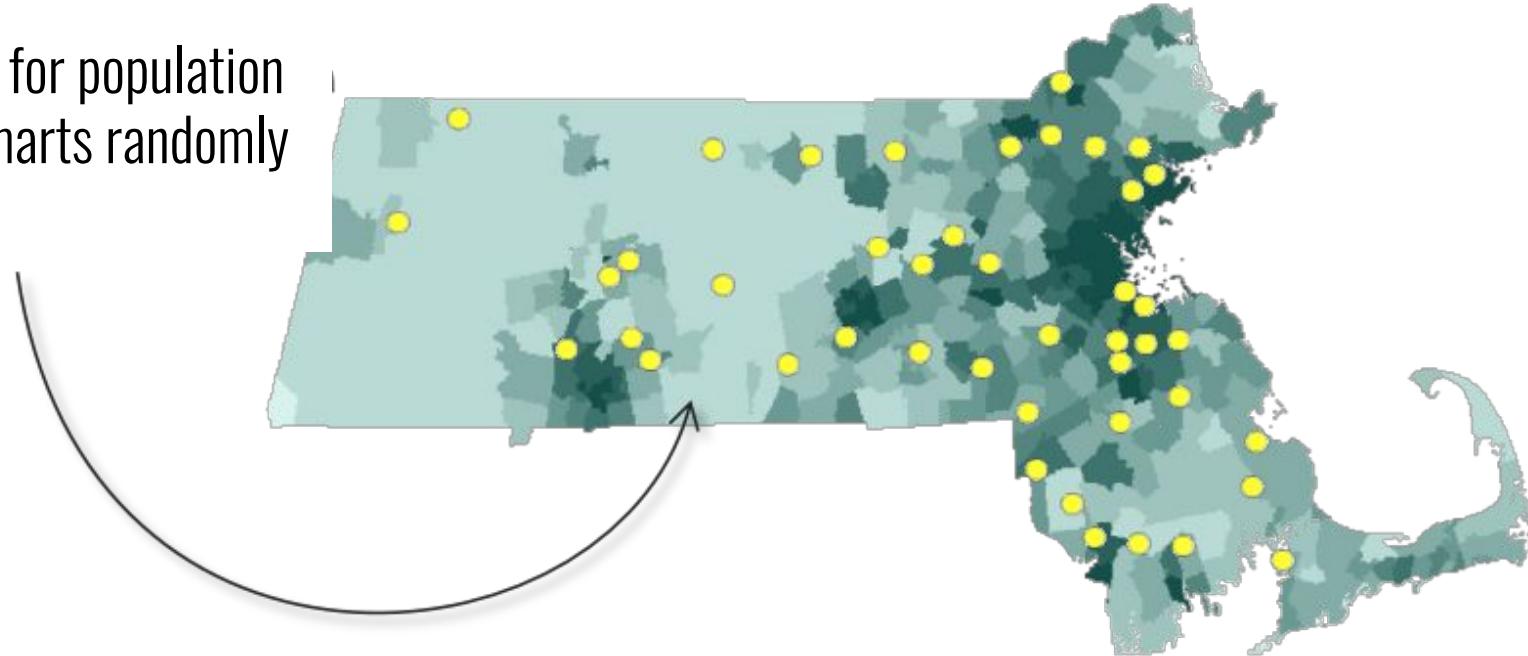
1. First, we postulate a process—our **null hypothesis**,  $H_0$ . For example, we hypothesize that the distribution of Walmart stores is consistent with a completely random process (CSR).
2. Next, we **simulate** many realizations of our postulated process and compute a statistic (e.g. ANN) for each realization.
3. Finally, we **compare our observed data to the patterns generated by our simulated processes** and assess (via a measure of probability) if our pattern is a likely realization of the hypothesized process.



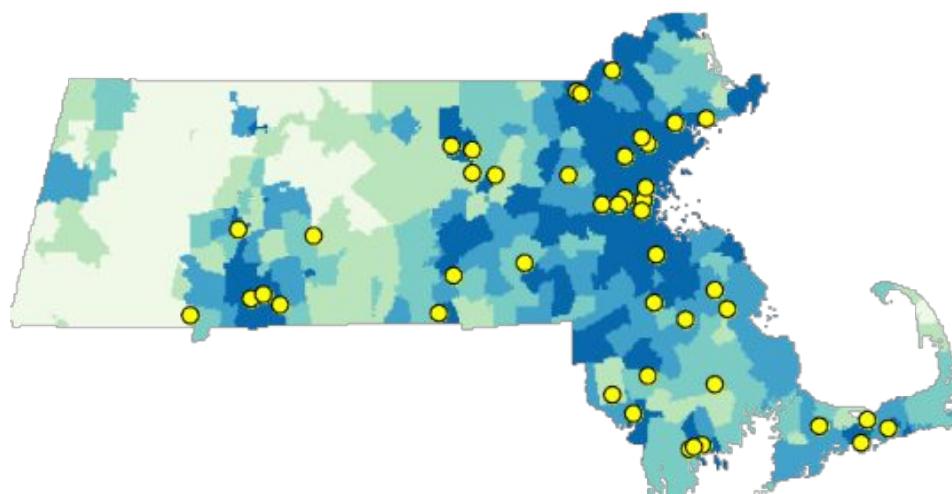
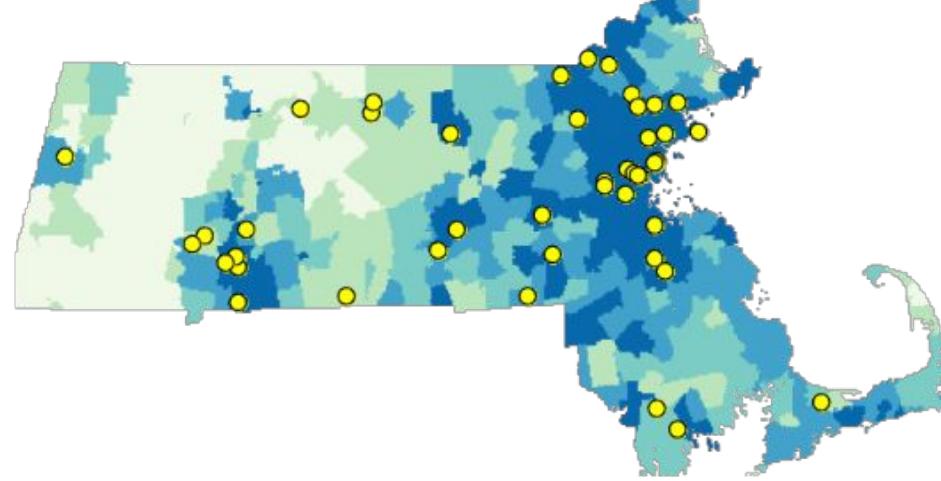


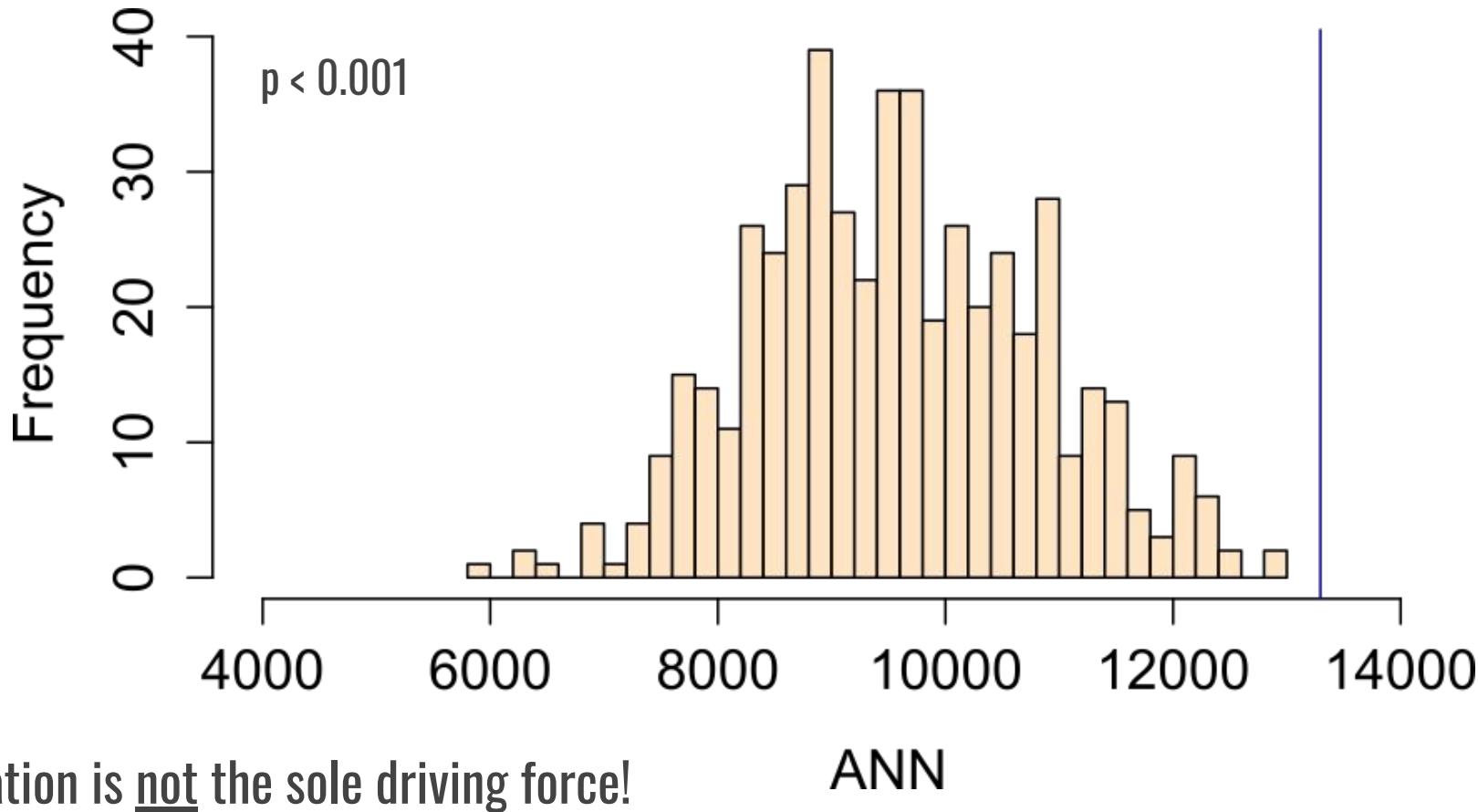
Suggests that our results come from a CRP ANN

When controlling for population density, are Walmarts randomly distributed?

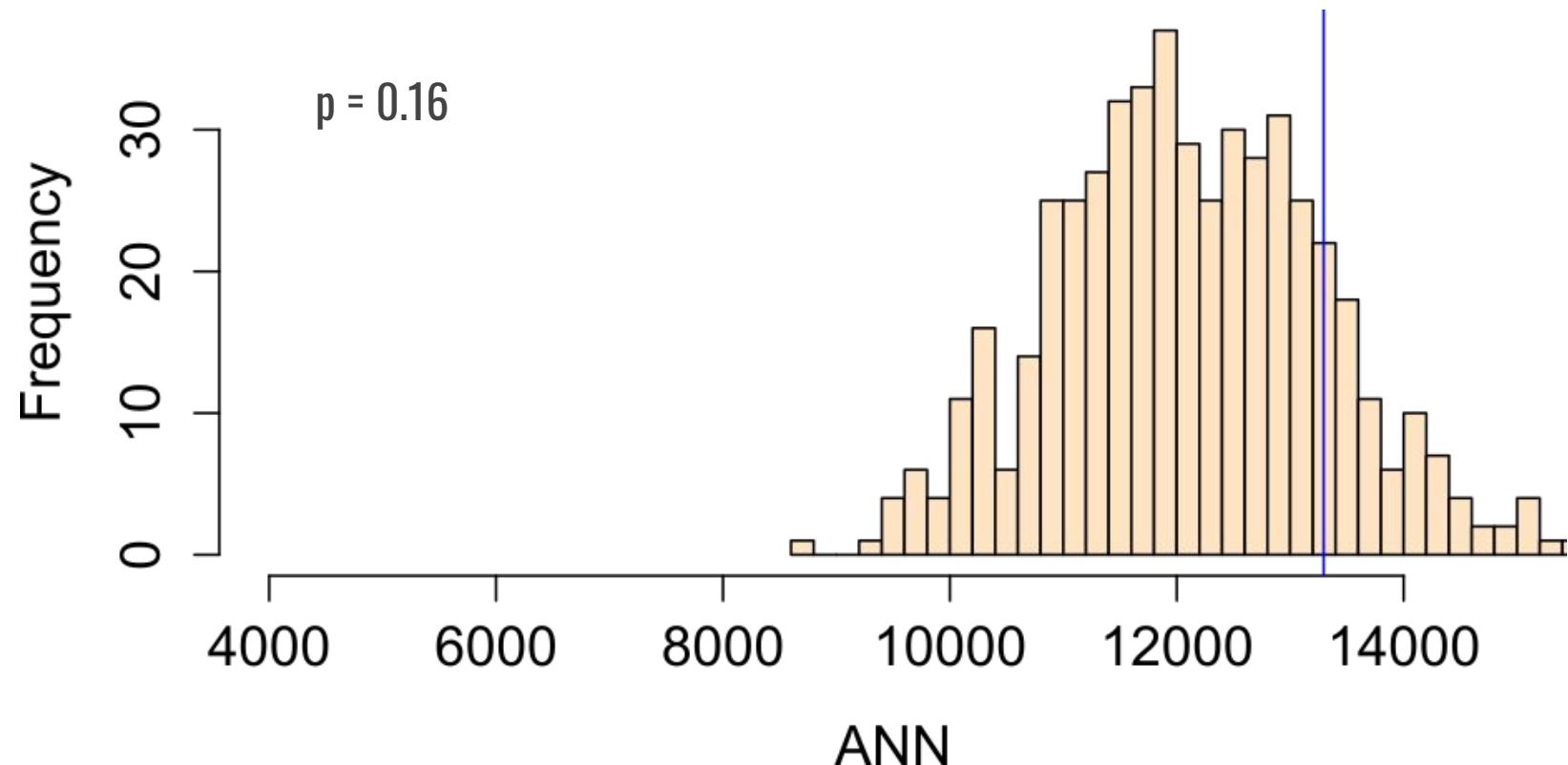


two randomly generated  
point patterns using  
population density as the  
underlying process





# Maybe median household income is the driving force...?



**...Is it a CRP or median household income?**

hints at plausible scenarios, but doesn't tell us which one it is definitively.

# Basic Geospatial Analysis: Summary

1. Considerations when visualizing spatial data important to conclusions drawn
  - a. values to plot?
  - b. map type?
  - c. color scale?
2. Traditional statistics fail with geospatial data:
  - a. Spatial autocorrelation
  - b. MAUP
  - c. Edge effects
  - d. Ecological fallacy
  - e. Nonuniformity of space
3. Analysis still possible
  - a. Global Point Density, Quadrat Density, Kernel Density
  - b. Poisson Point Process
  - c. Comparison to a CRP (using simulation)