

Maps!

What's a Map?



Do we really need to start here??

Fine, fine...

But really, what do maps have to do with data?

About data

Data is a stored representation of the real world. If anything, maps are some of the realest data that we can experience.

But why put it on a map?



What do we need?

In order to create maps, we need the following:

1. Some geographic marker(s)
2. Data related to those markers

Geographic markers

Depending on what your data looks like, geographic markers might be **place names** or **coordinates**

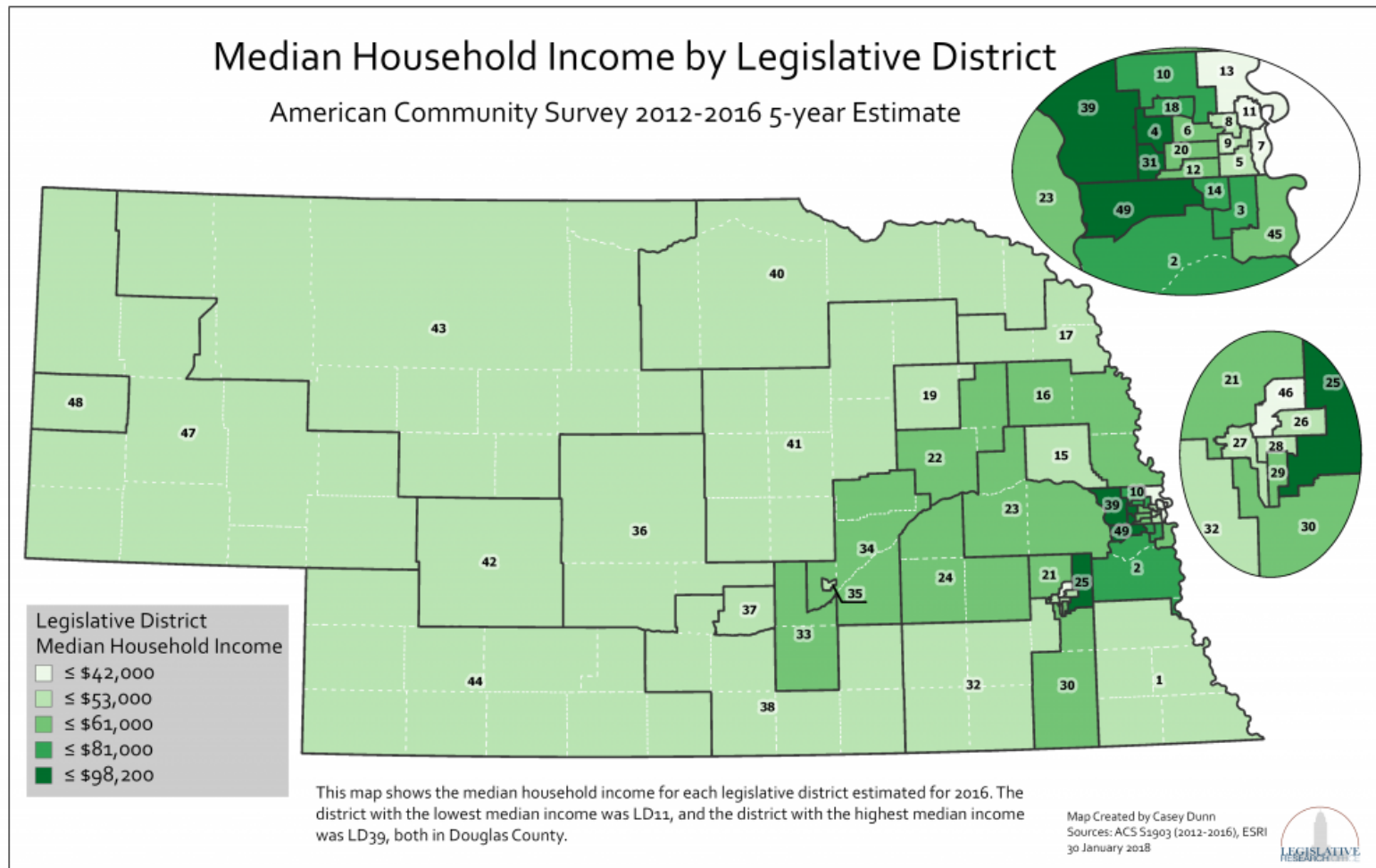
- FIPS codes ([State](#), [County](#) for the US)
- [NUTS codes](#) (Europe)

Data for our maps

What kind of data have you seen represented on a map?

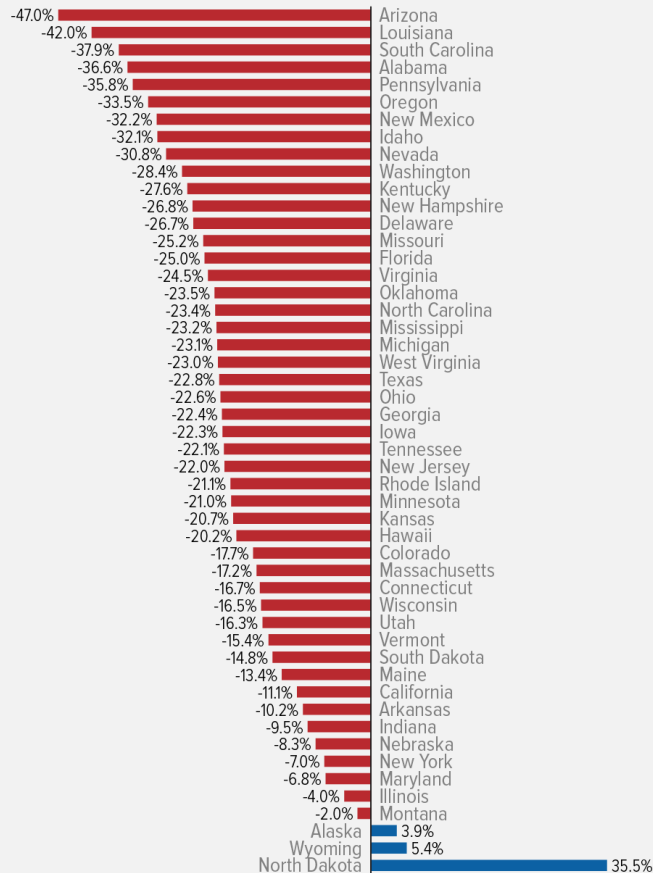
1. Elevation (topographic maps)
2. Routes
3. Shapes of regions
4. Data about locations (age, unemployment, income, internet access, favorite sports team, etc.)

Data for our maps



State Funding for Higher Education Remains Far Below Pre-Recession Levels in Most States

Percent change in state spending per student, inflation adjusted, 2008 - 2015



Source: CBPP calculations using data from Illinois State University's annual Grapevine Report and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. Illinois funding data is provided by the Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children. Because enrollment data is only available through the 2014 school year, enrollment for the 2014-15 school year is estimated using data from past years. Years are fiscal years.

Should we always use maps?

Not necessarily! We use maps when **geography** aids understanding

Remember that unnecessary information in a visual just makes it harder to find the critical point!

Let's explore!