Project: Preliminary Maps of Substance Use Recovery Providers in Iowa by Kelsey Van Selous

Reviewer: Jason Becker

Kelsey’s webpage is full of easily accessible information with a very clean design. The inclusion of the four maps provide enough information to completely understand the topic of substance use recovery providers in Iowa. The first map at the top gives good context in relating Iowa’s substance abuse patterns to other states, which is a great way to start off the project. Moving down, the map of Iowa that compares its substance abuse patterns through mortality rate and comparing it to poverty levels is an interesting way to deliver information. I like the ability to click on each county and being able to see the exact number of substance induced deaths. The last two maps are a great way to finish the project by providing a lot of information on recovery providers. Overall, the entire project was delivered perfectly, especially in the flow from map to map as the viewer moves down. I enjoyed the uniformity of having background, map, and interactivity information for each of the three main maps. The interactivity on the last map was great, as it sorts out every type of provider for specific needs. The entire project is very user friendly, which is especially good for a topic as serious as substance abuse and recovery programs.

One thing I learned from this project is how many types of providers there are for substance abuse, as well as how much poverty levels affect substance abuse patterns. I am glad to see that there are a number of recovery providers in counties that have the greatest number of substance abuse deaths. One thing I learned from your project is the overall layout of your page. The transition from lighter grey to darker gray for each section is a good touch that easily separates each section without looking clunky.

One area that could be improved is with the second map of substance use in Iowa. Transitioning from layer to layer between poverty and substance induced deaths was difficult to compare the topics. A separate map for this could be a better solution, or maybe a side to side comparison could work better. Otherwise, your project was covered very comprehensively and successfully conveyed the information you know on substance use and substance use providers in Iowa.