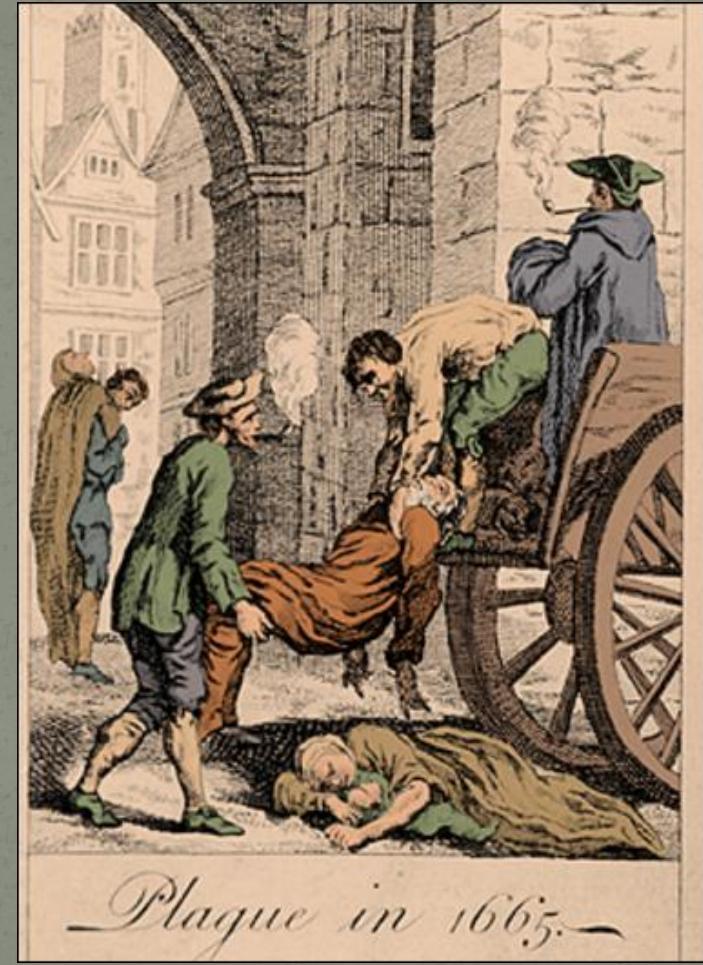
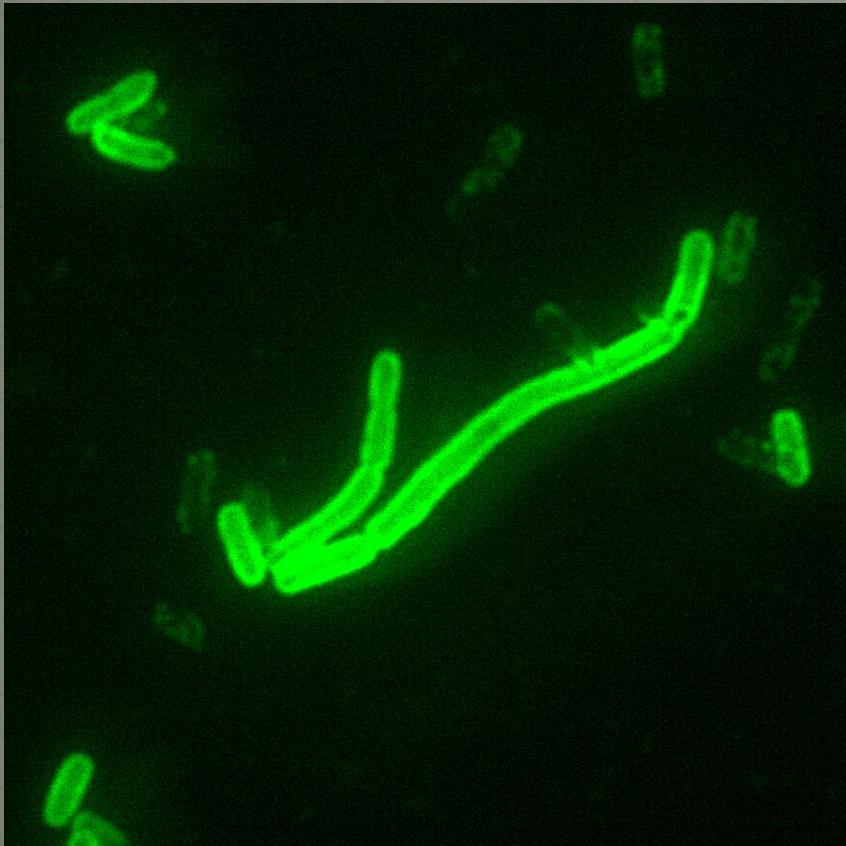


Death by Numbers

DH and the London Bills of Mortality

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Bubonic Plague



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Plague in European History

- First Pandemic
 - began with the Plague of Justinian, 541
 - last recorded plague outbreak circa 750
- Second Pandemic
 - began with the Black Death, 1346/8
 - ended in Britain with the Great Plague of London, 1665-1671
 - ended in France with the Great Plague of Marseille, 1720-22
 - lingered in Eastern Europe until 1770s
- Third Pandemic
 - began to spread out of China in the 1890s
 - most recent US cases of plague: 2017 (!)

London Record-Keeping in the 16th Century

1562	1562	60
Bartilmerre the Lefte a hennet at powles rocheste a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
hennet grace egerton a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
hennet flimbe a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
hennet george a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Bartilmerre at aldergate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
bottelge at alegate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
bottelge at bellengeate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
bottelge at bellengate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
bottelge at bellengate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Bartilmerre capitol a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
brydes parvysse a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Crist rymde a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Cristian parvysse a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Clement bys cas higge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Dennis bartie rymde a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Dunstanes parvysse in syt ofte a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Dunstanes in syt creke a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Edmones in Lambeth strett a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
flated condar verlede a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Festas parvysse a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Gervys in sondesende a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Georgy in holtyn grane a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Gabryell of waddinge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Gretory by powles a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Holles at threplague a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Holyns parvysse a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Honne examplyf a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Honne feliche a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Honamys in aralbroke a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Homes at fawylde syde a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Hatfame walmyngue a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Hatfame walmyngue a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Legerne walmyngue a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Legerne walmyngue a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Leonarde in fforstar Lane a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Leonarde in speterepe a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Lorens in syt jounye a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Lorens personinge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes parvysse a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in fycayne strett a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in the contrie a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes orfisnge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes orgayre a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes sermones lane a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes at lew gate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes at bayfings gate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in romegate a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in wade batre a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in syt bezalle a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes quare a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes at quay faire a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in walke lane a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in syt zorolme a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in lew street a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes syt lewe a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes lew golpe a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes at syde a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes somer stt a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes abeyngage a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes roderinge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes roderinge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes roderinge a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes aliamaryne a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes strunges a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in mythe strett a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in deffistret a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes in mende strett a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes wathens a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij
Marynes moynes a	2 i 8 dñij	2 i 8 dñij

Reporting to the Monarch

- each of London's parish clerks submitted weekly death tolls, *with cause of death*, to Company
- information compiled into a single document
- presented weekly to the monarch (or servants)
- long, detailed reports

In report of all the Deatolls and Opynges made by the Clerkes of our and Parishes of the fourt week by the Company of Servantes of the poore Selle off from the tenth of November to the 13 of December 1591.	
93	
A galldowes' hould shal	
A galldowes' by Cest	
A galldowes' by Less	
A galldowes' bread fleshe	
A galldowes' of his my	
A galldowes' in sydall	
A galldowes' in yore laune	
A galldowes' 23 on fleshe one long fynde	
A mordewes' at Wardwelle one of an Agew one of a Conomplic	
A mordewes' in gloucester in infante in long fynde	
A mordewes' in east sussex	
A mordewes' in west sussex one of great Age	
A mordewes' in west sussex one of a Conomplic	
A galldowes' yonge	
A dolfeus' yonge	
A dolfeus' 23	
A dolfeus' at Abingdon	
A dolfeus' 23 in fleshe	
23 bartyllewe at exeter one of a Conomplic	
23 bartyllewe 23 in fleshe	
23 mordewes 23 in fleshe in infante	
23 mordewes' in east sussex	
23 mordewes' in fleshe	
23 mordewes' 23 in fleshe	
23 mordewes' at Abingdon one of a Conomplic	
23 mordewes' at Abingdon one of a Conomplic one infante one of an Agew	
23 mordewes' at 23 in fleshe one of great Age to of late new Disapeare one of a Conomplic	
23 mordewes' at 23 in fleshe one of great Age to of late new Disapeare one of a Conomplic	
23 mordewes' by 23 in fleshe one of a Conomplic one of a Conomplic	

Plague in 17th-Century London

Major Outbreaks

- 1603-11
- 1625-26
- 1636-48
- 1665-6(ish)

Highest Mortality Years

- 1603: 25,045
- 1625: 26,350
- 1636: 10,400
- 1665: 55,797

Weekly London Bill of Mortality, 1603 Epidemic

including:

- parish-by-parish breakdown of deaths
- total deaths vs. plague deaths
- sum total of all parish deaths
- sum totals from previous weekly Bills
- sum totals of all weekly Bills

**THE TRUE COPY OF ALL THE BURIALS AND CHRISTNINGS
in the City and within the City of LONDON as the Liberties thereof, and other Parishes in the skirts
of the City, and within the City of the Freedome, according to the report made to the Kinge most excellent Majestie, by the
Company or Parish Clerkes of the said City. From the 27. of October 1603, to the 3. of No
vember 1603, with the true Relation of the whole number of persons that haue dyed
and are buried within the 7. parishes before mentioned, as haue dyed in Wymondesworthe, in the
skidde, begining.**

Buriall of the Plague			Buriall in all	Of the Plague
London within the Wallles.	Abownes in Woodstreet	16		
	Ahaliones Law-brefreet	1		
	Ahaliones the great	1		
	Ahaliones the leste	1		
	Ahaliones Breadstreet	1		
	Ahaliones Bayning	1		
	Ahaliones the Wall	1		
	Ahaliones Honey-Lane	1		
	Ahaliones Barkeing	1		
	Albages at Cripplegate	1		
	Andowes from the Wardrobe	2		
	Andowes Eastcheape	1		
	Andowes under-halfe	6		
	Annes at Aldersgate	4		
	Annes Black Friers	10		
	Ansline Parb	1		
	Austines Parb	3		
	Barkewell at the Exch.	4		
	Bennetts at Pauls Wharf	7		
	Bennetts Grace-Churche	0		
	Bennetts Frinch	0		
	Bennetts Shorche	0		
	Bostols Billingate	6		
	Christ Church Parb	16		
	Christopheris Parb	4		
	Clementis by Eastcheape	4		
	Dennis Backe-Churche	7		
	Doufenes in the Egle	8		
	Edmundis in Lumbard-st	5		
	Esterellis within Bishopsg	4		
	Fathers	10		
	Festors in Foister-lane	0		
	Gabriel Fan-Churche	3		
	George Bowralp-lane	2		
	Gregoris by Paules	8		
	Hellenis within Bishopsg	0		
	Iomes by Garike bithre	4		
	John Enageis	1		
	John Zacharisis	3		
	Johns in the Walbrook	2		
	Katherines Cree-Churche	12		
	Katherine Colemans	3		
	Laurence in the Iury	1		
	Laurence Founteyn	2		
	Leonards Foister-lane	1		
	Leonards East-chape	2		
	Magnus parb by the Bridge	0		
	Margess New fishstreet	5		
London without the Wallles, and with in the Liberties.	The number burdell within the Wallles of London is 141. Whereof of the Plague 186			
	Andowes in Elthorne	31		
	Bartelmen the beth Smith	1		
	Bartelmen the great Smith	2		
	Brides parb	22		
	Bridewell	17		
	Bridewell Prencinct	6		
	Bustols Baybys	4		
	Bustols without Alderlg.	13		
Out Parishes adioining to the City.	The number burdell without the wall, and within the liberties is 266. Whereof of the Plague 103.			
	Clemes without Tempelb.	33		
	Giles in the fields	13		
	James at Clarkenwell	7		
	Katherines by the Tower	8		
	Leonards in Shadiech	8		
	Christniss—70—Parishes cleare of the Plague—18—Parishes infected—94			
	Buried in all, within the places aforesaid—737			
	Whereof, of the Plague—594			
The time when it began in the City of Westminister, and in the severall places following.				
	Buried in Westminister from the 14. of June to the 3. of November, in the whole number 14. 16. whereof of the plague 79.			
	Buried in the Savoy, from the first of June to the 30. of November, in the whole number 19. whereof of the plague, 13.			
	Buried in the Bishop of Steyney, from the 15. of March, to the 31. of November, in all 2016. whereof of the plague 1347.			
	Buried in the severall places from the 14. of June to the 3. of November, in al 635 whereof of the plague 469.			
	Buried in Finsbury 247. whereof of the plague 133.			
	Buried in Lambeth 394. whereof of the plague 173.			
	Buried in Hackney 198. whereof of the plague 175.			
	9 Buried all within the 7 severall places left forementioned 461.			
	Whereof of the plague 415.			
	The whole number that hath beene buried in all, both within London, and the Liberties, and the 7. other severall places last before mentioned is, 41349. whereof of the number of the plague, 1772.			

General London Bill of Mortality, non-plague year

includes:

- parish-by-parish breakdown of deaths
- total deaths vs. plague deaths
- sum total of deaths
- christenings and burials, subdivided by gender
- causes of death

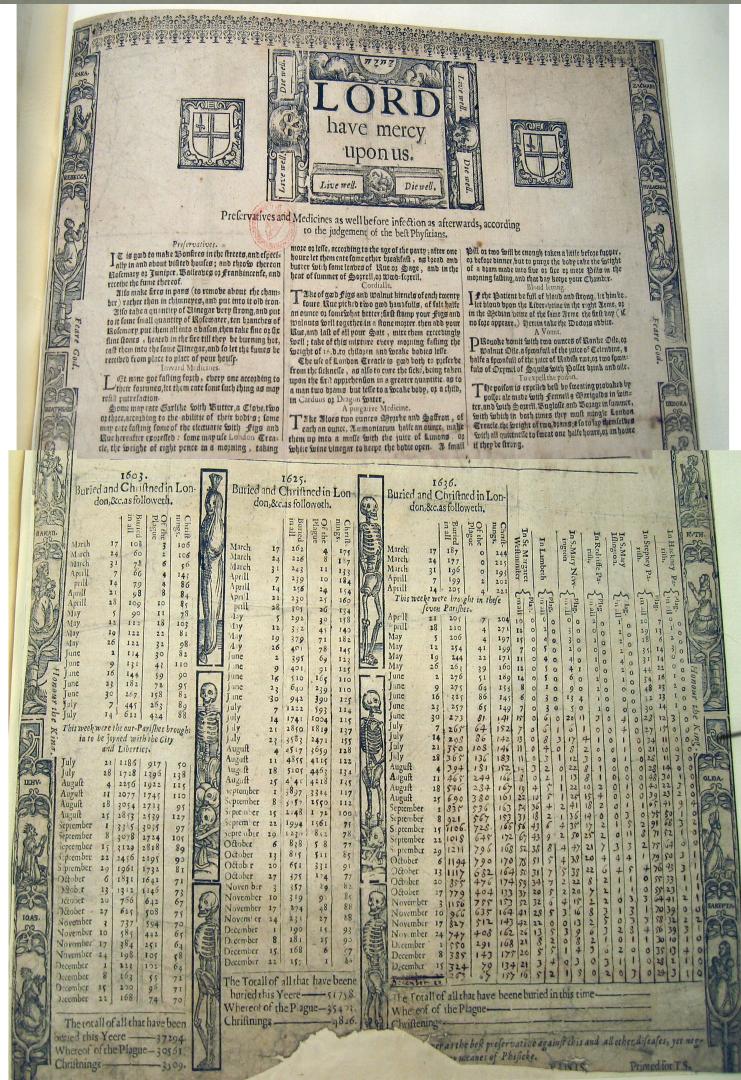
@jotis13

A generall Bill for this present yeere, ending the 17 of December 1629, according to the report made to the Kings moft excellent Ma ^t By the Company of Parish Clerks of London, &c.			
Albany Woodliffe	29	PL.	
Albanye Building	93		
Allallowes Bedfleld	26		
Allallowes Great	28		
Allallowes Halle	8		
Allallowes Holme	41		
Allhall, Lambeth	20		
Allallowes Staining	22		
Allallowes Wall	25		
Aphage	23		
Appleton	13		
Andrew Vnderhaft	30		
Andrew Wardrobe	33		
Anne Alterfayre	33		
Anne Bla ke Frys	82		
Anthonie Parfitt	21		
Anthonie Parfitt	22		
Bathhol Exchange	14		
Bennet French	10		
Bennet Grace church	8		
Bennet Pauls Wharfe	52		
Bennet Sherehog	9		
Borough Billingsgate	23		
Christis Church	91		
Christopheres	21		
Coxwells East heare	11		
Douane East church	12		
Dunfan East	60		
Edmunds Lumbard	24		
Fathers	23		
Fathers	32		
G-bret Fen-church	7		
George Borophiane	17		
Gregories by Pauls	66		
Helle	25		
Iane Dukemplace	27		
James Gaslichithie	35		
Iohn Baptis	19		
Iohn Evangelist	7		
John Zacharie	23		
Katherine Coleman	34		
Katherine Creechuch	67		
Louise Lewrie	25		
Lawrence Duntemey	36		
Leonard Eastcheap	13		
Leonard Eastcheape	35		
Magnus Parfitt	38		
Margaret - Lenbury	26		
Margaret Moer	8		
Margaret New Fift.	17		
Margaret Parsons	10		
Mary Alschurh	30		
Mary Ambrbury	13		
Mary Aldermany	24		
Mary Bow	14		
Mary Bowshaw	11		
Mary Brachell	7		
Mary Chichechurh	7		
Mary Higge	25		
Mary Monshaw	14		
Mary Summerer	49		
Mary Woodchurh	19		
Mary Woodrooth	21		
Martins Indigne	7		
Martins Orgare	20		
Martins Outwich	11		
Martin Vintrey	68		
Matthew Fridyfreete	7		
Maudins Milkewicke	5		
Maudins Oldiflifree	41		
Saints Southwarke	351		
Saintches Parfitt	350		
Thomas Southwarke	48		
Trinitie Monores	12		
Buried in the 17. Parfitts within the walls, — 2536 PV ^t herof the Plague			
Buried in the 16. Parfitts without the walls — 3992 PV ^t herof the Plague			
The total of all the burials this year — 8771			
PV ^t herof the Plague	0		
The total of all the christenings — 9901			
In 16. ministris this year — Buried — 568			
Plague — 0			
christening — 575			
The Diseases and Casualties.			
A Boruite	33	Falling ficknes	3
Aged	579	Feauers	924
Ague	32	Fistula	11
Apop ex and Meagrome	22	Flocks and Small Pox	72
Elasted and Plannet	13	French Pox	17
Bleeding	5	Frets	1
Bloody flux (cowring & fl. ix.)	449	Gangrene	2
Burst	2	Gourefe	18
Cancer and Woolfe	3	Griefe	47
Canker	6	Iaudis	47
Childbed	150	lawfaine	10
Chrlome and Infants	2596	Impoflumbe	58
Collicke Stone & Strangury	48	Kild by feuerall accidents	54
Consumption and Cough	1827	Kings Eull	54
Convulsion	52	Leprefce	16
Could	10	Lethargie	1
Dead in the strete and fields	18	Liuergrowne	94
Dropfie and Swelling	227	Lunatike	1
Drowned	43	Made away themselues	8
Executed	19	Meades	42
Males	52182	Mother	1
Christened Females	4683	Palpice	17
In all	9901	Plurifie and Spleene	26
		Puples and Spotted feauer	32
		Quinife	1
		Rising of the Lights	44
		Scalded	3
		Schur ey	12
		Sores Broke & brufed limbs	23
		Sore Mouth and Thruth	15
		Starued at Nurf	4
		Stilborne	460
		Suddenly	63
		Surfet	63
		Swine Pox	5
		Teeth	440
		Timpanie	8
		Tiffike	8
		Vomiting	1
		Wormes	19
Decreased in the whole number — 382			
LONDON, Printed by Richard Hedges, 1629.			

“They haue beene and are very diligent in enquiring after the weekly Bils of mortality, and they that could first obtaine the Bill from their Parish Clarks haue acknowledged to be most beholden vnto them... if they haue found an increase of the number, haue they humbled themselues in Prayer, endeaououring to depart from their sinnes, & to trauaile to this Towre-Royall, in the sequell, for safetie? Surely, no, few or none haue so done: the *increase* happ'ly hath deighted them, made them murmure, and project to flee to their Country-houses here or there, and peraduenture to send beforehand their Wiues, Children, and Houshold-stuffe.”

J. D. Salomons *Pest-Hovse, Or Tovvre-Royall* (London: Thomas Harper, 1630), A4v.

1636 Plague Broadside



1636.
Buried and Christned in London,&c. as followeth.

	In Hackney Pa-	In Ilford.
March	17	187
March	24	177
March	31	196
April	7	199
April	14.	205
This week were brought in these seven Parishes.		
April	21	205
April	28	210
May	5	206
May	12	254
May	19	244
May	26	203
June	2	276
June	9	275
June	16	325
June	23	257
June	30	273
July	7	265
July	14	293
July	21	360
August	4	347
August	11	465
August	18	546
September	25	690
September	1	835
September	8	921
September	15	1106.
September	22	1018
September	29	1211
October	6	1194
October	13	1117
October	20	855
October	27	779
November	3	1156
November	10	966
November	17	827
November	24	747
December	1	550
December	8	335
December	15	324
December	22	203

The totalall of all chalke have been buried in this time.

The rate of all chalke have been buried in this time.

Whereof the plague ague 354.

Christnings.

Printed for T.S.



Printed for T.S.

August 3, 1665: “And then mounted and rode very finely to Dagenham’s – all the way, people, Citizens, walking to and again to enquire how the plague is in the City this week by the Bill – which by chance at Greenwich I had heard was 2010 of the plague, and 3000 and odd of all diseases; but methought it was a sad question to be so often asked me.”

Samuel Pepys, *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, eds. Robert Latham and William Matthews (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972), 6:180.

Standardizing the Weekly Bill

London 29.	From the 29. of June to the 6. of July.	1680.		
St. Alphege Wood Green	2	St. Gregory by St. Pauls	2	Bury'd 712
Altham's Barnetts	2	St. James Duke place	1	
Altham's Breadfreet	2	St. James Gerolashine	2	
Altham's Green	2	St. John Baptist	2	
Altham's Headline	2	St. John Evangelist	2	
Altham's Letts	1	St. John Lechfiche	1	
Altham's Lambardfreet	1	St. Katharine Colman	1	
Altham's Saffronworts	1	St. Katharine Creechards	3	
Altham's the West	1	St. Laurence Jewry	1	
St. Alphege	3	St. Laurence Poumney	1	
St. Andrew Hobart	1	St. Leonard Eastchep	1	
St. Andrew Morden	1	St. Leonard Eastchep	1	
St. Andrew Wardrobe	1	St. Margaret Bow	2	
St. Anne Aldgate	1	St. Margaret Lothbury	1	
St. Ann Bischopsgate	2	St. Margarete Bowes	1	
St. Anthonie Parke	2	St. Margarete Newfount	1	
St. Anthonie Parke	2	St. Margarete Newfount	1	
St. Bartholomew Exchange	2	St. Margarete Newfount	1	
St. Benet Finsbury	1	St. Margarete Newfount	1	
St. Benet Creechards	1	St. Mary Abchurch	1	
St. Benet Finsbury	1	St. Mary Aldermanbury	1	
St. Benet Finsbury	1	St. Mary le Bow	1	
St. Benet Finsbury	1	St. Mary Bothaw	1	
St. Benet Finsbury	2	St. Mary Colecharch	1	
Chrift Churche	2	St. Mary Cokethorpe	1	
St. Chriftopher	2	St. Mary Magd. Newfount	1	
St. Chriftopher	2	St. Mary Magd. Oldfitch	1	
St. Chriftopher	2	St. Mary Mountayne	1	
St. Chriftopher	1	St. Mary Romerates	1	
Edmund Lamberdstr	2	St. Mary Scryne	1	
Rethelburgh	1	St. Mary Woolcharch	1	
Geoffr. Fenchurch	2	St. Mary Woolcharch	2	
George Bolsonolane	2	Christed in the 57 Parishes within the City — 33		
		Buried — 93	Plague — 0	
		Severours Southwark	11	
		St. Sepulchres Parke	13	
		St. Thomas Southwark	2	
		Trinity Ministrars	1	
		At the Peffards	1	
		Christed in the 16 Parishes without the City — 80	Plague — 0	
		1. St. Botolph Aldgate	7	
		2. St. Botolph Bishopgate	16	
		3. St. Botolph Wal-	6	
		4. St. George Southwark	11	
		5. St. Olave Cripplegate	4	
		6. St. Olave Hartfode	4	
		7. St. Olave Newgate	25	
		8. St. Mary Newgate	1	
		9. St. Martin in the fields	26	
		10. St. Mary Savoy	2	
		11. St. Margaret Westminster	14	
		12. St. Peter ad Vincula	1	
		13. St. Sepulchres	1	
		14. St. Sepulchres	1	
		15. St. Sepulchres	1	
		16. St. Sepulchres	1	
		17. St. Sepulchres	1	
		18. St. Sepulchres	1	
		19. St. Sepulchres	1	
		20. St. Sepulchres	1	
		21. St. Sepulchres	1	
		22. St. Sepulchres	1	
		23. St. Sepulchres	1	
		24. St. Sepulchres	1	
		25. St. Sepulchres	1	
		26. St. Sepulchres	1	
		27. St. Sepulchres	1	
		28. St. Sepulchres	1	
		29. St. Sepulchres	1	
		30. St. Sepulchres	1	
		31. St. Sepulchres	1	
		32. St. Sepulchres	1	
		33. St. Sepulchres	1	
		34. St. Sepulchres	1	
		35. St. Sepulchres	1	
		36. St. Sepulchres	1	
		37. St. Sepulchres	1	
		38. St. Sepulchres	1	
		39. St. Sepulchres	1	
		40. St. Sepulchres	1	
		Buried — 106	Plague — 0	
		Christed in the 16 Parishes within the City and Burrow — 76		
		Buried — 106	Plague — 0	
		Christed in the 57 Parishes within the City and Burrow — 33		
		Buried — 55	Plague — 0	

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.



A Bortive	1	Civil	3
Aged	17	Fever	58
Apoplexy	1	Fox and Small pox	9
Bursten	1	Griping in the guts	60
childbed	4	Jaundies	3
Chrlomes	2	Impotunme	3
Confusian	42	Infants	4
Convulsion	49	Kill'd at S. Margaret Westf- mister	1
Dropse	12	Rickets	12
Drowned 4, one at S. Katha- rine Tower, one at S. Paul 4		Rising of the Lights	2
Shadwel, and two at Stepny		St. Anthony's Fire	0
		spotted Feaver	4
		stillborn	6
		scopping in the Stomach	2
		surtit	3
		Teeth	16
		Thrush	2
		Tisick	1
		Wind	5

Males — 118 Females — 121 In all — 239

Males — 174 Females — 162 In all — 336

Decrested in the Burials this week — 52

Parishes clear of the Plague — 132 Parishes Infested — 0

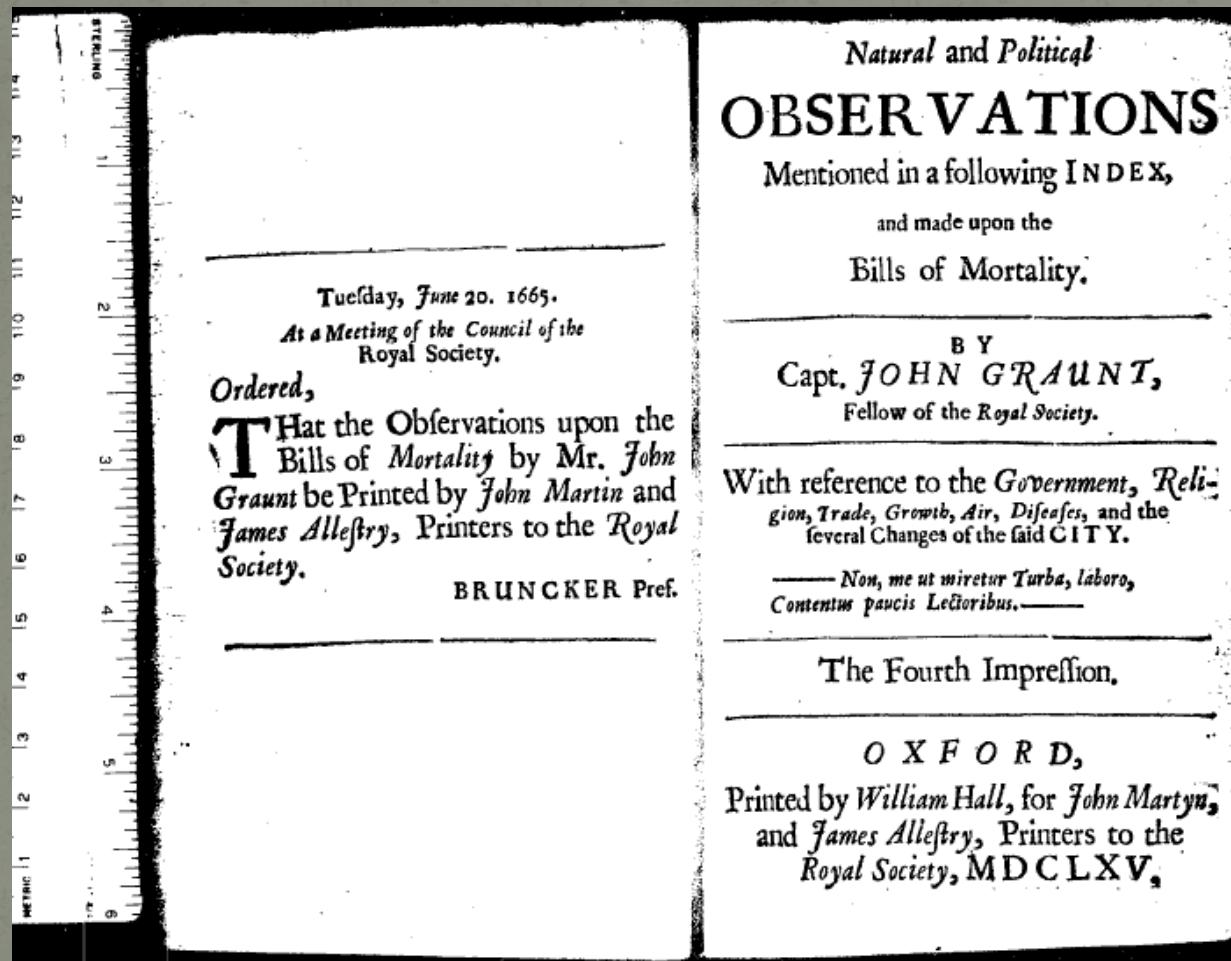
A Loaf of Bread set forth by Order of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen
to contain Ten Quines and an half, and three half-pennys, White Loaves the like weight. And Mowched Bread
made of Wheat to contain double the weight of White Bread.

@jotis13

November 5, 1665: “Up, and after being trimmed, by boate to the Cockepitt, where I heard the Duke of Albemarle’s chaplain make a simple sermon. Among other things, reproaching the imperfection of humane learning, he cried – “All our physicians can’t tell what an ague is, and all our Arithmetique is not able to number the days of a man” – which, God knows, is not the fault of arithmetique but that our understandings reach not that thing.”

Samuel Pepys, *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, eds. Robert Latham and William Matthews (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972), 6:289.

Our understandings reach not that thing... yet!



@jotis13

Bills of Mortality in the Internet Age

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Bills of mortality

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Bills of mortality were the weekly mortality statistics in London, designed to monitor burials from 1592 to 1595 and then continuously from 1603. The responsibility to produce the statistics was chartered in 1611 to the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks. The bills covered an area that started to expand as London grew from the City of London, before reaching its maximum extent in 1636. New parishes were then only added where ancient parishes within the area were divided. Factors such as the use of suburban cemeteries outside the area, the exemption of extra-parochial places within the area, the wider growth of the metropolis, and that they recorded burials rather than deaths, rendered their data incomplete. Production of the bills went into decline from 1819 as parishes ceased to provide returns, with the last surviving weekly bill dating from 1858. They were superseded by the weekly returns of the Registrar General from 1840, taking in further parishes until 1847. This area became the district of the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1855, the County of London in 1889 and Inner London in 1965.

Contents [hide]

- 1 History
- 2 Problems with the bills
- 3 Places within the bills
- 4 Population
- 5 Registrar General returns
- 6 Notes
- 7 References
- 8 External links

History [edit]

Bills of mortality were produced intermittently in the several parishes of the City of London during outbreaks of plague. The first bill of mortality is believed to date from November 1532.^[1] The first regular weekly collection and publishing of the number of burials in the

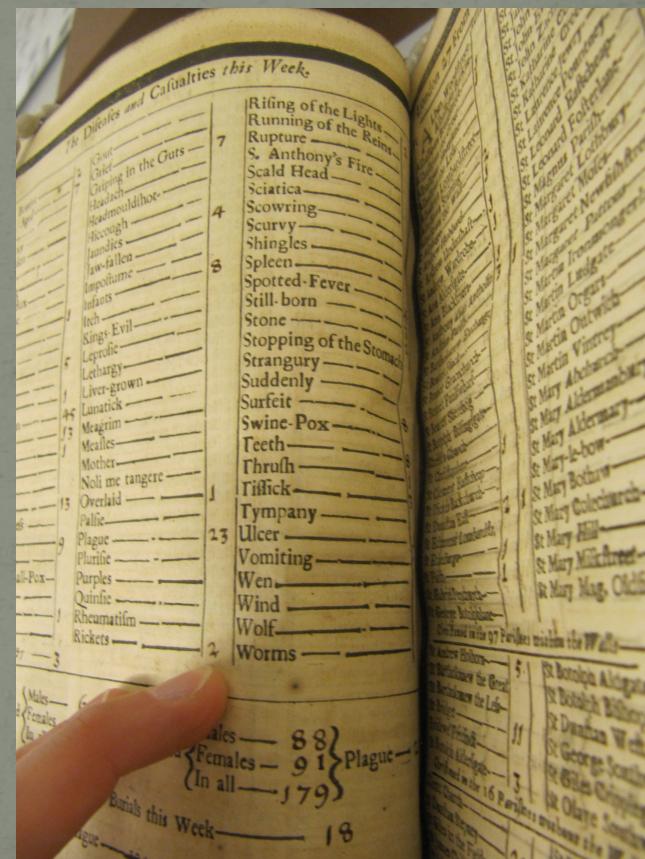


- epidemic years in databases such as EEBO, State Papers Online
- late seventeenth & early eighteenth century annual bills in ECCO
- select bills in Folger Shakespeare Library's LUNA Digital Image Collection

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The Data

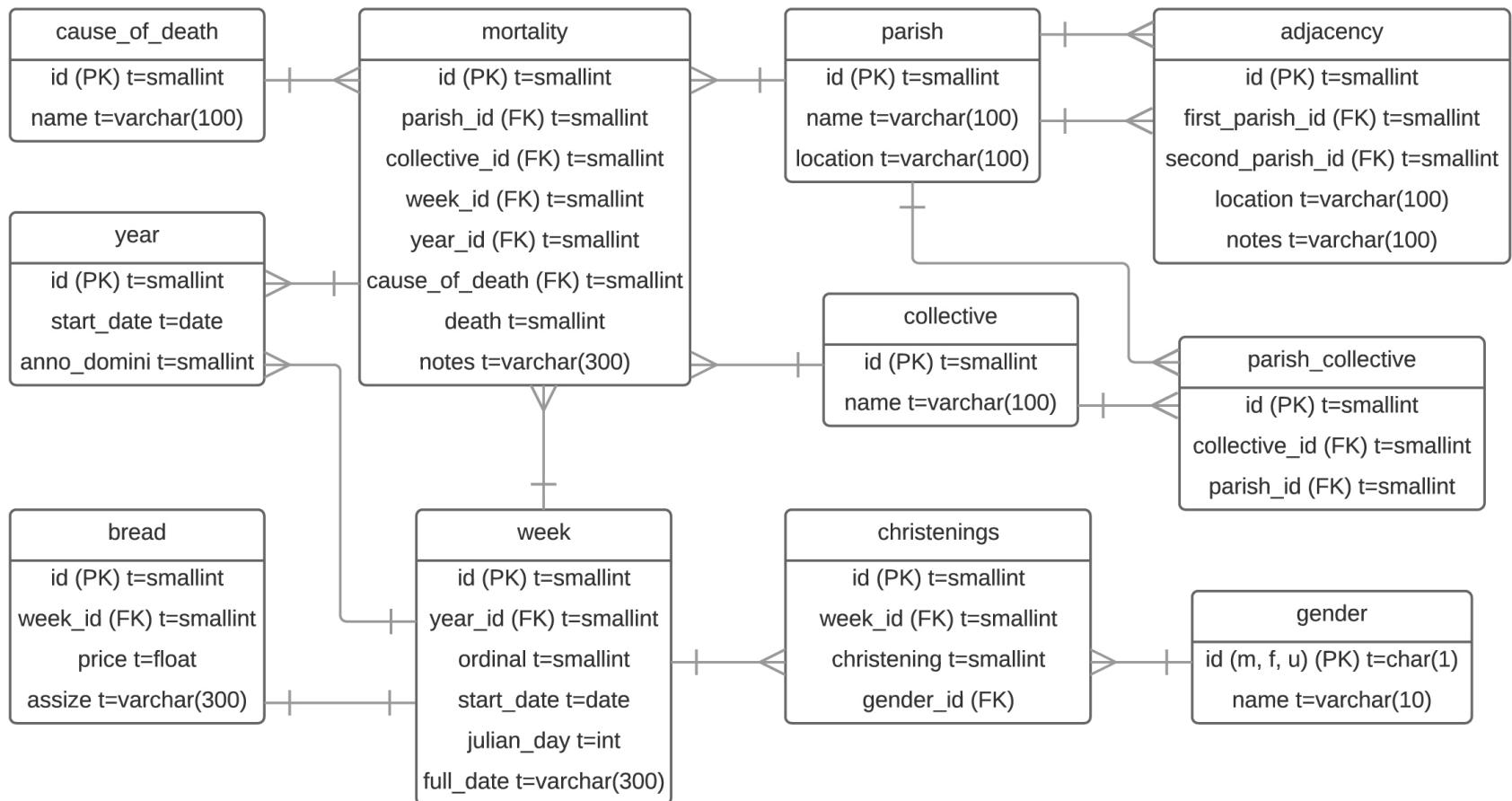
- 10,000+ images from the Wellcome Library, Guildhall Library, British Library, and National Archives (Kew, London)
- theoretically transcribing all *quantitative* data
- in reality, tight bindings, damaged paper, smeared ink obscure some data



A photograph of an open historical ledger book. The left page lists various diseases and their counts for the week, while the right page lists burials by name. A finger points to the bottom of the left page where totals for males, females, and the total number of plague cases are listed.

The Diseases and Casualties this Week.	
1	Rising of the Lights
2	Running of the Reins
3	Rupture
4	S. Anthony's Fire
5	Scald Head
6	Sciatica
7	Scowring
8	Scurvy
9	Shingles
10	Spleen
11	Spotted-Fever
12	Still-born
13	Stone
14	Stopping of the Stomach
15	Strangury
16	Suddenly
17	Surfeit
18	Swine-Pox
19	Teeth
20	Thrush
21	Tifick
22	Tympany
23	Ulcer
24	Vomiting
25	Wen
26	Wind
27	Wolf
28	Worms
29	Males — 88
30	Females — 91 } Plague
31	{ In all — 179 }
32	Burials this Week — 18

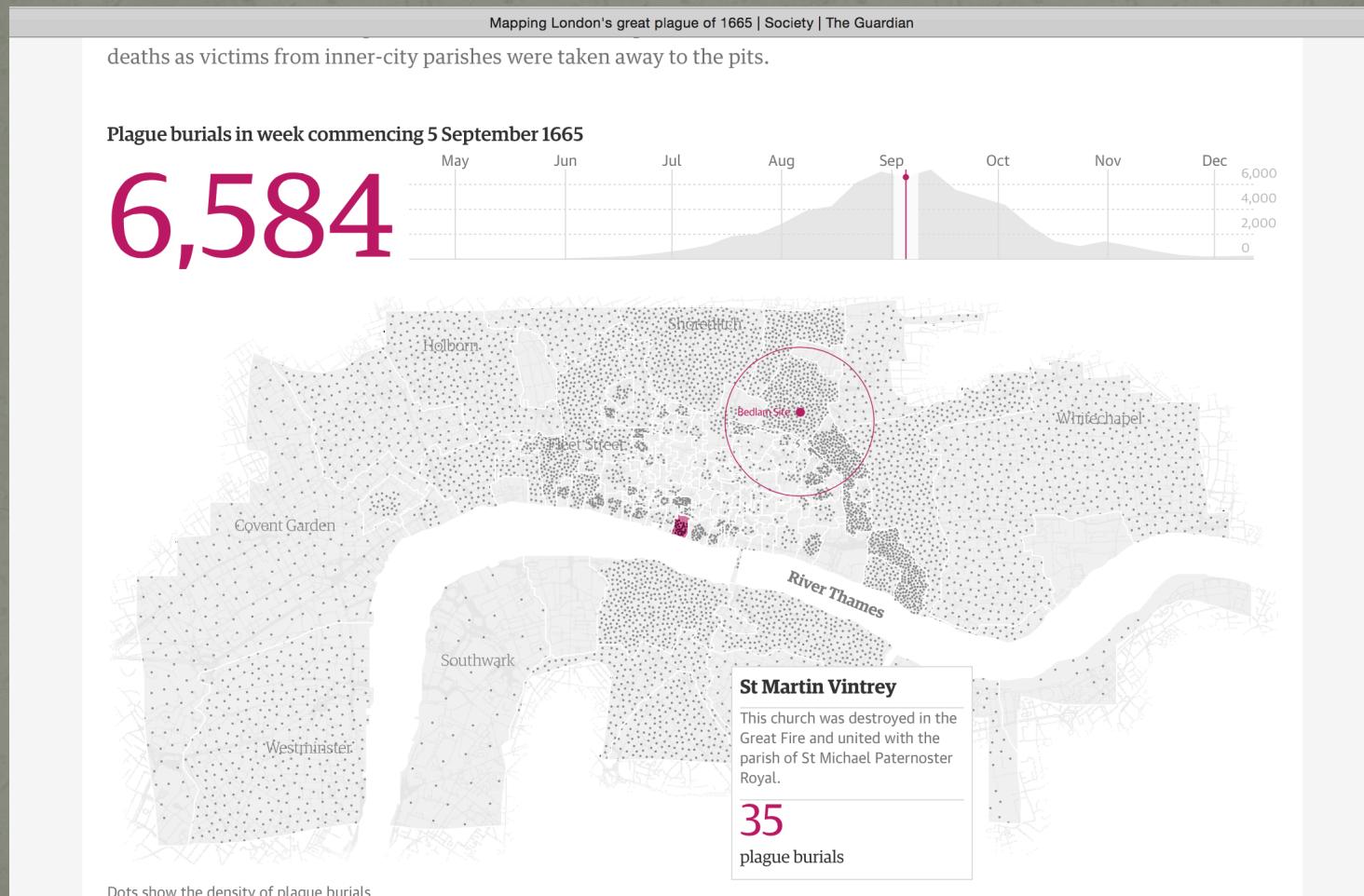
The Database



Sharing the Database

```
CREATE TABLE parish (id SMALLINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY, name VARCHAR(100), start_year DATE, end_year DATE);
LOAD DATA LOCAL INFILE '/parishes.csv' INTO TABLE parish FIELDS TERMINATED BY ',' LINES TERMINATED BY '\n';
CREATE TABLE collective (id SMALLINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY, name VARCHAR(100));
INSERT INTO collective VALUES (1, 'Within the Walls');
INSERT INTO collective VALUES (2, 'Without the Walls');
INSERT INTO collective VALUES (3, 'Middlesex and Surrey');
INSERT INTO collective VALUES (4, 'Westminster');
INSERT INTO collective VALUES (5, 'All');
CREATE TABLE parish_collective (id SMALLINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY, collective_id SMALLINT UNSIGNED, parish_id SMALLINT UNSIGNED);
LOAD DATA LOCAL INFILE '/parishes_collective.csv' INTO TABLE parish_collective FIELDS TERMINATED BY ',' LINES TERMINATED BY '\n';
```

1665 and All That

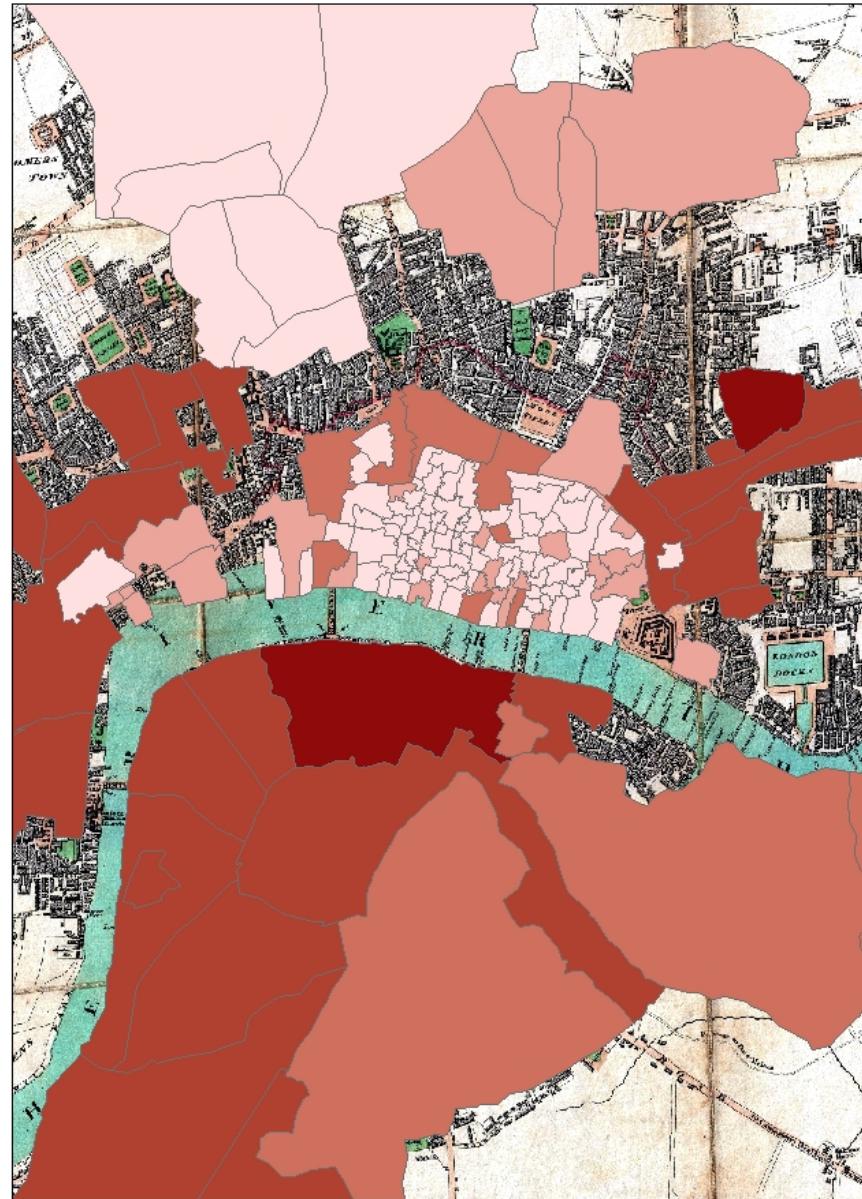


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London Plague Mortality 1666

Legend

- 0
- 1
- 2-3
- 4-9
- 10+

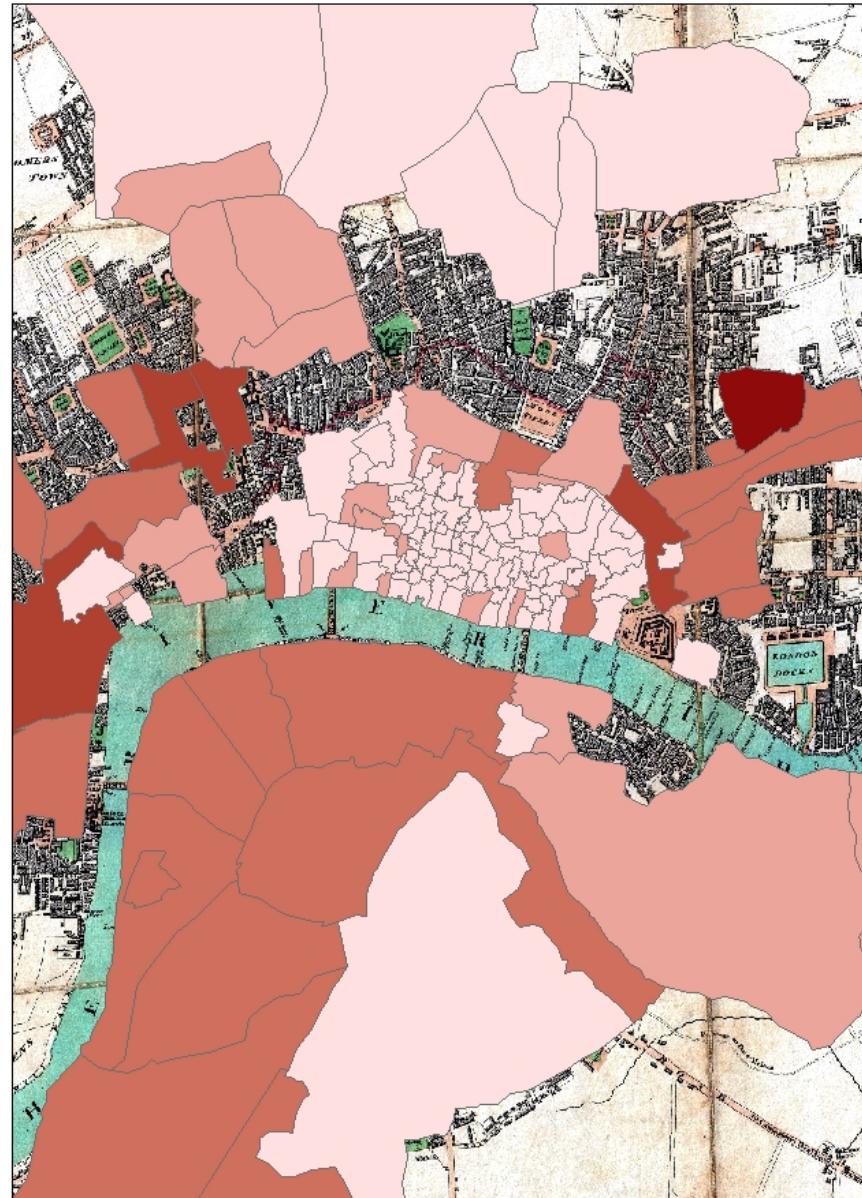


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

Legend

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- 1
- 2-3
- 4-9
- 10+

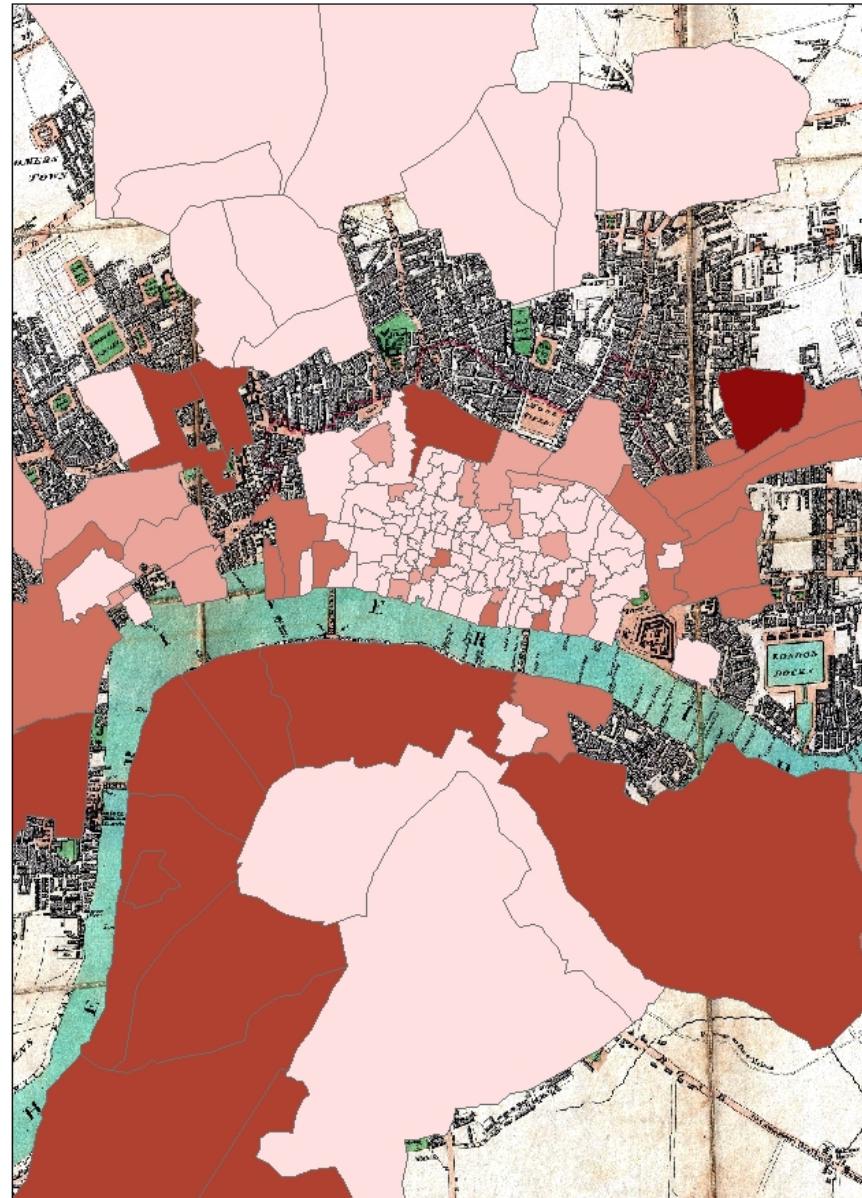


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

Legend

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- 1
- 2-3
- 4-9
- 10+

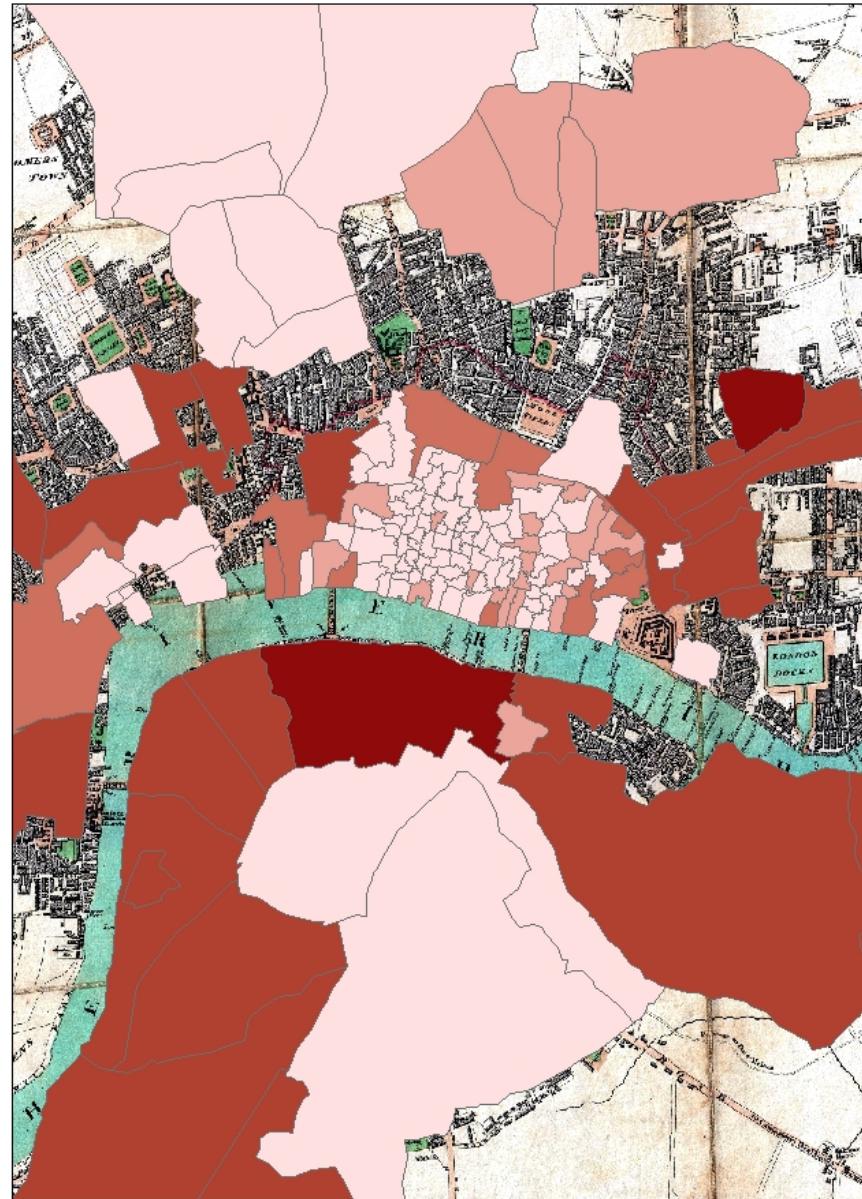


@jotis13

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Legend

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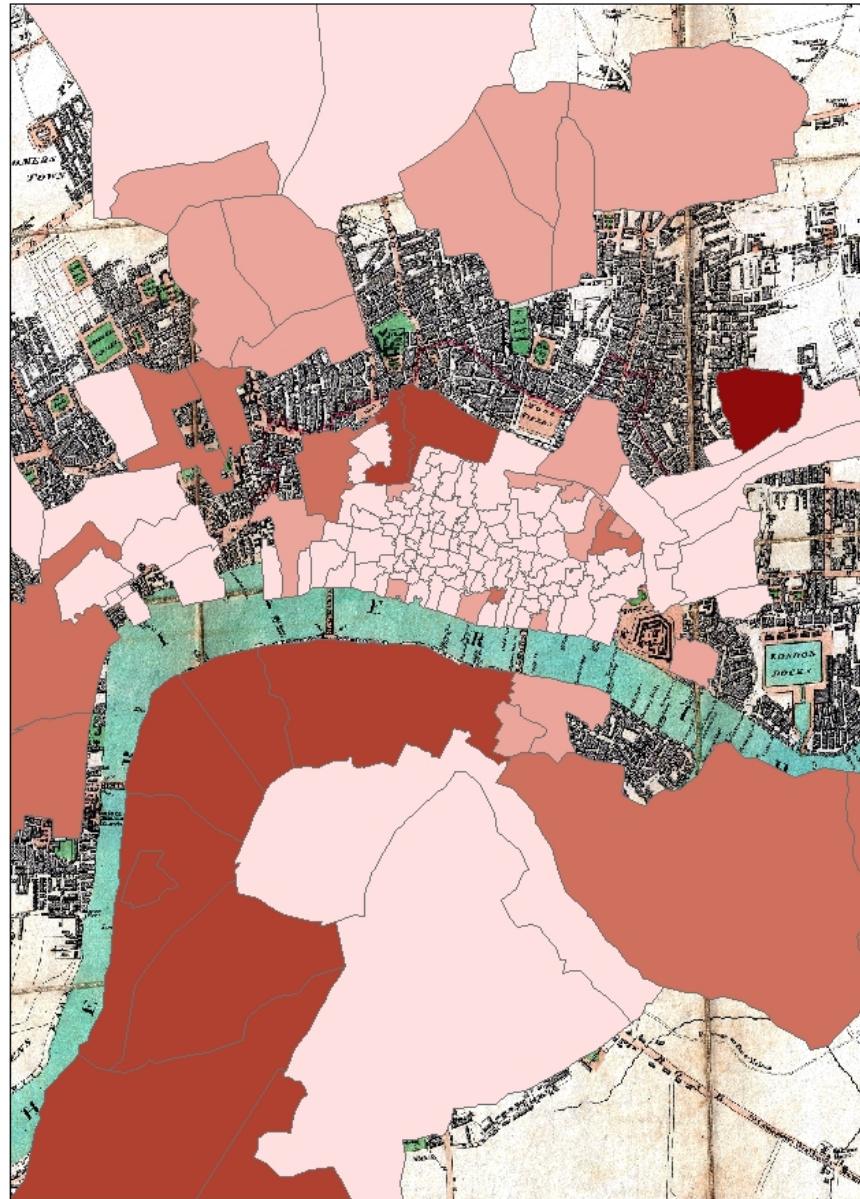


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

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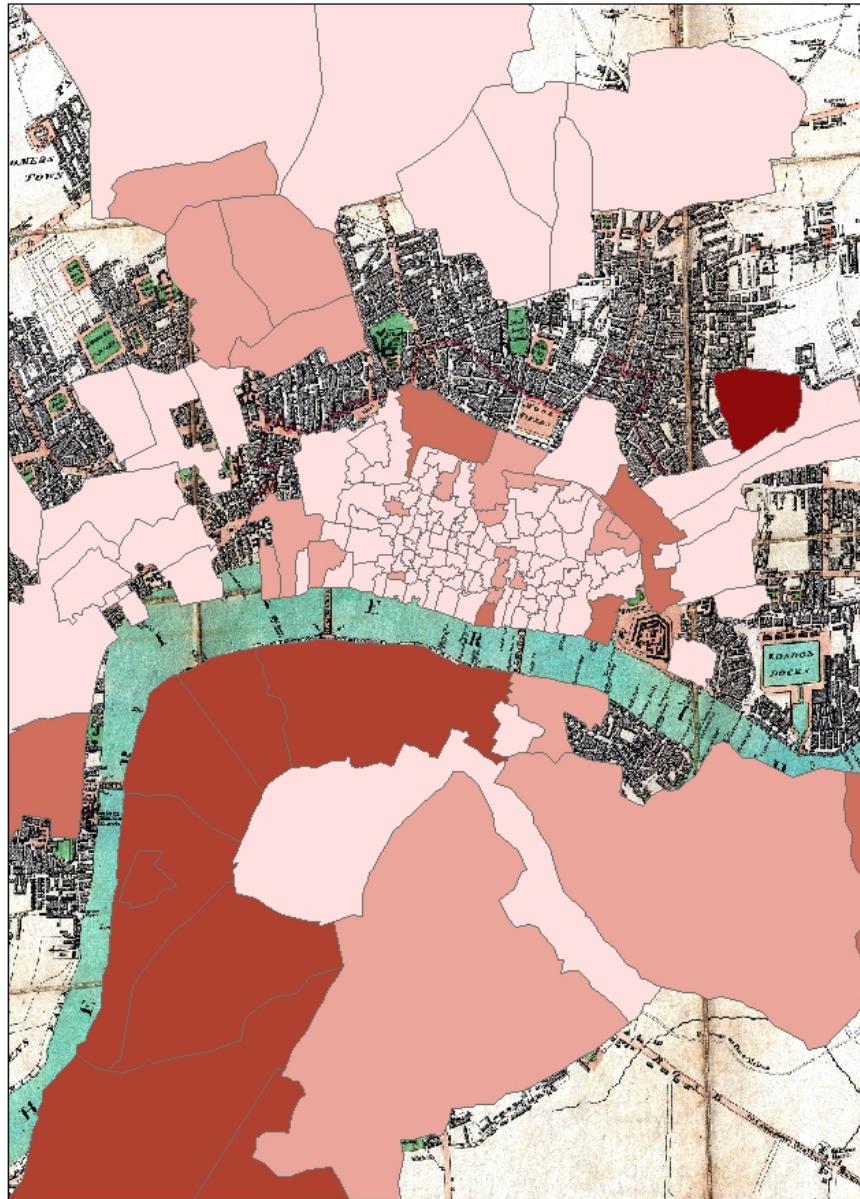


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

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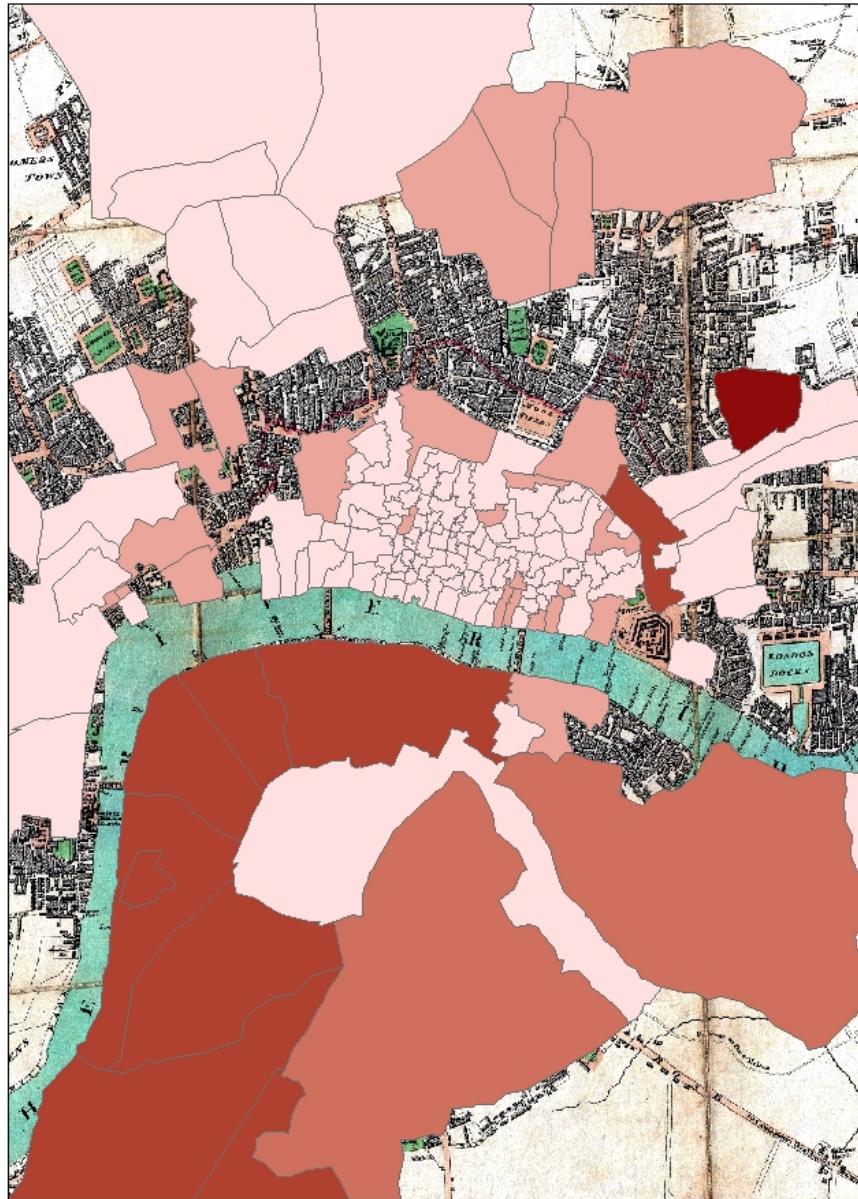


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

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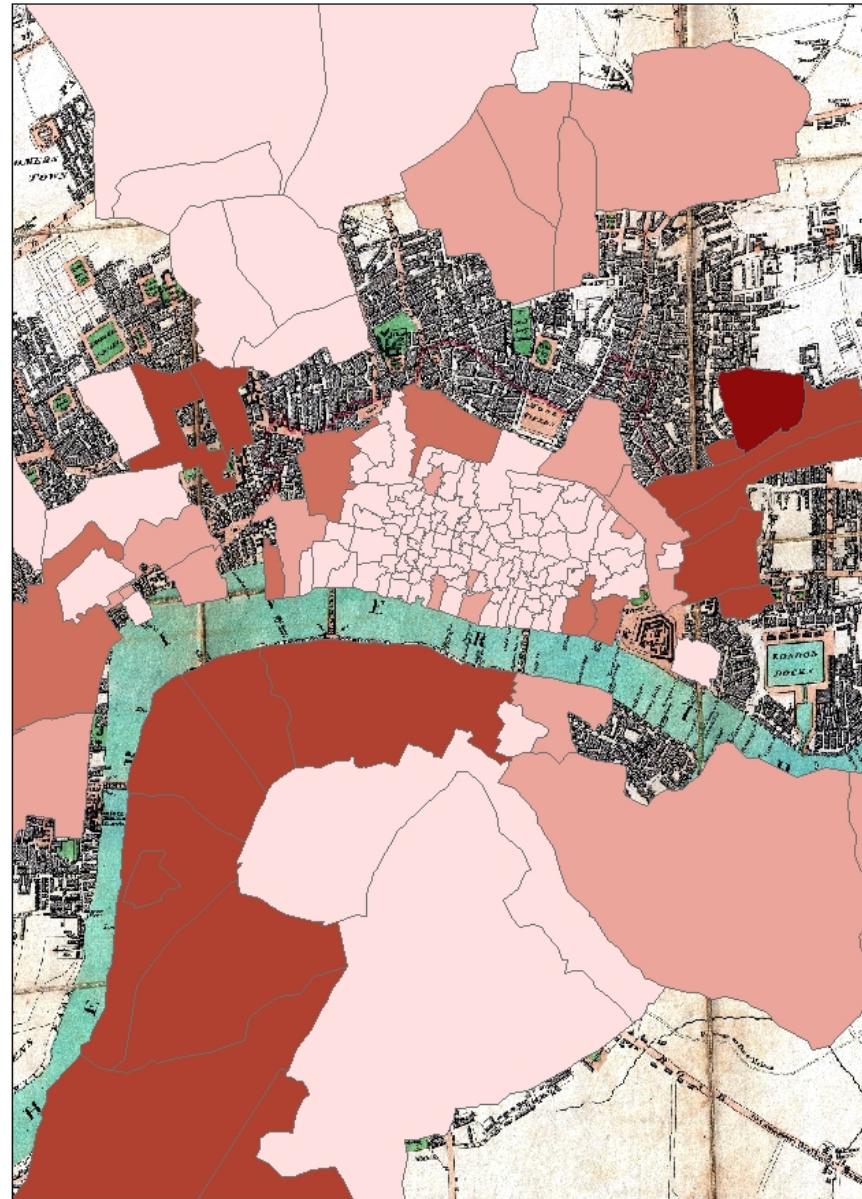


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

Legend

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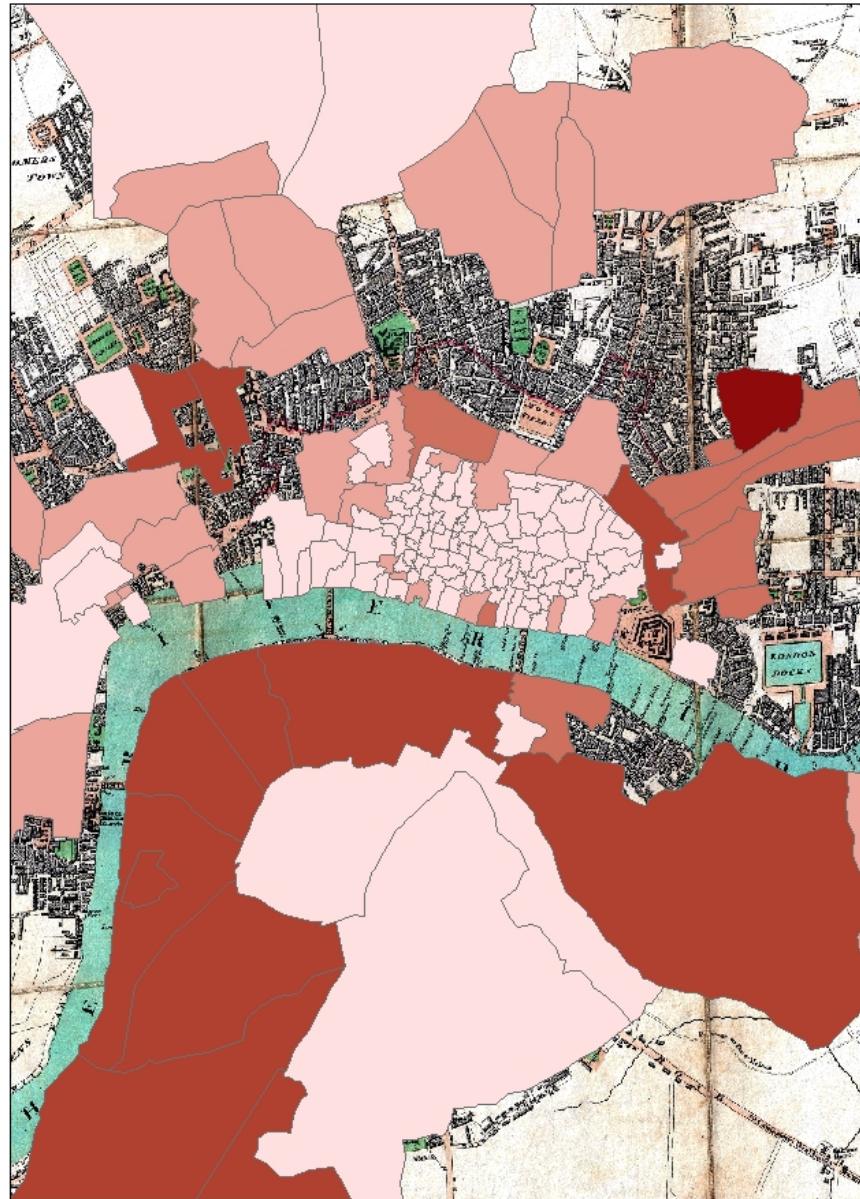


@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

Legend

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- 1
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- 4-9
- 10+

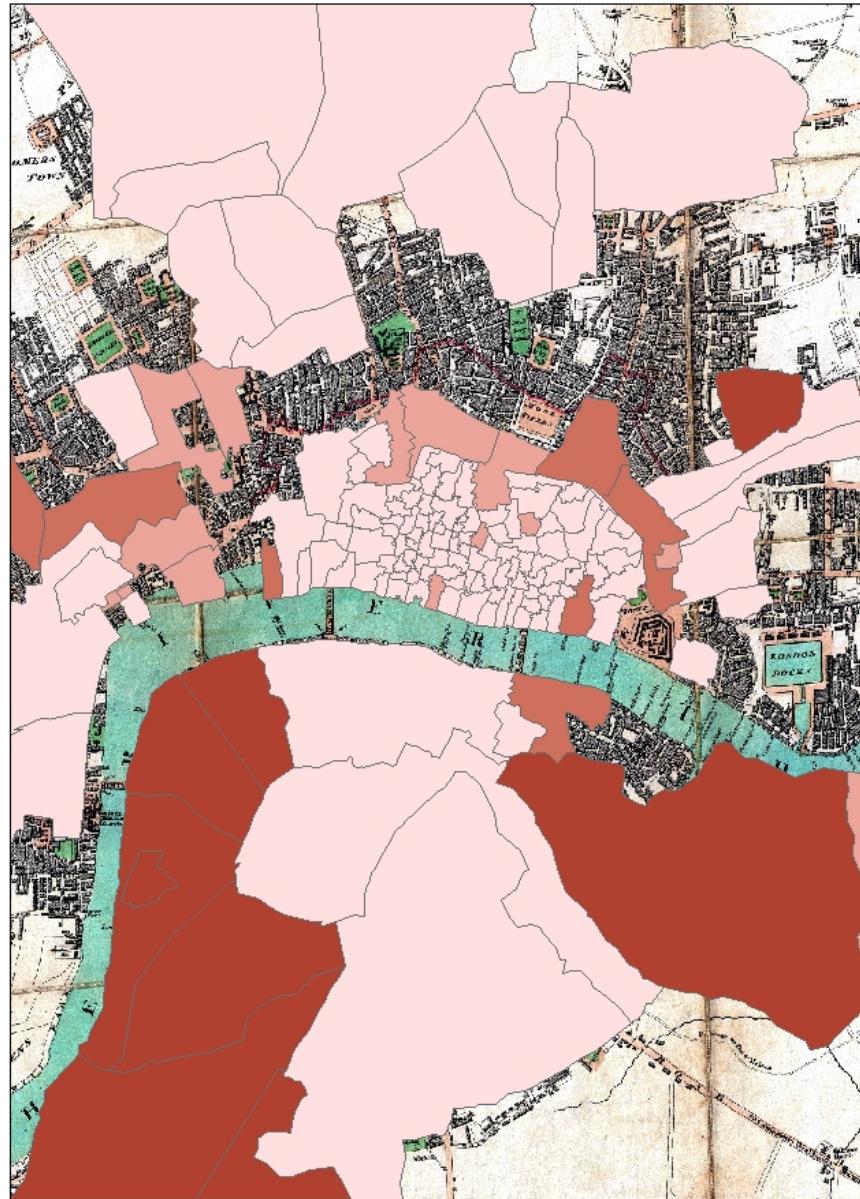


@jotis13

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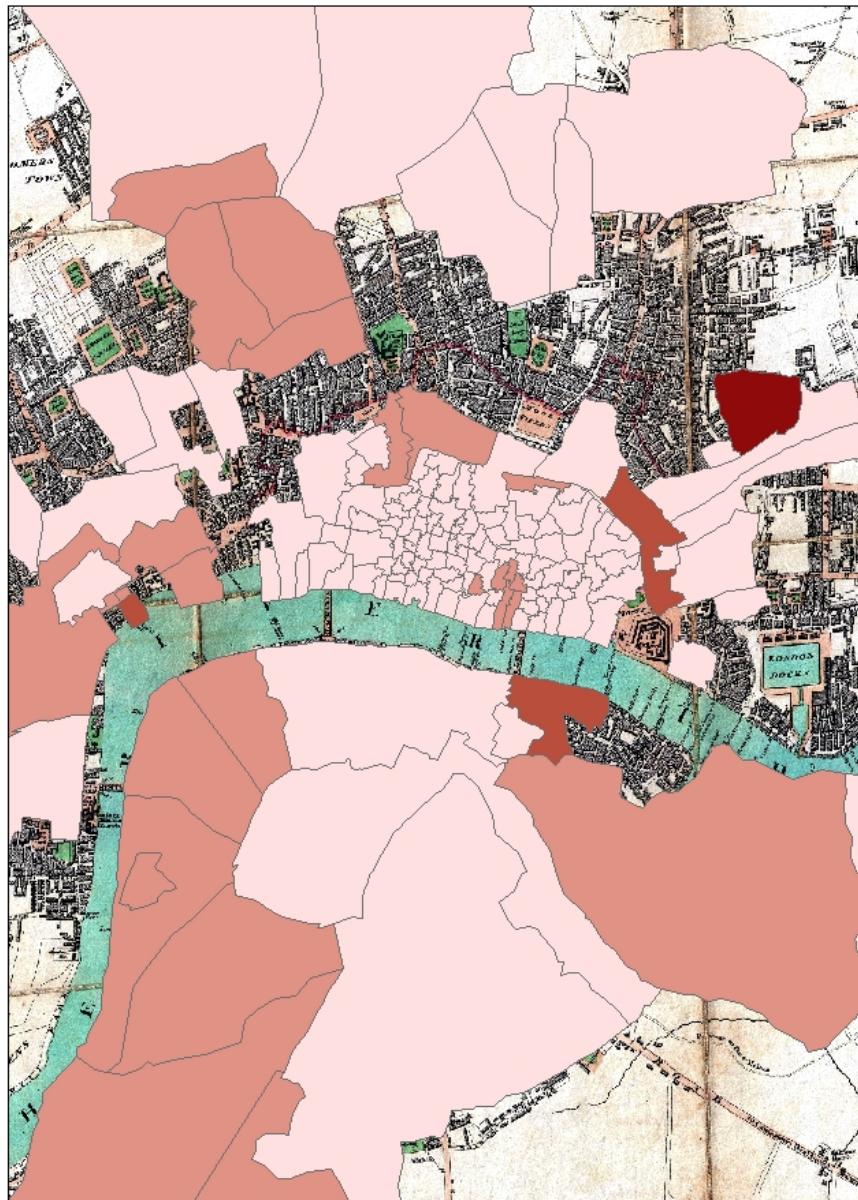


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London Plague Mortality 1666

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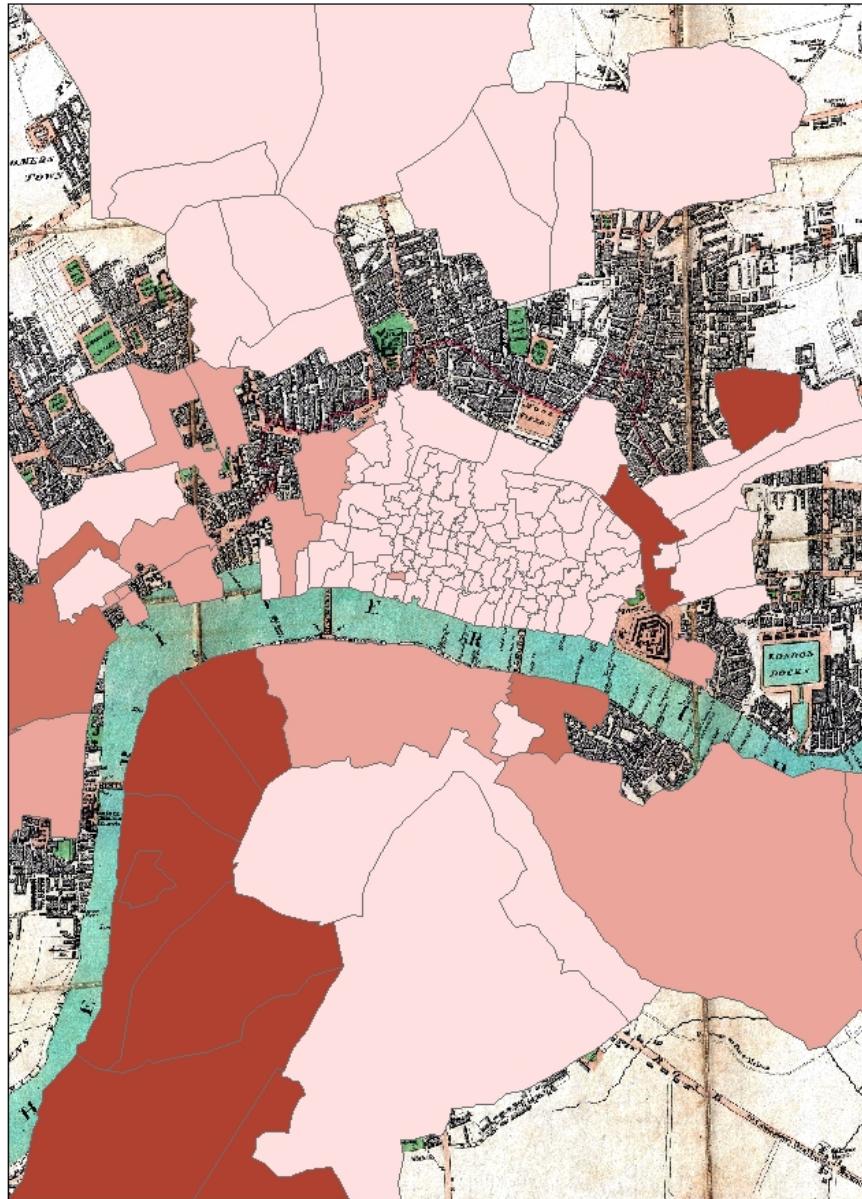


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London Plague Mortality 1666

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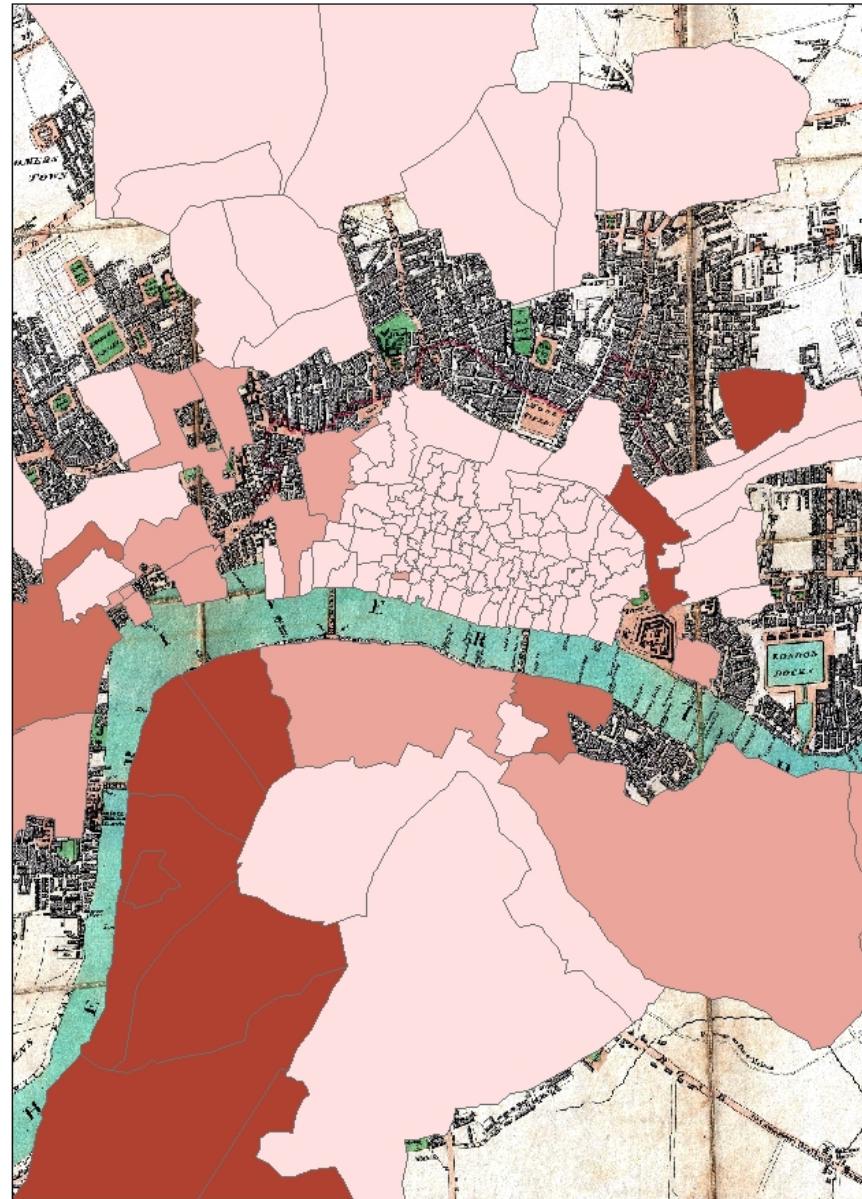


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London Plague Mortality 1666

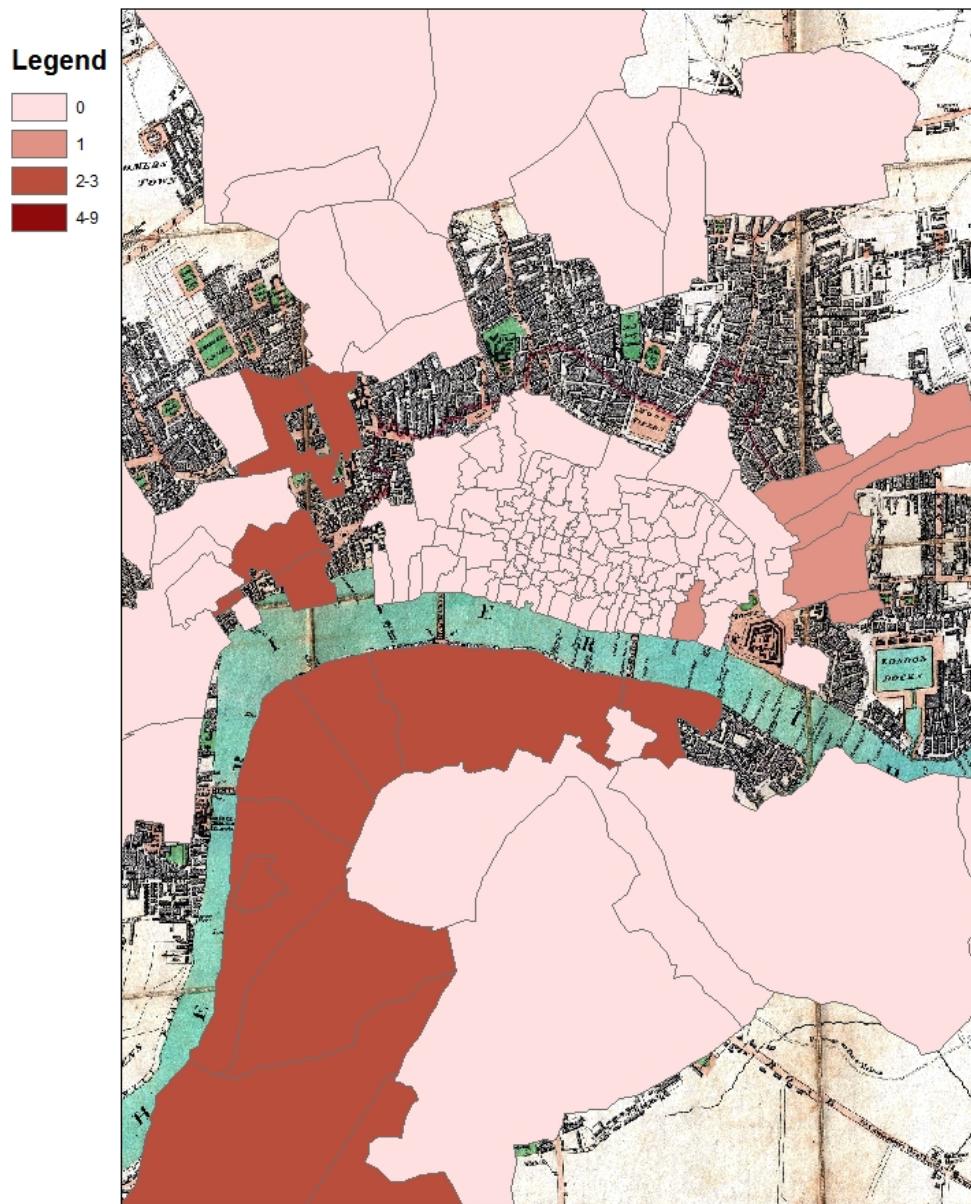
Legend

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@jotis13

London Plague Mortality 1666

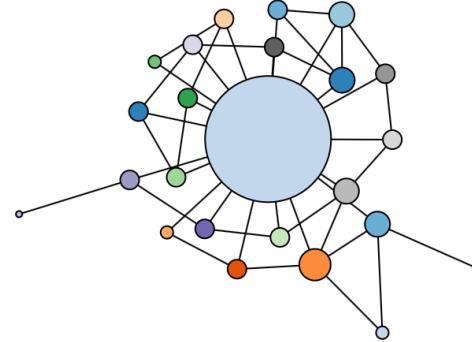
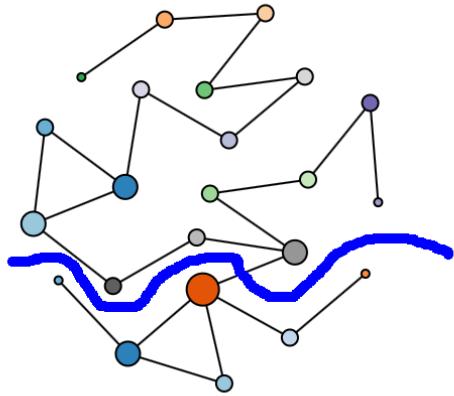


@jotis13

November 20, 1666: “[T]hen to church, it being thanksgiving-day for the cessation of the plague; but, Lord! How the towne do say that it is hastened before the plague is quite over, *there dying some people still.*” [emphasis mine]

Samuel Pepys, *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, eds. Robert Latham and William Matthews (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972).

Network Analysis



@jotis13

The Future of *Death by Numbers*

- <https://github.com/jmotis/billsofmortality>
- first phase
 - database construction code
 - initial subset of transcribed bills (annuals, ~10 years)
- second phase
 - shape files for parishes over time
 - network node/edge tables for mortality over time
- third phase
 - more subsets of transcribed bills (~10 years at a time)
- fourth phase
 - graphical user interface for interacting with database