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Week 1 Reading Assignment: "Environmental correlates of urban dog bites: A spatial analysis"

Article link:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319580890_Environmental_correlates_of_urban_dog_bites_A_spatial_analysis

With dog bites being one of the leading causes of nonfatal injuries in the United States, and less than a quarter of incidents are believed to be reported at that, researchers in this article sought to find the patterns behind this high statistic. With geospatial data having a geographic, locational aspect, it allows for visualization and can be an effective tool to present information. In this research article, the authors explore the relationship between amount of dog bites and location, specifically by city zip code. The article concludes that instead of dog age or gender, a more reliable factor to predict dog bites would be environment and/or location. For instance, it was discovered that dog bites were more common in low-income communities, regardless of racial composition or education of residents.

As someone entirely new to geospatial data, I was unfamiliar with the term and what the usage and application was. Reading this article highlighted the wide applications of geospatial data. By studying dog bites and the location and environment of these bites, researchers were able to find relationships between the two. The article noted that zip code was not all that specific, and that further specification could be made by assessing the neighborhoods within the zip code, allowing for even further fine-tuning of information. I tend to think "more" data is always better, but it has to be quality data to make the research work. One needs to find a good geographical study location and quality data. I also tend to associate geospatial data as more with market growth and business development, so I found this article to be a really cool demonstration of what GIS can do.