

Identifying Areas in need of Mobile Medical Services in Southern Appalachia

McKenna Adams, Cara Divney, Isabelle Gladson, Emma Thomas, and Riley Yates
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Introduction / Background

Many elderly people in the tri-state counties of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia have limited access to healthcare. These areas would benefit from a mobile health clinic to serve the existing senior community. Geospatial data would provide key insights to service impoverished 65+ year old households.

Materials / Methods

2020 Income and Age data from the US Census Bureau and hospital locations from the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data were imported into QGIS software for geospatial analysis.

Our target demographic is 65+ year old householders making less than \$40,000 a year.

Results / Conclusions

There are several elderly communities that are underserved based on their income and the location of surrounding hospitals. Over 10% of the total study area has a high concentration of elderly impoverished people, and in many cases they have to travel more than 20 miles to get to the nearest hospital. Our analysis has identified priority areas that need additional medical services.

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Citations

QGIS Software: <https://qgis.org/en/site/>

Picture of United States: <https://picryl.com/media/states-map-united-states-1dfb3c>

Census Bureau Data: https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-data_2020.html#list-tab-1656998034

HIFLD Hospital Data: <https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/>

