

MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY

Issue: Health equity

Lesson inquiry: How accessible are substance abuse & mental health services in your city?

Career connection: Dr. Suparna Das, Branch Chief Supervisory Statistician.

GEOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

- *Where do people access services for mental health and substance abuse?*
- *What neighborhoods are impacted the most by disparities in health services?*

RELATED GEOGRAPHY CAREERS:

- Medical Records Specialist
- Cartographers and Photogrammetrists

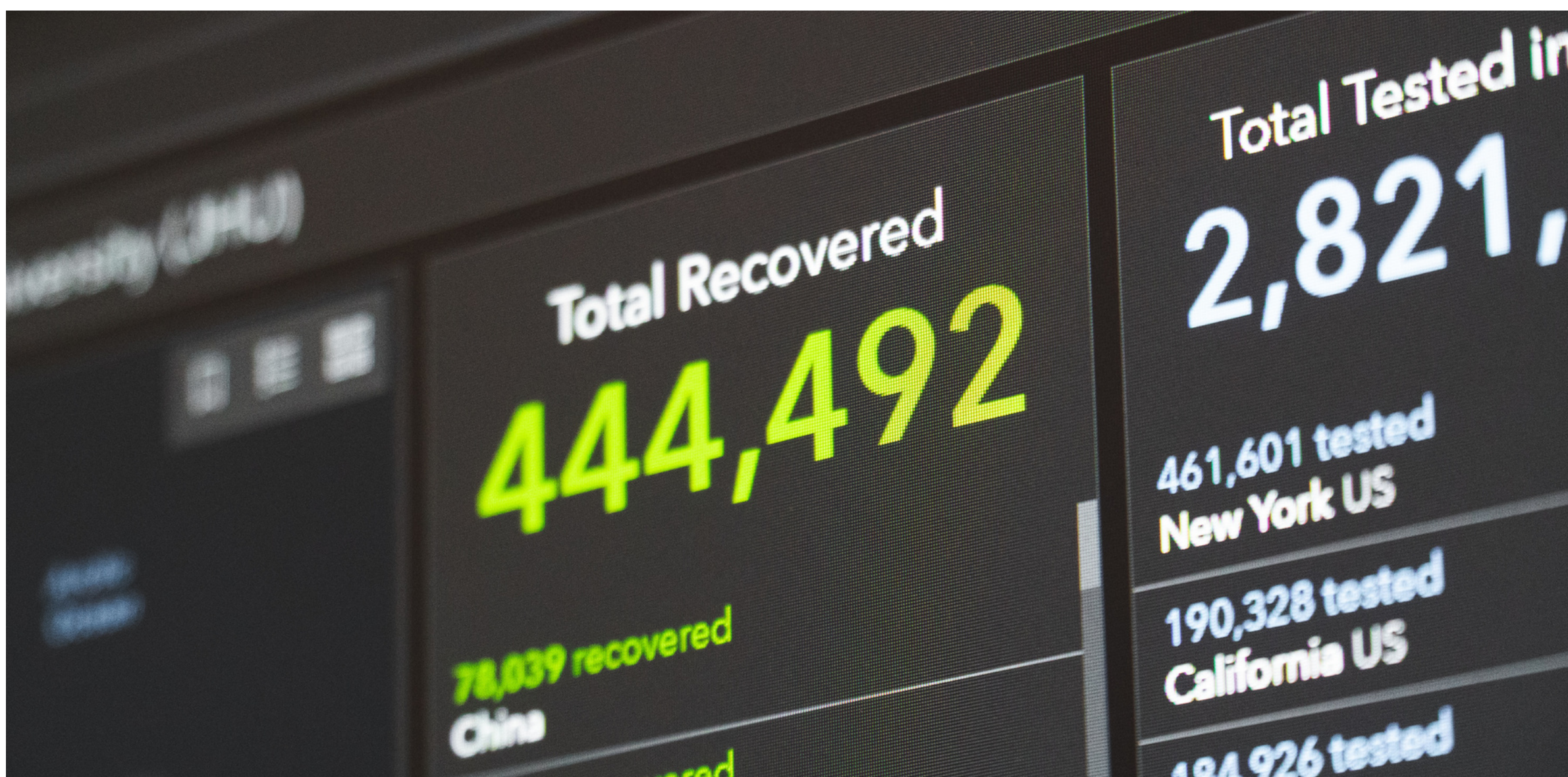
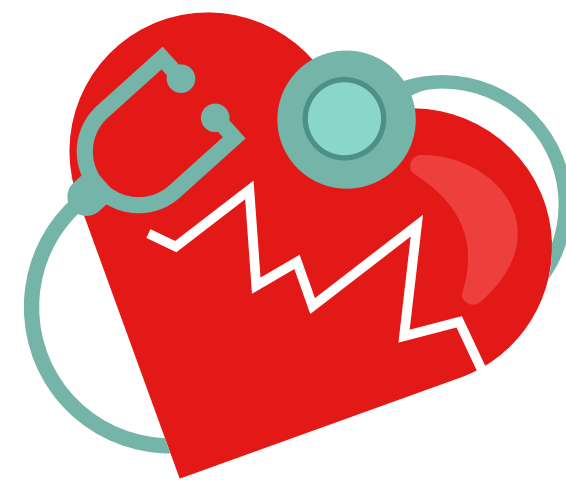


Photo: COVID-19 data geographically

APPLICATIONS:

- *Use a Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify the location of health services.*
- *Analyze the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of neighborhoods where health services are available.*
- *Develop policy recommendations for expanding access to health care for underserved populations.*

INTERVIEW DIGEST: SUPARNA DAS

*"My projects span demography, GIScience, and spatial epidemiology. **For me, it is impossible to resolve mental health and substance use disparities and encourage health equity without spatial thinking and geocomputation.** I have not been part of any project that did not entail extensive statistical/data management-based coding." - Suparna Das*



Photo: Suparna Das smiles in front of a tree stump as tall as her in a dry forest

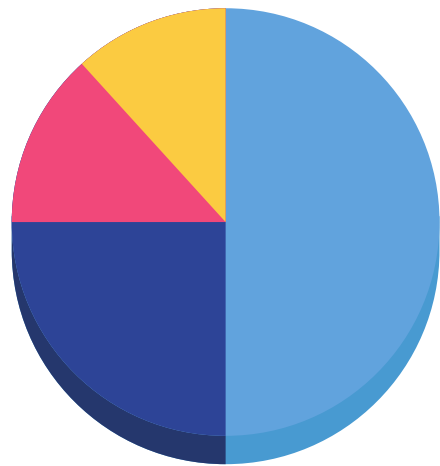
LESSON ACTIVITY EXAMPLE:

How accessible are substance abuse and mental health services in your city?

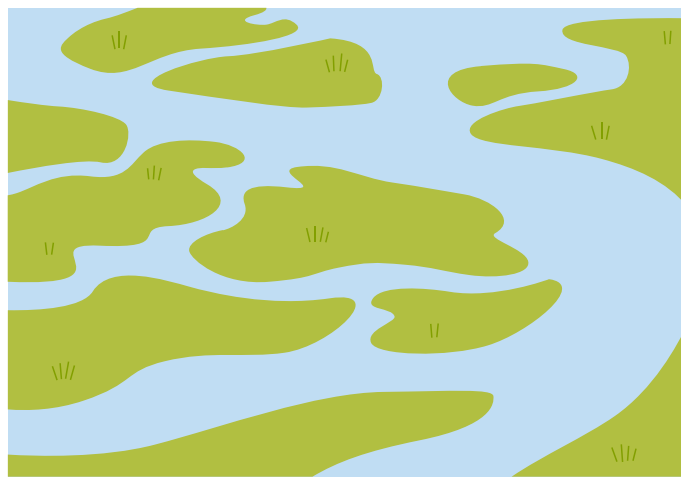
GLOSSARY:



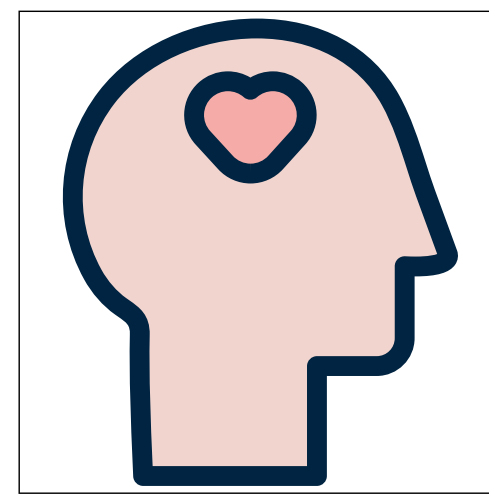
HEALTH EQUITY



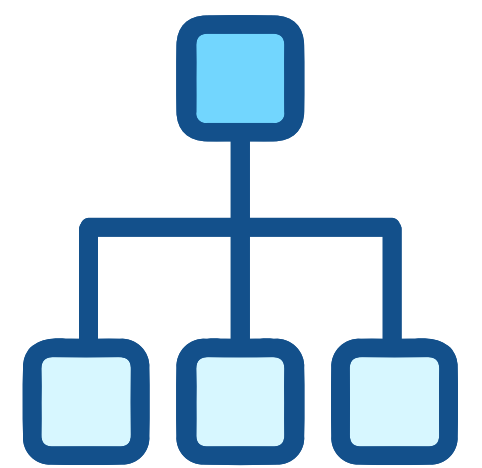
DEMOGRAPHY



GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS
(GIS)



SUBSTANCE ABUSE
AND MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
(SAMHSA)



GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION
SCIENCES (GISc)

SKILLS:

- GIS
- Demographic analysis

BACKGROUND RESOURCES:

- [Definition of medical geography](#)
- [Health equity statistics in San Diego](#)

DATA:

- [SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator](#)
- [SAMHSA public data collections available](#)
- [Census data](#)

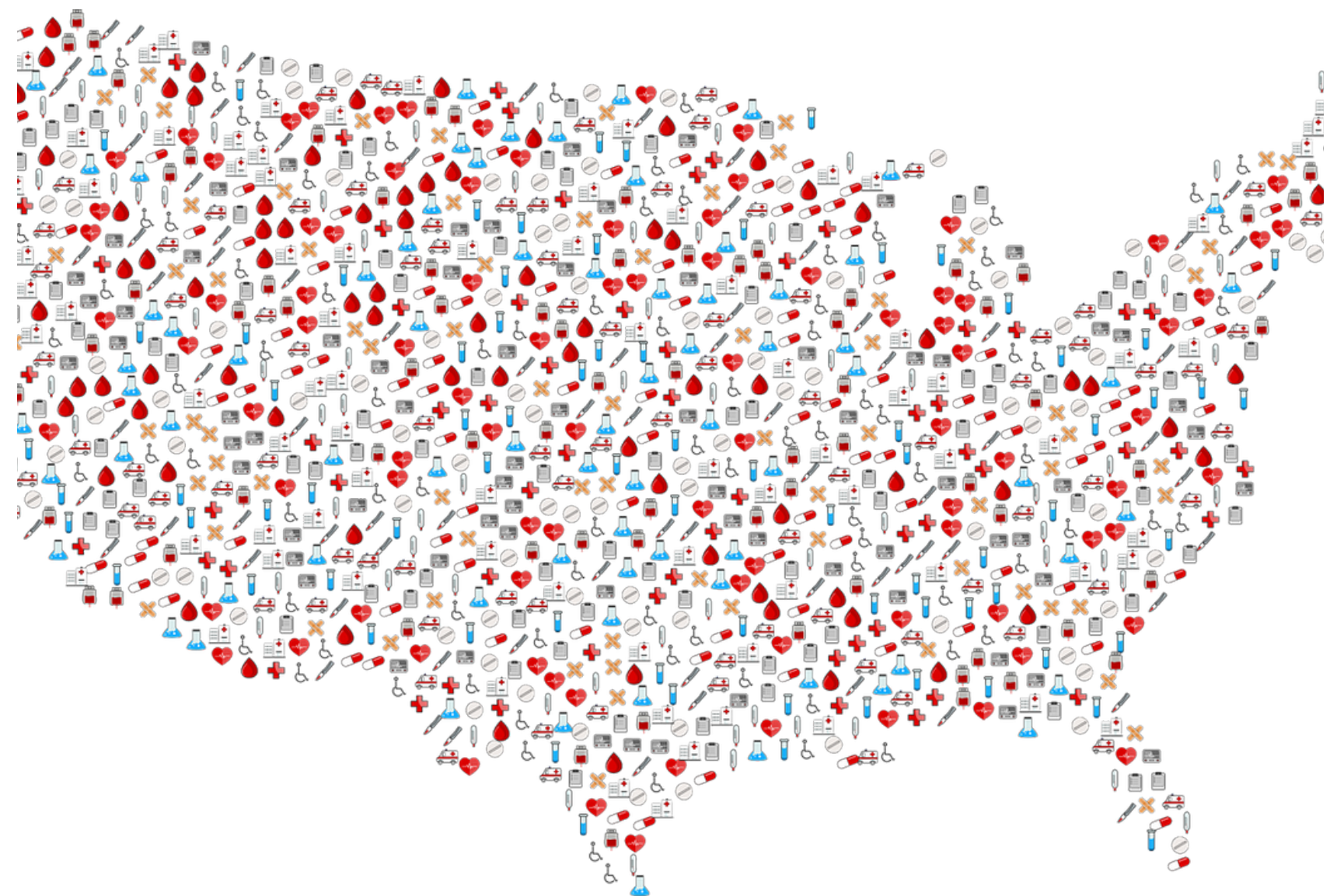


Photo: Map of different medical icons used across the US

{ RppforCs  : ENCODING GEOGRAPHY }

