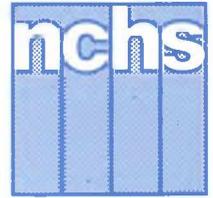


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# Working Paper Series

From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

COGNITIVE METHODS STAFF  
Working Paper Series, No. 23

Public Health Geographic  
Information Systems (GIS)  
News and Information: 1994-1997

Charles M. Croner, Ph.D.

Office of Research and Methodology  
National Center for Health Statistics

January, 1998



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics



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Also, I am thankful to the many subscribers who provide timely contribution to the CDC/ATSDR GIS Users Group electronic report "**Public Health GIS News and Information.**" Produced bimonthly since October, 1994, the report connects more than 600 online national and international multidisciplinary subscribers from all public health sectors. The CDC/ATSDR GIS Users Group is dedicated to scientific excellence and advancement in disease control and prevention through the use of GIS.

Charles Croner

## **Editor note**

This document consists of the aggregated reports from the CDC/ATSDR GIS Users Group (edited by Charles Croner), for the period 1994-1997. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer-based visual mapping systems that make clear to the human analyst data relationships, or patterns of data, that may otherwise be embedded in a large, complex dataset. Although many facets of GIS involve the details of computer technology, the comprehension and effective use of the resulting geographic map by the user is ultimately a cognitive function that involves the visual information processing capacities of the human mind. Because of the strong relationship between GIS, survey methods, and human cognition, this document has been included in a publication series devoted to the cognitive aspects of survey methodology. The editor and author hope that, in addition to researchers who work specifically with GIS, those who are interested in the interdisciplinary study of technology and cognition will find this document useful for suggesting ways in which computational and social sciences can be combined to provide new avenues for scientific exploration.

Readers who are particularly interested in the cognitive aspects of GIS are encouraged to consult Working Paper #18 in this series (*Cognitive Aspects of Statistical Mapping*, by Linda Pickle and Douglas Herrmann). Instructions for obtaining additional Working Papers are contained at the back of this publication.

Gordon B. Willis  
Editor, NCHS Cognitive Methods Staff Working Paper Series