

GIS Quick Tips

Presented by CDC's Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention GIS Exchange

For more information visit the GIS Exchange website:

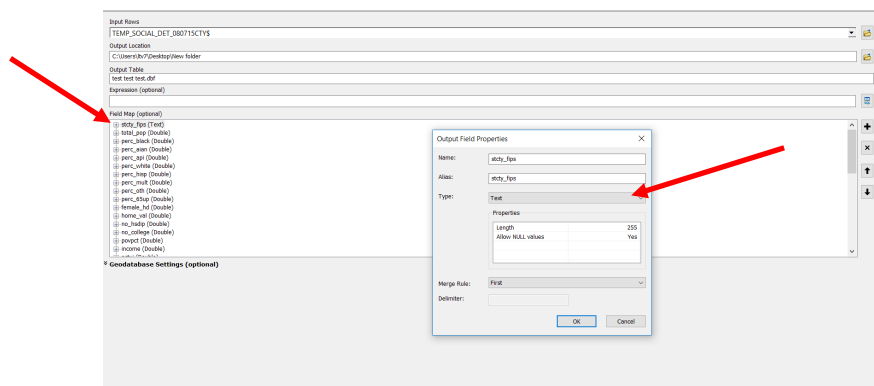
<https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/maps/gisx/index.html>

Are you encountering problems adding and joining tables in ArcMap? Here are some strategies for successfully performing this task with minimal frustration:

Key Tip: Joining a table to a shapefile in Arcmap will only work if the fields that the join is based on are of the same type (double, integer, float, etc). So you need to either create a new field of the correct type to enable a join, or change an existing field to the correct type. The method you choose is a matter of preference as all three methods require about the same amount of time.

Methods

1. Use the Table to Table function within ArcGIS.



GIS Quick Tips

Presented by CDC's Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention GIS Exchange

For more information visit the GIS Exchange website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/maps/gisx/index.html>

2. Change the field type in the attribute table by adding a new field making sure that the field type you choose is the same as the field type of the attribute you will be joining too. Populate the new field using the field calculator such that the new field will equal the field you are trying to change. ArcMap will populate the new field with identical values but with the new field type.
3. Edit the field type in a schema file, created when you export the table as a text file. Open the schema file in Notepad and you can edit the field type in Notepad, then save it, and add it back to ArcGIS.

```
schema - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[Export_Output.txt]
Format=CSVDelimited
ColNameHeader=True
Col1=stcty_fips Double Width 255
Col2=total_pop Double
Col3=perc_black Double
Col4=perc_aian Double
Col5=perc_api Double
Col6=perc_white Double
Col7=perc_hisp Double
Col8=perc_mult Double
Col9=perc_oth Double
Col10=perc_65up Double
Col11=female_hd Double
Col12=home_val Double
Col13=no_hsdip Double
Col14=no_college Double
Col15=povpct Double
Col16=income Double
Col17=pctui Double
Col18=unemploy Double
```

