

**Meeting Minutes
NAACCR GIS Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

**2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time
1:00-2:00 PM Central Time
12:00-1:00 PM Mountain Time
11:00-12:00 noon Pacific Time
10:00-11:00 AM Alaskan Time**

Toll free number: 1-866-784-0143

Passcode: 9425222

A. Roll Call

Present Members: Kevin Henry, Chris Johnson, David Stinchcomb, John Morgan, Jim Martin, Jennifer Kachajian, Zaria Tatalovich, Mary Mroszczyk, Frank Boscoe, Christian Klaus, Yongping Hao, Chris Newton, Bob Borchers, David O'Brien, Pam Agovino, Holly Hodges, Dan Goldberg, Simple Singh

Absent Members: Meg Watson, Jesse Stewart, Ed Peters, Recinda Sherman, Jim Files, Myles Cockburn, Eileen Kelley, Annette Gardner, Catherine Riddell

B. Minutes

1. Approval of February & March minutes
 - a. Chris Johnson motioned to approve the February minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.
 - b. Chris Johnson motioned to approve the March minutes. Christian seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

C. Old Business

1. Census 2010 NAACCR Fields – Kevin
 - a. Kevin discussed the new variables with the NAACCR UDS committee during their monthly call. Three variables that replicate the 2000 variables were sent to the board. Kevin was not able to answer all the questions that UDS asked. They asked why we don't have a code for zip code cases that only have one census tract, but Kevin found that we do have one. The variables will now need to be approved by the CRSC. Kevin was told that these variables should have been in version 12 and that no new variables were supposed to be introduced in 12.1, but the UDSC felt these were important enough to add to 12.1.

2. New NAACCR Committee/Subcommittee Final Report Format – Kevin
 - a. NAACCR provided form this year with specific headings for the committee and subcommittee reports. Kevin will present the final report at the annual conference.

3. 2009 Geocoded NPI File – Kevin
 - a. Did 2009 file. 400,000 more records than 2008. Addition that is different than last year: added zip code census tract. Easier for researchers. Geocoder took 3-4 hours. Post-processing takes the most time.

4. Subcommittee activities
 - a. National Health Provider Area Resource File (NHPARF) — Kevin
 - i. Finished with older data. Tallied cancer doctors based on taxonomy codes. Calculated by county how many doctors of each specialty show up on NPI and how many show up in area resource file. Picked out 10-15 specialists in both files to look at closely. 15 places to put specialty for each doctor. Some put in same specialty 15 times. Usually within 15% of each other. Could use state-generated lists of doctors too. Did not have exact same taxonomy codes. Picked ones that they could easily compare.
 - b. Geographical visualization of cancer data – Recinda
 - i. Moved the time to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Email Kevin or Recinda to get call-in information. Will not be done by end of FY, but will finalize some of what’s been done and give a report.

5. Update: NAACCR/Komen Road Network Distance Project – Quantifying Transportation Barriers in Accessing Health Facilities for Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment — Kevin, Frank, Chris J
 - a. Questions last week: when the tool is released, where will it go, what will it cost? While the studies are underway, it will be run at USC. After that, it will be deployed at NAACCR. Cost and who has access is up to NAACCR. Navteq data is for “NAACCR GIS use,” but Charlie has to request the data each year, so we’ll see how that goes. Chris – sent a few points to run through geocoder that had hospitals that are impossible to drive to. Idaho’s data have been approved. Use SEER Medicare linkage data for project?

D. New Business

1. Creation of US census tract file-- where the zip code has only one census tract.
 - i. UDSC asked about file that we could create a file for registry use to code their zip code cases that have only one census tract. Be allowed to use the ESRI file and create a subset? Census tracts also in Tiger data which is public domain. Have to check licensing agreements. Have to explain that zip code boundaries are not really set down, but are just groups of addresses. Perhaps recommend that states deal with it themselves so they know when boundaries change? Most towns in Alaska have only 1 census tract. Only 10 towns in the state have more than 1 census tract.

2. New Geographic Imputation Method — Boscoe
 - i. For epi studies, it is best to use a plausible location for people. In the process of doing this for the mandated stuff for NY state. Usually have some useful text in the address field (other than P.O. Box). Match text string to similar text string to list of cases that have been geocoded. Took care of about ½ of cases. Postal code has already been matched, try to match similar text. Prefer to just geocode them all, but working with tens of thousands of cases. Record-level comparison or in batch mode? Guesses it's batch... taking like 1,000,000 cases and working with 20,000 or 30,000 that aren't geocoded. Works pretty well.

3. Story of interest: Mapping Glitch. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-geocoding-errors5-2009apr05,0,1400639,full.story> – Boscoe, others.
 - i. Software had been marking all ungeocoded cases to the center of the census tract which was across from city hall.