

Primary Health Care: Digital Data Sources for Spatial Accessibility Analysis

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Key words: Geoinformation/GI; GIM; GSDI; Spatial planning; Spatial Analysis; Spatial Accessibility; Health Care Service, Infrastructure, Network Analysis, Health care planning, Demographic change

SUMMARY

In recent years a huge amount of geospatial data has been produced. Data producers include both public administration bodies providing official data, and so called ‘prosumers’ indicating consumers which become producers. In the meantime prosumers started to generate a huge volume of voluntary data such as volunteered geographic information, in particular. The study uses both types of information, official and voluntary to develop a network-based model that enables to quantify spatial accessibility to primary care on street segment level for both rural and urban areas. In rural area, the analysis revealed variability in accessibility to primary care on street segment level and in urban area, analysis gave evidence for the impact of barriers on footpaths on the way to primary care practices for mobility-reduced people. The paper demonstrates opportunities and limitations of a theoretical model for spatial accessibility calculation on street segment level. It may, especially through its resolution on small scale, enable to better reveal regional inequalities in accessibility to primary health care and help to identify areas that need special attention in future health care planning.