

Handout for April 2020 Newsletter Mapping Health Economics in GeoFRED®

Purpose.

1. Create state-level geographical maps of health insurance coverage.
2. Edit the maps by modifying the dates, legends, and colors.
3. Interpret the economic information displayed in the maps.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data online, select a particular series, and display it in the form of a geographical map. Next, you will edit the format of the map. Lastly, you will interpret the economic information displayed in the map. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.

1. Access <https://geofred.stlouisfed.org> and click on “Build New Map.”
2. Click on “Tools” and under “Choose Data” > “Region Type:” select “State.”
3. Under “Data:,” search for “Health Insurance Coverage: Uncovered Rate.”
4. Select “Frequency: Annual,” “Units: Percent,” and “1999” as the date.
5. Click on EDIT LEGEND and under “Interval method” select “User Defined.”
6. Next to “Number of Color Classes:,” set the number of classes to 4.
7. Define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
 - 10
 - 15
 - 20
 - 25
8. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and under “Single Hue:” select the left-most color scheme (tagged “blues”).
9. Click on “SAVE & SHARE” and then click on “Copy Link.”
10. Open a new browser tab.
11. Paste the link (<http://geof.red/m/jwr>).
12. Click on “Tools” and under “Date:” select “2012.”

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Name four states where the percentage of the population not covered by health insurance was less than 10 percent in 1999.
2. Name two states where the percentage of the population not covered by health insurance decreased between 1999 and 2012. Next, name two states where that percentage increased between 1999 and 2012.
3. Briefly describe the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 on the change in health insurance coverage per state.