Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights
Wednesday, March 21, 2024

The 128th meeting of the DVRPC's Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was held virtually as a webinar and hosted by IREG Organizer, Christopher Pollard, from the DVRPC. We had about 38 virtual attendees.

IREG is dedicated to sharing innovation and development in information technology related in particular to geospatial technology, data visualization, geographic and tabular data, data management practices and tools, and spatial analysis.

Presentations

1. Mapping the emotional landscapes of parks in post-industrial environmental justice communities - - Mahbubur Meenar, PhD, Associate Professor, Geography, Planning, and Sustainability, Rowan University| [Community Planning and Visualization Lab](#)

Dr. Meenar's presentation highlighted the collaborative work that several Rowan University students, a few Camden-based nonprofits, and the Community Planning + Visualization Lab conducted to explore the emotional connection between people and urban parks, particularly in post-industrial communities like Camden, New Jersey. Using GIS and qualitative analysis, they delved into the emotional experiences of park visitors, factors shaping these feelings, and how they're mapped. They investigated how demographics, transportation, and obstacles influence park visits and proposed ways to incorporate public sentiments into park planning for healthier, more inclusive spaces. This reserch and project recievevd the 2023 Planning Excellence Award by the APA NJ Chapter.

2. Mapping Social Determinants of Health with PolicyMap- Tom Love | Outreach & Development | [PolicyMap](#)

Understanding neighborhood conditions is essential to keeping people healthy and cutting medical costs. Digging deeper into Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) can open the door to cost-effective and community-based interventions. In this session Tom demonstrated how [PolicyMap](#) could be used to examine non-medical factors influencing health outcomes and risks, such as disparities in housing, transportation, internet access, environment, food access, economic opportunity and more. PolicyMap is a cloud-based mapping platform that includes thousands of data indicators that allows users to conduct robust data-driven analytics in various fields and geographies.

Webinar Recording (Zoom)

https://dvrpc.zoom.us/rec/share/LRwY3sb8g2JEJSJM2stkhP1sPrCOVaTa05GdoBdHqZyvG8SigEHtdOfsg68PBNps.piJIbTX9C8l1baYH

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Information Items

- The next scheduled IREG meeting is being planned for September 2024.