Spatial Epidemiology Activity - Teacher Notes

Teacher,

We designed this activity to offer opportunities for students to muddle through data available on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website. In our opinion, this activity simulates “real-world” experience in epidemiology to assimilate and organize data for public use. Hope you agree. Have fun with this activity and adapt it as you wish.

Suggestions from the authors:

* Students will work as individuals or in teams of 2
* This is a student-centered activity. The teacher is the facilitator. As the facilitator you are there to answer questions, monitor time on task and “lead” students through the process of organizing and graphing data.
* Remember, there are no “right” answers. However, students will surely need help finding the “right” information on the KDHE website.
* Encourage students to follow directions and be creative.
* Note: the KDHE website lists occurrence of ALL diseases in KS. Students will select only those that are tick-borne diseases from the list for this activity.

Pre-Activity

Students need to have knowledge of one of the following:

* names of tick-borne disease (available in PowerPoint lesson)
* MS Excel, Numbers, Google Spreadsheet (if you choose to do the activity using computer)
* data tables and graphing