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GEOG 381 Exercise 3

Maps are on page 2 and 3

Reflection

Socioecnomic factors play a significant role in determining the quality of healthcare and accessibility to healthcare that an individual recieves. The higher one’s socioeconomic status is, the easier it is for them to receive quality medical care based only on their environment and what’s available to them. Someone situated in a low income area may be taken to their nearest healthcare provider or hospital for care when it does not have as many resources available and isn’t their best chance of treatment, or in some cases, survival. A hospital in a different county, located in a wealthier area, may very well be more equipped to handle cases that are more precarious, and have the extra resources to bridge that gap and make sure the patient is saved. By the same token, a person of color may be subjected to a different standard of care based on who is treating them. For example, in some cases certain diseases or conditions can present in a different way in an Asian person than they do in a white person. This is because healthcare research often bases its information in the context of white men. These are just a few examples of how socioeconomic status has an impact on a patient’s healthcare outcome.

We created two maps in this analysis to examine this idea, one was illustrating the socioeconomic rankings in different counties in Washington state and the other showed the different health outcome rankings in different counties in Washington state. It is valuable to compare the data being demonstrated in both of these maps. Looking more closely at these maps, it appears that the areas where people have the highest vulnerability to socioeconomic hazards correspond with the regions where people have the poorest health outcomes. For exmaple, some counties in the middle that have a low vulnerability also have a low risk of poor health outcomes. The same is true for the inverse in regions where they have a high vulnerability, and a high risk of poor health outcomes as well. This supports my thoughts on a region’s socioeconomic status having an impact on a region’s poor halthcare outcomes.

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