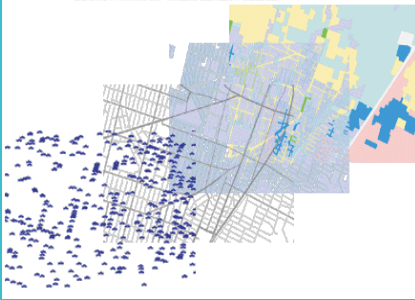


(GIS) Geographic Information System

A computer system for capturing, managing, integrating, manipulating, analyzing and displaying data which is spatially referenced to the Earth.

Different map layers can be combined to explore potential relationships.



GIS has 4 main components

People

To perform technical skills, ask spatial questions, & interpret and communicate findings appropriately

Data

Must have a geographic reference such as ZIP Codes, street addresses, or X,Y coordinates that can be used to link it to a map

Hardware

Usually a desktop computer with sufficient processing power and memory

Software

Off-the-shelf desktop software products possess the majority of GIS functionality to meet your needs

Your follow-up is welcome!

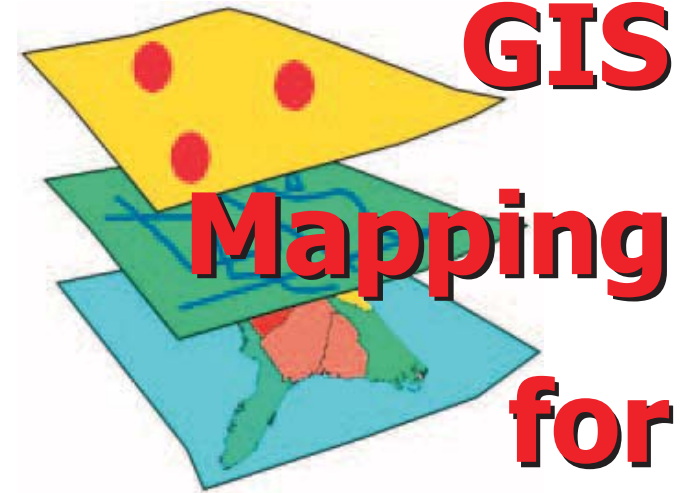
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GIS Mapping for Prisoner Re-entry

Compendium brochure to the presentation given at the U.S. Department of Labor Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative Workforce Development Peer-to-Peer Meeting

November 14, 2008
Arlington, Virginia

What are the needs & goals of your agency?

For GIS to be a cost-effective and valuable tool for your agency, you must first identify how it might be applied toward achieving your goals.

Will it be used to support management decisions, evaluate existing projects, or for predictive modeling of future client needs?

You can use GIS for all of these purposes and more, but knowing what you want to do before you begin will help define the training and data needed to support the application.

Build Partnerships

If you believe that GIS would be valuable to your organization, but do not want to, or cannot afford to commit time and resources, then you can partner with other agencies.

Universities and Research Centers

An alternative resource for consultation is a nearby college or university. Schools of public administration, social work, criminal justice, or public health have professors and students who are eager to collaborate with agencies, oftentimes for little or no cost.

Your agency might also consider recruiting interns with GIS skills who can apply them to your administrative, research, and strategic planning efforts.

Start thinking about this now because you may want to use GIS in the future:

The accuracy and standardization of data that your agency and its partners maintain will contribute to the overall ease or difficulty with which the data can be mapped.

FREE GIS-Related Data Sources

Census 2000 TIGER/Line Data

http://arcdata.esri.com/data/tiger2000/tiger_download.cfm

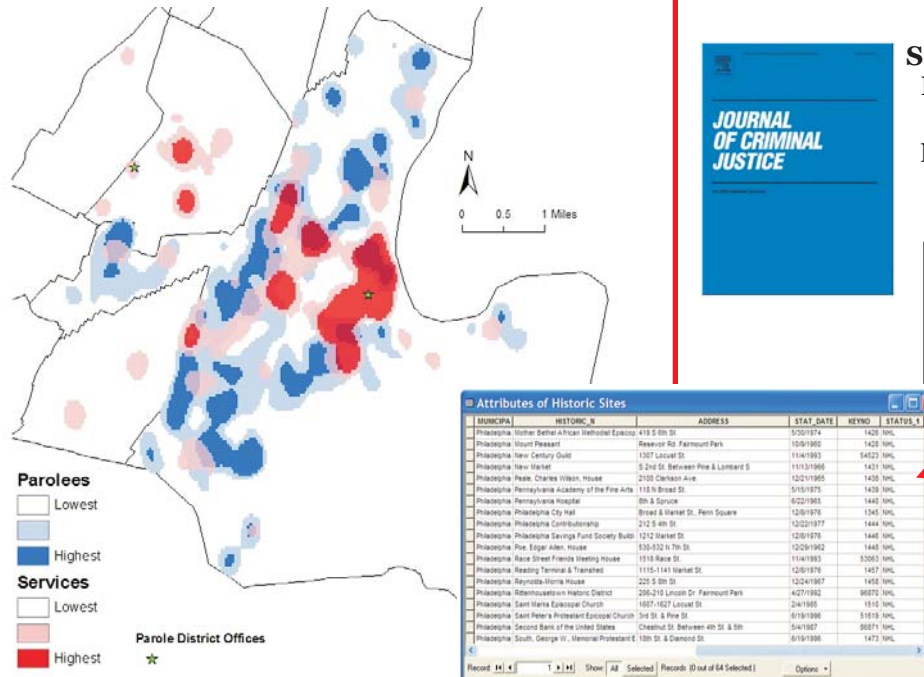
Criminal Justice Web Sites

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/links.html#crime>

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/gis>

Contact your local government agencies and NGOs, or Google keywords such as "GIS data"

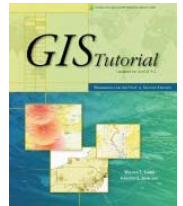


Training Resources

Since 1997 the Mapping & Analysis for Public Safety (MAPS) program has reached out to academics and practitioners alike in the criminal justice communities to bridge the gap between research and practice. MAPS regularly sponsors conferences and workshops and publishes reports. Visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps> for more information.

Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice offers GIS courses. Visit <http://www.newark.rutgers.edu/rscj> for more information.

GIS Tutorial: Workbook for ArcView 9, Third Edition provides GIS training in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step format; self-study exercises gradually build upon basic skills.



See also: Mellow, J., Schlager, M. D., & Caplan, J. M. (2008). Using GIS to evaluate post-release prisoner services in Newark, New Jersey. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Volume 36, Issue 5.

