

## Benefits of integration of statistics and geospatial information

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### **Geostat House and Health – Towards new official health statistics using GIS**

Presentation of preliminary results related to the “health part” of the Eurostat supported project Geostat House and Health.

The general objective of this project is to produce new official health statistics using geographical information system (GIS) tools, and to increase the level of GIS proficiency at the Division of Health Statistics, Statistics Norway.

Work was initiated by identifying two specific tasks to pursue, to fulfil the general objective:

- I. Map the availability (by road) of emergency services in Norway, using maternity wards as a case study.
- II. Analyze whether, and if so, in what way, travel distance affects people’s choice of general practitioners in Norway (In collaboration with the Department of Research).

At the time of writing, the work on mapping the availability of maternity wards has had the most progress. Input data includes addresses scraped of the web, the official cadastral dataset, the official road network dataset, among others. The analysis is conducted using ArcGIS and Python, and is expected to be finished well in time for the EFGS conference. When the case study on maternity wards is completed, we will run the analysis on other emergency services as well, with an end goal of publishing annual statistics on the availability of these emergency services in Norway.

The analysis of if, and how, travel distance affects people’s choice of general practitioners is just getting underway. Nevertheless, we hope to present some preliminary results from this project as well at the conference in October.