Chakraborty, J. and Armstrong, M.P. (2001).
Assessing the impact of airborne toxic release on populations with special needs. Professional Geographer, 53(1):119-131.

# Background

- USEPA Risk Management Program: offsite consequences of accidental release of regulated substances need to be analyzed.
- Environmental justice movement: studies the disproportionate distribution of risk on people and places.

# **Objectives**

- Assess the potential exposure of people with special needs to accidental release of hazardous chemicals.
- Target population groups: people with physical disabilities and health concerns
- Study area: Cedar Rapid metropolitan, lowa

### Methods Overview

### Potential exposure model

- Spatial unit of vulnerable area
  - · Administrative units
  - · Circular buffer
  - · Dispersion model output

#### Population model

- Spatial unit of population distribution
  - · Census units
  - · Individual locations

#### Overlay analysis

- Mismatch of spatial units - areal interpolation

#### Spatial pattern analysis

- Spatial randomization

### Methods

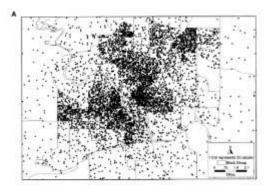
- Geocoding
  - EHS facilities
  - Self-identified individuals with special needs
- Geographic masking
  - Affine transformation
  - Random perturbation
  - Aggregation

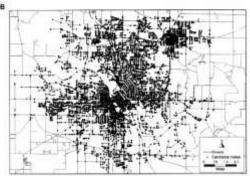
# Methods (cont.)

- Chemical Dispersion Model (ALOHA)
  - Worst-case release
  - Specified weather condition
  - Buffer distance (IDLH)
- Exposure risk analysis
  - Summarizing using point-in-polygon (554)
- · Spatial distribution of SNP

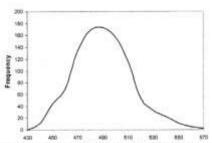
# Measurement of Disproportion

- Observed pattern
  - Locations of 903 individuals
- Candidate locations for neutral pattern
  - Based on street nodes (6260 points)
  - Node densities are strongly positively correlated to census block group population density
  - Randomly selected 1000 sets of 903 nodes
  - Summarizing using point-in-polygon





## Results

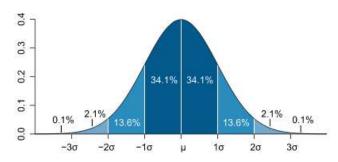


**Table 2** Analysis of Disproportionate Impacts Based on 1,000 Randomly Simulated Location Patterns of the Special Needs Population.

Number of Vulnerable Zones	Population at Risk* (P <sub>chr</sub> )	Population at Risk in Simulated Location Patterns (People				
		Max	Min	Mean	Patterns with P <sub>eap</sub> < P <sub>site</sub>	Significance Level
At least 1	584	567	436	493	996	99.6%
2 or more	341	368	259	311	982	98.2%
3 or more	257	284	182	228	971	97.1%
4 or more	140	161	89	120	963	96.3%

<sup>\*</sup> Based on assignment to nearest TIGER/Line file node.

## **Normal Distribution**

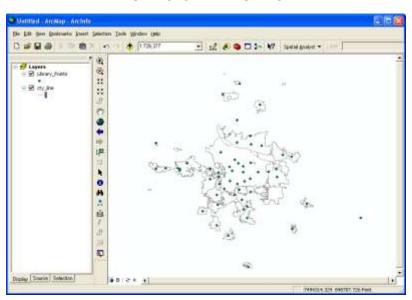


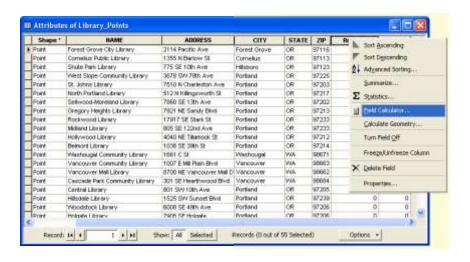
- PDF: Probability Distribution Function of a random variable.
- 68.2% within +/- one standard deviation of the mean
- 95.4% within +/- two StDev of the mean
- 99.6% within +/- three StDev of the mean

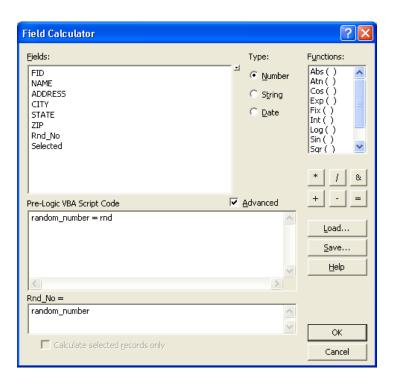
# Comments/Critiques

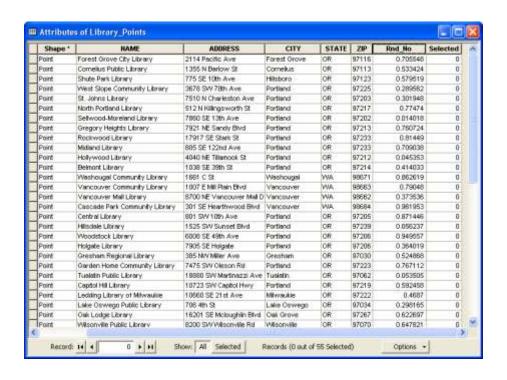
- · Historical weather data not used
- Buffer Distance (IDLH) not adjusted for people with physical conditions.
- · Possibility vs. probability

# Randomization

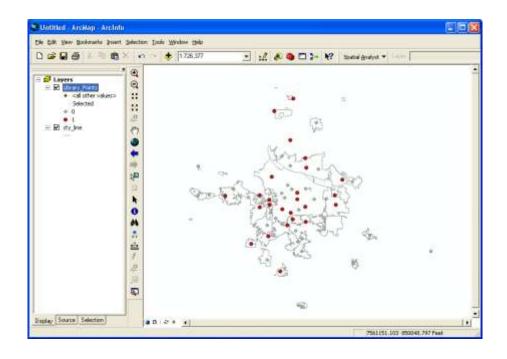




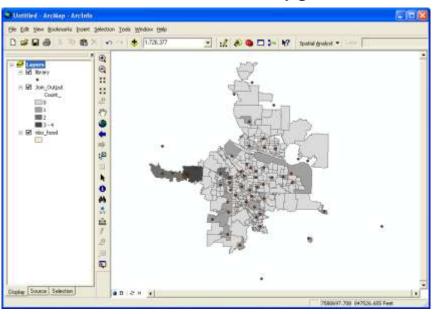


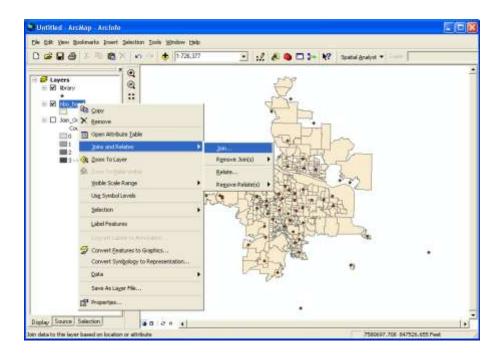






# Count Points in Polygons





# Join by Location

