

World Congress on

Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare

September 07-09, 2017 London, UK

Studying the spatial distribution of asthma patients in the state of Kuwait using GIS

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The aim of this study was to design a systematic framework for establishing a healthcare geodatabase and to study the geographic distribution of asthma patients in Kuwait using the spatial analysis tools available in geographic information systems. The establishment of the geodatabase followed three main steps: data collection, data preparation, and incorporation of the spatial and non-spatial data. The data were analyzed both statistically and spatially according to the gender and citizenship of patients. Regression and chi-squared analyses were used to study the relationships among patients. The geographic distributions of patients were investigated using distribution maps and by calculating the mean centers of patients, as well as Moran's indices. The statistical analysis revealed that female patients were more likely than male patients to visit asthma clinics. The distribution of patient visits varied in the various Kuwait governorates, but this spatial variation did not agree with the total population distribution.

Biography

Elham Aldousari is an Assistant Professor of Information Sciences at University of Kuwait. She received her Doctorate in Information Sciences Health Informatics at Loughborough University in UK. She received her BA in Health Information Management and Master Degree in Library and Information Science at Kuwait University. Previously, she worked as Director of Medical Record and Biostatistics department at Maternity hospital in Kuwait from 1997 to 2003. She taught courses in information literacy, organizing of information, information and society, information resources and services. Her research interests include the information seeking behaviour, knowledge management, health informatics and consumer health information.

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