Lab 2 Assignment

1. Choose some health outcome for which data are available at the ZIP code level.

2. Using MapInfo or ArcView, categorize the ZIP codes in Albany, Rensselear, Saratoga and Washington counties as “exposed” or “unexposed” based on whether the ZIP code is adjacent to the Hudson River between Hudson Falls and the southern edge of Albany County (for the purposes of this lab, ZCTAs may be used in place of ZIP codes). Print a table listing these ZIPS or ZCTAs.

3. Create and print a thematic map identifying “exposed” and “unexposed” areas. Label the counties and the Hudson River. Include a title and a scale.

4. Report “exposed” and “unexposed” disease rates and odds ratios for the health outcome you have chosen (this step can be done using any software).

5. Write one to two pages discussing and critiquing the method of Baibergenova et al. (2003). Comment specifically on their basis for assigning exposure.