

Review of: "When a Cluster Is a Cluster"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article provided a comprehensive overview of the importance of spatial clustering in epidemiology, particularly in the context of infectious disease outbreaks like COVID-19. It discussed various statistical methods and tools used to identify clusters, emphasizing the significance of exact location data in developing effective policies for managing and controlling epidemics. However, there are areas where the article could be improved for clarity and depth.

The article covered a wide range of topics related to spatial clustering, but it would benefit from a clearer articulation of the main argument or thesis. This would help guide readers through the complexities of the subject matter and ensure they grasp the key takeaway points.

Some of the statistical methods mentioned, such as the Moran Index and spatial scan statistics, are complex and may not be familiar to all readers. Provide clearer explanations or definitions of these methods, perhaps with simplified examples or visuals to aid understanding.

Address the limitations and challenges associated with identifying and interpreting spatial clusters. This could include factors like data quality, selection bias, and the inherent uncertainty in early-stage outbreak investigations. Acknowledging these limitations would add nuance to the discussion and help readers understand the complexity of the topic. Avoid jargon or overly technical language where possible, and strive for clarity and accessibility to a broad audience of readers interested in epidemiology and public health.