Zika: Location Technology to Reduce Your Risk
Wendy Peloquin, GISP, Account Manager, GISInc., Jacksonville, FL

ABSTRACT TEXT: Disease outbreaks and epidemics are nothing new, but in today’s modern world, we can take advantage of location technology tools to help us monitor, respond, and control outbreaks and epidemics.

Recently, more and more local governments are looking to implement location technology to support their fight against Zika. Today, organizations are using location technology to identify high risk areas of mosquito presence and visualize field results in real-time, through executive dashboards. Both allow organizations to make evidence and location-based decisions to reduce the risk of disease transmission and outbreak. The Hillsborough County, FL department of Public Works along with the City of New Orleans, LA and Santa Rosa County, FL have all implemented solutions utilizing existing location technology software, allowing them to save money and time when deploying new solutions to support their vector-borne disease workflows.

This presentation will outline how other local governments can follow their lead by implementing location technology to reduce their risk of local Zika (and other vector-borne diseases) transmission.

Engaging the Public to Fight Zika
Wansoo Im, Ph.D., Associate Professor/Director, Department of Family and Community Medicine/National Community Mapping Institute, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN

ABSTRACT TEXT: The goal of the project was to engage middle school teachers, librarians, and students and their parents to utilize GIS and community participatory mapping efforts in order to identify and eradicate potential mosquito breeding sites to control the spread of the Zika virus in Nashville/Davidson County.

The project had five objectives:

1. Educate middle school students about the Zika virus: what it is, how it is spread, its health effects, and how it can be controlled
2. Train middle school students and their parents how to use a community mapping app to input information on standing water hazards as potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes into their smart phone
3. Create a Nashville Zika website to upload data on standing water hazards
4. Educate neighborhood residents about Zika and what they can do to minimize its risks
5. Provide a year-end report to schools, public health officers, and elected officials about the study outcomes.

Results, lessons, and implications of the citizen science school project will be presented and discussed.

Community Mapping Public Health Hackathon: Lessons Learned
Wansoo Im, Ph.D., Associate Professor/Director, Department of Family and Community Medicine/National Community Mapping Institute, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN

ABSTRACT TEXT: Community mapping is about educating, engaging, and empowering community members by using available location based information and communication technology (ICT). The Community Mapping Public Health Hackathon was hosted as part of promoting civic engagement and empowerment in Public Health in Nashville with a partnership of the National Community Mapping Institute at Meharry, Metro Nashville Information Technology Service, and Code for Nashville.

Thirty-four (34) participants from Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville Software School, non-profit organizations, and IT companies participated in a public health hackathon. Participants were assigned to five small groups where they identified public health issues in Nashville, and created interactive community mapping apps to address these issues. Ideas that the teams identified included: food security, park & recreation, immigration service, youth risk, and suicidal prevention. In this presentation, the methodology used, benefits derived, and lessons learned from conducting a community mapping hackathon will be reviewed.