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Model-based and design-based inference goals frame how to account for neighborhood clustering in studies of health in overlapping context types

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ABSTRACT

Accounting for non-independence in health research often warrants attention. Particularly, the availability of geographic information systems data has increased the ease with which studies can add measures of the local “neighborhood” even if participant recruitment was through other contexts, such as schools or clinics. We highlight a tension between two perspectives that is often present, but particularly salient when more than one type of potentially health-relevant context is indexed (e.g., both neighborhood and school). On the one hand, a model-based perspective emphasizes the processes producing outcome variation, and observed data are used...
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