

Better health. Better health care.

The O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary supports excellence in population health and health services research, realizing the benefits of such research by informing community, policy and health-practice stakeholders.

As an Institute, we share a vision of "better health and health care," reflecting our two priority research areas of improved population health and enhanced health systems performance.

The institute's success in brokering broader external relationships, with provincial and national interest groups, policy makers, research agencies, the media, philanthropists, and community stakeholders, further extends the reach and impact of our members' significant research outputs.



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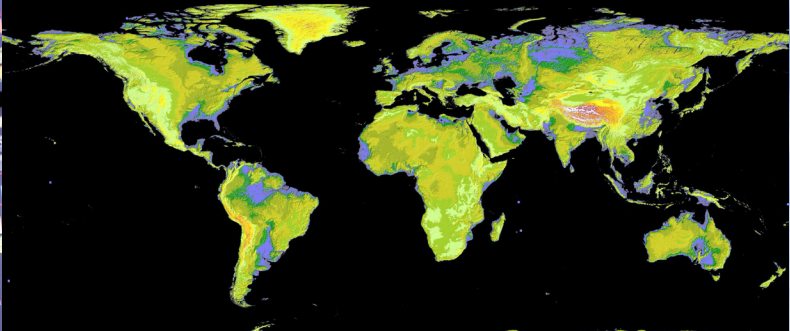
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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
O'Brien Institute for Public Health
Geography of Health and GIS Analysis Research Group

Mapping the future of health and care

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“Traditionally in health research we have looked at things in the abstract, without taking the ‘where’ into consideration. By applying GIS, we can more easily understand who or how many do or do not have access to health care.”

- Stefania Bertazzon, UCalgary

Who We Are

The Internet may have made the world smaller, but the Geography of Health and GIS Analysis Research Group is expanding boundaries with cutting-edge technology in population and public health.

Housed at the O’Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary, the Geography of Health and GIS (geographic information systems) Analysis Research Group studies the relationships between health and place and the interactions of people and the environment to better understand spatial patterns and diffusion of disease, environmental exposures and accessibility of health-care services to identify risks and ultimately improve

health and care delivery.

For the uninitiated, geographic Information systems are visualization tools designed to capture, manipulate and analyze datasets that can be presented spatially in mapping overlays.

The technology is employed in everything from emergency service dispatch to traffic management and can be used to identify important health issues that can be addressed through spatial analyses.

The Geography of Health and GIS Analysis Research Group serves as a hub to connect geographical expertise with health research and practice, enhance spatial literacy and expand the use of GIS for better decision making in health-care delivery throughout Alberta.

What We Do

- Consult on GIS-related applications across the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services (AHS)
- Analyze the environmental and socioeconomic determinants of health in the geospatial dimension
- Collaborate with stakeholders to share health GIS standards and spatial tools
- Improve coordination among health GIS users in academia, industry and government
- Organize workshops and annual educational events such as Health GIS Day

Would You Like To Learn More?

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