GIS, with the available comprehensive health and demographics data, is a powerful tool to address issues relevant to public health research and policy. In Central and South America, effective use of GIS technology can be applied in major health challenges such as:

- **Access to health care services** – GIS is being used to study geographical access to health services
- **Health inequalities** – GIS mapping can highlight vulnerable and disparate communities
- **High levels of infectious diseases** – GIS offers a way to visualize infectious disease transmissions

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