Geographic Information Systems for Public Health

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The lecture provides an introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and how they are used in public health research. GIS have become important tools in environmental epidemiology and public health for undertaking spatial and spatio-temporal exposure assessment and risk assessment. GIS are used in this context for collecting, integrating, manipulating, analysing and visualising relationships between environmental and health data and developing models of exposures. The lecture will draw on examples of recent work by the School of Public Health at Imperial College including assessing exposure to a range of environmental risks, and methods for linking geographical and health data for epidemiological studies and health risk assessment.