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Emergency preparedness and response, public health management, and the relationship between GIS technology and crime-mapping are among the topics covered in this Special Issue of the *URISA Journal*. The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and URISA have cooperated in producing this informative issue that concentrates on topics of special interest to both URISA and UCGIS members. This joint effort offers insight into some of the brightest and freshest ideas on these relevant subjects.

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