

Special Issue

How and Why Do Neighbourhood Environments Affect Population Mental Health?

Message from the Guest Editor

The Special Issue will address the influence of neighbourhood characteristics and urban settings on mental health and illness, given the extensive evidence of such contextual effects. Different themes that may be relevant include how neighbourhoods and urbanicity are defined (e.g., is urbanicity simply a question of population density?) and the mechanisms through which contextual factors may impact the development of mental illnesses. Adequate characterisation of urbanicity has been found to be an issue in many studies. We, thus, attempt to answer the following questions: Can urbanicity be regarded as having a causal influence on mental health, what methods might be used to establish this influence, and how may it create an adverse environment for individuals with some psychiatric conditions? Biopsychosocial mechanisms (e.g. trauma, cortical thickness, and epigenetic changes) are examples of important factors that may lead to the development of psychopathology. However, much uncertainty exists with regard to how these factors have causal effects. In addition, the protective factor of living in certain neighbourhoods that promote resiliency have not been widely explored.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Editor-in-Chief

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