

Special Issue

The Role of Neighborhood Social Networks in Health Behaviors and Healthy Aging

Message from the Guest Editors

There is a consensus among environmental gerontologists that neighborhoods play a central role in individual health. Social networks are also a potential source of social support for health-seeking behaviors (e.g., physical activity, social participation, healthcare utilization). Yet, there is little anecdotal and empirical evidence on how neighborhoods interact with age-related changes in social networks and whether this potential interaction affects social participation, physical activity, and health in late life or across the lifespan. To inform interventions and new policies, stakeholders need to understand the relationship between neighborhood and social networks in old age and its influence on social participation, physical activity, and health. Thus, there is a need for research, systematic reviews, and theoretical frameworks investigating how neighborhoods interact with changes in social networks to influence physical activity, social participation, and health. This Special Issue aims to address these topics with papers reporting robustly designed primary studies.

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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.

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