

Special Issue

Physical Environment to Human Health in the Era of Big Data

Message from the Guest Editors

There is now expanding evidence on the role of city design, transportation investments, and the built environment in enhancing public health. This evidence has led to an increase in place-based interventions designed to alter travel and activity patterns in a way that promotes healthy behaviors and reduces undesirable exposures. An understanding of the downstream impacts of the physical environment on healthcare costs is essential to justify the major transport investments to either plan or retrofit communities. On one hand, the physical aspects of the environment, to which everyone is exposed, can encourage or discourage individuals to behave in ways that affect health. Under this behavioral pathway, the built environment offers a protective and prescriptive role in reducing expensive chronic disease-related morbidity and mortality (such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, type II diabetes, and obesity) by altering individuals' behaviors (e.g., physical activity and social interactions). The COVID-19 health pandemic has also sparked a discussion around the influence of built environment on transmission of communicable infectious diseases.

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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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