

LECTURE SUMMARY

Integrated Urban Planning: Local health and global sustainability

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understanding the concept of Planetary Health and its evidence-base.
- Being able to explain the importance of neighbourhoods as a nexus of action for people and planetary health.
- Having knowledge of some of the urban planning tools and resources for local health and global sustainability.

SUMMARY OF THE LECTURE

As the climate and ecological crises deepen, so the threat to global population health becomes ever more acute. The term planetary health has been coined to acknowledging the issue that the earth needs a web of critical and interlinked global systems to be a position to support the well-being of complex social species, such as Homo Sapiens. It is vital that urbanists understand health in its full meaning, within the WHO constitution, so they are in a position to protect both planetary and local health. Effective action for this, as a professional endeavor, by urban planners and designers can be recognized most strongly at the neighbourhood level. On the ground place-making, at this scale, can impact positively or negatively on people's health and planetary health.

Many basic neighbourhood physical characteristics exert a causal effect through being a 'determinant of health'. Many of these characteristics can be influenced by urban planning, such as housing density, mixed or segregated uses, modes of movement, access to food and nature, air quality and noise, availability of nearby employment, presence and ease of access to amenities (local and further afield). At the planetary health level, local built environment decision can have global influence through their

impact of energy requirements, waste generation, efficient resource use, impacts on biodiversity and water catchment and flooding impacts.

Another major health consideration is the distribution of both benefits and negative impacts across different sub-populations - this is called health equity. It can be that most benefits accrue to one group of people, whilst dis-benefits are concentrated in other groups (often those on low incomes, older people, children or those facing other disadvantages).

A number of tools and resources are available to support health through an integrated approach to urban planning. If we use a framework of 'entry points', then tools can be found and/or adapted for many situation and all phases of an urban planning process. Many such tools have been used and more are being developed. The lecture will end by showing some of these tool and indication were additional recourses may be found.

REFERENCES

- Shaping Neighbourhoods for local health and global sustainability, 3rd Ed. New York & Oxford: Routledge, 2021. Publication link bit.ly/ShapingNeighbourhoods
- Integrating health in urban and territorial planning: a sourcebook Geneva: UN-HABITAT and WHO, 2020. www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003170
- Health as the pulse of the new urban agenda. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito 2016
www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241511445
- Cities & Health, the journal: www.tandfonline.com/journals/rcah20
- World Health Organization, 2015. Connecting global priorities: biodiversity and human health: a state of knowledge review.
www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241508537
- Katherine Richardson, Earth beyond six of nine Planetary Boundaries, Science Advances (2023). DOI:10.1126/sciadv.adh2458. www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458