



“place” means more to humans than just the physical space they inhabit. The social environment describes the structure and characteristics of relationships among people within a community.



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Social Conditions and Urban Health Inequities: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities to Transform the Urban Landscape through Research and Action

This paper focuses on how in cities of low-and middle-income countries, social exclusion contributes to urban health inequities via differences in social infrastructure. This inequality and exclusion create cities and neighbourhoods characterised by poverty, overcrowded conditions, poor housing,

severe pollution, and absence of basic services such as water and sanitation; therefore affecting people's physical and mental health. With increasing urbanisation in LMICs, it is imperative to design health programs for the urban poor that take full advantage of the social resources and resourcefulness of their own communities. Providing examples from a socially disadvantaged urban area in Rio de Janeiro, the paper illustrates how holistic health promotion model can empower at the indi-

vidual level and at the same time build community resilience and capital; demonstrating that through improved access to resources, social cohesion is strengthened.

The paper concludes by emphasising the gaps in the global evidence base and describe key areas for future action-oriented research in the field of social exclusion and urban health inequities.