



BARRIERS TO HEALTHY URBAN DESIGN POLICIES: Perspectives from the city of Regina

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Context

- Urban design is critical to improved health and equity outcomes
- Key links between urban design and health:
 - Active transportation options – walking, cycling
 - Speed limits and pedestrian safety measures
 - Green spaces, community gathering areas create sense of safety, belonging
- With Canada 80 per cent urbanized, urban design is key policy issue
- A total of 30 officials within Regina’s municipal government were interviewed
- Objectives:
 - Determine understanding of health and equity in urban design
 - Explore barriers preventing integration of health into urban design policies

Considerations

Research indicates a series of barriers to urban design policies, such as:

1. Constrained policy making environment
 - Lack of shared understanding of health
 - Inaccessibility of evidence
 - Insufficient resourcing
 - Siloed governance structures
 - Limited power of local government
2. Societal and Cultural factors
 - Individualism
 - Status quo
3. Competing interest of stakeholders
 - Public-private nexus
 - Lack of public participation

Questions

- Based on the research, how should the urban design issue be addressed?
- How do you overcome long-established reality of urban design?
- Is it possible to change a suburban car culture?
- What are the competing interests for and against urban design policies?
- How do you encourage higher density inner-city development?
- How do you create amenities like grocery stores in the inner city?
- Are zoning laws the answer to healthy urban development?