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Cities And The Health Of The Public

CITIES AND THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC



Edited by Nicholas Freudenberg,
Sandro Galea, and David Vlahov



Synopsis

The essays commissioned for this book analyze the impact of city living on health, focusing primarily on conditions in the United States. With 16 chapters by 24 internationally recognized experts, the book introduces an ecological approach to the study of the health of urban populations. This book assesses the primary determinants of well-being in cities, including the social and physical environments, diet, and health care and social services. The book includes chapters on the history of public health in cities, the impact of urban sprawl and urban renewal on health, and the challenges facing cities in the developing world. It also examines conditions such as infectious diseases, violence and disasters, and mental illness.

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"... a significant contribution to furthering urban public practice and research." — Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved "The relationship between urban residence and health is highly complex, and it is becoming increasingly so . . . This difficult subject is addressed in this book . . . a book that will be of interest to social scientists but also worth consulting for physicians with practices that involve urban health." — New England Journal of Medicine "The articles in Cities and the Health of the Public place contemporary threats to urban health in the context of both historical and current trends affecting city dwellers. The 16 chapters highlight mostly US urban public health issues. Contributors are prominent researchers in urban health, including leading

social epidemiologist Ichiro Kawachi and psychiatrist Mindy Thompson Fullilove, whose keen scientific intellect and lyrical style add flesh and blood to her descriptions of people displaced by natural and human-caused calamities. Issues covered include access to health care, food security, urban sprawl, and mental health. The editors also contribute several of the chapters. . . . All three are central to the effort to make the study of urban health and people who live in cities a scientific discipline with its own literature and organizations. . . . *Cities and the Health of the Public* is organized . . . like an introductory textbook . . . those who are interested in urban health will find it to be a valuable resource. " . . . Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)" . . . a wonderful synthesis of recent scholarship on urban health from a variety of disciplines. . . . it will become a classic reference text for this rapidly developing field. . . . The genius of this book is that it makes an enormously complex subject understandable and available not only to public health practitioners but to those in medicine, nursing, social work, and the wide spectrum of disciplines that are necessary to understand and improve the health of the world's communities." . . . Preventive Medicine

Nicholas Freudenberg is Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Social Psychology, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Sandro Galea is Associate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health University of Michigan. David Vlahov is Director of the Center for Urban Epidemiological Studies, New York Academy of Medicine and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Urban Health*.

This textbook clearly presents the health issues specific to urban living. It provides an excellent foundation for a range of urban health topics. I find the extensive references at the end of each chapter to be especially useful as a springboard for deeper investigation when needed.

Good

I like this book very detail about the helth problems that cities have.

Must read for health information based on where you live

"*Cities and the Health of the Public*" provides an excellent overview of urban health in the 21st century . This book is extremely well organized and accessible to a broad range of people, including

interested readers, students and professionals of urban health (activists, researchers and service providers). The editors introduce a comprehensive framework for the study of urban health and illustrate the framework through applications to real world examples shared by scholars in the field of urban health. Perhaps most valuable is the understanding shared by the editors and contributors to this volume that global and national social, economic and political factors (e.g., poverty, availability of affordable housing and fresh, healthy food) are important influences on urban health. As a faculty member in a program with an undergraduate and Masters in Public Health program focusing on urban health and social justice, I look forward to using this book as a teaching tool and as a tool to advocate for social justice.

Concise, timely and well written book highlighting the nascent field of urban health. Worthwhile for health professionals and urban planners alike.

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