

Equity and health in industrial districts in Canada. An urban design analysis.

Ana-Karina Hidalgo^a, Kloey Bells^a, Dominic Tran^a, Ashish Bhandari^a, Ashlee Bueckert^a

1. University of Saskatchewan

Cities could be a source of inequalities. Individuals working and living around industrial districts deal with a lack of healthy environments or access to quality public spaces compared to other areas in the same city. Urban industrial areas are often designed with practicality in mind. Large parcels of land and massive warehouses are part of its urban landscape. Most of these zones lack quality public spaces, adequate public transportation, greenery, and amenities, reducing users' physical, mental and social health. This situation is actual for thousands of workers who use these spaces daily. Thirty percent of the workforce travel daily from home and spend around eight hours on these sites.

This study addresses equity and health in industrial zones from an interdisciplinary approach using tools and concepts from urban design and planning, Indigenous planning, demographics, and GIS. In addition, evidence at the intersection of the built environment, health and equity provides the criteria to evaluate Canadian industrial districts.

Evidence shows that quality public space containing biodiversity (native species, natural landscapes, greenery, water bodies), even in winter, and other urban design features, promotes communities' physical, mental and social health. This study contrasts the spatial analysis, including indicators such as surface temperature, greenery, and particulate matter, with the street-level analysis of urban design characteristics.

This poster addresses the state of the art of equity and health in the industrial districts in urban design and planning literature, an assessment of the relationship between equity and access to healthy environments in industrial districts, and an evaluation of the quality of the public space in fifteen Canadian industrial sites from an urban design and healthy urbanism perspective.

The industrial sector could be an area of constant mental and psychological restoration to positively contribute to all individuals and the city. The benefits of healthy urban environments go beyond the area's physical boundaries. This project constitutes the first phase of a long-term research agenda in Canada's healthy and environmentally friendly industrial districts. A healthy place for daily activities and work will benefit everyone in a city or town.

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