|  |
| --- |
| **What’s equity got to do with it? Where urban planning, public health and political science meet.** |
| **Background/Objectives**The meeting of (built) environment, public health and political science has created a burgeoning new field of inquiry and development. Particularly the interface between urban planning and health equity is under significant scrutiny. Although most of this research focuses on understanding the link between urban planning elements (e.g. housing, transportation, green space, etc) and *health* (e.g. health/disease outcomes, health behaviours, social determinants of health, etc), there is less research focusing on understanding the patterns or pathways how urban planning decisions impact the *distribution of health,* or, *health equity*. We need better understanding how urban planning decisions happen. Decisions are no ‘black box’ – decisions involve people, and they therefore drive patterns of health in place. This is an exploratory study to discover the extent of research on urban planning, governance and health equity, and to understand how health equity is defined in research in the disciplines of urban planning, public health and political science.**Methods**The corpus of published literature on urban planning, governance and health/health equity was searched and reviewed to provide a narrative research update on this subject. The selected literature was coded to identify patterns and themes on the definitions, dimensions, data, concepts and theories that researchers use to research health equity.**Results**‘Health’ and ‘health equity’ are generally used interchangeably in the literature. The findings will highlight the similarities and differences between disciplines in approaching the subject of health equity. Health equity is a value and how it is defined and researched reflects its value. The findings will also provide insight on the methodological considerations in producing evidence on health equity in urban planning decisions. **Discussion**The decision making process around urban planning is complex – there are a myriad of actors and conflicting interests, and the solutions to improve health equity are beyond the control of a single entity. Therefore, understanding how health equity is perceived and researched is critical in conceptualising the link between urban planning and health equity. This presentation will further identify areas for future research endeavours.**Keywords**Health equity, urban planning, urban health, built environment, social determinants of health |