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| **Title of Research Presentation Enabling Participation of Deaf and hearing, vision and mobility impaired young people in Aotearoa New Zealand** |
| **Background/Objectives**Participation in community life is vital for health and wellbeing, promoting a sense of belonging, networks of social support and opportunities for physical activity. Disabled young people have lower levels of mobility, recreational participation, education and employment than peers without disabilities. This has implications for their health and wellbeing and life course opportunities. This study investigated how physical and social environmental factors cohere to support or restrict the mobility and participation of disabled young people.**Methods**The study was located in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. Participants were 35 young people aged 12-25 years with mobility, vision or hearing impairments, and parents. A mixed-method design combined objective (global positioning systems, accelerometers, geographical information systems) and self-report measures (travel diaries and questionnaires) along with in-depth interviews. **Results**Data analysis provided a comprehensive understanding of disabled young people’s community participation and the constraints and facilitators of that participation. Urban habitats presented many obstacles to access and participation, with mobility conditional on built environment characteristics, accessible transport and social interactions, along with considerable individual determination and effort. Technology played a particularly important facilitating role for those with mobility and vision impairments, while normative reliance on oral and written communication impinged on the mobility of many Deaf and hearing-impaired and vision-impaired young people. Finally, ableist assumptions and interactions undermined the confidence of many disabled young people and presented an additional barrier to their mobility and community participation.**Discussion**This study looks beyond barriers in the physical environment to the interplay of personal, social and physical factors that enable or constrain the mobility and community participation of disabled young people. The promotion of universal design principles and challenging disempowering normative and ableist assumptions are vital to ensuring that urban and other habitats are inclusive, safe and conducive to health and wellbeing for all citizens, including Deaf and disabled young people.**Keywords**Inclusive urban habitats, disability, young people |