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| **The role and usage of hospital entrances – do they promote health and well-being?** |
| **Background/Objectives**Hospitals are a public health facility with the important role of treating sickness, and also promoting a welcoming and positive health promoting environment through effective built design. While some researchers have investigated the impact of hospital design on health and wellbeing, little attention has been given to hospital entrances as potential health promoting spaces for the facility. The Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation recently conducted an investigation of the current perceptions and usage of the Liverpool Hospital front entrance and the impact the space has on user health and wellbeing. **Methods**Surveys of usage and perceptions of the front entrance were conducted with a sample of 121 patients, staff and visitors. Direct observations of patterns and behaviour were conducted over 3 weeks on different days, at different times, in varying weather conditions. A total of 15 observations were conducted. Each observation period was 15 minutes for patterns and behaviour followed by 15 minutes of smoking count. **Results**Survey data found the entrance was most commonly used as a thoroughfare (42%), to get sun and relax (33%), and to smoke (17%). It was also used to pick-up/drop-off and as a meeting place. Comments made revealed it was also used for (hidden) peddling of substances. Direct observation data indicated high usage as a thoroughfare, for smoking, and meeting in groups. Survey data showed users were dissatisfied with seating (60%), shade (49%), smoking (55%), greenspace (50%), amount and closeness to traffic (38.3%), and thought the entrance was unsafe (46%), unwelcoming (54%), not-calming (61%), and confusing (48%) – 46% to 61% indicated they were stressed by these factors. **Discussion**It was assumed the entrance was mostly used as a thoroughfare, and a destination for (illegal) smoking. While this was generally the case, it was also used in a variety of other ways. There was dissatisfaction with many aspects of the entrance that impacted negatively on users’ stress levels. These results highlight the need for hospital entrances to have a role in promoting health and wellbeing, and provide for the usage needs of users. They also demonstrate the importance of validating assumptions that may inform planning processes. The findings will hopefully inform any future plans for re-developing the front entrance.**Keywords**Hospital front entrance, role, usage, health promoting environment, health and wellbeing  |