

# International Society for Urban Health

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## Fact Sheet

Rapid urbanization worldwide raises new social, economic, public health, environmental, and health systems challenges. The International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) is the only global, non-governmental organization that focuses exclusively on the broad determinants of urban health.

ISUH understands that the health challenges in urban environments are complex and require interdisciplinary collaboration among a variety of stakeholders: researchers, educators, policy makers, practitioners, community leaders, and urban health advocates among others. The organization is singular in its ability to promote and facilitate participation from sectors including urban planning, architecture, transportation, housing and environmental science, to make cities and urban communities healthier and more equitable by improving the built, social, economic and physical environments. The New York Academy of Medicine serves as the secretariat of ISUH, providing leadership and support to advance knowledge sharing and collaboration.

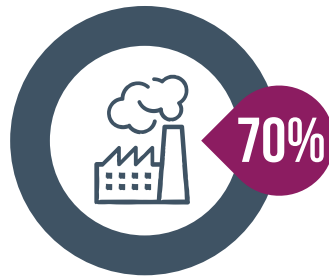


# The Challenge We Face

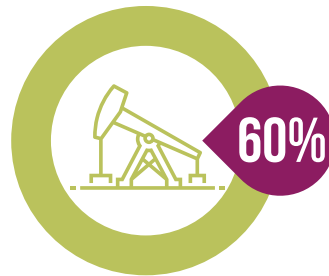
By the year 2050, 70% of the world's population will reside in cities, and more than 90% of urban population growth will take place in low- and middle-income countries. The statistics speak for themselves; cities comprise only 2% of the land we occupy, but they:



Represent 70% of the global economy (by GDP)



Produce 70% of greenhouse gas emissions



Consume more than 60% of global energy production



Generate 70% of global waste

It could not be more clear, cities must be at the forefront of tackling critical global health and development issues. ISUH is at the center of this effort.



## Our Mission

Through an unparalleled network of partners and members spanning the globe, ISUH works to:



**CREATE** a worldwide cadre of cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary urban health leaders in research, policy and practice



**IMPROVE** cross-sector collaboration to solve urban health challenges



**ADVANCE** the evidence base regarding the determinants, programs and policies critical for achieving healthy and sustainable urban environments



**ADVOCATE** for implementation of evidence-based policies, programs and governance that develop healthy and sustainable urban environments and eliminate health inequities

ISUH is an **INNOVATOR**, translating the science behind urban health promotion into practice, policy, and advocacy to improve urban health; an **INCUBATOR**, promoting urban centers as platforms to test and scale evidence-based interventions that improve urban health and reduce health inequities; and a **CONVENER**, deepening cross-sector collaboration at global national and city levels to promote research, policies, and programs addressing urban health outcomes and disparities.

# Programs and Activities

## PARTNERS & MEMBERS

ISUH has formed partnerships with global organizations ranging from United Nations agencies and networks of national academies of science and medicine to global professional organizations, academic institutions, businesses and local organizations of civil society, to collaborate in advancing urban health.

Today, the ISUH has nearly 300 individual and organizational members from 40 nations; half of them from low- and middle-income countries. In addition to taking part in the annual International Conference on Urban Health, members participate in working groups, coordinated advocacy efforts, and can join ISUH's interactive web platform, a social networking tool through which members actively engage with one another on critical issues. The ISUH also provides members with free access to key journals and publishes a quarterly newsletter, briefing members on key topics and events related to urban health.

*Building on our current foundation of*

**300**

**INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS**

*from*

**40**

**NATIONS — HALF LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME**



## THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH (ICUH)

For the past 15 years, ISUH's signature event, the International Conference on Urban Health, has served as the premier forum for academic experts, grassroots advocates, policymakers and practitioners from across the world to exchange ideas, and advance research, practice and policy that promote urban health. In 2017, the conference brought together 640 delegates from 63 different countries, including 33 low- and middle-income countries. ICUH 2018 will be held in Uganda and ICUH 2019 in China. ISUH offers

conference scholarships for members in low- and middle-income countries to ensure the diversity of attendees. The Conference has been supported by leading funders, such as the Gates Foundation, the Novartis Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and Novo-Nordisk.

## AFFILIATED NETWORKS

ISUH encourages existing networks of researchers, practitioners and policy makers to enter into formal affiliation agreements with ISUH to work together to advance urban health, to have preferential opportunities to convene at and participate in programming of our international conference and to bring their experts and expertise into our global urban health networks. Networks currently affiliated with ISUH include SALURBAL, a Wellcome-funded network of urban health researchers in the Americas lead by Ana Diez-Roux among others.



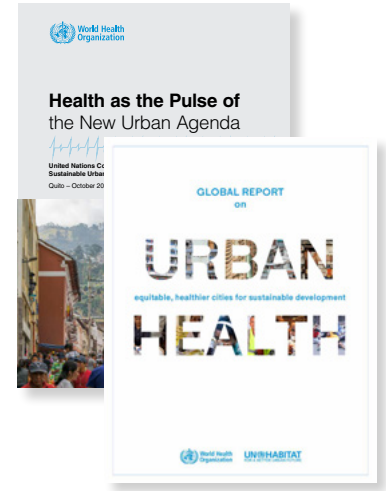


## WORKING GROUPS

ISUH establishes thematic working groups, which support program development to address capacity building needs in urban health. Current groups include: Urban Health Education and Health Equity; Community Based Solutions; and the Africa Group for Research, Education and Practice in Urban Health. Each group brings together members from different countries, sectors and industries who share ISUH's urban health objectives.

## ADVOCACY

ISUH provides leadership necessary for its members to positively influence the global urban health and development agenda. For example, at ICUH 2015, the Dhaka Declaration became a key document in advancing attention to the broad determinants of urban health in the final development of the SDGs. ISUH supported the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Habitat in preparing the *Global Report on Urban Health: Equitable Healthier Cities for Sustainable Development*, which was launched at ICUH 2016. ISUH also worked with WHO and other global urban health leaders to prepare the document "Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda," which provided input to the 2017 United Nations Conference on Housing & Sustainable Urban Development. Additionally, ISUH works with the global network of Academies of Science and Medicine (IAP) to coordinate its Urban Health Working Group. ISUH is working with the International Science Council (ISC) to make urban health a priority for implementation of the SDGs.



## PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS TO DELIVER GLOBAL PROGRAMS IN URBAN HEALTH

**URBAN YOUTH** – ISUH recently launched a major new program initiative in partnership with Fondation Botnar in Basel, Switzerland to manage, monitor and evaluate their important challenge grant program to advance the health and wellbeing of urban adolescents in secondary cities in India, Senegal, Ghana, Colombia and Ecuador. ISUH will serve as a neutral platform for this effort, and tap its global network of experts to support the program and share its learnings.

# Opportunities for Support

With its holistic approach and global reach, ISUH links organizations to experts in research, education, policy and practice in urban health across a range of disciplines and sectors. In addition to membership, ISUH welcomes sponsors to partner with us in support of programming and activities at our annual ICUH which can bring the attention of a global audience to donor programs and priorities. The Conference can also provide a platform for named marketing opportunities through exhibits, book launches and sponsorship of conference social events. We also welcome support of our existing working groups or partners in developing others aligned to our mission. Finally, we welcome the opportunity to partner on global programs like the one supported by Fondation Botnar.

Recently, the ISUH has established a Leadership Council, seeking support from a select group of global companies and foundations interested in or already committed to advancing urban health. Leadership Council members join ISUH as thought partners as we seek to further develop the organization and advocate for the importance of urban health to achieve global health goals.

To learn more about any of these opportunities, please contact [development@isuh.org](mailto:development@isuh.org)