

# International Society for Urban Health

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## Fact Sheet

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. Achieving improvements in urban health is essential to global health—cities must be at the forefront of tackling critical global health and development issues. 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.



# 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 health outcomes and disparities.



## Membership & Benefits

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, can engage with affiliated networks of urban health experts, 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 important topics and events related to urban health.



## THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HEALTH (ICUH)

For the past 15 years, ISUH has sponsored an International Conference on Urban Health, which provides a unique 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.



## 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.

