

# Physical and social community characteristics associated with higher risk of diabetes-related hospitalization

Gupta. Neeru. "Physical and social community characteristics associated with higher risk of diabetes-related hospitalization."  
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## Context

Are the physical and social characteristics of our communities associated with being hospitalized for diabetes and commonly co-occurring health conditions, independently of one's own risk factors? The researchers investigated this question by linking data from population health surveys, healthcare administrative sources, and geographical measures of community remoteness and socioeconomic marginalization.

## Key finding(s) from the research

Over a five-year period, Canadian adults with diabetes who resided in the most rural and remote areas of the country were 50% more likely to be hospitalized compared with those residing in the most urbanized and accessible communities. Residents in areas of high social disadvantage were also more likely to experience a diabetes-related hospitalization than those in neighbourhoods with better social resources.

**Research dataset(s) used:** Canadian Community Health Survey 2013–2014; Discharge Abstract Database 2013/14–2017/18; Material and Social Deprivation Index 2016; Index of Remoteness 2016

## Policy implications for this research

Hospital admissions for diabetes are thought to be largely preventable through community factors, which may reflect unequal access to primary care services, social isolation, and other non-medical determinants of health. Researchers and policymakers should recognize that rural and remote areas are highly diverse and consider the protective influence of neighbourhood contexts independently of individual characteristics and despite Canada's universal healthcare system.

**Policy area(s) this research can inform:** Health; Population and demography; Society and community

## Read the full article

Gupta, N., Crouse, D.L., Miah, P., & Takaro, T. (2022). The role of neighbourhood environments in hospitalization risk for diabetes and related conditions: A population-based cohort analysis by remoteness and deprivation indices. *Health Reports*, 33(12), 3-13. doi:10.25318/82-003-x202201200001-eng