

Applicant

Dr. Michael Brauer, University of British Columbia
Trainee: Katherine White

E-mail Address

Michael.brauer@ubc.ca

Project Title

The relationship between built environment and social isolation in older Canadians

Project Summary

Social isolation is a growing concern amongst aging Canadians, with over 40% of individuals in the country over 50 years of age at risk. Social isolation refers to a collective of objectively measurable factors including number of social contacts, frequency of interaction with social networks, as well as social participation within various communities. Experiencing social isolation has been shown to be associated with various adverse health outcomes, including increased mortality during climate change related extreme weather events. Aspects of the built environments, such as local proximity to green space, have been shown to be related to social isolation. These modifiable environmental factors can help us better understand types of neighbourhoods where older adults may be particularly susceptible to social isolation and may provide an avenue for interventions to reduce the risk of social isolation.

Keywords

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung function, health disparities, spirometry