

TheKingsFund>

The role of cities in improving population health: international case studies



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CURITIBA

Curitiba has an international reputation as a world leader in sustainable cities based on a track record of investment in public transportation, housing development, environmental protection and health promotion.

As part of this there has been an energetic social movement aiming to increase civic participation, particularly in the 1990s and 2000s, with community events across the city. The concept of 'healthy environments' has been an important part of this movement, with a focus on healthy schools, healthy workplaces and other settings.

The health sector has played an enabling role in this social movement. For example, primary health centres offer their facilities as public meeting spaces in the evenings and weekends, including for events with a focus on health and wellbeing. There is an understanding that community empowerment is at the heart of health promotion.

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Drawing on international case studies, our report explores the role of cities in improving population health and the conditions needed for success. It is based on 50 interviews with leaders from 14 cities and includes an extended case study on London that examines the lessons the city might learn from elsewhere.

[Read the full report \(/publications/cities-population-health\)](/publications/cities-population-health)

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3 mins

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