

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	More than Bricks and Mortar: The Right to Healthy Housing
Type	Oral Presentation Intersectoral Collaborations and the Social Determinants of Health
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Content	More than one-third of the world's population has experienced some form of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. With so many people confined to their residences, homes are taking on new roles as classrooms, business places, recreational areas, and in some cases, quarantine or hospital rooms. The pandemic is again highlighting the importance of housing and its effect on health. Our physical environment impacts every aspect of our well-being, either positively or negatively. According to the World Health Organization, improving housing conditions can save lives, prevent disease, increase quality of life, reduce poverty, help mitigate climate change, and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Our research reexamines housing as a social determinate of health from a population health perspective and through the lens of the COVID-19 emergency. We use evidence and country case studies to: 1. Outline specific factors impacting health in the home, such as indoor air quality, temperature, injury hazards, and other environmental health threats. 2. Examine how housing conditions contribute to health disparities for vulnerable populations. 3. Discuss how housing fits into national COVID-19 response plans, and 4. Make recommendations based on global best practices to build equitable housing strategies that not only focus on promoting safety and security but also good health.