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## Health & Place

Volume 11, Issue 4, December 2005, Pages 367-377

# Meeting health need, accessing health care: the role of neighbourhood

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2004.05.004>

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### Abstract

Much of what we know about the determinants of access to health care comes from studies undertaken at a large scale, such as between cities, regions/counties/provinces/states and countries. This paper examines local level variations in access to and utilization of health care services across four distinct neighbourhoods in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Survey data ( $n=1500$ ) were analysed using logistic regression to explore the potential relationships between neighbourhood and health care utilization and unmet health care need. Results show some relationships between neighbourhood of residence and levels of reported utilization as well as unmet need, even when controlling for predisposing, enabling, and need factors (i.e. Age, gender, household composition, income, education, perceived gp visit time) as well as health status. Findings from this empirical study suggest a finer lens is required to

Processing math: 100% s through which place impacts access to and utilization of care,

one that recognizes the roles of compositional, contextual and collective aspects of neighbourhood.



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## Keywords

Health care; Accessibility; Utilization; Neighbourhood; Place, Hamilton Canada

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