

Health care gentrification and equity: results from a scoping review

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Background. Health care gentrification (HCG) is the process by which the type and spatial distribution of health care resources and services shift to favor wealthier residents while potentially excluding more vulnerable residents, leading to inequitable access to quality health care. We conducted a scoping review to explore how healthcare gentrification has been described in the scientific literature and to document the reported relations between gentrification and health care access.

Methods. This scoping review followed the steps outlined by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) and enhanced by Levac et al. (2010) and Colquhoun (2014). We also followed the reporting guidelines from the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis extension for Scoping Reviews. We adhered to the six stages of scoping review methodology, but we will only present the results from the first five steps.

Results. We will present results according to the Cole and Franzosa (2022) framework, which conceptualizes health care gentrification as stemming from the interaction between individual, neighborhood, political, and healthcare factors that may either promote or hinder access to healthcare services. Our results highlighted the geographic barriers to primary healthcare services.

Conclusion. Results could guide efforts to consider changes in the spatial distribution of health care services in healthcare planning and policy to counter the negative effects of neighborhood gentrification. This scoping review is the first phase of a multimethod study aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of the complex mechanisms influencing equity of access to primary health care for persons living below the poverty threshold.

Keywords: Neighborhood Gentrification, Health Services Accessibility, Health Equity

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