

From Global to Hong Kong, Accounting for Geospatial Barriers in Healthcare Access Assessment

Abstract

Improving the quality of health care services is crucial for reducing disease burden. Traditionally, measurement has been restricted to health care capacity (e.g., number of beds and doctors), health needs, equipment and medicine, financing and policy. The importance of location information has recently been advanced by health geographers. Using geospatial data models, this talk will introduce our global study on vaccine access during the COVID-19 pandemic, an intercontinental analysis across 54 countries/regions investigating unequal access beyond the supply issue. At the local scale, this talk will also introduce a Hong Kong study evaluating access to long-term care facilities and contrasting the accessibility between public and private LTCFs. The spatial inequality in LCTF access reflects broader patterns of social vulnerability and urban service provision, and further provides policy implications for promoting the overall quality of life of older adults in Hong Kong.