A person’s built environment, the community where they live and work, impacts their overall health and quality of life. Individuals living in poverty may have more adverse health outcomes than other individuals. Issues such as poor air quality, childhood lead exposure, a high concentration of tobacco and alcohol retail locations, high crime rates and limited access to healthy food disproportionately affect communities in poverty.

“Your longevity and health are more determined by your zip code than they are by your genetic code.”

- Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., former Director of the CDC