

Results:

Out of the first 176 participants (53% male), 45% had a college/university degree with a further 19% having graduate degrees, while the vast majority (92%) reported home ownership. Education was not associated with net family income ($p=0.3$) nor home-ownership ($p=0.28$). Out of the 14 constructs in Place standard, “Public transport” and “Participation and sense of control” were rated lowest (3.1 ± 1.9 and 3.1 ± 1.8) and “Identity and sense of belonging” and “Safety” highest (4.1 ± 1.9 and 4.5 ± 1.8). Education was not associated with any construct in “Place” or with total neighbourhood score.

Conclusions:

Participants rate the social and safety aspects of their neighbourhood higher than the build aspects. Educational attainment may not be a good proxy for neighbourhood socioeconomic assessment in Cyprus, given the high rates of university graduates.

Key messages:

- Participants express the need for more public engagement in community decision-making; sense of lacking control may affect individual health.
- Educational attainment is not a good proxy for neighborhood socioeconomic assessment in the cultural context of Cyprus.

Association between education and self-assessment of the neighborhood environment

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Background:

DEpICT is an ongoing observational, cross-sectional study in community-dwellers in Limassol, Cyprus aiming to combine individual-level and community-level risk factors to decode their effect on arterial health (stiffness) as measured with pulse wave velocity (PWV).

Methods:

Participants are >40 years who have been living in the same address for ≥ 5 years. They provide personal information on quality of life and mental health (SF-12 and GHQ-12), physical activity (IPAQ), adherence to Mediterranean diet (MedDiet) and sociodemographic. Anthropometric characteristics are measured on site, as well as arterial stiffness (carotid-femoral PWV) and central blood pressure. Neighborhood is self-assessed using the “Place Standard” Tool, as well as with an independent neighborhood audit using the newly-developed CyNoTes tool.