



HI-C

HEALTH IMPACT CHECKLIST

CITY-LEVEL EXAMPLE

To view this file online, or to download or view other examples or templates, visit khi.org/policy/article/Hi-C



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE
Informing Policy. Improving Health.

Health Impact Checklist - City Level Example

Dangerous and Unfit Structures Ordinance-Chapman, Kansas

Summary Page

Proposal Name
Dangerous and Unfit Structures Ordinance – Chapman, KS

Key Points of Proposal
The ordinance has three primary provisions: 1) authorizes a public officer to investigate alleged unsafe structures; 2) authorizes the city to require the owners of properties deemed in need of repair to remedy the unsafe properties; and 3) allows the cost of demolition and removal of unsafe structures to be charged to owners.

Impacted Social, Economic and Environmental Conditions	Potential Health Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Instability: Residents forced to vacate their homes may face increased housing instability. Housing Quality: Repairing dangerous and unfit structures may improve the quality of housing in the community and decrease exposure to mold, allergens and lead. Environmental Conditions: Repairing or removing dangerous and unfit structures may reduce the number of properties that harbor pests. Safety: Although the connection between crime and blight in rural communities is less clear due to limited research, it is possible that addressing blight can help to reduce crime. Neighborhood Disorder: Abandoned, overgrown and blighted properties may be associated with perceptions of neighborhood disorder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postponement of needed medical care Increased emergency room usage Decreased exposure to pests Decreased risk of asthma Decreased risk of neurological disorders stemming from lead exposure Increased perceptions of neighborhood safety

Impacted Population(s)	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children: May be especially susceptible to substandard housing quality and could benefit from removal or repair of unfit structures. Persons with low income: May face challenges covering the costs of repairs if they are the owner of the dangerous and unfit structure, or the costs of moving to new housing if they are the occupant. Persons with low literacy and individuals with limited English proficiency: May face challenges understanding notices and making proper arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a structure is deemed dangerous or unfit, utilize communication strategies that are easy to understand, culturally relevant, and in an appropriate language(s) to notify persons with low literacy or limited English proficiency. Partner with local organizations to provide short-term housing to displaced individuals.

Entity Completing the HI-C	Entity Receiving the HI-C	Completion Date
Kansas Health Institute	(n/a – example only)	1/17/2020

Health Impact Checklist – City Level Example
Dangerous and Unfit Structures Ordinance – Chapman, Kansas
Section I. General Information

1. Name of proposal:

Dangerous and Unfit Structures Ordinance – Chapman, Kansas

2. Provide a short summary of the key points of the proposal, including expected outcomes if specified in the proposal. (Type in.)

The primary purpose of the ordinance is to outline the process and means by which the government may require the repair, closure or demolition of dangerous and unfit structures within the city. The aim is to reduce the number of structures within the city limits that “provide a general blight upon the neighborhood or surrounding properties.” The ordinance has three primary provisions: 1) the ordinance authorizes a public officer to investigate alleged unsafe structures on their own determination or after receiving five petitions from the public; 2) the ordinance authorizes the city to require the owners of properties deemed in need of repair to remedy the unsafe properties; and 3) the ordinance allows the cost of demolition and removal of unsafe structures to be charged to the owners, and requires payment within 30 days. The full text of the ordinance can be found on pages 128-131 here: <http://chapmanks.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Code-Book-August-2016.pdf>

3. Which of the following social, economic and environmental conditions (determinants of health) does the proposal have the greatest potential to impact? (Check at least three.)

Social, Economic and Environmental Conditions ^{1, 2}		
Economic Stability	Neighborhood & Physical Environment	Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education and Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Instability/ Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Conditions (e.g., water, air and soil quality)	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Insecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Healthy Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Community and Social Context	Health and Health Care	<i>Note: The number of social, economic or environmental conditions examined could depend on available resources, stakeholder interest and timeline. After examining three, additional conditions may be examined further.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic Participation	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Coverage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider Availability	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Stress	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Health Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Isolation	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Behavioral Health Services	
<input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Care	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Neighborhood Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Section II. Description of Impacts

Instructions: Having described the proposal and identified its potential impacts on various social, economic and environmental conditions, collaborate with organizations that might have research capacity to complete items included in Section II.

4. What partners can help you find research regarding potential impacts of the proposal on the social, economic and/or environmental conditions identified in Question 3?
(Type in.)

Specific Partner(s)	Partnership Contribution(s)
Local Public Universities (Kansas State University, University of Kansas, etc.)	Researchers and students may be able to assist with a review of published research on potential health impacts identified in the checklist.
City Government Building Inspector	The City of Chapman Building Inspector could bring expertise in building safety and ways to address dangerous and unfit structures.

Potential partner types include community foundations, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, universities or colleges, health care organizations, community coalitions, stakeholder groups, community organizations (including those representing populations facing significant barriers to health and well-being) and others.

5. Describe how the proposal could impact the social, economic and/or environmental conditions identified in Question 3 and how it could result in associated health impacts for the community overall. (Type in.)

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Housing Instability	As outlined in the ordinance, addressing structures which are deemed dangerous or unfit is the responsibility of the property owner. However, structures deemed dangerous or unfit also may be occupied by non-owners. Depending on the extent of the demolition or repair, the resident, regardless of ownership, may need to find alternative housing and bear the costs of the move. This could result in housing instability.	Residents of structures deemed dangerous or unfit may face a period of housing instability when the structure is repaired or demolished. Housing instability has been associated with postponing needed medical care, postponing needed medications and increased use of emergency departments. ³	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Housing Quality	Substandard housing has the potential to increase exposure to a number of housing-related environment health risks, including mold, allergens, and lead. ⁴ Over time, if dangerous and unfit houses are repaired, the quality of the housing in the city is expected to improve.	Negative housing conditions, such as mold and allergens, have been associated with increased risk for asthma and other respiratory diseases. ^{5, 6} Additionally, substandard housing conditions have been associated with high blood lead levels ⁷ and the resulting neurological damage. ⁸	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Environmental Conditions	If abandoned and overgrown properties allow for conditions in which pests can thrive and reproduce, exposure to pests may increase. ⁹ By reducing the number of properties in the community that create conditions for pests to thrive, environmental conditions may improve.	Exposure to pests, broken windows and other conditions of abandoned and overgrown properties may have a number of negative health impacts, such as neurological disorders, ¹⁰ behavioral problems, ¹¹ and decreased overall mental health. ¹² If exposure to conditions of abandoned properties is reduced, the ordinance may have positive health benefits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Safety	Abandoned properties and vacant properties has been linked to crime in urban communities. ^{13, 14} Limited research also suggests that social blight — which includes behaviors that are thought to be criminal in nature — has been associated with economic forms of blight, though social blight is less common in rural communities. ¹⁵	There is limited research about the connection between crime and blight in rural communities; however, it is possible that addressing blight can help to reduce crime. Crime can have direct effects on health, such as injuries, or physiological impacts, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. ¹⁶	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Neighborhood Disorder	Abandoned and dangerous structures within communities may be associated with perceptions of physical disorder within neighborhoods. ¹⁷ Perceived neighborhood disorder refers to visible cues within a community or neighborhood that indicate a lack of order and social control. ¹⁸	Perceived neighborhood disorder can contribute to residents’ perception that the neighborhood is unsafe, which is associated with decreased outdoor physical activity and increased fear and anxiety. ¹⁹ Additionally, neighborhood conditions, such as boarded up abandoned buildings, have been associated with higher rates of premature death, homicide, and death from cardiovascular disease. ²⁰	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

6. Based on the potential impact of the proposal on the social, economic or environmental conditions identified in Question 3, identify populations who could be impacted and how the proposal might affect their health. (Describe at least three populations.)

Note: Focus on populations that are at a higher risk for poor health as a result of the barriers they experience to social, economic, political and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability. For a full list of potential populations of focus, see Section IV. Glossary of Terms.

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impacted Population	Impact on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Housing Quality	Children	Children can be particularly affected by exposure to lead, mold and allergens, which often are found in substandard housing. ²¹ By decreasing the number of dangerous and unfit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impacted Population	Impact on Health	Overall Impact on Health
		properties, the ordinance could improve the health of children who reside in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Housing Quality	Persons with low income	Persons with low income may be more likely than the general population to live in substandard housing. ²² These individuals may benefit from the repair or removal of dangerous and unfit structures; however, they also could have difficulty bearing the unexpected costs of relocating. Approximately 30 percent of U.S. adults report being unable to pay their current bills or unable to cover an unexpected expense of \$400. ²³	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Housing Quality	Persons with limited English proficiency and also persons with low literacy	Because residents of properties deemed dangerous or unfit may be notified by mail in English, persons with low literacy and individuals with limited English proficiency could face challenges understanding the notice, making proper arrangements to move, or repairing the dangerous or unfit structure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

Section III. Recommendations

Instructions: Having described the potential impacts of the proposal and populations who may face significant barriers to health and well-being, use Section III to identify collaborative approaches to addressing these findings.

7. What partners can help you to develop recommendations to address or mitigate the potential health impacts identified in Questions 5 and 6? (Type in.)

Specific Partner(s)	Partnership Contribution(s)
Local church groups/congregations	May be able to help displaced residents find short-term accommodations.

Potential partner types include community organizations, impacted population(s), community foundations, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, universities or colleges, health care organizations, community coalitions, stakeholders, populations who face significant barriers to health and well-being, and others.

8. Based on the results of this Health Impact Checklist, suggest recommendations that can help to maximize potential positive health impacts and/or mitigate potential negative health impacts of the proposal. (Type in.)

Recommendation(s)
Use communication strategies that are clear, easy to understand, culturally relevant, and in an appropriate language(s) to notify persons with low literacy and individuals with limited English proficiency when their property is deemed dangerous or unfit.
Partner with local organizations to provide short-term housing to displaced individuals.

Section IV: Glossary of Terms

Summary definitions for determinants of health were pulled from Healthy People 2020²⁴ and additional sources.^{25,26, 27} Additional information is available [here](#).

Civic Participation: Encompasses a wide range of both formal and informal activities including voting, volunteering and participating in group activities or organizations.

Determinants of Health: The “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.”

Discrimination: A socially structured action that is unfair or unjustified and harms groups or individuals. Discrimination occurs at both structural and individual levels and can be attributed to social interactions that occur to protect more powerful and privileged groups at the detriment of other groups. Discrimination on the basis of race is one example of discrimination.

Food Insecurity: The disruption of food intake or eating patterns due to a lack of money or other resources.

Housing Instability: Despite no standard definition, housing instability encompasses a number of housing-related challenges including trouble paying rent, overcrowding, staying with relatives, moving frequently, or spending the bulk of income on housing.

Impacted Populations: Populations who were identified by completing the Health Impact Checklist as being impacted by the proposal. Those groups may include populations who face significant barriers to health and well-being (populations of focus).

Neighborhood Disorder: Observed or perceived physical and social features of neighborhoods that may signal the breakdown of order and social control (e.g., trash, graffiti) and that can undermine the quality of life.

Populations of Focus: Populations may include racial and ethnic minorities, including persons of Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander races and persons of Hispanic ethnicity; rural/urban residents; children; pregnant women; persons who are LGBTQIA+; older adults; persons with chronic illnesses; persons with housing instability or who are homeless; immigrant populations; displaced persons; persons with limited English proficiency; persons with low literacy; persons with low income; persons with disabilities; and others.

Social Isolation: A person’s lack of social connectedness is measured by the quality, type, frequency and emotional satisfaction of social ties. Social isolation exists when an individual lacks opportunities to be socially connected. Social isolation can impact health and quality of life, as well ability and motivation to access adequate support. It also can impact the quality of the environment and communities in which a person lives.

Toxic Stress: A strong, frequent or prolonged activation of the body’s stress management system. Stressful events that are chronic, uncontrollable and/or experienced by children without access to support from caring adults tend to provoke toxic stress responses. Studies indicate that toxic stress can have an adverse impact on brain architecture.

Section V: References & Sources

Instructions: In your preferred format, provide citation or reference information on the resources used to complete the HI-C.

¹ The list of social, economic and environmental conditions is adapted from Healthy People 2020 and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health> and <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/>

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019). *Healthy People 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources>

³ Kushel, M. B., Gupta, R., Gee, L., & Haas, J. S. (2006). Housing instability and food insecurity as barriers to health care among low-income Americans. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 21(1), 71-77.

⁴ De Leon, E., & Schilling, J. (2017). Urban blight and public health: Addressing the impact of substandard housing, abandoned buildings, and vacant lots. Washington, DC: *The Urban Institute*.

⁵ Krieger, J. W., Song, L., Takaro, T. K., and Stout, J. (2000), Asthma and the home environment of low-income urban children: Preliminary findings from the Seattle-King county healthy homes project. *Journal of Urban Health* 77(1): 50–67.

⁶ Rauh, V. A., Chew, G. L., and Garfinkel, R.S. (2002). Deteriorated housing contributes to high cockroach allergen levels in inner-city households. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110(S2), 323–7.

⁷ Coulton, C., Fischer, R. L., Garcia-Cobian Richter, F., Kim, S., and Cho, Y. (2016). *Housing crisis leaves lasting imprint on children in Cleveland: How Housing Matters Brief*. Chicago, IL: MacArthur Foundation.

⁸ Sharfstein, J., Sandel, M., Kahn, R., & Bauchner, H. (2001). Is child health at risk while families wait for housing vouchers? *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(8), 1191–3.

⁹ Garvin, E., Branas, C., Keddem, S., Sellman, J., & Cannuscio, C. (2013). More than just an eyesore: Local insights and solutions on vacant land and urban health. *Journal of Urban Health*, 90(3), 412-426.

¹⁰ Bashir, S. A. (2002). Home Is where the harm is: Inadequate housing as a public health crisis. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92(5), 733–738.

¹¹ Burdette, A. M., Hill, T. D., & Hale, L. (2011). Household disrepair and the mental health of low-income urban women. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 88(1), 142–153.

-
- ¹² Egarter, S., Braverman, P., & Barclay, C. (2011). *Stress and health. Brief no. 3*. Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- ¹³ Spader, J., Schuetz, J., & Cortes, A. (2016). Fewer vacants, fewer crimes? Impacts of neighborhood revitalization policies on crime. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 60, 73-84.
- ¹⁴ Garvin, E., Branas, C., Keddem, S., Sellman, J., & Cannuscio, C. (2012). More than just an eyesore: Local insights and solutions on vacant land and urban health. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 90(3), 412–426.
- ¹⁵ Skobba, K., Osinubi, A., & Tinsley, K. L. (2019). What about rural blight? Housing and neighborhood conditions in southeastern small towns. *Rural Sociology*.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Ross, C. E., & Mirowsky, J. (1999). Disorder and decay: The concept and measurement of perceived neighborhood disorder. *Urban Affairs Review*, 34(3), 412-432.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Ross, C. E., & Mirowsky, J. (2001). Neighborhood disadvantage, disorder, and health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 258-276.
- ²⁰ RAND Corporation. (2005). *Does Neighborhood Deterioration Lead to Poor Health?* Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.
- ²¹ Shaw, M. (2004). Housing and public health. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 25, 397–418.
- ²² Krieger, J., and Higgins, D.L. (2002). Housing and health: Time again for public health action. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92(5), 758–768.
- ²³ Durante, A., Chen, L. (2019). *Report on the economic well-being of U.S. households in 2018*. Washington, DC: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- ²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019). *Healthy People 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources>
- ²⁵ National Scientific Council of the Developing Child. (2014). *Excessive stress disrupts the architecture of the developing brain*. Retrieved from https://developingchild.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2005/05/Stress_Disrupts_Architecture_Developing_Brain-1.pdf
- ²⁶ AARP Foundation. *Framework for isolation in adults over 50*. Retrieved from https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/aarp_foundation/2012_PDFs/AARP-Foundation-Isolation-Framework-Report.pdf
- ²⁷ Ross, C. E., & Mirowsky, J. (1999). Disorder and decay: The concept and measurement of perceived neighborhood disorder. *Urban Affairs Review*, 34(3), 412-432.

