The Collaboratory for Research on Urban Neighbourhoods, Community Health and Housing (CRUNCH) is a cluster of affiliated researchers, facilities and equipment, housed at McMaster University.

How to Find Us:

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Dr. Jim Dunn is a Professor in the Department of Health, Aging and Society at McMaster University and a Scientist at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto. He is the Director of the McMaster Institute for Healthier Environments and holds adjunct appointments at the University of Toronto (Geography and Planning) and the University of Waterloo (Planning). He holds a Chair in Applied Public Health from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Public Health Agency of Canada and in 2011-12 was the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies at Harvard University. He has been a scientific advisor to a number of policy-related bodies, including the Privy Council Office of Canada, Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, the National Housing Research Committee of Canada and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

Dr. Dunn’s research program focuses on socio-economic inequalities in health in urban areas.
The Collaboratory for Research on Urban Neighbourhoods, Community Health and Housing (CRUNCH) began as an internationally-unique, five-year research chair program to examine the complex effects of housing, neighbourhood-level, population-based interventions on health and healthy child development.

Since 2009, the research program has reviewed existing evidence on the health effects of neighbourhood interventions from Canada and other countries, developed and refined methods to investigate the effects of neighbourhood interventions on health, and conducted an ambitious program of primary research evaluating the health effects of housing and neighbourhood interventions.

Facilities

Our Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) facilities consist of 8 CATI workstations and one Supervisor’s room. Each CATI workstation allows for research staff to efficiently work with a telephone and computer to conduct all stages of a typical phone-mediated survey, from recruitment and surveying to quality control the management of participant data.

Mobile Urban Video Recording (MUVN) System

The Mobile Urban Video Recording (MUVN) System consists of a hybrid automobile, a vehicle-mounted 360° camera, a stationary in-office audio and video display system and related post-processing and display software. The MUVN system allows researchers to collect video data on neighbourhoods, at different times of day and in different seasons. The video data the MUVN system can collect helps us to quantify change in visual aspects of neighbourhoods over time, including time-of-day and seasonal variations, as well as long-term changes in neighbourhoods, while preserving the raw images for development of new research questions in the future. Using the MUVN vehicle and camera, this "street level" data can be collected in a cost-efficient, safe for research staff and students.