**THE IMPACT OF LONG-TERM CONSTRUCTION ON THE HEALTH OF OLDER ADULTS IN NEW YORK CITY’S CHINATOWN**

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**BACKGROUND:** There has been a recent increase in major construction projects in New York City’s Chinatown. Since these construction projects are large-scale, the construction period typically lasts multiple years. Little is known about the health impact of construction on vulnerable populations such as older adults. In Chinatown, where approximately 20% of its residents are older adults, many live below the poverty level (34%), have a disability (47%), and experience ambulatory difficulties (37%). Approximately half speak Asian languages at home. We seek to describe possible health and psychosocial outcomes of construction on older adults in Chinatown.

**METHODS:** We used a community-engaged modified Delphi process to identify priority topic areas related to construction and older adults. The modified Delphi process included: 1) a scoping review of the health impact of long-term construction; 2) key informant interviews of academic experts on priority focus areas; and 3) convening of community leaders and content experts to review key focus areas and evidence-informed, culturally-relevant mitigation strategies. Through the modified Delphi process, we identified five priority focus topics for the literature review: 1) Construction site emissions; 2) Noise; 3) Outdoor nocturnal lighting; 4) Community and/or neighborhood changes; and 5) Relocation. Using these factors, we conducted a literature review of the peer-reviewed literature to synthesize research on the health and psychosocial impact of construction on older adults.

**RESULTS:** Long-term construction is associated with several environmental and social consequences that may have greater negative impacts on vulnerable and underrepresented populations, such as Asian American older adults. Older adults are highly susceptible to the adverse effects of air pollution, noise, and changes in their environment, with exposure to particulate matter and unwanted noise associated with higher morbidity and mortality. Unsafe sidewalk conditions due to construction increase the risk of falling, the leading cause of injury and death among older adults in NYC. Construction-related stressors may isolate older adults, limiting their access to vital services and social networks.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Long-term construction poses serious health implications for older adults residing near construction sites. Stakeholders should adopt a community-engaged approach and take into account meaningful community priorities in order to inform practical solutions to mitigate the impact of construction on vulnerable older adults in Chinatown.

**CONTENT CATEGORY:** Epidemiology, community medicine

**KEYWORDS:** *older adults, environmental health, community-based participatory research, air pollution, Asian American*