

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Injury incidents in a residential context.

- **Format:**

Written paper and presentation in-person.

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

Björn Andersson is senior lecturer and associate professor at the Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

In what respects can individual-based data concerning injury incidents in people's homes and immediate neighbourhood say something about the situation and development of an entire residential area? This is the basic question for the study. The area chosen is a suburban area mainly built in the early 1970's and located in a medium-sized Swedish city. Most of the area consists of rented houses, but there are also villas and townhouses. Today, the area has 6,300 inhabitants. The proportion of young people under the age of 25 is relatively high, which reflects, among other things, that the area is an occupancy area for newly arrived immigrant families.

The injury data we use relates to fall, cut and poisoning damage during the period 2001-2013. These three types of injuries are the most common causes of care seeking in Sweden; a situation to be found also in other countries. In general, we know that the youngest, 0-3 years, and young people in the pre-puberty, 10-12 years, are risk groups, both in case of fall injuries and poisoning. The oldest, over 80 years, are most vulnerable in relation to fall injuries. The connection between injuries and type of residential area is not easy to establish on a general level. It is in this regard that the present study is expected to provide more knowledge. Since we study a specific residential area, injury cases can be more clearly linked to factors in the social and built environment. This will facilitate a discussion of preventive strategies concerning what can be done to preclude various types of injury events. These incidents can further be linked to everyday actions and movements in the area. Finally, the area's history of injury events can be related to local political decisions on resource and service allocation.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

The study is carried out as part of ArchSafe, which is an interdisciplinary research project that investigates injury incidents in the home and leisure environment. The project is funded by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and organized within the Chalmers University of Technology.

Björn Andersson has a PhD in Social Work from the University of Gothenburg. Björn has written about urban public life, especially from the perspective of young people. In connection to this he has also written about outreach youth work. Further research work is centered around issues of social sustainability and social support groups for persons with drug problems in the family.

Charlotta Thodelius has an MA in Criminology from the University of Gothenburg and is a Doctoral Student in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology. The PhD-project is aiming at exploring and elaborating suitable preventive strategies to decrease the amount of adolescents' injury events by using strategies based on modification of the physical environment.