



Original scientific paper

Urbanization, Housing Quality and Health: Towards a Redirection for Housing Provision in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT



Nigeria's housing provision is perceived in terms of quantity with less attention to its quality and impact on people's health. The quality of indoor air in housing and its associated risks to human health was assessed in this paper to improve housing provision in Nigeria. Quantitative data collected from Bauchi, Nigeria includes household surveys, housing characteristics, indoor carbon dioxide (CO₂), and particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ recorded in the building were (63 µm/m³) and (228 µm/m³) and observed to be greater than safe values of 25 µm/m³ (PM_{2.5}) and 50 µm/m³ (PM₁₀) recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Some building features associated with some ailments were found to be risk factors. The study recommended a redirection for more quality housing provision. It concludes that housing characteristics should be targeted for public health interventions as a means of improving the quality of urban housing in Nigeria.

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1. Introduction

Housing has become an important issue in meeting the challenges presented by global urbanization. In developing nations, particularly in Africa, the need for housing has repeatedly emerged and become so critical. This is most pronounced with Africa's population projected to reach over 700 million by 2030. African nations have over 4.5 percent yearly

urbanization rate, which has resulted in a population explosion, resource constraint and shortage of houses. Consequently, in numerous

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