Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development (HIRED) Knowledge Synthesis Bibliography

In June 2010, Northern Health and the University of Northern British Columbia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance research collaboration focused on health priorities in northern BC. To demonstrate Northern Health’s commitment to this partnership, Northern Health supported a research collaboration between Dr. Margot Parkes and Dr. Henry Harder at UNBC and Dr. Sandra Allison at Northern Health for a project entitled “Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development”. This bibliography is one of a series of products, which resulted from this collaborative project.

Prepared for: Northern Health Authority

Prepared by: Reschny J, Brisbois B, Buse C, Dolan S, Harder H, Kutzner D, Nowak N, Parkes M.

University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, British Columbia
Canada V2N 4Z9

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Disclaimer:

The bibliography is intended as a first step in addressing an overall project aim to determine how the public health impacts of resource development are understood and addressed, and how these approaches can be applied and adapted to the specific context of northern BC. The literature identified in this bibliography is considered a resource for those seeking to identify community concerns about resource extraction and development in northern BC. The literature examined was limited to publications released between January 1995 and October 2015. The literature search did not yield many studies focused on topics that have been identified as topical issues in northern BC by project partners, including, for example, impacts of resource extraction and development on mental health and well-being; impact on determinants of health, via social pathways; and impacts to culture, community cohesion, including through ecological pathways. This suggests knowledge gaps that warrant more focused attention in future research. UNBC and Northern Health are not liable for any loss, claim, or demand arising directly or indirectly from any use or reliance upon the information.

1 Authors are listed beginning with lead author followed by others in alphabetical order.
Introduction

Health is influenced by resource development through interrelated socioeconomic, ecological, cultural, and political pathways, which demand upstream, intersectoral responses. These relationships are especially important in countries such as Canada, where the economy remains tightly coupled with the development of natural resources and where the rate and scale of social and environmental change occurring in resource-rich regions is fueling debate regarding health impacts, especially for rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

This bibliography was developed as one phase of a larger joint initiative between the Northern Health Authority (NHA) and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), known as the Health Impacts of Resource Extraction and Development (HIRED) project. The overarching aim for the HIRED project is to determine how the public health impacts of resource development are understood and addressed and how these approaches can be applied and adapted to the specific context of northern BC. Phase 1 of the project utilizes a scoping review methodology to address the following guiding question: What is the scope of published literature that addresses the links between resource extraction from the earth’s crust (e.g. mining/oil & gas) and health outcomes?

This bibliography is one outcome of this scoping review and provides 2800 references to research on the health impacts of resource extraction between 1995 and October 2015. The bibliography was generated using a six-stage approach adapted from the scoping review guidance of Levac et al. (2010), and included consultation with a research librarian throughout the process. The research effort was focused on a variety of sources including academic journals, electronic databases, and University of Northern British Columbia library catalogue. Initially, 21,327 sources were identified through a scan of five databases completed by a librarian in collaboration with the research team. From this the research team used inclusion and exclusion criteria to identify relevant sources addressing the links between resource extraction from the earth’s crust (e.g. mining/oil & gas) and health outcomes. The final bibliography includes journal articles, book sections, and books.


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