

**Australian Population Association Eleventh Biennial Conference  
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**Title:  
The Health Consequences of Rapid Urban Growth: Evidence from Dhaka,  
Bangladesh**

**Abstract:**  
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During the last fifty years the cities of the developing world have been characterized by their relatively low mortality levels in comparison to rural areas – in contrast to the situation of nineteenth century European cities. Continuing rapid urban growth may be changing this scenario. Concerns have risen that the urban advantage no longer holds especially among the poorer sections of the urban communities. This is a particular worry as the urban population is set to become the majority population in these countries in the next few years. Data is presented from a survey of slum-dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh to explore some of the factors that influence health status and health behavior. Dhaka is one of the world's most rapidly growing cities, a growth driven in large part by the influx of the very poor and those most likely to suffer from ill health and to be disadvantaged in gaining access to health services.