

# **Neighbourhood Environmental Service Provision and Neighbourhood 'Effects': Exploring the Role of Urban Services in Intensifying Neighbourhood Problems**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the consequences of a system of neighbourhood environmental service provision which fails to pay sufficient attention to territorial differences in 'need' for such services. It explores the impacts of a 'territorial injustice' of service provision for poor neighbourhoods, arguing that insufficient service provision operates as a 'neighbourhood effect' compounding the problems of being poor and living in a poor area. The paper analyses the processes by which services such as street cleansing and refuse collection can operate as neighbourhood effects. It shows how high levels of social need and a failure within environmental service provision to compensate for these levels of need, combine and interact to deepen the environmental problems encountered in many deprived neighbourhoods. In particular the paper shows how these interactions reduce the capacity of both front line service providers and neighbourhood residents to cope with environmental challenges and thus entrench neighbourhood disadvantage. The focus of the paper on the 'neighbourhood effects' of urban services complements much of the existing literature on the impacts of concentrated deprivation which has tended to analyse 'effects' on residents' life course and life chances, rather than on the quality of life within neighbourhoods. The paper also offers insight into how a territorial injustice of service provision both drives and is reinforced by socio-spatial segregation, as well as understanding of how neighbourhood environmental quality impacts on the structure and vitality of the city.

**Key Words:** neighbourhood effects, territorial justice, environmental services