**THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND RISKS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES IN HOHOE MUNICIPALITY, GHANA.**

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**ABSTRACT**:

**BACKGROUND**: Cardiovascular diseases are major public health problem worldwide. Hypertension represents an important measure and risk factor for CVDs. The attention of most studies has only focused on prevalence of hypertension. Very few studies have explored the perspectives of people and their interaction with the environment. Therefore, this study explored the perspective of hypertension patients of the built environment and the risk of CVDs.

**METHODOLOGY**: This study used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Techniques with ethnographic research method approaches. The study recruited twenty-five participants with hypertension who visited the Hohoe municipal hospital. In-depth interviews were conducted and tape-recorded with permission from the participant. Qualitative software ATLAS ti. (version 7.5) was used for coding and analysis. Themes that emerged from the text were summarize under six broad categories.

**RESULTS**: The spatial map revealed that the built environment was characterized by healthy and unhealthy diets and alcoholic points of sales. The food environment was perceived as complex. Both healthy and unhealthy diets are abundant in the environment. Food availability, affordability, capacity to choose healthy diets, distance to diets within your immediate surroundings and self-efficacy influenced dietary food choices in the environment. The environment is not enabling for physical activities.

**CONCLUSION**: There is the need for robust measures and policies to address the dietary environment concerns to improve healthy dietary choices of people and their dietary choice behaviors.