The impacts of park access on health outcomes: a spatial comprehensive approach

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Abstract

This research identifies the correlation between size and access to urban parks and physical activity and obesity outcomes at the neighborhood level. Proximity to parks is associated with increased physical activity and reduced obesity, but little research has been conducted on the relationship between accessibility to parks and health outcomes. Using data for three urban areas, we created a new measure for access to parks called 'park choice accessibility.' Park choice accessibility uses a gravity model to interact distance to parks and the quality of those parks as defined by their size. A small park very close to a neighborhood can have a major impact, but a larger park at a similar distance may have an even larger impact. Similarly, a large park can be further away and still have an impact on health outcomes. Using spatial econometric analysis, we assess whether park choice accessibility is associated with increased physical activity or decreased prevalence of obesity at the neighborhood level. The analysis controls for socioeconomic covariates such as age, marital status, income, and educational attainment.

Introduction

Literature

Spatial Econometrics

Methodology

Spatial weights selection

Results

Conclusion

Funding

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