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Green space and adult obesity in the U.S.

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between green space and adult obesity in the U.S. The study uses data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the National Land Cover Database (NLCD). The results show that there is a negative relationship between green space and adult obesity. Specifically, for every 1% increase in green space, there is a 0.1% decrease in the prevalence of adult obesity. This relationship is stronger for men than for women and for those with lower income levels. The study suggests that increasing green space in urban areas could be a useful strategy for reducing adult obesity in the U.S.

Biography

Ramesh Ghimire is an economist at Atlanta Regional Commission. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Georgia, USA and a M.S. in Development and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Life Sciences, Norway. He has published nearly 20 research papers in highly respected international peer reviewed journals, such as Ecological Economics, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Environment and Development Economics, World Development and Water Resources Research. Dr. Ghimire is interested in understanding how natural resources and amenities help improve public health, human well-being and overall quality of human life.

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