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Qingchang He
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Pécs

Andras Reith
niversity of Pécs, Boszorkány

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Qingchang He [1] *, Andras Reith [2]

[1] Marcel Breuer Doctoral School, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Pécs, Boszorkány u. 2, H-7624 Pécs, Hungary

[2] Advanced Building and Urban Design, Hungary, and Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Pécs, Boszorkány u. 2, H-7624 Pécs, Hungary

* Corresponding author, e-mail: 289238681@qq.com

Abstract

Urban regenerative design is a significant evolution in the concept of sustainability, which goes one step further beyond the balance point between humans and nature. As a comprehensive approach, improving public health and wellbeing is one of the main focuses of urban regenerative design. This research aims to explore whether there is a relationship between urban greenspace and child obesity using different ages and periods. The neighborhood socioeconomic status, the distance to the nearest fast food outlets as the variables that participate in this analysis. Results reveal that the variable of neighborhood socioeconomic status, fast food outlets and urban greenspace all showed a positive and statistically significant relationship with obesity in children aged 4 to 5 and 10 to 11 in time period of 2008-2011 and 2013-2016. Each model explained (R-square) more than 90% variability of obesity. Study found that children living close to the greenspace are less likely to be obese. Religious greenspace and playfields appear to have the most effect on child obesity, but this finding needs further investigation. Neighborhood socioeconomic status has a powerful influence on child obesity. Although causality needs to be confirmed, these results suggest that policymakers and urban planners may need to seriously consider the potential positive impact of the green space on child obesity when formulating policies.

Keywords: Urban regenerative design, Obesity, Urban greenspace, Food outlet, Neighborhood socioeconomic status