

PAPER 5: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE INDICATORS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

PAPER FOCUS:

STUDY DESIGN: **Methods**

STUDY LOCATION: **Australia**

POPULATION: **Adults**



• **BUILT ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES:** Transport, Social Infrastructure, Walkability, Public Transport, **Public Open Space**, Food, Local Employment, Housing, Crime & Safety

• **HEALTH & WELLBEING OUTCOMES:** **Walking (Transport & Recreation)**, Outdoor Recreation, Cycling, Fitness, Sitting Time, Obesity, Mental Health



WHAT WE DID:

- Developed a conceptual framework to map how public open space (POS) impacts health and wellbeing
- We reviewed relevant policy as well as research to develop public open space (POS) indicators that can be spatially applied
- Identified indicators that evidence-based, specific, quantifiable, and measurable within cities and across regions

WHAT WE FOUND:

- 11 spatial 'neighbourhood attribute' indicators of POS
- The most developed indicators measured access to, and availability of, POS
- POS quality is difficult to measure spatially across large-scale regions
- Creating indicators relies on using spatial data from multiple sources

SO WHAT?

- POS is a built environment feature that is important for urban liveability, and has been associated with health and wellbeing
- Policy makers have the capacity to shape health and wellbeing through the community resources they provide, including the provision of POS
- Our conceptual framework identifies how POS policies potentially impact behaviours and health and wellbeing behaviours and outcomes
- Identifying the best POS indicators is useful for achieving a range of policy and health and wellbeing outcomes

Developing indicators of Public Open Space to promote health and wellbeing in communities. | Villanueva K, Badland H, Hooper P, Koohsari M, Mavoa S, Davern M, Roberts R, Goldfeld S, Giles-Corti B. | *Applied Geography*, 2015. 57, 112-119. Contact Details: k.villanueva@unimelb.edu.au | CRE Website: <http://mccaughey.unimelb.edu.au/programs/cre>