

PAPER 6: ADVANCING 'NEIGHBORHOOD EFFECTS' AND CHILD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

PAPER FOCUS:

STUDY DESIGN: **Methods**

STUDY LOCATION: **Australia**

POPULATION: **Children**



• **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



THE ISSUE:

- Where we live impacts health and wellbeing. Yet understanding how built environment features (e.g., parks and green space, destinations and services) shape children's health and development has largely been overlooked
- Current policy environments advocate building healthy, liveable, and child-friendly cities, but lack evidence needed to leverage policy change

KEY POINTS:

- Mapping software (e.g., Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software) and spatial data has provided more capacity to measure built environment features, and link these with child development data.
- Spatial analyses linked to child health and development data is a key step to exploring whether neighbourhood design makes a difference to child health and development

SO WHAT?

- Connects urban design and planning with child development research
- Considers the neighbourhood as a possible platform of intervention
- Identifying which neighbourhood features are the most promising can inform policy on how best to build health-promoting neighbourhoods and develop more effective child development interventions

Using spatial analysis of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) to advance our understanding of 'neighbourhood effects' on child health and development. | Villanueva K, Badland H, Giles-Corti B, Goldfeld S. | *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, 2015. 51(6), 577-579. | Contact Details: sharon.goldfeld@rch.org.au

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