

Examining the availability and equitable distribution of recreational assets for physical activity across school neighborhoods in Central Texas

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INTRODUCTION

Children's physical and intellectual development can benefit from regular physical activity and exercise.¹

Parks and recreational facilities provide opportunities for children to engage in physical activity and should be equitably distributed across neighborhoods.

AIM

To determine the availability of **recreational facilities** for physical activity in school neighborhoods of Central Texas.

To examine the associations between **neighborhood-level income** and **racial diversity** and the availability of **recreational facilities**.

METHODS

Data: Safe Travel Environment Evaluation Texas Schools (STREETS) study²

Participants: Public elementary schools (analytic sample: N = 83)

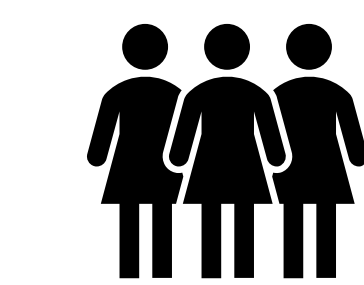
Variables (calculated using GIS)

- **Park availability** (low: T1, medium-high: T2 & T3): count → tertiles → dichotomize
- **Recreational centers** (0 vs. ≥1 facilities)
- **Sport/fitness instructional facilities** (0 vs. ≥1 facilities)
- **Median household income** (categorized by quartiles)
- **% of minority residents** (low-some diversity: <50%, high diversity: ≥50%)

Analysis: **Logistic regression** was used to examine the association between neighborhood-level socio-demographics and availability of each recreational facility

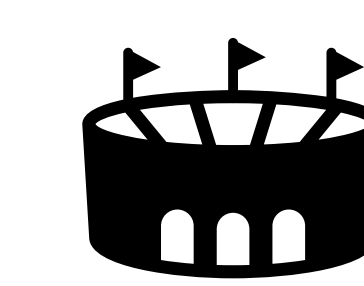
RESULTS

HIGH Racial/Ethnic Diversity
55%



LOW Park Availability
35%

NO Recreational Centers
19%



NO Sports/Fitness Instruction
36%

Higher-income (vs. low) school neighborhoods had **lower odds** of having **medium-high park availability** (mid-high income: OR=0.22, 0.05-0.96) and **any sports/fitness instruction** (high-income: OR=0.02, 0.002-0.24).

School neighborhoods with high diversity (vs. low-some) had **lower odds** of having **any recreational center** (OR=0.08, 0.01-0.46) and **any sports/fitness instruction** (OR=0.08, 0.01-0.68).

CONCLUSIONS

A high proportion of school neighborhoods in Central Texas have **low availability of recreational facilities** for physical activity.

Lower-income neighborhoods have higher access to some facilities, suggesting policies are in place to promote economic equity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

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