The value of neighborhood greenspace for children

Ellen Hannes, Stephan Bruns, Michelle Plusquin, Robert Malina

Why assign a monetary value to greenspace for children?

Did you know that robust evidence supports the positive relationship between exposure to nature and the health and wellbeing of children, yet greenspace is decreasing globally, including in Flanders? To make it easier to incorporate these wellbeing benefits into public decision-making regarding greenspace development, this study aims to assign them a monetary value.



But children do not have an income?!

Correct! This makes it impossible to ask children about their actual spending behavior or hypothetical willingness to pay (WTP). To solve this problem, this study applies the life satisfaction approach (LSA) to children for the first time.

The LSA acts like a scale, measuring life satisfaction instead of kilograms. It calculates the additional household income needed to compensate for a reduction in neighborhood greenspace, ensuring a child's life satisfaction remains unchanged.



Who participated?

- 381 child-parent pairs from 29 different schools in Flanders
- Children aged 9-12 years old
- respondent's place of residence Location of school



What is the monetary value of greenspace for children?*

*Preliminary results, showing monthly WTP for 1% increase in greenspace in 100m buffer for the average household, unless mentioned otherwise

Current amount of greenspace

Net household income







High green >3m Insignificant effect on life satisfaction

buffer

buffer

