

16<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on**OBESITY & WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**

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**17<sup>TH</sup> WORLD FITNESS EXPO**

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**Ramesh Ghimire***Atlanta Regional Commission, USA***Green space and adult obesity in the U.S.**

This paper analyzes the relationship between green space and body mass index (BMI) in the U.S. We find that accounting for the heterogeneity of green space matters: BMI is significantly lower in counties with larger forestland per-capita, but not in those more abundant in rangeland, pastureland or cropland. This is after controlling for state-specific heterogeneity, a range of environmental and natural amenities, including the presence of state parks, proximity to national parks and outdoor recreation resources in the county, all of which have the expected negative correlation with BMI. Hence, the findings suggest that forests, public recreation lands, along with publicly available outdoor recreation resources can be valuable resources to help reduce obesity and associated public health problems.

**Biography**

Ramesh Ghimire is an economist at Atlanta Regional Commission. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Georgia, USA and a M.S. in Development and Natural Resource Economics from the University of Life Sciences, Norway. He has published nearly 20 research papers in highly respected international peer reviewed journals, such as Ecological Economics, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Environment and Development Economics, World Development and Water Resources Research. Dr. Ghimire is interested in understanding how natural resources and amenities help improve public health, human well-being and overall quality of human life.

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