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## News & Notes: Study finds that children in urban public housing are more active

By DAILY PRINCETONIAN STAFF

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A study coauthored by Sara McLanahan, professor of sociology and public affairs at the University, found that 5-year-old children who live in urban public housing on average spend 13 percent more time each day playing outdoors compared to other urban 5-year-olds.

Though the researchers hypothesized that children in poorer circumstances would spend less time outdoors, they found that children living in areas with visible graffiti, trash and abandoned homes played outside more each day. A mother's perception of the neighborhood's environment also played a considerable role in determining how much her children played outdoors, the study said.

The researchers also found that the ratio of outdoor play to television watching is a significant predictor of body mass indices.

The study, "Young Children in Urban Areas: Links Among Neighborhood Characteristics, Weight Status, Outdoor Play and Television-Watching" was led by Rachel Kimbro, assistant professor of sociology at Rice University. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn of Columbia University was the second coauthor.

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