

Tilte: Urban mobility variables and their relationship with the subjective well-being of children and adolescents in Porto Alegre/RS

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Theme: Indicadores de tendências sociais, políticas públicas e sociais centradas no bem-estar das crianças e adolescentes

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Abstract:

Child independent urban mobility refers to the freedom and capability that children have can to and to move around their neighborhood unaccompanied or unsupervised by an adult. Subjective well-being can be understood as a consequence of the interinfluence between internal aspects and their external interactions - with other people and with the environment. Also, subjective well-being involves affective (positive and negative affects) and cognitive processes. The present work aims to investigate what relationship we can establish between mobility and children's subjective well-being, in addition to verifying urban mobility considering the children's gender and type of school. A total of 393 children participated, 47% boys and 53% girls aged between 10 and 12 years old ($M= 10.6$; $SD= 1.2$), from the 5th and 7th grades of elementary school, from public (66%) and private schools (34%) in Porto Alegre/Brazil. To assess mobility, items related to how children go to and from school, safety and autonomy in urban mobility were selected from the questionnaire used in the Children's Worlds Survey (ISCWeB). To assess subjective well-being, we used the Overall Life Satisfaction (OLS) that is a single item scale assessing global satisfaction with life, the Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale (CW-SWBS), composed of six items, assessing satisfaction with life in general and the Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale (CW-DBSWBS), with five items, measuring domain-based subjective well-being. Data analysis was performed using analysis of variance and correlations. The results show that children from public schools perform activities unaccompanied by an adult more often, especially when compared to girls from private schools, which practically do not perform any activity unaccompanied by an adult. Another result found was the significant and negative correlation between the items related to insecurity in urban mobility and well-being, in which children who indicate greater insecurity in their mobility have their subjective well-being reduced. Considering the problems from a multisectoral approach of society (policy makers, communities, families, health professionals), it is necessary to guarantee not only the existence but also the quality of spaces in which children transit, specifically with regard to safety from the girls.