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Research Informing Policies & Practices for Healthy Youth

Are Supports for Active Transportation in Local Zoning Codes Associated with More Walkable Streets and Lower Rates of Adolescent Obesity?

Jamie F. Chriqui, PhD, MHS

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Acknowledgments

Co-Authors:

- Christopher Quinn
- Sandy Slater, PhD
- Emily Thrun, MUPP
- Dianne Barker, MHS
- Frank J. Chaloupka, PhD

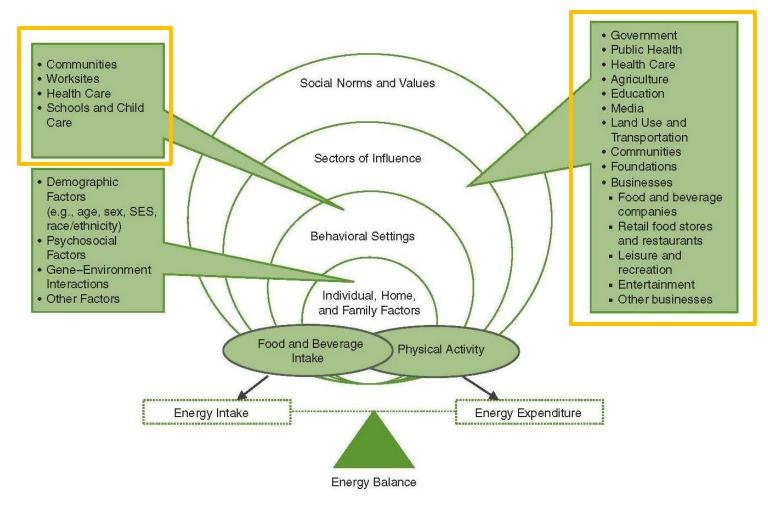
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Study Purpose

- To examine the influence of zoning and land use laws on:
 - community walkability
 - adolescent obesity

Factors influencing the physical environment, walkability, and obesity

Levels and Sectors of Influence on Obesity



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Source: Institute of Medicine (IOM), 2012; Adapted from IOM, 2007



bridging the gap Source: IOM, Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention, 2012

After a Systematic Review of the Scientific Literature, the Task Force on Community Preventive Services Recommends the Following Environmental and Policy Approaches to Increase Physical Activity

Environmental Policy Approach	Strategies
Enhanced School-based Physical Education	Increase # of minutes spent in MVPA
Community-Scale and Urban Design Land Use Policies	Mixed use, street connectivity, aesthetics and safety
Street-Scale Urban Design Land Use Policies	Roadway design standards, traffic calming, safe street crossings, street lighting
Transportation and Travel Design Policies and Practices	Facilitating walking, biking, public transportation use, reducing car use.

Walkable communities are associated with reduced odds of adolescent obesity and overweight

Walkable Communities and Adolescent Weight

Sandy J. Slater, MS, PhD, Lisa Nicholson, PhD, Jamie Chriqui, PhD, Dianne C. Barker, MHS, Frank J. Chaloupka, PhD, Lloyd D. Johnston, PhD

Background: Neighborhood design features have been associated with health outcomes, including the prevalence of obesity.

Purpose: This study examined the association between walkability and adolescent weight in a national sample of public secondary school students and the communities in which they live.

Methods: Data were collected through student surveys and community observations between February and August 2010, and analyses were conducted in Spring 2012. The sample size was 154 communities and 11,041 students. A community subshalityli notes and measures of the prevalence of adolescent overweight and obesity were constructed. Multivariable analyses from a cross-sectional survey of a nationally representative sample of 8th., 10th. and 12th-grade public school students in the U.S. were run.

Results: The odds of students being overweight (AOR 0.98, 95% CI=0.95, 0.99) or obese (AOR=0.97, 95% CI=0.95, 0.99) decreased if they lived in communities with higher walkability index scores.

Conclusions: Results suggest that living in more-walkable communities is associated with reduced prevalence of adolescent overweight and obesity.

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Background

besity is a problem in the U.S. and worsening. One third of U.S. children are at higher risk for serious health problems because of their weight.\(^1\) Research has shown that part of the problem is caused by the neighborhoods in which we live, work, shop and play.\(^{1/2}\) Although obesity rates have grown over time, eactive travel (e.g., walking or bicycling to school) by youth—one form of physical activity—has declined over the past several decades.\(^2\) Results of the National Household Travel Survey show that for trips of only 1-2 miles, Americans still drive 90% of the time.\(^6\)

Physical activity is proven to have protective effects against both obesity and related health problems. Research has shown that the presence of sidewalks, public

From the Institute for Holdth Research and Policy (Stater, Nicholona, Chrisqui, Chalospha), the Department of Holdish Policy and Administration (Stater), the Department of Political Science (Chrisqui), and the Department of Political Science (Chrisqui), and the Department of Canomines (Chalospha), Chicago, Illinois, Barker Ricosatd Health Cemultants, Inc. (Barker), Calabsaus, California; and the Institute for So all Research (Institute), University of Michigan, and Arbor, Michigan Address correspondence to Sandy 1, Sater, MS, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Holdish Research and Policy and Department of Health Policy & Administration, School of Policie, Health, 1717 W. MCC 278, Room SSS, Chicago II. (2006). E-mile Schleropit. (2006). E-mile Schleropit. (2006).

0749-3797/\$36.00 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2012.10.015 transit, controlled intersection crossings, and mixed land use (a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational destinations) are associated with increased wulking and lower prevalence of obesity. 28-19 However, these studies examined only one or a few locations, and those that were conducted nationally relied on secondary environmental data sources rather than street-scale data collected directly from communities. 28-19 The current study builds on existing evidence. 28-19 by examining the impact of community-level walkability on the prevalence of adolescent obesity using street data collected on the ground in a national sample of communities; to our knowledge, this is the first study to do this.

Method

This study combined cross-sectional individual level data collected in Spring 2016 from 8th., 10th., and 12th grade public school students participating in the Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey.⁷⁷ In any given year, half the MTF schools are either in Year 1 or 2 of participation. Oraly the relational public schools involved in Year 2 of MTF participation were included in this study (N=15 schools, 11,041 students). Community-level environmental measures for the MTF school-enrollment zones, the area from which schools draw their students population (area, in square miles: median size=39.8, range=0.26-1517), were developed through the Community Obesity Measures Protect (BTG-COMP) an onogoing, large-scale effort conducted by the Bridging the Cap research team. The odds of students being overweight (AOR 0.98, 95% CI0.95, 0.99) or obese (AOR0.97, 95% CI0.95, 0.99) decreased if they lived in more walkable communities.

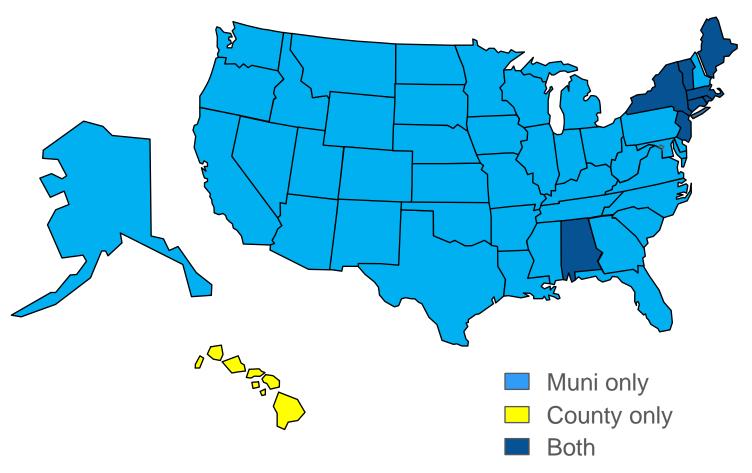
 Source: Slater et al., AJPM 2013

Zoning as a Tool to Influence the Active Living Environment

Zoning and its relationship to public health

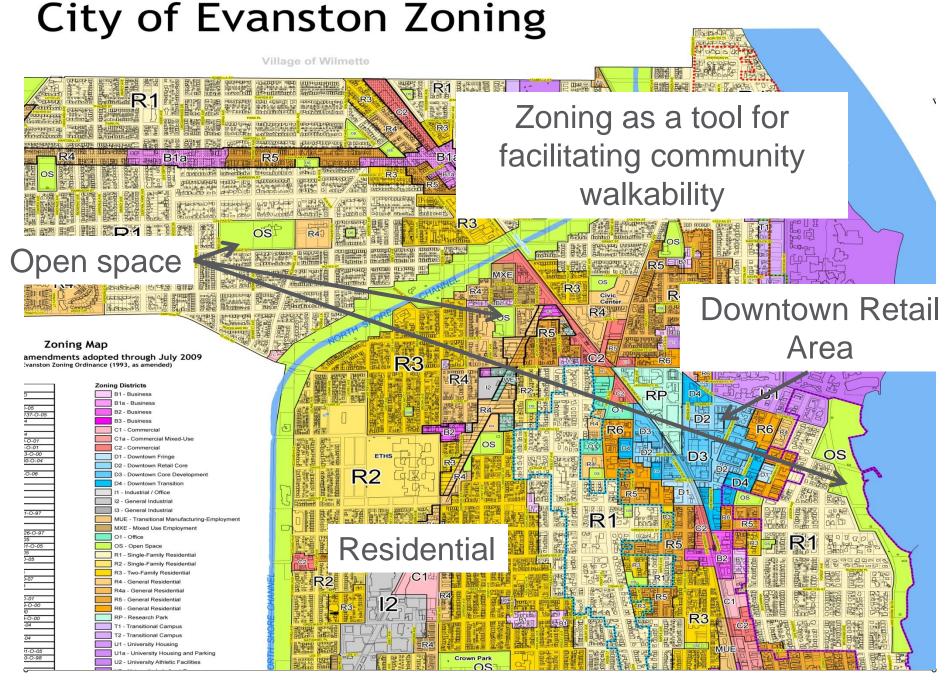
- Zoning, subdivision regulation, and building codes are exercises of the states' police powers under the 10th Amendment
- Zoning authority granted to county and municipal governments by states to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of their citizenry
- Traditional, Euclidian zoning establishes land use zones/districts based on use and density
 - The protection of public health lies at the heart of zoning –zoning offers a regulatory scheme to address public health problems caused by urbanization (Schilling and Linton, Am. J. Prev. Med. (2005)

State-delegated zoning authority to counties and municipalities



Zoning and Land Use Laws as Strategies to Support Active Living-oriented Environments

- Zoning/land use laws can include provisions for structural improvements to increase opportunities for physical activity such as provisions requiring:
 - Sidewalks
 - Bicycle infrastructure (lanes, parking, signage)
 - Trails
 - Open space/parks
 - Mixed use
 - Street connectivity



Source: City of Evanston IL, Zoning Map, http://www.cityofevanston.org/maps/pdfs/ZoningDistrictMap.pdf

New Urbanist/Transect Zoning



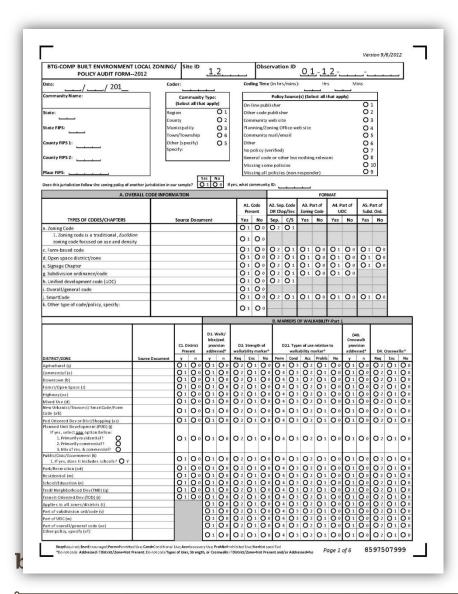
Source: transect.org

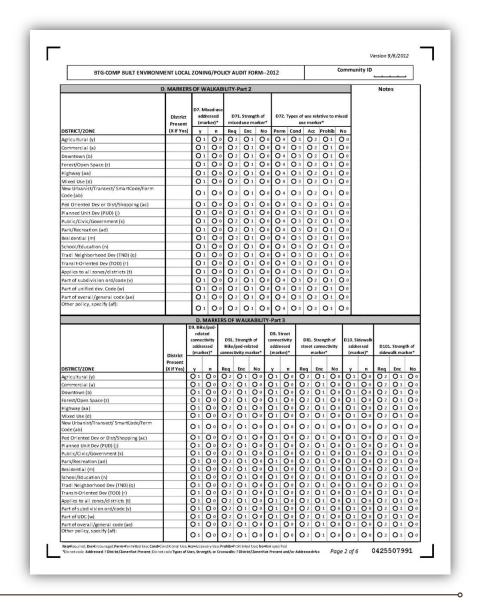
Study Methods

Data Sources—Zoning Data

- 309 secondary school catchments nationwide in 2010 and 2011 (154 in 2010 and 155 in 2011)
 - Required and encouraged provisions
 - ➤ Markers of walking/biking overall, crosswalks, bike lanes, bike parking, trails/paths, and Complete Streets/context-sensitive design
 - Trained coders (all with MUPP or master's level MUPP grad students)
 - Reliability conducted on pilot sample using 2009 data and yielded >90% percent agreement\
 - ➤ Reliability coding is conducted each year when new coders join and independent coding does not occur until 95% or better % agreement

Data Sources—Zoning Built Environment Instrument

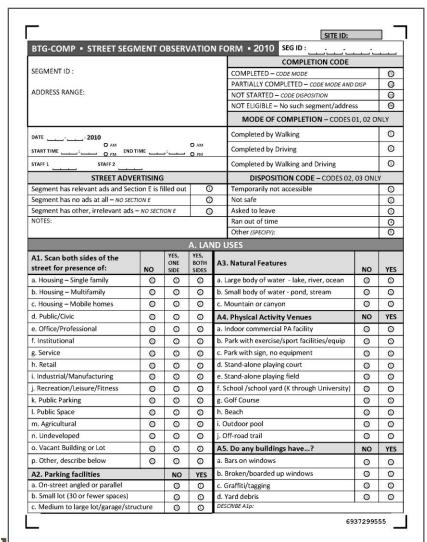




Data Sources—Street Segment Data

- Street segment: Two, facing sides of a street block
- Segments proportionately divided into 3 sampling strata based on street type:
 - 1. Streets within 2-mile buffer of catchment school
 - 2. Residential streets
 - 3. Arterial streets
- Random sample of street segments for each catchment
 - Based on proportion of population aged 0-17 associated with nearest census block to the street segment and overall proportion of street segments in each strata
- Street segment data weighted to account for probability of selection

Data Sources—Street Segment Audit Tool



B. TRAI	FFIC A	ND PE	DESTR	RIANS			<u>-</u> -	
B1. Street Type				B6. Intersection and crossing			NO	YES
Through-street			0	a. Traffic light			0	0
Dead end or cul-de-sac with pedestr	ian thru	-way	0	b. Pedestrian signal at traffic light			0	0
Dead end or cul-de-sac without thru	-way		0	c. Stop sign		0	0	
B2. Number of lanes of vehicu	ılar tra	ffic		d. Marked crosswalk		0	0	
B3. Traffic features		NO	YES	C. SIG	NAGE	2		
a. Traffic circle/roundabout/rotary		0	0	C1. Signage			NO	YES
b. Speed hump/table		0	0	a. Bicycle crossing			0	0
c. Median with traffic island		0	0	b. Other bicycle-related signage			0	0
d. Curb extension/bulb-out		0	0	c. Pedestrian crossing			0	0
B4. Designated bike lanes	NO	ONE	BOTH	d. Children at play/special populatio	n		0	0
a. Designated by lines or reflectors*	0	0	0	C2. Special speed limit (00 IF N	IONE)			
b. Designated by physical barrier*	0	0	0	D. AMENITIE	S AND	LITTER		
B5. Is/Are there any?	NO	ONE SIDE	BOTH SIDES	D1. Aesthetics			NO	YES
a. Street shoulders*	0	0	0	a. Neighborhood or community sign			0	Θ
b. Curbs*	0	0	0	b. Garden, flower bed, planter			0	0
c. Street or sidewalk lighting	0	0	0	c. Art, statue, or monument			0	0
d. Sidewalks (IF NO, SKIP 1-5)*	0	0	0	D2. Amenities			NO	YES
1. Street and sidewalk buffer*	0	0	0	a. Public trash can			0	0
2. Continuous sidewalks	0	0	0	b. Street dispenser/vending machine	e		0	0
Sidewalk continuous at both ends between segments	0	0	0	c. Bench or other seating			0	0
Curb cuts or ramps missing at crossing points	0	0	0	d. Drinking fountain			0	0
5. Sidewalk shade*	0	0	0	e. Bicycle parking			0	0
NOTES:	WEA	THER		D3. Transit facilities			NO	YES
	Sunny		0	a. Bus stop			0	0
	Overc	ast	0	b. Light rail or trolley stop			0	0
	Rain		0	c. Bench or covered shelter at transit		0	0	
	Snow @		0	D4. How much	NONE	A LITTLE	SOME	A LOT
	Fog		0	ctroat comment? 0 0		0	3	
	Other		6			_		

Measure Development: Zoning Indices

- Zoning Required Walkability/Bikeability Index (0-6)
 - Σ of required policy markers
 - walkability+crosswalks+bike lanes+bike parking+trails+complete streets/context sensitive design
 - Required scores included: mix of required and encouraged provisions; all districts/zones required
- Zoning Encouraged Walkability/Bikeability Index (0-6)
 - Σ of encouraged only policy markers (same markers as above but encouraged rather than required)
- Both indices weighted for the population in the jurisdictions overlapping each catchment

Measure Development: Community Walkability Index

- Street Segment Walkability/Bikeability Index (0-16)
 - Comprised of 10 variables from the street observation form
 - Σ mean value of each of the following across segments within a catchment:
 - Items ranging from 0-2 (not present, one side of street, or both sides)
 - Sidewalks (SW), SW buffers, SW/street lighting, continuous SW in the segment, continuous SW between segments, SW shade
 - Items ranging from 0-1 (any presence)
 - Marked crosswalk, bike lanes, bike parking, off-road trail
 - Note: modifies Slater et al 2013 index by adding in bike/trail items
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Analytic Methods: Zoning → Community Walkability

- Multivariate analyses:
 - Generalized Linear Models with gamma distribution and log link
 - All models clustered on site, controlling for race/ethnicity, region, urbanicity, population density or sprawl, and median household income, year
 - N=308/309 catchments
- Analyses conducted with STATA v. 12 using svy commands to account for survey design with sampling weights

Measure Development: Adolescent Obesity

- BMI calculated from self-reported height and weight data obtained from 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students (N=11,041 students) enrolled in the 154 secondary school catchments where the policy and street segment data were obtained for the 2010 sample
 - University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future Schools/Students
- BMI calculated using the 2000 CDC Growth Chart for children and teens
- Obesity was classified as BMI ≥95th percentile

Analytic Methods: Zoning → Walkability → Adolescent Obesity

- PRELIMINARY ANALYSES: Multivariate binary mediation analysis with sobel test for mediation effects
 - Dependent variable: obesity
 - Independent variable: zoning walkability/bikeability index
 - Mediation variable: community walkability/bikeability index
- Controlled for sprawl, student perceived neighborhood safety, school catchment race/ethnicity, catchment parental education, grade, gender, catchment neighborhood disorder index, catchment median household income
- Analyses conducted with STATA v. 12 with bootstrapped standard errors (500x)

Results: Zoning → Community Walkability

Summary Statistics: Zoning Indices and Community Walkability/Bikeability Index

			Std.	95% (CI		
Measure	Range	Mean	Error	Low	High		
Zoning Walkability	Zoning Walkability/Bikeability Indices						
Zoning Required	0-6	1.93	0.08	1.77	2.08		
Zoning Encouraged	0-6	1.06	0.05	0.95	1.16		
Community Walkability/Bikeability Index							
Community Index	0-12.12 (Max: 16)	3.47	0.15	3.17	3.77		

Summary Statistics: Catchment Controls— Continuous Measures

Variable	Mean	Std. Error of Mean
% Hispanic/Latino population in catchment	12.44	1.05
% non-Hispanic white population in catchment	71.78	1.47
% non-Hispanic black population in catchment	9.26	0.83
Sprawl index	0.00416	0.00569
Median household income (dollars)	57398.88	1282.95
Total catchment population	26699.32	1209.83

Summary Statistics: Catchment Controls— Dichotomous Measures

Variable	n (N=309)	%
Urban (Ref)	61	19.74
Suburban	134	43.37
Rural	114	36.89
West (Ref)	58	18.77
Northeast	67	21.68
Midwest	77	24.92
South	107	34.63
Lowest income tertile	101	32.69
Middle income tertile	105	33.98
Highest income tertile (Ref)	103	33.33

Association between Zoning and Community Walkability/Bikeability

Predictors	Mean Ratio	Mean Ratio
Zoning index-required provisions	1.23***	1.22***
Zoning index-encouraged provisions	1.14*	1.12+
Suburban	0.89	0.89
Rural	0.31***	0.32***
% non-Hispanic Black	1.01**	1.01**
% Hispanic	1.01*	1.01
Med. Household Inc. Low	0.84	0.84+
Northeast	0.78	0.78
Midwest	1.07	1.05
South	0.56***	0.56***
2011	1.26*	1.20+
Population Density	1.00	
Sprawl		1.23**
Constant	2.01**	2.33***

Results: Zoning → Community Walkability/Bikeability → Obesity

Summary Statistics--1

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Zoning required index (0-6)	2.09	1.55
Community index (0-16)	3.46	3.06
Probability obese	0.12	0.33
Perception neighborhood safety	0.10	0.07
Disorder scale	0.37	0.25
Sprawl index	-0.02	0.89
8 th grade	0.39	0.49
10 th grade	0.45	0.50
12 th grade	0.16	0.37

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N=11,041 students in 154 catchments

Summary Statistics--2

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
% white	0.61	0.49
% black	0.09	0.29
% Hispanic	0.18	0.38
% mixed race	0.12	0.34
Median household income low	0.41	0.49
Median household income high	0.59	0.49
% male	0.48	0.50
Parents >=college education	071	0.45

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N=11,041 students in 154 catchments

Binary Mediation Results

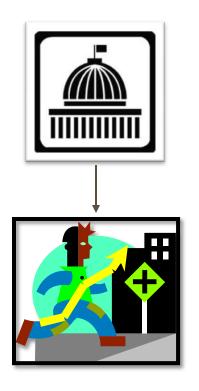
	Community Walkability/Bikeability				
Variable	Coeff.	95% CI			
Zoning	0.54	0.51	0.57		
Comm. walk.					
Nghbrhd safety	1.63	0.93	2.33		
Disorder index	1.81	1.59	2.04		
Sprawl	1.17	1.12	1.22		
10 th grade	0.01	-0.08	0.11		
12 th grade	-0.22	-0.34	-0.09		
% Black	0.01	-0.14	0.16		
% Hispanic	0.70	0.57	0.83		
% Other race	0.57	0.44	0.70		
Med HH Inc Low	-1.92	-2.02	-1.82		
Male	0.39	-0.04	0.12		
Parent Ed Coll	0.30	0.21	0.40		
Constant	2.05	1.90	2.07		

Binary Mediation Results

	Community Walkability				Obesity	
Variable	Coeff.	95% CI		Coeff.	959	% CI
Zoning	0.54	0.51	0.57	-0.002	-0.007	0.003
Comm walk/bik				-0.003	-0.007	-0.001
Nghbrhd safety	1.63	0.93	2.33	0.10	-0.005	0.196
Disorder index	1.81	1.59	2.04	0.03	-0.007	0.058
Sprawl	1.17	1.12	1.22	0.003	-0.004	0.011
10 th grade	0.01	-0.08	0.11	0.009	-0.004	0.023
12 th grade	-0.22	-0.34	-0.09	0.007	-0.011	0.025
% Black	0.01	-0.14	0.16	0.04	0.024	0.066
% Hispanic	0.70	0.57	0.83	0.02	0.005	0.042
% Other race	0.57	0.44	0.70	0.01	-0.007	0.031
Med HH Inc Low	-1.92	-2.02	-1.82	0.03	0.014	0.046
Male	0.39	-0.04	0.12	0.05	0.042	0.066
Parent Ed Coll	0.30	0.21	0.40	-0.03	-0.041	-0.013
Constant	2.05	1.90	2.07	0.08	0.062	0.107

Summary, Next Steps, and Contacts

Influence of more active living-oriented zoning codes on community walkability/bikeability and adolescent obesity



Active living oriented zoning: **more** walkable/bikeable community

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...active livingoriented zoning is associated with <u>lower</u> adolescent obesity



Summary

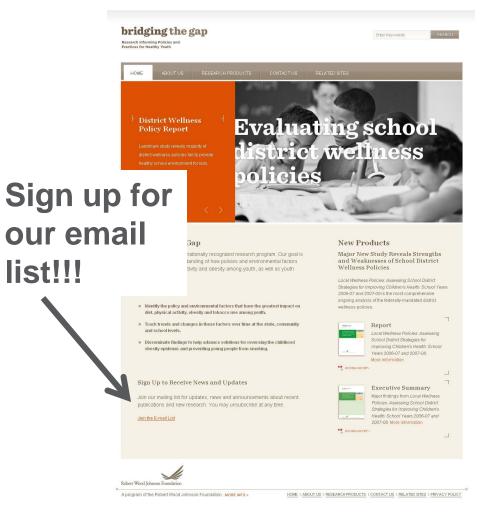
- "If you zone for it, they will come"
 - More active living-oriented zoning associated with more walkable/bikeable communities
 - Preliminary analyses suggest that through more walkable/bikeable communities, more active living-oriented zoning provisions are associated with lower adolescent obesity
 - Opportunities exist for communities to revise their zoning/land use laws to be more active living-oriented during their next revision

Next Steps

 Add additional years of data (2010-2012) for both sets of analyses

Rerun mediation models with complex survey weights

For more information: www.bridgingthegapresearch.org



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@Jfchriqui jchriqui@uic.edu

