



*Salud America! The RWJF Research Network
to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children*



Active Spaces for Latino Kids: Policy & Practice Implications

Becky Adeigbe

Active Living Research Conference, March 12, 2014

What do we know?



Latino kids in underserved areas often have limited access to “active spaces” in their neighborhoods.

Fewer Latinos perceive their neighborhoods as safe to play and be active.



Pedestrian safety and walkability—in both urban and rural areas—are preventing Latinos from being active.



Implications for Latino communities



Shared use agreements (SUAs)

Progress is slow but Latino communities are beginning to implement SUAs.



- Liability, availability of funds and staffing concerns remain barriers for formal SUAs.
- SUAs are creating stronger ties between communities, schools and key stakeholders.

Street-scale improvements

Latino communities are working to make it safer to walk/bike to active spaces.



- Complete Streets policies
- Safe Routes to School policies
- “Open streets” model

Implications

Community feedback is key to assessing Latino cultural factors





**CHANGE
AHEAD**

What Salud America! is doing

#GrowingHealthyChange

Our online clearinghouse of Latino-focused

- 1) **policy changes,**
- 2) **Resources,**
- 3) **Identification & sharing of success stories**

....to empower people to create healthy changes in their neighborhood, schools and cities.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo "SA! Salud America! Growing Healthy Change" and a group photo of diverse people. A navigation menu on the left includes "Home", "Find Change", "What Is Change?", "Resources for Change", "Salud Heroes", and "Share Your Story". The main content area features a green banner with the question "How can you fight Latino childhood obesity in your area?". Below this, there is a video player with a play button and a caption: "It's very important to feed our children healthy food, so they won't fall into childhood obesity. See how these Salud Heroes are fighting Latino obesity... and learn how easy it is to be a Salud Hero, too!". The "1. Find Changes" section includes a search bar with the text "Enter search terms here" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar are sections for "By Topic" with icons for "Active Play", "Active Spaces", "Better Food in the Neighborhood", "Healthy Marketing", "Healthy School Spaces", and "Tobacco Use", and "By Location" with a map of the United States. A "Recent Changes" section at the bottom displays three small images of people.

#GrowingHealthyChange

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Find new policy changes

By Topic



[Active Play](#)



[Active Spaces](#)



[Better Food in Neighborhoods](#)



[Healthier Marketing](#)

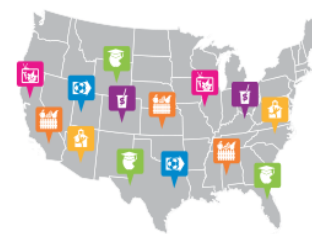


[Healthier School Snacks](#)



[Sugary Drinks](#)

By Location



[Browse changes happening in your area](#)

Recent Changes



ILLINOIS CONSIDERS STATE-WIDE SUGARY DRINK TAX

Latino kids consume more sugary drinks than the national average, but change in cost of sugary drinks could reduce consumption ... [Read more](#)



NAVAJO NATION ATTEMPTS TO TAX JUNK, PROMOTE HEALTHY FOOD

The Navajo Nation, faced with rising rates of obesity, has decided to take make some healthy changes. On Jan. 30. ... [Read more](#)

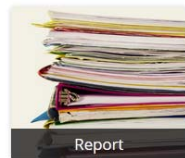


NEW MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT AND YMCA TO BE BUILT IN THE BRONX

In December 2013, the YMCA of the Greater New York area announced plans for the development of a new 48,000 ... [Read more](#)

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Find new resources & Salud Hero stories to learn how to make change



Report

[Targeting the Taqueria: Implementing Healthy Food Options at Mexican American Restaurants](#)

Adding healthier options to restaurant menus is one way business owners can



Toolkit

[Resources to Plan, Implement, and Evaluate Ciclovias/Open Streets Events](#)

If you're looking to get people moving in your community an open streets event or Ciclovía



Get Involved

[Active Spaces Grant: NYC DOT Seeks Artists to Help Transform Streets](#)

Calling all artists, community organizations, and volunteers! If you're an artist and you want to contribute to improving the



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Share your story and be a Salud Hero!

Tell us your story

Use our products to further change!

Salud America!
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Research Network to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children



RESEARCH REVIEW
July 2013

Using Shared Use Agreements and Street-Scale Improvements to Support Physical Activity among Latino Youths

Abstract

Latino children in underserved communities often have limited options for physical activity. Several initiatives have sought to promote physical activity by increasing access to public recreational facilities, such as school gymnasiums, athletic fields, and playgrounds. Concerns about liability, staffing, maintenance, and costs often hinder these efforts. Formal contracts for the shared use of facilities, called shared use agreements (SUAs), can overcome some of these challenges. SUAs have been successful in some areas of the country, but understanding the barriers and solutions to creating SUAs is necessary for developing and implementing these agreements on a wider scale.

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Active Spaces and Latino Kids



ACTIVE SPACES FOR LATINO KIDS

THE BAD

- Latino kids often have limited access to safe "active spaces"—gyms, fields, and playgrounds.
- Fewer Latinos than whites said their neighborhoods had safe spaces for kids to play.
- More than 60% of white neighborhoods have a recreational facility... less than 20% of Latino neighborhoods do.

THE GOOD

SUA Shared use agreements between schools and communities that outline terms for sharing public spaces for physical activity can increase access to active spaces in Latino communities. Such agreements can overcome liability, cost, and staffing issues.

- Complete streets that are well lit and include well-maintained sidewalks and bike lanes can help Latino families walk and bike more safely.
- "Open streets" close off all vehicular traffic and create safe, inviting active spaces for residents.

CONCLUSION

Improving access to active spaces in underserved communities may help young Latinos be more active and maintain a healthy weight.

Join us at
www.salud-america.org

Share your stories! Email us at
saludamerica@uthscsa.edu



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