ALR International Symposium: 
Built Environment & Obesity 
Research in Latin America

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Goals of Symposium

• This is a special symposium made possible by RWJF funding for international projects
• The goals are embodied in the two panels
• We want to learn lessons about obesity prevention in Latin America that can inform work in the US
• We want to discuss common and region-specific methodological challenges in environment and policy research
Need for International Research on Environment + Physical Activity

- WHO global PA strategy, NCD initiatives from UN, & national PA plans emphasize environment & policy change
- Research on PA environments is limited in all countries and absent in most
- International data can raise interest in creating healthy environments
- Local data can stimulate & guide local change
• Started at ICBM in Mainz, Germany in 2004 by:
  – Sallis & Kerr, US
  – Owen, Australia
  – DeBourdeaudhuij, Belgium

• More than 500 people from 60 countries have registered on the IPEN website. www.ipenproject.org

www.activelivingresearch.org
What does IPEN do?

- Encourage environment and policy research on physical activity worldwide
- Develop & encourage use of common measures and methods
- Support investigators to obtain internal funding
- Coordinate international studies
- Communicate findings to decision makers
IPEN Adult Study in 12 Countries

- Australia
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Hong Kong
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- United States
IPEN Adolescent Countries

Australia  Brazil  Hong Kong  New Zealand  Switzerland

Bangladesh  Czech Republic  Israel  Nigeria  Taiwan

Belgium  Denmark  Japan  Portugal  United States

Germany  Malaysia  Spain

IPEN Ghent 2013
IPEN Adult: GIS Walkability Index
IPEN Adult: Net Residential Density