Assessing Built Environment Features Linked to Physical Activity

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Objective

- **Devise a reliable, objective instrument to measure built environment features linked to physical activity**

Research Design

- **Developed draft instrument**
  - **Reviewed literature on physical activity & urban form**
  - **Reviewed existing instruments**

Research Design

- **Conducted 3 focus groups to gauge thoroughness of the instrument**
  - Teenagers
  - Low income population
  - Multiple ethnicities

Research Design

- **Convened a Delphi panel of 5 experts with backgrounds in planning, public health, urban design, transportation, geography, and GIS**
  - **Susan Handy, University of California, Davis**
  - **Harvey Miller, University of Utah**
  - **Jack Nasar, Ohio State University**
  - **Dan Stokols, University of California, Irvine**
  - **Craig Zimring, Georgia Technological University**

Field Testing

- **Tested instrument in 26 <u>settings</u> throughout So. Cal. including:**
- **Iterative process of continuous revision to fit all settings**

Unit of Analysis

- Settings divided into segments
- Alternate for places with non-linear organization
- Will measure a sample of segments in each setting

The Instrument

- **Setting and segment level questions**
- **Four scales – 113 items total**
  - Accessibility – 16 items
  - Perceived Safety from Crime – 18 items
  - Perceived Safety from Traffic – 19 items
  - Pleasurability – 60 items
- **Quantitative, objective measurements**
- **Most in-person observations with some GIS data**

Reliability Testing

- **Currently conducting reliability testing**
- **3 observers**
- **Separate observations**
- **20 settings (subset of existing settings)**