Tools to Evaluate Local Government Policies Related to Physical Activity Provisions and the Food Environment

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INSTRUMENTS

Zoning/Policy Audit Form
Plan Audit Form
Food Code/Policy Audit Form

RESULTS

Overall Plot Reliability Results:

- Zoning form: Proportion of agreement: 96% Inter-rater reliability (kappa): 91%
- Master Plan form: Proportion of agreement: 92% Inter-rater reliability (kappa): 84%
- Food form: Proportion of agreement: 89% Inter-rater reliability (kappa): 78%

CONCLUSION

It is possible to create reliable tools to evaluate the extent to which policies facilitate or inhibit active living and to evaluate food environments.

Local governments can:
- Modify/create plans to address future development that promotes physical activity and can be implemented through changes to zoning/land use laws.
- Modify zoning/land use laws to include requirements for structural improvements to increase opportunities for physical activity.

ABOUT BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap is a nationally recognized research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation dedicated to improving the understanding of how policies and environmental factors influence diet, physical activity and obesity among youth, as well as youth tobacco use.

Bridging the Gap is a joint project of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Health Research and Policy and the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. For more information, visit www.bridgingthegapresearch.org