

UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley Previously Published Works

Title

Associations between community programmes and policies and children's physical activity: the Healthy Communities Study

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4c50q7k8>

Journal

Pediatric Obesity, 13(Suppl 1)

ISSN

2047-6302

Authors

Pate, RR
Frongillo, EA
McIver, KL
[et al.](#)

Publication Date

2018-10-01

DOI

10.1111/ijpo.12426

Peer reviewed



Published in final edited form as:

Pediatr Obes. 2018 October ; 13(Suppl 1): 72–81. doi:10.1111/ijpo.12426.

Associations between Community Programs and Policies and Children’s Physical Activity: The Healthy Communities Study

Russell R. Pate¹, Edward A. Frongillo², Kerry L. McIver¹, Natalie Colabianchi³, Dawn K. Wilson⁴, Vicki L. Collie-Akers⁵, Jerry A. Schultz⁵, Jared Reis⁶, Kristine Madsen⁷, Gail Woodward-Lopez⁸, David Berrigan⁹, Andrew Landgraf¹⁰, Jyothi Nagaraja¹⁰, and Warren Strauss¹⁰ on behalf of Healthy Communities Study Research Group

¹Department of Exercise Science, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina ²Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina ³School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan ⁴Department of Psychology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina ⁵Work Group for Health and Community Development, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas ⁶Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland ⁷Division of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California ⁸Nutrition Policy Institute, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley, California ⁹Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland ¹⁰Data Analytics Hub, Lewis Center, Ohio

Abstract

Background: Community initiatives to promote physical activity in children are common, but evidence supporting their effectiveness is limited.

Objectives: To examine the relationships between community programs and policies and children’s physical activity in a large and diverse sample of U.S. communities.

Methods: Programs and policies to promote children’s physical activity were assessed in 130 communities by key informant interviews, and physical activity behaviors were measured by self- and parental-report in samples of children in each community (total n = 5138). Associations between composite indices of community programs and policies and indicators of total and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity were examined without and with adjustment for demographic factors.

Results: An index reflecting the six-year history of the number of behavior change strategies used in community programs and policies was positively associated with children’s moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. This association was attenuated with adjustment for demographic

Corresponding Author: Russell R. Pate, PhD, Department of Exercise Science, Arnold School of Public Health, 921 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29208, Phone: (803) 777-2456, rpate@mailbox.sc.edu.

Conflicts of Interest - None

factors. Effect modification analyses found that the association was positive among non-Hispanic children, but was negative for Hispanic children.

Conclusions: Community initiatives to promote physical activity in children were positively associated with children's physical activity in non-Hispanic children. Such initiatives were negatively associated with physical activity in Hispanic children, suggesting that future research should consider unique cultural factors when designing community initiatives to promote activity in this population sub-group.

Keywords

physical activity; community; obesity prevention programs; health policies; children; health disparities

Introduction

Physical activity provides multiple health benefits to children and youth,¹ and low physical activity is an important precursor to excessive weight gain and development of overweight in youth.² Accordingly, prominent national organizations, including the Institute of Medicine, have recommended that public health efforts to reduce childhood obesity emphasize promotion of physical activity.³ In response to these recommendations, numerous communities across the U.S. have implemented programs and policies to increase children's physical activity levels. However, such efforts have been informed by a limited base of scientific evidence. The Guide to Community Preventive Services has recommended build environment strategies and community-wide campaigns as effective approaches to promoting physical activity.^{4,5} However, recent reviews have indicated that the available evidence is not sufficiently robust to conclude that community interventions consistently increase physical activity.^{6,7} The Institute of Medicine has cited this deficiency as a critical gap that should be addressed to make progress in reducing childhood obesity.⁸

Physical activity levels in children vary across gender and race/ethnicity groups,⁹ and levels also vary across school and community groups.^{10,11} Few previous studies have examined whether community programs and policies are equally effective across different population sub-groups or in different types of communities. Most previous studies that examined the moderating influence of demographic factors focused on individual characteristics.^{12,13} A few studies have focused on community-level moderators, but they examined adults.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ We know of no previous studies of children's physical activity that have considered the moderating influence of socio-demographic factors at both the individual and community levels in a large and diverse sample of communities.

The Healthy Communities Study (HCS) was a large observational investigation of community programs and policies aimed at reducing childhood obesity. In each community, the HCS collected information on programs and policies to increase children's physical activity and assessed physical activity behavior in samples of children.¹⁷ Socio-demographic factors were measured at both the community and family/child levels. The primary purpose of this specific investigation was to use the extensive resources of the HCS to examine the relationship between composite indicators of community programs and policies to promote

physical activity in children and measures of children's physical activity. A secondary purpose was to examine the moderating effects of community socio-demographic characteristics on the association between community programs and policies (CPPs) and children's physical activity levels.

Methods

Study Design.

Data were drawn from the HCS, an observational study of 130 communities which included both cross-sectional and retrospective longitudinal components. A complex sampling process was used in selecting communities for inclusion in the study, and it has been described elsewhere.¹⁸ Briefly, communities were selected based on known efforts to implement programs and policies targeting childhood obesity ("certainty" communities, N=28) and from a probability sample based on race and ethnicity, income and regional distributions (national probability sample, N=102). Children were recruited from 2 elementary and 2 middle schools that fed students to a defined high school in each study community.¹⁹ Up to 81 children per community were recruited and enrolled in data collection.²⁰ Children who were institutionalized, non-ambulatory, or had lived at their current address for less than one year were not eligible to participate. Data collection occurred from November 2013 through July 2015. Data were collected year round and simultaneously in several communities at a time throughout the data collection period. The study was approved by the Battelle Memorial Institute IRB, and all parents and children over the age of 8 provided written consent or assent, respectively.

Community Demographic Variables.

Community-level characteristics were derived from the American Community Survey using three-year estimates from 2011–2013. Each community was characterized based on weighted census tract minority status (>30% African-American, > 30% Hispanic, or Other), income (High or Low), urbanicity (Urban, Suburban, or Rural) and region (Northeast, West, Midwest, or South). Additional community-level demographic variables were based on census tract data and included: percentages of children who were African American, white, Hispanic, or other races; percentage of persons living below the poverty line; percentage of high school graduates; percentage unemployed; percentages of housing units that were renter-occupied or vacant; and percentage of population with health insurance.¹⁸ These characteristics were selected because previous research has often found them to be related to health behaviors and health outcomes.

Measurement of Community Programs and Policies.

In each community, trained field data collection staff conducted interviews with 10–14 key informants (KI) who represented multiple sectors, including schools, government, non-profit organizations, service agencies and health groups. A data collection staff member completed a structured interview with each KI regarding the implementation of CPPs over the past 10 years. The interviews were conducted either in person or over the telephone. In addition, interviewers reviewed documents provided by the KI and identified through online sources to supplement information provided during the interviews.²¹

As part of the interview process, KIs reported on the duration of CPPs (one-time event, occurring more than once, or ongoing), the behavior change strategies used in implementing CPPs (listed below), and the reach of CPPs (high, medium, or low based on proportion of children ages 4–15 that may have been exposed). Children in the 4–15 year age range were referenced because these ages are typical for children attending elementary and middle schools. Data collected through the interview and document review process yielded characterizations of CPPs for each year over a 10-year period in each community.

Two CPP indices were created, using only the CPPs for which physical activity was a target, to serve as exposure variables in statistical analyses. A comprehensive CPP intensity score index, CPP-Int, was created from three CPP attributes: behavior change strategy, duration of the CPP, and reach. Each of these attributes was scored as 0.1, 0.55 or 1.0, in order of strength, and the three scores were summed to create a score for each CPP.²² CPP-Int for each community was created by summing the attribute scores for all CPPs observed in the community that promoted physical activity. Prior to including CPP-Int scores in the statistical analyses, the scores were standardized such that each community had a score between 0 and 1.

A second CPP index, CPP-Strat, was created to describe communities on the basis of the range of behavior change strategies employed in CPPs that were designed to promote physical activity in children. CPPs were scored as employing one of five behavior change strategies. Supplemental Table 1 lists the five behavior change strategies, which vary in level of sophistication from educational strategies to policy and systems changes. For each observed year, each community received a score between 1 and 5 that reflected the number of different behavior change strategies used in that community.

For both of the CPP indices, scores were calculated for each of the ten years prior to collection of data in the community, using CPP start and end dates provided by the KIs. The analyses conducted in the present study were based on CPP-Int and CPP-Strat indices for one year and six years preceding data collection.

Home Visit Procedures.

Parents/caregivers and children completed the HCS standard protocol assessment during an in-home visit by a trained field data collector. For the child-report sections of the survey, children ages 9 to 15 were the primary respondents, with parents/guardians asked to assist children ages 9 to 11 as needed. For children ages 4 to 8, parents/guardians responded to the questions. Parents reported the participating child's age, gender, race, and ethnicity during the household interview. Child height, weight, and waist circumference were measured according to standardized procedures, and body mass index (BMI; kg/m^2) was calculated for each child participant.²³

Measurement of Children's Physical Activity.

Physical activity behavior was measured using self- or parental-report of participation in selected forms of physical activity that CPPs were hypothesized to influence.¹⁷ Children or parents/guardians reported the child's participation in 15 physical activities over the past 7 days.¹⁷ Respondents indicated whether or not the child participated in each activity during

the past week, the days on which he or she did the activity, and the average intensity of the activity (light, moderate, hard, very hard). (The list of activities is included in Supplemental Table 2.)

Physical activity data were reduced to two metrics reflecting child-level physical activity behavior. A total physical activity (TPA) index was calculated from the number of activities reported multiplied by the frequency of participation in those activities. A moderate-to-vigorous PA (MVPA) index was calculated using the subset of 11 activities that are typically performed at moderate to vigorous intensity.

Data Analysis.

To adjust for missing data, multiple imputation techniques²⁴ were used for analyses. Analyses were conducted using SAS and R. Results were integrated across 20 imputed datasets. Generalized linear mixed models were used to assess relationships between childhood physical activity outcomes and standardized CPP indices, while adjusting for the anticipated correlation among participants from within the same school/community. The models included fixed effects for gender-specific (quadratic polynomial) age curves and the CPP indices and a random effect for community intercepts

Prior to analysis, the observed CPP scores were standardized to span a [0–1] range. The regression coefficient for the association between the CPP indices and childhood PA is interpreted as the average change in childhood PA between a community rated as having maximum intensity of programs and policies (1) and one rated as having minimal intensity (0), after adjusting for age and gender and accounting for community. A fully adjusted model that included other child/family factors (related to race, ethnicity, family income, parental education, parental employment status, and seasonality) and community factors (related to race, income, education, employment and region) was also used to assess the covariate adjusted relationship between childhood PA and CPP indices. These child-, family- and community-level covariates were identified using a least absolute shrinkage and selection operator methodology.²⁵

Interaction terms were added to the above model to assess whether the relationship between CPP and PA differed within specific subpopulations defined by either child or family characteristics, such as gender, grade, race, ethnicity, or income, or community characteristics, such as region, income, or race/ethnic composition. Type-III F-tests and t-tests were used to assess the statistical significance of the relationship within each subpopulation. Factors representing the proportion of the population in each community that has a specific attribute were also explored as potential effect modifiers. Linear interaction terms were combined with CPP scores in the minimally and fully adjusted models, allowing assessment of whether the PA/CPP relationship differs linearly as a function of these community proportional variables.

Results

Approximately one-third of the communities were classified as predominantly Hispanic and about one-fourth were classified as predominantly African-American (Table 1). Over one-

third of the communities (38%) were categorized as low income, one-fifth were rural (23%), and 42% were located in Southern states. Children in the sample were evenly distributed by gender) and grade. Approximately 45% of the children were Hispanic, and 20% were African-American. A high percentage of children were from lower-income families (27% with income less than \$20K and 24% with income between \$20-\$35K).

For both 1-year and 6-year CPP-Int and CPP-Strat indices, large ranges were observed for scores across the 130 communities (Table 2). For the 1-year indices no significant associations were observed with either TPA or MVPA. Likewise, the 6-year CPP-Int index was not associated with either of the physical activity variables. However, the 6-year expression of CPP-Strat was significantly associated with MVPA ($p=.02$). After adjustment for demographic covariates, this relationship was attenuated and was no longer statistically significant.

Several potential moderators of the relationship between CPP-Strat and MVPA were examined, and the findings are presented in Table 3. Among the child-level characteristics a significant interaction was found for child ethnicity ($p=.03$). Among children who identified as non-Hispanic, a positive association was observed for the relationship between CPP-Strat and MVPA. However, among those identifying as Hispanic, an inverse relationship between those variables was observed. Among the community-level characteristics that were examined as potential effect modifiers, a marginally significant interaction was observed for income at the census tract level ($p=.09$). A positive association between CPP-Strat and MVPA was observed for those living in higher income census tracts, whereas the opposite association was observed for those living in lower income tracts. A similar non-significant pattern was observed for family income as reported by the parents. For the two lowest income categories the associations between CPP-Strat and MVPA were negative, but the associations were positive for the higher income categories.

Discussion

The key finding of the present study was that an index that reflected the diversity of strategies used in promotion of children's physical activity was positively associated with children's participation in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, but only among non-Hispanic children. This finding suggests that community investments in promotion of physical activity may positively influence children's physical activity levels, but that this effect operates inconsistently across ethnicity groups. The index of community programs and policies that was associated with children's physical activity was based on assessment of the behavior change strategies that communities applied in initiatives that were aimed at promoting children's physical activity. Each initiative was rated as applying one of five behavior change strategies, which are listed in Supplemental Table 1. The strategies ranged in sophistication from basic (providing information) to higher level (modifying policies or systems). Communities with higher scores on this index had implemented initiatives that employed more diverse behavior change strategies. For example, a community with a maximum score of five would have implemented initiatives that used all five levels of behavior change strategies. It is important to note that this index, but not the more comprehensive index (CPP-Int), was found to be associated with children's physical activity.

This may indicate that the behavior change strategy index (CPP-Strat) reflects a community's level of sophistication in its approach to promoting children's physical activity and that the comprehensive index (CPP-Int) includes elements that tend to attenuate the more salient effects of CPP-Strat.

The Healthy Communities Study employed a study design that was fundamentally cross-sectional but that included collection of retrospective data on community programs and policies. Accordingly, it was possible to examine community initiatives as quantified over multiple years. It is noteworthy that, in the present study, a significant association between community programs and policies was found for the six-year exposure variable, but not the one-year variable. This suggests that community initiatives to promote children's physical activity are more likely to be effective if they are sustained in the long term. This observation is consistent with widely accepted theories of health behavior such as RE-AIM, which posits that the effectiveness of an intervention is dependent, in part, on the extent to which it is institutionalized and becomes a routine component of organizational practices and policies.²⁶ Further, this finding is consistent with experience and research on health habit formation for a range of health behaviors.²⁷

This study examined a number of potential effect modifiers, and an important finding was that the association of community programs and policies with children's physical activity was modified by family race/ethnicity. Specifically, we observed that CPP-Strat was positively associated with children's moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in non-Hispanic children but was negatively associated with physical activity among children in Hispanic families. This finding may indicate that current approaches to community health promotion, as reflected by the CPP indices examined in the Healthy Communities Study, have evolved primarily from research and practice in non-Hispanic segments of the population. Accordingly, such approaches may be effective in those groups, but may not be applicable in Hispanic groups. While Hispanic sub-groups of the U.S. population may share some cultural characteristics, such as strong emphasis on the family as a source of social support, it is important to note that Hispanic families vary greatly based on national origin, geographic characteristics, and factors related to acculturation.

Our finding that community programs and policies were negatively associated with Hispanic children's physical activity may be explained by multiple factors that could influence the effectiveness of community-based physical activity interventions. Specifically, the built environments in which these interventions took place for Hispanic participants may not have supported the intervention activities. For example, intervention effects may have been diminished in groups that experienced limited access to parks and playgrounds and/or if safety concerns limited physical activity. In addition, studies have shown that parents of Hispanic children may not promote physical activity to the same degree as parents of non-Hispanic children.²⁸ Intervention strategies that have been shown to be successful in Hispanic communities include culturally tailored programming as well as programming that utilizes Promotoras, or community health workers.^{29,30} It is not clear whether the interventions that were available to Hispanic participants in their communities were culturally tailored. Finally, it is also possible that these families did not have the means to

facilitate physical activity by providing transportation to events and/or to pay for the programming.³¹ Future research is needed that would examine these and other barriers.³²

Important strengths of the present study include the substantial size and diversity of the communities included in the sample and the extensive nature of the information available on community programs and policies aimed in increasing children's physical activity. Further, it is a strength that community programs and policies were characterized for a period of six years prior to collection of outcome data. Significant limitations include the cross-sectional study design, which precludes establishing causal relationships between exposure and outcome variables. Also, it is a limitation that the indices used to assess children's physical activity levels were based on self-reported participation in specific, common forms of physical activity, and the retrospective reporting of community programs and policies by key informants was subject to recall limitations. Further, it is a limitation that the two ethnicity groups considered in this study, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, were both racially and culturally diverse.

In summary, associations between indices that reflect community-level programs and policies to promote children's physical activity and children's activity levels were studied in diverse samples of U.S. communities and children. The study found that an index based on the behavior change strategies used in community initiatives over a six-year period was positively associated with non-Hispanic children's physical activity levels. The analogous association was negative in Hispanic children. Additional research is needed to better understand community programs and policies that are intended to promote physical activity in Hispanic children.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgements

Pate, Frongillo, Strauss, Collie-Akers, and Schultz contributed to the study design; Landsgraf, Nagaraja and Strauss conducted the data analyses; Pate, Frongillo, McIver, Colabianchi, Wilson, Reis, Berrigan, Madsen and Woodward-Lopez interpreted the data; Pate, McIver, Colabianchi, Collie-Akers, Landgraf, Nagaraja and Strauss wrote sections of the manuscript; and all authors reviewed and gave final approval to the manuscript.

The authors thank Gaye Groover Christmus, MPH, for editing the manuscript.

The study was funded by contract # HHSN268201000041C from the National Institutes of Health.

Abbreviations:

HCS	Healthy Communities Study
PA	physical activity
MVPA	moderate-to-vigorous physical activity
KI	key informants
HHI	Household Interview

TPA	Total Physical Activity
CPP	community programs and policies

References

1. Janssen I, Leblanc AG. Systematic review of the health benefits of physical activity and fitness in school-aged children and youth. *Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act* 2010;7:40. [PubMed: 20459784]
2. Pate RR, O'Neill JR, Liese AD, et al. Factors associated with development of excessive fatness in children and adolescents: A review of prospective studies. *Obes Rev* 2013;14(8):645–658. [PubMed: 23601571]
3. Institute of Medicine. *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance* Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press; 2005.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Community Guide. *Physical Activity: Creating or Improving Places for Physical Activity* 2001; <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/physical-activity-creating-or-improving-places-physical-activity>. Accessed 01/11/2018.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Community Guide. *Physical Activity: Built Environment Approaches Combining Transportation System Interventions with Land Use and Environmental Design* 2016; <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/physical-activity-built-environment-approaches>. Accessed 01/11/2018.
6. Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report Subcommittee, President's Council on Fitness Sports and Nutrition. *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Strategies to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth* Washington, DC 2012 2012.
7. Baker PR, Francis DP, Soares J, Weightman AL, Foster C. Community-wide interventions for increasing physical activity. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2011;4:CD008366.
8. Institute of Medicine. *Evaluating Obesity Prevention Efforts: A Plan for Measuring Progress* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2013.
9. Gortmaker SL, Lee R, Craddock AL, Sobol AM, Duncan DT, Wang YC. Disparities in Youth Physical Activity in the United States: 2003–2006. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* 2012;44(5):888–893. [PubMed: 22089478]
10. Yan AF, Voorhees CC, Clifton K, Burnier C. “Do you see what I see?” Correlates of multidimensional measures of neighborhood types and perceived physical activity-related neighborhood barriers and facilitators for urban youth. *Prev Med* 2010;50 Suppl 1:S18–23. [PubMed: 19799931]
11. Slater SJ, Ewing R, Powell LM, Chaloupka FJ, Johnston LD, O'Malley PM. The association between community physical activity settings and youth physical activity, obesity, and body mass index. *J Adolesc Health* 2010;47(5):496–503. [PubMed: 20970085]
12. Kremers SP, de Bruijn GJ, Droomers M, van LF, Brug J. Moderators of environmental intervention effects on diet and activity in youth. *Am J Prev Med* 2007;32(2):163–172. [PubMed: 17197152]
13. Schule SA, Bolte G. Interactive and independent associations between the socioeconomic and objective built environment on the neighbourhood level and individual health: a systematic review of multilevel studies. *PLoS One* 2015;10(4):e0123456. [PubMed: 25849569]
14. De Meester F, Van Dyck D, De Bourdeaudhuij I, Deforche B, Sallis JF, Cardon G. Active living neighborhoods: is neighborhood walkability a key element for Belgian adolescents? *BMC Public Health* 2012;12:7. [PubMed: 22216923]
15. Van Dyck D, Cardon G, Deforche B, Sallis JF, Owen N, De Bourdeaudhuij I. Neighborhood SES and walkability are related to physical activity behavior in Belgian adults. *Prev Med* 2010;50 Suppl 1:S74–79. [PubMed: 19751757]
16. Lee RE, Mama SK, Adamus-Leach HJ, Soltero EG. Contribution of neighborhood income and access to quality physical activity resources to physical activity in ethnic minority women over time. *Am J Health Promot* 2015;29(4):210–216. [PubMed: 24524382]
17. Pate RR, McIver KL, Colabianchi N, et al. Physical Activity Measures in the Healthy Communities Study. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):653–659. [PubMed: 26384937]

18. Strauss WJ, Sroka CJ, Frongillo EA, et al. Statistical Design Features of the Healthy Communities Study. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):624–630. [PubMed: 26384932]
19. Arteaga SS, Loria CM, Crawford PB, et al. The Healthy Communities Study: Its Rationale, Aims, and Approach. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):615–623. [PubMed: 26384931]
20. John LV, Gregoriou M, Pate RR, et al. Operational Implementation of the Healthy Communities Study: How Communities Shape Children’s Health. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):631–635. [PubMed: 26384933]
21. Fawcett SB, Collie-Akers VL, Schultz JA, Kelley M. Measuring Community Programs and Policies in the Healthy Communities Study. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):636–641. [PubMed: 26384934]
22. Collie-Akers VL, Schultz JA, Fawcett SB, et al. Measuring intensity of community programs and policies to prevent childhood obesity in a diverse sample of U.S. communities: The Healthy Communities Study. *Pediatr Obes* 2018;in review.
23. Sroka CJ, McIver KL, Sagatov RD, Arteaga SS, Frongillo EA. Weight Status Measures Collected in the Healthy Communities Study: Protocols and Analyses. *Am J Prev Med* 2015;49(4):642–646. [PubMed: 26384935]
24. Rubin DB. *Multiple Imputation for Nonresponse in Surveys* New York: Wiley and Sons; 1987.
25. Tibshirani R Regression shrinkage and selection via the lasso. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B (Methodological)* 1996;58(1):267–288.
26. Dzewaltowski DA, Glasgow RE, Klesges LM, Estabrooks PA, Brock E. RE-AIM: Evidence-based standards and a Web resource to improve translation of research into practice. *Ann Behav Med* 2004;28(2):75–80. [PubMed: 15454353]
27. Lally P, Gardner B. Promoting habit formation. *Health Psychol Rev* 2013;7(Sup 1):S137–S158.
28. Ramirez A, Gallion KJ, Despres JP. Latino Childhood Obesity. In: Brennan VM, Kumanyika S, Zambrana RE, eds. *Obesity Interventions in Underserved Communities: Evidence and Directions* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; 2014.
29. Mendoza-Vasconez AS, Linke S, Munoz M, et al. Promoting Physical Activity among Underserved Populations. *Curr Sports Med Rep* 2016;15(4):290–297. [PubMed: 27399827]
30. Sadeghi B, Kaiser LL, Schaefer S, et al. Multifaceted community-based intervention reduces rate of BMI growth in obese Mexican-origin boys. *Pediatr Obes* 2017;12(3):247–256. [PubMed: 27071684]
31. Kumanyika S, Grier S. Targeting interventions for ethnic minority and low-income populations. *Future Child* 2006;16(1):187–207. [PubMed: 16532664]
32. Cheskin LJ, Frutchey R, McDermott AY, Esposito L, Lee BY, Kumanyika S. Motivating systems-oriented research on environmental and policy changes for obesity prevention. *Pediatr Obes* 2017;12(3):e20–e23. [PubMed: 27060703]

What is already known about this subject?

- Most children and youth in the U.S. do not meet current physical activity guidelines.
- Children's physical activity levels vary across gender and race/ethnicity groups, and they also vary across school and community groups.
- Previous community interventions to increase children's physical activity have yielded modest and inconsistent outcomes.

What this study adds?

- An index that is reflective of community programs and policies aimed at increasing physical activity was found to be positively related to children's physical activity, but only in non-Hispanic children.
- This study shows that community initiatives to promote children's physical activity operate inconsistently across ethnicity groups.
- Research is needed to identify community programs and policies that positively influence physical activity in Hispanic children.

Table 1.

Participant and community demographic characteristics

Child/Family Participants	N (%)
Overall	5138
Gender	
Males	2524 (49.1)
Females	2614 (50.9)
Grade	
K-2	1935 (37.7)
3-5	1637 (31.9)
6-8	1566 (30.5)
Family Income	
<\$20k	1261 (24.5)
\$20-35k	1109 (21.6)
\$35-50k	602 (11.7)
\$50-75k	517 (10.1)
\$75-100k	383 (7.5)
>\$100k	840 (16.4)
Don't Know/ Refused/ Missing	426 (8.3)
Child Race	
White	2924 (56.9)
African- American	960 (18.7)
Other Only (Includes AI, NH/PI, As)	234 (4.5)
More than 1 race, including AA	148 (2.9)
More than 1 race, excluding AA	79 (1.5)
Don't Know/ Refused/ Missing	793 (15.4)
Child Ethnicity	
Not Hispanic	2767 (53.9)
Hispanic	2225 (43.3)
Don't Know/ Refused/ Missing	146 (2.8)
Maximum Parent Education	
No HS	434 (8.5)
Some HS	713 (13.9)
HS	979 (19.1)
Some College	646 (12.8)
Associates Degree	591 (11.5)
Bachelors Degree	756 (14.7)
Masters and Above	844 (16.4)
Missing	175 (3.4)
Maximum Parent Employment	

Child/Family Participants	N (%)
Full Time	3424 (66.6)
Part Time	510 (9.9)
Unemployed or On Leave	309 (6.0)
Retired or Disabled	164 (3.2)
Homemaker/Student/Other	393 (7.6)
Missing	338 (6.6)
Community Characteristics	N (%)
Overall	130
Census Tract Minority	
African American	34 (26.2)
Hispanic	42 (32.3)
Other	54 (41.5)
Census Tract Income	
High	80 (61.5)
Low	50 (38.5)
Census Tract Urbanicity	
Urban	50 (38.5)
Suburban	50 (38.5)
Rural	30 (23.0)
Region	
Northeast	20 (15.4)
Midwest	26 (20.0)
South	55 (42.3)
West	29 (22.3)

Table 2.

CPP Indices for 130 communities and association between CPP-Int, CPP-Strat, and children’s total physical activity index and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity index

	Score (SE)	Range	Standardized Score (SE; Range 0–1)	TPA			MVPA				
				Base Model ³	Covariate Model ⁴	p-value	Base Model ³	Covariate Model ⁴	p-value		
1-year indices											
CPP-Int ¹	23.97 (0.73)	8.42–53.47	0.35 (0.02)	0.84 (1.70)	0.44 (1.49)	0.62	0.61 (1.39)	0.06 (1.18)	0.77	0.66	0.72
CPP-Strat ²	4.69 (0.05)	3–5	0.85 (0.02)	1.04 (1.20)	0.38 (1.07)	0.39	1.38 (0.98)	0.41 (0.85)	0.96	0.16	0.63
6-year indices											
CPP-Int ¹	119.83 (3.74)	41.88–261.97	0.35 (0.02)	0.63 (1.63)	-0.03 (1.14)	0.70	0.55 (1.34)	-0.24 (1.14)	0.99	0.10	0.41
CPP-Strat ²	27.27 (0.29)	18–30	0.66 (0.02)	2.18 (1.34)	0.99 (0.97)	0.68	2.54 (1.09)	0.99 (0.97)	0.83	0.02	0.31

¹ CPP Intensity Score Composite Index

² CPP Strategy Score Index

³ Base model: adjusted for age, gender, age polynomial

⁴ Covariate model: adjusted for base model plus family income, max parent education, max parent employment, child race, child ethnicity, seasonality, region, community census tract income, community census tract percent African American, community census tract percent high school graduate, community census tract percent unemployed

Table 3:

Summary of analyses examining demographic effect modifiers of the relationships between 6-year CPP-Strat and MVPA

Effect Modifier	Base Model ¹			Full Model ²		
	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value
Individual Level Characteristics						
Grade	2.54 (1.09)			0.96 (0.97)		
K-2		-0.24 (0.41)	0.561		-0.32 (0.41)	0.430
3-5		0.13 (0.30)	0.663		0.14 (0.30)	0.642
6-8		0.16 (0.51)	0.754		0.25 (0.50)	0.613
Race	2.59 (1.11)			0.95 (0.98)		
Black Only		-0.32 (1.03)	0.752		-0.05 (1.10)	0.967
Black-Multi		-0.30 (2.32)	0.900		0.79 (2.68)	0.767
Not Black-Multi		0.55 (3.59)	0.879		1.18 (3.99)	0.768
Other		0.09 (2.27)	0.969		0.15 (2.47)	0.951
White Only		0.09 (0.33)	0.794		-0.06 (0.36)	0.869
Ethnicity	2.48 (1.11)			0.89 (0.97)		
Hispanic		-1.24 (0.67)	0.065		-1.42 (0.68)	0.03
Non-Hispanic		1.01 (0.55)	0.065		1.15 (0.53)	0.03
Family Income	2.53 (1.10)			1.10 (0.98)		
<20,000		-1.52 (0.88)	0.117		-1.41 (0.86)	0.102
20-35,000		-0.60 (0.88)	0.493		-0.36 (0.93)	0.702
35-50,000		1.53 (1.23)	0.212		1.53 (1.27)	0.230
50-75,000		-0.03 (1.47)	0.983		0.23 (0.68)	0.893
75-100,00		1.09 (1.69)	0.520		0.15 (1.94)	0.937
>100,000		1.16 (1.32)	0.381		1.35 (1.51)	0.370
Sex	2.54 (1.09)			0.96 (0.97)		
Female		-0.17 (0.49)	0.724		-0.18 (0.48)	0.712
Male		0.18 (0.51)	0.724		0.19 (0.50)	0.712
Parent Education	2.56 (1.1)			0.99 (0.98)		
No HS		-0.39 (1.65)	0.813		-0.75 (1.64)	0.647

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Effect Modifier	Base Model ¹			Full Model ²		
	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value
Some HS		-0.75 (1.21)	0.534		-0.81 (1.19)	0.496
HS graduate		-0.40 (0.99)	0.689		-0.60 (0.99)	0.546
Some College		1.76 (1.25)	0.160		1.71 (0.24)	0.168
Associates		-1.42 (1.40)	0.311		-1.06 (1.40)	0.450
Bachelor's		1.03 (1.34)	0.440		1.02 (1.33)	0.443
Master's or Higher		-0.004 (1.41)	0.998		0.26 (1.38)	0.854
Parent Employment	2.57 (1.1)			1.09 (0.97)		
Full-time		0.30 (0.31)	0.329		0.22 (0.31)	0.475
Part-time		-1.60 (1.40)	0.254		-1.38 (1.39)	0.323
Unemployed or Leave		-2.75 (1.77)	0.120		-2.29 (1.75)	0.191
Retired or Disabled		-3.15 (2.43)	0.194		-2.66 (2.39)	0.266
Home/Student/Other		2.76 (1.80)	0.125		2.69 (1.79)	0.132
Community Level Characteristics						
Region	2.57 (1.1)			0.85 (1.02)		
Midwest		-0.83 (1.80)	0.643		0.34 (1.61)	0.834
Northeast		2.74 (2.77)	0.323		2.28 (2.48)	0.358
South		-1.21 (1.34)	0.367		-1.44 (1.29)	0.266
West		1.02 (1.80)	0.570		0.76 (1.71)	0.658
Census Tract Minority	2.54 (1.14)			1.10 (1.01)		
African American		-2.14 (1.80)	0.233		-1.12 (1.56)	0.473
Hispanic		1.83 (1.36)	0.178		1.35 (1.20)	0.264
Other		-0.73 (1.46)	0.617		-0.77 (1.27)	0.545
Census Tract Income	2.59 (1.09)			0.93 (0.96)		
High		0.90 (0.77)	0.243		1.10 (0.65)	0.092
Low		-1.70 (1.45)	0.243		-2.06 (1.22)	0.092
Census Tract Urbanicity	2.32 (1.12)			0.73 (0.99)		
Rural		-1.83 (2.36)	0.438		-2.55 (2.01)	0.203
Suburban		0.03 (1.33)	0.984		0.49 (1.12)	0.663
Urban		1.07 (1.39)	0.442		1.02 (1.18)	0.391

Effect Modifier	Base Model ¹			Full Model ²		
	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value	Average CPP Slope (SE)	Difference from Average (SE)	P-Value
Community Demographics						
% Hispanic	2.13 (1.76)	1.26 (4.34)	0.226	1.13 (1.52)	-0.74 (3.71)	0.842
% African American	2.14 (1.46)	-1.60 (3.999)	0.141	1.15 (1.36)	-0.75 (3.61)	0.836
% Poverty	2.01 (2.50)	1.71 (9.87)	0.422	1.51 (2.15)	-2.74 (8.59)	0.749
% HS Graduate	5.03 (10.61)	-3.07 (13.11)	0.636	-6.92 (8.85)	9.74 (10.90)	0.371

¹Base model: adjusted for age, gender, age polynomial

²Full model: adjusted for base model plus family income, max parent education, max parent employment, child race, child ethnicity, seasonality, region, community census tract income, community census tract percent African American, community census tract percent high school graduate, community census tract percent unemployed