Key Takeaways:

1. Physical environment can have a large impact on access and use of health services. Consider physical environment in your contextual evaluations for program development and implementation.

2. Macro and Microlevel environmental evaluations provided unique information. Macro level provides community layout and land use (e.g. access to bus stops). Micro level provides context specific environmental features that are observable.

3. While macro level evaluations can be assessed using a map, in person assessment of the environment (e.g. walking audits) is best to provide microlevel assessment of an environment.

4. When evaluating the microlevel environment consider factors from the natural (weather, vegetation), social (people, culture), and built (benches, buildings).

5. The population of interest in your work can be key data collectors (citizen scientists) providing important information on the physical environment and how it can impact their health.

6. When engaging with citizen scientists ensure your methods consider the population attributes. For example, mobility challenges may require different walking audit requirements or people who use substances may prefer anonymity and be less likely to engage with group discussions.

7. When implementing an evidence based program, iterative strategies with citizen scientists and organization teams provide an opportunity to ideate and strategize with both feasibility and desirability taken into account.

8. Using data, photos, and quotes from citizen scientists offers an opportunity to engage with an implementation team when anonymity may be a desire.

9. When collecting information on neighborhood environment conditions, whether for observational research or implementation, consider involving community members in the process.

10. Neighborhood audits can support communities by increasing capacity among community members to serve as advocates for their neighborhoods and providing data to inform decision making.
Don’t do anything for us without us”
Evaluating Environments with Citizen Scientists
to Improve Local Health

Resources

Our voice methodology
- https://med.stanford.edu/ourvoice.html

User Centered Design methodology
Don’t do anything for us without us”
Evaluating Environments with Citizen Scientists to Improve Local Health

Resources, continued

**PRISM**

**Neighborhood Environment Assessment**

**Advocacy Research related to Neighborhood Environments**
- Botchwey et al. Impact of a youth advocacy policy, systems and environmental change program for physical activity on perceptions and beliefs. Preventive Medicine, 2020, 136:106077.
- Healthy Young People Empowerment youth advocacy curriculum. Available at: [https://wholespire.org/get-hype/](https://wholespire.org/get-hype/)