ADVOCACY and RESEARCH: A Powerful Partnership for Creating Healthy Communities

Ian Thomas, PhD: PedNet Coalition
Stephen Sayers, PhD: University of Missouri
Advocacy and Research:

A Powerful Partnership for Creating Healthy Communities

Introduction and Background

Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts

Daily Walking School Bus

Central City Crosswalk
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The Reality
Logic Model

Encouraging Healthy Behavior Through Changes in the Built Environment

Promotion, Education

Policy, Infrastructure
Logic Model

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A Powerful Partnership

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Federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program

$25,000,000

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West Boulevard Elementary School

2008: 86.4% Free/Reduced Lunch
Lack of Sidewalks
Drop-off and Pick-up
2008 SRTS Planning Charrette
Improved Educational Outcomes  
(2008-2009 Study, West Boulevard Elementary School)

• Sample: “Staging post” daily walkers (n=12)
• Control: “Drop-at-school” non-walkers (n=15)
• Measurements: fall, 2008 and spring, 2009 (after intervention)
• Averaged test score improvements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Walkers</th>
<th>Daily Walkers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text Level</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluency</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improved Behavioral Outcomes
(2008-2009 Study, West Boulevard Elementary School)

• School-wide data
• 2007-2008 school year: 400 office referrals
• 2008-2009 school year: 270 office referrals
  • Dramatic decrease in “bus referrals” made between 8:30 am – 9:15 am
  • Noticeable increase in bus referrals during winter months when “Staging post” Walking School Bus was no in operation
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