Implementing the Active School Neighborhood Checklist in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) Schools in Arizona

Lauren McCullough, MPH; Vanessa A. Farrell Ph.D., RD;
Gabriela Barillas-Longoria, MPH; Scottie Misner, Ph.D., RD

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
Nutritional Sciences

Champions for Change
Arizona Nutrition Network

Background

- The SNAP-Ed encourages a multi-level obesity approach and this includes walking and biking (W/B) to school.
- The Arizona SNAP-Ed program in Pima County implemented the Active School Neighborhood Checklist (ASNC) in **ten** schools (*Figure 1*).
- The ASNC assesses the walkability, bikeability, and safety of a school or a school site.
- The ASNC was co-developed by the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

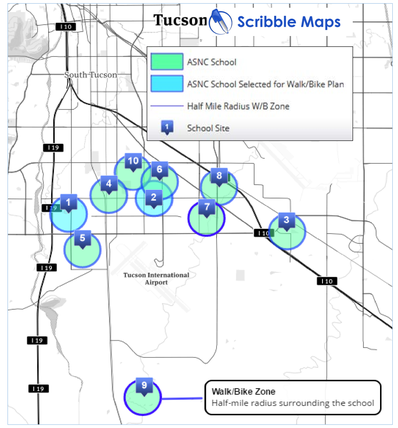


Figure 1: The ASNC Schools of Pima County [1,3]

Methods

- Ten SNAP-Ed qualifying elementary schools were selected to participate in the ASNC assessment.
- The ASNC contains eight sections with 57 questions (*Figure 2*).

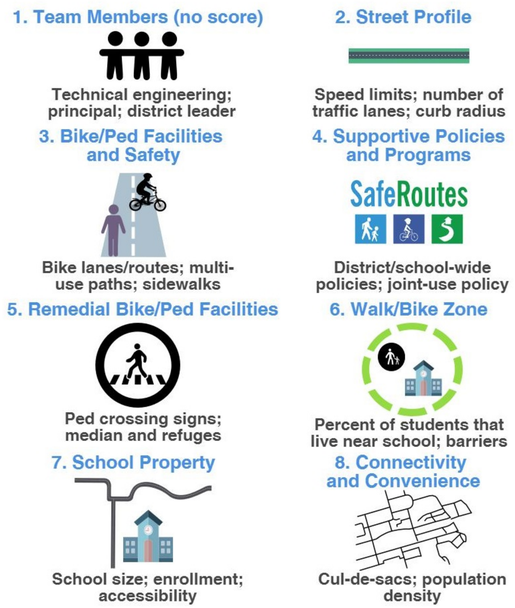


Figure 2: The ASNC Sections & Example Question Topics

Data was collected from three sources (*Figure 3*):

Visual observations of the W/B infrastructure and the built-environment were made in the half-mile radius surrounding the school.

Interviews with school and local government officials (e.g. city planners, school principals, etc.) were conducted.

Secondary data from the local county and city transportation records were gathered.

Figure 3: Data Collection Methods [1]

- All question responses were entered into an online portal: https://activschoolchecklist.com/
- The online ASNC portal generated an overall score for each school (Table 1) and a score for each section (data not shown).

Results

- Out of a overall score of 113 (Figure 6), schools' total scores ranged from poor to moderate (Table 1).

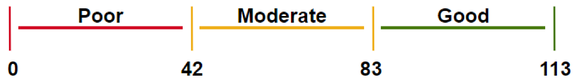


Figure 6: The ASNC Scoring [1]

Table 1: Results of the ASNC for the Ten Schools in Pima County

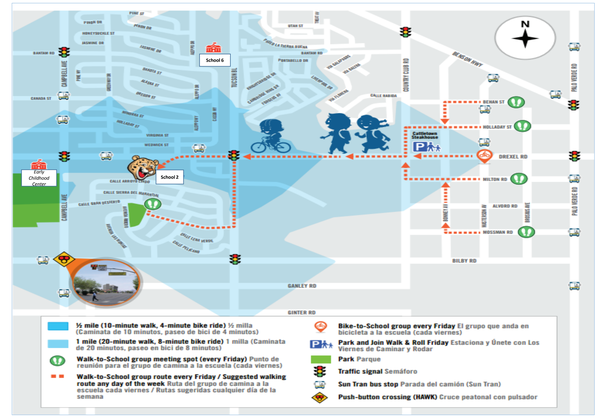
School	Total Score	Score Interpretation
1	29	Poor
2	28	Poor
3	21	Poor
4	13	Poor
5	30	Poor
6	22	Poor
7	30	Poor
8	17	Poor
9	32	Poor
10	47	Moderate
Average ASNC score:	26.9	Poor
Total points possible	113	Good

- All schools surveyed had many physical barriers (high-speed traffic, multiple lanes, irrigation canals, lack of sidewalks).
- The supportive policies and programs section scored the highest of all the ASNC eight sections (Figure 2).

- The ASNC scores identified two schools with sufficient infrastructure, built environment assets, and supportive programs to create W/B plans to encourage W/B to school. (Table 2).

Table 2: Selection Factors for Schools to Receive W/B Plans

Selection Factors ↓	School 1	School 2*
Poor ASNC score	✓	✓
25-50% or more of students lived within the W/B zone	✓	✓
Engaged school leadership	✓	✓
Located adjacent to a park	✓	
Along an upcoming open streets event route	✓	
Safe Routes to School program in place		✓



[*]The W/B Map for School 2 [2]

Conclusion

Implemented the ASNC in ten schools → **Analyzed scores for each school** → **Identified two schools for W/B plan**

Next Steps

- The ASNC results will be disseminated to the school leadership and staff to support future W/B promotion programming.
- The two W/B maps will be given out to parents of students of Schools 1 and 2 to encourage W/B to school.

Walk with the Mayor Event at School 2 [2]

References

1. Fellows, B. Active School Neighborhood Checklist. Arizona Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program. (2010). http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/resources/toolkit/active-school-neighborhood-checklist
2. Living Streets Alliance. Safe Routes to School Tucson. (2017); Available at https://www.saferoutestucson.org/pilotschool/los-amigos-technology-academy/
3. Scribble Maps. 52 Staris Studio Inc. (2017); Available at https://www.scribblemaps.com/

Contact Information:
Gabriela Barillas-Longoria
gabibl@email.arizona.edu

Crossing Guard at an ASNC School