

Windshield and walking surveys

- Windshield and walking surveys are systematic observations made while touring the community
- They can shed light on various aspects of community life, including housing and infrastructure quality, presence or absence of various types of business, and noise and traffic patterns.
- They're a quick and easy way to get an overview of a community

Windshield surveys

- What to examine:
 - Housing – age, condition, and upkeep
 - Other buildings – are they occupied? Are they disability-friendly?
 - Public spaces and parks – are they gathering places? Do they have nice amenities? Who uses them?
 - Culture and entertainment venues
 - Signs – languages? Informative?
 - Industry – what types are there? Obvious pollution?
 - Infrastructure – what condition is it in? Does it vary from one neighborhood to another?
 - Public transit
 - Traffic
 - Environmental quality – Green space? Smog? Bad smells?
 - Religious institutions
 - Clinics
 - Community/public services/safety services
 - Schools – public, private, higher ed?
 - Political activity – signs/canvassers?
 - Differences between neighborhoods

Windshield surveys

- Guidelines for a windshield survey
 - Use a map
 - Drive at moderate speed
 - Pull over to make notes at regular intervals
 - Try to be inconspicuous
 - Make sure to include both major and minor streets
- Guidelines for a walking survey
 - Study a map beforehand
 - Take part in community activities – take public transit, shop, eat in a restaurant. Eavesdrop.
 - Go inside
 - Sit down in a quiet place to take notes

Windshield survey example

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGXMoQjXbUk>

Observations

- Level of detail
- Duration of observation
- People versus surrounding; behaviors versus environment
- Race/class/ethnicity
- Assumptions - family, friends, husband/wife
- Observations vs. interpretations
- Senses - sight, sound, smell, touch
- Awareness of our own biases and tendencies
- Did you tell people you were observing them?
- Did you participate?

Photography and video clips

- Take photographs or video clips of things in the community that influence physical activity
- Can be done by researchers and community members



