

# OPEN STREETS

## FACT SHEET



### What is Open Streets?




Open Streets (also known as Ciclovias) are programs that open the streets to people and close them to cars. People traffic replaces car traffic and the streets become “paved parks” where people of all ages, abilities, and social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds can come out to get active and connect with their community. Open Streets are one of the most effective and affordable large-scale health promotion programs any city can undertake.



Participants of all ages and abilities enjoy the safety and accessibility of Open Streets in Guadalajara, Mexico.

### ACTIVE PEOPLE HAVE LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS.

**As a result, for each dollar invested in...**

...Bogota's Ciclovía	————— <i>there is</i> —————>		\$3 in health care savings Net savings: \$13 million/year
...Medellin's Ciclovía	————— <i>there is</i> —————>		\$2 in health care savings Net savings: \$2 million/year
...San Francisco's Summer Streets	————— <i>there is</i> —————>		\$2.3 in health care savings Net savings: \$4 million/year

The document was adapted from the Pan American Health Organizations' Open Street Fact Sheet 2013

### OPEN STREETS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

A comprehensive study conducted by the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs found that businesses along the Open Streets route in Los Angeles experienced a:

- 10% bump in sales on the day of the event simply by being open.
- 57% sales increase by actively participating in the event.





# OPENING MINDS TO BETTER SOLUTIONS

## Problems

Physical inactivity is associated with more than 5.3 million deaths per year and increases the risk of diabetes mellitus type 2, coronary disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer by 20-30%.

Decreased urban quality of life

Air pollution and noise

Lack of space for social interaction and recreation inequality and social exclusion.

## Open Streets Solutions

Open Streets' participants:

- Are more likely to meet physical activity requirements than overall population
- Are more likely to bike as a means of transportation
- Are less likely to be overweight or obese than the overall population

On average Open Streets' participants have higher health-related quality of life scores.

Open Streets reduce particulate matter pollution and street noise.

Open Streets promote social inclusion, social interaction, and equality.

- Participants come from all socioeconomic backgrounds, and include people with disabilities, older adults, children, families and minorities.
- Provide opportunities for small-scale businesses economic revitalization of communities.
- On average Open Streets' participants score higher on social capital scales.

## Open Streets Bring Sectors Together

