Reviewer's report

Title: Sharing good NEWS across the world: developing comparable scores across 12 countries for the Neighborhood Environment Walkability Scale (NEWS)

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Cheryl Kelly

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript with implications for research. I think it is a well done study and well thought out analyses.

I have a couple of revisions. Minor essential revisions.

1. It was not until halfway through the manuscript, I understood that the purpose of this study was to compare analyses that did not use common protocols. On page 8, it was obvious they had used different methods. On page 6, the authors reference a prerequisite for pooled analyses is common protocols. The purpose needs to be more clearly stated early in the manuscript.

2. The authors mention physical activity measurement but never go into how that data was used. Was this used to stratify? or should it be used to stratify? are there differences based on activity level? could it be used a descriptive data to describe the population?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.