



Samoan Kids in the City: Neighbourhood Perceptions of Samoan children, parents and researchers

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Children's Neighbourhood Perceptions and Utilisation

- Understanding built and social environments
- Independent Mobility and Physical Activity are essential for the health of children.
- Cultural constraints or opportunities



Methods

- Computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) & Go-along interviews
- 9-10years, 6 schools across Auckland
- Samoan sample – 28x Samoan children, 44x parents, 2x researchers



Findings: Independent Mobility



“I like going to my friend’s house but my mum doesn’t let me. She thinks that there’s lots of people around here that are bad” [Girl]

“When we leave for work early, she gets herself ready and her little brother for school” [Parent]



Findings: Physical Activity



“I walk with my parents, my mum and my little sister.” [Girl]

“I like going to my cousins... Because he has like heaps of games, like PS2 & PS3; we sleep there sometimes.” [Boy]

“I play with the motorbike... It’s my uncles. We play around here [the field], and then once we get there, we play with the rugby ball.” [Boy]



Findings: Likes



“The best thing is my friends.” [Boy]

“I like mostly just being out with my friends.” [Girl]

“[I like] when the neighbours are like nice and give you things... Like fruit that they grow on their tree, and some eggs that their chickens lay.” [Girl]

Findings: Dislikes



“Pretty much, [I] don’t like the really loud parties next door that go on until like the morning.” [Girl]

“My mum gets worried about me because there is lots of strangers I don’t know.” [Girl]

“Unsafe places? Everywhere except on our street where I can keep an eye on her; I am so concerned about her safety.” [Parent]

Findings: Neighbourhood Safe



“I feel safe here cause we’ve got good neighbours.” [Girl]

“Through the school system or neighbours, I would like to get to know other parents.” [Parent]

Findings: Neighbourhood Unsafe



“Because if I go alone, then some stranger might take me.” [Girl].

“A lot of people go and drink down there [local reserve]; some of the local thugs hang out down there sometimes and it is not really a place to be because there is nothing for kids – no playgrounds, no toilets – they used to have them, but they were taken away because of bad behaviour and tagging.” [Parent]

Findings: Aiga (Family)



“I mostly go with my cousins, because I’m not allowed to go with my friends.” [Boy]

“[I] go and play volley with my family, my whole family. My mum, my dad, and my three sisters. We all play, all of us.” [Boy]

“[I] always talk to him to be polite and respect people, and they [will] do the same thing to them.” [Parent]



Reflections

- Generational differences: Fears – real or imagined – constrain children’s IM and PA
- Insider vs. outsider
- Samoan children’s activities are largely centred around family
- School & aiga – environments to improve activity levels



Fa'afetai tele lava!

- Questions?