**INVITATION**

**From research to impact: measuring and mapping urban health indicators in IPEN study cities - *Lancet* paper opportunity**

**Working group:**Billie Giles-Corti, Jim Sallis, Melanie Lowe, Jonathan Arundel, Ester Cerin, Erica Hinckson, Deborah Salvo, Mark Stevenson, Anne Vernez Moudon

**What is this research about?**

Our recent *Lancet* paper in the Urban Design, Transport, and Health Series ([Giles-Corti et al. 2016](http://www.thelancet.com/series/urban-design)) involved an extensive narrative evidence review on what creates a healthy city. We proposed a set of policy and spatial indicators that could be used to measure progress towards creating healthy cities (see Appendix).

In Australia, the Healthy Liveable Cities group has measured and mapped indicators of what creates a healthy liveable city: <http://cur.org.au/project/national-liveability-report/>. This project involved using GIS data to generate and map policy-relevant indicators to identify the extent to which policy is being delivered across Australian cities, and inequities in the delivery of those policies.

We would like to invite you to take part in this study, which aims to measure those policy indicators and spatial indicators in cities worldwide. IPEN investigators who already have relevant GIS data are invited to participate in this demonstration project, to explore the feasibility of developing international indicators. Our intention is to use the GIS data files you have already collected, complemented by global open source data sets and technology. In short, we would aim to create maps that display indicator variables across the whole city (or for parts of the city where data is available).

Our objective is to publish a paper that presents the maps and summary variables for each city as a follow-up to the 2016 *Lancet* [Series on Urban Design, Transport, and Health](https://www.thelancet.com/series/urban-design). We have been in touch with the editor of the 2016 *Lancet* Series and she has expressed interest in reviewing such a paper. This is very encouraging.

We are seeking research collaborators within the IPEN team, who can contribute to the results and as authors of the paper.

**Why is this important?**

Urban systems policies in domains such as transport, employment, land use and urban design, housing, public open space, public safety, education and social infrastructure help to shape urban and transport planning and design interventions, which in turn determine transport mode choices and lifestyles, and ultimately exposure to health risks (Giles-Corti et al. 2016).

Indicators are required to benchmark and monitor progress on developing and implementing policies which contribute to healthy cities, and highlight geographic inequities.

This project will test the ability to compare within and between cities worldwide, using health-focused urban policy and spatial indicators of interest to the *Lancet*.

**What would be involved?**

The project will involve two components: a policy review to create urban policy indicators; and the development of spatial indicators. We are inviting members of the IPEN investigator team and associated researchers to assist with the following research steps, for either or both sub-projects:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Urban policy indicators*** | ***Spatial indicators*** |
| * Identify person(s) with local knowledge of the policy context to help you collect policy data for your city. For example:   + Academic or masters/PhD student in urban or transport planning and/or   + Informant in city government, local healthy cities advocacy organization etc. * Fill in the attached data collection guide for urban policy indicators:   + Summarise the urban and transport policy context   + Identify relevant policies   + Enter information on policies into the data collection table   Attend one or more information/training webinars   * Support will be available as needed from Dr Melanie Lowe (see contact details below). * Anticipated timeline: Data to be collected by March 2019. | Respond to this survey <https://goo.gl/forms/FwQP23I8R1rBUHLi1> on data availability in your city, to ascertain the indicators that can be calculated. E.g. census data for population, dwellings and journeys to work.  Assist with sourcing and pre-processing data into the required format. Tools will be developed centrally to calculate the indicators.  Review and help interpret the results for your city. Use local knowledge, IPEN study results, other data sources and research to validate the spatial indicators.  Attend one or more information/training webinars  Support will be available as needed from Dr Jonathan Arundel (see contact details below)   * Anticipated timeline: Data to be collected by March 2019. |

**What are the benefits of this collaboration?**

All data collectors will be acknowledged in the *Lancet* paper, and those who actively contribute to the paper itself, will be eligible for authorship.

Findings for specific cities on policy and built environment quality could be published in additional papers.

We will create a template that you could use to develop a policy-brief or scorecard for your city. This could be disseminated to policymakers, and help generate research impact, which is increasingly becoming a priority for Universities and funding bodies.

Continued collaboration with leading healthy cities researchers globally

You will gain early access to tools being developed to calculate city indicators with open data

You will gain access to indicator data generated for your city using the above-mentioned tools (which you could use in your own research).

**Are you interested in being involved?**

I am interested in being involved in (please tick):

Spatial indicators sub-project

Urban policy indicators sub-project

**Comments:** [please add]

**First steps**

A webinar will be held in August 2018 (details TBA) to provide more information to interested collaborators, and answer any questions you might have. This will be recorded and available to those who cannot attend.

**Contact details for further information:**

**Prof. Jim Sallis**

Jim is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at UC San Diego and Professorial Fellow at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. He is a co-founder of IPEN and lead author of one of the papers in the Lancet Series on Urban Design, Transport, and Health.

**Prof. Billie Giles-Corti**

Billie is an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, Director of RMIT University’s Healthy Liveable Cities Group in the Centre for Urban Research and its Urban Futures Enabling Capability Platform Director. She was the lead author of the first paper in the Lancet Series on Urban Design, Transport and Health and co-author of the other two papers.

**Dr Melanie Lowe:**

Melanie is a Lecturer in Public Health at the Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia. Her research investigates how policy and governance can support the creation of healthy, liveable cities. She is experienced in policy analysis and qualitative methods. She was a co-author of the first paper in the Lancet Series on Urban Design, Transport and Health.

Training and support for policy indicator data collection will be offered by Melanie as needed, to clarify requirements and search strategies.

Email: [melanie.lowe@acu.edu.au](mailto:melanie.lowe@acu.edu.au)

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**Dr Jonathan Arundel:**

Jonathan is a Senior Research Fellow within the Healthy Liveable Cities Group at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. His research spans spatial data analysis, remote sensing and simulation and modelling. He has experience calculating policy-derived and liveability indicators for Australian cities.

Tools to process data into spatial indicators will be developed centrally by Jonathan and his team at RMIT University. Jonathan will also be able to provide support as needed on identifying, sourcing and processing data into spatial indicators.

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**Appendix**

Reproduced fromGiles-Corti, B., Vernez Moudon, A., Reis, R., Turrell, G., Dannenberg, A., Badland, H., et al. (2016). City planning and population health: A global challenge. *The Lancet, 388*(10062), 2912-2924.

