Doing A Walkabout Exercise

Facilitators Note
Facilitator’s Note: Participants should wear comfortable shoes, and accommodations should be made for people with mobility challenges. Walking your route is best, but if bad weather or other considerations come up, some groups carpool instead. This activity should take 60 minutes.

Activity Guidelines
Identify a route within walking distance of the meeting site if possible. The route should provide a mix of retail businesses, public institutions such as schools, religious meeting places, etc.) and take no more than 20 minutes to walk. If much of the business district is abandoned, that’s worth observing, too. Encourage participants to take notes and to pay attention to both assets and challenges. Make sure (for safety reasons) that people stay together in groups, and that the assigned adults know who they are responsible for and what time to bring their group back to the training site.

Suggested Trigger Questions:
- What positives/assets did you observe?
- What things that need changing/challenges did you observe?
- Did you see advertising? For what kind of products?
- If you saw ads, did they seem like they would catch kids’ attention?
- In the stores you visited, did they sell tobacco? Alcohol?
- Did they have the kind of items people in the neighborhood need?
- Were items good quality and good prices?
- Were there places that seemed nice to look at (green, well kept, etc.)? Some not so nice?
- Were people friendly?
- What else did you notice?
Debrief Activity

Draw a line down the center of a piece of chart paper and write "Assets" on one side and "Challenges" on the other, then ask participants to talk about their experiences on the walkabout. If something is both an asset and challenge, record it under each column.