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Before joining Active Living Research in 2001, she conducted public health policy research (immunization laws) at the Graduate School of Public Health at San Diego State University. An attorney admitted to practice in Vermont and California, she has twenty years experience in the fields of land use planning and litigation, real estate transactions, government administrative law, health care regulatory matters, and employment law. Her interest in health policy issues led her to a second career in policy research.

Active Living Research stimulates and supports research that will identify environmental factors and policies that influence physical activity. Findings are expected to inform environmental and policy changes that will promote active living among Americans, both young and old. As Deputy Director, Leslie Linton works with applicants and grantee researchers of the program and manages programs designed to expand the field of researchers and communicate findings to researchers and policymakers. She recently co-edited a special active living issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and coauthored a paper about the public health roots of zoning law.