



TRANSPORTATION & HEALTH TOOL

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM using roadways, streets, sidewalks, trails and public transit for everyday needs, whether for traveling to and from work, school and play or accessing basic necessities, such as health services and grocery stores. At the same time, too many people are negatively impacted by our transportation systems, from increased air pollution to a lack of safe places to walk, bike and engage in physical activity without unnecessary risk.

For a long time, public health impacts and benefits were too often overlooked in transportation policy, program and funding decisions. Many state officials and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are including public health goals and health criteria in transportation planning and policies as well as within the transportation project selection process. And the public health community is partnering with the transportation sector to integrate health considerations in transportation work.

Transportation decision-makers face enormous budget pressure, so investments that pay off in public health can bring additional community benefits. That means understanding all the issues in play, and then determining what is working well and what needs improvement in a world of limited resources.

To this end, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), with support from the American Public Health Association, are partnering to develop a simple-to-use transportation and health tool (THT). Now, for the first time, it is possible for transportation decision-makers to understand how their community or state compares to their peers in terms of key health and transportation indicators.

Through a rigorous process, including extensive work with an expert panel, several transportation and health indicators have been selected for use in the THT. This tool is designed to be a useful resource for transportation decision-makers around the country, providing an overview and a key perspective on how their decisions impact the health of the communities they serve.

To learn more about the THT, visit its website:

<http://www.transportation.gov/transportation-health-tool>.

Questions? Email us at tht@dot.gov

GOALS

- help transportation decision-makers understand many of the issues in play at the intersection with public health;
- inform health-supportive state and regional transportation policies and project decisions; and
- strengthen collaborations between transportation and public health sectors.

THT

ABOUT

- an easy-to-use online tool, pre-populated with region- and state-specific data;
- an assessment of where your state or MPO is performing well, and where to incorporate health measures and decisions within the transportation decision- and policy-making process;
- recommendations for policy improvements;
- an evidence base for integrating health and transportation.

INDICATORS

- Commute Mode Shares
- Complete Streets Policies
- Alcohol-Impaired Fatalities
- Proximity to Major Roadways
- Housing and Transportation Affordability
- Person Miles Traveled by Mode
- Physical Activity from Transportation
- Road Traffic Fatalities by Mode
- Public Transportation Trips per Capita
- Road Traffic Fatalities Exposure Rate
- Seat Belt Use
- Use of Federal Funds for Bicycle and Pedestrian Efforts
- Vehicle Miles Traveled per capita
- Land Use Mix