

### Why is transportation important?

Transportation access is critical for getting to health care, jobs, childcare, grocery stores and other resources. Without a car or reliable public transportation, some Ohioans are cut off from opportunities. For example:

- Almost one-quarter of Black women in Ohio (23%) live in households without a vehicle, compared to 8% of Ohioans overall.
- In Ohio metro areas, it takes more than 90 minutes to reach most jobs via transit from low-income neighborhoods.
- Many older adults are unable to drive and instead rely on local transit services to maintain independence.

### How does transportation affect health equity?

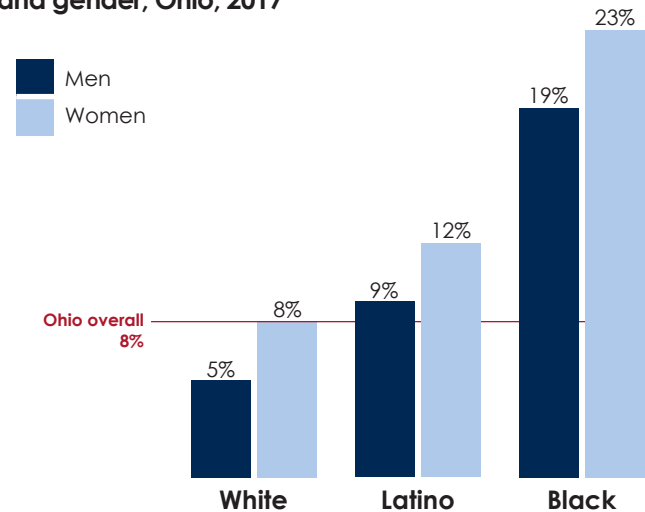
Transportation access is critical for good health across the lifespan. For example:

- Transportation to prenatal care and healthy food can improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality disparities.<sup>1</sup>
- Reliable transportation offers better access to jobs which supports self-sufficient employment, and in turn, can lead to higher income and better physical and mental health.<sup>2</sup>
- Transportation access connects older adults to friends and family, health care, volunteer opportunities and other activities and supports necessary for healthy aging.<sup>3</sup>



### Households with no vehicle

Percent of households **without a vehicle** by race/ethnicity and gender, Ohio, 2017

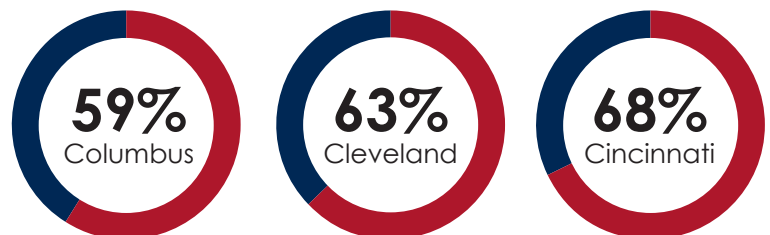


Source: National Equity Atlas



### Job access via transit in low-income neighborhoods

Percent of jobs that take **more than 90 minutes** to reach from low-income neighborhoods via transit, 2009-2011

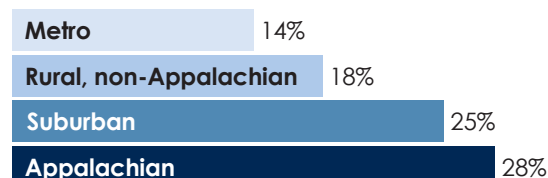


**Note:** Low-income is defined as under 80% Area Median Income. **Source:** Brookings Institution. Missed Opportunity: Transit and Jobs in Metropolitan America. 2011. (As cited in the Ohio Department of Transportation Transit Needs Study)



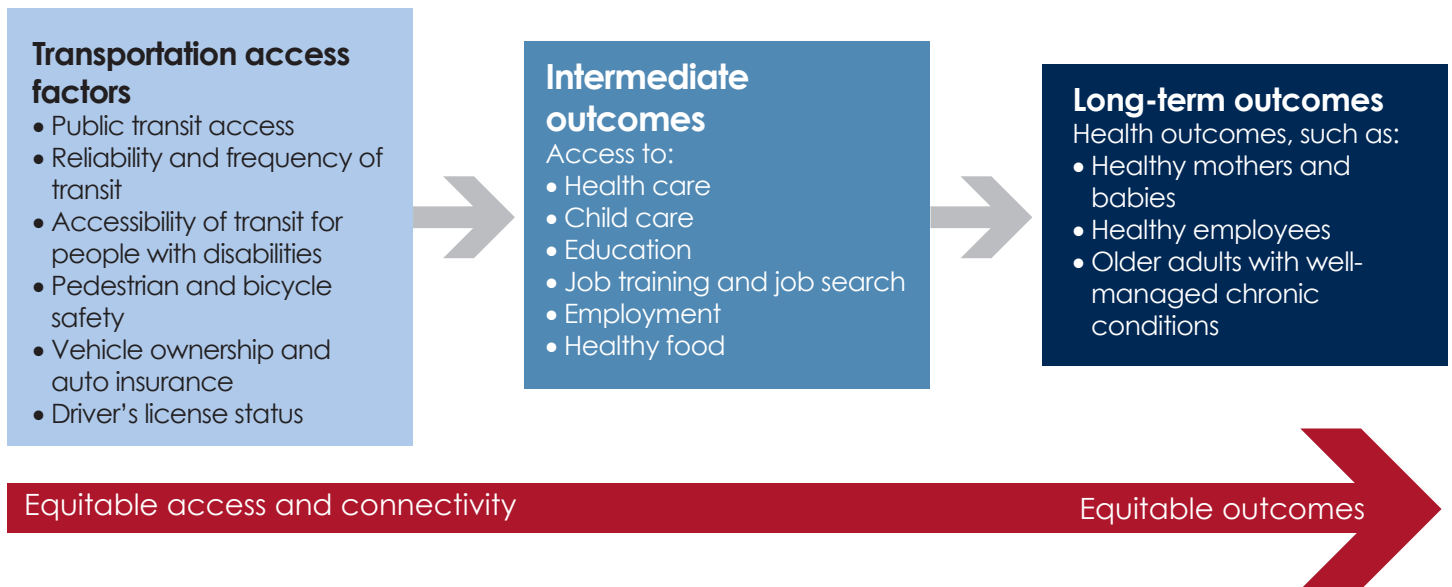
### Delayed health care for older Ohioans because of lack of transportation

Percent of Ohioans age 75+ who **delayed or avoided getting needed care** due to lack of transportation, 2017



Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey: Older Ohioan Health Profile. 2019.

## What is the relationship between transportation and health?

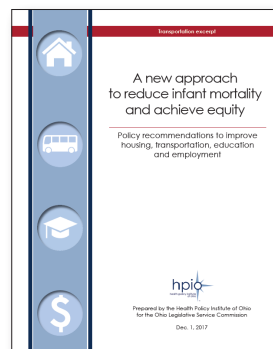


## How can state policymakers strengthen transit?

To advance equity and improve transit and health outcomes, Ohio policymakers can strengthen support for public transit services in urban, suburban and rural communities by fully implementing recommendations in existing state plans, such as those listed below:



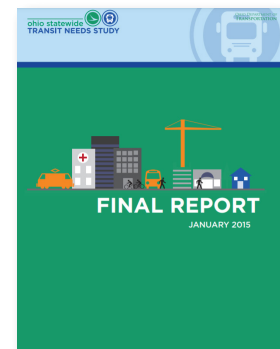
**COVID-19 Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint**  
Ohio Governor's Office



**A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity: Policy Recommendations to Improve Transportation**  
Ohio Legislative Services Commission



**2020-2022 Strategic Action Plan on Aging**  
Ohio Department of Aging



**Transit Needs Study**  
Ohio Department of Transportation

### Notes

1. *A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity: Policy Recommendations to Improve Transportation*. Columbus, OH: Legislative Services Commission, 2017. [https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SDOIM\\_Final\\_TransportationExcerpt.pdf](https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SDOIM_Final_TransportationExcerpt.pdf)
2. Health Policy Institute of Ohio. "What Works to Increase Self-Sufficient Employment," September 2018. <https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/what-works-to-increase-self-sufficient-employment/>
3. *Strategic Action Plan on Aging*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Aging, 2021. <https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/about-us/reports-and-data/2020-2022-strategic-action-plan-on-aging-sapa>