The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets

Webinar begins at 1PM EST
The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets

February 15, 2017
Complete Streets and Public Health

The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets

Image source: Connect Norwalk

@CompleteStreets

The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets
Incomplete Streets are Bad for Health

Pedestrian Fatalities and Physical Inactivity, 2005-2014

Pedestrian fatality rate per 100k
Source: FARS, 2005-2014

4.85

% Adults who are physically inactive
Source: CDC, 2013

26.56

16.4%

31.6%
Tim Vaske
State and Community Advocacy Manager
@Voices4HK
Tim Vaske - State and Community Advocacy Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association
Complete Streets and Health Equity, What’s the Connection?
Redlining in Dayton, OH

- Result of 1930’s U.S. Federal Housing Administration Policy
  - Four Classifications were used: **Type A (Green), Type B (Blue), Type C (Yellow) and Type D (Red).**
  - Red districts were neighborhoods that had any African-Americans
  - Used for determining home loan qualifications.
  - Fair Housing Act of 1968 made it illegal.

Lasting Impact of Redlining

- Lack of access to housing loans
- Limited Transportation Investment
- Access to Healthy Food (Limited Supermarket Areas)
- Access to Affordable Healthcare (Medically Underserved Areas & Health Professional Shortage Areas)
- Limited Access to Employment Opportunities & Centers
- Environmental injustice and racism (exposure to toxins in the water, air, and ground)
Interstate Highway System: 1950’s to 1990’s

I-94 Construction through Rondo, 1966
Photo Source: MN Historical Society

Photo Source: MN Historical Society
Complete Streets Policies and Approaches

- More than 1,000 Complete Streets policies have been passed since 2005
- Most policies address the needs of all users and all modes, to varying extent policies define users.
- Varies across the country on level of implementation, enforcement and reporting.
- While implementation has been successful in many parts of the country, it has not always been equitable.
Complete streets Policies: Understanding Context and Equity

Study Team: University of Illinois at Chicago; Institute for Health Research and Policy
   Jamie Chriqui, PhD (PI)
   Emily Thrun, MUPP, GSAV (urban planner)
   Meredith Perks, MUPP cand. (RA)
   Julien Leider, MA (data manager and analyst)

Funding
   Healthy Eating Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
   National Cancer Institute (part of an R01 where we compiled the policies)
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Physical Activity Policy Research Network+
   Collaborating Center Grant (to co-fund KI work)
Complete streets Policies: Understanding Context and Equity

Rapid Response Research Project – Concluding October 2016

1. Policy Analysis of 800 plus complete streets policies, as of May 2015
2. Qualitative Study exploring the implementation of the policies and assessing what, if any, equity approaches are being taken.

http://go.uic.edu/TransportationEquity
### Policy Analysis of Complete Streets Policies – Key Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th># adopting CS policy (% within jurisdiction type)</th>
<th># adopters explicitly addressing equity in the policy (% of adopters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>649/20,733 (3.1%)</td>
<td>123/649 (19.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties/Consolidated Cities</td>
<td>67/3,041 (2.2%)</td>
<td>9/67 (13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns</td>
<td>81*</td>
<td>8/81 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan planning organizations</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>15/57 (26.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>31/50 (62%)</td>
<td>4/31 (12.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td><strong>828</strong></td>
<td><strong>147/828 (17.8%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The overall row is not the sum of the rows above it as it only counts municipalities crossing county boundaries once but counts state and state Department of Transportation policies separately.

- We do not have appropriate denominator data for these jurisdiction types.

Source: Chriqui, et al., unpublished data
Policy Analysis of Complete Streets Policies – Key Findings

- Complete Streets policies are:
  - Less likely in municipalities with small or medium as compared to large population sizes
  - Associated with greater rates of walking or taking public transit to work
  - There are no significant regional differences or in the median age of the population in municipal Complete Streets policy adoption.

Source: Chriqui, et al., unpublished data
PREVALENCE OF explicit EQUITY language BY POLICY TYPE

N = 147 states, MPOs, counties/consolidated cities, municipalities, and towns with explicit equity language

Source: Chriqui, et al., unpublished data
“Prioritizing Transportation Equity through Complete Streets”

Successes and Challenges:
1. Focusing on equity is the “right thing to do”
2. Stakeholder communication about what equity means is critical
3. Communities are trying to ensure equitable access for all neighborhoods
4. Equity can be prioritized through other policies and programs
5. Funding and resources are vital to successful equitable project prioritization
6. Project prioritization is based on the most pressing needs

Source: Chriqui, et al., unpublished data
1. Connect with the community to bring the community voice into the transportation planning discussions. **Learn the history.**

2. **Be the Expert.** Connect the transportation leaders with the work happening around Community Health Assessments (CHAs), chronic disease planning.

3. **Build public support** and awareness around the needs and disparities in relation to how the streets and communities are designed and built.

4. **Connect other stakeholders** into the policy work, including social justice, housing, education, aging, healthy food access and healthcare advocates.
Role of the Public Health Community

6. **Be prepared** for tough discussions around the need for equitable implementation and also around community concerns around displacement / gentrification.

7. Help communities identify their spokespeople and help those spokespeople **prepare the story**.

8. Leverage your subject matter expertise with media, community groups and decision-makers. **Helps others leverage** their own subject matter expertise.

9. Ensure that municipalities and states develop performance measures around equitable implementation; **ensure there is accountability** with those measures.
Voices for Healthy Kids Complete Streets Toolkit:

http://completestreets.voicesforhealthykids.org/
Voices for Healthy Kids Complete Streets Toolkit:

The Healthier Way is the Easier Way
When We Have Better Bike Lanes and Sidewalks.

http://completestreets.voicesforhealthykids.org/
Tim Vaske, State and Community Advocacy Manager, Voices for Healthy Kids

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The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets
Advancing healthy communities through partnerships

The Role of Public Health in Complete Streets, Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Kate Robb, MSPH
American Public Health Association, Center for Public Health Policy, Environmental Health, Policy Analyst

@CompleteStreets
Plan4Health

Full integration of planning and public health to benefit people where they live, learn, work, and play.
Plan4Health Coalitions

http://plan4health.us/
Bensenville, IL

- Healthy Living Coalition, B-Well Bensenville, focuses on increasing physical activity
- Coalition comprised of:
  - DuPage County Health Dept.
  - Village of Bensenville
  - Bensenville Park District
  - Active Transportation Alliance
Bensenville, IL

- Launched community-wide survey to determine specific policy recommendations and prioritize community change.
- Materials in Spanish and English.
Bensenville, IL

- Created an Active Transportation Plan and a Complete Streets Policy.
- Survey feedback incorporated into Complete Streets priorities and active transportation policies.

Photo by Alex Garcia
Columbus, IN

- Reach Healthy Communities Columbus focuses on increasing physical activity.
- Coalition comprised of:
  - City of Columbus-Bartholomew County Planning Department
  - Columbus Parks and Recreation Department
  - Healthy Communities
  - Various Community Members

"Beyond safety and congestion, many of our most pressing health challenges are related in some way to our relationship with the street, including such challenges as reduced physical activity, widespread social isolation, mental illness, increased vehicle emissions and lack of transportation options." – Laura Garrett, Community Initiatives Lead for Reach Healthy Communities
Columbus, IN

Photo obtained from: http://www.therepublic.com/2015/08/29/focus_on_safer_healthier_ways_to_travel_in_city/
Columbus, IN

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Columbus, IN

• Successful community engagement:
  – Have conversations rather than ‘public input’
  – Be flexible
  – Offer multiple opportunities for input
Working together

- Collaborate to achieve health equity
- Understand roles
- Leverage existing resources
- Work towards a shared vision
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Special thanks to Elizabeth Hartig, Project Coordinator of the Plan4Health Project, American Planning Association
ABOUT APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 140-plus year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at www.apha.org.
Questions?

Type your questions in the ReadyTalk chat box
Want to learn more?

Stay tuned for upcoming webinars
How are MPOs prioritizing health?

Join Transportation for America next **Tuesday, February 21**, for the launch webinar for this new paper produced with APHA.

It examines **four** policy levers MPOs have at their disposal to build more walking & biking projects — with specific short real-life stories to go with each.

Sign up:  [t4america.org/healthy-metros](http://t4america.org/healthy-metros)
Creating value: Assessing the return on investment in Complete Streets

1PM EST on March 23, 2017