



Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019: Transportation and Health Equity
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Challenge: Data show the need to direct prevention efforts to communities with poverty rates higher than the state average as well as vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Serious injury and fatal crashes are more likely for people living in poverty, which includes an overrepresentation of people of color, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Additional vulnerable populations include young people, people with limited English proficiency, and people living in rural areas.

Key issues in traffic safety and health equity include:

- **Lack of transportation infrastructure** – Communities with poverty rates higher than the state average are more likely to rely on walking, bicycling, and transit for their transportation needs
- **Transportation and housing** – The location of affordable housing is not always accessible for less costly alternatives to driving
- **Disproportionate transportation burden** – Households below moderate income pay higher combined transportation and housing costs relative to their incomes (63 percent of average monthly income)

Strategies and Objectives for Positive Change:

This is the first time the Target Zero plan has included equity as a factor in how we plan to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries in Washington State.

Strategies include:

- Multicultural communications, training, transcreation, awareness, inclusion, action
- Demographic analysis to identify communities of concern
- Investment in pedestrian and bicyclist safety efforts
- Conduct research on how to better identify older drivers most at risk for a fatal or serious injury crash, and develop strategies for early intervention with at-risk senior drivers
- Seek legislation to allow for financial assistance to underserved populations for some portion of the driver training curriculum

What You Can Do:

- Support and participate in increased strategies related to transportation health equity – see page 220
- Support legislation and investments to assist underserved populations, particularly for older and younger drivers in marginalized communities
- Increase support for pedestrians and bicyclists