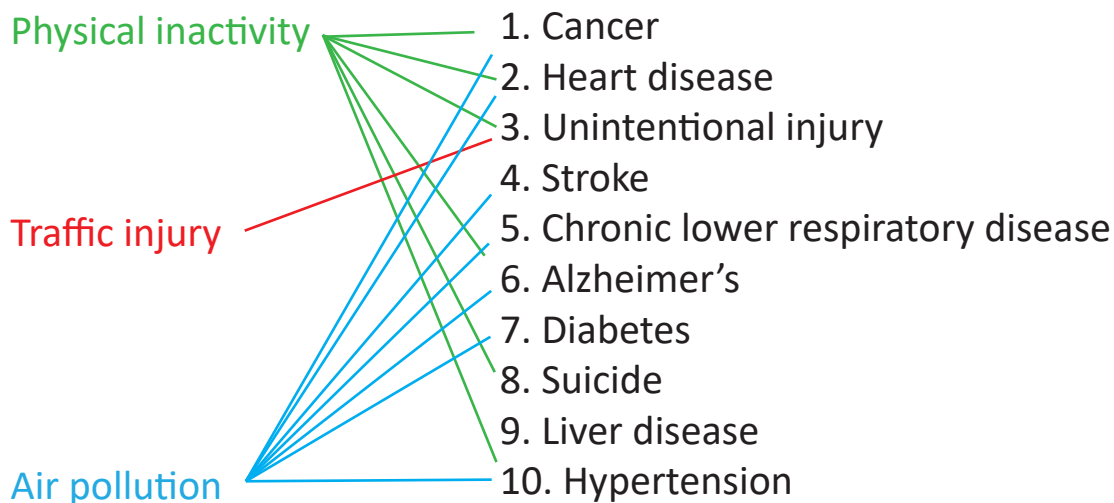


# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT

The purpose of this report is to establish baseline data on transportation safety for the Black/African American and African Immigrant/Refugee populations for use by transportation professionals including engineers, urban planners and transportation advocates to gauge progress toward transportation safety and racial equity goals.



## Leading Causes Of Death



**Traffic crashes are a contributor to unintentional injuries**, the third leading cause of death in Multnomah County during the ten year period of 2007-2016. The mortality rate from unintentional injury for Black/African American residents is 1.17 times the rate for white residents in Multnomah County.

## Six Dimensions Of Transportation Safety

Investigating the contributing factors, we examine a wide array of transportation safety outcomes that capture experiences of road users. While similar reports encompass only serious injury and death, this report presents local data on six intersecting concepts.

### Fatal Injuries

The death rate from traffic crash injuries among Black Multnomah County residents was almost twice the rate among white residents from 2013-2017.

### Non-fatal Injuries

Black Multnomah County residents appear to be over-represented among patients visiting emergency departments for traffic crash injuries.

### Biased Behavior Among Road Users

Black males waited 32% longer for cars to yield at a crosswalk in Portland.

### Biased Policing

Black or African American adults were four times more likely to enter the criminal justice system compared to white adults.

### Harassment

Black or African American adults were the most common targets of racial bias crimes in Portland, 60% of which took place in a public space.

### Violent Crimes

Danger from violent crimes influences travel choices in the Black community.

# PSE action steps for transportation agencies to consider for sustainable change

**Policy Strategies**  
That correct historic injuries

**Systems Strategies**  
That reinforce accountability

**Environmental Strategies**  
That alter physical spaces

## *Policy Strategies:*

- Establish a policy and practice of authentic community engagement with communities of color.
- Adopt policy of establishing measurable equity goals and routine evaluation.
- Institutionalize evaluation to measure impact of decisions on communities most burdened by inequities.

## *Systems Strategies:*

- Collaborate regularly with public health partners to analyze safety data disaggregated by race and assess progress on racial equity goals.
- Authentic community engagement includes:
  - Engage with culturally specific organizations and community organizations representing groups experiencing health disparities.
  - Conduct accessible planning and engagement activities including realistic timeline and locations.
  - Compensate community members and organizations for their expertise.
- Sufficiently resource equity managers to evaluate progress.

## *Environmental Strategies:*

- Reduce injuries through investment in scientifically supported infrastructure changes such as, traffic calming, speed control and mode separation to reduce injuries.
- Prioritize improvements in neighborhoods with a high proportion of Black residents.
- Enhance feelings of safety and belonging by investing in artwork, street name changes, and cultural events in the right-of-way.

*Transportation agencies are in a unique position to reduce health disparities in the African American, African Immigrant & Refugee communities through sustainable policy, systems, and environmental changes.*

**FULL REPORT LINK**

<https://multco.us/reach/physical-activity-strategy>

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