

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Housing and Transportation

Group 6: Crystal White, Corinne O'Donnell, Deidra Welch, Jazmine Davis, Melissa Dakin, Lystra Noray, Megan Sax, & Aliyah Wright
Adelphi University, School of Social Work

Introduction to Environmental Justice

The topic of environmental justice covers how the physical environment, specifically in our case transportation and housing, can make struggling neighborhood conditions even worse (Blatto, 2018). Effects of this injustice include: health issues (lack of access to supermarkets and proper nutrition), education, job access and access to obtaining gainful employment and wealth accumulation

Connection of Environmental Justice & Transportation to Historical Systems of Oppression

The physical environment and environmental injustice are areas of oppression that are deeply rooted in not only our communities but have been legally upheld as well. Where people have been able to live and find housing are often rooted in oppressive policies and laws that were written in exclusionary ways. Not only does the lack of transportation create physical ramifications but it holds symbolic issues as well. Hutchinson states that people tend to respond to both concrete and symbolic aspects of their environment. This poster demonstrates how transportation has a negative impact within different types of communities and the solutions and call to action to help resolve these problems.

Issues

1. Isolation of households without transportation and high cost of living for households close to transportation.
2. The impact of facilities on low-income neighborhoods.
3. Social Impacts: There are social impacts related to the incidence of crashes and pedestrian accidents and deaths that are concentrated in these neighborhoods

Call to Action

Issue 1:

- Are you frustrated with the cost and amount of time it takes to get to work? Fight for mandated evaluation of local transportation systems! Make sure they work for the communities they are servicing!

Issue 2:

- Does the quality of air in your neighborhood concern you? Are you worried about the health of your family and friends? Help reduce vehicle emissions, improve air quality and contribute to better health outcomes by fighting for accessible walking and bicycling routes in your neighborhood today!
- Your home should be your safe space! A hideaway from the crowds, cars, buses and trains! Make it a "breathe easy space" by advocating for the installation of electronically powered appliances that will reduce respiratory issues!

Issue 3:

- Why should walking through your neighborhood be less enjoyable than driving through it? Stand up for pedestrians by turning sidewalks into landscapes lined with greenery and lighting!
- Let them have space! Fight for sidewalks that can fit the number of people using them!



Proposed Solutions

A solution would be for community administration to mandate the success of their transportation systems and get their community involved with this workforce development boards, labor organizations, human services agencies and other public, private and non-profit organizations involved in planning.(isiarticles.com. (n.d.) 2022). A multi-pronged approach is necessary to substantially reduce vehicle emissions, including supporting environments that encourage walking as an attractive option, increased options for safe and comfortable bicycling, more reliable and attractive public transit, shared mobility options that support a car-free or car-lite lifestyle, and adoption of electric vehicles.(Environmental Impacts of Transportation. (n.d.)2022).