



BROADER COSTS OF UNAFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation-related “cost-cutting” strategies have consequences not only for ALICE households, but also for the local economy and the wider community:

- **Older vehicles that may need repairs make driving less safe and increase pollution for all.** More older vehicles on the road – as during the Recession, when sales of new vehicles declined – means higher levels of harmful emissions.²⁵
- **Uninsured vehicles increase costs for all motorists.** These costs, largely borne by insurance companies, are passed on to insured drivers in the form of higher premiums. Nationwide, uninsured motorists add \$67 per year to the bill of a typical policyholder.²⁶
- **Lack of reliable transportation can exacerbate an emergency.** When there is an emergency, such as a child being sick or injured, lack of access to reliable transportation can result in poor options for ALICE families: forgo treatment, rely on friends or neighbors for transportation, or resort to an ambulance to get to a hospital, which also increases costs for all taxpayers. Providing non-emergency transportation (e.g., shuttles to doctor appointments or ambulatory care centers) for those without reliable transportation is also expensive, especially in rural areas.²⁷

LIMITED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Urban sprawl has been shown to limit social mobility for low-income children. Those in the bottom 20 percent of the income scale are more likely to rise to the top 20 percent if they are born in a low-sprawl area. Urban sprawl also negatively impacts health outcomes such as obesity and life expectancy, increasing health care costs for the wider community.²⁴

Sources

²⁴ Smart Growth America. (2014). *Measuring sprawl 2014*. Retrieved from <http://old.smartgrowthamerica.org/measuring-sprawl>

²⁵ Bishop, G., & Stedman, D. (2014). *The recession of 2008 and its impact on light-duty vehicle emissions in three western United States cities*. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 48(24), 14822–14827. Retrieved from <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es5043518?source=cen&>

26

Insurance Research Council. (2017). *One in eight drivers uninsured*. Retrieved from <https://www.insurance-research.org/sites/default/files/downloads/UMNR1005.pdf>

Wiltz, T. (February 20, 2015). *Why uninsured drivers cost us over \$2.6 billion a year*. *The Fiscal Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/02/20/Why-Uninsured-Drivers-Cost-Us-Over-26-Billion-Year>

27

Myers, A. (2015, January 7). *Non-emergency medical transportation: A vital lifeline for a healthy community*. *National Conference of State Legislatures*. Retrieved from <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/non-emergency-medical-transportation-a-vital-lifeline-for-a-healthy-community.aspx>



Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed