



## CONSEQUENCES • TRANSPORTATION

### 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.<sup>25</sup>
- **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.<sup>26</sup>
- **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.<sup>27</sup>

**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.<sup>24</sup>

**Sources** ^

<sup>24</sup>  
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**Asset Limited, Income  
Constrained, Employed**

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