



# Public Transportation and Health

**Todd Litman**

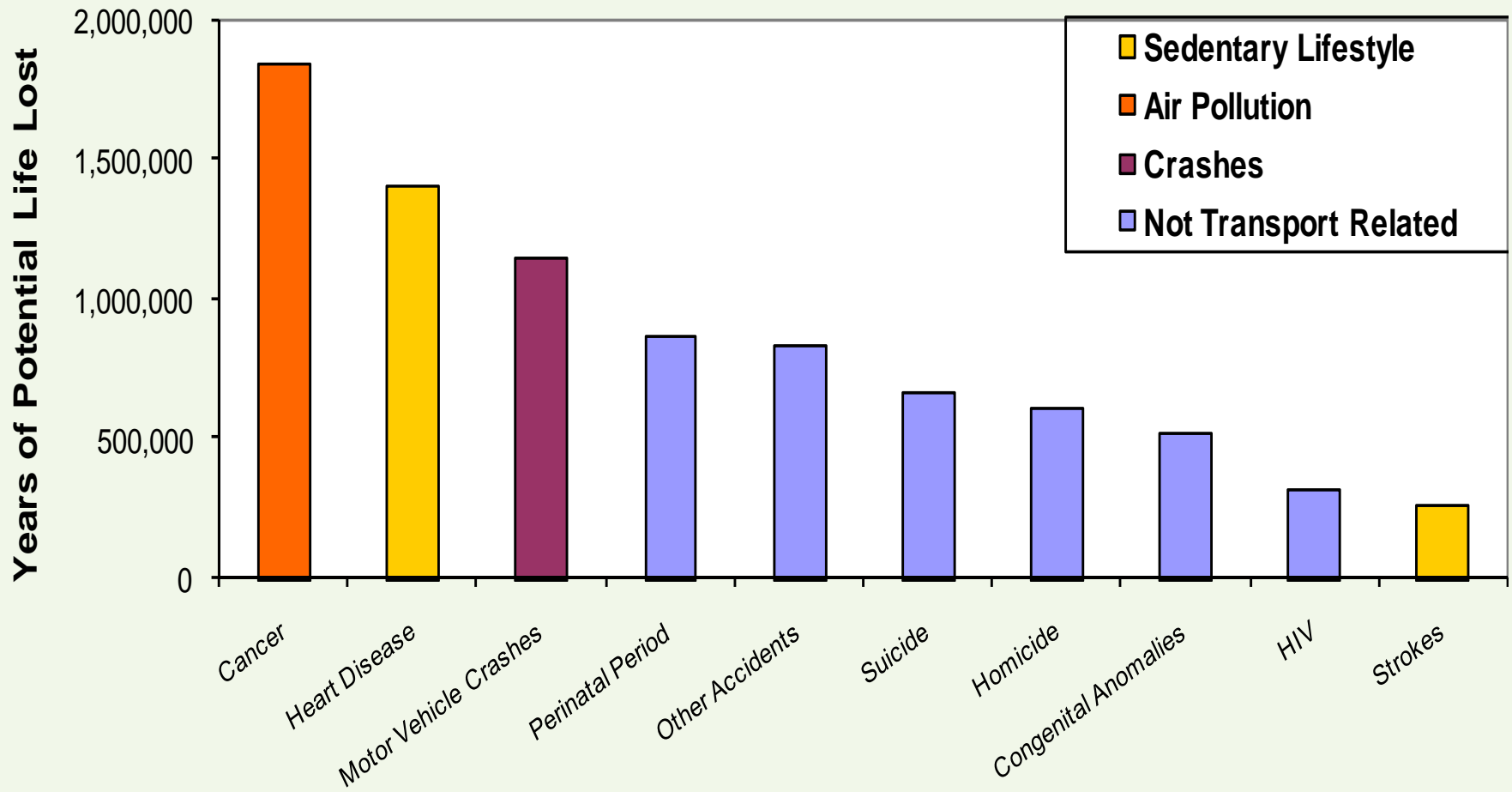
*Victoria Transport Policy Institute*

Presented 13-14 November 2008

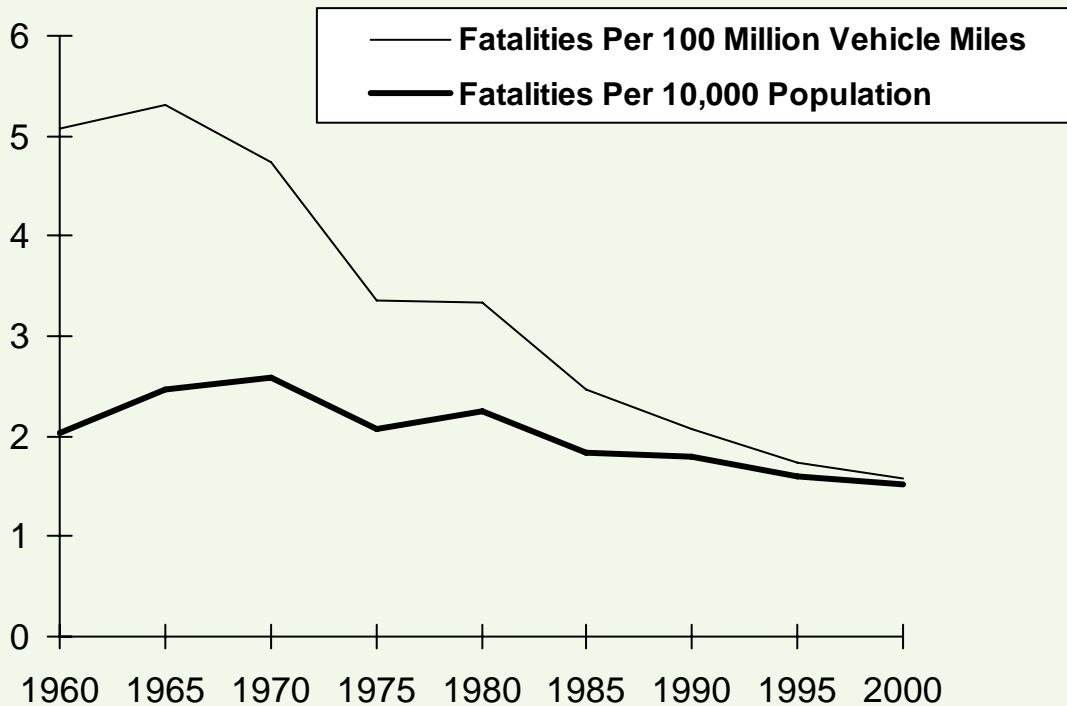
*Linking Transportation Policy and Public Health*

Arlington, VA

# *Transportation Health Impacts*

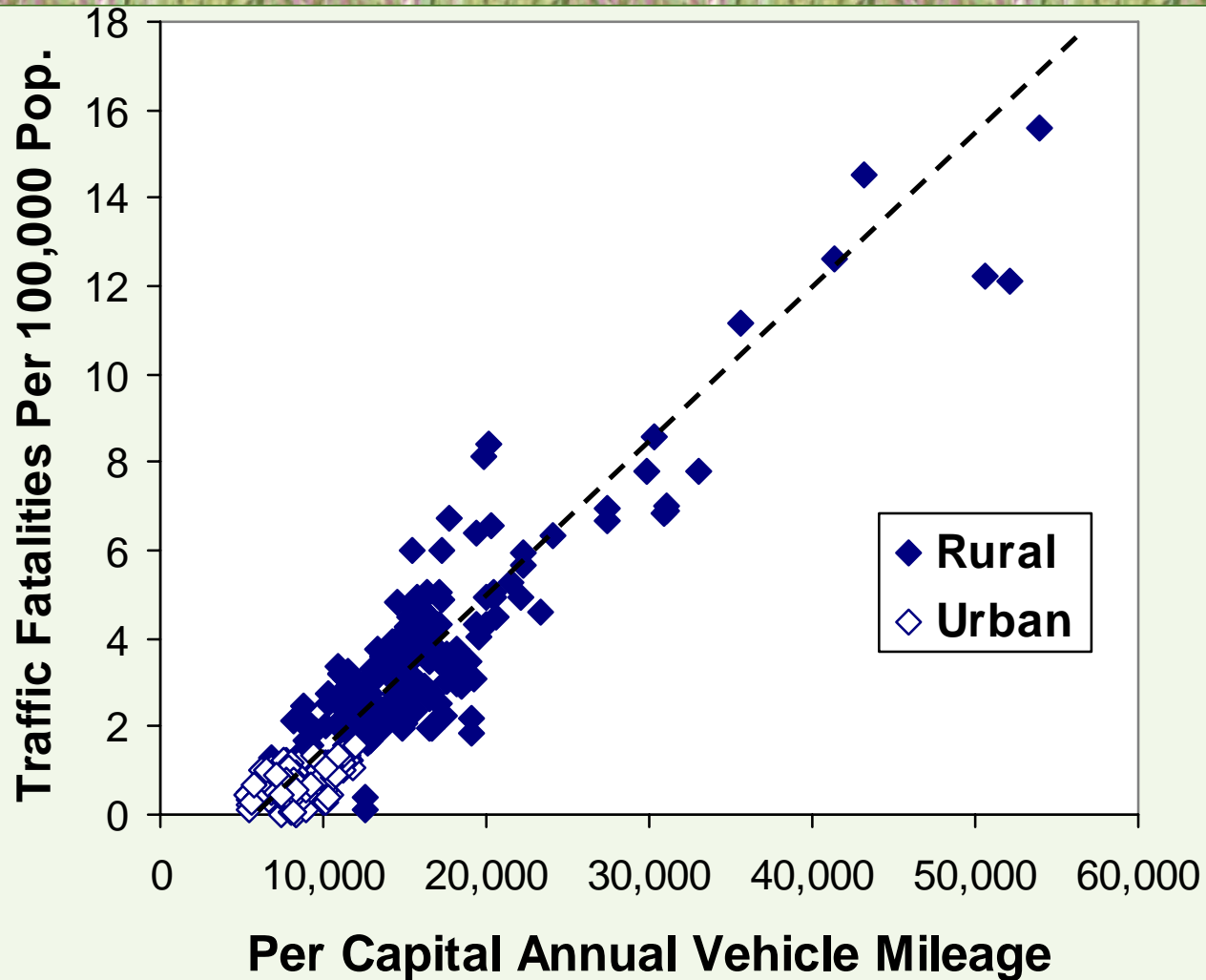


# Traffic Fatality Rates

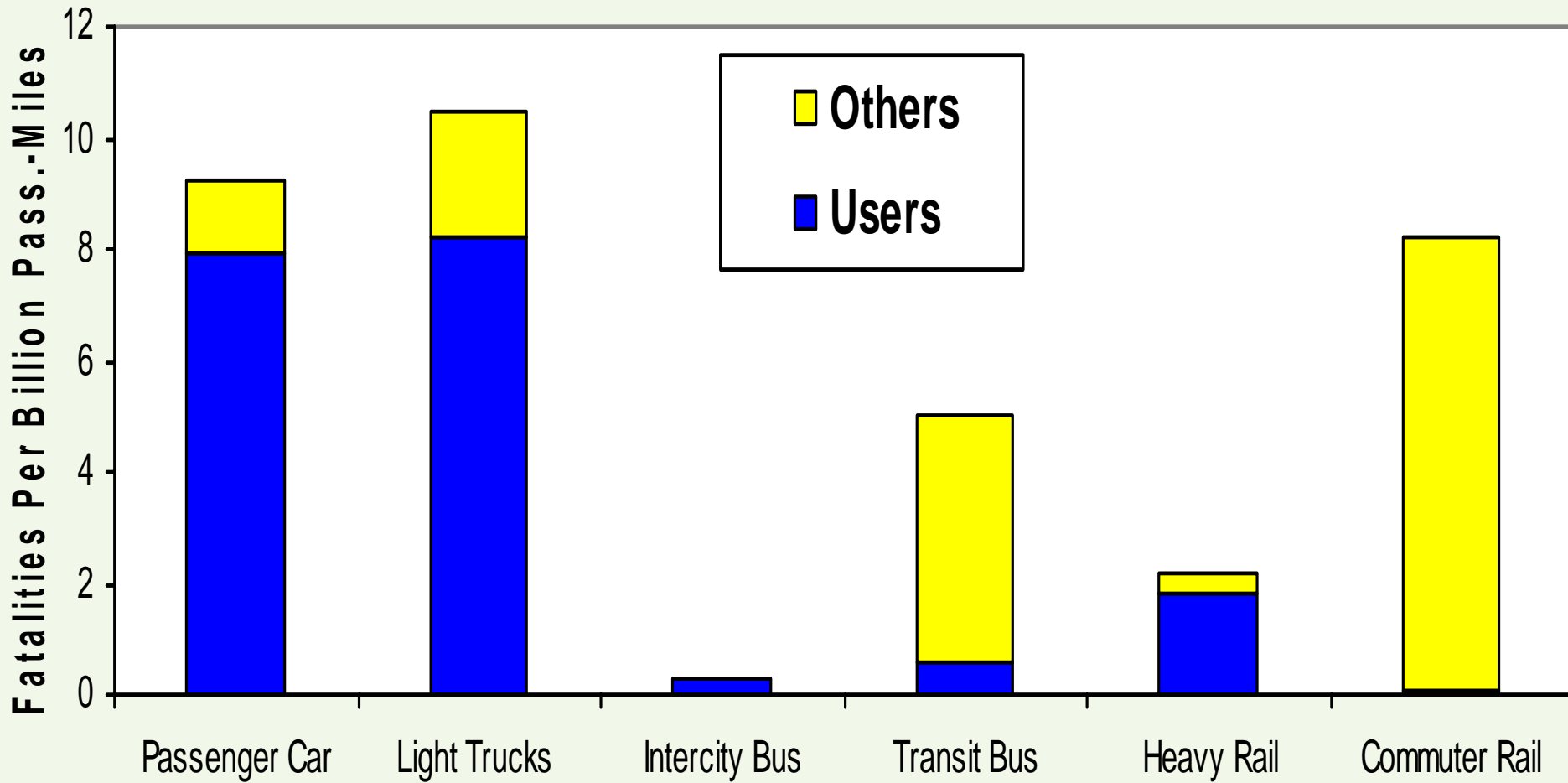


When crash rates are measured per vehicle mile, they declined significantly, but when measured per capita they show relatively little decline due to increased per capita vehicle mileage.

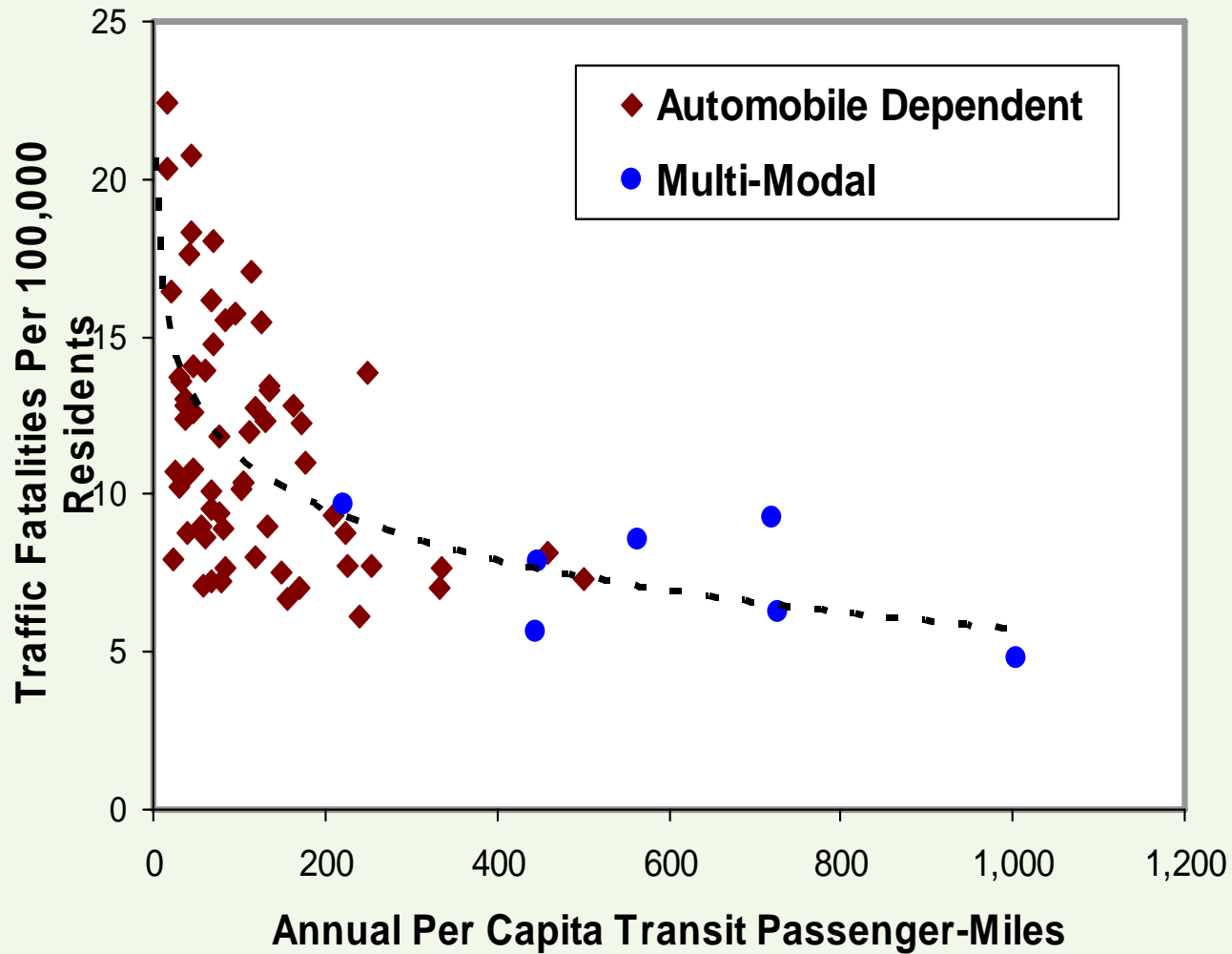
# *U.S. Crash Rates*



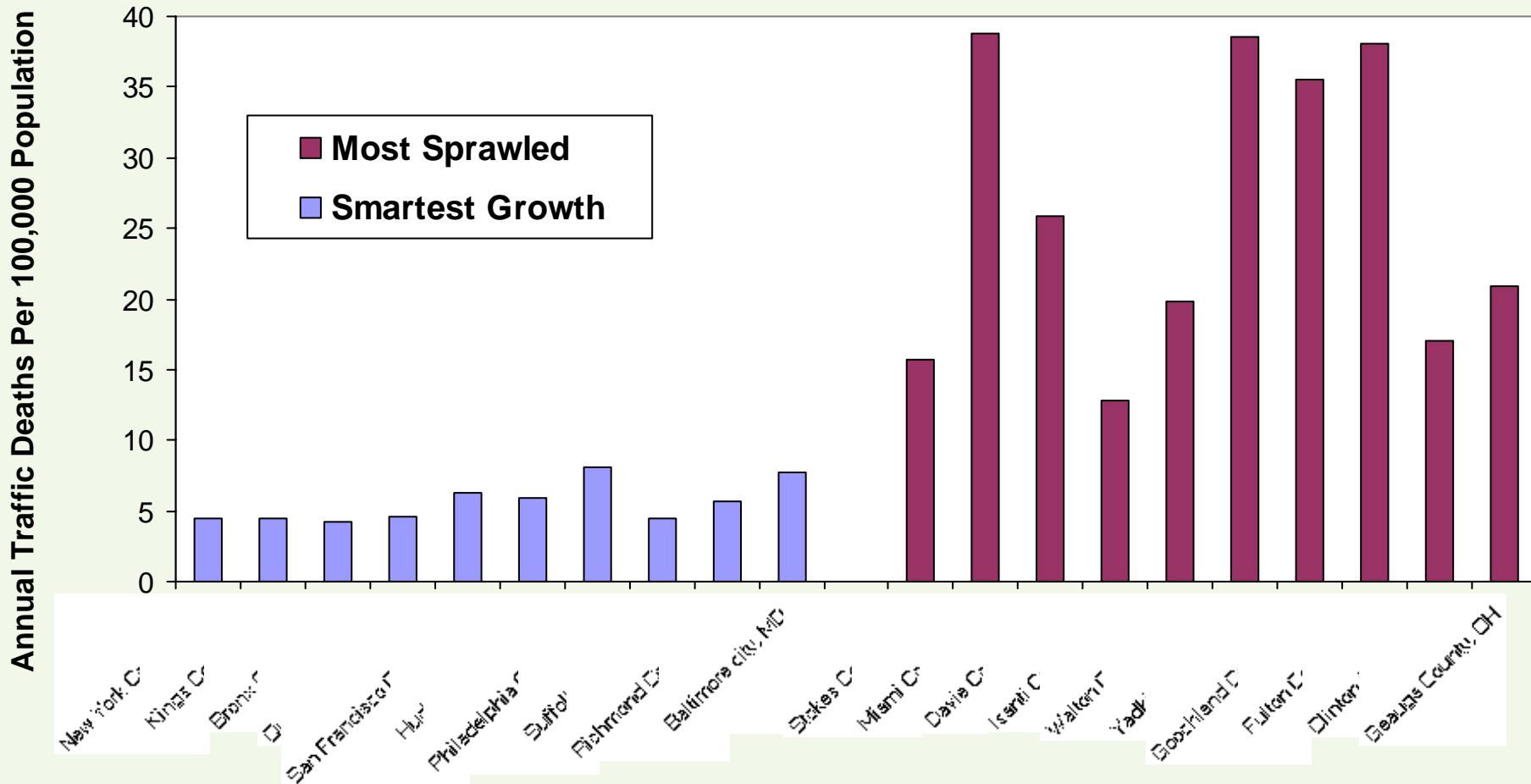
# *Fatality Rates*



# Traffic Fatalities



# Smart Growth Safety Impacts



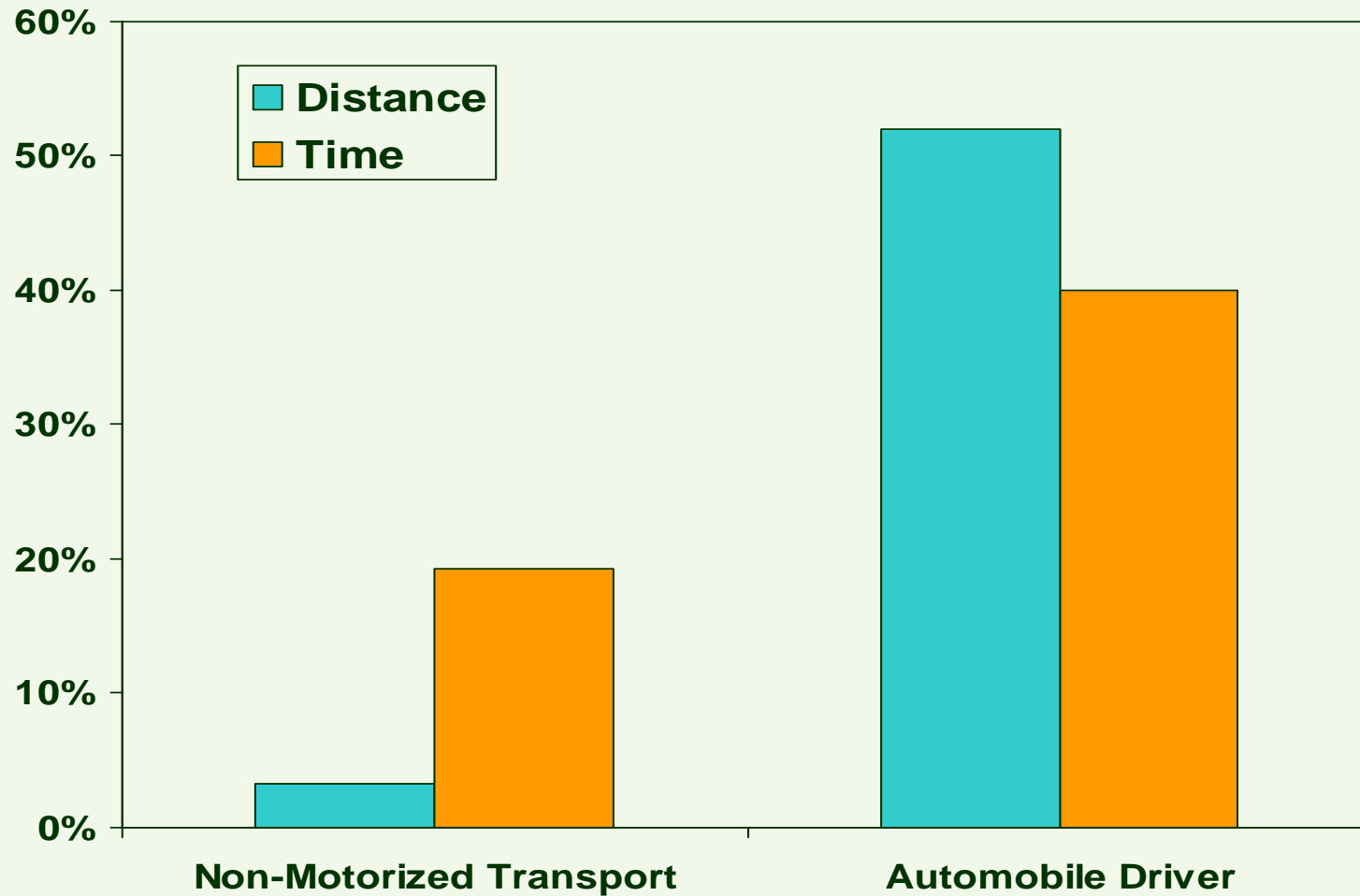


# *What Gets People Moving?*

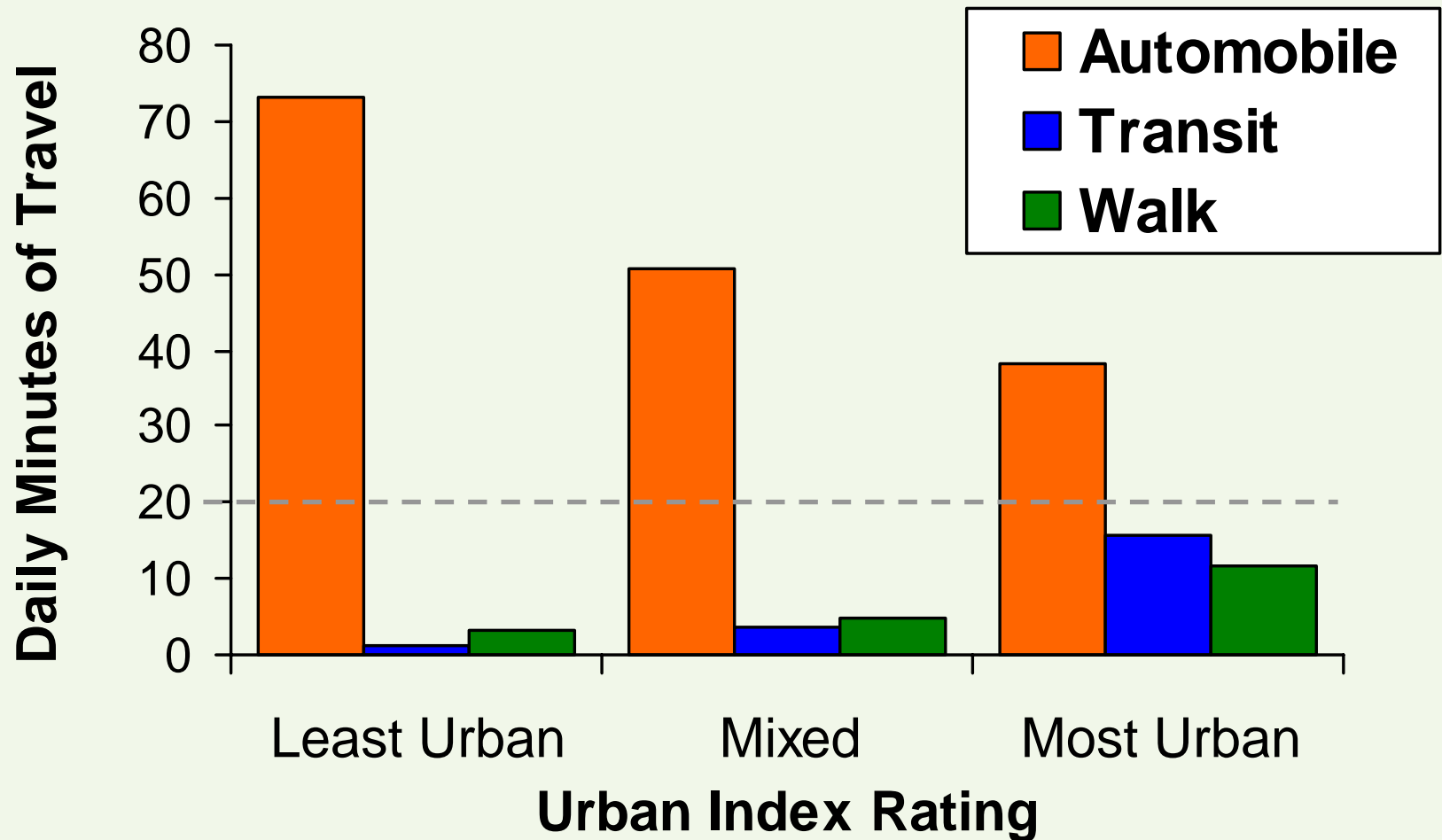
Walking is a natural and essential activity. If you ask sedentary people what physical activity they will most likely to stick with, walking usually ranks first.



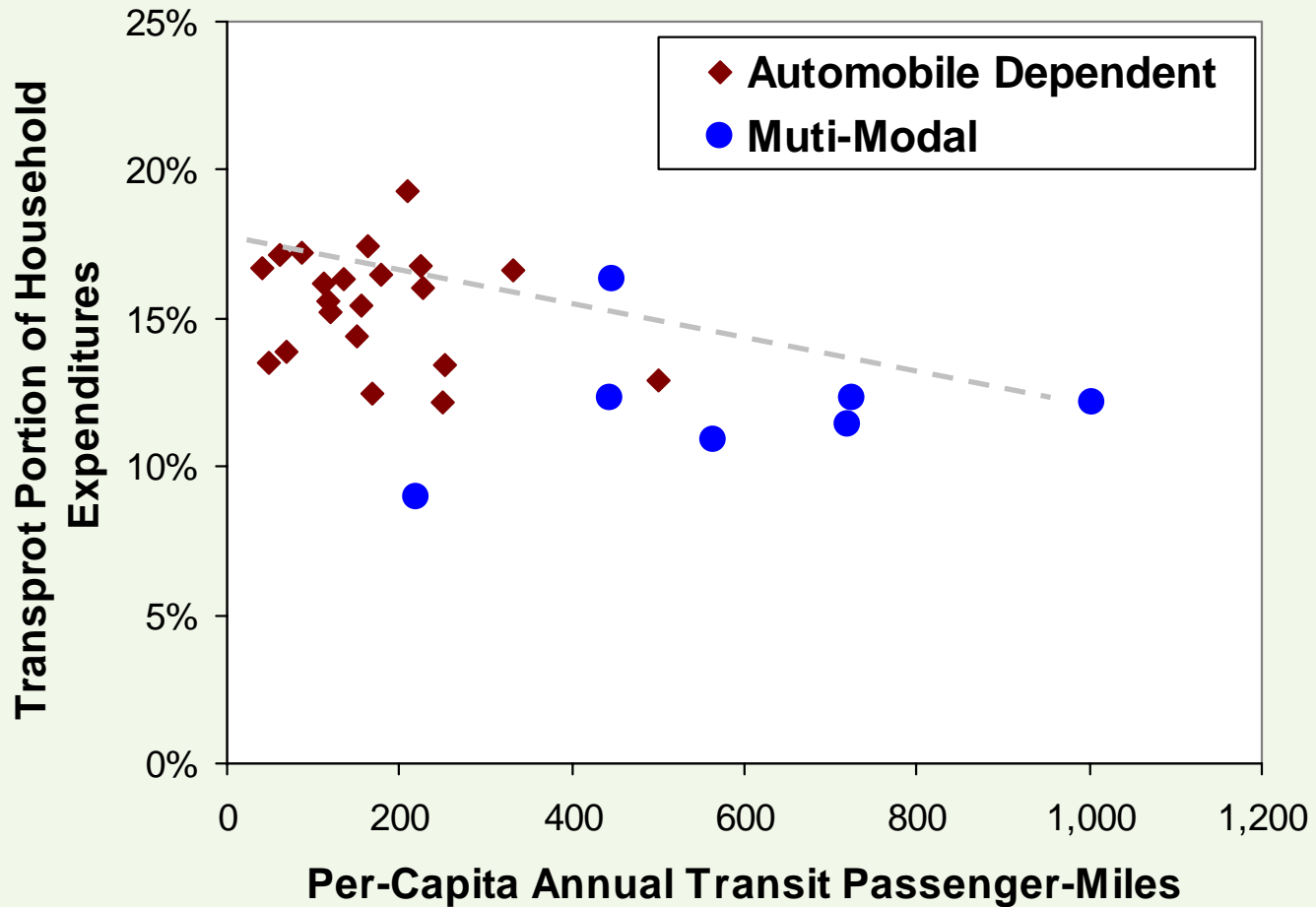
# *How Transport Is Measured*



# *Land Use Impacts On Travel*



# *Transportation Affordability*



# *Equity*



A more diverse transportation systems helps achieve equity objectives:

- A fair share of public resources for non-drivers.
- Financial savings to lower-income people.
- Provides basic mobility for people who are physically, socially or economically disadvantaged.

# *Win-Win Transportation Solutions*

Market reforms justified on economic principles that help provide various economic, social and environmental benefits.

- Improved travel options.
- Incentives to use travel alternatives.
- Accessible land use.
- Policy and market reforms.



# *Mode Shifts*



How do we  
convince people  
who drive luxury  
cars to shift mode?

# *Attracting Discretionary Riders*

- Quality service (convenient, fast, comfortable).
- Affordable fares.
- Support (park & ride facilities, walking and cycling improvements, commute trip reduction programs).
- Attractive stops and stations.
- Transit Oriented Development
- Convenient information.
- Road pricing, parking pricing, distance-based fees.
- Positive Image.



# *Recommendations*



- Increase public transit funding.
- More comprehensive, lease-cost planning.
- Improve transportation data collection (particularly NMT).
- Develop better planning tools for more comprehensive evaluation.
- Give transit priority in traffic (bus lanes and signal control systems).
- Improve transit vehicles (quieter, smoother, more spacious, climate controlled, less polluting, easier to board, etc.).
- Accommodate people with disabilities.
- Improve transit stops and stations.
- Mobility management strategies that encourage use of alternative modes (road and parking pricing, promotion programs).
- Convenient, integrated fares using electronic payment systems.
- Improved transit marketing and user information.
- More integrated transport and land use planning. Encourage transit-oriented development.
- Improved walking and cycling access to transit stops and stations.

# *Comparing Benefits*

<b>Planning Objectives</b>	<b>Expand Roadways</b>	<b>Efficient and Alt. Fuel Vehicles</b>	<b>Mode Shifts</b>
Reduce traffic congestion	✓		✓
Roadway cost savings			✓
Parking cost savings			✓
Consumer cost savings			✓
Improve mobility options			✓
Improve traffic safety			✓
Energy conservation		✓	✓
Pollution reduction		✓	✓
Land use objectives			✓
Public fitness & health			✓



“Promoting Public Health Through Smart Growth: Building Healthier Communities Through Transportation And Land Use Policies ”

“If Health Matters: Integrating Public Health Objectives in Transport Planning”

“Safe Travels: Evaluating Mobility Management Traffic Safety Impacts ”

“Evaluating Public Transit Benefits and Costs”

“Online TDM Encyclopedia”

and more...

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