

# EQUITY EMPHASIS AREAS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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## Geographic Specificity To Aid Actions

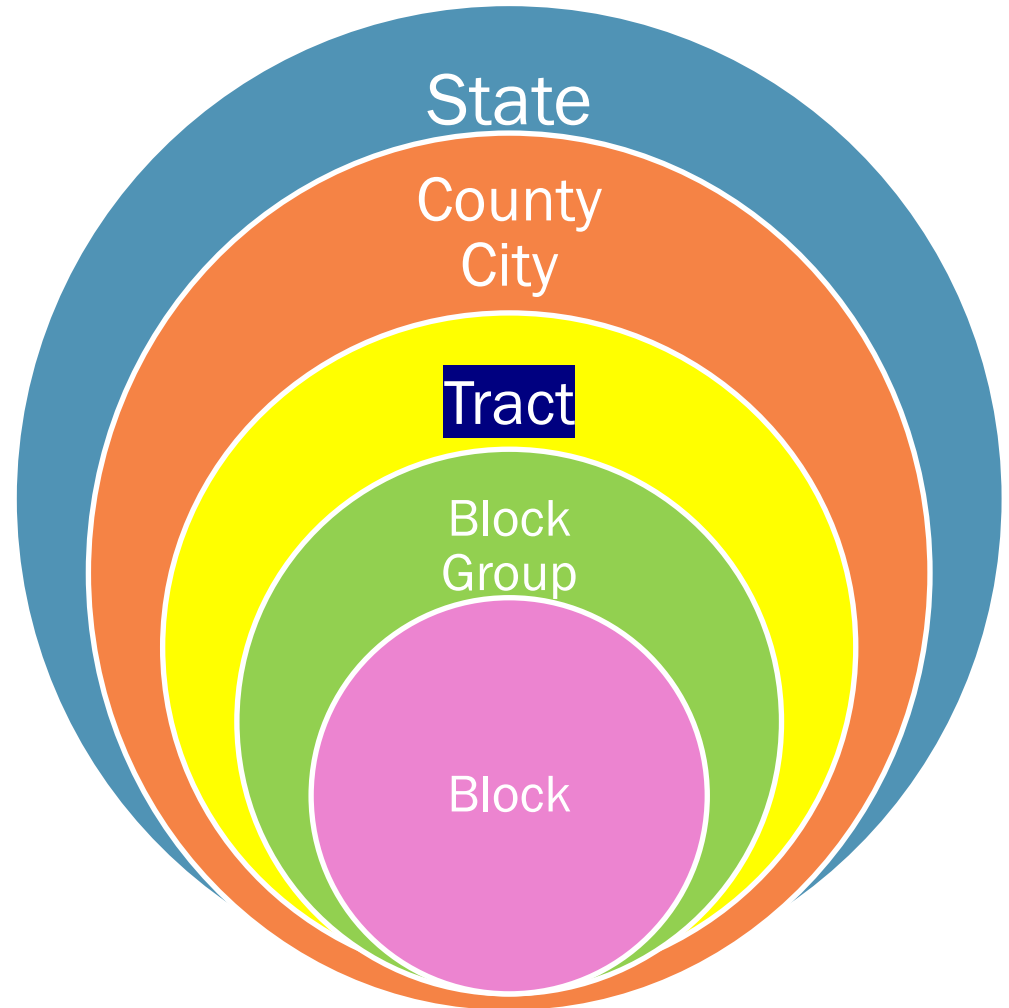
Kanti Srikanth  
Deputy Executive Director, COG

Chief Equity Officers Committee, COG  
May 27, 2021



# Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)

Geographic areas corresponding to **U.S. Census tracts** with concentration of **low-income** and / or **minority population** above regional average.



# Why Low Income & Minority:

## Title VI: Civil Rights Act of 1964

Prohibit discrimination based on **race, color, or national origin** under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance

## Environmental Justice (EO 12898)

Recipients of Federal funds must identify and avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on **minority and low-income populations**



# Low Income / Minority Definitions

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- **Low Income:**

A person is considered low-income if their household income is less than 1 1/2 times the federal government's official poverty threshold.

- **Minority groups:**

**African American** - *A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.*

**Hispanic or Latino** – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

**Asian** - *A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.*



# Designating Census Tracts as EEA

## Criteria

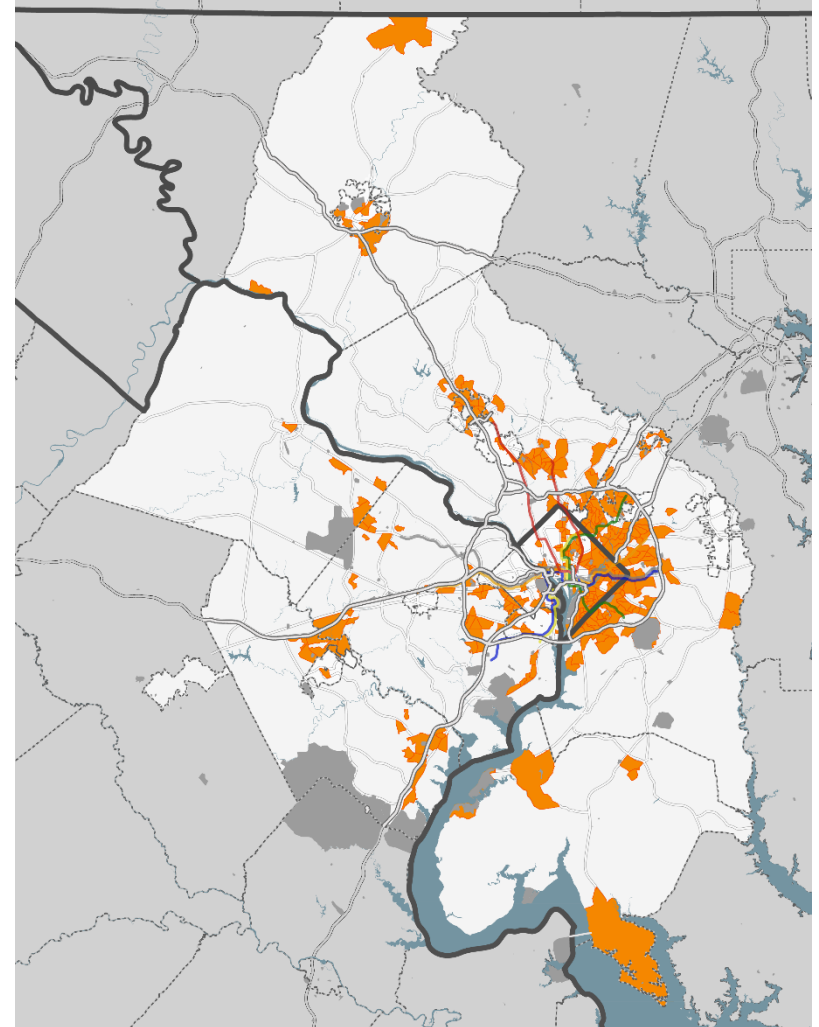
- **Low-Income** concentration more than 1.5 times the regional average.

OR

- High concentrations of **2+** minority population groups

OR

- High concentrations of at least **1 minority** population groups **with low-income** concentration at or above the regional average



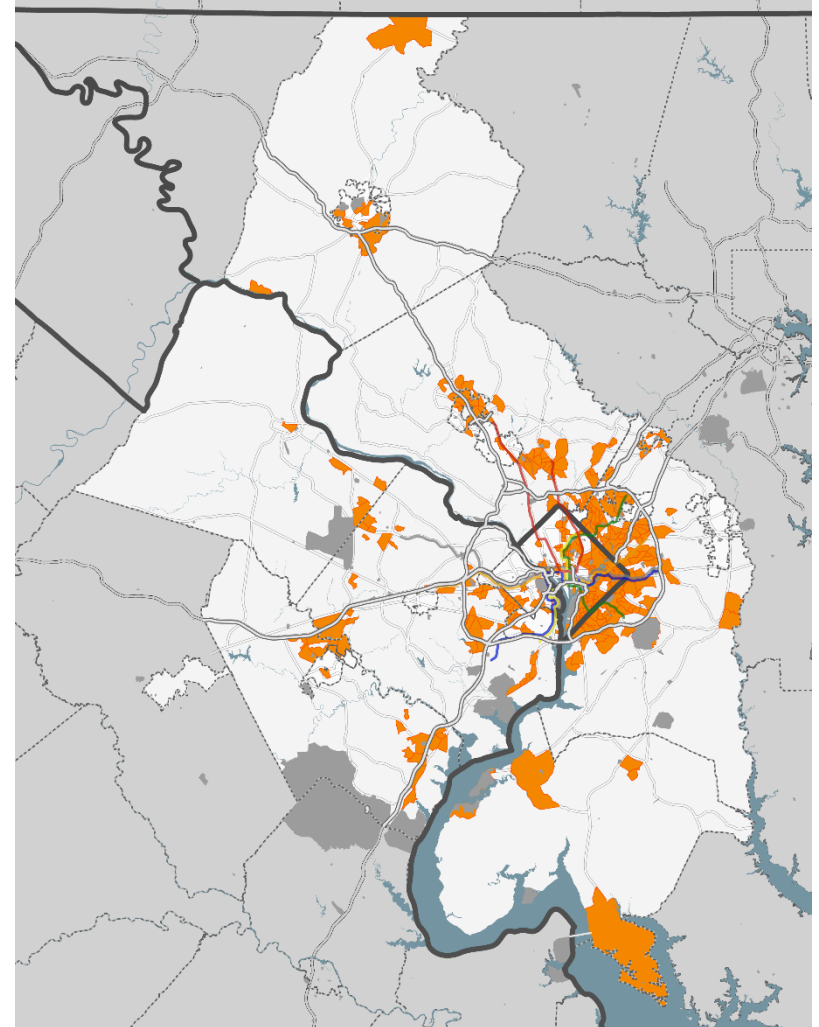
# EEA Tool at your fingertips!

Detailed information & reports  
– COG Website:

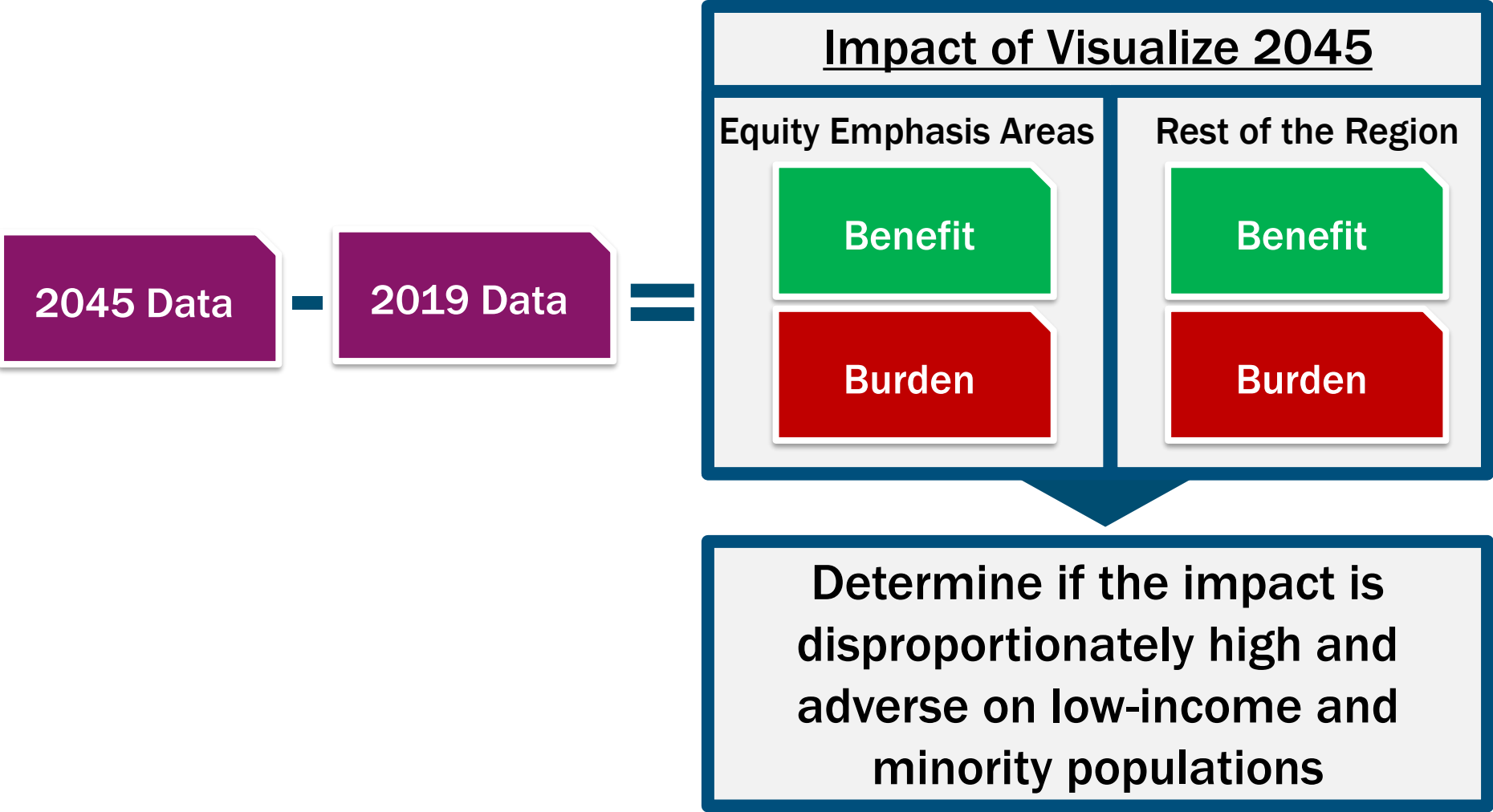
<https://www.mwcog.org/transportation/planning-areas/fairness-and-accessibility/environmental-justice/equity-emphasis-areas/>

GIS Tool – COG Website:

<http://gis.mwcog.org/webmaps/tpb/clrp/ej/>



# Application of EEAs: Transportation Plan



# Transportation Plan: Summary Findings

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## Determination:

Planned projects of Visualize 2045 would not have a disproportionate and adverse impact on low-income and minority populations

- ✓ Seven measures: Similar **Benefits** for EEAs and the Rest of the Region
- ✓ One measure: Disproportionate **Benefits** for EEAs
- Two measures: Similar **Burdens** for EEAs and the Rest of the Region

## Improvement Opportunities:

- Close the gap in difference in magnitude of benefit / dis-benefit between EEAs & Non-EEAs

## Limitations:

- Impacts of all EEAs combined not individual EEAs
- Combined impact of all projects and policies– not individual project / policy
- Current location of EEAs remain unchanged in 2045
- Other factors not considered include: Safety and comfort; Reliability; Availability of information and ease of use; Language barriers





# Application of EEAs: Roadway Safety

How do EEAs compare to the rest of the region when it comes to roadway fatalities and serious injuries?

Jurisdiction	Average Population in EEAs	Percentage of Population in EEAs	Percentage of Fatalities in EEAs	Percentage of Serious Injuries in EEAs
<b>Urban Core</b>	<b>447,026</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>46.8%</b>
District of Columbia	355,176	55.0%	65.9%	54.4%
Arlington County	46,778	20.7%	14.3%	16.4%
City of Alexandria	45,072	29.8%	57.9%	25.6%
<b>Inner Suburbs</b>	<b>880,947</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>
Montgomery County	254,559	24.8%	44.0%	28.9%
Prince George's County	412,062	45.9%	41.0%	39.2%
Fairfax County	214,326	18.9%	16.2%	18.0%
<b>Outer Suburbs</b>	<b>199,793</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
Charles County	18,058	11.7%	13.9%	21.7%
Frederick County	39,929	16.4%	21.4%	24.2%
Loudoun County	25,837	7.1%	11.9%	8.7%
Prince William County	101,648	22.9%	30.0%	29.7%
Manassas	7,556	18.4%	16.7%	11.0%
Manassas Park	6,765	42.7%	0.0%	42.9%
<b>National Capital Region</b>	<b>1,527,766</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>28.7%</b>



# EEA Roadway Safety: Summary Findings

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- Contain 29 percent of the region's population yet they account for 34 percent of the region's fatalities
- Contain 42 percent of the Urban Core's population yet they account for 59 percent of the Urban Core's fatalities
- Contain 16 percent of the Outer Suburb's population yet they account for 20 percent of the Outer Suburb's serious injuries
- Have higher percentages of fatalities involving young drivers, pedestrians, crashes at intersections, and crashes on major arterials



# Other Applications!?

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- What other aspect of Community Services within an EEA would you want to examine and compare to non-EEA?
- How would you use findings of such geographically focused equity analysis to inform decision making?
- Sample topics:
  - Inequities in conditions for wellness in this region?  
<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2020/10/26/uneven-opportunities-how-conditions-for-wellness-vary-across-the-metropolitan-washington-region-health-health-data/>
  - Impediments to equitable housing affordability?  
(COG's Regional Housing Equity Plan: <https://www.mwcog.org/fairhousing>)



# METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON HEALTHY PLACES INDEX INDICATORS BY DOMAIN:

Bivariate correlations with life expectancy at birth by domain.

Domain	Indicator	r	
Air Quality	Cancer risk	0.10	
	Environmental hazards	0.05	
	Respiratory risk	0.01	
Economic/Other Household Resources	Public assistance	-0.59	
	Single-parent households	-0.54	
	Unemployment rate	-0.52	
	Median household income	0.52	
	Marital status	0.49	
	Low income (adult)	-0.47	
	Poverty (child)	-0.40	
	Poverty (adult)	-0.39	
	Low food access (low income population)	-0.23	
	Income inequality	-0.01	
	Low food access (overall)	0.00	
	Education	Some college/higher	0.66
		High school diploma/higher	0.48
Lack of English proficiency		0.24	
Preschool enrollment		-0.18	
Health Care Access	Private insurance	0.50	
	Public Insurance	-0.47	
	OB/GYN provider access	0.33	
	Primary care provider access	0.29	
	Uninsured adults	-0.22	
	Mental health provider access	0.05	
Housing	Uninsured children	0.00	
	Median home value	0.54	
	Median rent	0.51	
	Housing cost burdened (overall)	-0.40	
	Poor housing conditions (homeowners)	-0.38	
	Housing cost burdened (homeowners)	-0.37	
	Extremely housing cost burdened (overall)	-0.31	
	Housing vacancies	-0.29	
	Housing opportunity index	0.27	
	Extremely housing cost burdened (homeowners)	-0.25	
	Older age of housing	-0.24	
	Poor housing conditions (renters)	-0.20	
	Renter occupied	-0.19	
	Renter housing cost burdened	-0.18	
	Housing moves	-0.18	
	Overcrowding	-0.18	
	Extremely housing cost burdened (renters)	-0.15	
Housing stability	0.02		
Transportation	Travel time to work	-0.32	
	No access to vehicle	-0.27	
	Commute by public transit	-0.20	
	Commute by motor vehicle	0.16	
	Commute by walking/cycling	0.07	
	Transportation Cost	-0.06	



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National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**

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## Geographic Specificity To Aid Actions Additional Information

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# EJ Analysis Findings: Accessibility

Similar **Benefits** for EEAs and the Rest of the Region

Measure	Impact of Visualize 2045	
	Absolute	Percent
Avg. # of jobs accessible by auto	EEAs	+16 +1.6%
	Rest of the Region	+54 +6.8%
Avg. # of jobs accessible by transit	EEAs	+198 +36.7%
	Rest of the Region	+126 +42.0%
Avg. # of jobs accessible by High Capacity Transit	EEAs	+138 +70.2%
	Rest of the Region	+78 +62.9%
Avg. # of jobs accessible by bus	EEAs	+46 +46.3%
	Rest of the Region	+34 +49.4%



# EJ Analysis Findings: Accessibility (continued)

Similar **Benefits** for EEAs and the Rest of the Region

Measure		Impact of Visualize 2045	
		Absolute	Percent
Pop. with walkable access to High Capacity Transit	EEAs	+471	+72.8%
	Rest of the Region	+540	+55.2%
Pop. with walkable access to bus service	EEAs	+380	+25.5%
	Rest of the Region	+594	+22.7%
Avg. travel time to closest hospital	EEAs	-0.3	-0.9%
	Rest of the Region	-0.1	-0.2%





# EJ Analysis Findings: Mobility

Disproportionate **Benefits** for EEAs

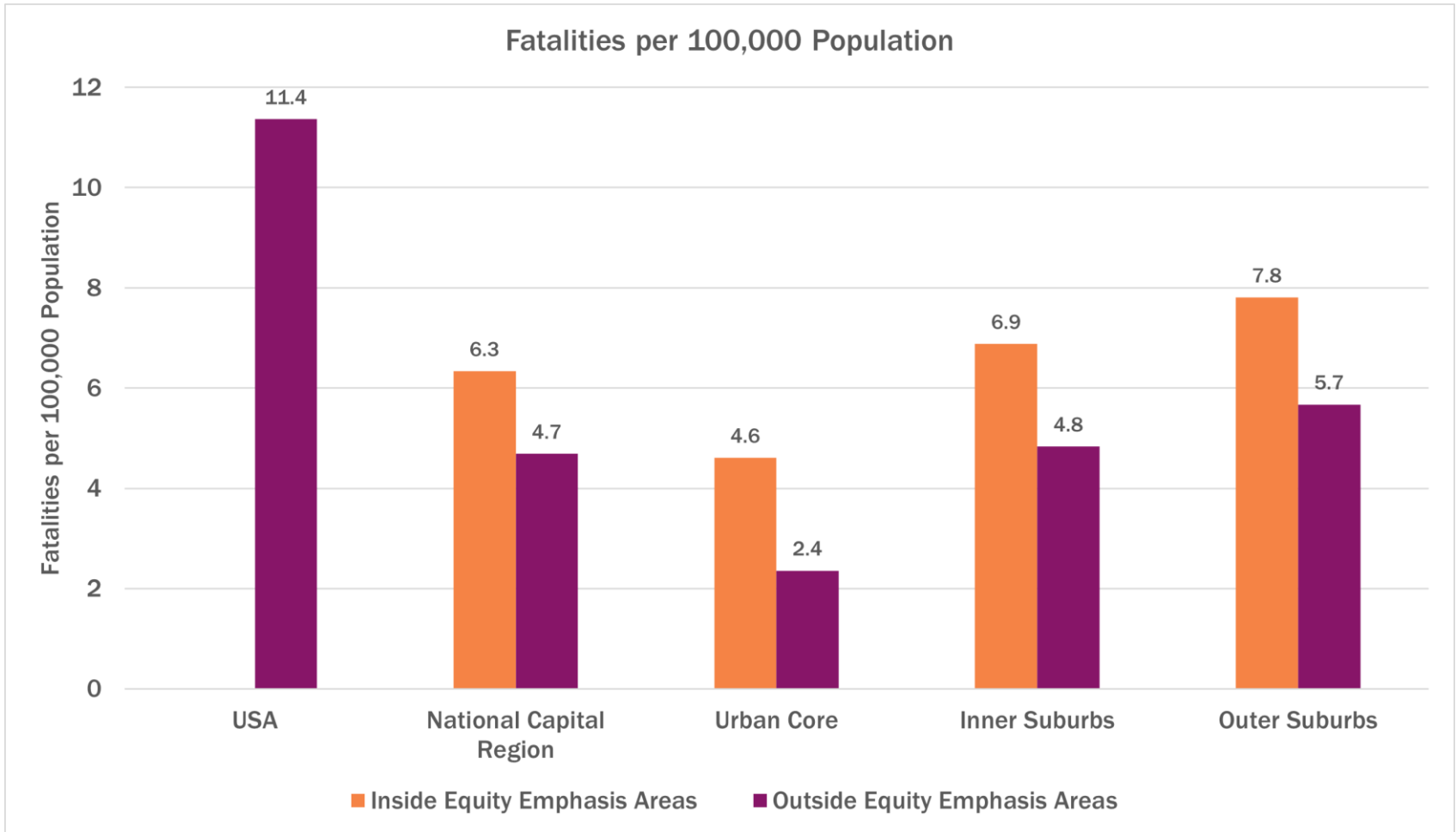
Measure	Impact of Visualize 2045		
	Absolute	Percent	
Avg. commute time by transit	EEAs	-1.2	-2.2%
	Rest of the Region	+1.0	+1.9%

Similar **Burdens** for EEAs and the Rest of the Region

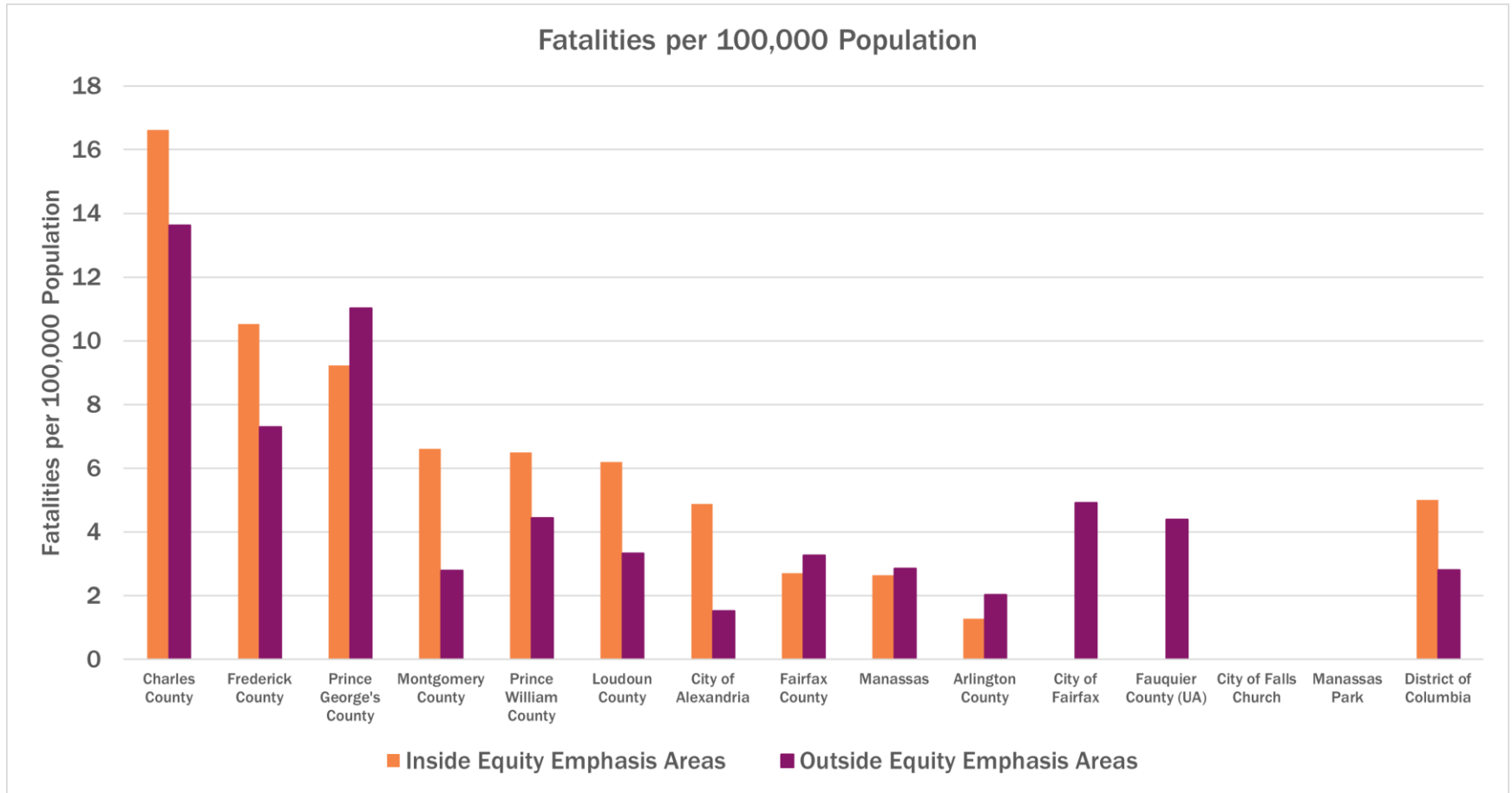
Avg. commute time by auto	EEAs	+4.7	+11.1%
	Rest of the Region	+5.1	+10.8%
Avg. travel time to closest hospital by auto	EEAs	+1.4	+9.2%
	Rest of the Region	+1.7	+10.1%



# Fatalities per 100,000 Population (2014-2018)

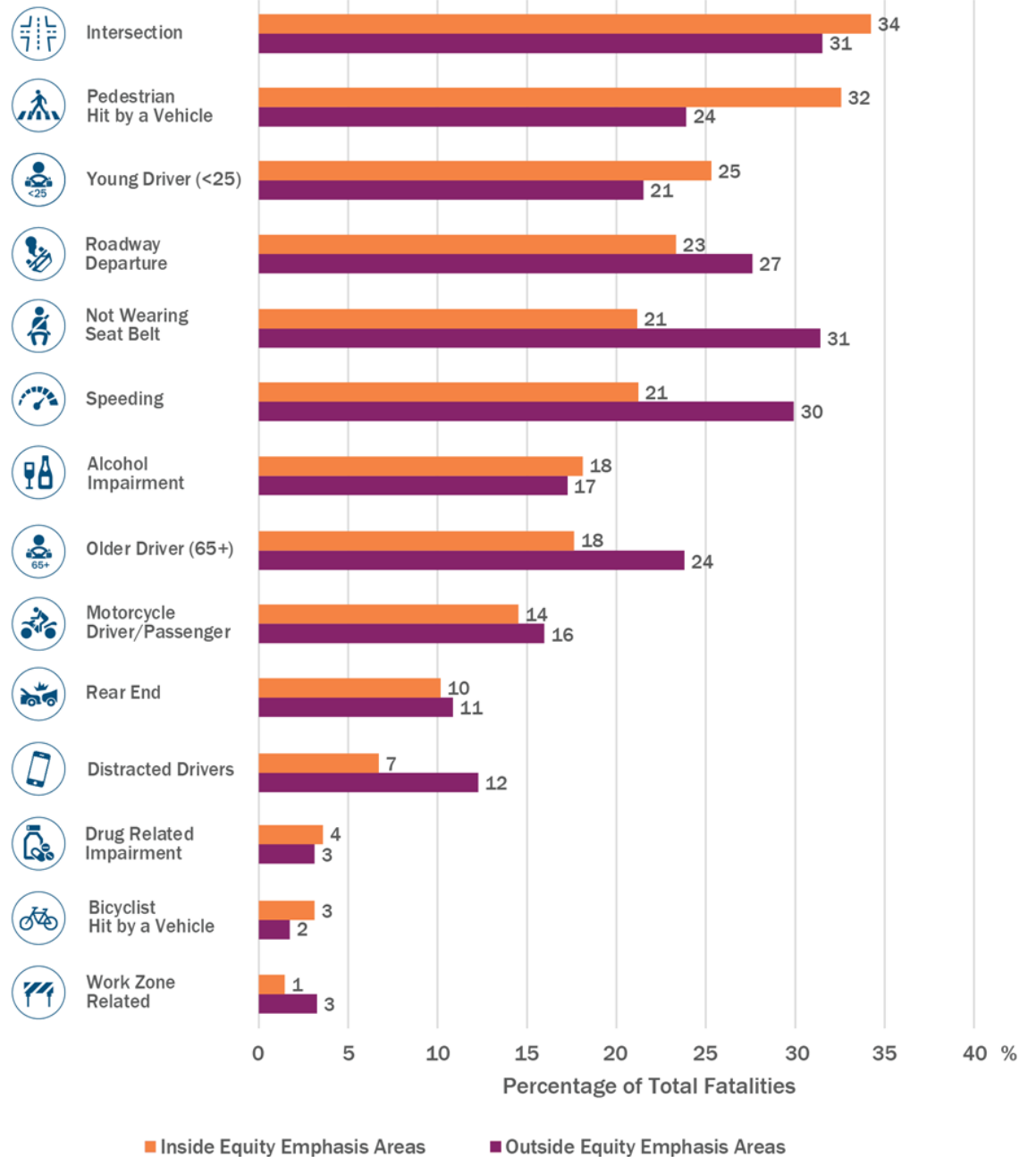


# Fatalities per 100,000 Population (2014-2018)



# Contributing Circumstances - Fatality Percentage (2014-2018)

Percentage of Total Fatalities by Contributing Circumstance



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Percentage of Total Fatalities by Contributing Circumstance

