

Debunking Public Transit Misconceptions



01. Public Transit is Safe

A study from the American Public Transit Association (APTA) revealed that public transit is over **10 times safer** than individual transportation modes like a car.

Regarding crashes, the odds of being involved in an accident can be **reduced by 90%** just by switching from a car to public transit.



02. Public Transit is Sanitary



Public transit as clean as you would expect any public space to be, with skeptics being surprised at the level of cleanliness.

Additionally, local transit services like the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) conduct daily cleaning and washing of bus interiors and exteriors, with disinfectant systems being used to keep vehicles clean.

Transit riders span a wide range of income levels, with **21%** of rider households earning less than **\$15k** annually and another **21%** earning more than **\$100k**.

Within these ranges, a variety of purposes also drive these trips. **44%** of riders use transit for convenience, **16%** use it to reduce fuel and parking costs, and **40%** use it because they lack access to a personal vehicle.



Public Transit is for All Income Levels

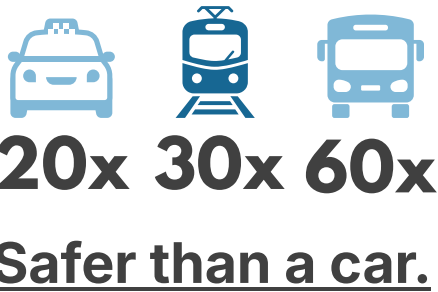
03.

Quick Statistics



Crash Risk

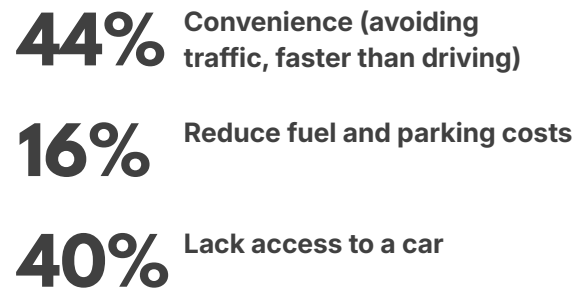
Public transit has low crash rates per unit of travel (miles) compared to cars.



per 100 million passenger miles traveled

Reasons for Using Transit

Percent distribution drawn from a study from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).



Cleanliness

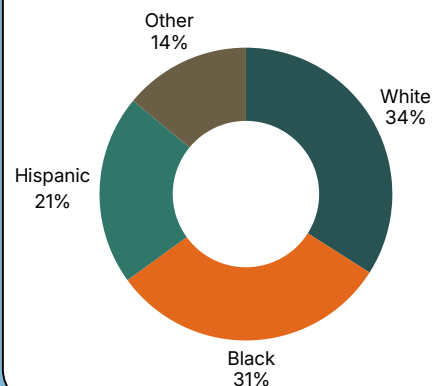
Buses and other forms of transit are sanitized regularly, with local transit agencies abiding by the following procedures:

Daily disinfectant cleaning of vehicles

Washing exteriors via established procedures

Cleaning, sweeping, and detailing of interiors

Bus Rider Demographics



Benefits of Using Public Transportation

Public transportation remains one of the most affordable and sustainable ways for citizens to commute to work, healthcare, education, and groceries.

It is less stressful than driving, can reduce air pollution, and increase the amount of physical activity you do daily.

Apps to Navigate Public Transit



Transit

Tracks bus and train schedules to help plan your route.



Moovit

A comprehensive transit and urban mobility tracker.



CityMapper

Provides turn-by-turn directions connecting transit.



OneBusAway

Provides updated public transit tracking.



Sources

“A New Transit Safety Narrative” by Todd Litman

Foursquare ITP “Metro Myths Busted: What No One Tells You About Your First Time Riding Public Transit”

Modeshift “Is Public Transportation Safer Than Individual Transport?”

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Bus Cleaner Responsibilities

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority “PVRTA Covid-19 Information”

Reason Foundation “Who is the average American transit rider? What federal data tells us about who rides public transportation”

