Denver, CO
One of fastest growing cities
Pop ~700,000
Denver remains as one of America's 'fittest cities'
Denver remains as one of America's 'fittest cities'

Runners on the Platte River Trail downtown.
KATHLEEN LAVINE | DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

By Ben Miller – Contributing Writer
May 15, 2018, 6:53am MDT Updated May 15, 2018, 1:20pm EDT
Denver is less racially diverse for the first time in decades.
Health outcomes mirror racial distribution
• Cardiovascular disease rate: **214/100,000**
• Adult Overweight/Obese: **52-60%**

• Cardiovascular disease rate: **192/100,000**
• Adult Overweight/Obese: **>40%**
How do we plan and build our environment differently, for better health and equity?

• **Equity** is when *everyone*, regardless of who they are or where they come from, has the opportunity to thrive.

• **Health equity** means that *everyone* has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.
Denver Neighborhood Equity Index

Education
Income
Healthy food access
Park access
Health care access
Child obesity
Life expectancy

Neighborhood Equity Index
(Lowest score indicates the highest level of inequity)

- 2.0 to 2.5
- > 2.5 to 3.0
- > 3.0 to 3.5
- > 3.5 to 4.0
- > 4.0 to 4.4

Ratings include five factors:
1. Social Determinants of Health: measured by a) % of high school graduates or the equivalent for those 25 years of age or older and b) % of families below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line
2. Built Environment: measured by a) Food Access: % of residents within 1/4 mile walk to a full-service grocery store; and b) Park Access: % of living units within 1/4 mile walk a quality park or open space.
3. Access to Health Care: % of pregnancies without 1st trimester prenatal care
4. Morbidity: % of overweight or obese children
5. Mortality: Average life expectancy
Denver Neighborhood Equity Index

https://arcg.is/00XjrH
2016 Opportunity: **Denveright Comprehensive Planning**

*Four Plans Working Together to Make One City*

- **Parks & Recreation**
  - Fun Activities in Beautiful Surroundings
- **Transit**
  - Creating an Easily Traversable City
- **Land Use & Transportation**
  - Neighborhood Character and Quality of Life
- **Pedestrians & Trails**
  - Connecting People and Neighborhoods
Denveright Vision Elements

Vision Elements
1. Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive
2. Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods
3. Well Connected, Safe and Accessible Places
4. Economically Diverse and Vibrant
5. Environmentally Resilient
6. Healthy and Active
Denver Neighborhood Equity Index

Measuring Access to Opportunity

Where do we need to improve access to opportunity?
This map provides a current snapshot of the areas in Denver with more and less access to opportunity. The darker areas have the lowest access to opportunity. In these areas it is important to guide change in ways that increase access to basic goods, services and amenities to improve quality of life. Using this measurement is a good way to assess whether we are achieving the vision for every neighborhood in Denver to be complete.

Less Access  More Access
Denver Neighborhood Equity Index:

- Quantitative; enables data-driven decision making

- Adds health and equity considerations to City plans and policies:
  
  - Denveright Plans
  - Neighborhood Planning Initiative
  - Vision Zero
  - Master Mobility Plan
  - Parks and Rec programming
  - Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines
  - GO Bond 2017

- Normalizes health and equity as necessary inputs to the planning process
INDICATORS OF PLANNING NEED

To help inform the NPI Strategic Plan, the city developed data-based indicators of planning need at the neighborhood scale. These indicators help to establish which neighborhoods within the city have the greatest need for a plan, relative to all of the other neighborhoods. This information is being used to inform which neighborhoods are grouped together, and which groupings should be prioritized in the NPI work plan to develop a plan sooner rather than later. These indicators are one tool for evaluating which neighborhoods have the greatest planning need, but other considerations must be taken into account to determine plan sequencing, as described on page 25.

In later phases of NPI, it is anticipated that many of the indicators can be re-purposed, or new ones added, to measure neighborhood progress over time and to track progress toward achieving specific plan goals.

The indicators are organized by five themes, with three indicators within each theme, as follows:

**LIVABILITY**
- **PARKS & OPEN SPACE** measures the percentage of households within 1 mile walk of a park or open space. Lack of access indicates greater need for a plan.
- **WALK/BIKEABILITY** measures the percentage of households with 1 mile walk or bike ride to a park or open space. Lack of access indicates greater need for a plan.
- **HEALTH INDEX** incorporates a series of health indicators including social economic, green space, health outcomes, and access to care, and mortality. Higher health risk indicates greater need for a plan.

**ECONOMY**
- **COST BURDEN** measures the percentage of cost burdened households (housing costs greater than 30% of income). More cost burdened households indicate greater need for a plan.
- **MEDIAN INCOME** measures changes in median income over a ten-year period. More change (increase or decrease) indicates greater need for a plan.
- **POVERTY** measures the percentage of households in poverty. Higher poverty levels indicate greater need for a plan.

**INVESTMENT**
- **UNDERUTILIZATION** measures the percentage of land with a greater assessed value than its improvements. Underutilization land is more susceptible to redevelopment. Greater amount of underutilized land indicates greater need for a plan.
- **PERMIT ACTIVITY** measures the number of permits per acre. Higher permitting activity indicates greater need for a plan.
- **SALES TAX** measures the change in sales tax collected as an indicator of business activity and trends. More change (increase or decrease) indicates greater need for a plan.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **HOUSEHOLDS** measures change in population over a ten-year period. More change (increase or decrease) indicates greater need for a plan.
- **POPULATION** measures change in population over a ten-year period. More change (increase or decrease) indicates greater need for a plan.
- **JOBS** measures change in employment over a ten-year period. More change (increase or decrease) indicates greater need for a plan.

**POLICY & REGULATION**
- **NEW VS. OLD ZONING** measures the amount of land rezoning in the old zoning code. More land in the old code indicates greater need for a plan.
- **AREA OF CHANGE** measures the percentage of land that has been rezoned in an area. More area of change indicates greater need for a plan.
- **LU ZONING MISMATCH** measures the amount of land identified in Blueprint Denver as residential that does not have residential zoning. More mismatch indicates greater need for a plan.
Measuring Progress toward Health and Equity

Reduce inequities in health and the built environment between Denver neighborhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2040 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Prenatal Care</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children at a Healthy Weight</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to a Healthy Environment</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>