Using Data at the Census Tract Level to Promote Complete Streets Planning: A Guide for Community Conversations

As a 500 Cities Data Challenge grantee, Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) collaborated with Bike Easy, the American Heart Association, and others to advocate for Complete Streets and contribute to the evidence base for municipal planning policies that **promote mobility and increased transportation access** for New Orleans, Kenner, and the larger region. Using 500 Cities data, LPHI conducted a series of presentations and discussions with community coalitions and other leaders highlighting overlapping health and socioeconomic burdens seen in local census tracts. Questions used to facilitate discussion around the data presented include:

1. **For those of you living and working in areas of New Orleans/ Kenner/ Jefferson Parish with higher rates of chronic disease or poor health outcomes, does the data presented align with your own experience and knowledge?**

2. **Are you surprised by which census tracts and/ or neighborhoods in our region are experiencing higher rates of chronic disease or poor health outcomes? Why or why not?**

3. **What do these maps tell you about other conditions in the New Orleans region? Do you think poverty and health are related?**

4. **How does poverty affect how people get around the region and the types of transportation they use?**

5. **How does poor health affect how people much people walk or bike?**

6. **How can local governments make walking, biking, and taking public transportation easier and safer?**

7. **Besides using data, what else do local leaders need to consider when making decisions about making improvements to encourage walking, biking, and taking public transportation?**

8. **In your opinion, what can local leaders do to make sure all parts of the city/ region have equitable access to infrastructure improvements for streets, sidewalks, transit stops, and bike lanes? How can community groups help make this a reality?**