Diffusion of Complete Streets Policies Across US Communities

Overview
Complete Streets policies guide planning in communities by making the transportation system accommodating to all users—cars, pedestrians, bicyclists and those using public transportation. While the number of Complete Streets policies has increased over the past decade, no research has explored the factors contributing to the widespread diffusion of these policies.

The Main Question
What factors affect Complete Streets policy adoption?

The Study
We used the Diffusion of Innovation Theory and previous literature results to identify factors that have the potential to affect Complete Street policy diffusion, including: rural/urban status, state obesity rate, state funding for transportation, state obesity prevention funding, percentage of people who walk or bike to work in the state, presence of a state Complete Streets policy and the number of bordering communities with Complete Streets policy.

The Bottom Line
Information about communities that are more likely to adopt a policy can be a tool for advocates and policy makers interested in Complete Streets.

What You Can Do

- **Communicate with Advocates and Policy makers**: Use the results of this study to communicate with advocates and policy makers about how and why Complete Streets policies are adopted in other communities.
- **Develop Strong Networks**: Review information from the National Complete Streets Coalition to obtain resources and opportunities to learn from other communities.


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