ODOT Equity

Introduction

The analysis in this section attempts to identify equity implications of ODOT's scenario planning effort. The basic methodology consists of assessing the relationships between the equity data provided by ODOT, which is derived from demographic Census data, with the VE-State outputs at the household level. The workflow involves averaging the VE household metrics at the area type geographic level and then joining the ODOT equity block groups to the VE area types. The end result is an analysis of statistical relationships – using linear regression - between observed equity characteristics and modeled VE metrics.

ODOT Equity Data

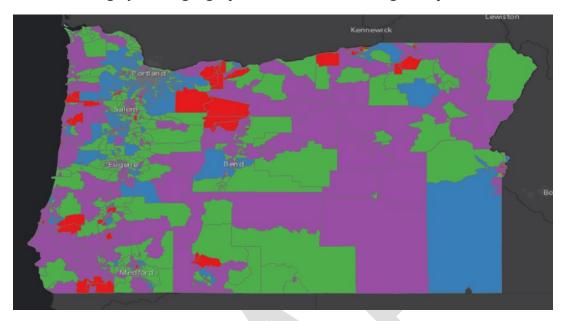
- Census-derived demographic data summarized at the block-group level (2,525 records)
- Variables include Disability, Poverty Status, Limited English, Older Population, Younger Population, Race (White, Non-White), No Vehicle, Transit Distance, Overcrowding, Equity Index

VisionEval Household Data

- 2010 base year household level VE data averaged at the area-type level (1.5 million household records averaged over 124 area types)
- Area type geometries were created via census block groups using the Place Types
 USA shiny app, which is based upon the EPA Smart Location Database. See Appendix
 A for parameters used to define area type geographies.
- Variables include VMT, Transit Trips, Walk Trips, Bike Trips, Vehicle Cost, CO2

Equity block Groups

There are roughly 2,600 geographies in the state of Oregon, reported from the US Census.



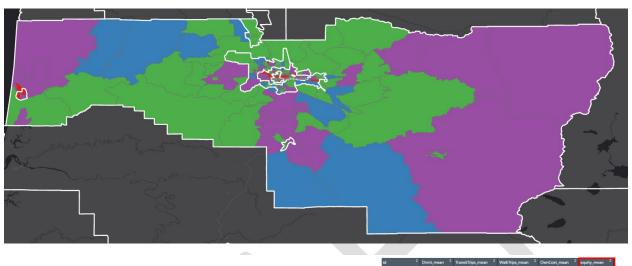
VisionEval Area Types

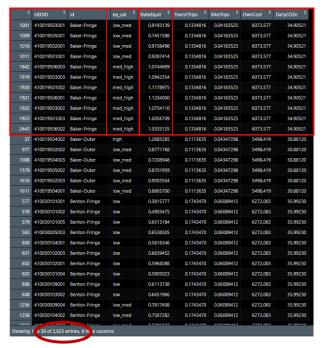
There are 127 area type geographies for Oregon in Vision Eval State. These geographies were created using the Place Type USA shiny app.



Overlay of Area Types and Block Groups

This analysis grouped the census block groups into the generally larger area type geometries. As part of this workflow, the equity data and VE outputs were summarized using weighted means and quartiles.



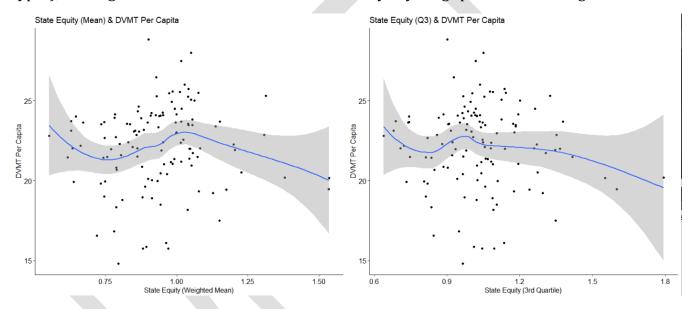




Analysis

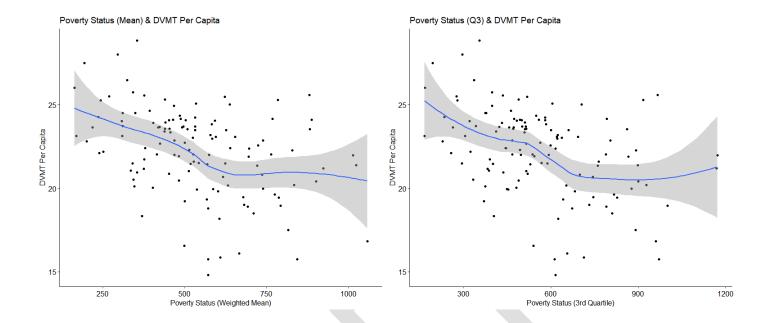
State Equity & VMT

After exploring several ways to summarize the data, the first pertinent relationship we analyzed was vmt per capita and state equity. The state equity variable is an index value that incorporates a variety of demographic variables that indicate vulnerable or disadvantaged populations. For state equity, we looked at both the weighted mean, as well as the 3rd quartiles (75 percentile). Both analyses showed no relationship between state equity and vmt per capita, with very high p-values and low r-squared. It is likely that this lack of relationship is due to the fact that the state equity index combines a variety of different measures and averages all those measures across relatively large areas (area types), which generalizes the data too much to identify anything specific or meaningful.



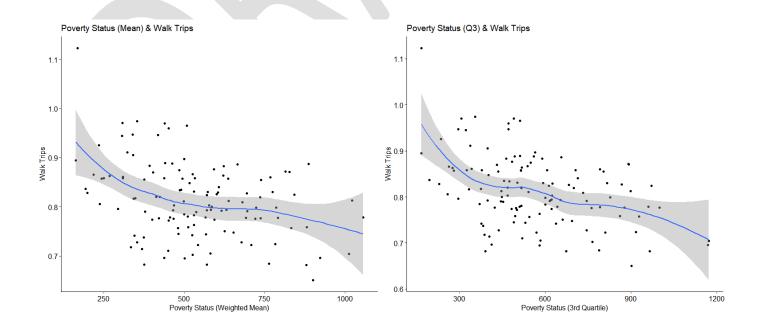
Poverty & VMT

Next, we looked at the individual variables that comprise the equity index, in relation to the VE household outputs. First, poverty status and vmt per capita showed a relationship that was significant and an R2 at $\sim 15\%$ for both the mean and $3^{\rm rd}$ quartile of data. This initial analysis seems to indicate a negative relationship, where vmt per capita decreases as poverty status increases.



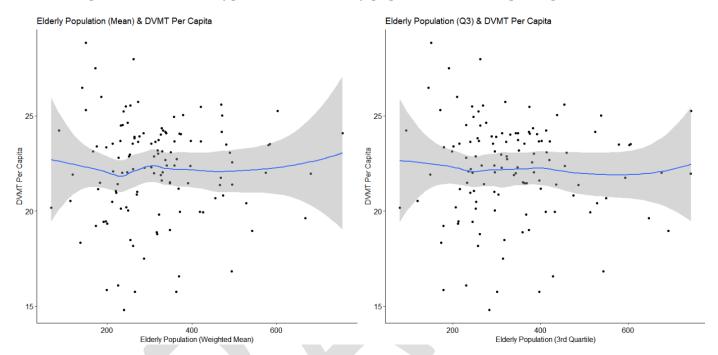
Poverty & Walk Trips

Next, we looked at poverty status but this time in relation to the average number of walk trips per area type. This analysis also yielded meaningful results, as the linear regression demonstrated a very small p value and an r-squared at 13% and 16% for the mean and $3^{\rm rd}$ quartile of data respectively. It appears as if there's a negative relationship between poverty status and the number of walk trips; as poverty status increases the number of walk trips decrease.



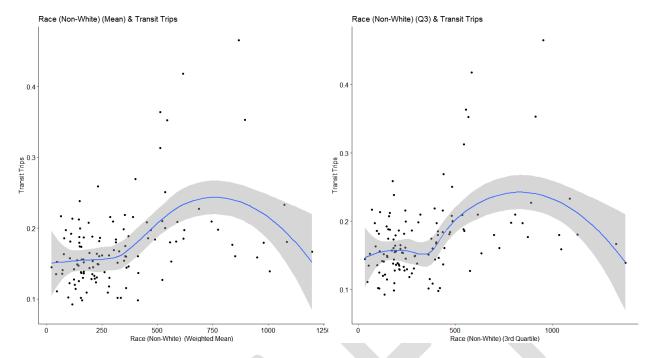
Elderly Population & VMT

In addition, we looked at elderly population and vmt per capita but were unable to identify a meaningful relationship for both the weighted mean and 3rd quartile of values. Although further analysis should be considered, the available data indicates that there is not a relationship between an area type's share of elderly population and vmt per capita.



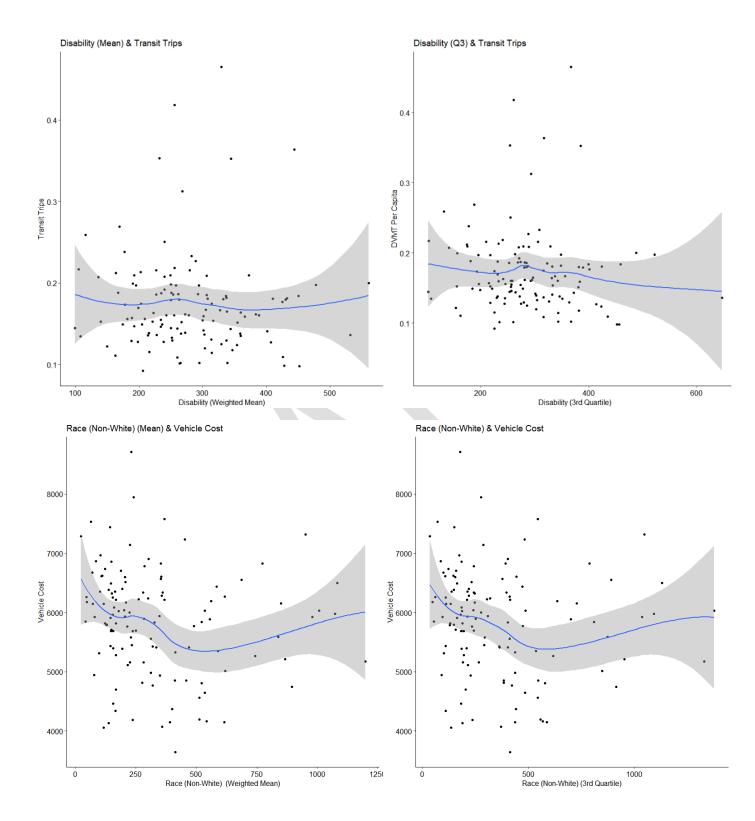
Race & Transit Trips

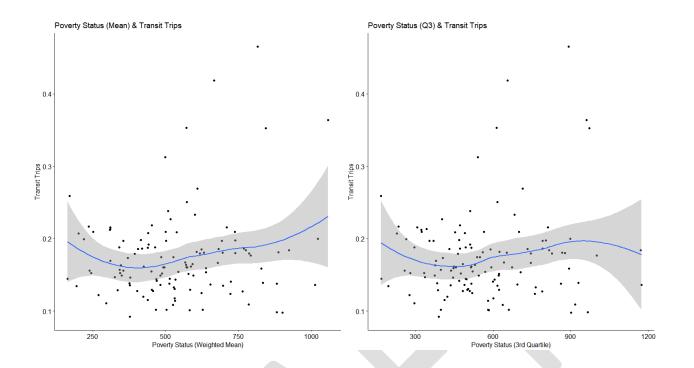
Another variable that comprises the state equity index is the proportion of non-white population. An initial regression analysis shows a significant relationship and an R2 of 13% and 16% for the mean and $3^{\rm rd}$ quartiles of the data. The graph indicates a positive relationship between the number of transit trips and the proportion of non-white population, though it is possible that the relationship is non-linear.



Other Relationships between variables

Lastly, we looked at the relationships between a variety of other variables, which did not yield any meaningful insights. This included looking at disabled population & transit trips, race & vehicle costs, and poverty status & transit trips. These analyses showed relationships that were not significant at the area type level. Again, it is possible that the geographic constraint of the area-type level household data is masking any meaningful relationships. It is possible that if that VE household data were able to be averaged at the block-group level, then meaningful relationships between these variables may arise.





Appendix A – PlaceTypes USA Shiny App Parameters

