



Goal 4: Sustainable Community Development

Desired Community Condition: **Neighborhoods with civic and commercial destinations within walking distance are an available choice.**



Indicator: **Walking Distance to Destinations**

Progress Rating: **Local Trend:** NONE **National Comparison:** SIMILAR

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the percentage of Albuquerque residents who live or wish to live close to commercial destinations - a prerequisite for increased walking trips. The indicator reveals Albuquerque resident perceptions about safety and comfort – necessary community ingredients for walking. The data are compared to a report about Americans' attitudes toward walking associated with daily living. Also, to provide a comparison with other cities, Albuquerque is ranked by the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) for walkability.

Why are these indicators important?

Walking helps people stay healthy. People with low incomes are the hardest hit by diabetes, heart disease, and stress-related maladies that can be prevented and treated by incorporating a simple exercise like walking into daily life. However, affordable housing is often located where walking for daily living is difficult. In walkable communities, walking for daily living is efficient, safe, and comfortable. Proximity influences the decision to make walking trips to school, work, shopping, banking, health services, food, and entertainment. However, adults who feel a fear of crime or lack of safety due to traffic concerns are unlikely to walk or take public transportation. Plus parents will not allow their children to walk in unsafe conditions. Albuquerque's air pollution, traffic congestion, and accident rate are improved when walking trips are substituted for vehicle trips.

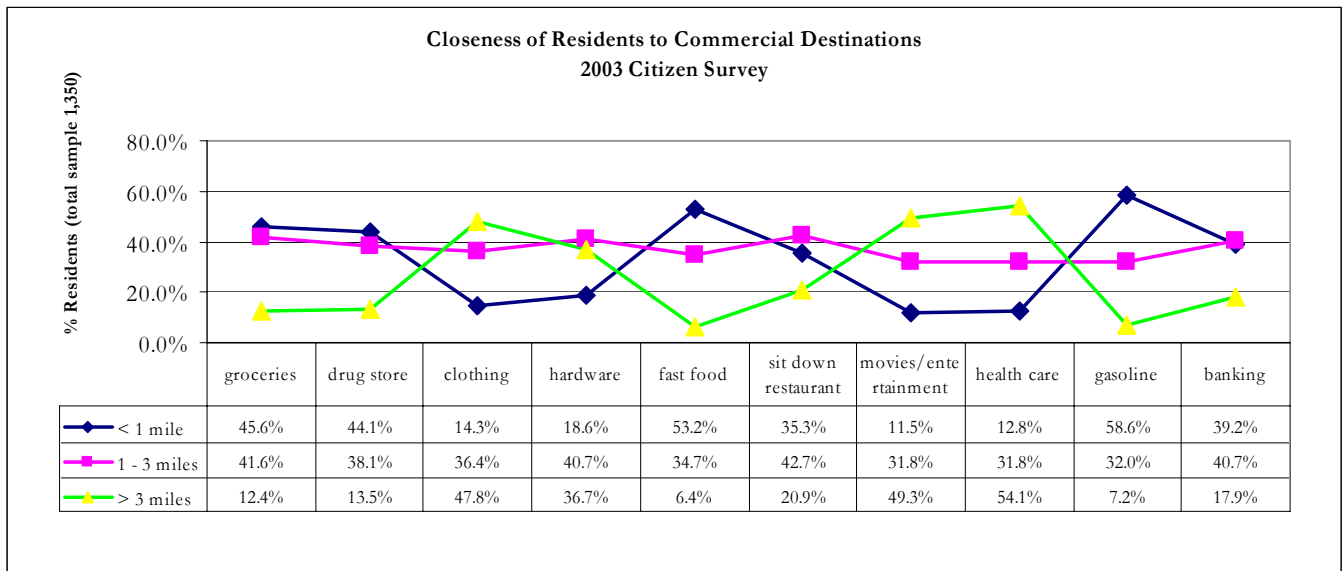
Data Sources

1999 and 2003 City of Albuquerque Survey of Citizens' Perceptions of Community Conditions; Belden Russonello & Stewart Survey, October 2002; American Podiatric Medical Association 2004 Ranking of Best Walking Cities

What can we tell from the data?

- A national survey conducted in 2002 indicated that more than 1/2 of Americans said their communities lack shops and restaurants within walking distance, and that 1/3 of the public feels that changing to less drive-necessary communities is an answer to controlling traffic.

- In 2003, 39% of Albuquerque area residents indicated they would like to be able to walk to more places from home, while 38% disagreed. Twenty nine percent of the women surveyed and 35% of low-income residents desired this. Fifty three percent of Near Heights residents agreed with this, while only 26% in the Foothills CPA did. About 30% of women, Hispanics and low-income residents wished they were closer to shopping.
- In 2003, 51% surveyed felt traffic speeds in their neighborhoods were safe. The older parts of Albuquerque were more likely to disagree that traffic speeds in neighborhoods were safe.
- Only 1/3 of those employed outside the home wished home were closer to work. Almost 1/2 of residents with low to middle household incomes wanted this.
- In 1999, 29% of Albuquerque residents said they walked to a retail store more than 25 times per year and 17% walked more than 53 times a year. People gave these reasons for not walking to nearby stores: 25% preferred driving, 15% couldn't carry merchandise, 14% were unable to walk far, 12% claimed to be lazy, 10% did not have time, and 9% did not feel safe.
- The most prevalent consumer good within walking distance is fast food (56% travel less than one mile). About 45% of the respondents are less than one mile away from both grocery shopping and drug stores. Forty percent travel less than one mile to do banking. Less than 15% travel less than one mile for movies or other entertainment and health care. Albuquerque has more gas stations than walking destinations close to neighborhoods.



Ranking of Best Walking Cities by APMA					
Rank out of 125	City	Overall Score	Rank out of 125	City	Overall Score
9	Tucson	1.21371	59	Omaha	-0.04798
16	Colorado Springs	0.97525	62	Sacramento	-0.13612
24	Denver	0.78928	74	Austin	-0.37171
47	Salt Lake City	0.23729	86	Fort Worth	-0.57249
52	Albuquerque	0.13977	88	Wichita	-0.60089
			92	Oklahoma City	-0.70058