

NTSB

WEBINAR

Traffic Safety Through a Public Health Lens

Thursday, March 28, 2024
1:00 pm–2:45 pm ET



Biographies

MODERATOR



Sophia Peerzada
Transportation Safety Specialist
National Transportation Safety Board

Sophia Peerzada is a transportation safety specialist for the NTSB's Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications' Safety Advocacy division.

Prior to joining the NTSB in the Fall of 2023, she worked in various sectors, including nonprofit, private technology, university student affairs, and healthcare. Sophia has years of experience in public speaking, advocacy, project management, and program management.

Sophia holds both a bachelor's degree in psychology and behavioral healthcare and a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida. As a lifelong resident of Tampa, Fla., she developed a passion for road safety in response to the region's high rates of roadway injuries and fatalities.

Applying her public health background, Sophia leads advocacy efforts on the safe system approach, pedestrian safety and the intersection of mental health and transportation safety.

PANELISTS



Mighty Fine
Associate Executive Director
American Public Health Association

Mighty Fine is the interim Associate Executive Director at the American Public Health Association (APHA). His portfolio focuses on enhancing health science, policy, public health practice and public health leadership. He designs, develops, and evaluates public health programs and provides programmatic technical assistance, consultation and research translation support to local, state and national partners.



David Ederer
Epidemiologist
Centers for Disease Control

Dave Ederer is an Epidemiologist in the Physical Activity and Health Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His research focuses on applying public health principles in transportation practice, and how the built environment influences chronic disease.

Prior to his current role, He served as a technical advisor to the US Mission to the United Nations and the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at CDC.

He has a Ph.D. in Transportation Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and an M.P.H. from the University of Michigan.



The Honorable Dr. Tho Bella Dinh-Zarr, PhD, MPH (she/her)
Senior Advisor
FIA Foundation, Traffic Injury
Research Foundation

Tho “Bella” Dinh-Zarr, PhD, MPH, was the Vice Chairman, Acting Chairman, and 42nd Member of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

She currently serves as Senior Advisor for Public Health & Transportation to the FIA Foundation and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), where she works closely with the Blackfeet Nation and the East End District in Houston, Texas. Dr. Dinh-Zarr has held positions at USDOT, CDC, AAA, and TTI.

She has been Co-Chair of the UN NGO Committee for Sustainable Development and is Co-Founder of the 05 Saves Lives Coalition to prevent drinking and driving through .05%BAC laws. Dr. Dinh-Zarr created the “Five I Framework” for prevention-focused crash investigations as part of the Safe System Approach and is committed to advancing transportation that is safe, clean, and ethical for everyone. She speaks English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.



Kathleen Carlson
Professor of Epidemiology
OHSU-PSU School of Public Health;
Core Investigator at Portland VA

Kathleen Carlson, MS, PhD is an injury epidemiologist and professor of public health at the Oregon Health and Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health and a core investigator with the VA Portland Health Care System.

Dr. Carlson’s research examines the spectrum of injury and violence prevention, from the epidemiology of intentional and unintentional injuries to the rehabilitation of military veterans with combat injuries and comorbid mental health disorders. Her current research grants examine gun violence and other firearm-related injuries, opioid-related injuries, and the short- and long-term functional outcomes of veterans’ traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Carlson teaches and mentors MPH and PhD students in epidemiology, research methods, and health services research. She serves on the board of directors for the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and as Chair-elect of the APHA Injury Control and Emergency Health Services section.

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