Safe workplaces

Are transit operators exposed to drug smoke or residues on the job? Spurred by transit operators’ concerns, our researchers were asked to evaluate this question by five transit agencies in the Northwest. We found that fentanyl and methamphetamine smoke and residue are prevalent on buses and light-rail trains at low levels and suggested protective measures to keep operators safe.

Healthy communities

We support resilient communities in response to environmental hazards from climate change, infectious diseases, health inequity, disasters and more. Our recent efforts have highlighted recommendations for saving lives from extreme heat in Washington state, and advised policymakers on new state rules for outdoor heat and wildfire smoke exposure.
Clean water
Could limiting antibiotics in animal feed or veterinary prescriptions help reduce people’s resistance to antibiotics? DEOHS Assistant Professor Erica Fuhrmeister is tackling this question using next-generation metagenomic tools to understand how antibiotic-resistance genes are transmitted in the environment.

Clean air
Commuting in rush-hour traffic fumes can be as harmful as a high-sodium diet. Our researchers recently showed that breathing unfiltered highway air during rush hour raises blood pressure to a similar extent as a high-sodium diet, both while in the car and up to 24 hours later.

Safe food
Our Environmental Public Health majors graduate job-ready after completing a 400-hour internship at health agencies, nonprofits and private companies. DEOHS undergraduate Belen Salguero mapped relationships among foodborne illness, retail health violations and socioeconomic status during her internship with the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment.