TRANSPORTATION STRESS -

A SILENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH



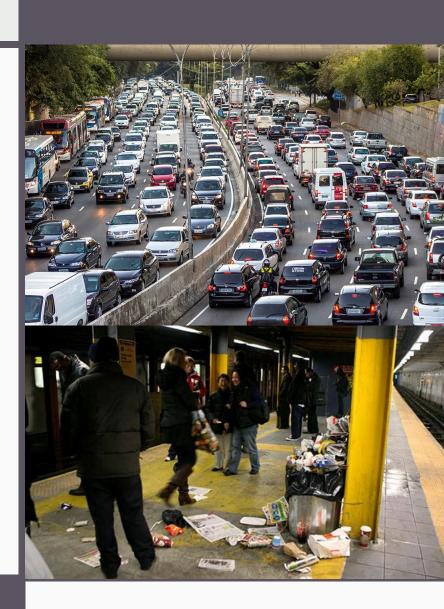


CHEM Summer 2025 Internship Final Presentation by Cassidy Irwin

Mentor: Dr. Haneen Khreis

Introduction

- Transportation is a derived demand.
- Provides opportunities for advancement, access to essential services, and social connectivity.
- When transportation becomes stressful, it disrupts individual health and well-being.
- Over time, chronic stress causes health problems that may develop into premature morbidity (debilitating disease) or mortality (loss of life).
- Investigating how transportation stress affects public health outcomes



Methods

- Project based off "Fourteen pathways" paper (Khreis et al., 2021)
- Two phases of literature review
- Literature library construction
- Rudimentary conceptual model
- Final conceptual model



Transportation

Long Wait Times

Stress

Uncertainty

Stroke/

Noise

When Biking

When Using

Public Transport

Psychological Disorders

Dementia

Impaired Driving

Sleep Disturbance

Discomfort

Congestion

When Walking

When Driving

Inflammation f

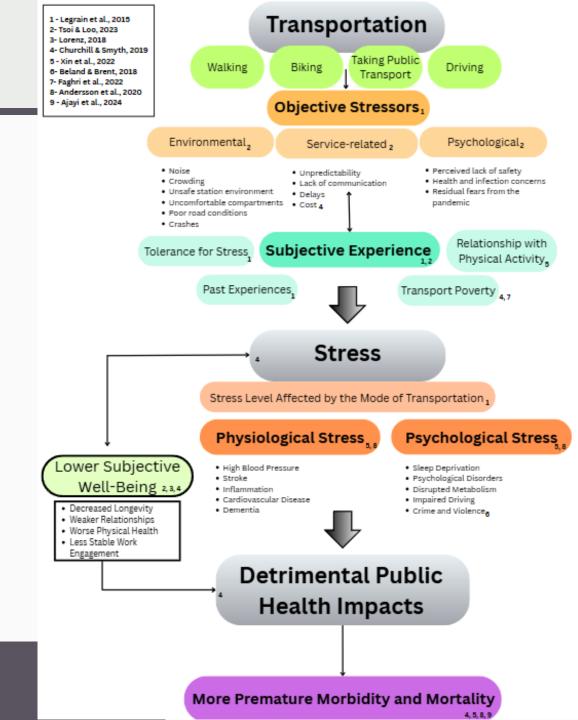
High blood pressure

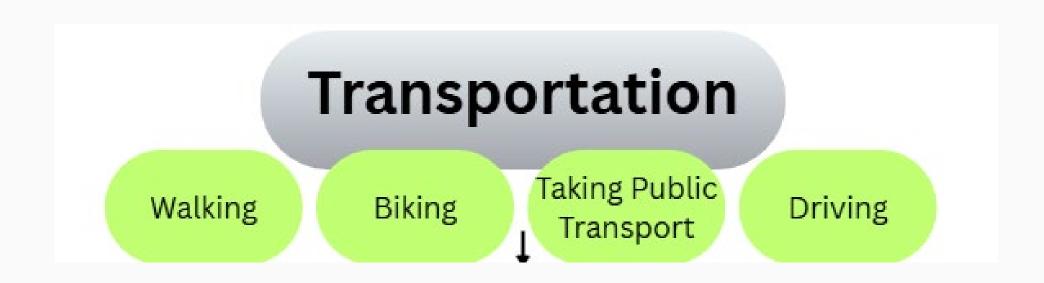
Cardiovascular Disease

Vasoconstriction

Conceptual Model

- Combining multiple authors' ideas into a coherent model that represents a full concept
- Separated into three major sections in a flow chart structure
- Arrows represent impacts or connections
- Multiple versions to fix content or format
- Footnotes by the text indicate a citation from the box in upper left





Introduction to Transportation

- · Transportation begins the flow chart model.
- These four subcategories were the only modes analyzed in the literature.
- The mode of transportation impacts the study of transportation stress.

The Experience of Transportation Stress

- Two authors expressing similar ideas through different conceptual frameworks
- Conserving aspects from both authors while keeping the model cohesive
- Environmental vs. Personal Stressors (Tsoi & Loo, 2023)
- Objective Stressors vs.
 Subjective Experience (Legrain et al., 2015)

Objective Stressors

Environmental

Service-related

Psychological

- Noise
- Crowding
- · Unsafe station environment
- · Uncomfortable compartments
- · Poor road conditions
- Crashes

- Unpredictability
- · Lack of communication
- Delays

- · Perceived lack of safety
- Health and infection concerns
- Residual fears from the pandemic

Tolerance for Stress

Subjective Experience

Relationship with Physical Activity

Past Experiences



Transport Poverty

How Does This Impact Stress?

- The combined experience of objective and subjective factors has a unique impact on stress
- Stress level of the user is impacted by the mode of transportation
- Divided into physiological and psychological impacts

Stress

Stress Level Affected by the Mode of Transportation

Physiological Stress

- High Blood Pressure
- Stroke
- Inflammation
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Dementia

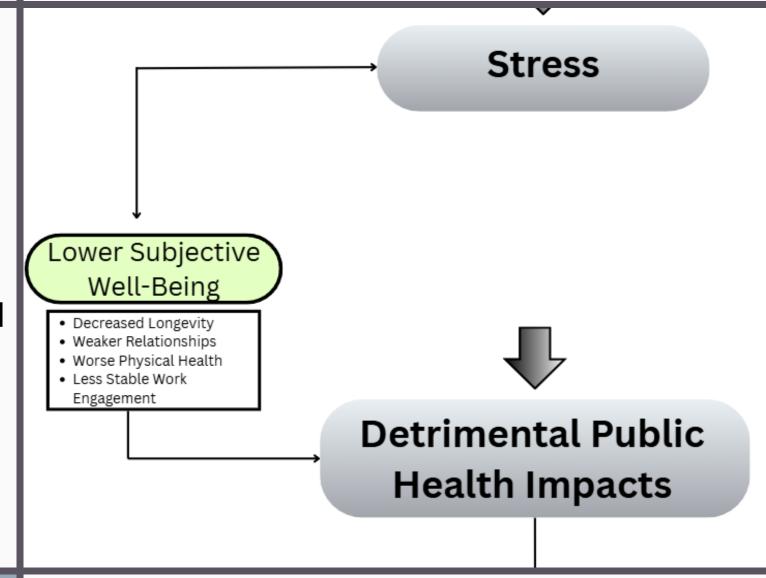


Psychological Stress

- · Sleep Deprivation
- Psychological Disorders
- Disrupted Metabolism
- Impaired Driving
- · Crime and Violence

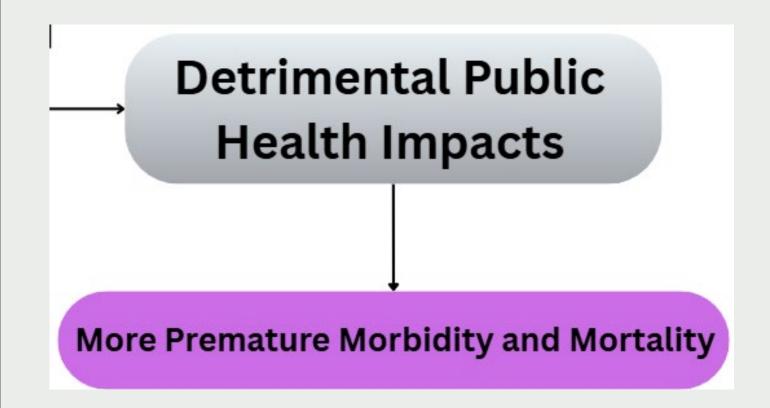
What is Subjective Well-Being?

- Individual's evaluation of their overall health and lifestyle
- Stress and lower subjective well-being have interrelated effects
- Low subjective well-being has detrimental impacts on the health of the individual as well as public health.



The Ultimate Consequences

- The burden of disease caused by transportation stress can often result in serious public health outcomes.
- The risk for diseases like dementia, cardiovascular disease, and stroke is exacerbated by transportation stress.
- These conditions degrade the quality of life and may prematurely end it



Conclusion

- There are many interconnected aspects of transportation and stress.
- It is important to study this area so we can better understand the burden of disease caused by transportation stress.
- This burden of disease is significant enough to have serious and long-lasting effects on the individual's subjective well-being as well as the overall population health.



Closing Thoughts and Internship Experience



- Learned so much about transportation
- Have come to deeply respect it as a professional field and as an aspect of public health
- Dr. Khreis was a fantastic mentor that taught me so much about the importance of qualitative research.
- Greatly appreciated the chance to learn from and work with the professionals at TTI!

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

QUESTIONS?

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