



# Rebuilding the sustainable transport hierarchy in partnership using HIA



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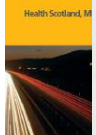
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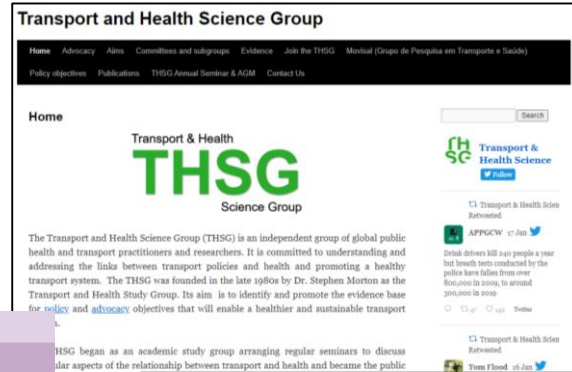


# Links between Transport and Health



Scottish Health and Inequality Impact Assessment Network (SHIAN) Report

Health and Transport: A Guide 2018



## Thesis

### Are cars the new tobacco?

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background** Public health must continually respond to new threats reflecting wider societal changes. Ecological public health recognizes the links between human health and global sustainability. We argue that these links are typified by the harms caused by dependence on private cars.

**Methods** We present routine data and literature on the health impacts of private car use; the activities of the 'car lobby' and factors underpinning car dependence. We compare these with experience of tobacco.

**Results** Private cars cause significant health harm. The impacts include physical inactivity, obesity, death and injury from crashes, cardio-respiratory disease from air pollution, noise, community severance and climate change. The car lobby resists measures that would restrict car use, using tactics similar to the tobacco industry. Decisions about location and design of neighbourhoods have created environments that reinforce and reflect car dependence. Car ownership and use has greatly increased in recent decades and there is little public support for measures that would reduce this.

**Conclusions** Car dependence is a potent example of an issue that ecological public health should address. The public health community should advocate strongly for effective policies that reduce car use and increase active travel.

**Keywords** environment, public health, transport

#### Are cars the new tobacco?




The history of public health reflects the problems of each age and evolving understandings of health.<sup>1</sup> In the late nineteenth century, the pressing problems were communicable diseases associated with environmental conditions and efforts were directed to improving water and sanitation and

community and global level, and also recognizes the relationships between human health and sustainability.<sup>2</sup>

Tobacco is arguably the archetypal behavioural risk factor. Smoking tobacco is a single behaviour causing many conditions including cardiovascular disease and cancer, killing more than 5 million people annually.<sup>3</sup> Epidemiological

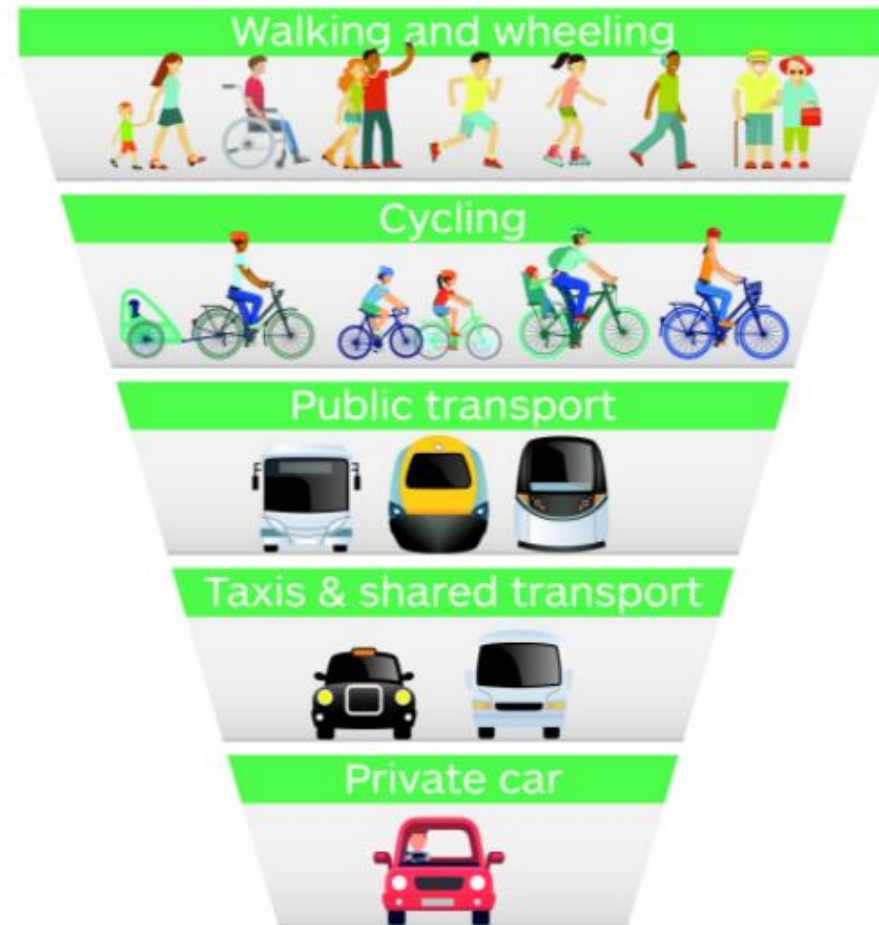
- Access
- Physical activity
- Air quality
- Carbon emissions
- Noise
- Injuries
- Severance
- Use of public space
- Inequalities

# Transport and health

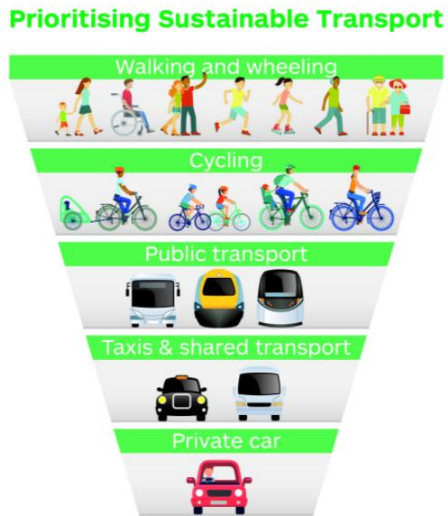
<p><b>Active travel</b></p> 	<p><b>Physical activity</b> <b>Social connections</b> <b>Exposure to greenspace</b> <b>Footfall for local businesses</b></p>	<p><b>(Collisions)</b></p>
<p><b>Public transport</b></p> 	<p><b>Social connections</b> <b>Physical activity walking to stops</b> <b>Access to distant services</b></p>	<p><b>Air and noise pollution</b> <b>Severance</b> <b>Collisions</b></p>
<p><b>Private cars</b></p> 	<p><b>Access to distant services when no public transport</b></p>	<p><b>Collisions</b> <b>Air and noise pollution</b> <b>Severance</b> <b>Loss of public space</b> <b>Physical inactivity</b> <b>Transport inequity</b></p>

# Scottish National Transport Strategy, 2020

## Prioritising Sustainable Transport



National Transport Strategy, 2020



## Transport investments, 2021 Infrastructure Plan

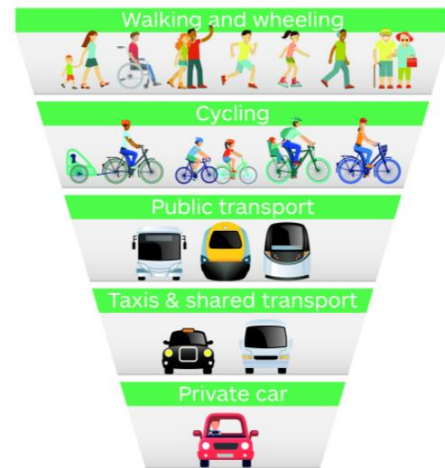
Sustainable and Active Travel	£352million
A9 dualling	£3billion
A96 dual carriageway	£3billion
A82	£250-500million







Hard to get public health 'seat at table'

# Main mode of travel to work, 2019

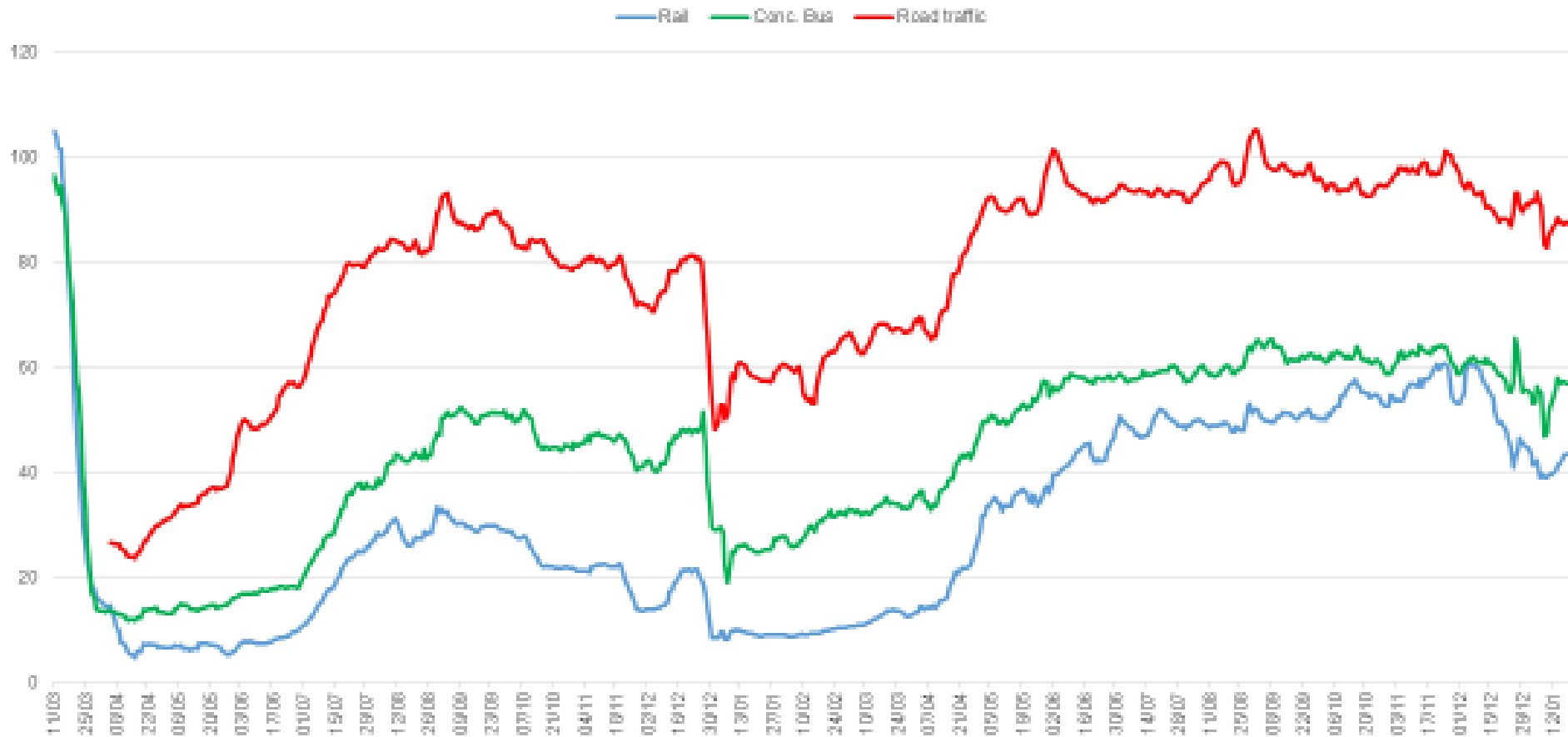
Source: Transport Scotland

## Prioritising Sustainable Transport



Car (driver)		62.9%
Walk		11.8%
Bus		10.1%
Car(passenger)		4.8%
Rail		5.5%
Cycle		2.8%
Other		2.2%

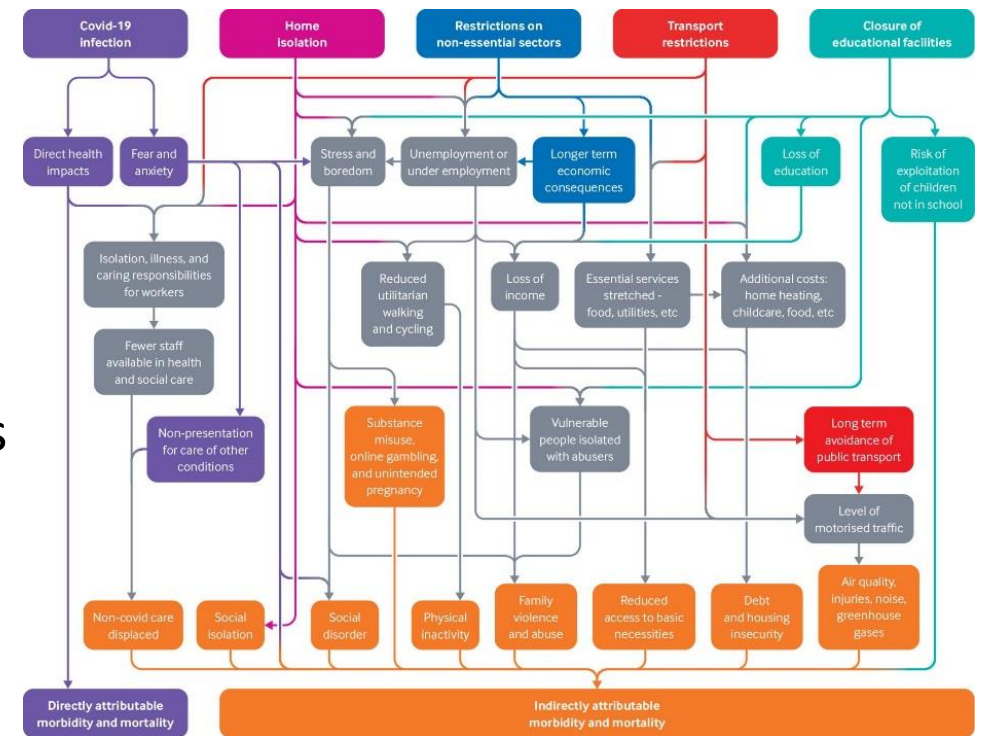
**Journeys by mode as a % of journeys by that mode in 2019/20, Scotland, March 2020 to Jan 2022. (Source: Transport Scotland)**





# Public Health and Sustainable Transport Partnership Group

- Wider HIA of Covid-19 response highlighted transport and other impacts
- Social mitigation workstream in Public Health Scotland
- Initial focus on pandemic recovery
  - Transport Scotland
  - CoSLA, Regional & Local government transport officers
  - Mobility Access Committee for Scotland
  - Public Transport
  - Voluntary sector
  - Public Health
- Data & Evidence sub-group



# Transport use, health and health inequalities: The impact of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19

- Health impacts identified in our scoping
- Evidence review of health impacts by transport mode
- Transport trends during pandemic
- High level recommended key actions:
  - protect the long-term sustainability of public or community transport services
  - limit increases in private car travel and reduce the adverse impacts of motor traffic on health
  - support active travel
- Full report and briefing



<https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/2850/transport-use-health-and-health-inequalities-oct2020-english.pdf>

# Road Space Reallocation HIA

‘Re-directing space from motor vehicles, especially cars, towards more sustainable uses.’

- HIA focus on health inequalities
- Report with recommendations for local authorities
- Involve partnership group in dissemination



# 20% reduction in car km - target

- Briefing on target
  - High level, existing evidence
- HIA scoping workshops on 4 areas identified in policy route map:
  - Reducing the need to travel – eg digital services
  - Living well locally – 20 minute neighbourhoods
  - Combining/sharing car trips
  - Switching modes – support other modes AND disincentivise cars



# A Health in All Policies approach

- Partnership now continuing beyond pandemic recovery
- Using HIA as part of wider partnership approach
  - Build positive working relationships
  - Debate is part of the process
  - Influence at other stages of policy cycle
- Transport and PH interests at different levels
  - Informed discussion, influence of group members
  - Public Health Scotland lead – independent but supportive
- Sustainable Transport Hierarchy policy is positive for health
  - Helps build relationships, which then allows challenge
  - Some policies contentious
  - Health perspective can add support to make the hierarchy a reality

# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA22 platform.

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*<https://www.scotphn.net/networks/scottish-health-and-inequalities-impact-assessment-network-shiian/introduction/>*



## #iaia22