Environmental Correlates of Active Travel to School, by Distance Ranges



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Outline

- Introduction
 - Background, research gaps, objective and conceptual framework
- Research design
 - Study design, statistical methods, data collection and variables
- Results
 - Multivariate analyses
- Summary
- Policy and Environmental Implications
 - Strategies to promote children's active travel to school

ntroduction

Child's health, Importance of ATS identified subjects or findings related to ATS, Unidentified subjects related to ATS

Introduction (Cont'd)

- Active travel to school (ATS) (i.e., walking or bicycling to school
 - "Potential" to help reduce childhood obesity, but the research results have been inconsistent (Heelan et al. 2005,

Rosenberg et al. 2006, Lee et al. 2008)

- Most feasible way of acquiring daily physical activity among school-aged children (Sirard et al. 2005b, Tudor-Locke et al. 2002, Saksvig et al. 2007)
- Broader health and other benefits including mental health (Tomporowski et al. 2011), academic performance (Kristjansson et al. 2010, Rees and Sabia. 2010)
- Significant drop in ATS rates: 47.7% in 1969, 12.7% in 2009 (McDonald et al. 2011)



Introduction (Cont'd)

- What have been done so far from previous studies
 - Direct relationships between the individual/social/environmental factors and ATS
 - **Personal factors**: income, ethnicity, walking behaviors/attitudes
 - Social factors: social cohesion, peer-influence, school program
 - **Built environmental factors**: <u>home-to-school distance</u> (a linear relationship with ATS), highways, street connectivity, intersections, traffic safety, residential density, sidewalk availability, etc.
 - Natural environmental factors: trees (Larsen et al. 2009), temperatures (insignificant, Robertson-Wilson et al. 2008)

Research Aims

- Gaps in previous ATS studies that this study aims to address:
 - Potential variations in correlates of ATS among shorter vs. longer distance school commuters
 - Natural environmental predictors of ATS, e.g., temperatures, tree canopy, grass coverage, tree heights, steep slopes, parks, etc.



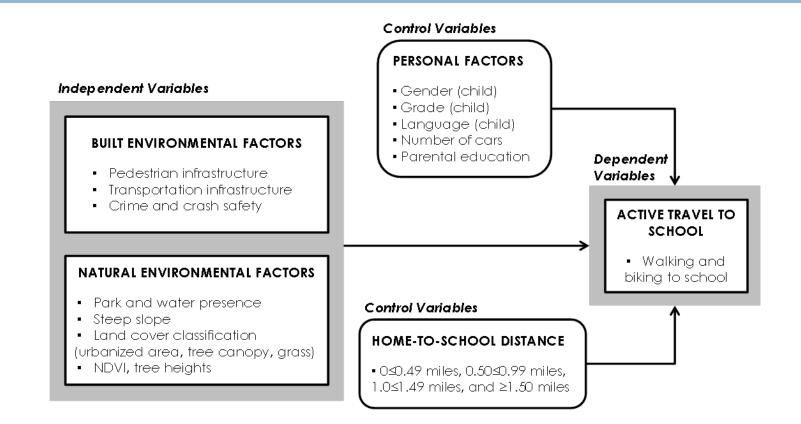
Highway

Traffic Safety

Residential Density

Street Trees/Grass

Conceptual Framework



Research design

Study area, data collection, Survey and objectively-measured environmental variables

Study 2: Methods

- Study design and sample
 - Sample: 4,270 children from 20 schools in AISD
 - Data collection: parental survey (2010) and GIS/Remote Sensing (2011-13)
 - Dependent variable: ATS (a dummy variable)

Parents report of whether or not their children walked or biked

to or from school on a normal day

- Predictors: built and natural environmental variables
- Confounders: personal variables and HTS distance
 - Child's gender, grade, language, number of cars, and parents' education level

Study 2: Methods

- Analytical method
 - Mixed-effects logistic

regression model

(2nd level: School ID)

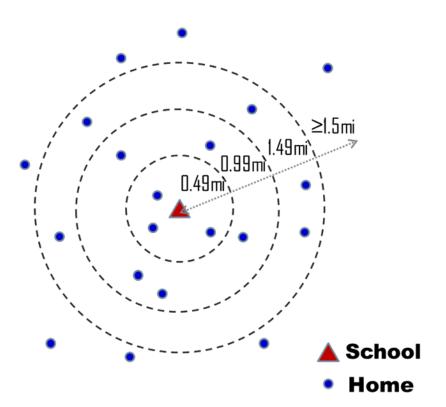
HTS distance thresholds:

<u>0≤0.49 miles</u>

<u>0.5≤0.99 miles</u>

<u>1≤1.49 miles</u>

<u>≥1.5 miles</u>)



Data collection and variables

• Built Environmental Variables

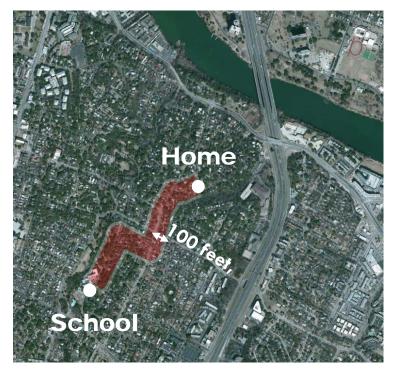
Variables	Measures	Data Source	Variable
			Туре
HTS distance	The shortest home-to-school distance measured by the network	Network analysis	Continuous
	analysis in GIS		
Sidewalks	Length of sidewalks divided by total street length within HTS	City of Austin	Continuous
	route buffer after multiplying by 100		
Bike lanes	Whether the percentage of bike lanes within HTS route buffer is	City of Austin	Binary
	greater than the mean of total bike lane percentage (zero		
	percentage excluded for the mean calculation)		
Playgrounds	Presence of playgrounds within HTS route buffer	City of Austin	Binary
Intersections	Number of intersections per acre within HTS route buffer	City of Austin	Continuous
Highways	Whether the HTS route was intersected by highways	City of Austin	Binary
Railroads	Whether the HTS route was intersected by railroads	City of Austin	Binary
High speed street	Length of high speed streets (>30 mph) divided by total street	City of Austin	Continuous
	length within HTS route buffer after multiplying by 100		
Crime hotspots	Mean of crime hotspot z-scores within HTS route buffer	Austin Police Dept.	Continuous
Crash hotspots	Mean of all crash hotspot z-scores within HTS route buffer	Texas Dept. of	Continuous
	Mean of pedestrian- and biker-related crash hotspot values	Public Safety	

Data collection and variables

• Natural Environmental Variables

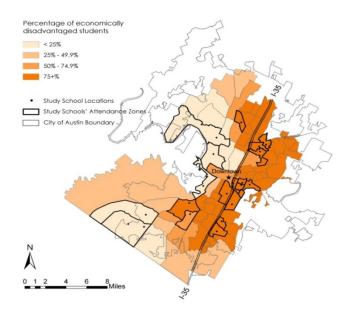
Variables	Measures	Data Source	Variable
			Туре
Park presence	Presence of a park within HTS route buffer	City of Austin	Binary
Water feature presence	Presence of a water feature within HTS route buffer	City of Austin	Binary
Steep slopes	Steep slope area (>5% or >8.33%) divided by total area of HTS route buffer area after multiplying by 100 (%)	Columbia Center (DEM data)	Continuous
Urbanized area	Urbanized area divided by total area of HTS route buffer area after multiplying by 100 (%)	National Agricultural	Continuous
Tree canopy	Tree canopy area divided by total area of HTS route buffer area after multiplying by 100 (%)	 Imagery Program (DOQQ image, image classification) 	Continuous
Grass coverage	Grass coverage area divided by total area of HTS route buffer area after multiplying by 100 (%)	- image classification)	Continuous
Temperature	Mean of temperature measured within HTS route buffer (°C)	Landsat 5TM	Continuous
NDVI	Mean of NDVI measured within HTS route buffer (ranging from - 1 to 1)	Landsat 5TM	Continuous
Tree heights	Mean of tree heights measured within HTS route buffer (feet)	TCAD (LiDAR)	Continuous

• Measures for Environmental Variables

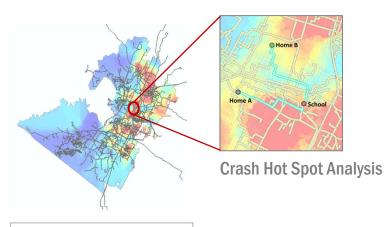


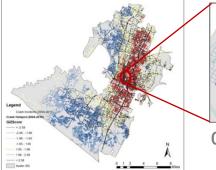
Home-To-School (HTS) route buffer measure (100 feet) (Won and Lee, 2013)

• Crime and crash hotspots



Percentage of economically disadvantaged students in AISD

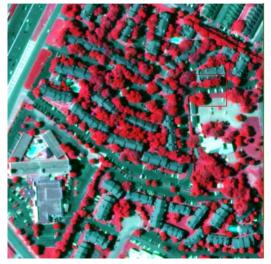




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Crash Hot Spot Analysis

• Urbanized area, tree canopy, and grass coverage

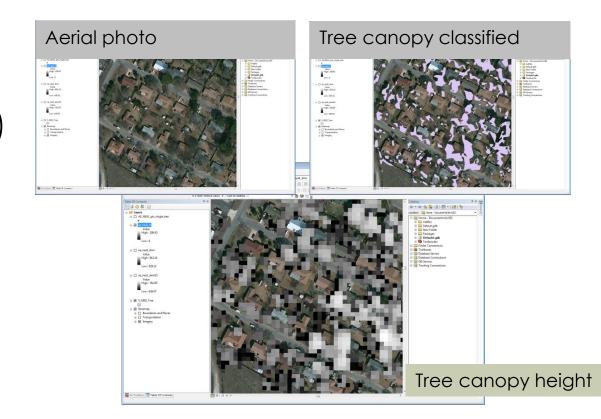


Aerial photo



Classified image (Overall accuracy = 93.9%, kappa coefficient = 0.914)

• Tree height measurements (Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data)

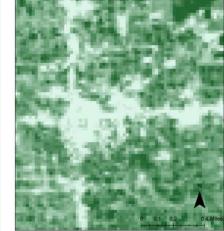


• NDVI & Temperature

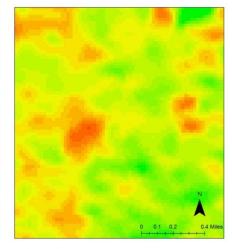
Aerial Photo



Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

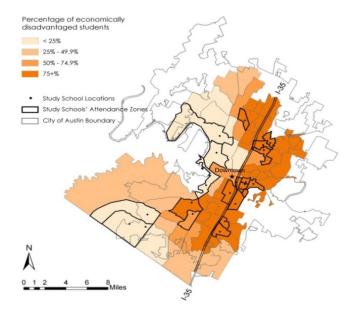


Temperature



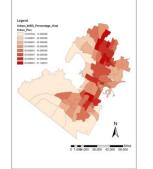


Legend TB_Airline_Buffer_Area TB_Temperature Value High : 38.5384 Low : 26.0372

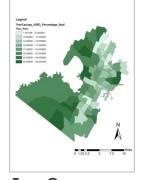


Percentage of economically disadvantaged students in AISD

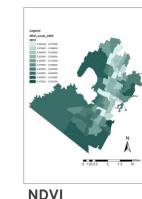
Spatial Pattern of Natural Environment Data



Urbanized Area

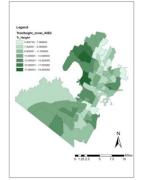








Grass Coverage



Tree Height

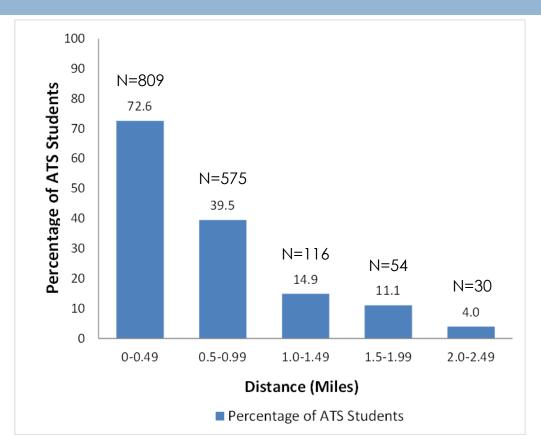
Temperature

Results & implications

Multivariate Analyses

Results

- Descriptive statistics 1
 - Distance and Active
 Travel to School



Results (Cont'd)

- Multivariate Analyses
- Mixed-effects logistic regressions by HTS distance ranges

Variables	≤ 0.49 m (N = 930, R ² = 0.0	Pseudo)976)	$0.5 \le 0.99$ (N=1241, $R^2 = 0.2$	Pseudo 1052)	$1 \le 1.49$ (N=677, $R^2 = 0.0$	Pseudo 0856)	≥1.5 miles (N=751, Pseudo R ² = 0.0664)		
	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	
Personal variables†									
Child's gender $(1 = male)$	0.92000	0.621	1.11000	0.434	0.97°°° _°°°	0.881	1.25	0.468	
Child's grade (Ref. PK-K)		-		-		-		0.00	
$1^{st} - 3^{rd}$ $4^{fh} - 6^{th}$	1.41†°°	0.074	1.14000	0.408	0.70	0.200	0.84	0.63	
1 0	1.86***	0.007	1.52***	0.025	0.93	0.825	0.83	0.65	
Child's language (Ref.	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$ \$\$ \$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_\$;\$;		
English)									
Spani sh	2.33***	0.000	1.37†***	0.073	1.26000	0.521	1.30	0.46	
Others	1.05***	0.935	0.44000	0.231	0.45000	0.457	0.00	0.98	
Number of cars (range: 0-3)	0.68***	0.000	0.50***	0.000	0.67*≎≎	0.027	0.88	0.53	
Parents' education level	0.86†°°	0.083	0.89†°°	0.088	0.79*°°	0.043	0.87***	0.29	
(range: 1-7) HTS distance† (unit: 100m)	0.66***	0.000	0.78***	0.000	1.00***	0.987	1.01=	0.69	
Built environmental variables		0.000	0.78	0.000	1.00	0.967	1.01	0.09	
Sidewalks (%)	_\$\$\$		_\$\$\$	_	1.04***	0.000	_00		
Bike lanes (0: \leq mean. 1: >									
mean)	_\$\$\$	-	1.46***	0.027	2.07***	0.005	_\$\$		
Playgrounds (1: presence)	6.33***	0.009	_\$\$ \$\$ \$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$		
Intersections (no. of		0.000							
intersections per acre)	_\$\$\$\$	-	_000	-	_000	-	_\$\$\$		
Highways (1 = intersected)	_\$\$\$\$	-	0.43***	0.023	2.71***	0.024	0.36**	0.01	
Railroads $(1 = intersected)$	_\$\$\$\$	-	200	-	200	-	_00		
High speed streets							and a		
(mph>30) (%)	_\$\$ \$\$ \$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$\$ _\$\$ \$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_t); t);		
Crime hotspots	_000	-	_000	-	_000	-	_00		
Crash hotspots (total)	_000	-	_000	-	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$		
Crash hotspots (ped./bike)	0.90***	0.005	0.92***	0.015	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$		
Sex-offenders (1 = presence)	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$ \$\$ \$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$7.57		
Natural environmental variab	les								
Park (presence)	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	2.33***	0.000	_\$\$ \$\$ \$\$	-	_\$;\$		
Water feature (presence)	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$	-	_****	-	_====		
Steep slope > 5% (%)	_\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$	-	_====		
Steep slope > 8.33% (%)	_\$\$\$	-	0.98***	0.001	0.98†°°	0.070	0.91*	0.02	
Urbanized area (%)	_000	-	-000	-	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$		
Tree canopy (%)	_000	-	1.04***	0.022	1.07***	0.020	0.90**	0.00	
Grass (%)	_\$\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$\$	-		-	_\$15		
Temperature (°C)	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$\$\$\$	-	_****	-	_\$1\$		
NDVI (min: -1, max: 1)	_\$\$\$\$	-		-	_\$1\$\$\$	-	_0:0		
Tree height (feet)	_\$\$\$\$	-	_\$*\$*\$	-	_:0::0::0:	-	_\$:\$		

Multivariate Analyses

Personal factors and HTS distance (control variables)

Variables	≤ 0.49 m (N = 930, R ² = 0.0	Pseudo	$0.5 \le 0.99$ (N=1241, $R^2 = 0.1$	Pseudo	$1 \le 1.49$ (N=677, $R^2 = 0.0$	Pseudo	≥1.5 miles (N=751, Pseudo R ² = 0.0664)		
	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	
Personal variables†									
Child's gender $(1 = male)$	0.92***	0.621	1.11***	0.434	0.97***	0.881	1.25**	0.468	
Child's grade (Ref. PK-K)	ું સુંદ ગુરું ગ —	-	****	-	ગેર ગેર ગેર —	-	્રીંદ ગ્રેંદ —	-	
$1^{st} - 3^{rd}$	1.41†**	0.074	1.14***	0.408	0.70***	0.200	0.84**	0.633	
$4^{\text{th}} - 6^{\text{th}}$	1.86***	0.007	1.52***	0.025	0.93***	0.825	0.83**	0.650	
Child's language (Ref.	_ 3% 3% 3%		***		_ ઝોર ઝોર	-	_ ઝોર ઝોર	-	
English)		0.000							
– Spanish	2.33***	0.000	1.37 † **	0.073	1.26***	0.521	1.30**	0.461	
Others	1.05***	0.935	0.44***	0.231	0.45***	0.457	0.00**	0.986	
- Number of cars (range: 0–3)	0.68***	0.000	0.50***	0.000	0.67***	0.027	0.88**	0.531	
Parents' education level ^c (range: 1–7)	0.86† ^{**}	0.083	0.89†**	0.088	0.79***	0.043	0.87**	0.295	
- HTS distance [†] (unit: 100m)	0.66***	0.000	0.78***	0.000	1.00***	0.987	1.01**	0.695	

Built environmental variables

Variables	$\leq 0.49 \text{ m}$ (N = 930, R ² = 0.0	Pseudo	$0.5 \le 0.99$ (N=1241, $R^2 = 0.1$	Pseudo	$1 \le 1.49$ (N=677, 2 R ² = 0.0	Pseudo	≥1.5 miles (N=751, Pseudo R ² = 0.0664)		
	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	
Built environmental variables									
+ Sidewalks (%)	_ sk sk	-	_***	-	1.04***	0.000	***	-	
$+ Bike lanes (0: \le mean, 1: > mean)$	- ** ** **	-	1.46***	0.027	2.07***	0.005	ak ak	-	
+ Playgrounds (1: presence)	6.33***	0.009	-****	-	_ ઝીડ ઝીડ ઝીડ	-	_ ગંધ ગંધ	-	
Intersections (no. of intersections per acre)	***	-	_***	-	_***	-	_***	-	
Highways (1 = intersected)	_ ગેર કોર કોર	-	0.43***	0.023	2.71***	0.024	0.36**	0.012	
Railroads $(1 = intersected)$	_ કેર કેર	-	***	-	***	-	**		
High speed streets (mph>30) (%)	_ % % %	-	_ ***	-	_****	-	_ ઋં ઋ	-	
Crime hotspots	" sk sk	-	_***	-	_ % % %	-	_***	-	
Crash hotspots (total)	_sk sk sk		_***		_ % % %	-	***	-	
 Crash hotspots (ped./bike) 	0.90***	0.005	0.92***	0.015	_ ઝોડ ઝોડ ઝોડ	-	_ ઝીર ઝીર	-	
Sex-offenders $(1 = presence)$	_ ઋ ૠ	-	_ sk sk sk	-	_ 3/s 3/s 3/s	-	_sks sks	-	

Multivariate Analyses

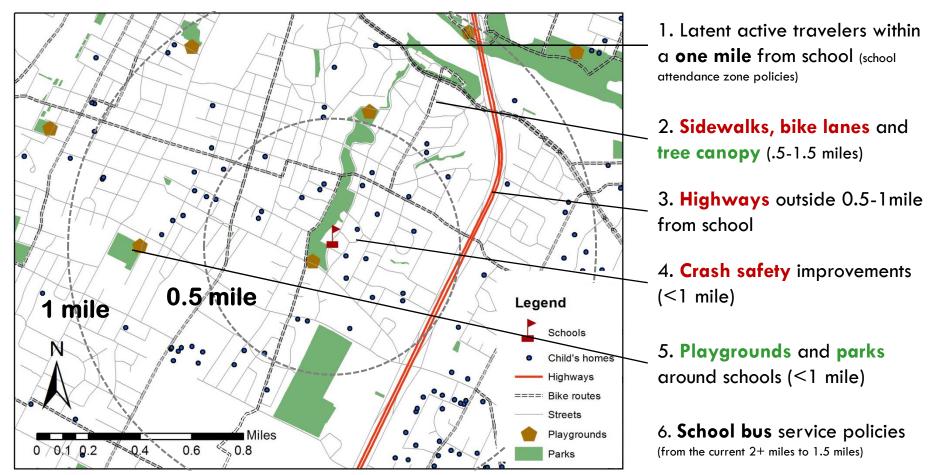
> Natural environmental variables

Variables	≤0.49 miles (N = 930, Pseudo $R^2 = 0.0976$)		$0.5 \le 0.99$ (N=1241, $R^2 = 0.2$	Pseudo	$1 \le 1.49$ (N=677, $R^2 = 0.4$	Pseudo	≥1.5 miles (N=751, Pseudo R ² = 0.0664)		
	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P> z	OR	P > z	
Natural environmental varia	bles								
+ Park (presence)	્રાર પ્રાર પ્રાર	-	2.33***	0.000	_ ઝર ઝર ઝર	-	_ sks sks	-	
Water feature (presence)	_ ગ્રંથ ગ્રંથ	-	_ 3K 3K 3K		_ ** ** **	-	_ ઝોર ઝોર	-	
Steep slope $> 5\%$ (%)	_** *	-	***		***		**	_	
- Steep slope $> 8.33\%$ (%)	_ 3% 3% 3%	-	0.98***	0.001	0.98†**	0.070	0.91**	0.021	
Urbanized area (%)	_ sik sik sik	-	_ % % %	_	3K 3K 3K		sik sik_		
Tree canopy (%)	_ % % %	-	1.04***	0.022	1.07***	0.020	0.90**	0.007	
Grass (%)	_* * *	-	_ 36 36 36	-		-	\$k \$k		
Temperature (°C)	****	-	_ ** ** **	-	_ ** **	-	_ % %	-	
NDVI (min: -1, max: 1)	_ ઝોર ઝોર ઝોર	-	_ ઝોર ઝોર	-	_ 3% 3% _	-	aks aks_	-	
Tree height (feet)	_ 3k 3k 3k	-	_ 3% 3% 3%	-	_ 3k 3k 3k	-	_ ઝીર ઝીર	-	



- Few personal factors significant at longer distance ranges
- HTS distance within shorter distance ranges remained significant
- Varying roles of NE and BE variables on ATS across different HTS distance ranges
 - > Playgrounds (+), parks (+), and crash hotspots (-) for shorter distance travelers
 - > Steep slopes (-) for medium-long (>0.5 miles) distance travelers
 - Tree canopy (+), bike lane (+), and sidewalk (+) in medium distance (0.5≤0.99 miles and 1≤1.49 miles) ranges, but tree canopy (-) for the ≥1.5 miles range.

Implications (strategies to promote ATS)



✤ Note:

This study was supported in part by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living Research Grant (Grant Number: 65539).

- ✤ More information:
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 - Chanam Lee, chanam@tamu.edu



• Descriptive statistics 2-2

Variables	Total (N=4239)		≤0.49 miles (N=1130)		0.5 – 0.9 miles (N=1470)		1 – 1.49 miles (N=785)		≥1.5 miles (N=854)		Bivariate Test [†]	
v arrables	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Test	Sig.
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	1050	oig.
Built Environment Characteristics												
Sidewalks (%)	0.71 ((0.19)	0.73 ((0.16)	0.74 ((0.16)	0.67	(0.22)	0.65 ((0.20)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Bike lanes	1420	33.5	344	30.4	381	25.9	335	42.7	360	42.2	χ^2	< 0.001
(0: < mean, 1: > mean)	1420	55.5	344	30.4	301	23.9	333	42.7	300	42.2		<0.001
Playgrounds (presence)	438	10.3	121	10.7	147	10.0	90	11.5	80	9.4	χ^2	< 0.001
Intersections (density)	0.47 ((0.14)	0.51 (0.17)		0.50 (0.13)		0.46 (0.10)		0.39 (0.13)		ANOVA	0.003
Highways (presence)	664	15.7	0	0.0	89	6.1	211	26.9	364	42.6	χ^2	< 0.001
Railroads (presence)	401	9.5	16	1.4	69	4.7	63	8.0	253	29.6	χ^2	< 0.001
High speed streets (>30mph) (%)	66.5 ((25.6)	59.7 ((31.0)	66.3 ((23.3)	66.9	(25.0)	75.4 ((18.0)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Crime – hotspot	0.03 ((0.79)	- 0.12	(0.55)	0.14 ((0.81)	0.05	(0.89)	-0.13	(0.87)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Crash – hotspot	1.11 ((3.91)	1.71 ((3.75)	1.00 ((3.73)	0.63	(4.03)	0.95 ((4.22)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Crash – ped./bi. hotspot	0.69 ((3.84)	1.19 ((4.09)	0.39 ((3.00)	0.00	(3.93)	1.19 ((4.51)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Sex-offenders (presence)	641	15.1	108	9.6	238	16.2	104	13.3	191	22.4	χ^2	< 0.001

Built Environmental Variables by HTS distance thresholds

Freq.: frequency, ANOVA: analysis of variance, χ^2 : chi-squared test, ped./bi: pedestrians/bikers

†: bivariate tests examined the unequal variance of the built and natural environmental variables among the four different distance ranges.

• Descriptive statistics 2-2

Variables	Total (N=4239)		≤0.49 miles (N=1130)		0.5 – 0.9 miles (N=1470)		1 – 1.49 miles (N=785)		≥1.5 miles (N=854)		Bivariate Test†	
variables	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Test	Sia
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Test	Sig.
Natural Environment Chara	cteristics											
Park (presence)	2,688	63.4	458	40.5	830	56.5	618	78.7	782	91.6	χ^2	< 0.001
Water feature (presence)	973	23.0	17	1.5	244	16.6	229	29.2	483	56.6	χ^2	< 0.001
Steep slope $> 5\%$ (%)	24.13 ((24.84)	16.54	(26.37)	22.56 ((26.37)	28.63	(20.02)	32.75 ((20.16)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Steep slope > 8.33% (%)	9.99 (15.73)	7.02 (16.42)	8.61 (15.36)	10.63	(13.12)	15.74 ((16.13)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Urbanized coverage (%)	42.70 ((10.43)	40.49	(9.11)	42.06	(8.60)	43.50	(11.23)	46.01 ((12.98)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Tree canopy coverage (%)	11.83	(5.50)	11.47	(5.50)	11.72	(5.56)	12.49	(6.89)	11.86	(5.50)	ANOVA	0.002
Grass coverage (%)	10.87	(3.38)	11.04	(4.17)	11.02	(2.83)	10.65	(3.44)	10.60	(2.97)	ANOVA	0.002
Mean temperature (°C)	31.34	(1.35)	31.56	(1.34)	31.36	(1.57)	31.41	(1.15)	30.96	(1.02)	ANOVA	0.002
NDVI (min:-1, max: 1)	0.34 ((0.07)	0.34	(0.06)	0.35 ((0.06)	0.34 ((0.08)	0.31 ((0.08)	ANOVA	< 0.001
Tree height (feet)	7.93 ((3.55)	7.98	(3.29)	8.09 ((3.36)	8.18	(4.18)	7.34 ((3.53)	F	< 0.001

Natural Environmental Variables by HTS distance thresholds

Freq.: frequency, ANOVA: analysis of variance, χ^2 : chi-squared test, ped./bi: pedestrians/bikers

†: bivariate tests examined the unequal variance of the built and natural environmental variables among the four different distance ranges.