

## Comments on traffic and health

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## Some issues in roadway-related effects on health

Because the measure of exposure is non-specific (roadways produce more than just particles), are the associations with roadways due to something other than particles from vehicle exhaust?

- other pollutants?
  - gaseous pollutants
  - VOCs
- noise?
- socio-economic status?

## Some issues in traffic-related effects on health

There are several strong risk factors for cardiac effects that are encountered in traffic, besides vehicular emissions, such as:

- stress
- noise

Although the association between being in traffic and cardiac effects is likely real, confounding and recall bias may influence the size of the estimated effect.

## What do we know, and not know, about traffic and health?

Proximity to roadways is associated with a number of different adverse health effects, but it is not known what characteristic of roadways is responsible for the association.

Time spent in traffic is probably associated with cardiac effects, but exposure to vehicular pollutants may not be the most likely culprit.

## Public health policy and traffic sources of air pollution

- interdisciplinary: at the interface between regulation and urban planning
- control approaches differ from those for "criteria" pollutants
- environmental justice is involved