

# Summary Transport Poverty

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Mobility is an important condition for people to be able to maintain themselves in the modern city and society. No one gets far without mobility. Hence, there is a serious risk of so-called transport poverty if people do not have sufficient and appropriate means of transport, or if people can't handle these resources well enough. The phenomenon of transport poverty has a long history. Scientific research is available for example from Australia, England and Flanders.

An operational definition has been compiled on basis of an exploratory and ethnographic inspired empirical research by Favas.net in the four major cities of the Netherlands, including an international literature survey. \*) In short, transport poverty means that one can't fully participate in social life due to limited means of transport.

It is plausible that a certain degree of transport poverty exists in European and American cities. For example, circumstances in a city like Rotterdam in the Netherlands are unfavorable. Poverty is a major cause of transport poverty, but transport poverty can, in turn, strengthen poverty, as it reduces work, development opportunities and social participation. In the Rotterdam case, an estimated 20% of the population is actually struggling with transport poverty.

In addition to a weak economic position, poor health, low education and low literacy contribute to immobility. Furthermore, experienced and real insecurity, strong car-dependency, as well as complicated and expensive public transport play a negative role. The use of the bicycle can partly prevent transport poverty, but the limited range and the poor accessibility of the 'cycle system' for many represent a challenge for the fight against transport poverty.

Transport poverty, also referred to as 'transport disadvantage', requires a place on the political agenda of cities and of rural regions. Unfortunately, in Europe and America, this is far from being the case. Scheduling of transport poverty should be subject of new research.

The research (2017-2018) was carried out by Favas.net on behalf of the four main Dutch cities (G4) by Rob van der Bijl (Favas.net) in collaboration with Hugo van der Steenhoven (Hugocycling). Added researchers were Renée van der Bijl (Favas.net) and Irène Bavencoff (Ghent University). Favas.net is currently preparing publications on transport poverty. New research is also planned for 2019.

\*)

Research project assigned by the four main Dutch cities (2017-2019) - *in Dutch only*:

Rob van der Bijl (Favas.net), Hugo van der Steenhoven (Hugocycling), *Gesprekken over gebrekkige mobiliteit. Vervoersarmoede in de grote stad ontrafelen*. Amsterdam/Utrecht, januari 2019.

English summaries at <http://favas.net/projects/transport-poverty/>

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