Transport poverty in Italy: exploring affordability through Household Budget Survey

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Transport poverty

Transport poverty: a socio-economic condition that prevents citizens from accessing employment, education, and healthcare services. A concept that is closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.









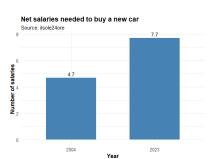


A main dimension: affordability

Affordability: individual's ability to pay for transport services without compromising other essential needs.

When a significant proportion of income must be allocated to transport, individuals may face financial difficulties that force them to make sacrifices.













How to measure affordability?

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- identify the key factors that contribute most significantly to explaining the phenomenon of transport poverty







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How? Exploring and proposing measures discussed in the international literature by researchers, with a specific focus on their application and relevance in the Italian context.









Literature review

- Search theory using automatic scraping techniques, focusing on retrieving data from academic databases and repositories.
- Using specific keywords to identify relevant research articles and analyze their content systematically.











Website

During these months, HAC VIA website was developed to facilitate access to project-related information and resources.

The website can be accessed at www.hacvia.eu.







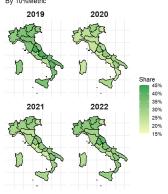




Main Indicators

The literature review identified the following as the most commonly used indicators.

Households in poverty of transport (2019-2022)
By 10%Metric



10% metric

A household is considered to be in risk of transport poverty if it spends more than 10% of its total expenditure on transport-related costs, potentially limiting their access to essential services, employment, and social opportunities.









Main Indicators



Over 2 Times National Median

A household is regarded as transport poor if its transport costs are more than twice the median transport expenditure. This indicator identifies households that are disproportionately burdened by transport expenses relative to the general population.





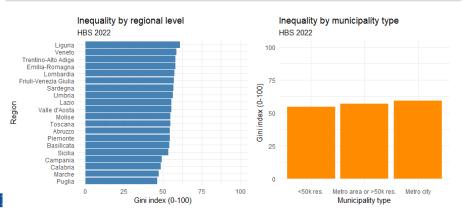




Inequalities

Gini index

To determine whether transport expenditure is spread evenly across households. A high value might indirectly signal that many low-income households are excluded from access to transport.



Multilevel logistic regression

$$\operatorname{logit}(P(T_{pov_i})) = \beta_0 + \sum_{m=1}^n \beta_m X_{im} + u_{\operatorname{rgn}[j]} + u_{\operatorname{t_com}[k]}$$
Region
Type of municipality

Households

N_auto

Relative poverty

N_comp

Other factors

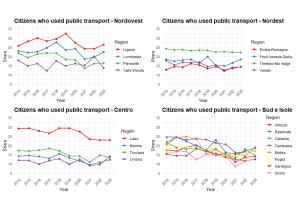








Discussions and conclusions



Use of transport

Low use can be attributed to issues of affordability, as the costs may be prohibitive. More probably these trends are driven by accessibility challenges, such as limited availability of services, insufficient coverage in some areas, inadequate infrastructure, which make public transport a less viable option.









Next steps

- Consider additional Information on accessibility using ISTAT Survey "Aspects of Daily Life" and integrate other datasets
- Improve the Multilevel Model
- Propose Small-Area Estimates: the goal is to generate localized insights that policymakers can use to design targeted interventions and allocate resources









Thank you for your attention!









