# Reasons Why People dont use Public Transportation

Gabrielle and Anshikha July 25, 2014

#### Abstract

Our problem: Why the number of peole using public transportation are decreasing and what factor is discouraging them.

#### 1 Introduction

Public transportation is a wide industry of buses, subways, trains and other fixed systems available to the public. This industry is vastly growing but that doesn't encourage some to make use of it. From observing analytical data we noticed the number of people using public transportation systems have decreased. So why exactly don't people want to use public transportation? Well from our researched data we have come to one main reason, unreliability. In simpler forms people would rather carpool or drive their own car to work than take the public transit because they just simply don't have trust for the system. [4]



[6]

# 2 Long Waits...

Many people don't trust public transportation because of long waits meaning inaccurate timing. This discourages people from further using public transportation considering people need to reach their destination at a specific time. Besides time being a major issue so are unexpected events which include engine break downs, fires, construction delays, traffic congestion, etc. The main point

is that delays make us late and being late can be costly. Moreover, such issues are hard to resolve, thus people would rather carpool or drive themselves to their destination instead of being in such risky situations. [3]

## 3 Crime and Negative Encounters

Crime and negative encounters are discouraging factors to public transportation. I think it is safe to say that no one wants their belongings stolen or have to encounter negative means. Crime can impact ones view on public transportation heavily. One good example would be the St. George station, Toronto. This station is well known for late night crimes. One good example would be a disatrous fight that had taken place between 3 men and 2 women. According to The Star what had occured was during the fight one of the "oponnents" had pulled out a knife therefore the police were forced to shoot. So you can just imagine the tension and commotion the eyewitnesses went through. Another example of negative encounters would be abusive, crude, and impolite behavior of the conductors. We have all been a part of such situations or we have observed them. An example would be in my first period class some people arrive late because ttc conductors tell them to pay an adult fare when they are students. So why be a part of these situations when there are other options? [5] [1]

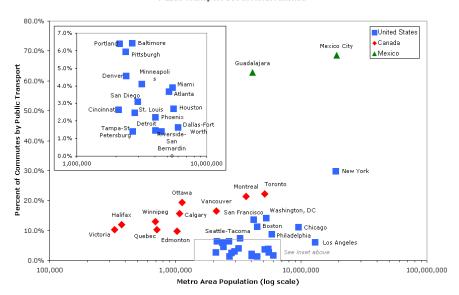
## 4 Claustrophobia

Not only can conductors be negative encounters, but so can other people boarding. The daily rush causes people to be easy annoyed and pushy, especially when they are late. As a passenger on the public transportation, it often feels like people are closing in on you. People are shoulder to shoulder, personal space is invaded, loud music is blasted from the phone of a stranger, seats are hogged and everyone is grating on each other's nerves. This is especially difficult for people who are claustrophobic. People who are claustrophobic will start hyperventilating and get dizzy when they have the feeling that many people are crowding in closer and closer and there is no way for the person to escape. Why be caught in the untamed flow of hasty people when there are better alternatives?

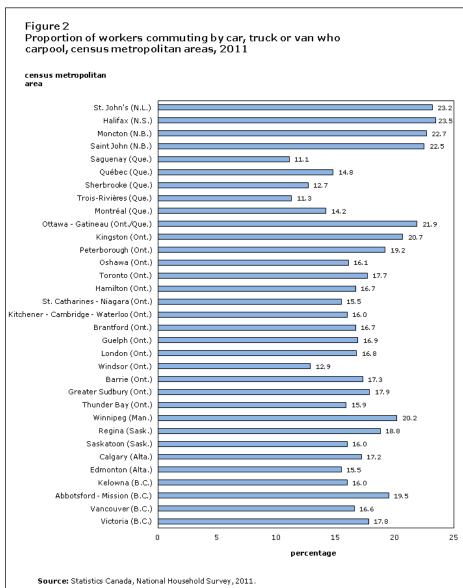
# 5 Conclusion and Hypothesis

The absence of comfort while using public transportation is caused by inaccurate timings, crimes and negative encounters, resulting in the diminution regarding the usage of public transportation. Thus, we can see that people prefer using alternative modes of transit to public transportation due to the lack of trust in public transportation.

#### Public Transport Use in North America



[2]



#### References

- [1] Robyn Doolittle, TTC commuters can't stand rude, crude staff, Toronto: Urban Affairs Bureau, April 16, 2010
- [2]  $\frac{\text{Public Transport use in North America}}{\text{Mexico}}$ , Canada, United States,
- [3] Proportions of workers commuting by car, truck or van who carpool, census metropolitan are , Canada: Statistics Canada, May 31, 2013.

- [4] Ryan Holeywell, <u>Top Reasons People Stop Using Public Transit</u>, Berkeley, California: Governing.com, January 16, 2013
- [5] Michele Henry, Police seek 3 men in subway shooting, Toronto, Canada: the star.com, March 30, 2008.
- [6] New Subway Train, Toronto, Canada: TTC